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Forest Conversion News

WWF's newsletter on forest conversion focusing on the expansion of palm oil and soy # 26

RTRS finalizes standards for responsible soy at annual meeting

On June 9 and 10, 2010 the Round Table on Responsible Soy (RTRS) held its fifth international conference in São Paulo, Brazil. Titled “Sustainability is our Responsibility, the Strive for an Environmental, Social and Economic Global Solution”, the one and one-half day meeting was followed by the annual meeting of the RTRS General Assembly on June 10.

The General Assembly approved the final version of the new global standards to improve soy production, moving responsible soy one giant step closer to the marketplace. The voluntary sustainability standards will help ensure that current soy production and further expansion of the crop will be done in an environmentally sound and socially responsible way. Most importantly, the standards require producers to take certain measures to protect the environment. Those include prohibitions on the conversion of forests and areas with high conservation value – such as rich savannahs – reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and eliminating the most hazardous pesticides in soy farming. The standards also call for soy production to avoid creating social conflicts.

The RTRS also agreed to develop an optional annex for RTRS members that wish to produce or trade in soy that is labelled as GM free.

The agreement is the result of years of dialogue between WWF, other NGOs, farmers, and the soy industry. The RTRS currently counts more than 140 members, including major private interests in the soy industry, smallholder farmers, feed mill operators, traders, retailers, financial institutions, and social and environmental organizations.

“WWF welcomes the finalized RTRS standards, however, now we need to pull together to make the system work”, said Cassio Moreira, Coordinator of WWF Brazil’s Agriculture and Environment Program, who also serves on the RTRS board. “The results of the field tests show that the standards are practical and can be implemented. Now producers need to start the certification process and buyers need to demand RTRS certified soy as soon as possible, so that the market starts moving and the share of soy under responsible cultivation expands.



The fifth RTRS conference took place in São Paulo in mid June. Copyright: WWF

Now that the production standards have been finalized, the RTRS must also finalize its certification system to verify compliance with the standards and establish methods to trace the soy,” Moreira said.

Once this certification and traceability system is adopted, the RTRS estimates that responsibly produced soy will be available as part of the next soy harvest in South American countries in March 2011.

Since the interim RTRS Principles and Criteria were adopted by the RTRS General Assembly in May 2009, RTRS member soy producers in Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, the USA and India tested the standards under various conditions in field trials. The RTRS has reported excellent results from these field tests concluding that the RTRS Principles and Criteria for Responsible Soy can be implemented by small, medium and big sized producers from different regions and with different kinds of processes (manual or mechanized).

The RTRS reports that, until now, approximately 224,000 hectares were included in field tests projects, which are expected to produce a total of 650,000 tons of RTRS field-tested soy.

Links: [WWF News \(June 11\)](#), [RTRS website](#)

Interview

An RTRS producer reflects on the experience of field-testing the interim RTRS standards

Q: What challenges did your company face when it field-tested the RTRS Principles and Criteria?

A: The challenges are mostly linked to full compliance with the law in Brazil. Principle 1 is very hard to comply with in Brazil because of the law that regulates the subject. All the legislation about land, Legal Reserves, Forest Code, operation license, environmental license, and other documents must be recorded and available all the time. Principle 2 about labour legislation is very complicated to apply, especially during the workday in the harvesting season.

Regarding Principle 4, it was difficult to demonstrate whether an HCVA was deforested or not, because there isn't a good methodology to identify HCV at the farm level. In our case we didn't deforest since the cut-off date was defined, which was not too difficult to show with maps. But how can you demonstrate if the company had applied and followed all the requirements after the cut date of May 29th, 2009?

Farms should have all infrastructure and facilities according to Brazilian legislation. In order to attend to this, the producer needs to invest a lot of money to comply with the regulation in a short period of time, without knowing if it will bring financial compensation at the end.

In general terms, rural labourers don't have the qualifications and the skills needed to work within this new program. So the farm needs to invest more in training, which leads to increased labour costs of course.

Q: Are there lessons learned you would like to share with other plantations?

