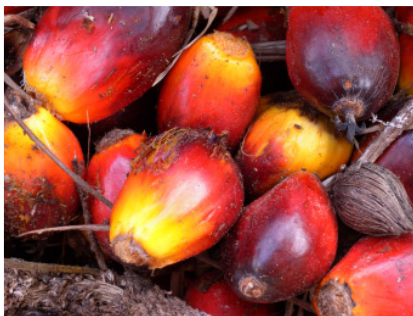


## Sustainable palm oil has not yet taken off in Germany

*During the European Conference “Sustainability Certification and Climate Protection” the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Association of the oilseed crushing and oil refining Industry in Germany (OVID) demand more responsibility in regard with climate protection, and call on retailers and manufacturers to use consequently sustainable palm oil.*

Berlin, 08 December 2009. There are currently 1.2 Mio. tons of sustainable palm oil available on the market that meet the criteria established by the **Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)**. Of Which 320,000 tons have already been purchased; the rest is still waiting to be sold. “Especially Germany has to “catch up” concerning the use of sustainable palm oil. This is one of the results of our current scorecard initiative, assessing the performance of prominent European retailers and manufacturers that buy and use palm oil”, explains Martina Fleckenstein, Director EU-Policy & Agriculture at WWF Germany at the European conference entitled “Sustainability Certification and Climate Protection”, taking place in Berlin today. “While major companies in the UK and Switzerland are already using certified palm oil, only a few German companies have decided to do so.”



Palm oil fruits

Photo: WWF

„Companies and consumers who insist upon more climate protection have to assure that no tropical rainforest is being cleared and consequently purchase products which contain sustainable palm oil”, according to Petra Sprick, General Manager at OVID. Palm oil is by far the most discussed agricultural raw material in the framework of climate protection and sustainability. Palm oil is essential for use in foodstuffs, and as a raw material in non-food items. Currently, palm oil is also being used as a renewable energy source. Oil palms are highly efficient producers of high-quality, versatile oil, and they can offer great potential for environmentally friendly foodstuffs, non-food products such as washing detergents and cosmetics, and for energy production. But it has to be ensured that environmental and social standards are being respected producing palm oil, and that rain forests and peatland are protected against uncontrolled planting of oil palms. The draining of peatland and the conversion of forests considerably increase the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Therefore, certification schemes have become an important tool to stop deforestation and land conversion.

The **Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil, RSPO**, has been established by the WWF together with companies of the palm oil sector, of the food industry, banks, and



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representatives from civil society to encourage sustainable agriculture that helps to reduce deforestation, preserve biodiversity, and respect land-owning communities, smallholder suppliers and plantation workers. In November 2008, the first shipment of sustainable palm oil according to RSPO criteria reached Europe. One reason for the low demand is certainly that retailers and manufacturers dread the higher costs for sustainable palm oil, which are a result due to the sustainable cultivation. Another reason might be that from July 1, 2010 on, sustainability certifications are obligatory only for the sector of bioenergy in order to obtain subsidies. For other uses of palm oil such as in foodstuffs and non-food items there is not yet an obligation to comply with criteria of sustainability.

***The speeches of the European Conference “Sustainability Certification and Climate Protection” can be downloaded at:***

[www.ovid-verband.de/veranstaltungen](http://www.ovid-verband.de/veranstaltungen)

[www.wwf.de](http://www.wwf.de)

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**WWF – World Wide Fund for Nature**

WWF is one of the world's largest and most respected independent conservation organizations, with almost 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.

**OID – Association of the oilseed crushing and oil refining Industry in Germany**

OID represents the interests of the oilseed crushing and oil refining Industry in Germany whose main task is to process oil seeds and vegetable oils to products for the food industry, the oleo-chemical sector, technical use, and for bioenergy. As an association OID is the connection between its member companies, political decision makers, other economic associations, science and institutions.

OID pleads for a sustainable agriculture and acts against the clearing of rainforests for the planting of oil palms. Since 2008, OID has been a direct member of the two round table initiatives RSPO and RTRS in order to promote a sustainable production of palm oil in third country states.