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***UK reports progress towards 100% sustainable palm oil target***

The third [Annual Assessment of Consumption of Sustainable Palm Oil](#) produced in November 2015 by CPET showed an increase from 155,000 metric tonnes in 2009 to 396,109 metric tonnes in 2014 for purchases of certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO) supported by Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) approved supply chain mechanisms. This figure includes both imports of Segregated and Mass Balance CSPO (excluding derivatives and finished goods) as well as palm oil supported by purchases of GreenPalm certificates by UK companies. Collectively, the estimated proportion of CSPO palm oil imports is either 72% or 93%, depending upon which baseline trade data is used. The final 2015 update report, due to be published in October 2016, will indicate how the UK performed in achieving its ambition of working towards sourcing 100% credibly certified sustainable palm oil by the end of 2015. Contact us for more information about the upcoming analysis. The latest Progress Report (3 years on) was also published in November and is available to view [here](#).

***Update on the Peat Fires in Indonesia***

The recent Indonesian peat fires, the result of poor land use practices, deforestation and a delayed rainy season due to the strongest El Niño in 20 years, have died down somewhat with the start of the November rains. According to estimates released by the [Global Fire Emissions Database](#), there have been nearly 100,000 active fire detections in Indonesia so far in 2015, which, since September, have generated emissions each day exceeding the average daily emissions from all U.S. economic activity. The fires have hospitalized about 500,000 people (mostly with respiratory problems), polluted skies over extensive areas of southeast Asia, and released more than 1.7 billion tons of carbon in total.

In response, on November 10<sup>th</sup> Indonesian president Joko Widodo banned clearance and conversion of peatlands across the archipelago, requiring that peat drainage canals are blocked and calling for criminal investigations into fires. Vice president Jusuf Kalla said Indonesia would also target 2-3 million hectares of peatland restoration by 2020. However, Jokowi has yet to pass a presidential decree codifying these changes into law, and details are still unclear as to how this will occur. There are also no guarantees that the decree will be suitably enforced or followed.

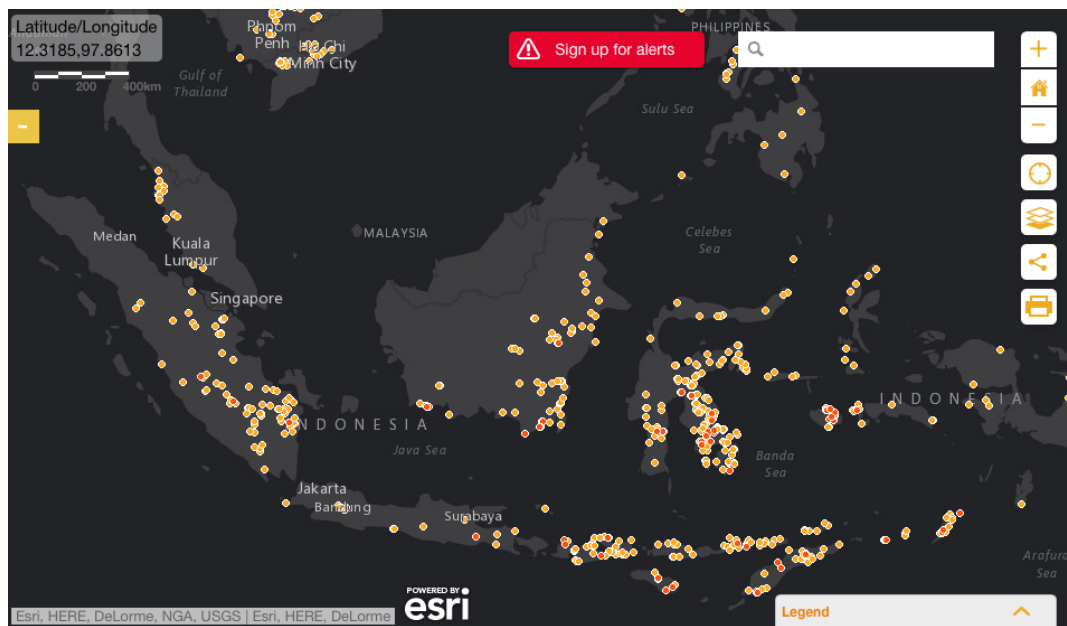
Meanwhile, according to Mongabay, in October Indonesia shipped a record 2.61 million metric

tonnes of palm oil, with shipments to China rising by 36%. But data from the Indonesian Palm Oil Association, as well as futures contracts on the price of palm oil, indicate that traders expect supply to drop, because the haze has deprived the trees of sunlight and hampered growth.

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### ***Global Forest Watch Fires Map***

According to CIFOR scientists, because both 2015 and 2016 are “El Niño years” (when the sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean along the equator become warmer than normal, influencing weather patterns across the globe), the threat of new fires is far from over in Indonesia. Global Forest Watch’s Fires Map is a useful tool to track active fires using NASA and NOAA-18 data, as well as burn scars mapped by Google Earth. One can add map layers for forest use (types of concessions, plantation, forest moratorium areas), conservation areas, land cover, and air quality. The below image shows fires on November 30th, 2015. Check out the map [here](#).



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### ***13<sup>th</sup> Annual Roundtable Conference on Sustainable Palm Oil***

The 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil took place November 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Sessions covered leveraging the RSPO trademark social and labour issues, conserving High Carbon Stock (HCS) forest and managing GHG emissions in new plantation development, sustainable palm oil guidelines for China, legality and traceability, biodiversity conservation and compensation, the complaints system and appeal mechanism, the impacts of RSPO and certification, smallholder certification, RSPO Next (a new voluntary addendum to core RSPO criteria), and jurisdictional certification. A UK government representative presented the Annual Consumption Report results and gave an update on UK progress during a session on the role of governments and national commitments in supporting sustainable palm oil. You can view the programme of speakers and review the presentations given [here](#).

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### ***CPET Palm Oil Engagement – Final Palm Oil Workshop in February***

CPET will be giving its final workshop on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, on compliance with the TPP and sourcing sustainable palm oil. The 1 hour palm oil session is open to all - contact us for information on how to participate. Sadly, CPET will be stopping its advisory and support service at the end of March 2016 as the contract is not being renewed due to government funding constraints, so please get in touch for CPET’s free palm oil guidance and sourcing tools before then.