

# YEARLY REPORT 2024

*This Annual Report provides an overview of the Sustainable Coconut Partnership's activities, achievements, and challenges over the past year. It highlights our efforts toward advancing sustainability within the coconut industry and outlines the key initiatives that have shaped our strategic direction. The report also serves as a record of our collective progress and offers valuable insights to inform our future priorities.*

*To ensure the accuracy and completeness of this document, I kindly request your feedback and comments. Your input will be incorporated into the final version, which will be kept as an official record of our work and a reference for future developments.*

*Thank you for your time and thoughtful contributions.*



*Gregory Bardies, Executive Director, Sustainable Coconut Partnership*

## Official Observations on this report - Steering committee

Steering Committee members	Comment on this report
<b>MATHIEU GOULMY</b> Responsible Sourcing Manager, Coconuts, <b>Unilever</b>	Thank you for this report. It shows the great progress we made this year and the work that was started and which need to crystallize into impact in 2025. Thank you for the transparency. Lets' develop impact at origin and strong communication for the recognition of the SCP and its efforts
<b>JASS KHAW</b> Global Sustainability Lead, Tropical Oils, <b>AAK</b>	Applaud to the great effort and initiatives to SCP, this report provides comprehensive summary outlining the programmes as well as the focus that industry should accelerate. Meantime, beyond grateful to the valuable contributions from steering committees. Let's continue to stay connected, embrace the challenges and build the sustainable Coconut supply chain together.
<b>KAREN THIVYA LOURDES</b> Global Sustainable Sourcing Lead, Sugar & Coconut, <b>Nestlé</b>	This report details the actions and outputs of the Sustainable Coconut Partnership in 2024 as a multistakeholder platform that is industry-led in forwarding sustainability in the coconut sector. In addition to providing transparency on the management of the organization, the report instils confidence in members of the Sustainable Coconut Partnership by reporting on delivery against planned objectives and activities.
<b>JESSICA WETTSTEIN</b> Sustainability Sourcing Manager APAC, <b>Barry Callebaut</b>	The 2024 report highlights the significant strides made by the Sustainable Coconut Partnership this year. It accurately reflects the efforts and milestones achieved, setting a strong foundation for the future. As a steering committee member, I am thrilled to continue the collaboration and interesting discussions to shape a more sustainable coconut sector.
<b>GREGORY BARDIES</b> Executive Director, <b>Sustainable Coconut Partnership</b>	This report reflects the Sustainable Coconut Partnership's commitment to its vision and mission and its activities in 2024. I believe it captures the essential progress we've made toward our objectives. It serves as a strong foundation for the next phase of our work. I would like to commend all steering committee members for their invaluable input, which has been integral to shaping the direction of this report.
<b>NICOLAS RONDEROS</b> Associate Director, <b>BSR</b>	This report shows the great results SCP has achieved to establish itself as an operating and successful commodity platform. After a couple of years its outputs and outcomes represent high achievements in comparison with similar initiatives and can be seen as best in class results

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Topic	Projects
<b>CORE PROGRAMME</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <a href="#">Strategic Communications</a></li> <li>❖ <a href="#">Sector Sustainability Report Development</a></li> <li>❖ <a href="#">IT Platforms</a></li> <li>❖ <a href="#">Grant Identification for 2025</a></li> <li>❖ <a href="#">Development of a Verification Services Management System</a></li> <li>❖ <a href="#">Laying the Legal Foundation for SCP's Future</a></li> </ul>
<b>WORKING GROUPS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <a href="#">Transparency &amp; Traceability</a></li> <li>❖ <a href="#">Human Rights &amp; Living Income</a></li> <li>❖ <a href="#">Low Carbon &amp; Regenerative Agriculture</a></li> <li>❖ <a href="#">Landscape &amp; Jurisdictional Approach</a></li> </ul>
<b>EVENTS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <a href="#">Yearly Roundtable &amp; Sustainable Coconut Charter Trainings</a></li> <li>❖ <a href="#">Elevating SCP's Profile Through Strategic Industry Engagement</a></li> </ul>



# CORE PROGRAMME

## Strategic Communications

*Development and implementation of a strategic communications plan to enhance the organization's visibility and reputation.*

(1) In 2024, the Sustainable Coconut Partnership prioritized enhancing its market perception and expanding its influence. To this end, we conducted a comprehensive review and strategic development of our outreach and communications efforts. This initiative focused on increasing SCP's visibility, positioning our Assurance Scheme prominently among priority audiences, and refining messaging to attract new members.

