2013-2015 Report
OUTLOOK FROM TODAY TO 2020
We Want to Strengthen Dialogue With the Other Crops.

Three years after its founding, the French Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil hosted a gathering of environmental NGOs, experts and public authorities on 12 April 2016 to assess the degree to which it is honouring its commitments.

A first phase was achieved at the end of 2015, as members of the Alliance honoured their pledge to source 100% RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) certified palm oil. Nevertheless, despite this objective and the many advances in the sector, deforestation continues, threatening massive encroachments on lands in West Africa and the Congo forest basin. As a result, Alliance members are now focusing on the second commitment made in 2014: supplying themselves entirely with “zero deforestation” palm oil by 2020.

Transformation of this supply chain must gain momentum. We are convinced that only increased commitment and involvement on the part of manufacturers, distributors, consumers, public authorities, researchers and NGOs will let us achieve this goal by 2020.

Following productive discussions in the workshop on fighting deforestation organised by the Alliance at the 2015 Convergences World Forum, we intend to couple our efforts with those of other industries affected by deforestation, such as timber, pulp, soybeans and rubber, as well as the banana, pineapple and coconut supply chains. Several of these crops coexist on shared lands, directly impacting the forests, ecosystems and local communities. We want to improve the dialogue with these other industries to generate truly synergetic relationships with them.

The “Traceability” Working Group, inspired by brainstorming during the round tables held 12 April 2016, will therefore invite all Alliance members to work on the multi-industry approach by putting particular emphasis on a territory-wide perspective: this is one of the conditions to achieving our goal of ending deforestation by 2020.
Our Commitment: To Use 100% Sustainable Palm Oil in Our Products!

Late 2015: our first mission accomplished!
When the French Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil was founded in 2013, its member companies pledged to have all their palm oil supplies be RSPO-certified (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) by the end of 2015.
Every year, data on the quantities of conventional palm oil and RSPO-certified palm oil purchased by member companies are collected by an independent agent.
The objective is to quantify our members’ progress toward attaining the goal we have set.
Result: 96% of Palm Oil Purchased by Our Members was Sustainable by the End of 2015!

Companies’ Procurement Practices for Palm Oil (Members of the Alliance):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Proportion of conventional palm oil</th>
<th>Proportion of sustainable palm oil (all types of certification)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2012: barely half the palm oil sourced by member companies was RSPO-certified.
From 2013 to 2014: the trend towards sourcing sustainable palm oil appeared minimal. This was explained by the arrival of four new members to the Alliance. The founding members, on the other hand, increasingly sourced sustainable palm oil from year to year.
From 2014 to 2015: a major shift occurred when one Alliance member switched to sustainable palm oil for all its supplies.

Objective: “Zero Deforestation” Palm Oil by 2020!
The formal pledge of the French Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil, signed by its founding members at the Paris Agriculture Show in 2014, in the presence of environmental NGOs and the Ministry of Agriculture, includes a second commitment: to source sustainable palm oil meeting even stricter conditions by 2020 (see box p.5).
**THE ALLIANCE DEFINES SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL AS FOLLOWS:**

- Oil which its origin is known, and is therefore traceable.
- Oil with no impact on deforestation and respects ecosystems with high conservation value.
- Oil sourced through cultivation practices that respect high carbon value forests.
- Oil sourced through farming practices that fully preserve and protect all peatlands.
- Oil that does not come from plantations resorting to slash and burn.
- Oil that protects the rights of local workers, populations, and communities, respecting the principle of free, prior, and informed consent of those communities.
- Oil that promotes development of independent producers farming small plots.

**DISTRIBUTION OF THE PALM OIL PURCHASES BY TYPE OF CERTIFICATION:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>RSPO GreenPalm certificates</th>
<th>RSPO mass balance</th>
<th>RSPO segregated</th>
<th>Other referentials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Purchases of segregated palm oil increased with each passing year.
- Starting in 2014, some members went further by developing supply chains complementary to the RSPO, ensuring the sustainability and traceability of palm oil.
- In 2015, these other certification systems, coupled with the highest level of RSPO certification, represented 73% of members’ supplies.

