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The Story of Palm Oil

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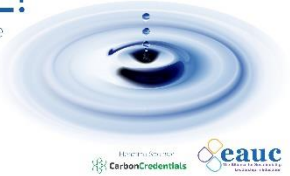
supporting
Sustainable
Palm Oil

Palm Oil: What's the Backstory?

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Derived from African Oil Palm (*Elaeis guineensis*)



Found in approximately 50% of all European supermarket products (WWF, 2009 and Shouten, 2011)



Commonly associated with environmental and social issues (Khatun et al, 2017)



The Problem with Palm Oil

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Production has increased 50% in Malaysia, and tripled in Indonesia (Oosterveer, 2015)



56% planted at the expense of primary rainforest (Koh and Wilcove, 2008)

Alternative Oils: Activity

Can you order the yields of the following oilseed crops?



Sunflower



Oil Palm



Soya Bean



Rapeseed



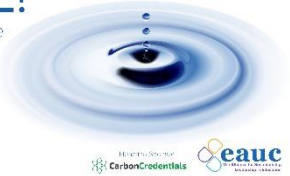
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Why Not Boycott?



Highest yielding oilseed crop (FAO, 2016)



Perennial crop – cheaper to produce (Oosterveer, 2015)



Important contributor to poverty alleviation (Gillespie, 2012)

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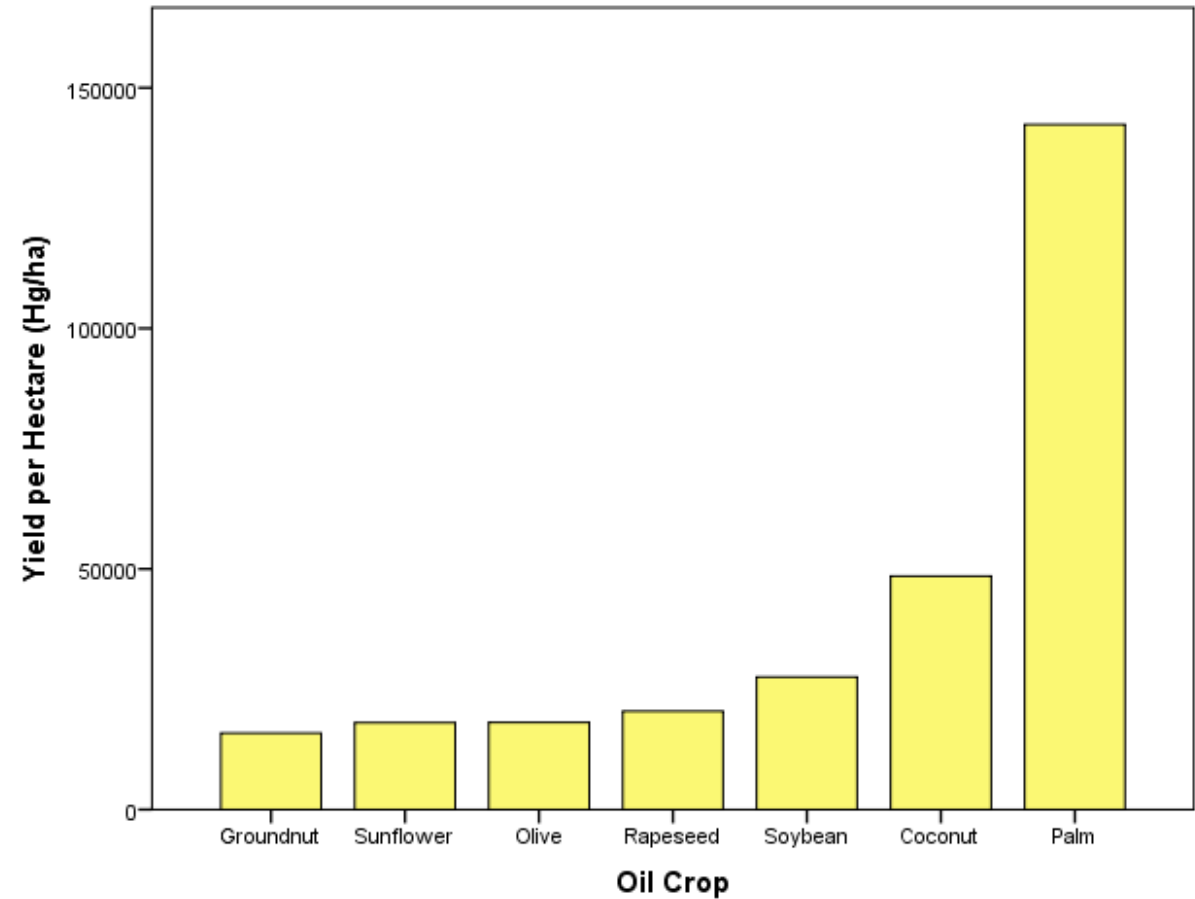
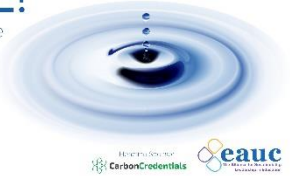


