Introduction

- NedOil Ltd. was founded by Lion Heart Foundation in 2007 and became part of Natural Habitats Group, producer and processor of organic palm oil in 2013.
- It is a palm oil mill company located in Yele, the centre of Sierra Leone with +2000 independent smallholders 100% organic certified.
- NedOil supports independent smallholders in obtaining organic certification through an ICS.
Nedoil Smallholders profile

- The farmers depend on oil palm cultivation for their main source of income.
- Their current yields are low with an average of 3.2 Mt FFB/ha.
- Average plantation size of 1.5 ha.
- Our current group of +2,000 farmers is being internally audited for Organic and RSPO certification.

Group formation

- 111 villages → Head Farmers (HFs)
- 78 Field Farmer School (FFS) → 5 executives elected per FFS
- 2 executives (out of the 5) elected per FFS
- 14 Farmer Based Organization (FBO) → 5 executives elected per FBO
- 2 executives elected per FBO
- 1 Independent Smallholders Association → 5 Executives Board members to be Elected

Legality:
- Land titles
- Draft of the Constitution of the association
- Registration in governmental institutions.
Group formation

Capacity building and technical support

- Continuous capacity building through specialized training on:
  - Best Management Practices
  - Good Agricultural Practices focused in organic agriculture
  - Health and Safety
  - Solving non-conformities
  - Land rights and gender equality
- Plan to establish demonstration farms at FFS level.
Major challenges faced by independent smallholders in Africa

- Low quality planting materials resulting in low yields.
- Lack of knowledge in good agricultural practices.
- Lack of formal procedure to prove land tenure rights.
- Absence of quality formal education and basic literacy skills.

The farmers need support to renovate and rehabilitate their plantations to secure their livelihoods in the future.

Opportunities for livelihood improvement to guarantee sustainable palm oil production in Africa

- Improved planting materials for rehabilitation and expansion.
- Access to local and global markets that will guarantee a stable income.
- Access to finance to buy farm inputs (such as improved planting materials), health and safety equipment, collection tools and high quality farm tools.
- Technical support to grow other food crops to improve food security in oil palm landscapes.
- Government and private sector support to formalise and legalise farmer associations.
- Support for reducing the negative environmental impacts of local oil palm processing.
- Fair and transparent governance by Group Managers.
Thank You!!