**THE 3 LEVELS OF RSPO CERTIFICATION:**

- **GREENPALM CERTIFICATES:** The purchased product is not from sustainable production, but the manufacturer purchased certificates to support development of the sustainable palm oil supply chain.
- **MASS BALANCE:** The finished product contains a blend of conventional palm oil and sustainable palm oil.
- **SEGREGATED:** The finished product contains 100% sustainable palm oil that is fully traceable.

**INTERVIEW**

**WHAT CHALLENGES DID ALLIANCE MEMBERS FACE IN STRIVING TO REACH THE GOAL OF 100% RSPO-CERTIFIED PALM OIL BY THE END OF 2015?**

Ségolène Blanche : “The Alliance member companies use refined palm oil or derivatives in their products. To date, there is no sustainable supply chain for some of these derivatives, which are niche markets, as is the case with palm kernel oil derivatives.

Another challenge is that certain materials, such as palm stearin, were not available on the market in segregated form in sufficient volumes prior to the second half of 2015.

Lastly, some members added new business activities to their portfolios that now must switch over to sustainable supplies. And this change is underway! So the percentage of members’ volumes of segregated palm oil should continue to increase in 2016.”
A DIALOGUE ENGAGED WITH REFINERS

The “Traceability” Working Group of the French Alliance has engaged a dialogue with refiners based in Europe who provide palm oil to French companies.

One-to-one meetings were organised between the Secretary General of the French Alliance and the refiners during the 1st Semester 2014: the members of the French Alliance had access to a qualitative survey of all refiners’ practices.

A quantitative survey was conducted amongst refiners from October 2014 to March 2015. This survey was driven by an independent organisation and the results of the survey were aggregated.

About Refiners:
The Secretary General of the French Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil met the European refiners who provide palm oil to French companies.

• AAK
• Cargill
• Daudruy Van Cauwenbergh & fils
• Fuji Oil
• IOI Group
• Lipidos
• NBPO (New Britain Palm Oil Limited)
• Sime Darby
• Unigra
• Wilmar / ADM / Olenex

Most of these refiners have several activities such as:
• Grower
• Refinery processor
• Trader
• Ingredient manufacturer

They provide crude palm oil and palm kernel oil to French companies from different sectors such as:
• The Food Industry
• The Cosmetic Industry
• The Animal Feed Sector
• The Oleo chemical Sector
• The Energy / Bio fuel Sector

Countries providing France with Palm Oil are:
• Malaysia (Sabah, Sarawak...)
• Indonesia (Sumatra, West Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan...)
• Africa (Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Ivory Coast...)
• Papua New Guinea
• South America
• Thailand
• Etc.

Results of the Study Conducted amongst Refiners in 2014 and 2015

For the French Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil, it is important that all stakeholders involved (NGOs, governments, growers, producing countries, refiners, companies, retailers and final users) work together to develop collaborative solutions which will enable to put an end to deforestation, protect peat lands, and ensure a positive social and economic impact for populations and local communities.
1 - Qualitative Survey Results

The Purpose of the Meetings with Refiners Was To:

- Introduce the missions, goals and actions of the French Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil.
- Have a better understanding of the supply chain through the views and approaches of the refiners regarding responsible palm oil.
- Hear refiners’ reactions and comments in relation to their own supply chain policy and commitment working towards sustainable palm oil and more precisely on issues such as traceability back to plantation, certification and deforestation/exploitation.

The participants have agreed to discuss only on the basis of data and information which are already widely available to a large public (website, annual reports, public brochures, etc.).

About Refiners’ Policy Regarding Palm Oil

The demand for sustainable palm oil in Europe and in France, in particular, seems to be growing further. For the refiners, consumers and companies using palm oil have to participate to the cost.

Indeed, 6 million tons of palm oil, which represents approximately 10% of the global production, comes into Europe (the world production of palm oil is around 35-60 million tons). Of the 50% uptake of RSPO certified oil, 1/3 of the palm oil is mass balance and segregated, 2/3 is traded in certificates.

Most of the refiners are members of the RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) and are able to provide their customers with certified RSPO palm oil (mass balance and segregated). Most of them have committed to provide the market with certified RSPO palm oil by 2015. But some customers are still buying and using conventional palm oil and green certificates in their products due to a lower cost.

It is a shared belief that most of the small and medium companies in France need to be informed. One of the aims of the French Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil is to provide them with information and raise awareness on sustainable palm oil.