A: Yes, there are. The farmer that wishes to pursue certification must follow good agricultural practices in the soy business. They should know that it is not easy to comply quickly with all the RTRS P&Cs without making many changes in your business.

In the coming year, we don't expect to see a lot of certified soybean available in the market. The investment in management systems to control and establish new targets and goals will be great this year. Most of the producers in Brazil don't yet use these systems in their farms.

Q: What were your perceptions of the auditing body?

A: In the beginning our farmers had many doubts about the RTRS P&C requirements and about what will be expected of them. In each of our farms, we undertook a two-day workshop to socialize the P&Cs to our farmers and staff.

We believe the fine-tuning of the P&C that has been made will make the work flow better in the coming year. Nowadays, the high cost of auditing is a big concern to the farmers.

Q: How long will it take for all your plantations to be RTRS certified?

A: It's a good question and an impossible one to answer right now. It will depend at what stage each farm is at regarding facilities, management, and infrastructure. We believe the progress in applying the principles and certifying the farm will generate better management results and greater productivity. On average, we believe that it will take at least two or three years to certify each farm.

Q: What kind of demand is there from buyers of certified soy?

A: Actually we haven't seen demand for RTRS soy yet because no production or market development for these products has taken place. It's a new issue for customers, crushers and traders.

Q: What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the RTRS as the first certified soy will arrive on the market next year?

A: A big challenge is to develop the foreign market for RTRS soy and define a premium per ton to give the producer an incentive to apply the RTRS standards. On the other hand, a good Payment for Environmental Services program will help to broadcast this platform and make it attractive to producers. Another challenge is to demonstrate that RTRS soy is able to pay back all the efforts and investment done on the farm and that production costs will be reduced in the long term.

Álvaro Luiz Dilli Gonçalves: Sustainability Manager for the Brazilian soy producer SLC Agrícola S.A.



"A big challenge is to develop the foreign market for RTRS soy." Álvaro Luiz Dilli Gonçalves

News

Cargill cooperates with WWF to assess its palm oil supply chain

Cargill, a global producer and trader of food, agricultural, and industrial products and services announced at the beginning of July that it is collaborating with WWF to undertake an assessment of approximately 50% of its palm oil suppliers in Indonesia. The audit will help to analyze the current progress amongst Cargill's suppliers to implement the RSPO Principles and Criteria. The assessment will begin in August 2010 and the first phase will focus on estates from Cargill's key suppliers with the highest biodiversity concerns. WWF will supervise the overall process of the audit. Findings should be published in early 2011.

"This project is very important to WWF because it will help move the palm oil industry to higher levels of performance," said Jason Clay, Senior Vice President of Markets at WWF US. "Through engagement with businesses like Cargill, we can drive market transformation by creating linkages between performance and markets. This agreement allows us to affect positive change on the ground, so together we can create a process to drive continuous improvement of responsible sourcing practices."

Cargill has set a goal of buying 60 percent of its total crude palm oil from RSPO members by the end of 2010. It is encouraging its suppliers to join the RSPO and to attain certification for all of their oil palm plantations. Cargill's oil palm plantation in PT Hindoli in Sumatra, Indonesia has received RSPO certification and smallholders at this plantation are scheduled in the next few months to be the first to be RSPO certified. It is also working towards getting RSPO certification for its other palm plantation, Harapan Sawit Lestari. Cargill's European and Malaysian refineries have also received approval to offer RSPO products.

Link: [Cargill Press Release](#)

Amazon Soy Moratorium Extended

On July 8, Environmental group Greenpeace and the Brazilian Vegetable Oils Industries Association (Abiove) announced that Brazil's Soy Moratorium will be extended for its fourth consecutive year. During the news conference in Sao Paulo, the GTS Soy Work Group, including representatives from soy traders, processing companies, exporters and NGOs, celebrated the fourth anniversary of this initiative and presented a report on its third monitoring cycle.

"The Amazon Soy Moratorium demonstrates that production and conservation can go hand in hand," said Paulo Adario, environmental group Greenpeace's Amazon Campaign director in a press release. "But there is still much work to be done before Brazilian agricultural production is completely free from deforestation."

