

PALM OIL POSITION STATEMENT

The Deep is a conservation and education charity, with a mission statement “To create a deeper understanding and enjoyment of the world’s oceans and inspire positive change for their survival.” A member of the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquariums (BIAZA), The Deep shares its industry’s concerns about the negative impacts unsustainable palm oil production is having on species and habitats through deforestation, loss of biodiversity and greenhouse gas emissions. Palm oil production is, however, recognised by The Deep as playing an important role in the economy of developing countries and is currently the most productive commercial vegetable oil crop. Boycotting palm oil altogether is therefore considered by The Deep to be inappropriate as it is likely to increase demand for other less efficient edible oils with their own negative environmental issues. The Deep is therefore committed to helping to positively shift demand from non-sustainable to Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO).

The Deep is supportive of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) which has developed criteria for palm oil to be produced sustainably, and continues to enhance its scheme with improvements in traceability and transparency within the supply chain.

The Deep therefore continues to take steps to remove all non-sustainable palm oil from its supply chain, and is committed to only using or selling products that use CSPO from physical sources (identity preserved, segregated, or mass balance). Products to audit could fall in both food and non-food sector products including food, animal feed, gift shop products, cleaning products and personal care products. The Deep also recognises that regular internal audits will be required to achieve these standards in a changing market and that some areas such as processed animal feed (which constitutes a tiny percentage of animal feed at The Deep) have greater challenges.

To achieve this, The Deep:

- Commits to liaising with suppliers and contractors to identify non-sustainable palm oil within products, and replacing these products with those containing Certified Sustainable Palm Oil.
- Commits to educating and encouraging suppliers and contractors about palm oil, and to help them to develop their own policies and commitments to use Certified Sustainable Palm Oil.
- Will change suppliers or contractors if they do not engage with this process, or fail to source or use Certified Sustainable Palm Oil.
- Will champion those suppliers and contractors who commit to using Certified Sustainable Palm Oil.
- Commits to raising public awareness of the issues surrounding palm oil, through formal and informal education and communication.
- Commits to sharing good practice with other organisations to raise awareness within industry.
- Recognises that a regular and continual review process of products is required in order to ensure The Deep is achieving its goal of sustainable palm oil use.

Position statement review date: June 2024.