In order to stop deforestation, NGOs encourage all the players to go beyond the RSPO principles and criteria (P&C). Indeed, at this stage, RSPO P&C doesn’t protect all the peatlands and High Stock Carbon (HSC) Forests. This is why most of the refiners, and especially refiners who own plantations, are working closely with NGOs on the ground.

Due to the complexity of the supply chain and the number of players involved (in each country, hundreds of smallholders provide several different mills), this is a work which has started in 2014 for most of the refiners/growers and which will take some time.

To accompany them towards change and sustainable palm oil, refiners are working closely with third parties such as:

- Proforest
- Rainforest Alliance
- TFT (The Forest Trust)
- WWF
- Small local NGOs on specific issues
- Etc.

These NGOs accompany refiners in several ways and help them, for example, to:

- Realize a supply chain map in order to trace supply flows from ports and refineries back to oil palm mills and over time to plantations.
- Realize a risk assessment by using remote sensing on plantations to evaluate risks. The remote sensing is based on satellite images and data bases.
- Develop and implement an appropriate High Carbon Stock (HCS) threshold that protects high carbon stock forests and biodiversity.
- Protect community and human rights while providing social and economic opportunity.
- Realize an assessment of their mills.
- Engage with their suppliers and smallholders either through one-on-one dialogues or group meetings to introduce and explain their policy.
- Etc.

Most of the refiners are involved in different initiatives working on the palm oil topic:

- Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)
- European Palm Oil Alliance (EPOA)
- Sustainable Palm Oil Manifesto (SPOM)
- Palm Oil Innovation Group (POIG)
- Etc.

But some refiners consider that these different initiatives contribute to dilute the efforts.
ABOUT PALM OIL TRACEABILITY

Traceability is a tool to achieve more transparency in the supply chain. Several working groups in which most of the refiners are involved work on the issue of traceability back to the mill and finally back to the plantation.

Traceability to plantation is quite ambitious. Most of the refiners are working on traceability back to the mill in first instance and eventually to the plantation due to the complexity of the palm oil supply chain. Identifying all supplying plantations is a challenging exercise, especially when collectors are involved.

In order to provide guarantees to customers willing to have more transparency and traceability in the supply chain, some refiners are able to show several documents such as invoices, transportation documents, contracts with third parties, etc.

One of the issues for traceability within the palm oil industry is the interdependence of different players within the industry and the commodity nature of palm oil, which provides challenges for all. Indeed, one of the problems is that some refiners depend on their suppliers as some of them buy refined oil from other refiners and do not have their own plantations.

ABOUT SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL “ZERO DEFORESTATION AND ZERO EXPLOITATION”

Due to the pressure of NGOs and of their customers, most of the refiners have integrated a “No Deforestation, No Peat and No exploitation Policy”, in order to protect forests, peatlands, and human and community rights.

HCS METHODOLOGY

The NGOs Greenpeace and TFT (The Forest Trust) have developed a pragmatic and strong operational method to identify land that is forest and should be conserved and land that is degraded: the HCS (High Carbon Stock) methodology. This allows to set a threshold to identify land for palm oil extension and forest to be kept. The methodology is based on six vegetation strata on future palm developments (see diagram opposite).

1. NO DEFORESTATION

• No development of High Carbon Stock (HCS) Forests.
• No development of High Conservation Value (HCV) Areas.
• No burning.
• Progressively reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on existing plantations.

2. NO DEVELOPMENT ON PEAT

• No development on peat regardless of depth.
• Best Management Practices for existing plantations on peat.

GLOBAL FOREST WATCH (GFW)

Developed with the World Resources Institute (WRI), GFW is the first platform combining Satellite Imagery, the distance calculation, the open data and the crowd sourcing. This interactive map, recognised by the 2014 Declaration of New-York on the forests, enables to have reliable information on forest in real time.

For more information: highcarbonstock.org

FOR MOST OF THE REFINERS WHO OWN PLANTATIONS, INVOLVING SMALLHOLDERS IN THE PROCESS IS KEY.

Indeed, smallholders are a critical part of the industry. They face unique situations that warrant careful consideration. There is a need to facilitate the inclusion of smallholders in the supply chain in a way that sees their rights fully respected.

