



*Photo credits: Wildlife Reserves Singapore*

# Position Statement on Palm Oil

WILDLIFE RESERVES SINGAPORE

February 2020

Wildlife Reserves Singapore Group



## Introduction

Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS)<sup>1</sup> is a wildlife conservation organisation that is dedicated to the protection of wildlife and their habitats. We believe that this Earth must be shared with wildlife, and that preserving biodiversity is intrinsically linked to the future of mankind.

The production of unsustainable palm oil has a serious negative environmental impact and is known to be a major driver of deforestation in the Tropics, which contributes to the loss of wild habitats. We are therefore committed to using palm oil and palm oil derivatives that do not cause deforestation and avoid damaging wildlife habitats.

We recognise that the palm oil industry creates employment for many people across the region and economic growth for countries. Given the efficiency of palm oil production and its ubiquitous use, WRS believes that calls to boycott the palm oil industry are misplaced. Moving away from palm oil is likely to drive up the demand for less productive vegetable oils and potentially contribute to a more damaging environmental impact from more extensive, unsustainable farming practices. In consideration of these factors, we therefore advocate for the production and use of sustainable palm oil to minimise the negative impact of palm oil plantations on wildlife and their habitats. We believe this will achieve the best possible outcome for both people and wildlife.

## Ambition

We will champion the use of Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) within our organisation and be a strong advocate for CSPO in Singapore.

## What is Sustainable Palm Oil?

Palm oil is an edible vegetable oil and is extremely versatile. It is estimated that half of all consumer goods, including processed food products, cleaning products, toiletries and cosmetics, contain palm oil and/or its derivatives.

The oil palm is also the most efficient oil-producing plant, with nearly nine times more oil produced per unit of land than other oil-producing plants. With the global

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<sup>1</sup> WRS is the operator of Singapore's wildlife parks including Jurong Bird Park, Night Safari, River Safari and Singapore Zoo.

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demand for palm oil more than doubling in the last decade, the increase in unsustainable oil palm cultivation has resulted in deforestation, destruction of peat lands, threats to wildlife and displacement of local communities<sup>2</sup>.

Sustainable palm oil offers a solution to the challenges by adhering to these key principles:

- Plantations are not developed in high carbon stock and high conservation value areas;
- No slashing and burning is involved in the preparation of new plantings, re-plantings or any further developments;
- Plantations are not developed in peat areas;
- Human rights are respected;
- Free and prior informed consent is obtained from indigenous and local communities on lands planned for plantation developments; and
- Smallholders are included in the supply chain.

These principles are built into the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil's (RSPO) certification system. WRS is a member of RSPO and supports the use of RSPO-certified palm oil. The RSPO is a globally recognised standard based on stringent principles and criteria that address environmental and social issues.

## Commitments

WRS has in place a plan to fulfill our palm oil commitments by 2025.

### Sourcing

We will ensure that by 2025, 100% of the palm oil and palm oil derivatives we use in our end products will be RSPO-certified or offset by RSPO Book and Claim credits. We will achieve this by:

- Documenting the use of palm oil and its derivatives in our operations. This includes:
  - i. Quantifying the volume of palm oil used as cooking oil;
  - ii. Identifying all food products used and sold in our parks that contain palm oil and its derivatives; and
  - iii. Identifying non-food products (i.e. cleaning supplies, toiletries and animal feed) used and sold in our parks that contain palm oil and its derivatives.

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<sup>2</sup> [www.greenpalm.org](http://www.greenpalm.org)

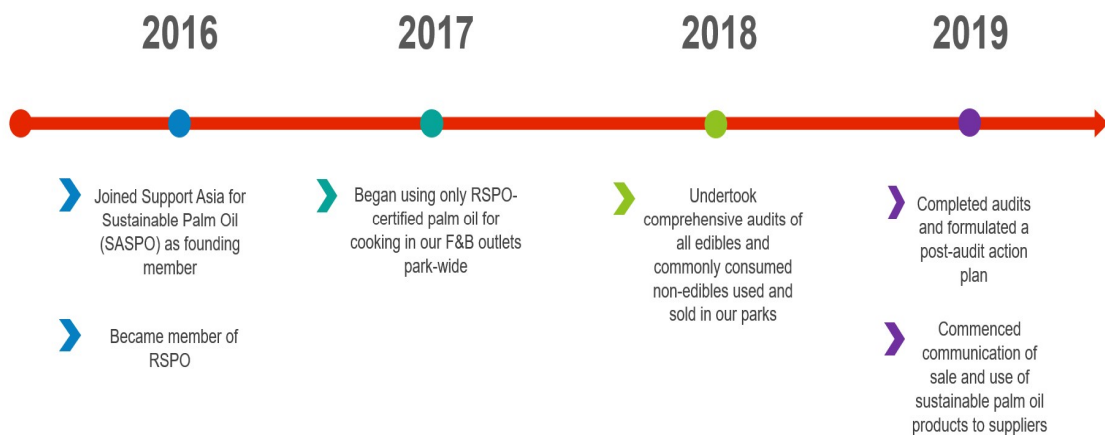


- Ensure that 100% of the cooking oil consumed in WRS is RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil.
- As part of our green procurement policy, share our palm oil commitment with our suppliers for food and non-food products that contain palm oil and its derivatives.
- Where there are products with no viable CSPO option by 2025, WRS shall either make changes in the products used in our operations or offset them with RSPO Book and Claim credits.

### Advocacy

As a founding member of Support Asia for Sustainable Palm Oil (SASPO), we will also work with the other members to advocate for companies and consumers to transition to RSPO-certified palm oil.

### Milestones



### Measurement & Reporting

WRS will be transparent about the progress and challenges faced in meeting our palm oil commitments. Information will be provided to SASPO and RSPO annually.

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## Additional Resources

### **SASPO**

<https://saspo.org>

### **WWF Palm Oil Buyers Scorecard**

<https://palmoilscorecard.panda.org>

### **RSPO membership**

<https://rspo.org/members>

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