



PALM OIL BUYERS SCORECARD

MEASURING THE PROGRESS OF PALM OIL BUYERS
AS WE KICK OFF A DECADE OF ACTION FOR NATURE

2021 EDITION: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





ABOUT WWF

WWF is one of the world’s largest and most respected independent conservation organisations, with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in over 100 countries. WWF’s mission is to stop the degradation of the Earth’s natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world’s biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

More information: wwf.panda.org

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

WWF would like to acknowledge the Global Environment Facility for providing financial support for this report through the Good Growth Partnership.



ABOUT THE SCORECARD

The scorecard assesses manufacturers, retailers, food service and hospitality companies on their commitments and actions in favour of sustainable palm oil, helping to build a culture of transparency around palm oil use.

palmoilscorecard.panda.org/

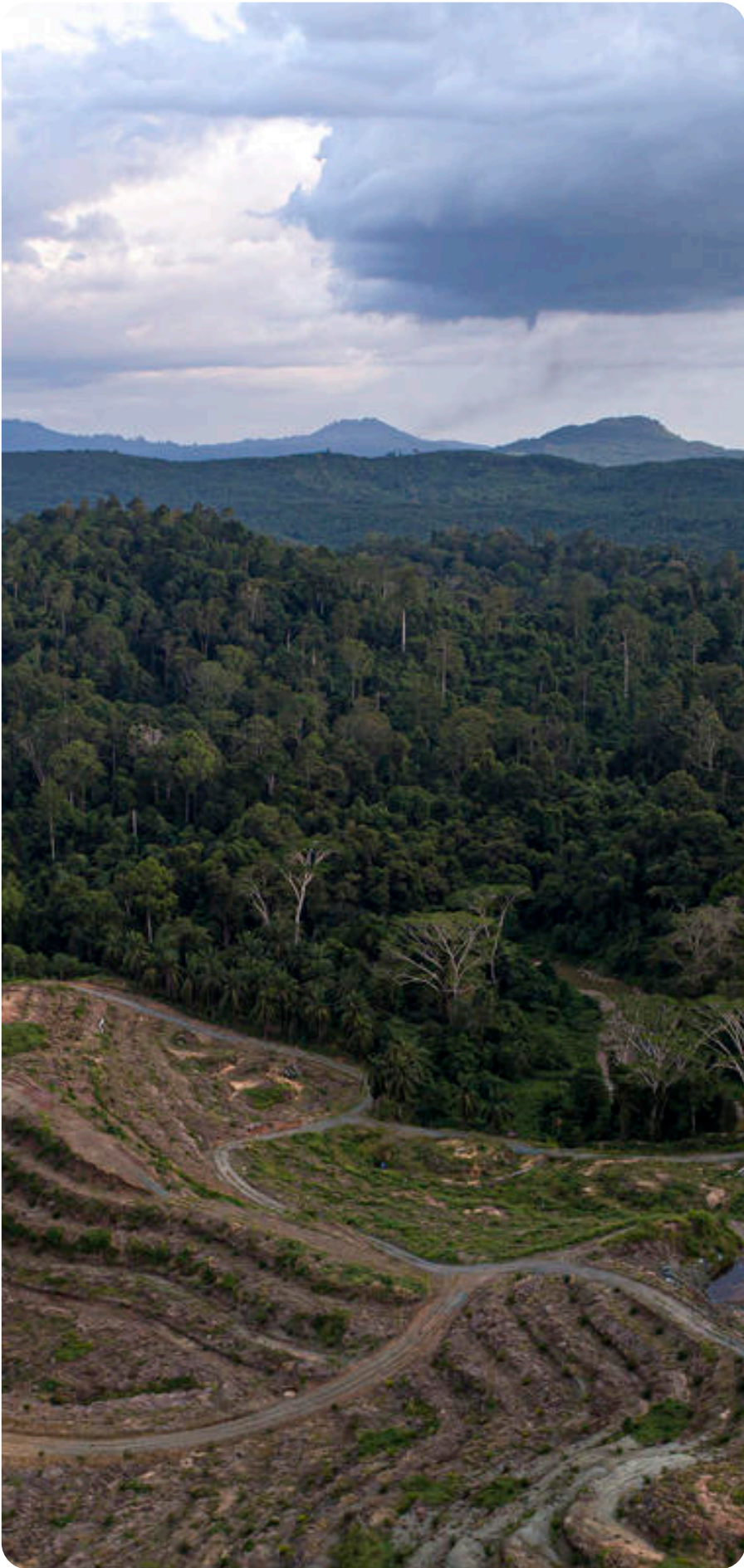
DISCLAIMER

The information captured in this PDF reflects data on the scorecard as of 27 September 2021. Please refer to the online scorecard for the most up-to-date data.

To compile the scorecard, WWF asked all assessed companies to complete an extensive questionnaire. Companies were systematically asked to substantiate their responses using publicly available information, company sourcing policies, and sustainability reports. While WWF made every effort to ensure the accuracy and clarity of all information — including by verifying company responses against their annual reports to the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) — we also relied on companies to be transparent and truthful in their responses.

Performance remains self-reported by companies and does not constitute or imply endorsement, sponsorship or recommendation by WWF. We urge users of the scorecard to check the data and share any errors found with both WWF and the relevant company.

Published in September 2021 by WWF. Any reproduction (in full or in part) must mention the title and credit the above publishers as the copyright owners.



INTRODUCTION

The 2021 edition of the WWF Palm Oil Buyers Scorecard assesses the progress and performance of 227 major retailers, manufacturers and hospitality* companies on key actions they can and should be taking to show their commitment and support for a sustainable palm oil industry. While there has been progress since the first scorecard was launched in 2009, much also remains the same: corporate efforts still fall drastically short of what is needed to counteract the ongoing damage to our world's most important forests and natural ecosystems.

Over the previous decade, hundreds of companies made high-profile commitments and pledges to eliminate deforestation from their supply chains by 2020. But as the year came to an end, the planet's most valuable natural ecosystems – forests, peatlands, grasslands and savannahs, among others – were still being destroyed at an alarming rate.^{1,2} Despite their vital importance for the wellbeing of nature and people, many of these ecosystems remain at risk, including across 24 [deforestation fronts](#) where over 43 million hectares have been lost between 2004 and 2017.³ In 11 of them, palm oil was found to be a key driver of forest loss and habitat destruction.

Palm oil's wide range of uses and relative affordability have earned it the title of the world's most consumed and traded vegetable oil, making up 40% of global vegetable oil consumption and over 60% of the vegetable oil traded each year.⁴ Oil palm expansion has delivered significant economic and social benefits to several tropical economies and local communities across the globe, particularly in Indonesia and Malaysia where 85% of the world's palm oil is produced. But production is also a major driver of deforestation,⁵ ecosystem conversion, biodiversity loss,⁶ and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.⁷ Expansion also threatens the lives of people living and working in palm oil producing landscapes through land grabs, forced displacement, and human rights violations.^{8,9}

Estimates indicate that palm oil demand could increase four to six times in the near future, jumping from 73.8 million MT in 2020 to 264-447 million MT by 2050.¹⁰ This exponential growth raises concerns that palm oil development and expansion in Southeast Asia and other parts of the world – including Africa, Latin America and Papua New Guinea – could exacerbate the environmental and social impacts that have already been experienced to date. Avoiding these risks calls for concerted and accelerated action by all palm oil buyers.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DEFORESTATION AND CONVERSION*