3. NO EXPLOITATION OF PEOPLE AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

• Respect and support the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
• Respect and recognize the rights of all workers including contract, temporary and migrant workers.
• Facilitate the inclusion of smallholders into the supply chain.
• Respect land tenure rights.
• Respect the rights of indigenous and local communities to give or withhold their Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) to operations on lands to which they hold legal, communal or customary rights.
• Resolve all complaints and conflicts through an open, transparent and consultative process.

For more information: highcarbonstock.org

• Where feasible, explore options for peat restoration by working with expert stakeholders and communities.

POTENTIAL HCS AREAS

HIGH-DENSITY FOREST
Remnant forest or advanced secondary forest close to primary condition

MEDIUM DENSITY FOREST
Remnant forest but more disturbed

LOW DENSITY FOREST
Appears to be remnant forest but highly disturbed and recovering [may contain plantation/mixed garden]

YOUNG REGENERATING FOREST
Mostly young regrowth forest, but with occasional patches of older forest within the stratum

SCRUB
Recently cleared areas, some woody regrowth and grass-like ground cover

CLEARED /OPEN LAND
Very recently cleared land with mostly grass or crop, few woody plants

Degraded Lands (Former Forest)

70 tons c/ha

25 tons c/ha

15 tons c/ha

250 tons of carbon per hectare (c/ha)

25 tons c/ha

70 tons c/ha

15 tons c/ha

100 tons of carbon per hectare (c/ha)
In 2014, nearly 60% of refiners are able to guarantee the traceability of palm oil as far as the mills, but not to the plantations. The short and medium-term outlooks are quite encouraging, with a target of close to 100% in 2015. From these figures, it can be inferred that the refiners are making significant progress in traceability.

**1 - ABOUT REFINERS AND PALM OIL VOLUMES IMPORTED INTO EUROPE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Palm oil</th>
<th>Palm Kernel Oil</th>
<th>All other Palm Oil derivatives &amp; fractions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total volumes imported into Europe in 2013 (in tons)</td>
<td>1 281 191</td>
<td>127 800</td>
<td>344 915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total volumes of GreenPalm certificates imported into Europe</td>
<td>5 746</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in 2013 (in tons)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total volumes of “mass balance” or “segregated” palm oil</td>
<td>280 277</td>
<td>20 180</td>
<td>8 290</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>imported into Europe in 2013 (in tons)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The supply chain’s shift towards sustainability is underway: the percentages of “mass balance” and “segregated” palm oil together account for about 20% of purchases.

**2 - ABOUT TRACEABILITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part of the supply chain mapped by refiners (in percentage)</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>Other timeline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to the mill:</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>97.5%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5 responses/6)</td>
<td>(4 responses/6)</td>
<td>(2 responses/6)</td>
<td>(no response)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Up to the plantations:</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2 responses/6)</td>
<td>(no response)</td>
<td>(1 response/6)</td>
<td>(no response)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total volumes traceable imported into Europe by refiners in 2014**

- Palm oil: 532 277 tons traceable up to the mills (3 responses/6)
- 32 000 tons traceable up to the plantations (2 responses/6)
- Palm Kernel Oil: 13 050 tons traceable up to the mills (2 responses/6)
- 12 900 tons traceable up to the plantations (2 responses/6)
- All other Palm Oil derivatives & fractions: 7 350 tons traceable up to the mills (1 response/6)
- 7 250 tons traceable up to the plantations (1 response/6)

In 2014, nearly 60% of refiners are able to guarantee the traceability of palm oil as far as the mills, but not to the plantations. The short and medium-term outlooks are quite encouraging, with a target of close to 100% in 2015. From these figures, it can be inferred that the refiners are making significant progress in traceability.

**3 - ABOUT “ZERO DEFORESTATION” AND “ZERO EXPLOITATION”**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total volumes imported into Europe by refiners responding to the criteria: “zero deforestation” and “zero exploitation” (in tons)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Palm oil: 32 277 (2 responses/6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Kernel Oil: 1 350 (2 responses/6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other Palm Oil derivatives &amp; fractions: 7 350 (2 responses/6)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These results show a developing trend toward “zero deforestation”. The trend is slight, but growing.
Now that they’ve reached the objective of sourcing RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) certified palm oil by the end of 2015, members of the French Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil must now redouble their efforts to reach the target set for 2020: using 100% sustainable palm oil.

