



PALM OIL SUSTAINABILITY

Background

The RSPO has drawn up a framework known as the Principles and Criteria for sustainable production of palm oil. Growers who have been certified against these principles and criteria can describe their products as sustainable. However the process is a complex and drawn out one, and as a result not many plantations have achieved this status. The issue continues after this because in order to bring sustainable palm oil to the UK market the oil has to be transported from Malaysia and Indonesia to refinery operations in Europe, processed and then transported to the end user. All the way through the chain this material must be Identity Preserved (IP) and so this leads inevitably to a premium for these products. Owing to the low volume of sustainable palm the premiums have been very substantial which has resulted in very little interest from buyers of palm products. With possible pressure from consumers the demand may grow but as noted, the process of certifying a plantation as sustainable is a long one so the supply is likely to remain limited.

Short term in the UK there is very little certified sustainable palm physically available. Suppliers we have been talking to are not offering certified sustainable palm but we will maintain pressure on them albeit we are a link in the supply chain, and we do not buy and sell very large quantities of palm.

The RSPO do have a "book and claim" scheme. The idea behind this is that sustainable plantations can sell certificates for each tonne of palm they produce. Buyers can buy these certificates to demonstrate that they have supported a sustainable operation. The oil from the plantation will physically be mixed with other non-sustainable palm for the transport and subsequent processing so it does not allow a claim that palm used was sustainable but it demonstrates a commitment to sustainability. However the important point to remember is that Just a Soap would not be able to guarantee that the Palm Oil was 100% sustainable as it may have been mixed with non-sustainable Palm Oil.

Standard Palm Oil

The material supplied by Just a Soap is sustainable Palm Oil. However, certification is only issued by the Supply Company to companies who have gained RSPO registration after being vetted and audited by the RSPO. Just a Soap do not have this certification.

Organic Palm Oil

Currently we source the Organic Palm Oil from a supplier who buys from manufacturers who are members of RSPO.

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