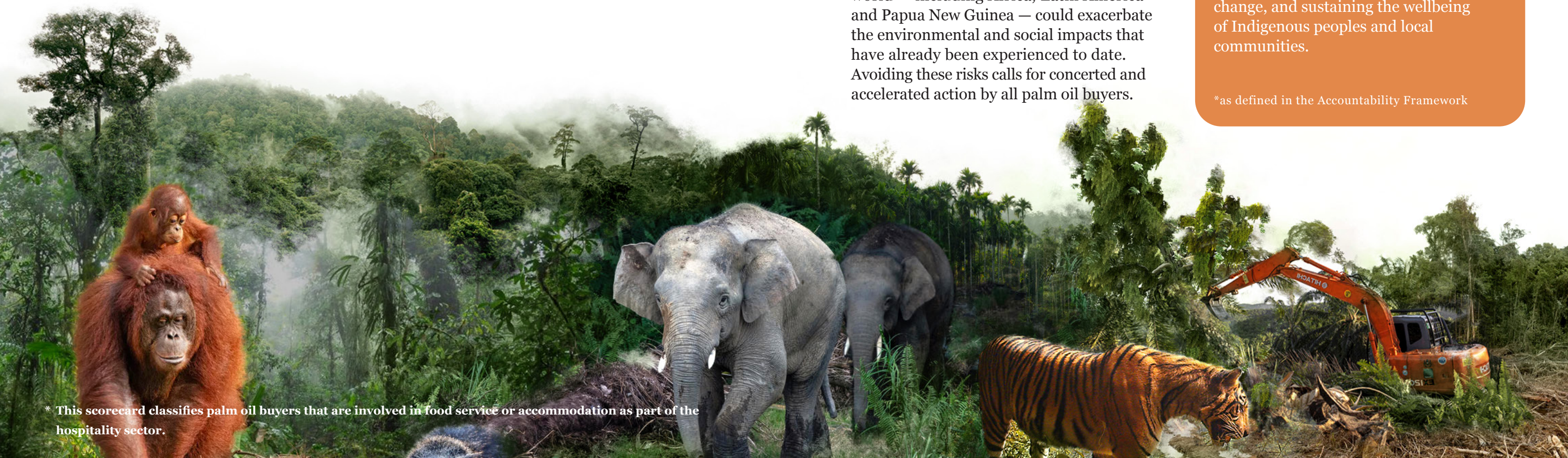
Deforestation is the loss of natural forest as a result of changing the forest to agricultural or non-forest land use, including plantations, or severe or sustained degradation of the forest ecosystem.

Conversion is the change of any natural ecosystem (including forests, but also extending to other ecosystems such as savannahs, grasslands, and wetlands) to another land use, or a significant change in the species composition, structure, or function of the ecosystem.

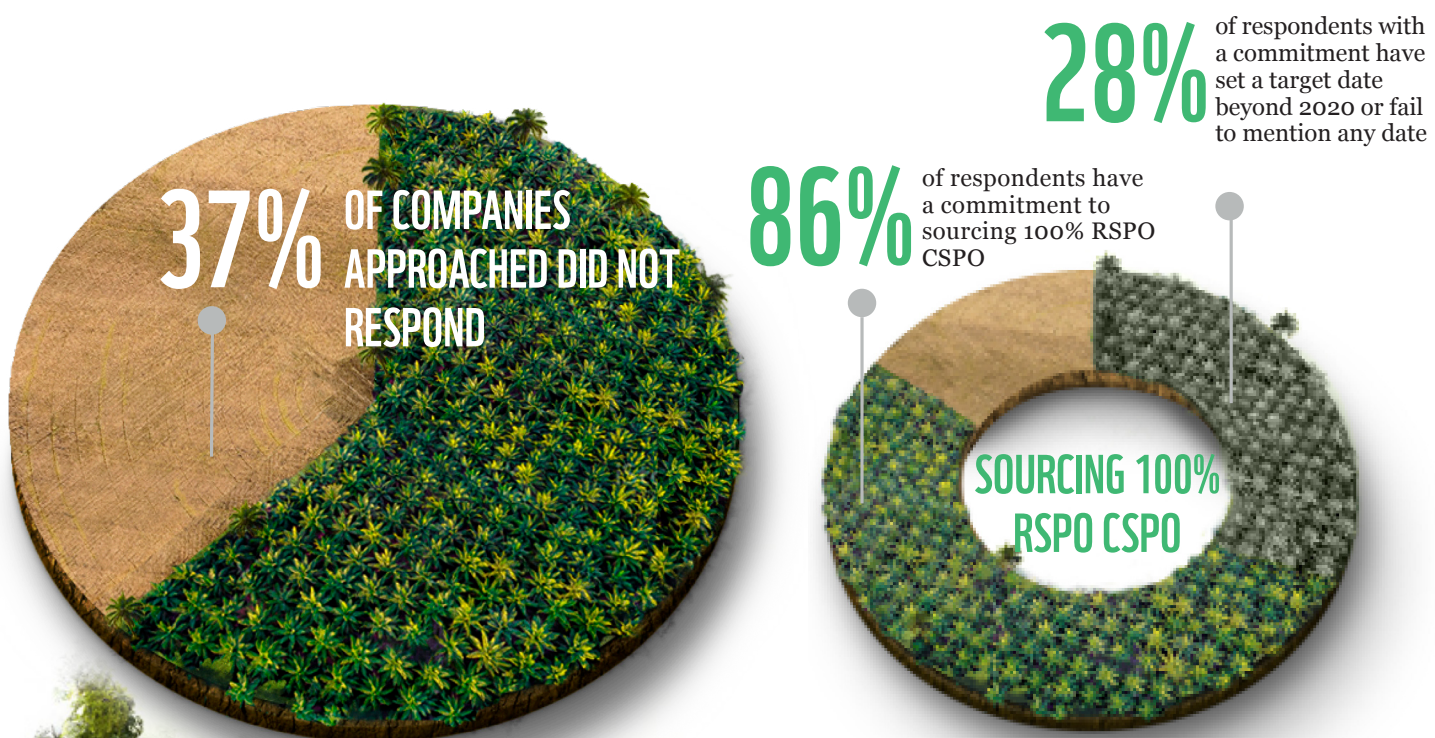
Like forests, other natural ecosystems are critical for carbon storage, biodiversity protection, water supply, mitigation of natural hazards, adaptation to climate change, and sustaining the wellbeing of Indigenous peoples and local communities.

*as defined in the Accountability Framework

* This scorecard classifies palm oil buyers that are involved in food service or accommodation as part of the hospitality sector.



227 COMPANIES APPROACHED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2021 PALM OIL BUYERS SCORECARD



9.7 MILLION MT

Total palm oil usage

RSPO CSPO usage • 67%

ONLY HALF OF RESPONDENTS ARE SOURCING 100% RSPO CSPO

SUSTAINABILITY PLATFORMS

94% OF RESPONDENTS ARE RSPO MEMBERS

52% OF RESPONDENTS ARE INVOLVED IN OTHER ACTION-ORIENTED PLATFORMS



SUPPLIER ACCOUNTABILITY

55% of respondents require suppliers to have a deforestation policy, but only 7% also require a conversion-free policy

85% of respondents require suppliers to have a human rights policy, but only 13% also require a policy that protects the rights of all relevant stakeholders

26% of respondents have supplier monitoring systems for both environmental and social commitments

37% of respondents require supplier traceability to the mill or plantation

ON THE GROUND ACTION % of respondents

30% SUPPORTING SMALLHOLDERS



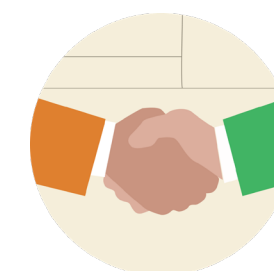
12% CONSERVATION PROJECTS



17% PROTECTING AND RESTORING FORESTS



14% JURISDICTIONAL OR LANDSCAPE APPROACHES



KEY FINDINGS: HOW DID PALM OIL BUYERS PERFORM?

