

## **Pacific Rim Palm Oil Statement on Zero Burning Policy**

**Pacific Rim Palm Oil (PRPOL)** recognises that the preparation of land for oil palm with fire can lead to the destruction of valuable native vegetation. The company considers such consequences to be very serious and, for that reason, implements a policy of no-burning for all land preparation activities within the group's five plantations, and is continuously seeking ways of improving the implementation of this policy. PRPOL also aims to minimise the creation of airborne pollutants from its activities by operating a no-burn policy for its empty fruit bunches, which are now all returned to the field as compost and fertiliser.

**PRPOL** supports WWF's objective to ensure that, by 2005, high conservation value forests, freshwater ecosystems, and habitats of key species in focal eco-regions, are no longer threatened by the expansion of palm oil, and is striving to ensure that such environments that fall within its own area of influence are protected.

This includes, for example, a local and regional initiative to protect a significant breeding population of the Sumatran tiger. In early May, 2003, this initiative resulted in the first radio-collaring of a wild Sumatran tiger.

The company seeks to protect freshwater ecosystems by having a policy to implement land-application of mill effluent, rather than discharging effluent into streams and rivers. One plantation is already implementing land application, with a further one in preparation during 2003.

In co-operation with international actors in the vegetable oil industry, as well as with environmental organisations – mainly the WWF, the company is actively seeking to implement techniques for environmentally and socially responsible oil palm management, which include **zero burning policy**.

The company will continually seek to improve its environmental and social performance in its oil palm management activities

The company welcomes suggestions concerning improved practice.

**PRPOL** urges other key actors in the oil palm sector to implement better management practices for sustainable palm oil.

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