

Co-op Palm Oil Programmes Update 2023

Reforestation Project with Chester Zoo and HUTAN

To address the risks in sourcing palm oil, we know we must go beyond certifying our own supply. Since 2019, we've supported Chester Zoo's reforestation of former palm oil plantations in Borneo. Our target is to support the planting of 50,000 trees by the end of 2025.

Our funding includes supporting the work of HUTAN's Scientific Officer, whose role includes research, and monitoring the Keruak Wildlife Corridor in Sabah, Malaysia. Here, the team are working to understand how animals are recolonising a newly established wildlife corridor, connecting two fragmented forests.

As of 2021, a total of 99 species were observed, of which 26 are threatened.

"We've identified and recorded species that are critically endangered, as well as endangered giants like the pygmy elephants in our sites. The outcomes showed promising findings during the early stages of reforestation - this shows that reforestation and creating wildlife corridors are really worthwhile."

- Amanda Shia, Scientific Officer, HUTAN.

National Initiatives for Sustainable and Climate-Smart Oil Palm Smallholders

In 2023 we've partnered with [Solidaridad](#), a social CSO (Civil Society Organisation), to support smallholder palm oil farmers in Sarawak, Malaysia. Smallholders produce around 40% of global palm oil - although this varies significantly by country. However, smallholder farmers often fail to reach their full potential. Some of the barriers they run into include: a lack of access to agricultural technologies and financing. Consequently, smallholders are often unable to produce a living income for themselves and their families. These issues don't make reaching sustainability standards such as the RSPO any easier.

However, with the right programmes to support them, these smallholders can become a part of the solution. Through this partnership with Solidaridad, Co-op will be supporting 10 smallholder farmers to improve their productivity, support the implementation of sustainable practices and prevent deforestation.

"I am grateful for the opportunity to participate in this program, and I am confident that the knowledge and skills I have gained will benefit me in my career and contribute to a more sustainable future for the palm oil industry. I strongly encourage the continuation and expansion of this program to benefit future generations."

- Aminah Saadon, smallholder from Perak, Malaysia.

Find out more about Co-op's approach to palm oil [here](#).