As users of one of the world's most popular vegetable oils, palm oil buyers have a unique role to play in eliminating deforestation and conversion from global supply chains. **Despite this, [WWF's 2021 Palm Oil Buyers Scorecard](#) finds that palm oil buyers are still not demonstrating the kind of transformative action that is required to halt the destruction of the world's most vitally important forests and natural ecosystems.** Scoring an average of only 13.2 points out of 24, companies still have a long way to go in showing they are serious about palm oil sustainability.

A handful of respondents are demonstrating leadership in sourcing sustainable palm oil and driving industry-wide transformation — setting a commendable example that should help motivate others to follow suit. Topping this year's assessment is Coop Switzerland (22.4), the only company to score more than 22 points out of 24. Other companies that are leading the way in supporting sustainable palm oil within and beyond their supply chains include Ferrero (21.7), IKEA (21.6), John Lewis Partnership (21.3) and Mars Inc. (21.1).



THERE ARE REAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR SWIFT AND SUSTAINED PROGRESS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

This year's scorecard includes four respondents who have rapidly risen in the ranking since our last assessment in 2020, setting a commendable example that should help motivate others to follow suit. Previously ranked in the 'middle of the pack', John Lewis Partnership (21.3), Beiersdorf AG (20.2), Arla Foods (19.9) and the Estée Lauder Companies Inc. (19.6) are now 'leading the way', proving that making rapid, significant strides towards sustainable sourcing and sector-wide transformation is possible. These companies are only a few steps away from becoming industry leaders who can deliver far-reaching changes across the sector by further exerting their influence within and beyond their supply chains. With as many as 66% of scorecard respondents ranked as 'well on the path' or in the 'middle of the pack', the potential for accelerated action on sustainable palm oil has never been clearer.

Despite these encouraging trends, the scorecard reveals that a large number of companies continue to avoid all responsibility and accountability. This year, more than a third (85) of the 227 companies WWF approached did not provide any information on their palm oil usage and sustainability efforts.

THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A BETTER TIME FOR PALM OIL BUYERS TO KICK OFF A DECADE OF ACTION FOR NATURE.

Continuous improvement is an intrinsic part of any sustainability journey, and palm oil buyers have more tools than ever before to achieve sustainable supply chains that protect forests, ecosystems and human rights. As a globally applicable roadmap, the [Accountability Framework](#) offers a set of consensus-based international norms, best practices, and guidance for commodity buyers to build and scale up ethical supply chains that are free of deforestation and conversion and respect human rights. This is in addition to credible certification standards such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), Palm Oil Innovation Group (POIG), and other multi-stakeholder initiatives that are working to transform the industry.

PERFORMANCE ON FUNDAMENTAL ACTION AREAS

COMMITMENTS

Most companies do not have robust commitments that address all of the environmental and social risks in their palm oil supply chains in an effective and timely manner — leaving many habitats and communities vulnerable to negative or unintended consequences of their sourcing practices.

While a majority of respondents have committed to sourcing palm oil that is free of deforestation and human rights abuse, as few as 9% apply their commitments to the protection of all natural ecosystems beyond forests, while only 13% have commitments that cover the rights of all stakeholders who might be negatively impacted by palm oil production.* Meanwhile, out of the 86% of respondents that have committed to source 100% RSPO CSPO, more than a quarter have set a target date beyond 2020, or fail to mention any date.

OUT OF THE 86% OF
RESPONDENTS WHO
HAVE COMMITTED TO
SOURCE 100% RSPO CSPO

1 IN 4

HAVE SET A TARGET DATE
BEYOND 2020, OR FAIL TO
MENTION ANY DATE

**MOST COMPANIES DO
NOT HAVE ROBUST
COMMITMENTS THAT
ADDRESS ALL OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL AND
SOCIAL RISKS**

* In alignment with the Accountability Framework, ethical palm oil supply chains must respect the human rights of all people involved in and affected by palm oil production and trade. This includes workers throughout the supply chain, as well as Indigenous peoples and local communities whose land, livelihoods, or resources might be impacted by palm oil production.



PURCHASING OF SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

While there has been commendable progress made by many, sourcing 100% RSPO CSPO is still not the norm. Only half of respondents have indicated that all of their palm oil purchases are RSPO-certified. This is inexcusable considering the ready supply of RSPO CSPO and availability of several supply chain options.

Palm oil buyers should urgently increase their sourcing of certified sustainable palm oil across all markets, and close the certification gap. Of the 9.7 million MT of palm oil reported by respondents, only 67% is certified. North American and Australian* respondents have the highest uptake of RSPO CSPO, with 83% and 84% of palm oil volumes reported as certified respectively. This is much higher than respondents headquartered in Europe who are 65% certified. Asian and African companies

ONLY 1.4% OF
RESPONDENTS

are sourcing 100%
Identity Preserved or
Segregated palm oil

MASS BALANCE
ACCOUNTED FOR 53%

of RSPO CSPO volumes
reported by scorecard
respondents

THAT'S ALMOST
TWICE THE SHARE OF
IDENTITY PRESERVED
OR SEGREGATED

volumes reported by
respondents (28%)



* Only three companies headquartered in Australia responded to WWF's questionnaire.

have the most progress to make, reporting RSPO CSPO uptake levels of 22% and 47% respectively.

Palm oil buyers also need to make faster progress in covering their sourcing of sustainable palm oil with supply chain options which offer the most robust environmental and social safeguards. Sustainable palm oil certified as Mass Balance accounted for more than half (53%) of total RSPO-certified volumes declared by respondents. That's roughly twice the amount of Identity Preserved or Segregated certified volumes reported by respondents (28%), even though these are the only two RSPO supply chain models that allow companies to clearly trace the palm oil they use to sustainable sources.

ONLY
HALF

OF RESPONDENTS ARE SOURCING
100% RSPO CSPO

MASS BALANCE REMAINS
THE MOST POPULAR RSPO
SUPPLY CHAIN MODEL USED
BY RESPONDENTS, EVEN
THOUGH IT DOES NOT ELIMINATE
ALL ENVIRONMENTAL AND
SOCIAL RISKS

SUPPLIER ACCOUNTABILITY

A significant share of palm oil buyers do not have the adequate policies and mechanisms in place to hold suppliers accountable. This means that many still do not have the means to ensure that the palm oil volumes they source are free of deforestation, conversion, and human rights abuse. Although 55% of respondents expect suppliers to have a deforestation-free policy, 48% of respondents fail to hit the benchmark by also requiring a conversion-free policy which protects all natural ecosystems. Similarly, while 85% of respondents expect suppliers to have human rights policies, as many as 72% of respondents do not align these expectations with the Accountability Framework by requiring their suppliers’ to protect the rights of all stakeholders* who may be negatively impacted by palm oil production.

ONLY 7% OF RESPONDENTS

REQUIRE SUPPLIERS TO HAVE A CONVERSION-FREE POLICY THAT PROTECTS ALL NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS AT RISK

ONLY 13% OF RESPONDENTS

EXPECT SUPPLIERS TO HAVE A HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY THAT APPLIES TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS WHO MIGHT BE NEGATIVELY IMPACTED BY PALM OIL PRODUCTION



* As previously specified, this includes the rights of Indigenous peoples, local communities, and other groups that may be affected by company activities.

Most palm oil buyers also remain ill-equipped to identify, mitigate and address supplier non-compliance with sustainable sourcing policies. Only 26% of respondents report that they have invested in monitoring and verification systems to ascertain supplier compliance with both environmental and social

commitments. Similarly, only 37% of respondents require their suppliers to have traceability to the palm oil mill or plantation. While traceability alone does not guarantee palm oil sustainability, it enables companies to more effectively identify, assess and address any social and environmental risks in their supply chain.