Participating in the news conference was Brazilian Environmental Minister Izabella Teixeira, who, while praising the initiative, also highlighted the need for the industry to focus the Cerrado biome, where soy expansion is more aggressive than in the Amazon. She pointed out that only 7% of the Brazilian soy is cultivated in the Amazon biome while 60% is grown in the Cerrado.

The latest figures show that under the moratorium, established in July 2006, Amazon deforestation has decreased while soy yields have increased, Adario said at a press conference in Sao Paulo.

Greenpeace and WWF support the Amazon soy moratorium in which major trading companies such as Archer Daniels Midland and Bunge agree not to purchase beans from areas deforested after 2006. The initiative covers areas of the Amazon in Mato Grosso, Para and Rondonia states, where 302,149 hectares were monitored

by satellites and inspectors during the 2009-10 crop season, which saw the harvest end in May. This compared to 49,809 hectares when the program started in the 2007-08 crop season.

Although 6,300 hectares were identified as having soy in recently deforested areas during 2009-10, Adario said that the initiative is “positive.” The slight increase was due to some farms resisting the moratorium and other farms shifting to plant soy in areas already deforested by cattle or other crops in previous years, he said.

“Brazilian soya and cattle traders are supporting efforts to stop deforestation because the global market rejects products linked to the destruction of the Amazon,” said Adario. “But they cannot guarantee their products are deforestation free until the government, farmers and traders work together to ensure that all farms in the Amazon are publicly registered so that the culprits can be caught and held accountable.”

Links: [ABIOVE Press Release](#)

Norway and Indonesia forge partnership to reduce emissions from deforestation

On May 26, Norway and Indonesia agreed to enter into a partnership to support Indonesia’s efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation of forests and peat lands. Indonesia will take immediate and decisive action to reduce its forest and peat related greenhouse gas emissions. Norway will support those efforts with one billion USD over the next five years. Following on the announcement of this landmark agreement, the Indonesian government announced it would impose a two-year moratorium on the development of peatland and primary forest areas.

Indonesia intends to use Norway’s billion dollar commitment in three phases. The first, which runs from now through the end of the year,

will support “readiness” activities including the development of a national REDD (Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation [including peatlands]) strategy; the selection of sites for pilot projects (candidates include forests in Papua, Sumatra, and Kalimantan); the establishment of an independent monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) agency for tracking progress on reducing deforestation; the establishment of a national REDD office that reports directly to the president; and determination of a long-term funding instrument for the program.

But while there is an initial plan in place, some confusion remains. It has been reported that the Indonesian government had previously issued licenses for the development of 9.8 million hectares of palm oil plantations, but so far only 7.9 million hectares had been realized, leaving another 1.9 million hectares still to be developed. Shortly after Norway’s deal was unveiled and the moratorium announced, officials from various government ministries and industry bodies seemed to make conflicting statements in the press.

Hatta Rajasa, the Chief Economic Minister, told Reuters that the government would not take away any forestry licenses a day after Agus Purnomo, head of the secretariat of Indonesia’s National Climate Change Council, said that developers who lacked legal permits to clear forest land could lose their concessions. Purnomo said that some of Norway’s money would be used to compensate palm oil developers and timber companies that could lose forest concessions under the emissions mitigation program.

To clarify some of the details of Indonesia’s new forest program and Norway’s billion dollar commitment, Purnomo and his colleague Yani Saloh - both of whom were appointed as Special Assistant to the President of the Republic of Indonesia for Climate Change in early 2010 - agreed to answer some questions from the environmental news website *mongabay.com*.

“The moratorium is for new (repeat new) concessions on primary natural forests and peat lands, for two years,” they stated. “The highlight of the news that the government is ‘trigger happy’ in canceling existing concession is misleading...”

