



## **CHANGE; THE ONLY CONSTANT**

### *THANK YOU, EARTHWORM FOUNDATION*

Wilmar International Limited (Wilmar) has always been a firm believer of embracing change; to continuously and consistently be a more progressive organization and to stay relevant in the marketplace. Hence, it was only natural that Wilmar play our role as among the first movers and shakers that led the transformation of the palm oil industry towards becoming more sustainable and responsible; having pledged towards establishing a supply chain that was free from deforestation and exploitation.

Wilmar embarked upon a highly ambitious plan in 2013 with the launch of our '*No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation*' (NDPE) policy<sup>1</sup> and partnered with Earthworm Foundation, or The Forest Trust as they were known at that time, for its implementation efforts. As the first company in the industry to adopt the NDPE policy across our supply chain, our journey was not easy but by working together, we made great strides in the field of sustainability in the palm oil sector.

Over the last five years, Wilmar invested significantly towards achieving its sustainability goals; developing policies, systems and, just as important, internal capacity. It is part of our long-term strategy to ensure that the implementation of our sustainability policy and commitments signified Wilmar's new and improved '*Business as Usual*'. Thus, we consistently and confidently have been taking the lead in our transformative journey moving forward.

By the end of December 2018, as we observed the fifth-year milestone of our NDPE policy, it became clear to us that our transformative journey has reached yet another crossroad. With the announcement of our programmes as per Joint Statement<sup>2</sup>, Wilmar now requires partners who are able to work differently from our earlier partnership with Earthworm Foundation.

It is therefore with much regret and through mutual agreement that we announce that Wilmar will not be renewing our membership with Earthworm Foundation, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the management and teams of Earthworm Foundation's offices in Malaysia, Indonesia and Switzerland for the immense and valuable support you rendered to us at Wilmar, especially in the early days of our journey. We will always be appreciative of the support you have given us and look forward to other opportunities for us to once again work together in the future.

Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.wilmar-international.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/No-Deforestation-No-Peat-No-Exploitation-Policy.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.wilmar-international.com/sustainability/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/JOINT-STATEMENT-FINAL-07122018-with-Signatures-v3.pdf>