A NEEDED CONSENSUS

The maze of standards, evaluation systems, and levels of certification has pulled the Alliance into an expert-level discourse that renders it less accessible to the public. To address these issues of perception and communication, we felt that Alliance members needed to agree on a common standard that would help it reach its goal for 2020. This standard, however, must be something all members can attain, taking into account the means of each. Further, to ensure progress remains steady, an intermediate level also needed to be set, such as sourcing 100% segregated palm oil by the end of 2017.

A QUESTION OF COMMUNICATION

With the palm oil industry faced with voluble criticism, how can it better inform consumers about the progress it has made in fighting deforestation?

- The Alliance’s credibility is also found in its industry weight. It’s essential that other manufacturers join the Alliance in this virtuous endeavour. Remember that, in 2015, several European countries signed the Amsterdam Declaration, committing to support companies sourcing 100% sustainable palm oil. What’s more, as part of the action plan to slow deforestation, the European Commission announced in 2016 that it was considering implementing incentives.

- The media act as whistle-blowers, rightly spotlighting the misconduct or oversights of some entities in the field. But the media also have a role to play in informing the public of the progress being made in this supply chain, the trailblazing efforts at work. And there is still much talk about the idea of a boycott, even though all the environmental NGOs in the field agree that boycotting isn’t a solution and that we should focus, rather, on developing a sustainable palm oil supply chain.

- Facilitate the dialogue and share best practices between companies of the sector in France and in Europe.

- Organise meetings with stakeholders and members to mutualise the knowledge, available solutions and accelerate the transformation of the supply chain.

- Encourage companies in France, which are not yet members, to join the French Alliance in order to reinforce its action.
The member companies of the French Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil have all pledged, by 2020, to use palm oil that is entirely traceable and has no links to deforestation. All are members of the RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil), which is currently the only internationally recognised certification system. As some entities have deemed the RSPO’s Principles and Criteria insufficient, other initiatives and certification systems have emerged, such as POIG, SAN, HCS. How does one find the way through this maze of standards? What guarantees do they provide?

Existing certification systems are simply not feasible or affordable for small producers, who nevertheless are the cornerstone of the supply chain. In Asia, 43% of palm oil comes from family farms or small-scale plantations. In Africa, small producers may represent up to 70% of production. Some initiatives, such as Indonesia’s SHARP, are working to reverse this trend and include them in their certification systems. Fighting deforestation is accomplished through education, accountability, and including small producers in all initiatives!

The HCS tool, developed by the NGOs Greenpeace and TFT (The Forest Trust) and one of the industry’s major Asian companies (GAR: Golden Agri-Resources), helps precisely indicate the characteristics of forests to be preserved. It entails measuring the amount of carbon stored by the tree cover based on field studies coupled with the use of satellite images. Through a decision tree, the tool guides the user in choosing to preserve (or not) the plots of land being considered, and also factors in respect for local community rights (see diagram p.11).

What’s now essential is integrating the HCS tool into other certification processes, like SAN, POIG, MSPO, ISPO. All the NGOs of the HCS steering group seem to agree that this is the direction to take for progress.

Certification enables to:
• Give companies assurance of a raw material’s origin.
• Manage the risks associated with its supply (provided the certification plan is sufficiently rigorous).
• Allow for binding (but costly) verification audits.

Verification, together with precise traceability, makes it possible to:
• Quickly verify the area concerned by the supply chain.
• Apply more flexible means (satellite images, LIDAR [Light Detection And Range] images) without necessarily having an enforceable audit.
• Have streamlined monitoring in the long term.

Certification - Traceability – Verification systems must complement one another and, ultimately, converge.
HOW CAN STAKEHOLDERS BE UNITED TOWARD THE COMMON GOAL OF “ZERO DEFORESTATION”?

ANIMATED BY MICKAËL BLAIS, RESPONSIBLE SOURCING LEADER, GIVAUDAN FRANCE, MEMBER OF THE FRENCH ALLIANCE FOR SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL, “TRACEABILITY” WORKING GROUP

How can all stakeholders be united, those who are driven by a common ambition, but who sometimes face very different challenges and have different constraints and interests? How can we reverse the trend when faced with growing demand that makes implementing sustainable initiatives more complex with each passing day?