Links: [Press Release Office of Prime Minister of Norway](#), [WWF Press Release](#), [mongabay.com](#) (June 14), [The Jakarta Globe](#) (June 13), [Reuters](#) (May 31), [Editorial from WRI in Jakarta Globe](#)



Aerial view of palm oil plantation on deforested land, Sabah, Borneo, Malaysia. Copyright: naturepl.com/Juan Carlos Manoz / WWF

Palm oil producers in Malaysia, Indonesia form alliance

Palm oil producers in Indonesia and Malaysia have established the Indonesia-Malaysia Palm Oil Group (IMPOG) to formalise their collaboration on sustainable palm oil development. IMPOG’s first chairman will be from the Association of Plantation Investors of Malaysia

in Indonesia, which will also serve as its secretariat this year. A communiqué issued by the group said that it had set up a steering committee to focus on emerging research and development, sustainability related issues and communication to stakeholders. “IMPOG did not discuss any alternative sustainability certification scheme for palm oil,” the statement added. “However, the meeting agreed to engage with the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) for a more practical and implementable scheme.”

Meanwhile the Indonesian government has announced that it is developing the Indonesia Sustainable Palm Oil certification system (ISPO) which, unlike the voluntary RSPO scheme, will be compulsory for all Indonesian palm oil producers.

WWF-Malaysia and WWF-Indonesia issued a joint letter supporting the palm oil industry in Indonesia and Malaysia, emphasizing the credibility of the RSPO and warning against a lowering of its sustainability standards as this could result in edible oil buyers being forced to abandon palm oil, which would have a major impact on the Malaysian and Indonesian economies.

Links: [The Star](#) (May 4), [The Jakarta Globe](#) (May 23), [WWF letter published in Jakarta Post](#) (June 26)

Segregated certified sustainable palm oil coming to Europe and UK

New Britain Palm Oil has announced that its new £18m palm oil processing plant in Liverpool docks will open for business in June 2010. The plant will process “fully traceable and sustainable” palm oil from plantations certified according to the RSPO standards. The tanks at the refinery hold 25,000 tonnes of oil. “We’re actually taking the oil from our own plantations in Papua New Guinea and bringing it traceably through this



plant to our manufacturers in the UK who want to use it for their food products,” Alan Chaytor of New Britain Palm Oil told BBC. New Britain has already secured several multi-million pound supply deals for its Liverpool plant with clients such as United Biscuits, Italian chocolate and spread manufacturer Ferrero and cereals maker Jordans.

Meanwhile, IOI-Loders Croklaan Europe announced in April that it will become the first palm oil supplier in continental Europe to supply fully segregated, RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil. The company is able to provide segregated palm oil due to the opening of the company’s new state-of-the-art refinery on the Rotterdam Maasvlakte in June 2010. This environmentally friendly refinery, built to allow IOI-Loders Croklaan to significantly extend its product portfolio, has the storage capacity, infrastructure and technology necessary to keep sustainable palm oil wholly segregated from other oils.

Links: [IOI Lodders Croklaan Press Release](#), [Liverpool Daily Post](#) (May 21), [BBC](#) (June 2)

Nestle tackling deforestation in their supply chain

Nestle announced in April that it will develop a comprehensive approach to tackling deforestation in its supply chain, prioritizing work on palm oil and pulp and paper. If implemented fully, this will have significant positive impacts in tackling deforestation. Nestle will be partnering with The Forest Trust to deliver against the commitments.

The commitments in relation to palm oil are, among others, that palm oil will protect high conservation value forest areas, peatlands and forest areas of high carbon value. Greenpeace, which was instrumental in outlining the measures that would be seen as meaningful, called the agreement “a very positive step” and is suspending its campaign work against Nestle.

However, Greenpeace continues to press for a moratorium on deforestation in Indonesia and also continues its campaign against Sinar Mas. The Sinar Mas group has still made no firm commitments to stop deforestation either for palm oil, or, through its Asia Pulp and Paper subsidiary, for pulp and paper plantations.

Links: [Nestle News](#), [TFT Press Release](#), [Greenpeace USA Blog](#)

New guidance from EU Commission on the implementation of sustainability schemes for biofuels

On June 10, the European Commission published guidelines that should help businesses and Member States to implement the EU’s Renewable Energy Directive. They focus especially on the sustainability criteria for biofuels, what needs to be done in order to ensure that only sustainable biofuels are used, and what certification schemes must do to be recognized by the Commission. This will help implement the EU’s requirements stipulating that biofuels must deliver 35% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and should not come from land with high biodiversity value, like forest and grasslands, and areas with high carbon stock, like wetlands. Finally, these guidelines clarified that palm oil plantations are not classified as continuously forested areas under the Renewable Energy Directive which will come into effect in December 2010.

