

Unilever responds to the allegations against palm oil company Sawit Sumbermas Sarana

27/06/2017

Following the independent verification process with Daemeter to review the [allegations](#) against Sawit Sumbermas Sarana (SSMS), we have concluded that SSMS is currently in breach of Unilever's [Sustainable Palm Oil Sourcing Policy](#). In line with our grievance procedure, we have therefore decided to suspend sourcing from this supplier.

As a first step, Unilever is looking to SSMS to develop and present a remedial action plan. We do not intend to resume sourcing palm oil products from SSMS until we see clear progress made on the implementation of this remedial action plan.

In the meantime, we are actively engaging with SSMS and relevant NGOs and stakeholders to work together to determine a way forward for SSMS to address and remediate the proven complaints and to demonstrate their commitment to the No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation (NDPE) principles which are part of our Sustainable Palm Oil Sourcing Policy.

We are encouraged by SSMS' willingness to engage and remain hopeful that they will address the allegations and do their utmost to improve their practices to bring it into compliance with Unilever's NDPE principles.

As always, we continue to work closely with our suppliers, NGOs, governments, and other stakeholders to drive change in the industry and make sustainable palm oil commonplace. We are convinced that we can make this happen through constructive dialogue and close cooperation between all stakeholders.

02/06/2017

We have recently been made aware of allegations against palm oil supplier Sawit Sumbermas Sarana (SSMS) which we take extremely seriously. We expect the highest standards from all of our suppliers and strict adherence to the [Unilever Sustainable Palm Oil Policy](#) which mandates no deforestation, no new development on peat and no exploitation of peoples and communities.

We have urgently sought a response from SSMS. They have confirmed they are committed to complying with Unilever's Sustainable Palm Oil Sourcing Policy and have established an independent verification process with Daemeter to review the allegations. The review is due to be completed in June and we will decide Unilever's next steps based on the outcomes of the review.

We firmly believe that working in collaboration with suppliers and partners is the most responsible and effective means for us to address issues in our palm oil supply chain when they are raised. However, if SSMS is unwilling or unable to comply with our standards in a transparent and time-bound manner, we will be forced to suspend sourcing from them.