

Position Statement

Working together for a Responsible Palm Oil future.

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this statement is to outline the Association’s position on addressing the threat of deforestation currently resulting from increasing demand for unsustainable palm oil.

2. Definitions

- 2.1 In this position statement, unless the context requires otherwise:

Association means the Zoo and Aquarium Association Inc. (ABN 71 836 556 156).

Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) is produced by palm oil plantations which have been independently audited and found to comply with the globally agreed environmental standards devised by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), using criteria that relate to social, environmental and economic good practice.

Executive Director means the Executive Director of the Association.

Member means a member of the Association, as defined in the Association’s Membership Policy, and may include an employee, officer or agent of a Member of the Association.

Palm Oil Innovation Group (POIG) means the group whose members are committed to displaying best practice in regards to the standards of the Roundtable

on Sustainable Palm Oil, particularly pushing practices farther in regards to reducing deforestation, carbon stocks, biodiversity and social impact.

Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) is a multi-stakeholder initiative dedicated to promoting sustainable production of palm oil worldwide, and its members include palm growers, oil processors, traders, consumer goods manufacturers, retailers, investors and social and environmental NGOs.

3. Background

3.1 Unsustainable palm oil production results in massive deforestation, rapid biodiversity loss in tropical ecosystems, and significant greenhouse gas emissions (Laurance, 2007; Fitzherbert et al., 2008). Global consumption of palm oil and its derivatives is increasing (US Department of Agriculture, 2015), requiring urgent conservation action to save habitats and species. Members are well positioned to help break the link between palm oil production and deforestation, climate pollution and human rights abuses through educating and empowering consumers, and those involved in the supply chain, to take actions that support the transition towards a truly responsible palm oil industry. By facilitating change through public audiences and stakeholder engagement, we aim to drive the market for responsibly produced palm oil and expose industry laggards contributing to deforestation.

4. Position

4.1 Vision and Mission

Our vision is that 100% of all products in Australia and New Zealand are deforestation free. Using palm oil as a flagship crop we aim to halt and reverse deforestation globally, and encourage the restoration of forest cover at least to the levels seen in 2010, and protect the world's last intact rainforests.

We hope to build a framework that can be used for palm oil and then be applied to other commodities also currently contributing to deforestation. We acknowledge that palm oil labelling is an important tool for achieving our vision, as well as greater awareness of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and its definitions of Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO), as well as the responsible production of palm oil by industry leaders in the Palm Oil Innovation Group (POIG).

4.2 Position

The Association and its Members call on companies to source and use only RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (100% Segregated) as a minimum, and require all suppliers to be verified or working towards compliance with the Palm Oil Innovation Group Charter.

The Association recognizes that the palm oil industry plays an important role in employment and economic growth for developing countries (Wilcove and Koh, 2010). It also acknowledges that moves away from palm oil will likely drive demand elsewhere for other vegetable oils (Teoh, 2010), none of which can meet the high productivity of palm oil per hectare with the smallest footprint when it comes to energy, fertiliser and pesticides. This shift in demand comes with unknown and potentially more damaging social and environmental impacts. For these reasons, we will combine our resources to ensure that all palm oil used in Australia and New Zealand is produced by third-party verified responsible companies and only boycott products that contain palm oil linked to deforestation.

We aim to influence the palm oil industry to reform its practices, by supporting market transformation and by driving demand for responsibly produced and traceable palm oil. Furthermore, we will advocate for improved labelling methods that enable consumers to distinguish between products that contain conventional or deforestation-free palm oil. Labelling brings a greater level of clarity and accountability allowing consumers to demand responsibly sourced palm oil. The Association sees the clear labelling of vegetable oils, including palm oil, as an important tool in being able to achieve greater uptake of CSPO. The Association will hold certification systems to account to ensure that all palm oil identified as "sustainable" is not linked to deforestation.

The RSPO is the most high profile and best represented organisation involved in certifying palm oil as sustainable, using standards based on an evolving set of Principles and Criteria (P&Cs) (RSPO, 2013) addressing a range of issues, including environmental and social impacts of palm oil. The POIG 'Charter' for palm oil producers is based on the RSPO P&Cs, but sets stronger standards on key issues, including the protection of secondary forests identified via the High Carbon Stock (HCS) Approach.

5. References

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Position Statement

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6. Approval

This position statement was approved by the Board of the Association on 03/12/2015.

Revision Record

Approved/ Amended/ Rescinded/Reviewed	Date	Board / Executive Director	Description

This document should be reviewed within 5 years of the date of approval or last review.