These efforts directly supported two key organizational priorities: growing SCP's membership base and driving member engagement with the newly launched Assurance Scheme. By aligning our communication strategies with these goals, we strengthened SCP's position as a trusted industry leader and laid the groundwork for sustainable growth.

(2) Secondly, we built on last year's efforts to strengthen our brand identity, we developed a cohesive set of versatile infographics, with optional animated elements, to effectively communicate complex sustainability topics. These infographics are designed for use across reports, presentations, and digital platforms, making critical information accessible and engaging for diverse audiences.

This initiative responds to the increasing complexity of sustainability frameworks, ensuring that key concepts are presented clearly and concisely. By enhancing our visual communication tools, we reinforce SCP's role as a trusted guide in the sector and increase our ability to engage stakeholders effectively.

(3) This year also marked a progressive shift from reliance on BSR tools to the adoption of SCP's own platforms, including Monday.com, Mailchimp, and Wix. This transition enhances operational independence, streamlines workflows, and aligns our tools with the specific needs of our growing organization.

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## Sector Sustainability Report Development

*Pulse of the industry: A Landmark Publication Driving Sector-Wide Collaboration*

This year, the Sustainable Coconut Partnership is developing the First ever *Coconut Sector's Sustainability Report*, a groundbreaking publication that provides an up-to-date and comprehensive overview of the state of sustainability in the coconut sector. This solution-oriented report consolidates the best science-based insights and surveyed data from stakeholders across the supply chain, offering aggregated and disaggregated company and country data to contextualize key material issues, challenges, commitments, and achievements.

Designed to be a central reference point for the sector to stand as a critical resource to guide effective strategies and interventions, fostering greater collaboration among industry players. It is developed in response to shared concerns raised at roundtables and discussions with industry members, experts, and public entities.

By establishing this single collaborative platform, the Sustainable Coconut Partnership will set a foundational pillar for driving industry-wide alignment and supporting the sector's sustainable growth.

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## IT Platforms

*Expenditures on IT platforms and software to support the organization's operations and enhance engagement*

To support the consultation process for our Assurance System, we implemented a user-friendly commenting platform, enabling stakeholders to provide input and collaborate efficiently. Additionally, we integrated a robust marketing platform for contact management, offering advanced capabilities such as email communication, automated workflows, and data analysis.

These digital tools streamline engagement, improve feedback collection, and strengthen our ability to connect with stakeholders while fostering transparency and collaboration in developing the Assurance System.

## Grant Identification for 2025

*Identification and pursuit of potential grant opportunities for the upcoming year.*

We conducted a rapid study to identify a pipeline of suitable grants that SCP can access to support its ongoing and future initiatives. This proactive approach ensures SCP is well-positioned to secure funding opportunities aligned with our mission, enabling us to sustain and expand our work effectively.

## Development of a Verification Services Management System

We are establishing a robust verification services management system. This initiative aims to implement clear processes and a sustainable business model for managing verification services across the coconut supply chain, reinforcing transparency and trust while supporting the sector's transition to more sustainable practices.

## Laying the Legal Foundation for SCP's Future

*Development of a Verification Services Management System*

We are engaging a specialized law firm to conduct a legal study supporting the incorporation of SCP as a standalone legal entity with an international structure. This study provides critical insights to guide decision-making and preparation, ensuring SCP is positioned to facilitate sector-wide dialogue and drive positive change in the coconut industry.

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# WORKING GROUPS

## Transparency & traceability

*Activities related to the Working Group on Transparency & Traceability, focusing on improving transparency and traceability within the organization's supply chain.*

- (1) We delivered a transformative Assurance System for the coconut sector based on the Sustainable Coconut charter – Currently in its calibration phase, the system will be being piloted with 3 to 6 industry members in 2025
- (2) We initiated the development of a common sustainability information-sharing platform to enable aligned supply chain and sustainability data exchange between partners.

## Human Rights & Living Income

### *Strengthening Human Rights Due Diligence in the Coconut Sector*

We are finalizing a comprehensive assessment of human rights due diligence for the coconut sector in the Philippines and Indonesia, addressing legal responsibilities, industry risks, and compliance strategies. This includes a detailed summary of international legal and regulatory requirements related to human rights, with actionable recommendations for compliance, risk identification, and supply chain frameworks.

As the first step towards mandatory due diligence, we conducted an assessment of salient human rights risks through desk research and key informant interviews. The resulting recommendations provide a clear pathway for the sector to meet legal obligations, mitigate risks, and uphold human rights standards.



