

Palm oil – sustainable ?!

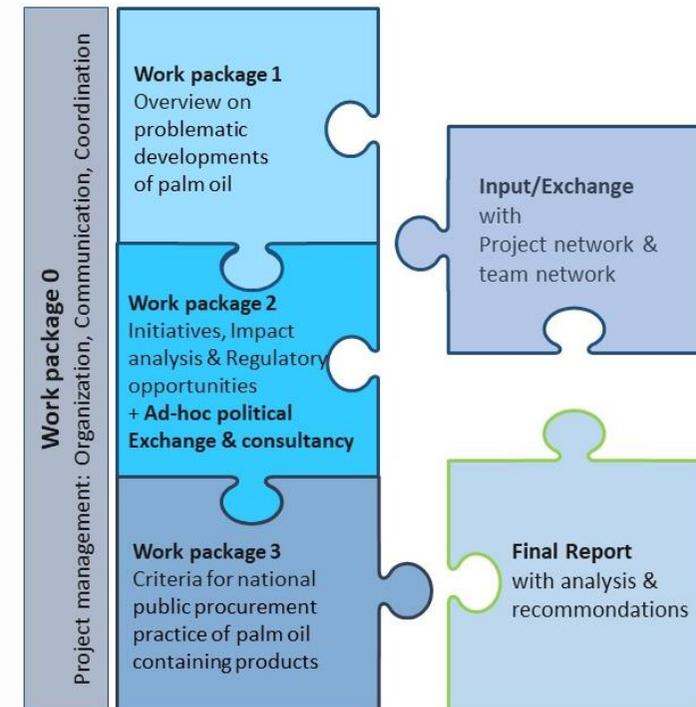
Consumption orientated approaches for a sustainable supply of palm oil

PROJECT & BACKGROUND

The research project „**Consumption-orientated approaches for a sustainable supply of palm oil**“ will over the next three years develop action options and starting points for measures that can **reduce demand of non certified palm oil**, **use sustainable alternatives** or effectively facilitate more **sustainable supply of palm oil** along its supply chains. This **transdisciplinary** project focuses on Germany, but will also involve European and international actors in cooperation with other ongoing projects of the project partners.

Globally, palm oil plantations cover over 18 million hectares, supplying 35% of the world’s growing demand for vegetable oils, and is therewith the most important supplier of vegetable oil. Oil palms are land-efficient plants with potential for biodiversity- and soil-carbon-oriented cultivation.

However, palm oil - along with e.g. soy - is currently one of the main drivers of deforestation, land conflicts, human rights violations and greenhouse gas emissions in parts of the world. With the Amsterdam Declaration on the sustainable transformation of the palm oil supply chain, six European countries committed themselves in 2015 to focus on increasing the demand for sustainable palm oil as well as the (further) development of sustainability standards. For consumption-oriented approaches to the sustainable provision of palm oil it is crucial - especially with regard to the advancing bio-economy - to develop **cross-sector instruments** and respective options for action.



WHAT WE ASK

Can the supply of palm oil along the supply chain be made more sustainable?

What are the options and starting points for reducing the demand for non certified palm oil?

What would be sustainable alternatives in the broadest sense?

PROJECT TEAM & CONTACT

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WHAT WE DO

Cross-sector overview of the sustainability problem of palm oil

Based on an update on main drivers and variables for problematic developments of palm oil, measures will be outlined for a more sustainable development of supply and use of palm oil, taking into account economic opportunities, regulation and other options for action. In addition to certification systems and corporate obligations, the current political status of possibilities for promoting sustainable flows of goods is also provided.

What are the current supply chains for palm oil in Germany and at EU level?

The focus here is on a critical analysis of the effects of existing certification systems both in the production countries and in the costumer countries. In parallel, the sustainable palm oil supply potential vis-à-vis the potential development of demand will be clarified.

Which approaches & initiatives have emerged in Germany & Europe and which areas of the overall problem on the supply and demand side do they address & how?

On the basis of the project results, approaches and initiatives, which act in a problem-oriented, transparent and flexible manner in order to effectively, counter identified sustainability deficiencies on the supply and demand side will be identified, and critically discussed during several **stakeholder dialogues** and examined for their development and implementation potential.

What are and would be possibilities for a national procurement regulation for sustainable palm oil?

Possibilities of a national regulation for public procurement practice of palm oil containing products will be analyzed, aiming at consumption reduction and/or alternative products. This will result in a catalogue of criteria for national procurement rules for selected products or product groups containing palm oil, taking into account expectations of actors involved.

'Save Our Souls' is a message communicated to those at a distance, a reminder of the connection we share with nature.
Art for Change **Ernest Zacharevic**, Artist (Lithuania) <https://www.splashandburn.org/>