Figure 1: 2016 Global Yield per Hectare of Oil Crops (FAO, 2016)

Misinformation in the Media

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Iceland

GREENPEACE



A Solution: RSPO Certified Palm Oil

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- 1) Commitment to transparency
- 2) Compliance with applicable laws and regulations
- 3) Commitment to long-term economic and financial viability
- 4) Use of appropriate best practices by growers and millers
- 5) Environmental responsibility and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity
- 6) Responsible consideration of employees and of individuals and communities affected by growers and mills
- 7) Responsible development of new plantings

(RSPO, 2007)



Research at UWE: Ellwood Lab

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Studying the Birds' Nest
Tree Fern (*Asplenium nidus*)



Epiphyte (epi (Greek)
'upon' and 'phyton' – plant



Biodiversity reservoirs in
palm oil plantations

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Scheffers et al. 2014 Global Ecology &
Conservation



Lipinia vittigera and
Hemiphyllodactylus typus
(Donald et al. 2017)

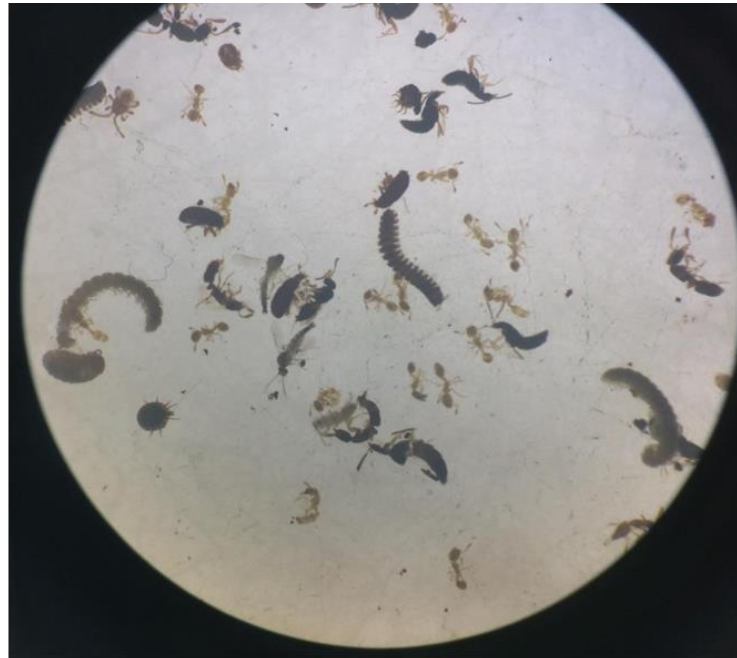
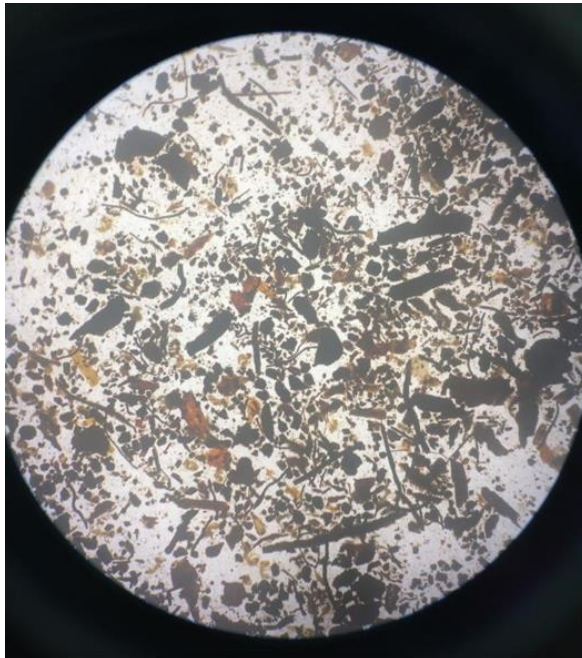
NERC SCIENCE OF THE
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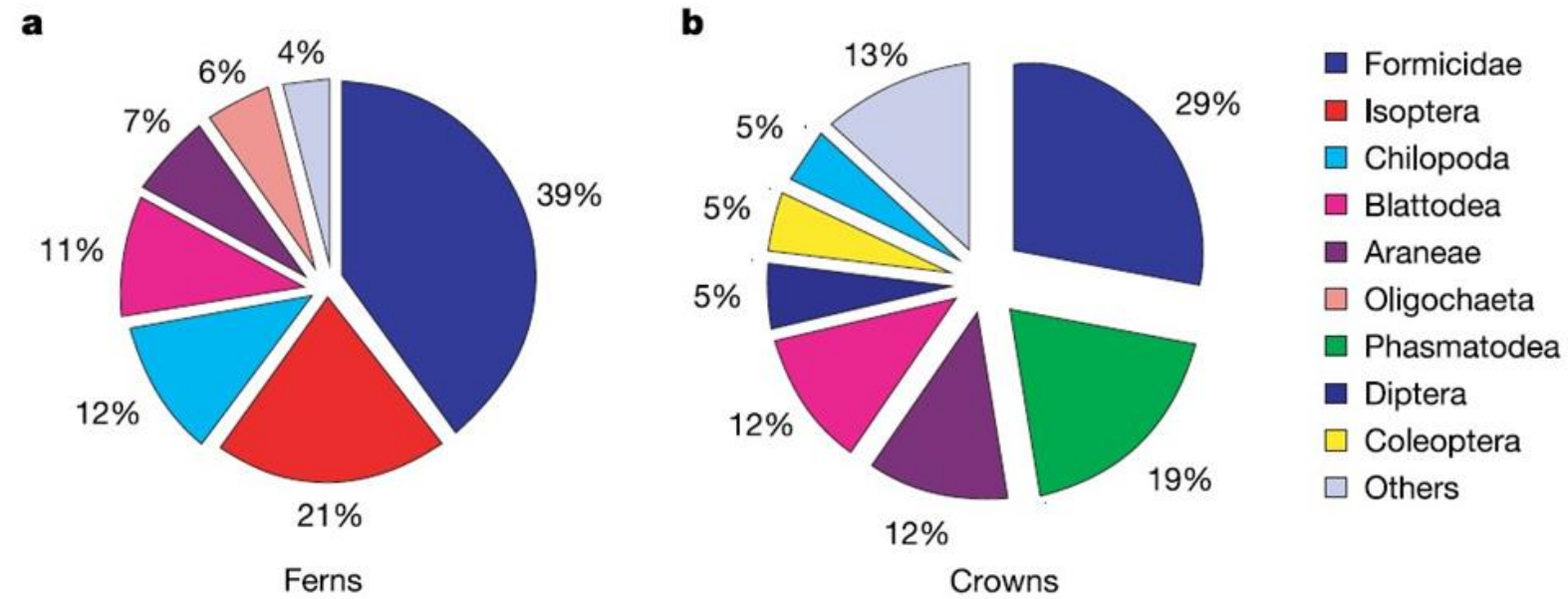


Figure 2 - Contributions of various taxa to overall invertebrate biomass in ferns and tree crowns, (Ellwood and Foster, 2004)