EXPERTS OVERWHELMINGLY RECOMMEND A MULTI-INDUSTRY, TERRITORY-WIDE APPROACH

The palm oil industry is not the only cause of deforestation. Often several crops coexist in the same region, at the expense of the forests, ecosystems and local communities. Therefore, to move toward “zero deforestation”, there are effective, synergistic relationships to be created between industry sectors. In 2015, at the Convergences World Forum, the French Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil brought together representatives of the timber, pulp, rubber and soybean industries to brainstorm on common solutions to halt deforestation. Only an approach encompassing all these industries’ challenges can ensure a comprehensive and effective response on a territorial scale. This approach also requires dialogue and public-private collaboration between the various entities involved in the field: government, local communities, NGOs, investors, researchers, etc.

THE CENTRAL ROLE OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

A sustainable response to changing global demand for agricultural commodities can only be achieved with support from research and innovation. Research that follows ecosystem changes, that contributes to solutions and action plans, that facilitates the unification of differing points of views through scientific and technical facts.

The CIRAD (French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development), with more than 60 years of expertise on palm oil, provides support for entities in the field, including research and development on optimised plant material. Ecological intensification, including supplying optimised oil-palm seeds and training small producers in proper farming practices, is an effective tactic in fighting deforestation.

NEW STAKEHOLDERS TO CONSIDER

• Governments and public-policy entities of the user states or palm-oil producer states will be crucial.
• Investors who finance the expansion of actors in the palm oil supply chain will have more impact than ever on standards and criteria related to environmental impact.
• Agricultural commodity traders have an important part in the chain. Their role in traceability will be essential.
• Lastly, at a corporate level, involvement should go beyond those working in CSR and sustainable development. Those in purchasing, operations, finance, research and development (R&D), will be key to the implementation of “zero deforestation” policies.

This variety of entities involved necessarily leads to an imbalance in influence capacity, translating to varying degrees of impact on the decisions.
In recent years, we have seen real progress in the sustainable palm oil supply chain.

Today, 90% of global palm oil production is covered by “zero deforestation” commitments, but we must not let down our guard or let up in our efforts to speed implementation of these “zero deforestation” commitments in the field.

It’s important, too, for controls to be reinforced in the field to ensure these commitments are respected.

The “Traceability” Working Group has instigated dialogue with all stakeholders, particularly refiners, having a key role in palm oil traceability. Alliance members will carry on this dialogue to secure an increasing number of guarantees on origins of palm oil.

In 2015, during the Convergences World Forum, this working group broadened the scope of the dialogue to include other industries – timber, paper pulp, soybeans and rubber – committed to sustainability. Powerful synergies are waiting to be forged between these industries, because it is through collaboration that we will manage to stop deforestation! These interactions will be continued at the 2016 Convergences World Forum, with the “Building Zero Deforestation Territories” workshop.

Lastly, we hail the recent support from French parliamentarians for the sustainable palm oil supply chain in the form of the “Biodiversity” bill: Our efforts to transform the palm oil supply chain to ensure greater sustainability have been recognised.

In this encouraging context of positive developments, the French Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil will continue its committed efforts, working with all stakeholders (NGOs, experts, researchers, producers, refiners, distributors, companies, consumers) to put a stop to deforestation.

WE WARMLY THANK THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE ROUND TABLES.

Cérélia
CIRAD (French Agricultural Research for Development Organisation)
E. Leclerc
Envol Vert
EPOA (European Palm Oil Alliance)
Ferrero
Fondation GoodPlanet
FNCG (Federation of Oils and Fats Industries)
Givaudan France
Greenpeace
Groupe Avril
IDDRI (Institute for Sustainable Development and International Relations)
Loiret & Haëntjens
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development
Ministry of Agriculture, Agrifood, and Forestry
Ministry of Environment, Energy, and Marine Affairs
Nestlé France
Rainforest Alliance
RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil)
Solidaridad
TFT (The Forest Trust)
Transitions
WWF France
Founded in 2013, the French Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil brings together companies and professional organizations. Its aim is to develop and then spread the use of sustainable palm oil. Sustainable means: no deforestation, environmental friendly and respectful of biodiversity and local populations. Its members are committed to using 100% certified RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) palm oil in their products by the end of 2015, and have committed to even more stricter conditions for 100% of their supplies by 2020.

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