



## Palm oil and palm kernel oil Statement

## About palm oil and palm kernel oil

Palm oil is one of the most important vegetable oils in the world and is used in many consumer goods. During the extraction of palm oil from the fruit, it is also possible to obtain palm kernel oil. This oil from palm kernel is a key ingredient for the production of washing and cleaning substances, e.g. for cosmetics and detergents. Palm oil is also used in the food industry and as fuels or combustibles. However, the cultivation of oil palms (*Elaeis guineensis*) is often criticised because the production of palm oil is still associated with negative effects such as the clearance of rain forests, cultivation on peat soil with the emission of large amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>,

as well as the displacement of indigenous people and the destruction of biodiversity.

For the variety of care and cosmetics products which we produce, we use raw materials such as surfactants or emulsifiers based on renewable raw materials with palm kernel oil for example as a primary material. These raw materials are identified as palm oil or palm kernel oil derivatives. As a result of their productivity, palm kernel oil derivatives are best suited to the production of cosmetic products.



## Substitution of palm oil and palm kernel oil

Replacing palm kernel oil with other oils is not really a solution. The shift to soy oil for example, the second most important vegetable oil in the world, would then cause problems in other countries. Similarly, many large

non-governmental organisations (i.e. WWF, Greenpeace) call not for an end to the use of palm (kernel) oil but for a transfer to a sustainable cultivation of palm (kernel) oil



## Nölken sets itself objectives

Nölken Hygiene Products is dissatisfied with the current conditions of palm oil production in South East Asia. Therefore we have set ourselves the following ambitious goals:

- 1.** to obtain all palm kernel oil derivatives from sustainable or Mass Balance<sup>1</sup> certified sources by the end of 2020, in so far as our suppliers can get hold of and process this quantity;
- 2.** to spread an understanding of palm kernel oil in the value chain and to raise awareness amongst key players;
- 3.** to support the goals of the Forum for Sustainable Palmoil.

## Measures undertaken

Our private brand products as well as the private label products which we produce contain about 202 tonnes of palm kernel oil (as of: January 2016), 95% of which, according to producers, originates from members of the RSPO. The RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil) is an initiative for developing criteria for a more sustainable palm oil and remits a standard for sustainably produced oil from oil palms. The RSPO has developed a certification standard which is based on 8 principles and 43 criteria and is currently the mostly used standard worldwide.

As a first step Nölken Hygiene Products became a member of the trading platform GreenPalm in 2013 ([www.greenpalm.org](http://www.greenpalm.org)). With the GreenPalm certificates via the Book & Claim<sup>2</sup> system for all our palm kernel oil, we

<sup>1</sup>Mass Balance: the sustainable palm oil is not physically separated from the conventional palm oil. Certificates are only issued for the actual amount of sustainable produce.

<sup>2</sup>Book & Claim: the sustainable palm oil and the certificates are traded separately.

support the sustainable cultivation of oil palms in South East Asia.

GreenPalm is a trading platform for palm oil certificates which aims to reduce the negative ecological and socio-economical effects of palm oil production and to promote a certified sustainable palm oil production.

In view of the use of palm kernel oil, we want to show transparency. Nölken Hygiene Products has therefore been a member of the Sustainable Palm Oil Forum (FONAP) ([www.forumpalmoel.org](http://www.forumpalmoel.org)) since 2013. The forum is an association of companies, organisations and non-governmental organisations who work together on developing viable solutions for improving practices in the palm oil sector. Nölken Hygiene Products supports the ecological and socio-economic aims of the forum

and is engaged at top level in the workgroups.

**With joining the FONAP, we have committed ourselves to the following goals:**

- buy a minimum of 25 % at least in Mass Balance quality by 2016,
- buy a minimum of 50 % at least in Mass Balance quality by 2017,
- buy 100 % at least in Mass Balance quality by 2020.

For the remaining quantities GreenPalm certificates according to Book & Claim can still be used.

We intend to explain the palm oil issue to our direct suppliers via partnerships and to enforce concrete goals and measures. Through close cooperation and documented dialogue with our suppliers, we undertake all efforts to make the extraction of palm kernel oil more sustainable.

## Communication and Dialogue

In our yearly sustainability report ([www.noelken.de](http://www.noelken.de)) we report on the development in the palm kernel sector and our implemented measures.

We are happy to answer any questions at [nachhaltigkeit@noelken.de](mailto:nachhaltigkeit@noelken.de).

