



1. "Our products contain palm oil coming from certified, sustainable sources, which meet the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certification standard."

This claim is of no importance today. It has become a phrase repeated by many traders but it does not necessarily have to be true.

RESPONSE TO THE COMPANY:

So why does not the RSPO logo appear on your product packaging? How can a consumer find out that you are using certified palm oil? Please let me know which specific plantations the palm oil your company uses comes from. Furthermore, I am wondering if your company plans to become a member RSPO (in case it will continue to source palm oil)? Do you know that even the RSPO certificate is not a guarantee of a sustainable production of palm oil? I would like to know if you are planning any further steps to make sure you use palm oil that is truly responsible, or if you are even preparing to replace it with more suitable oils or fats.

2. "Our palm oil supplier has an RSPO certificate."

RESPONSE TO THE COMPANY:

So why does not the RSPO logo appear on your product packaging? How can a consumer find out that you are using certified palm oil? Please let me know which specific plantations the palm oil used by your company comes from. Do you know that even the RSPO certificate is not a guarantee of a sustainable production of palm oil? I would like to know if you are planning any further steps to make sure you use palm oil that is truly responsible, or if you are even preparing to replace it with more suitable oils or fats.

Note: Types of RSPO Certification: Book and Claim (BC) - untraceable origin of palm oil, Mass Balance (NB) – mix of certified and uncertified palm oil, Segregated (SG) or Identity Preserved (IP) - 100% according to RSPO standards. In the case of Book and Claim (BC), it is not a certified palm oil!

3. "Our products include certified palm oil." or "Our palm oil supplier has a Green Palm certification."

The Green Palm Certificate only indicates the connection with the offset program, which supports the RSPO certified palm oil production, but it is not actually a certified oil.

RESPONSE TO THE COMPANY:

Green Palm is only a compensatory (offset) program that cannot be considered a satisfactory solution. Therefore, I would like to ask if your company, in case it will continue to source palm oil, will seek to use certified oil traceable to specific plantation. Do you know that even the RSPO certificate is not a guarantee of sustainability of the palm oil production? I would like to know if you are planning any further steps to guarantee that you will be using truly



responsibly grown palm oil, or if you are even going to replace it with more suitable oils or fats.

4. "Our company is a member of RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) and it uses only certified palm oil in its products."

RESPONSE TO THE COMPANY:

Based on your answer, I would like to ask you for a copy of the certificate or an internet link to him. I would also like to ask why the certification logo does not appear on the packaging of your products RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO)? How else does the consumer find you are using certified oil? Please indicate from which plantations palm oil comes from used by your company. Do you know that even the RSPO certificate is not a guarantee of sustainability of the palm oil produced? I'd like to know if you are planning further steps to guarantee that you will use really palm oil that is truly responsible, or whether you even you are going to replace it with more suitable oils or fats.

5. "Palm oil we use is in BIO quality."

RESPONSE TO THE COMPANY:

BIO palm oil should be an oil that meets the highest standards of sustainable cultivation and should be traceable to a particular plantation. Can you please tell us what country and particular plantation your palm oil comes from?

6. "Palm oil is the most efficient oil of all: the average yield is 2.8-4 t per hectare and it is possible to obtain 8-9 tons of palm oil per hectare of land every year. Yield of rapeseed or soybean oil is 0.5 to 1.5 t per hectare. This means that another oil would require much more land and thus would have a greater impact on the environment."

RESPONSE TO THE COMPANY:

I would like to ask you to respond to the comment of the leading scientific expert Dr. Stanislav Lhota, who opposes such a claim: "This argument coming from palm oil supporters is constantly appearing, but it is so misleading that it is basically wrong. It is based on calculations including plants that are at the top of production. However, it does not take into account the fact that the oil palm begins to grow after 5 to 7 years and its production peak is at the age of 15, and then production gradually decreases. At the age of 25 at the latest, harvesting of fruit is no longer economic and roughly in 30 years old palm dies naturally. This argument also disregards the fact that it is not possible to compare one hectare of tropical rainforest with one hectare of a forest from the temperate zone. The first reason is the value of such areas. Tropical rainforests cover smaller surface of the planet in comparison with temperate forests, but host a much larger number of animal and plant species. In addition, they play a more important role in the ecology of the entire Earth ecosystem,



especially in stabilization of hydrological regime. The loss of one hectare of the rainforest is therefore far more serious than loss of forests or steppes in temperate zone.

The second, perhaps more significant reason, is that there is a difference related to the long-term perspective of rainforest deforestation compared to the temperate forest. In the temperate zone, agriculture of more or less present type has existed here for several centuries - it is enabled by the soil quality created thanks to the processes which took place during the Ice Age. In tropical forests, it is different as the land is very poor in nutrients. Palm oil trees are mostly grown on poor soils or peat bogs. It is the most productive of crops, which produces the maximum of vegetable matter from the minimum nutrients in the soil. What is it going to happen? Of course - the soil is completely exhausted during 20 to 60 years. In addition, it also consumes groundwater (one palm consumes about 15 liters of water per day). The palm plantation will then become an absolutely barren steppe without any function. Now let's compare it: one hectare of sunflower or other oilseeds, which can be used in the temperate zone for hundreds of years, versus 1 hectare of intensively grown palm oil, which delivers an eightfold yield for 15 years. What makes it worse for the environment?"