Links: [EU Commission statement](#), [WWF statement](#)

New decisions by the Roundtable for Sustainable Biofuels

The Roundtable for Sustainable Biofuels (RSB) has recently adopted important elements that will contribute to the finalization of the RSB certification scheme. In its recent meeting, the RSB board has approved the GHG assessment methodology which will be used to measure the climate change mitigation benefits of RSB certified biofuels.

Additionally the RSB also adopted a 50% minimum GHG reduction target (compared to fossil fuel reference) applied to blends rather than individual biofuel consignments. Work on indirect land use change will continue in line with the current RSB strategy. The ongoing field tests will help the RSB to further refine the standard. The RSB will also apply for EU recognition by the Renewable Energy Directive under the framework recently published by the EU Commission (see item above).

Link: [Roundtable for Sustainable Biofuels](#)

Two certifiers approved for RSPO Supply Chain Certifications

Netherlands-based certifier Control Union Certifications has been approved by the RSPO as the second certifying body for traders and product manufacturers that are part of the sustainable palm oil supply chain. Control Union joins U.K.-based BM Trada Certification, while two more certifiers are currently in the process of being approved. The RSPO is seeking additional certification bodies for its Supply Chain Certification System.

Link: [Application for RSPO Supply Chain Certification Body](#)

Statement in favour of RSB

After the departure of the European Biodiesel Board (EBB) and the European Bioethanol Fuel Association (eBIO) from the Roundtable on Sustainable Biofuels (RSB), WWF and IUCN issued a statement in support of the RSB. More than 40 RSB members signed the statement reaffirming their full commitment and support to achieve sustainability in biofuels value chains, and their conviction that the multi-stakeholder RSB process is a good path forward for developing a relevant and practical set of sustainability standards for biofuel.

Link: [The statement](#)

RSPO National Interpretations moving forward in Ecuador and Ghana

Recently, palm oil stakeholders in Ecuador and Ghana have started the process of interpreting the RSPO Principles and Criteria for their national contexts. In Ecuador, the process was initiated by the palm oil company Energy & Palm, an RSPO member, which is interested in having their operations in Ecuador certified. Ancupa, which recently became a member of the RSPO, will lead the process from now on.

Link: [National Implementation and Interpretation of the P&C](#)

World Bank formulating strategy for its palm oil involvement

The World Bank Group is in the process of formulating a strategy and framework to guide its future involvement in the palm oil sector. A central feature of this strategy development is a global consultation process designed to engage and solicit comments and inputs from a diverse range of stakeholders. A website has been launched that provides information about the strategy development process, calendar of events and consultations, stakeholder views (as they become available). All stakeholders are invited to participate. Several meetings have already taken place and more moderated electronic consultations are scheduled for the following weeks.

The drafting and dissemination of the palm oil strategy paper for final comments is scheduled to take place from August to September 2010 and the finalized strategy is expected in September 2010.

Link: [World Bank strategy development process](#)

ABIOVE launches Soja Plus

On April 6, ABIOVE (the Brazilian Vegetable Oil Industries Association), together with other companies in the Brazilian soy industry, launched the Soja Plus label. This voluntary initiative will comprise 46 prerequisites that must be fulfilled for growers. It aims to begin issuing the label by October this year.



*Soy bean (Glycine soja) plantation, Paran , Brazil.
Copyright: Michael Gunther / WWF-Canon*

A group of NGOs including Greenpeace and WWF have issued a joint statement stating that they do not support Soja Plus, in part because it is not a multi-stakeholder initiative.

Links: [Abiove announcement](#), [Reuters](#) (April 7), [NGO statement on Soja Plus \(in Portuguese\)](#)

The Forest Trust promotes sustainable palm oil

The Forest Trust (TFT) is taking the experience that it gained in the timber sector and applying it to selected non-wood business sectors, such as agriculture and ranching.