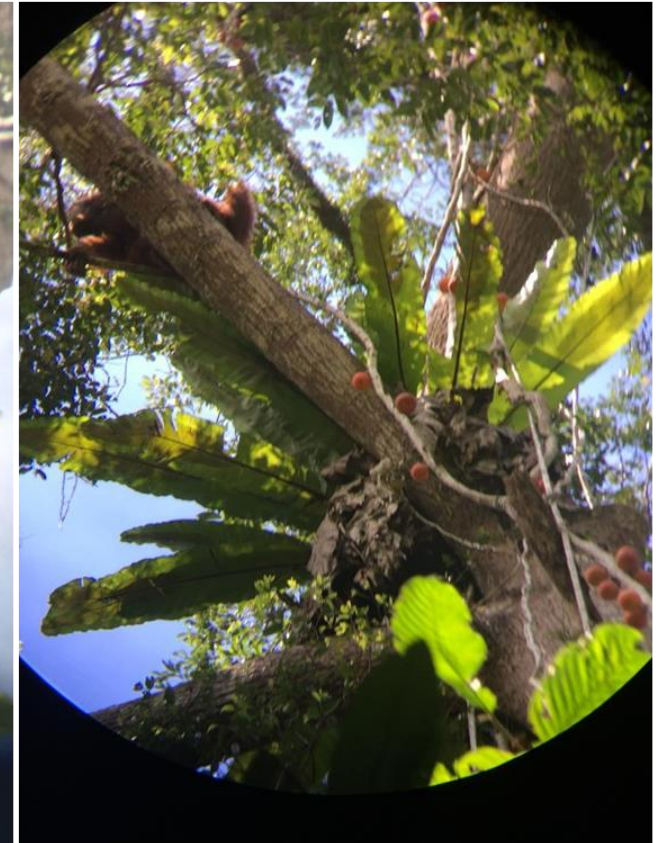
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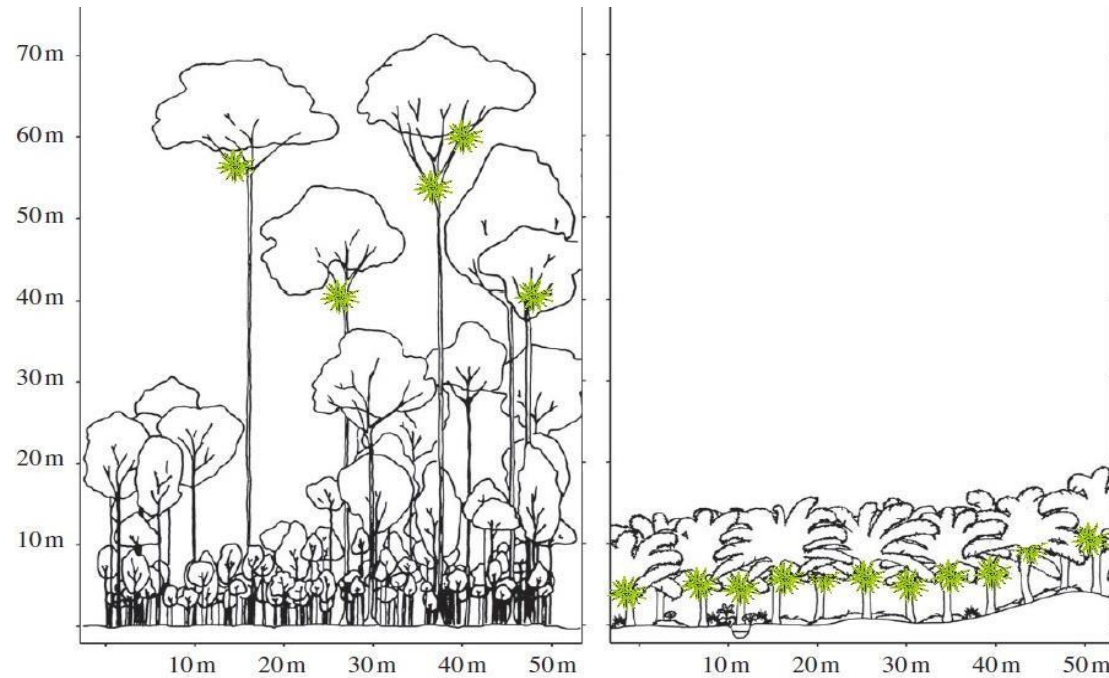


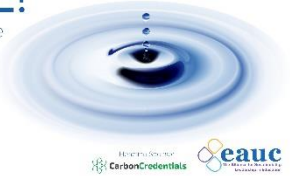
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REF Impact: Eden Project Palm Oil Exhibit

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REF Impact: UWE Exhibit

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Collaboration between Dr.
James Lee (ACE) and Dr.
Farnon Ellwood (HAS)



Mini-replica of Eden Palm
Oil Exhibit



Encourage the UWE
community to further
consider their consumer
choices

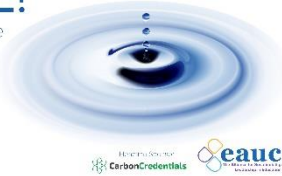


Bristol Zoo: Palm Oil Campaign

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Aim: Shift consumer demand to sustainable palm oil

Method: Visitors request Coop, Waitrose or M&S to improve labelling

Future Plans: Create an alliance with Bristol-based businesses to help them audit their supply chains.

