

Deforestation and Palm Oil



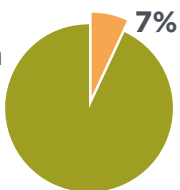
Tropical primary forest loss

refers to the total area of it or removed globally each year. Tropical primary forest loss includes both deforestation, such as the conversion of forests to pasture or agriculture, and some forms of forest degradation caused by, for example, understory forest fires.

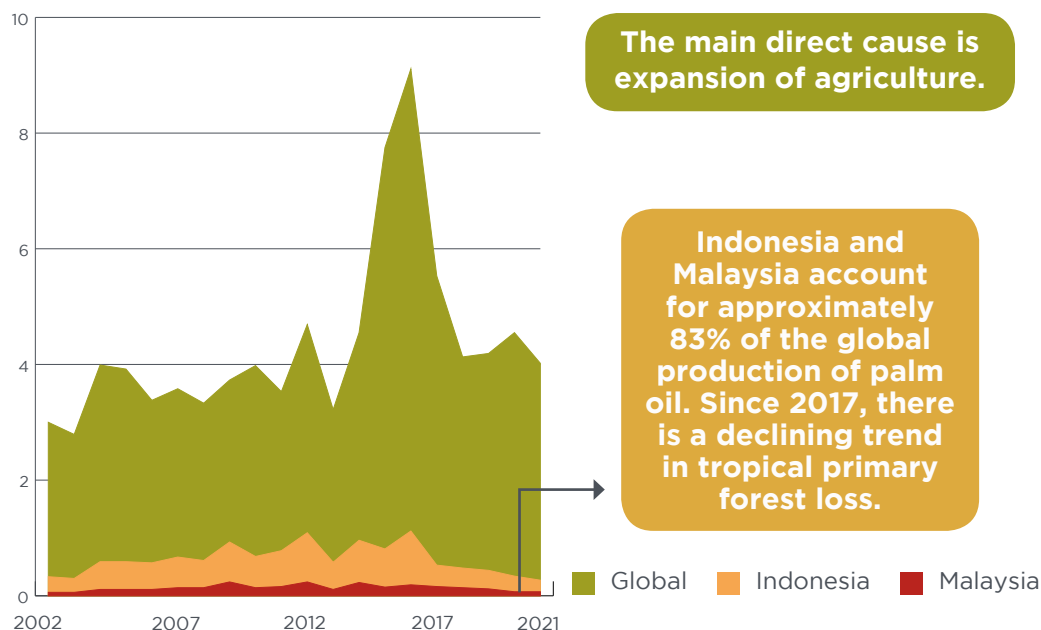
Deforestation

refers to the change from forest to another land cover or land use, such as forest to plantation. It is one type of (primary) forest loss and it typically refers to human-caused, permanent removal of natural forest cover.

Palm oil contribution to global deforestation (2000-2018)



Global tropical primary forest loss in million hectares | 2002 - 2021



The main direct cause is expansion of agriculture.

Indonesia and Malaysia account for approximately 83% of the global production of palm oil. Since 2017, there is a declining trend in tropical primary forest loss.

Actions

In 2022, Europe imports 9.58% of the palm oil that is globally produced. Therefore Europe plays a key role in driving the reduction of palm oil driven deforestation further.

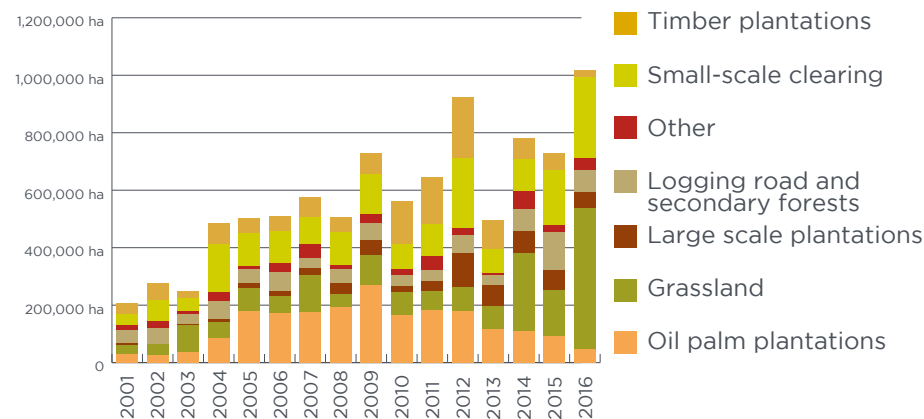
Current actions in Europe are:

1. The European Commission's legislative proposal for deforestation-free supply chains.
2. The sourcing of sustainably certified palm oil. In 2021, 93% of the palm oil for food, feed and oleochemicals entering into Europe is RSPO certified.
3. NDPE-policies. Currently, 100% of the volumes used by major European refiners are covered by NDPE policies.

Recommendations for actions for sustainable palm oil can be found here:



What causes deforestation in Indonesia? 2001 - 2016



Why a declining trend?

The biggest producing countries of palm oil, Indonesia and Malaysia, show a decline in the rate of tropical primary forest loss. The role of palm oil in deforestation also has a downward trend over the last years, this is related to but not limited to:

1. No Deforestation, No Peat and No Exploitation (NDPE) commitments in the palm oil sector
2. Government actions such as the introduction of moratoria.
3. Strengthening of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).