In respect to palm oil, TFT has announced that it has started working with a major European retailer to encourage it to source palm oil in a responsible way. This means buying palm oil that originates from companies that are certified under the RSPO scheme and fully compliant with all RSPO requirements which includes being fully transparent, limiting their environmental impact (i.e. do not deforest to plant), and respecting land rights and free prior and informed consent of local communities.

Link: [The Forest Trust News](#)

First shipment of RSPO certified sustainable crude palm oil to US

In mid April, AAK, a British manufacturer of specialty oils and fats, announced the arrival of the first shipment of segregated RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil to the US. Arriving at AAK's refinery in Port Newark, New Jersey, this shipment marked the first time that U.S. consumer good manufacturers have the option to physically source sustainable palm oil for use in their products.

Link: [Mongobay Article](#)

Sales of certified oil continue to rise rapidly

Sales of RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil continue to grow significantly. A spate of recent grower certifications has pushed the daily production rate of RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil past the 5,000 tonnes (metric tons) mark. According to the RSPO, every day the equivalent of a 3 kilometer container freight train leaves palm oil mills and plantations independently certified to comply with the RSPO's criteria for sustainable palm oil farming. Since the fall of 2008, more than 2.2 million tonnes of certified palm oil have been produced, or 2.8 million tonnes if certified palm kernels are counted as well.

At the other end of the global supply chain, rising numbers of manufacturers and retailers are beginning to purchase sustainable palm oil or corresponding certificates. In 2010 alone, close to 600,000 tons of sustainably produced palm oil and palm kernels were taken up by the market.

Link: [RSPO market figures](#)



Supply and sales of certified sustainable palm oil.
Copyright: RSPO

RSPO launches online tool on sustainable palm oil

The RSPO has launched a new, easy to navigate web tool that helps retailers, manufacturers and traders complete the few steps needed to make RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil part of their operations. The new tool provides all categories of palm oil users with tailored lists of “what to decide” and “what to do” in order to switch to sustainable palm oil, and points to relevant websites and documents where needed. The tool is available in English, German, French, Spanish and Dutch.

Link: [More information](#)

French market heading for sustainable palm oil

On April 7, more than 150 representatives of French consumer good manufacturing and retail companies attended a conference in Paris on the use of RSPO-certified sustainable palm oil. Attendants heard talks by representatives from WWF France, Unilever, IOI Loders Croklaan and French retailer Carrefour.

IOI Loders Croklaan, co-sponsor of the event, unveiled to French palm oil users that the company will be able to supply segregated refined sustainable palm oil to continental Europe as of June 2010 as first palm oil supplier in continental Europe.

Link: [Food Ingredients First article](#)

Unilever covers whole European palm oil need sustainably

At the beginning of April, Unilever announced that it has secured enough GreenPalm certificates to supply its European, Australian and New Zealand businesses with sustainable palm oil. The move is part of Unilever’s commitment to purchase all of its palm oil from sustainable sources by 2015. GreenPalm is a certificate trading programme, endorsed by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), which is designed to tackle the environmental and social problems created by the production of palm oil.

Link: [Unilever Press Release](#)

Publications

How Sinar Mas is pulping the planet

On July 6, Greenpeace issued a report that alleges that Indonesian conglomerate Sinar Mas is continuing to clear rainforest areas and peatlands to fuel its pulp and paper and palm oil businesses. Greenpeace investigated the company's activities in two important rainforest areas on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, the Bukit Tigapuluh Forest Landscape, one of the last refuges for endangered Sumatran tigers and orang-utans, and the carbon rich Kerumutan peat forest, which contains peat land which is deeper than three meters and thus illegal to clear under Indonesian law.

The report also calls on major global buyers of paper and palm oil to boycott Sinar Mas. Several top palm oil buyers, including Unilever and Nestle, have already said they will stop buying from Sinar Mas.

Link: [Download the report](#)

Biofuels cause four times more carbon emissions

A report commissioned by the European Commission found some biofuels can lead to four times more carbon dioxide polluting the atmosphere than equivalent fossil fuels.

