

Sustainable production of palm oil: 2016 BIAZA Statement



The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA) is a conservation, education and wildlife charity. Founded in 1966, it represents over 100 member organisations including all the significant zoos and aquariums in Britain and Ireland.

BIAZA and its members are deeply concerned by the negative impacts unsustainable palm oil production is having on species and habitats. The resultant deforestation is known to contribute to increased levels of greenhouse gases and additional pressure on endangered species. BIAZA fully supports positive steps being taken to limit these impacts. With this in mind, BIAZA supported the UK commitment for 100% certified sustainable palm oil by 2015 and will continue to support actions to increase the supply of sustainable palm oil being brought into the UK. Alongside this, BIAZA urges certification bodies such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) to further enhance evidence of biodiversity benefits within their schemes and move towards conflict free palm oil.

BIAZA members are advised to take steps to ensure unsustainable palm oil is removed from their supply chains by sourcing products containing only certified sustainable palm oil. BIAZA members are also developing public engagement on this issue, raising awareness of the problems and increasing support for the solutions. With over 22 million people from a wide range of demographics visiting BIAZA zoos, aquariums and similar sites every year (over a third of the entire UK population), BIAZA members provide a valuable resource for public and wider engagement on palm oil. Zoos are large visitor attractions whose spending is over £500million annually both on and off site. This gives BIAZA members a significant opportunity to influence their supply chain, especially in catering foodstuff, animal feed, retail products and cleaning materials.

With these strengths in mind, BIAZA is committed to support and assist its members by;

- Encouraging every member to develop their own commitments and policies on sourcing sustainable palm oil
- Enhancing capacity to remove unsustainable palm oil from their supply chain
- Developing a collaborative statement signed by members confirming their commitments, mobilizing action within zoos and aquaria nationally.
- Leading an increase in communication on palm oil and raising public awareness and support for a positive change toward a less unsustainable palm oil future.
- Engaging with RSPO and other certification schemes to improve the credibility of certified sustainable palm oil.

The BIAZA palm oil subgroup sits under the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Group and is tasked with taking these actions forward. For more information on BIAZA please visit our website; www.biaza.org.uk