



MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS | SDG 12

## Sustainable production and consumption

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12 is aimed at ensuring that we humans produce and consume goods without overexploiting the environment and harming the climate. In other words, our activities should use as few resources as possible and cause minimum greenhouse gas emissions. This can only be achieved by making supply chains sustainable and introducing circular economy principles. Multi-stakeholder partnerships can create models for sustainable consumption and management of the economy.

22 August 2020 was Earth Overshoot Day, the day when humanity had exhausted the annual budget of global resources for 2020. Earth Overshoot Day, as estimated by the Global Footprint Network, highlights the fact that our economic activities and consumption of goods are currently unsustainable. It shows that humans behave as if there were 1.6 Earths for us to exploit.

### Multi-stakeholder partnerships

The need to act now is evident. Yet it is only possible to change production processes and consumer behaviour in a globalised world if key stakeholders – above all businesses, governments and non-governmental organisations – work together.

In this context, multi-stakeholder partnerships can prepare the ground for change by developing processes and methods, drawing up rules and regulations and setting a good example. Two such organisations working towards fair solutions to the problem are the Forum for Sustainable Palm Oil and the Initiative for Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains.

An MSP can be initiated by companies, associations, academic organisations, civil society organisations and state institutions. The added value is obtained from the partners pooling core competencies, experience and resources and thereby achieving greater impact in a particular field.



#### Partnerships2030 – the MSP platform

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Partnerships2030 project promotes multistakeholder partnerships and thus contributes to implementing the 2030 Agenda. BMZ now promotes around 80 MSPs through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Engagement Global – bengo. GIZ implements the Partnerships2030 project, supports MSPs and stakeholders in many different ways, creates networks to link them to partners and provides information.



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#### The MSP methodology

MSPs are a form of cooperation in which stakeholders from at least three sectors among civil society, the public sector, the private sector and academia join forces as equals in order to contribute to the common good. An MSP can generate a transformative impact through cooperation geared to the long term.

## Strong leverage for sustainable palm oil

The Forum for Sustainable Palm Oil aims to establish a socio-ecological approach to palm oil production and is a practical example of how MSPs can work towards achieving SDG 12.

The jungles of Borneo are a biodiversity hotspot and the habitat of orangutans. Between 2002 and 2012 the numbers of these great apes **dropped by 100,000** as a result of increasing human encroachment on their habitat and forest felling, partly to create palm oil plantations.

There is growing international criticism of this depletion, while global demand for palm oil continues to rise. Cropping areas have increased tenfold compared to 1985. Indonesia, together with Malaysia, accounts for 84 per cent of global production, and intends to further extend the land under cultivation.

However, giving up palm oil altogether is not a long-term solution. Compared to sunflowers, coconut or soybeans, oil palms occupy the smallest proportion of the total land area used for global production of vegetable oils and fats and have a yield per hectare that is three times higher on average. With these competing issues in mind, the **Forum for Sustainable Palm Oil (Forum Nachhaltiges Palmöl, FONAP)** was founded in 2015 with the aim of significantly boosting the proportion of sustainably produced, certified palm oil on the German, Austrian and Swiss markets. At present more than **50 companies**, associations, federal ministries and non-governmental organisations are active members of this multi-stakeholder partnership.



Playing an active role in the multi-stakeholder partnership enables the members to tackle challenges together, such as meeting their obligation to uphold human rights standards or dealing with certification issues. Various formats are available to FONAP members to participate in, for instance exchanging ideas and experiences at specialist events, joining working groups or supporting FONAP smallholder projects.



A major success was the Forum's involvement in revising the principles and criteria for the most **important palm oil standard, the RSPO Standard**, in 2018. What is more, 83 per cent of palm oil used in Germany is now sourced from producers certified as sustainable, 13 per cent more than in 2013.

They have publicly committed to using only sustainably produced palm oil in their products. The Forum's objective is for all palm oil production to be sustainable, and it has set out its commitment in three areas.

Firstly, its members work towards solutions enabling German customers to purchase 100 per cent of their palm oil or derivatives from sources certified as sustainable. They also network with other initiatives, draw up expert information and campaign to improve certification systems.

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