UWE and The Students' Union: Policy Changes

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The Students' Union – Committed to stocking only RSPO certified palm oil products in their shops



UWE – The first in-depth palm oil policy of any UK university

Letter to TUCO:

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Dear Sirs

Palm Oil- the need for the UK HE sectors to respond to growing concern about the impact of oil palm plantations on biodiversity

TUCO are aware of the concerns of members regarding the use of unsustainable palm oil and derivatives. This is included as an agenda item for the TUCO Sustainability Group.

We have contacted distributors on TUCO Frameworks requesting their policy on palm oil. The Contract Management process will monitor suppliers' action on palm oil during the life of the Framework

TUCO have commissioned NET positive Futures, working in conjunction with the University of Manchester, on a supply chain mapping project for high risk supply chains. The project covers both tier 1 and tier 2 suppliers. This is still in the early stages of gathering and collating evidence but will include palm oil.

Tender template documents have been amended to include a question asking tenderers if their organisation has a palm oil policy which is a pass/fail question. A further question asks tenderers to explain how their organisation monitors the supply chain for products which contain palm oil. The answer is to include the percentage of products containing palm oil and also what percentage contains RSPO.

TUCO will also discuss with Procure Wizard the possibility of TUCO On-line, the e-procurement system offered by TUCO, being amended to identify products that contain palm oil and if RSPO is used.

We very much look forward to engaging with UWE to assist in addressing this issue.

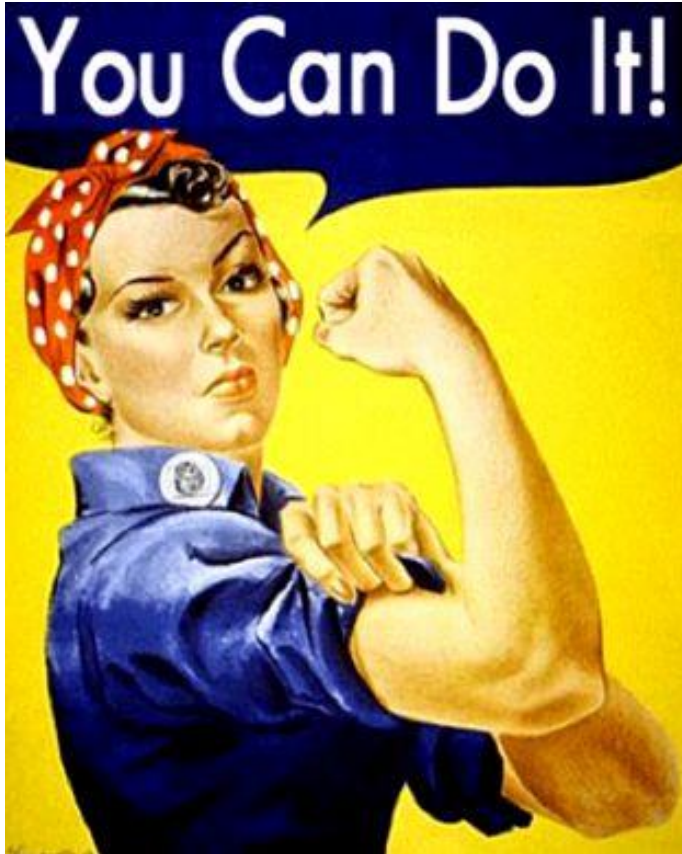
Yours faithfully

What can YOU do?

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Pledge to include sustainable palm oil within your institutions strategic plans and/or future policies



Encourage your Procurement Managers to utilise TUCO's new tools



Join our working group – designed to support your switch to sustainable palm oil



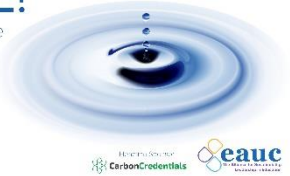
Take the Palm Oil Pledge!

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Paper Sign Up: Here TODAY!



Online Sign Up:

<https://amystaff.typeform.com/to/TbaLN8>

Find UWE's Sustainable Palm Oil Policy Here:
<https://www2.uwe.ac.uk/services/Marketing/about-us/pdf/UWE-Bristol-palm-oil-statement.pdf>

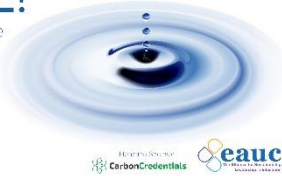
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The SDG Accord

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