Link: [Download the report](#)



Soy expansion in the Legal Amazon.

Copyright: [mongabay.com](#)

The role of pasture and soybean in deforestation of the Brazilian Amazon

This study published in the journal Environmental Research Letters states that industrial soy expansion in the Brazilian Amazon has contributed to deforestation by pushing cattle ranchers further north into rainforest zones. Using spatial and statistical analysis, the study showed that forest clearing for pasture development was directly associated with deforestation. But the research also suggests that soy development is an indirect cause of deforestation. The study suggests that reducing deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon is complex and can only be addressed by taking a multifaceted approach.

Link: [Download the report](#)

Upcoming events

2nd RSPO Latin America Conference

The 2nd RSPO Latin America Conference will be held on August 25 and 26, 2010 in Estação das Docas, Belém, PA, Brazil. Plantation visits will be offered to participants on August 24 and 27.

Link: [More information](#)

RTRS Outreach Seminar in Copenhagen

An RTRS Outreach Seminar organized by WWF and RTRS will take place in Copenhagen on September 1. It will focus on challenges related to sustainability in soy production, the possible solutions including RTRS, and how stakeholders can source and supply responsible soy. Participant will hear the latest progress of the RTRS, and the views from other stakeholders. The audience and participants will be drawn from

leading feed suppliers, meat producers, processors and retailers in Norway, Finland, Sweden and Denmark.

Contact Ditte Steffensen: d.steffensen@wwf.dk

8th Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Palm Oil

The 8th Roundtable Meeting on Sustainable Palm Oil (RT8) will be held from November 8 to 11, 2010 in Hotel Mulia Senayan, Jakarta, Indonesia. A special event to reiterate the RSPO's commitment to sustainable palm oil production by smallholders, the conference will be themed "RSPO is also for Smallholders". The RSPO's General Assembly will meet on November 11 in the same venue after the conclusion of RT8. The deadline for early bird registration for RT8 is August 30, 2010.

Link: [More information](#)

Media review

Indonesian firm accused of clearing rain forests

The New York Times, July 5, 2010

Greenpeace has accused one of the world's largest pulp, paper and palm oil companies of aggressively clearing Indonesian rain forests and throwing into doubt a landmark billion-dollar deal that aims to fight climate change by curbing deforestation.

Link: [The article](#)

Greenpeace cautious Indonesian government on new palm oil sustainability claim

Global Times, June 25, 2010

International environment campaigner organization, Greenpeace, expressed on Friday its fear that the new Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil (ISPO) certification initiative demands nothing more than legal compliance from companies and will not tackle deforestation for palm oil expansion.

Link: [The article](#)

The other oil spill

The Economist, June 24, 2010

Palm oil is a popular, cheap commodity, which green activists are doing their best to turn into a commercial liability. Companies are finding them impossible to ignore.

Link: [The article](#)

Swiss giant orders investigation into its largest palm oil supplier

mongabay.com, June 15, 2010

Migros, Switzerland's largest supermarket chain, will lodge a formal complaint against Malaysia's IOI Group after the palm oil grower was linked to illegal forest-clearing and encroachment on indigenous lands.

Link: [The article](#)

Roundtable signs off responsible soy standards

Food Navigator, June 11, 2010

New voluntary standards for the responsible production of soy have been agreed by the industry roundtable, and the first certified material from South America is expected to be in the market in 2011.

Link: [The article](#)

New "responsible" soya label meets global rejection

Food and Water Europe, June 7, 2010

An initial 219 groups from 30 countries issued a public letter to the members of the Roundtable of Responsible Soya rejecting the new "responsible" label for industrial soya, due to be launched at the RTRS conference in Brazil on June 9-10. They call the label "Green-Wash", saying it will make matters worse, not better.

Link: [The article](#)

Palm oil's promotion as diesel alternative draws fire

The New York Time, June 3, 2010

Biofuel goals meant to fight climate change are worsening the problem by giving growers an even greater incentive to destroy virgin forests and peatlands that serve as huge carbon sinks, environment advocates say.