ONLY 37% OF RESPONDENTS

require their suppliers to have traceability to the palm oil mill or plantation

ONLY 26% OF RESPONDENTS

have monitoring and verification systems to ascertain supplier compliance with both environmental and social commitments

SUSTAINABILITY PLATFORMS

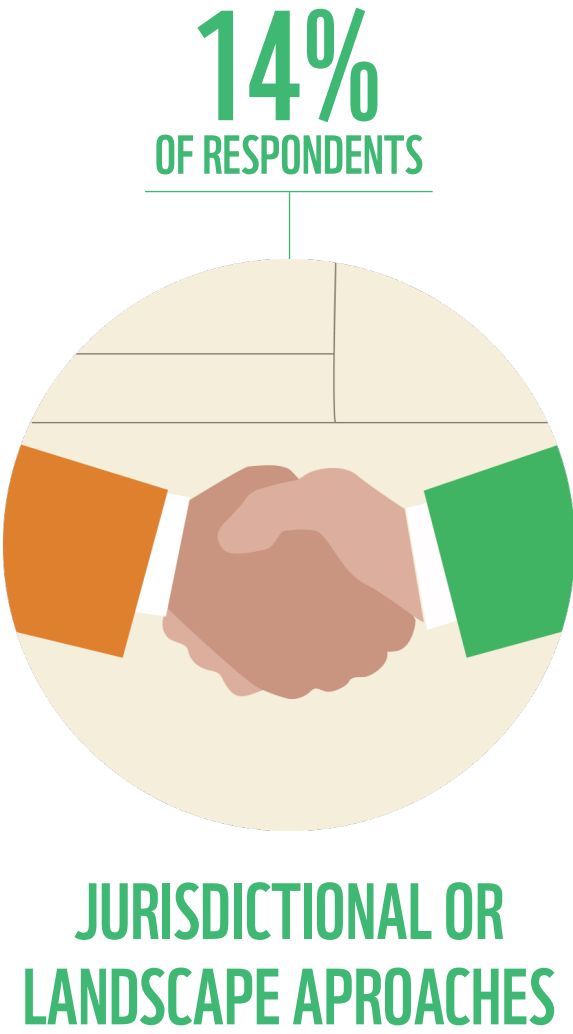
Large-scale transformation in the palm oil industry can only be delivered through collective action and advocacy to tackle the systemic sustainability challenges that characterise conventional palm oil production. Encouragingly, most respondents are taking their share of responsibility by actively participating in action-oriented sustainability platforms: RSPO membership has become commonplace, with 94% of respondents reporting they are members of the organisation. Meanwhile, a little over half (52%) of respondents are involved in other platforms such as the POIG, Consumer Goods Forum (CGF) Forest Positive Coalition, High Carbon Stock Initiative, Palm Oil Transparency Coalition (POTC), and national and regional demand alliances, among others.



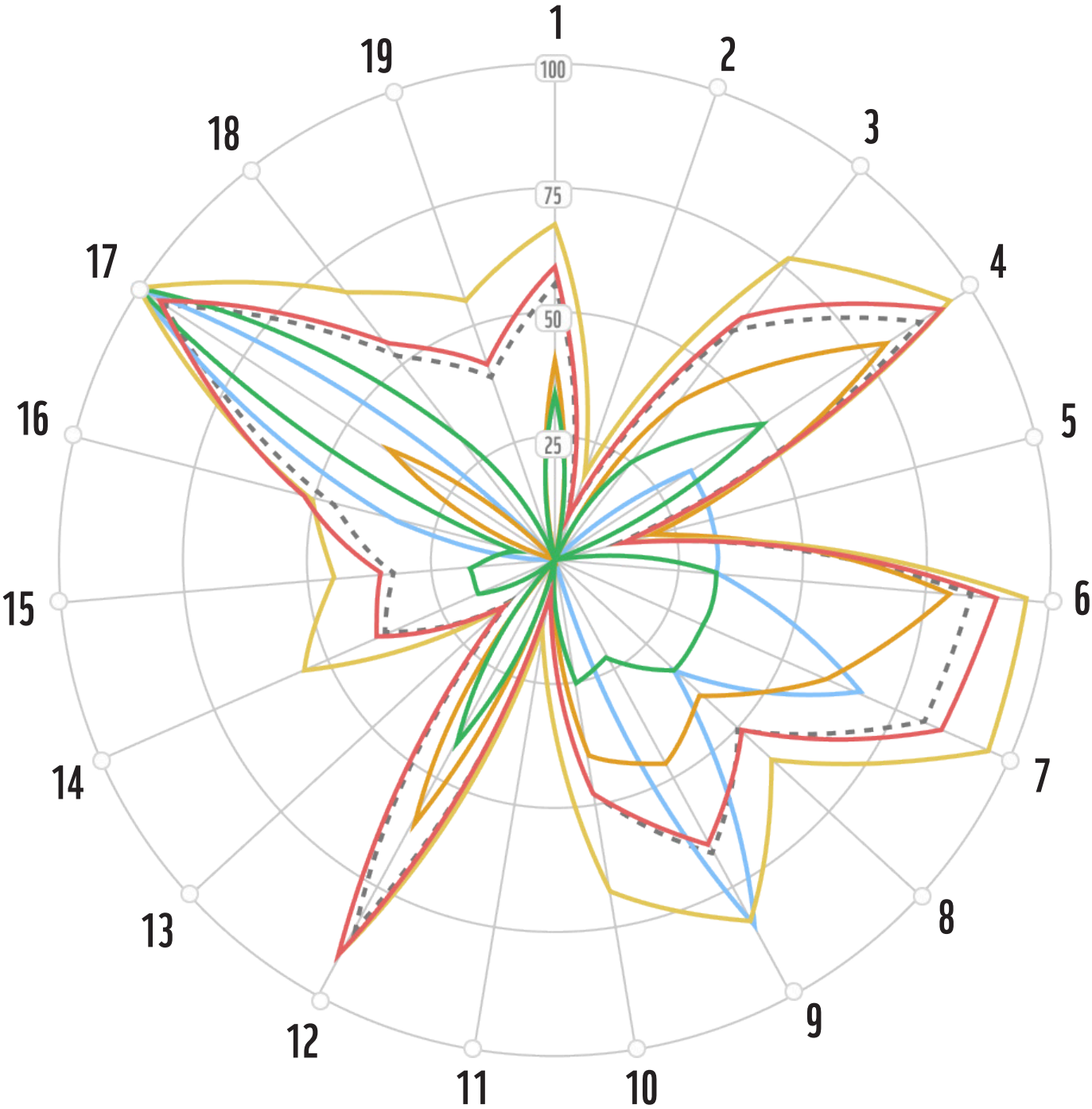
ON THE GROUND ACTION

A leading group of companies are taking action on the ground by supporting projects in palm oil producing landscapes, with 39% of respondents reporting they are making investments in palm oil producing areas through conservation and forest protection projects, smallholder capacity building, landscapes or jurisdictional approaches. After a decade of inaction by many, this is a positive shift that all palm oil buyers should take part in and accelerate to foster change where it matters the most.