7. "By 2015, we will only buy sustainable palm oil. In 2011, there was already 64% (or another similarly high number) of oil coming from sustainably grown resources. Thanks to RSPO, 40% of palm oil production worldwide is now available from sustainable cultivation."

This is still a misleading answer. It is not true that 40% of the world's palm oil production is cultivated in a sustainable way; it is just a game with numbers. The RSPO data itself speaks about only 20% certified palm oil. The fact is that about 40% of global production palm oil is produced by RSPO members. However, RSPO membership is only the first of many RSPO certification conditions! Being a member of the RSPO is nothing difficult, it means only to pay \$ 2,000 annually and not make a really serious mistake (or ensure that journalists "do not fool around"). Certification itself is a much stricter process and only a small share of palm oil that RSPO members produce is truly RSPO certified. The comment of the company might well be a reason for punishment.

RESPONSE TO THE COMPANY:

Based on your answer, I would like to ask you why the RSPO certification logo is not mentioned on any of your products sold in the Czech Republic? How else does the consumer find out you are using certified oil? And why do not your products appear on this list: <http://www.rspo.org/trademark/trademark-products-gallery?>

8. "We do not think about using the logo on product packaging in the Czech Republic yet."

or

"The logo on the packaging is one, not the only option. In the case of RSPO, we will first focus on another form of building awareness about this logo, and then we would



start putting the logo on the packaging."

RESPONSE TO THE COMPANY:

How else does the consumer find out that you are using certified oil?

9. "Palm oil is nutritionally valuable and is completely irreplaceable in our production due to its high thermostability."

According to many experts, there is no unhealthy food. It is always necessary to consider the individual metabolism of each individual, which, in addition to genetic predispositions, also depends on age, gender and lifestyle. Palm oil (as well as coconut oil) has a high proportion of saturated fatty acids compared to unsaturated fatty acids, plus the ratio of omega-6 to omega-3 unsaturated fatty acids is also not suitable due to the predominance of omega-6, which we generally have in excess. Palm (and coconut) oil therefore has a composition similar to animal fats like butter or lard and in our diet, these fats should generally not be preferred to other high-quality fats such as, for example, rapeseed oil, olive oil, sunflower oil, linseed oil, etc.

As examples of companies that do not use palm oil show, alternatives exist. Professor Jana Dostálová of the University of Chemistry and Technology in Prague confirms that nowadays, there is a method of hardening vegetable oils without creating harmful trans-fatty acids. Massive use of palm oil is being justified by the fact that its processing does not produce undesirable trans-fatty acids, which occurred in the past strengthening other vegetable oils, and is therefore a "healthy fat".

RESPONSE TO THE COMPANY: Do you know that palm oil threatens our cardiovascular systems if it is consumed excessively as today? What do you say about this statement of MUDr. Kateřina Cajthamlová: "Palm oil is not nutritionally beneficial because of its high content of omega-6 unsaturated fatty acids, which we consume too much in a civilized world, which results in a higher incidence of cardiovascular complications." Palm oil is not irreplaceable - there are high-oil variants of rapeseed and sunflower oil that have the same chemical-physical properties as palm oil. Likewise, cocoa butter or coconut oil can be used, which also come from tropical areas but have much less impact on environment compared to palm oil. It is important to keep the variety of oils and not just focus on one.

10. "Palm oil is key to employment of people in developing countries."

Reality is different. There is a ruthless suppression of traditional and long-term sustainable forms of agricultural land use, and in many cases oil companies act in violation of the law. For a company that grows palm oil, it is very easy to occupy an agricultural land, simply because nobody uses it at the moment. Reports of displacement of municipalities or illegal land use are not uncommon. Plantations are mostly planted on municipal or private land without any consent of their owners. Palm industry is responsible for about 5,000 land and



human rights conflicts. Some villagers started to grow oil palms because they believed it was an easy way to earn money. Hundreds of small producers have bought forest land from the state. Palm oil business seemed much more profitable to them and so they stopped growing fruits and vegetables. However, to buy the land they had to make a debt. Unfortunately, today, most of them speak differently. Working conditions are often approaching modern slavery. The monthly salary for this physically demanding work is 40 Euro. Even people in settlements around the plantations often lose their livelihood. Not only do they rely on the forest as a natural source of water and food, but also as a protection against landslides and floods. Local residents also experience the effects of fertilizers on their own. Chemicals used on palm plantations pollute soil and water, which endangers human and animal health and prevents any other forms of agriculture. If there is any water left, it is very bad for health and essentially not suitable for drinking.