## Low Carbon & Regenerative Agriculture

*Activities related to the Working Group on Low Carbon & Regenerative Agriculture advancing Sustainability Through Data and Research*

Following the call from the members to know more about possibilities and impacts of low carbon and regenerative agriculture, we are finalizing two critical initiatives to support sustainability in the coconut sector:

- (1) The development of a set of sub national derived Land Use Change (LUC) emissions factor in the jurisdictions of 8 countries based on updated deforestation maps
- (2) A meta-analysis of effective low-carbon and regenerative agricultural practices in coconut farming. These efforts provide valuable data and actionable insights to guide industry stakeholders in reducing environmental impacts and promoting sustainable practices.

## Landscape & Jurisdictional Approach

*Activities related to the Landscape and Jurisdictional Approach advancing Sustainability Through Data and Research*

In 2024, the Landscape and Jurisdictional Approaches Working Group held three sessions and worked internally, laying the groundwork for a unified strategy on critical topics. The group:

- (1) Developed SCP's internal stance on the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)
- (2) Emphasized the importance of continuing GIS mapping efforts initiated in 2023 with the Deforestation Map. Members agreed that advancing these efforts to a regional scale is essential when operationalizing landscape and jurisdictional approaches.
- (3) Highlighted strong momentum among stakeholders for collective investments in these approaches. Participants recognized them as effective mechanisms for sharing risks, attracting investments, and achieving sustainability goals, this finding was confirmed during a dedicated session during the annual Roundtable.

With substantial member interest and alignment, this working group has emerged as a top priority for 2025, poised to drive impactful collaboration and innovation in sustainable landscape and jurisdictional practices.

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# EVENTS

## Yearly Roundtable Meeting and Sustainable Coconut Charter Training

- (1) This year's roundtable demonstrated remarkable growth in ambition, size, scope, and participation, doubling in scale compared to the previous year. Over a full week of activities, highlights are a field trip with 18 participants, a Members and Partners Day with over 100 attendees, a conference day attracting nearly 250 participants, and a Full day Sustainable Charter training with 25 participants.

The event achieved several milestones, including the release of the pilot version of the Assurance System, which received positive feedback, and significant momentum in engaging new companies. Collaboration with Philippine industry groups and government entities also gained traction, while the Members and Partners Day was a standout success, with well-received B2B matchmaking sessions and strong interest in jurisdictional approaches. These achievements underscore the roundtable's role in fostering collaboration and advancing sustainable practices in the coconut sector.

- (2) This year marked a significant milestone for our members and the entire sector with the development and delivery of impactful training programs. Highlights include the creation of a comprehensive Charter Training curriculum and the successful facilitation of a one-day training session in Manila on September 28th. These initiatives equip stakeholders with the knowledge and tools needed to implement sustainable practices, reinforcing SCP's commitment to driving meaningful change across the coconut industry.

## Elevating SCP's Profile Through Strategic Industry Engagement

This year, SCP made meaningful contributions to key industry events, significantly raising our profile within the sector. Our participation in the POC, RSPO, Cocotech, and ICC ministerial meetings, as well as in industry engagement sessions in Thailand and Sri Lanka, allowed us to actively shape discussions and build stronger relationships with key stakeholders. These engagements have reinforced SCP's leadership role in driving sustainability and fostering collaboration across the global coconut industry.



# BUDGET

## BUDGET: SPEND

In the course of the year, SCP managed its budget in alignment with the organization's strategic objectives, ensuring resources were allocated efficiently to high-priority initiatives. This approach enabled the expansion of activities, strengthening of infrastructure, and continued advancement of sustainability efforts within the coconut sector. Due to the BSR ecosystem's policy restricting the carryover of unused funds and a 25% overhead fee on each contractor, SCP aimed to allocate and utilize 100% of the available budget for the year. Despite these limitations, which are beyond our control, the organization successfully ensured optimal use of resources and took proactive measures to align next year's budget with its ongoing objectives, thereby supporting the continued development and implementation of SCP's core programs.

## BUDGET: REVENUES

SCP's revenue for the year was derived from a diverse range of sources, including membership fees, grants, and contributions from strategic partners. These funds were carefully managed to support the organization's mission and further its goals. The revenue model enabled SCP to maintain financial stability while funding key initiatives. The development in membership and have provided a solid foundation for SCP's continued growth and sustainability, ensuring that resources are directed toward achieving the organization's long-term objectives. In 2025, new streams such as verification fees will support further the organization's growth.

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