LARGE-SCALE
TRANSFORMATION IN
THE PALM OIL INDUSTRY
CAN ONLY BE DELIVERED
THROUGH COLLECTIVE
ACTION AND ADVOCACY



REGIONAL PERFORMANCE



With the exception of indicator #9 on the Average RSPO CSPO uptake, data displayed represents the share of scorecard respondents headquartered in each region who meet the specified criteria

● EUROPE ● NORTH AMERICA ● ASIA ● AFRICA ● AUSTRALIA ---- AVERAGE

- 1

Deforestation-free commitment only
- 2

Conversion-free commitment aligned with the AFI
- 3

Deforestation- and/or conversion-free commitment applies to entire corporate group/company
- 4

Human rights commitment
- 5

Human rights commitment aligned with the AFI
- 6

Human rights commitment applies to the entire corporate group/company
- 7

Time-bound commitment to sourcing 100% RSPO CSPO
- 8

Already sourcing 100% RSPO CSPO palm oil
- 9

Average RSPO CSPO uptake
- 10

Suppliers required to have deforestation-free policy
- 11

Suppliers required to have conversion-free policy aligned with the AFI
- 12

Suppliers required to have a human rights policy
- 13

Suppliers required to have a human rights policy aligned with the AFI
- 14

Suppliers required to have traceability to mill or plantation
- 15

Systems to monitor supplier compliance with deforestation- and/or conversion-free policy
- 16

Systems to monitor supplier compliance with human rights policy
- 17

RSPO membership
- 18

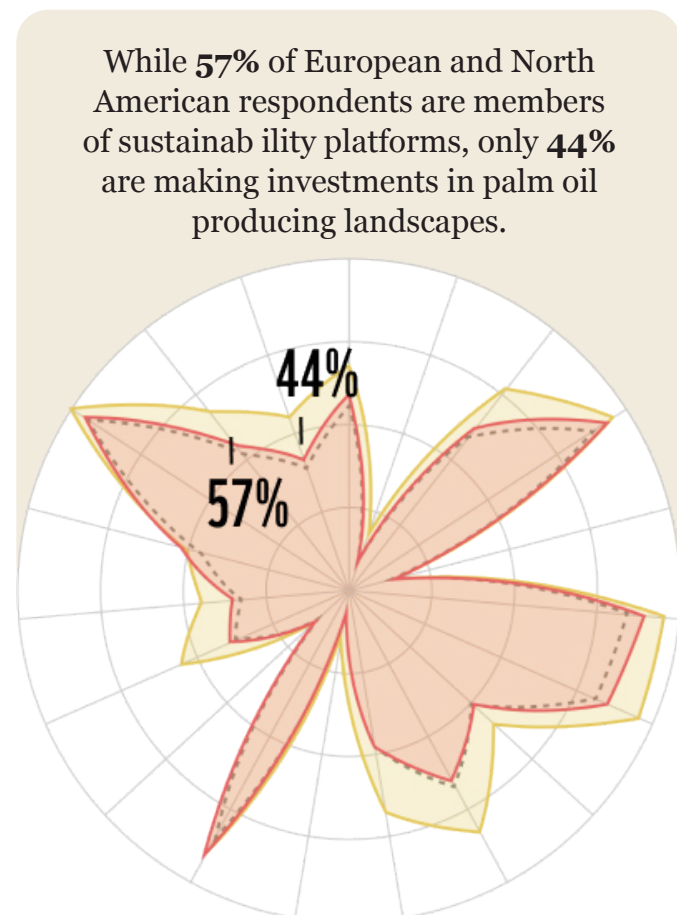
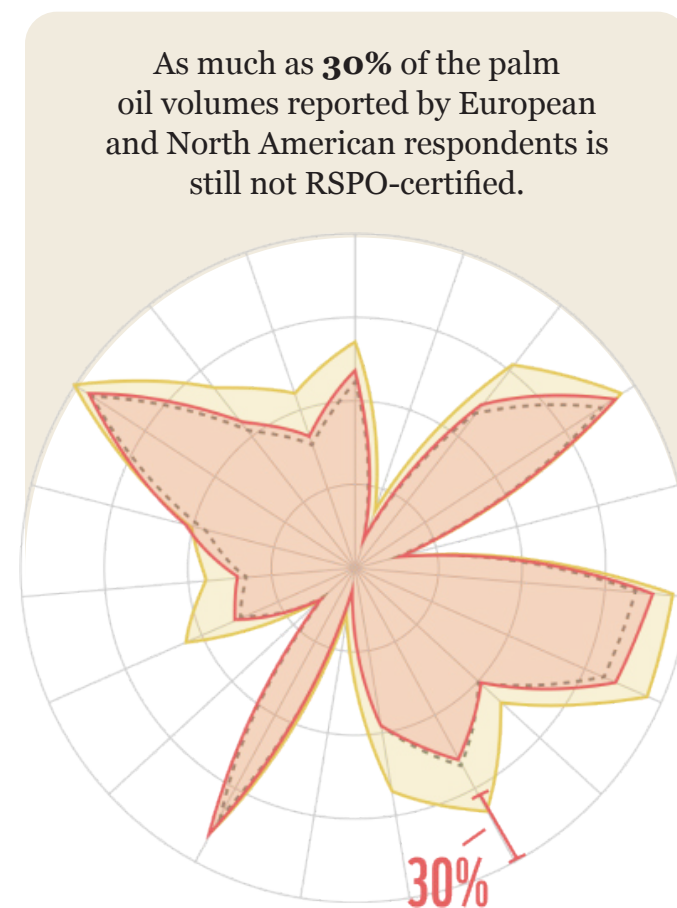
Membership of other action-oriented sustainability platforms
- 19

On the ground investments in palm oil producing landscapes

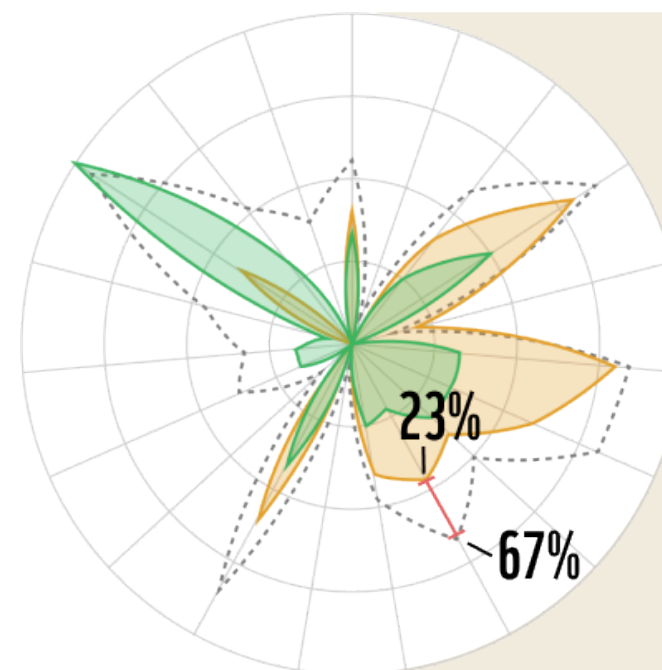
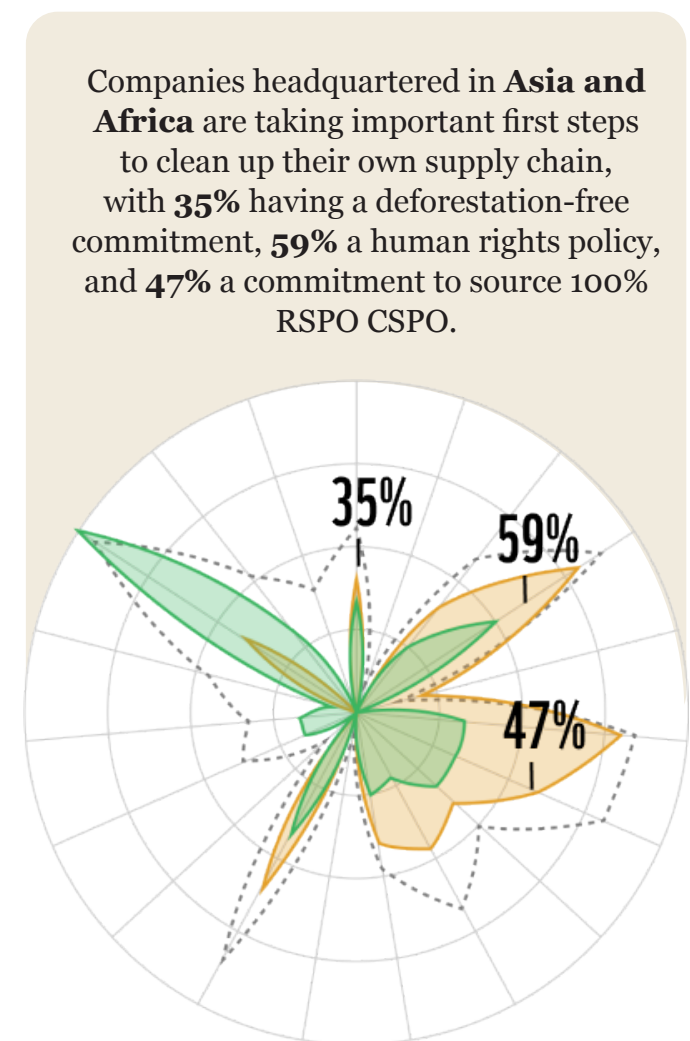
Scoring higher than the global average, palm oil buyers headquartered in Europe and North America are at the forefront of sustainability action in the palm oil sector. But much more needs to be done to close the gap between aspiration and implementation.

