



SUSTAINABLE
PALM OIL
CHAMPION

TOOLKIT

CHESTER ZOO



BACKGROUND

Sustainable Palm Oil Communities aims to increase the demand for sustainable palm oil one community at a time. Join your community and become a Sustainable Palm Oil Champion. Together we can transform the market and ensure that sustainable palm oil is used as widely as possible, protecting our planet's wonderful rainforests and the amazing species that call them home.

Palm oil, when produced unsustainably, is linked to many negative environmental impacts including deforestation, which is one of the major key drivers of climate change. As a result, this campaign advocates for certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO) which is grown in a way that protects rainforests and prevents further deforestation.

By increasing the demand for sustainable palm oil, by choosing to **ONLY** buy and sell products that contain certified sustainable palm oil, you are helping to protect wildlife and habitats all over the world.

Sustainable Palm Oil Communities is an initiative led by Chester Zoo and in 2019 they celebrated Chester becoming the world's first Sustainable Palm Oil City. The zoo is now calling for other communities across the globe to join them in creating a network of Sustainable Palm Oil Communities.

This toolkit is designed to give you all of the information and resources that you need to become a Sustainable Palm Oil Champion.

Together we can prevent extinction!

STEP *by* STEP

Here are the steps you need to take to become a Sustainable Palm Oil Champion.

Before starting your palm oil journey, we do recommend a little background reading (all found in this toolkit!). Our checklist will guide you through where to start –

- Understand what palm oil is, and the types of products that could contain palm oil (see page 4 & 6)
- Learn about certified sustainable palm oil and recognise the four supply chain models used by the RSPO (see page 7)
- Decide your businesses palm oil policy (see page 5)

You're now ready to begin!

1 MAKE YOUR PLEDGE

Your area's project lead will supply you with two short forms you need to fill in. The first, to pledge that you are committed to ensuring that the food products you buy and sell contain only sustainable palm oil, the second gives us more of an understanding of your business.

2 MAKE ONE CHANGE

Check your products for use of palm oil and make one change from a product that contains unsustainable palm oil to one that contains sustainable palm oil. Send Resource 3 in your champion toolkit pack to all of your food suppliers, you can also use Chester Zoo's online **shopping list** as a guide (remember: this list isn't exhaustive so contact your community project lead for advice

if you need it). If you find you already only sell products containing sustainable palm oil then that is great – you don't need to make a change.

Once you have made a change, there is one final short form you need to fill in to outline what change(s) you have made.

3 TELL EVERYONE ABOUT IT!

Put a statement on your website to say that you will work towards sourcing only sustainable palm oil products (see page 5 for sample statement), and communicate as appropriate within your organisation and to the public. Sharing on social media is also a great way to spread the word!

YOU ARE NOW A SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL CHAMPION!

Let your community project lead know when you have completed step 3, they'll promote all of your communities champions as part of the project. Once your community has reached your target goal of champions you can join together to celebrate becoming a Sustainable Palm Oil Community.

WANT A GOLD STAR AWARD?

To become a champion you'll need to take the steps above, but we would love you to go one step further and ensure that all of the products you sell containing palm oil are 100% sustainable.

