



中国-东盟环境保护合作中心
China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center

生态环境部对外合作与交流中心
Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center

Newsletter

Issue 16, 2021

November 7th, 2021

Expert Views at Nature-based Solutions: ASEAN-China Mangrove Conservation Cooperation Partnership and Sustainable Development Practice (II)

Alistair Monument
Conservation Impact Director
World Wide Fund for Nature Asia Pacific



Agricultural planting accounts for a large proportion of global deforestation. Although various countries have taken measures to improve palm oil planting conditions, its production still faces problems such as deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions, and loss of biodiversity. It's necessary to work with stakeholders to find Nature-based Solutions to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, curb loss of biodiversity, and increase human well-being. In this process, the joint participation of stakeholders such as scientific research institutions, private sectors, international organizations, and the government besides palm oil producers is needed to generate greater influence. China and ASEAN countries are the main producer and consumer of sustainable palm oil and their cooperation is extremely important to promote the development of sustainable palm oil.



Qian Zhaohui
Associate Research Fellow
China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center/
Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center
Ministry of Ecology and Environment
The People's Republic of China

The main palm oil producers are concentrated in the ASEAN region, and China is the world's second largest palm oil importer, thus sustainable palm oil and responsible consumption are crucial in the ASEAN-China region. The planting of palm oil brings many problems such as deforestation, destruction of biodiversity, and intensification of climate change. The solutions mainly focus on establishing a reliable global certification system and stakeholders who sign commitments and certification standards to promote the production, purchase and utilization of sustainable palm oil. It is hoped that in the future, the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of palm oil plantations and other economic forest lands will be viewed in terms of Nature-based Solutions, expanded from responsible consumption and production to poverty alleviation, climate action and biodiversity protection. At the same time, we can combine NbS with the framework of sustainable palm oil to form a sustainable cooperation framework of agricultural products including case studies, knowledge sharing, policy dialogue, capacity building, and demonstration projects.

Yu Xin

Director of Sustainable Food Consumption and Green Supply Chain Project, World Wide Fund for Nature Beijing Office



Palm oil accounts for a large proportion of ASEAN-China trades, and its various and wide-spread use also determine that palm oil is irreplaceable under the current socio-economic conditions. The key issue to be addressed are how to make the palm oil supply chain more sustainable and realize the synergy from the producing countries to the consuming countries and to the public. NbS is used to promote the coordinated development of economic and social benefits of palm oil, and is also a good opportunity for green transformation. It's hoped that in the future, we can leverage more resources from financial institution to support domestic partners, jointly develop corresponding business cases and guidelines, create a more stable and resilient supply chain to support food, industrial and economic security for China and ASEAN countries.



Angga Prathama Putra
Sustainable Palm Oil Project Leader
World Wide Fund for Nature Indonesia

Indonesia is the world's largest palm oil producer. Unsustainable palm oil production and plantations will cause damage to the environment and threaten biodiversity and key species. Forest fires and deforestation will also increase carbon emissions. In terms of sustainable palm oil production, it is hoped that palm-oil-driven deforestation and destruction of natural habitats will be stopped in all production activities, and that palm oil production will no longer increase climate change and ecosystem degradation. At the same time, human rights should be respected and the livelihoods of palm planters should be improved. We should cooperate with the government, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, local communities and other multiple stakeholders to support smallholders to participate in biodiversity protection, formulate industrial standards for origin traceability, and build a transparent supply chain platform covering the entire industry. It is hoped that cooperation with banks and financial institutions can be strengthened to achieve policy guidance and generate actions on sustainable consumption.

Faisal Mohd Noor
Sabah Landscapes Programme Leader
World Wide Fund for Nature Malaysia



Malaysia and Indonesia produce more than 80% of the world's palm oil, which also has a huge impact on the local ecological environment. Small(medium)-scale farmers also lack the corresponding environmental awareness in the supply chain. Malaysian palm oil plantations are planned and managed by multiple stakeholders, using conservation, production and restoration as the three methods to ensure that palm oil production does not sacrifice biodiversity, which is consistent with the concept of Nature-based Solutions. WWF is committed to establishing communication mechanisms between enterprises, consumers, producers and the government, and expanding the scope of sustainable palm oil certification in Malaysia. It is hoped that the problem of mixing production sources can be solved through policies in the future, and communication between consumers, circulation enterprises and producers can be strengthened.



WAN Jian
RSPO Beijing Office

Sustainable palm oil production includes legal, economically feasible, environmentally suitable and socially beneficial management and operation. The RSPO's sustainable palm oil certification specifically for smallholders can help them establish a communication and trading platform to enable an access to more markets and increase productivity and income. We also launch training and support programs for smallholders. In the future, we hope to strengthen bilateral communication and cooperation, conduct discussions on the status and future direction of palm oil development with different groups such as the private sector, financial institutions, policy makers, and young consumers, so that more Chinese companies can understand the overall picture of palm oil purchase, and make more consumers understand the impact of their consumption choices on the conservation of biodiversity in the place of origin.



ZHANG Junzuo
Team Leader of InFIT

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the global supply and trade chain, but cooperation in sustainable palm oil development has been continuously optimized. ASEAN and China have explored a sustainable trade of agricultural and forest products. UK-China Cooperation on International Forest Investment and Trade (InFIT) supports sustainable investment in agricultural and forest products that affect forests and climate change, and carries out policy dialogues and joint researches with partners and multiple stakeholders to address the challenges and opportunities of the current sustainable supply chain of agricultural and forestry products. It is hoped that through joint efforts, we can support environmentally and socially responsible investment and trade, thus reduce the possible negative impacts of the purchase and trade of agricultural products on forest biodiversity, land use, local socio-economic development and global climate. In this process, we can also promote bilateral and multilateral cooperation of mutual consultation, shared benefits and win-win results in this process.

Philippa Walker
Programme Manager
World Wide Fund for Nature Singapore Office



As the palm oil producing countries in the ASEAN region have a strong demand for sustainable palm oil, WWF is trying to establish a trade center that connects the major producing and consuming countries of palm oil in the ASEAN-China region. The haze problem in the ASEAN region caused by agricultural farming and burning can also increase the willingness of some consumers to purchase sustainable palm oil. The transformation of palm oil's supply and value chain requires the participation of multiple stakeholders. The ASEAN-China region is the main production and consumption region of palm oil, and cooperation between the two sides is essential for promoting the development of sustainable palm oil. In the future, it is hoped that all stakeholders will actively explore and use unique Asian solutions to solve Asian problems.



Togar Sitanggang Vice Chairman of GAPKI

Sustainable development is a continuous process. Indonesia is carrying out certification of green supply chain and actively exploring sustainable management methods with scientific foundation. At the beginning of palm oil plantations construction, the trade-off between economic benefits and environmental protection should be comprehensively evaluated. It's hoped that exchanges with China will be strengthened in order to meet the requirements of Chinese market for the Indonesian palm oil industry.

Contact Us

China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center
Foreign Environmental Cooperation Center
Ministry of Ecology and Environment, PRC
5 Houyingfang Hutong, Xicheng District, Beijing
Postal Code:100035
Tel: +86-010-82268810
Fax: +86-010-82200579
E-mail: caec@fecomee.org.cn
Website: <http://www.chinaaseanenv.org>
WeChat: China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center



China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Center is committed to implementing China-ASEAN Environmental Cooperation Strategy and promoting China-ASEAN exchange and cooperation in the field of environment. It is an important platform of foreign environmental cooperation.