For example, just over half (52%) of European and North American respondents are sourcing 100% RSPO CSPO, while 30% of the palm oil volumes reported by these companies remains uncertified. There also remains substantial room for progress on ensuring supplier accountability, with only 42% of European and North American respondents requiring traceability to the mill or plantation.

When it comes to taking action beyond their supply chain, companies headquartered in Europe and North America are increasingly supporting the transformation of the palm oil industry. Progress and action should now be rapidly accelerated. While 96% of European and North American respondents are members of the RSPO, less than half (44%) are investing in on the ground initiatives.



There are signs that Asian and African* palm oil buyers are starting to seize the unprecedented business opportunity that sustainability presents, with several taking important first steps to clean up their own supply chain: close to half (47%) have a commitment to source 100% RSPO CSPO, while 35% have deforestation- and/or conversion-free commitments, and 59% have committed to respect human rights. The commendable progress of some Asian and African respondents in this year's scorecard is a clear indication that shifting to sustainable sourcing practices is immediately achievable, even for those palm oil buyers who are at the beginning of their sustainability journey.



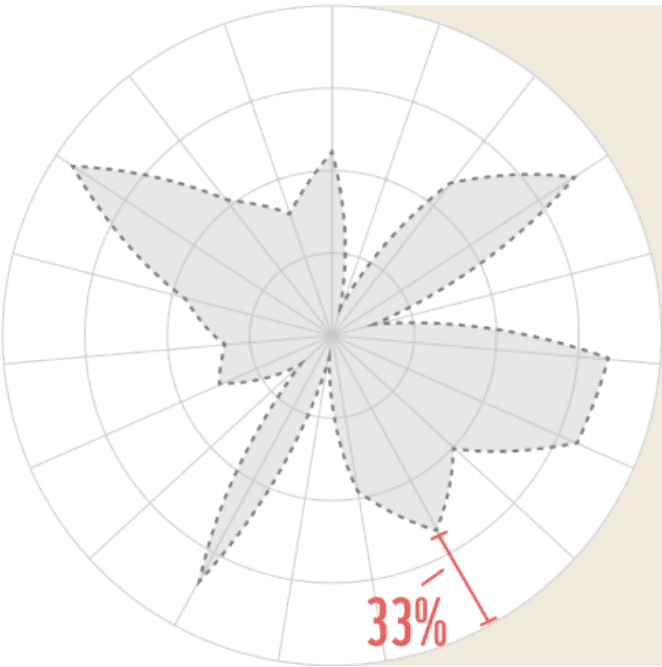
Only **23%** of the palm oil volumes reported by Asian and African respondents is RSPO-certified — well below the global average of **67%**. Companies in Asia and Africa should urgently increase their sourcing of certified sustainable palm oil.

* African companies who responded to this year's scorecard are all based in South Africa.

However, companies headquartered in Asia and Africa recorded a disappointingly low response rate of just 31%. This illustrates an urgent need for buyers from emerging markets to take the first step in their sustainability journey by disclosing palm oil usage and sourcing practices.

Companies headquartered in Asia and Africa should also make further use of the various opportunities at their disposal to hasten the shift towards ethical supply chains.

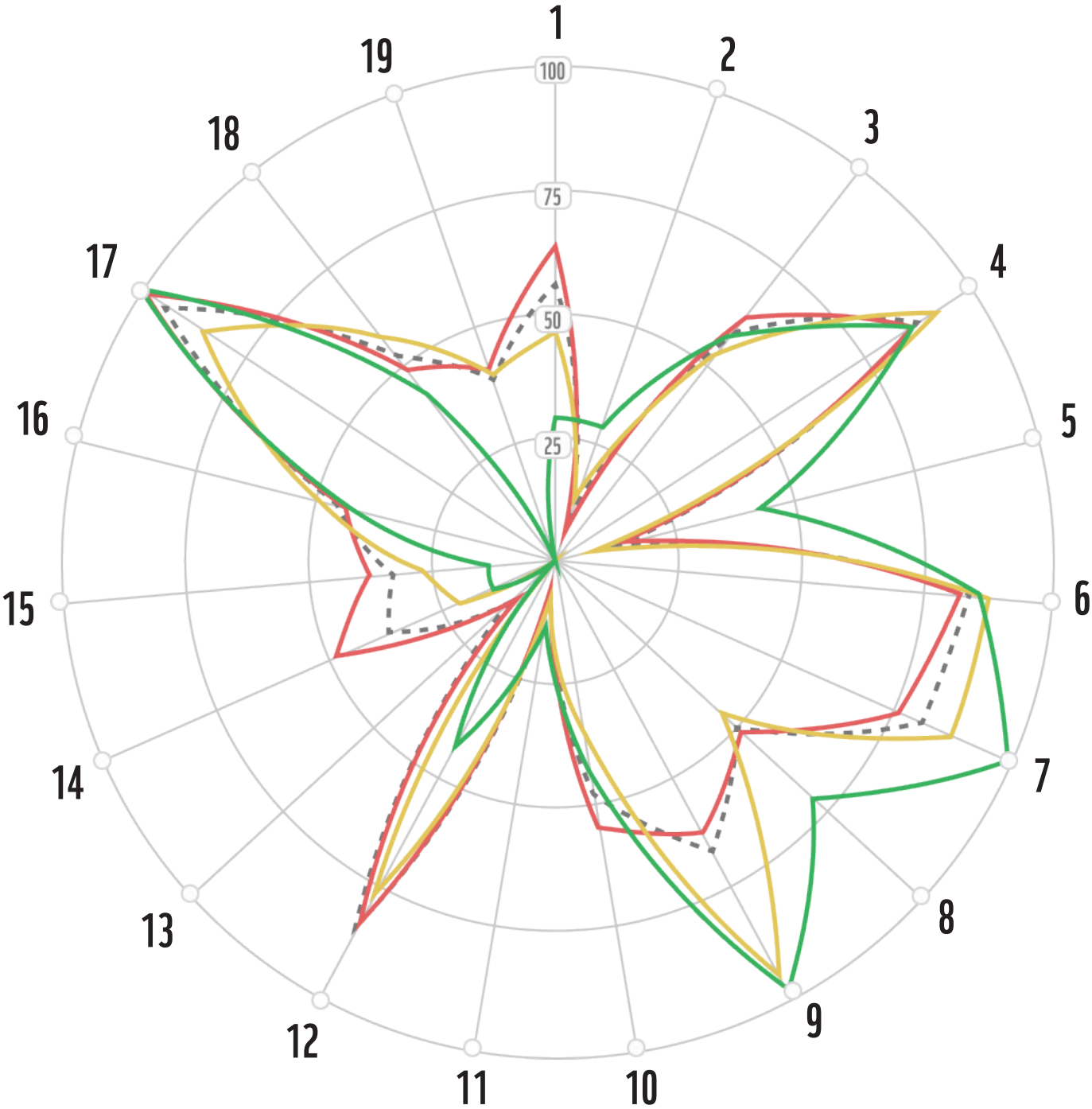
For instance, while 35% of Asian and African respondents are sourcing 100% RSPO CSPO, only 23% of the palm oil volumes they reported is currently RSPO-certified — well below the global average RSPO CSPO uptake of 67%. Asian and African companies also need to start taking more ambitious action along and beyond their supply chains: as little as 12% of respondents require suppliers to have traceability to the palm oil mill or plantation, while none are making investments in palm oil producing landscapes.