STEP *by* STEP

4 CHECK ALL OF YOUR PRODUCTS

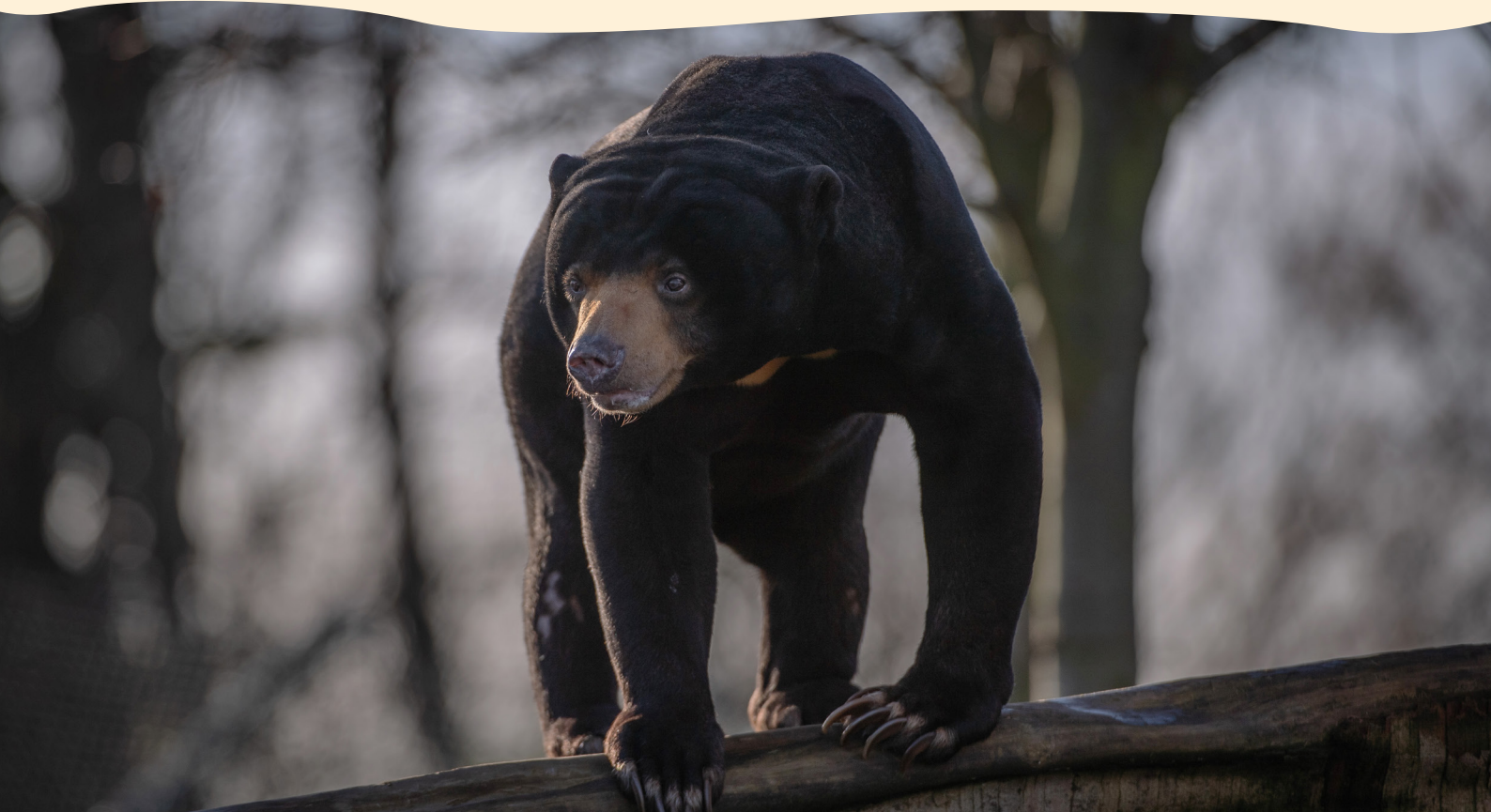
Use Resource 2 in your champion toolkit pack to make a record of all of your products containing palm oil, and send Resource 3 to any suppliers you may not have already contacted. Your suppliers should be able to tell you which products they supply contain palm oil and whether they are RSPO certified or not. If necessary, you may need to swap a product to ensure it is sustainable. Use Chester Zoo's handy **shopping list** for alternatives, or contact your local project lead.

5 AUDIT

Repeat the audit every year, and when you source new products ensure they are sustainable.

WANT TO DO MORE?

- Spread the word – why not encourage other businesses in your area to join the project, and support them in their journey!
- Social media is a great way of letting your customers know about your commitment to a sustainable supply chain, schedule content around sustainable palm oil
- Work with your suppliers to encourage them to only supply products which contain certified sustainable palm oil. The more suppliers and manufacturers who adopt sustainable policies themselves the better!
- Collaboration – if you think you may share a supplier with others in your local area work together with that supplier to encourage them to only source CSPO!





