



Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

10 Singapore businesses announce commitments to sustainable palm oil

26 FEBRUARY 2018, SINGAPORE – Ten local F&B businesses, including prominent brands such as Crystal Jade, F&N and Tung Lok, have committed to sourcing sustainable palm oil. With this, the companies will take steps towards responsible sourcing through the Southeast Asia Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil (SASPO).

This triples the number of local businesses with public commitments to 100% sustainable palm oil. Together, these companies account for over 81 brands and 200 food and beverage (F&B) outlets in Singapore.

“SASPO is the first private sector-led initiative in this region to address the need for sustainable palm oil, in relation to the haze. The addition of the 10 companies to SASPO raises the bar for corporate responsibility to the environment and puts the Singapore business community ahead of the region,” said Elaine Tan, Chief Executive Officer of WWF-Singapore, one of the founding organisations of SASPO.

“For a business, changing palm oil sourcing is always a commitment, a joint effort and a journey. But every step taken shows other businesses in Singapore and the region that it can be done. Over time, this pushes the industry towards using a hundred per cent sustainably-sourced palm oil,” said Hervé Simon, Group Marketing Director of Denis Asia Pacific, which produces Ayam Brand.

Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS), which operates Jurong Bird Park, Night Safari, River Safari, and Singapore Zoo, uses sustainable palm oil for cooking in its F&B outlets.

Mr. Mike Barclay, Chief Executive Officer, Wildlife Reserves Singapore, said, “The cultivation of palm oil in a non-sustainable manner is having a devastating impact on our regional rainforest habitats. In line with our mission to protect biodiversity, we use only certified sustainable palm oil for cooking in our food and beverage outlets, and we aim to raise awareness about this important issue amongst the guests who visit our parks. We encourage businesses to switch to using only sustainable palm oil and for consumers to voice their support. Let us work together to reward the responsible palm oil producers.”

One of the new companies that have recently stepped out in support of sustainable palm oil is Commonwealth Capital Group, whose portfolio includes popular brands like PastaMania, Kraftwisch, Swissbake, Udders Ice Cream, The Soup Spoon, Baker&Cook & Kuhlbarra.

Said Andrew Kwan, Group Managing Director of Commonwealth Capital, “Sustainable practices is not a corporate buzzword to acquire but a prerequisite for building global businesses for the long term. In this regard, we count it a privilege to help raise awareness amongst consumers and in the market on the importance of growing businesses sustainably, together.”

With surmounting socio-environmental issues from unsustainable palm oil to dire impacts on biodiversity and the transboundary haze, businesses are increasingly aware of the importance of making sustainable palm oil part of their business imperatives. In Denmark, France, Italy, Germany and the UK, industries are leading the transition by making collective public commitments to 100 per cent sustainable palm oil by 2020¹.

Consumer support for responsible palm oil sourcing is on the increase. A YouGov study found that 56 per cent of Singapore consumers support companies with ethical supply chains². In a recent campaign ran by WWF in late 2017, people in Singapore showed their support for sustainable palm oil by sending 60,000 emails to local brands³. An online petition for sustainable palm oil that was started by local students garnered 8,000 signatures in total.

Palm oil remains the world’s most efficient and flexible oil. It is used widely in F&B, household and cosmetic products.

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For the full media kit, please access <https://goo.gl/kMPEUx>

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¹ The Sustainable Trade Initiative. 2015. Commitment to support: 100% sustainable palm oil in Europe by 2020.

² YouGov Omnibus 2017. Source: <https://sg.yougov.com/en-sg/news/2018/01/04/businesses-and-environmental-damage/>

³ WWF-Singapore, palmoil.sg.

About SASPO

The Southeast Asia Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil (SASPO) is a voluntary, industry-led platform championing and working for sustainable palm oil in business supply chains. The alliance is the first business initiative in ASEAN focusing on sustainable palm oil. Through capacity building, workshops and educational resources, SASPO lowers the barriers for businesses to adopt sustainable sourcing policies. saspo.org

Factsheet: SASPO

History

- Launched in June 2016 with WWF and 5 founding companies.
- Incorporated as the Southeast Asia Alliance for Sustainable Palm Oil in September 2017.
- 2018: Expansion of SASPO with 10 new companies, bringing the total number of companies to 15.

Progress-to-date

- Engaged industry leaders on awareness about sustainable palm oil. In 2016, the Sustainable Palm Oil Leaders' Summit brought together over 100 participants in Singapore.
- Provided localised insights and shared resources for companies in the journey towards sustainable palm oil sourcing.
- Built capacity for companies through working groups.

Founding SASPO companies (2016)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Ayam Brand (Denis Asia Pacific)2. Danone3. IKEA4. Unilever5. Wildlife Reserves Singapore
New companies (2018)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Bee Cheng Hiang2. Commonwealth Capital3. Compass Group4. Crystal Jade Culinary Concepts5. Delfi6. F&N7. Paradise Group8. Super Group9. Tong Seng Produce10. Tung Lok Group