

Natural Habitats in Sierra Leone



14 May 2014

social responsibility, environment, farmers, partnership

Natural Habitats' social and participative production model has been providing economic and social benefits to hundreds of small farm holders and communities in Ecuador. We are fully committed to social development and small farmers inclusion, for that reason we are pleased to announce that we have expanded our operations into **Sierra Leone**.

Sierra Leone is located in West Africa, from where palm trees are native. It hosts white beaches, rainforests, savannas and marshes as well as an elevated mountainous part in the east.

The country has important mineral, agricultural and fishery resources that could lead to economic growth if managed in a sustainable way. However, it remains one of the poorest countries in the world, where income inequality is relatively high. 70% of the population lives below the poverty line and 26% in extreme poverty.

Farmers have been traditionally growing palm trees as a subsistence crop interspersed with other crops in small-scale farming systems. We are aware how important cultural traditions are for people's happiness and social equilibrium, for that reason we guarantee the preservation of this practice, while we empower and support the farmers and communities in the implementation of organic practices, and fair trade conditions.

Our mill and operations are located in Yele Town, in the center of Sierra Leone. We collect palm fruit from the villagers and transport it to the mill where it is processed and exported to our headquarters in the Netherlands.

We are currently working to combine organic palm oil production practices, with social development programs to alleviate social inequalities and reduce extreme poverty for more than 300 farmers, their families and communities.

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Blog & News



An Important Role of Intercropping in Modern Agriculture

Population of our planet is constantly growing. The threat of insufficient food supply in the near future encourages intensification of the search for more productive agricultural technics. At **Natural Habitats**, we believe that well-planned *intercropping* is one of the most effective and sustainable ways to increase agricultural productivity.

[environment](#), [farmers](#)



Mainstream Sustainable Palm Oil Production in Ecuador

Deforestation caused by many palm-oil producers, harming wildlife habitats, has been a widespread concern around the world. However, more and more palm oil is now being sourced sustainably with a help of the certification initiative promoted by a non-profit association Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) that aims to transform markets to make sustainable palm oil the norm. **Natural Habitats** as 100% organic and social responsibility, [environment](#), [farmers](#), [partnership](#)



An Ongoing Education of Farmers

Natural Habitats believes in doing business in harmony with the environment. This is the reason for us to continuously encourage smallholder farmers in Ecuador and Sierra Leone into getting involved in organic and sustainable production of palm oil.

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Fair Trade Explained

Today, we are surrounded by numerous certifications on the products we buy at supermarkets. It is getting more and more confusing to figure out what exactly most of them stand for. Some labels are self-explanatory and some are not. **Fair for Life Social and FairTrade** certification belongs to the second category. Therefore, most of the consumers do not even realize that while they purchase Fair for Life or FairTrade certified [social responsibility](#), [environment](#), [farmers](#)



Why Healthy Palm Oil is not an Oxymoron

When people hear about palm oil the first thing that usually comes to their mind is heart disease. The logic is pretty simple: fifty per cent of the oil consists of saturated fat that supposed to be bad for the heart, therefore, palm oil causes heart disease. However, numerous studies continue to confirm that palm oil does not promote heart problems and, if anything, it *protects* against them

[health](#), [cooking](#)



Sustaining Food Security

Pressure on the world's food supply is constantly increasing due to population growth, changing diets and government policies promoting biofuels. Current estimates suggest that by 2050 the food demand will be twice what it was in 2005. Biotech companies have strongly promoted the idea that genetically engineered (GE) crops are the key to "feeding the world". According to Environmental Working Group, recent studies

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Enhancing Biodiversity in Agriculture

Biological diversity, or biodiversity for short, comprises of the variety of life at all levels of organization, from genetic diversity within a species to variety within entire regions or ecosystems. Preserving biodiversity is important for multiple reasons, not least of which are the numerous essential services to humankind. Therefore, at **Natural Habitats**, we recognize conserving biological diversity as one of the key values of our

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PC Affecting Ecuador Oil Palm Plantations

Bud rot disease or PC (pudrición del cogollo) has adversely affected some of the palm oil plantations in Ecuador, the country where Natural Habitats Group is working with small farm holders to produce organic and sustainable palm oil.

It is estimated that 5% of the Latin America's total palm oil trees have been killed due to the spread of PC

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We Generate Employment in Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone is considered one of the poorest countries in the world, it ranked 180th out of 187 countries on the Human Development Index 2011. A large proportion of the youth in the country are unemployed or underemployed which presents a threat to sustainable peace and growth of the country. The recent Ebola outbreak has further worsen the economic situation of the country and had an acute repercussion on the

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crude palm oil price

\$ 664.0 ▲ (from \$ 664)

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Production



Collection



Processing



Logistics



Product marketing

certifications

RSPO

HACCP

NOP / USDA Organic

MIFFAF Organic

EU 834/2007 organic

EU organic (Skal)

Non-GMO project

Kosher U

Ajdut Israel Kosher

GMP+

Fair for life