ABOUT PALM OIL

Palm oil is an edible vegetable oil that comes from the fruit of oil palm trees. Because palm oil is cheap and efficient, it is the world's most widely used vegetable oil and global consumption is rising.

Palm oil is used in the production of foods such as cake, chocolate, biscuits, margarine and frying fats. It is also found in cosmetics, soap, shampoo, cleaning products and can be used as a biofuel. Up to 50% of products in an average UK supermarket now contain palm oil!

THE GOOD...

Oil palm trees are highly productive and the yield per square kilometre is higher than for any other edible oil. Growing oil palm trees is the most efficient use of land for oil, producing twice as much as coconut trees and over thirty times as much as maize. This means that palm oil has the potential to be very environmentally friendly if it is grown sustainably.

THE CHALLENGE

If we were to stop using palm oil, we would need to find an alternative to supply the global demand for edible vegetable oils. Because other oil crops – such as coconuts, olives, sunflowers and maize – are less productive per square kilometre, even more land would need to be converted to agriculture.

AND THE BAD...

The demand for palm oil has resulted in the rapid and unregulated expansion of oil palm plantations, particularly in Malaysia and Indonesia (including the islands of Sumatra and Borneo), where around 85% of the world's palm oil is produced. Vast areas of rainforest – once home to orangutans, tigers, elephants and rhinos – have been cleared to make way for oil palm trees. The new plantations contain just a fraction of the flora and fauna of rainforests and cannot sustain the native wildlife. As a result, animal numbers are falling fast. The wet swampy rainforests of these countries are often found on tropical peat soils. Peatlands store a huge amount of carbon and when cleared and drained, the carbon is released contributing significantly to the release of greenhouse gases and global warming.

THE SOLUTION

The number of organisations producing and sourcing sustainable palm oil is growing. Sustainable Palm Oil Communities, led by Chester Zoo, supports the work of the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) which has developed sustainability standards for palm oil. Their criteria includes assessing land for its conservation value before developing new plantations, no further deforestation, peat development, or burning of land to clear it, incorporating wildlife corridors into plantations, as well as improved working conditions and obtaining land use permission from communities

Many companies are now labelling their products as containing certified sustainable palm oil, **click here** to see Chester Zoo's Sustainable Palm Oil Shopping List, however others have decided not to label on their products – so the palm oil in products you buy could still be sustainable. Raising awareness of this and creating a demand for certified sustainable palm oil is an important step in helping to protect animals like orangutans and others that share its rainforest habitat.

For more information about PALM OIL
go to chesterzoo.org/palmoil

SAMPLE POSITION STATEMENT

Sustainable palm oil supply is a complex issue so it's really important that you are clear about your position and what you are asking of your suppliers before you make a start with your audit.

We would recommend that your statement on sustainable palm oil clearly lays out the commitments and timeframes of your action plan including milestones. Our recommendation would be to aim for sourcing 100% traceable physical certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO).

Step 1 Decide on a date you will procure CSPO onsite by (or from)

Step 2 Understand the RSPO supply chains and different types of CSPO available (see Appendix 2).

Options:

- ensure that your products contain CSPO from physical sources only (identity preserved, segregated or mass balance)
- make a time-bound plan for your CSPO products to come from physical sources only
- acknowledge that book and claim is an acceptable short term solution where no other alternative is available

Step 3 Choose if you want your suppliers/manufacturers to have a stance on palm oil

Options:

- ensure your suppliers/ manufacturers use only CSPO across operation
- ensure your suppliers/manufacturers have a time bound plan to source 100% CSPO across operation
- encourage suppliers/manufacturers to create a time bound plan to source 100% CSPO across operation
- have no policy on your suppliers/manufacturers stance across their operation

Step 4 Chose areas of your business to cover

Options:

- policy refers to food for human consumption only (this is acceptable to be classed as a Sustainable Palm Oil Champion), but with a plan to be sustainable in other areas in the future
- policy refers to all products used in your business (food for human consumption and cleaning/personal care products)
- if you are a supplier or manufacturer, it is recommended that you become an RSPO member and have your business officially certified

Step 5: Detail how this policy will be audited

Example wording for a policy which will change depending on decisions made above.