Of the 9.7 million MT of palm oil reported by scorecard respondents, only 67% is certified. Companies should urgently increase their sourcing of certified sustainable palm and close the certification gap.



SECTORAL PERFORMANCE



With the exception of indicator #9 on the Average RSPO CSPO uptake, data displayed represents the share of scorecard respondents in each sector who meet the specified criteria

● MANUFACTURERS ● RETAILERS ● HOSPITALITY ---- AVERAGE

- 1

Deforestation-free commitment only
- 2

Conversion-free commitment aligned with AFI
- 3

Deforestation- and/or conversion-free commitment applies to entire corporate group/company
- 4

Human rights commitment
- 5

Human rights commitment aligned with AFI
- 6

Human rights commitment applies to the entire corporate group/company
- 7

Time-bound commitment to sourcing 100% RSPO CSPO
- 8

Already sourcing 100% RSPO CSPO
- 9

Average RSPO CSPO uptake
- 10

Suppliers required to have deforestation-free policy
- 11

Suppliers required to have conversion-free policy aligned with the AFI
- 12

Suppliers required to have a human rights policy
- 13

Suppliers required to have a human rights policy aligned with the AFI
- 14

Suppliers required to have traceability to mill or plantation
- 15

Systems to monitor supplier compliance with deforestation- and/or conversion-free policy
- 16

Systems to monitor supplier compliance with human rights policy
- 17

RSPO membership
- 18

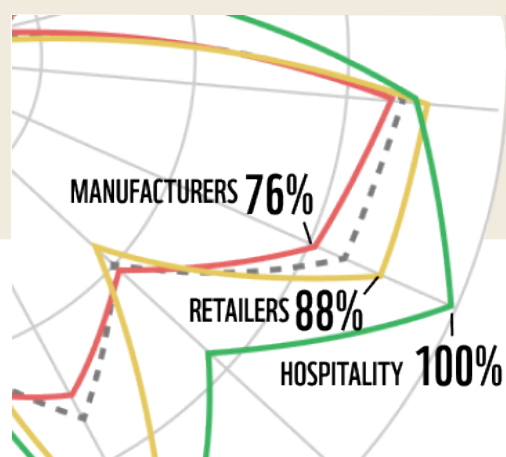
Membership of other action-oriented sustainability platforms
- 19

On the ground investments in palm oil producing landscapes

There is significant room for progress across all sectors considered — whether in manufacturing, retail or hospitality companies. Despite commendable action in certain fundamental areas, palm oil buyers from all parts of the industry must redouble efforts to deliver impact at scale and at pace.

A comparison of the performance of manufacturers, retailers and hospitality companies reveals similarities in relation to commitments, with a significant majority in each group having committed to sourcing palm oil that is 100% RSPO CSPO, free of deforestation and/or conversion, and respects human rights. But there are also some notable differences. Hospitality companies and retailers stand out for their higher uptake of RSPO CSPO. Manufacturers perform the best with regards to having policies and systems in place to foster supplier accountability — reflecting their central position in the palm oil value chain and proximity to production and trade. On actions beyond their supply chain, retailers and manufacturers perform equally well, while hospitality companies lag behind.

Manufacturers, retailers and hospitality companies perform equally well on voluntary commitments. For instance, a **significant majority** in each group have a time-bound commitment to sourcing palm oil that is 100% RSPO-certified.

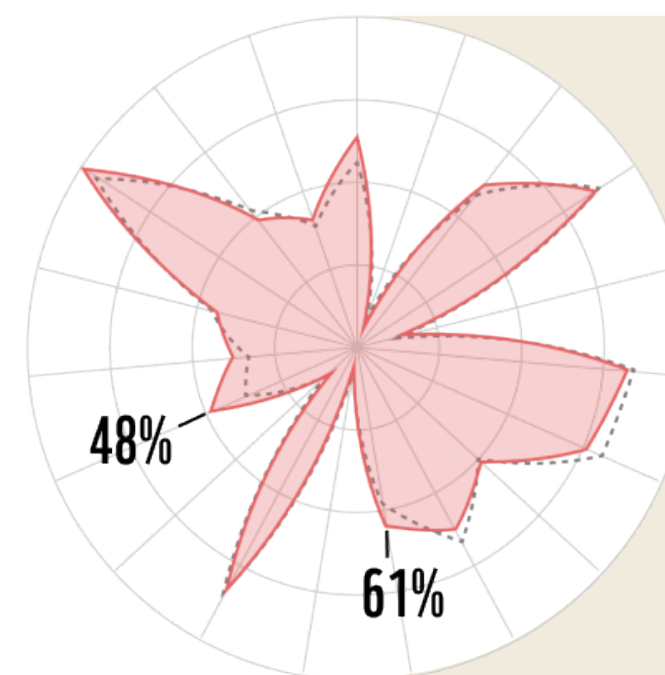
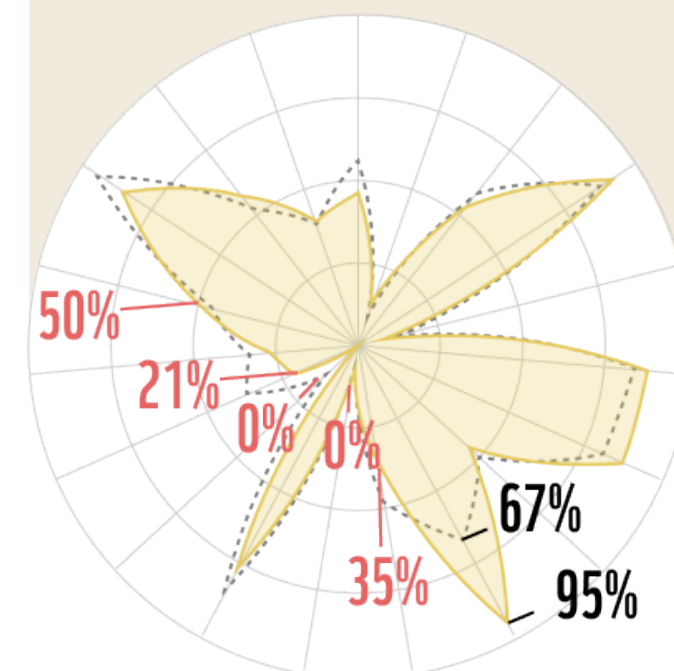


RETAILERS AND HOSPITALITY COMPANIES REVEALS SIMILARITIES IN RELATION TO COMMITMENTS

Corporate commitment to embrace sustainability principles in the use and production of palm oil has not gained momentum in all sectors of the palm oil industry, as illustrated by the disappointing performance of 12 feed manufacturers. Of these, only five companies responded to WWF's questionnaire.

Respondents involved in animal feed manufacturing generally perform below global and sector-level averages, particularly on basic actions aimed at cleaning up their supply chain: only 40% of feed companies have committed to 100% RSPO CSPO, and none have so far achieved that target. They also have the lowest average uptake of RSPO CSPO of all sectors, standing at just 24%.