Link: [The article](#)

Sime Darby ships first segregated palm oil to Europe

The Star, June 5, 2010

Sime Darby Plantation Sdn Bhd shipped out its first segregated certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO) from Kunak in Sabah to Rotterdam on May 29.

Link: [The article](#)

Behind biodiversity for busy managers

Wild Asia, May 27, 2010

Meeting the RSPO sustainability requirements can be a challenge for some companies undergoing the certification process. Biodiversity for Busy Managers is an initiative to help plantation managers overcome this stumbling block. WILD ASIA shares their thoughts and inspiration that spurred Biodiversity for Busy Managers.

Link: [The article](#)

RI to honor palm oil contracts despite forest protection

The Jakarta Post, May 27, 2010

Indonesia will honor palm oil companies' existing contracts despite its pledge to suspend new concessions to clear the nation's natural forests and peat lands for two years, President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono says.

Link: [The article](#)

Indonesia announces two-year moratorium on deforestation

AFP, May 26, 2010

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said he would introduce a two-year moratorium on deforestation, a large source of income for his country which also contributes heavily to global warming. According to Greenpeace, forests covering the equivalent of 300 football fields are eradicated every hour in Indonesia.

Link: [The article](#)

Indonesian palm oil producers put faith in government standards

Jakarta Globe, May 23, 2010

Indonesian palm oil growers hope a new environmental certification system being launched by the government soon will help to counter the widespread perception that producers here are damaging the environment.

Link: [The article](#)

EU pledges to continue buying CPO from Indonesia

e-energymarket.com, May 20, 2010

Ignoring environmental concerns that Indonesian producers are clearing protected rainforests, the European Union (EU) administration has pledged not to restrict exports of Indonesian crude palm oil (CPO) to Europe.

Link: [The article](#)

Top choc firm bars oil from rainforest

The Sun, May 18, 2010

Nestlé, the maker of KitKat announced it would stop using oil from suppliers who are destroying rainforests.

Link: [The article](#)

EU pledges to continue buying CPO from Indonesia

The Jakarta Post, May 17, 2010

Ignoring environmental concerns that Indonesian producers are clearing protected rainforests, the European Union (EU) administration has pledged not to restrict exports of Indonesian crude palm oil (CPO) to Europe.

Link: [The article](#)

Battle brewing over forests and plantations in Papua

The Jakarta Globe, May 9, 2010

Environmentalists are up in arms over the latest design for the Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estate in Papua, which they say will see more than 1.1 million hectares of forests converted into agricultural estates.

Link: [The article](#)

Government ready to facilitate Greenpeace case

Antara News, May 8, 2010

The agriculture ministry is ready to facilitate a meeting between Greenpeace and PT Sinar Mas Agro Resources & Technology Tbk. (PT SMART) to clarify issue on environmental destruction by oil palm plantations.

Link: [The article](#)

Indonesian palm oil giant broke commitments

AFP, April 27, 2010

Greenpeace activists said they had discovered recently that a Sinar Mas subsidiary, PT BAT, was still clearing rainforest near a habitat of orangutans, an endangered species, in Central Kalimantan.

Link: [The article](#)



Government drops designating plantations as forests

The Jakarta Post, April 14, 2010

The forestry ministry dropped its controversial initiative to classify oil palm plantations as forests after strong protests from environmental activists on fears that it would speed up deforestation.

Link: [The article](#)

Biofuel power stations take heat for burning palm oil for electricity

Environmental Leader, April 13, 2010

Environmentalists are criticizing Chelveston Renewable Energy in the UK for planning to burn tropical palm oil to generate electricity, reports Times Online.

Link: [The article](#)

Sinar Mas should prove all plantations sustainable

The Jakarta Post, April 12, 2010

Activists have called the steps a palm plantation giant was taking to clear itself of Greenpeace Indonesia's accusations that it destroyed protected rainforests insufficient.

Link: [The article](#)

Sinar Mas picks groups to assess Greenpeace claims

The Jakarta Globe, April 2, 2010

PT Sinar Mas Group, Indonesia's largest palm oil producer, has appointed two bodies to assess allegations from Greenpeace that it has destroyed rainforests, a key habitat for orangutans.

Link: [The article](#)

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