We at [COMPANY NAME] are committed to participation in the Sustainable Palm Oil Communities project in [LOCATION]. By [CHOSEN DATE] we will have worked with our suppliers to ensure that where palm oil is present in our food, it will be sourced from sustainable sources. This process is facilitated through annual supplier audits. By doing so we know that we are helping to protect wildlife around the world from the impact of unsustainable agricultural practices.



APPENDIX 1

USE OF PALM OIL WITHIN THE FOOD AND NON-FOOD SECTOR

Food and cosmetic products:

Palm oil is predominantly used in confectionery, breads, pastries, margarines, and spreads. Cleaning products, cosmetics and personal care contain oil-based chemical derivatives in the form of oleochemicals.

Animal feed:

Palm oil and palm kernel meal is a component of animal feed used for commercial livestock (such as cattle, sheep and pigs), pet food, as well as domestic and commercial fish food.

SOME OF THE COMMON NAMES FOR PALM OIL AND PALM OIL DERIVATIVES

These ingredients are definitely palm oil or derived from palm oil:

Vegetable oil
Palm oil kernel
Palmitate
Saturated fat content 50% or
> then good chance it's palm
oil Margarine highly likely to
be derived from palm oil
Cocoa butter equivalent (CBE)
Cocoa butter substitute (CBS)
Palm Olein
Palm Stearine
Cetyl Palmitate

Elaeis Guineensis
Epoxidized Palm Oil (UV
cured coatings)
Ethylhexyl Palmitate
Hydrated Palm Glycerides
Octyl Palmitate
Palm Oil
Palm Fruit Oil
Palm Kernel
Palm Kernel Oil
Palm Stearine
Palmate

Palmitate
Palmitic Acid
Palmityl Alcohol
Palmitoyl Oxostearamide
Palmitoyl Tetrapeptide-3
Palmolein
Saponified Elaeis Guineensis
Sodium Kernelate
Sodium Palm Kernelate
Sodium Palmate

These ingredients are either derived from palm oil or coconut oil:

Cetyl Alcohol
Fatty alcohol sulphates
Isopropyl or Isopropyl Palmitate
Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate

(SDS or NaDS)
Sodium Isostearoyl Lactylate
Sodium Laureth Sulfate (in
almost everything that foams)

Sodium Lauryl Sulfate
Sodium Lauryl Sulfoacetate

These ingredients are often derived from palm oil, but could be derived from other vegetable oils:

"Other vegetable oils" (palm oil may
be included under this term)
Cocoa Butter Equivalent (CBE)
Cocoa Butter Substitute (CBE)

Emulsifiers (some can be palm oil
derived)
Glyceryl Stearate
Sodium Lauryl Lactylate

Steareth -2
Steareth -20
Steareth-21
Stearic Acid

APPENDIX 2

The RSPO has 4 approved supply chain models for its certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO) (1)

- Identity preserved - The oil delivered to the end user is traceable to the particular mill and its supply base.
- Segregated - The oil delivered to the end user comes only from certified sources. Oils from different certified sources can be mixed.
- Mass balance - Certified oil is tracked throughout the supply chain. It can be mixed with non-certified oil but the volumes of each are tracked and the correct proportions are sold as certified and non-certified.
- Book and claim - Certificate trading, where an oil mill can gain credits for volumes of certified oil produced and sell these to an end user. This is independent of the physical supply chain.

1 DEFRA UK Statement on Sustainable Palm Oil, November 2013

Note: Identity Preserved, Segregated and Mass Balance are classed as sourcing physical CSPO

USEFUL RESOURCES

This toolkit aims to provide you with a basic understanding of why we support sustainable palm oil. If you'd like to do some more research follow this link for lots of useful resources to get you started.

[CHESTERZOO.ORG/WHAT-IS-PALM-OIL](https://chesterzoo.org/what-is-palm-oil)