Retailers have the highest uptake of RSPO-certified palm oil among all sectors, reporting **95%** of their palm oil volumes as certified — well above the global average of 67%. However, their performance on supplier requirements, traceability, and monitoring falls short compared to overall trends.



Manufacturers outperform the average with regards to having policies and systems to ensure supplier accountability and compliance: **61%** of manufacturers require suppliers to have deforestation- and/or conversion-free policies, while **48%** require traceability of their palm oil supply chain to the mill or plantation.

HOW WERE COMPANIES ASSESSED?

The WWF Palm Oil Buyers Scorecard series analyses the commitments and actions of major companies and brands related to palm oil only, and does not aim to assess the risks related to any other commodity or ingredient the companies may also source.

Considering the nature and climate crises at hand, the 2021 scorecard assessed companies against a more comprehensive set of criteria aimed at evaluating the key actions they are taking to support ethical palm oil supply chains, in alignment with guidance outlined in the Accountability Framework. Nevertheless, the criteria used are by no means exhaustive of the actions that companies can take to support sustainable palm oil.

To evaluate palm oil buyers, WWF used data collected through an extensive questionnaire which included information that RSPO members reported in their 2020 Annual Communication of Progress (ACOP). All data collected relates to companies' palm oil purchases in 2020 and sustainability action taken to date.

The scorecard included rigorous verification processes and systems to ensure all the information reported by palm oil buyers in WWF's questionnaire was accurate and up-to-date. Companies were systematically asked to substantiate their responses, which were verified against their RSPO ACOP reports, company sourcing policies and sustainability reports. They were also asked to clarify their answers when their responses were unclear, incomplete or seemingly incorrect.

An independent third-party consultancy was contracted to manage the data collection process and scoring, in close consultation with WWF. Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy, independence and clarity of company data, and all answers submitted by companies in response to the scorecard survey were verified against publicly available information. However, we still counted on companies to be transparent and truthful in their responses. Performance remains self-reported by companies and does not constitute or imply endorsement, sponsorship or recommendation by WWF. We urge users of the scorecard to check the data and share any errors found with both WWF and the relevant company.

All 227 companies assessed in the 2021 scorecard were scored out of a possible total of 24 points, divided as follows:

'OWN SUPPLY CHAIN'

The first 18 points relate to actions companies have taken to ensure their own palm oil supply chain is sustainable and free of deforestation, natural ecosystem conversion, and human rights abuse;

'BEYOND SUPPLY CHAIN'

The remaining six points relate to actions companies have taken to promote sustainable palm oil beyond their own supply chain, thereby contributing to the sustainable transformation of the palm oil industry. Given the urgency of the problems facing the industry, WWF believes companies that are serious about sustainability need to go beyond the minimum requirement of removing harmful practices from their own supply chain, and take their share of responsibility by contributing to integrated approaches that can deliver impact at scale.



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Our planet can no longer wait for palm oil buyers to turn promises into action. From deforestation to biodiversity loss to global warming, unsustainable practices by the palm oil industry have contributed to the climate and nature crises we currently face. Tackling them calls for accelerated and concerted corporate action, with practices and systems in place to ensure effective implementation and greater stewardship in driving change across the industry. Governments in producer and consumer countries alike, alongside the finance sector, also have a key role to play in promoting palm oil supply chains that protect forests, natural ecosystems and local communities.

WWF CALLS ON:

1

COMPANIES

to ensure and verifiably demonstrate that their own palm oil supply chains are free of deforestation, conversion and human rights abuse; require their suppliers to take action across their entire operations and only purchase sustainable palm oil that is traceable to the palm oil mill or plantation; and support industry-wide transformation by actively taking part in sustainability platforms and taking on the ground action in palm oil producing landscapes.

2

POLICYMAKERS

to adopt and enforce binding legislation in both consumer and producer countries that will enable and require all agricultural commodity supply chains to be free of deforestation, conversion and human rights abuse.



3

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

to use the scorecard to identify and review any risk of deforestation, conversion and human rights abuse represented by the buyers assessed in their portfolio, and use the methodology to engage buyers not covered in this scorecard.

4

CONSUMERS

to use the scorecard to see how well their favourite brands are doing on sustainable palm oil, use social media to raise awareness, and make responsible consumption and purchasing decisions based on the information provided.

For detailed recommendations on what palm oil buyers, policymakers, financial institutions and consumers can do to help turn the tide on unsustainable palm oil, read the full report or visit palmoilscorecard.panda.org/recommendations



REFERENCES

¹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (2020). *The State of the World's Forests*. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/state-of-forests/en/>

² Global Forest Watch (GFW) (2020). GFW map. Available at: <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/map/>

³ WWF (2020). *Deforestation Fronts: Drivers and Responses in a Changing World*. Available at: https://wwf.panda.org/discover/our_focus/forests_practice/deforestation_fronts/

⁴ United States Department of Agriculture Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA FAS) (2020). *Production, Supply and Distribution database*. Available at: <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/app/index.html#/app/advQuery>

⁵ World Resources Institute (2020). *Estimating the Role of Seven Commodities in Agriculture-Linked Deforestation: Oil Palm, Soy, Cattle, Wood Fiber, Cocoa, Coffee, and Rubber*. Available at: <https://www.wri.org/research/estimating-role-seven-commodities-agriculture-linked-deforestation-oil-palm-soy-cattle>

⁶ Meijaard, E., Garcia-Ulloa, J., Sheil, D., Wich, S.A., Carlson, K.M., Juffe-Bignoli, D., and Brooks, T.M. (2018). *Oil palm and biodiversity. A situation analysis by the IUCN Oil Palm Task Force*, xiii, p. 116. Available at: <https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2018-027-En.pdf>

⁷ Vijay, V., Pimm, S.L., Jenkins, C.N., Smith, S.J. (2016) *The Impacts of Oil Palm on Recent Deforestation and Biodiversity Loss*. PLoS ONE 11 (7), e0159668. Available at: <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0159668>

⁸ Pacheco, P. (2012). *Soybean and oil palm expansion in South America: A Review of Main Trends and Implications*. CIFOR Working Paper 90. Available at: https://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf_files/Wpapers/WP90Pacheco.pdf

⁹ Pacheco, P. (2012). *Soybean and oil palm expansion in South America: A Review of Main Trends and Implications*. CIFOR Working Paper 90. Available at: https://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf_files/Wpapers/WP90Pacheco.pdf

¹⁰ USDA FAS (2020). *Production, Supply and Distribution database*. Available at: <https://apps.fas.usda.gov/psdonline/app/index.html#/app/advQuery>

IMAGE CREDITS

Cover	© Chris J Ratcliffe WWF-UK © naturepl.com Fiona Rogers WWF © James Morgan WWF-International © Aaron Gekoski WWF-US
Pg. 2	© Chris J Ratcliffe WWF-UK
Pg. 3	© Des Syafriza WWF-US
Pg. 11	© Chris J Ratcliffe WWF-UK
Pg. 14	© WWF-Malaysia Mazidi Abd Ghani
Pg. 23	© Aaron Gekoski WWF-US
Pg. 37	© Chris J Ratcliffe WWF-UK
Back	© James Morgan WWF-International
Cover	

© 1986 Panda symbol WWF – World Wide Fund For Nature (Formerly World Wildlife Fund)

® “WWF” is a WWF Registered Trademark.
WWF, Rue Mauverny, Gland, Vaud, Switzerland –
Tel. +41 22 364 9111
Fax +41 22 364 0332.

For contact details and further information, please visit our international website at www.wwf.org



Working to sustain the natural world for the benefit of people and wildlife.

together possible™

panda.org