

The Story of Palm Oil

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Bristol
200
Gardens

UWE
Bristol | University
of the
West of
England

THE STUDENTS'
UNION
AT UWE

eden project

Palm Oil is...



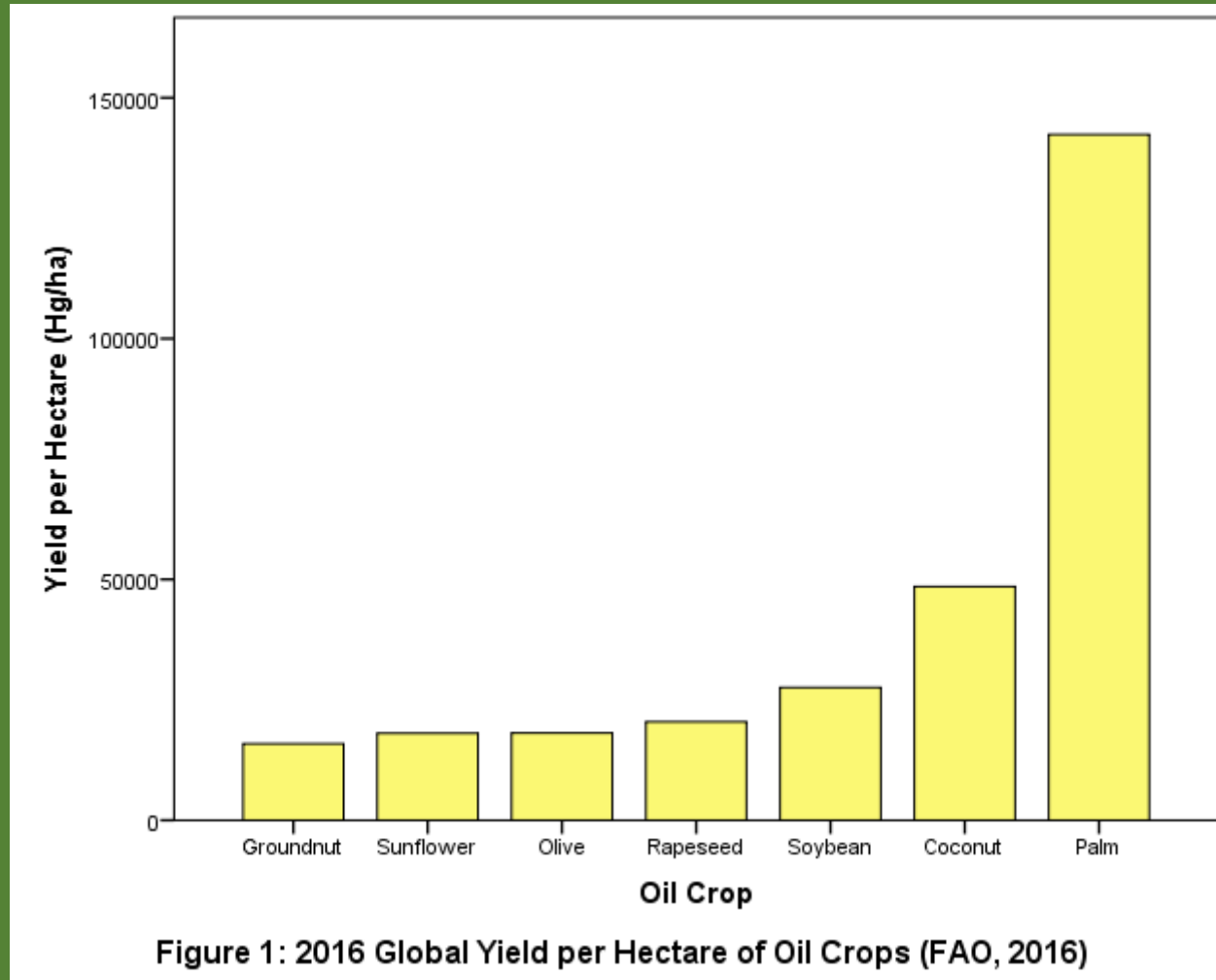
- ❖ Derived from African Oil Palm (*Elaeis guineensis*)
- ❖ Found in approximately 50% of all European supermarket products (WWF, 2009 and Shouten, 2011)
- ❖ Thriving in the tropical climate of Malaysia and Indonesia (Basiron, 2007)

The Problem with Palm Oil



- ❖ Production has increased 50% in Malaysia, and tripled in Indonesia (Oosterveer, 2015)
- ❖ 56% planted at the expense of primary rainforest (Koh and Wilcove, 2008)

Alternatives?



(FAO, 2016)

Alternatives?



- ❖ Perennial crop – cheaper to produce
- ❖ Important contributor to poverty alleviation

Iceland Christmas Ad



Iceland

GREENPEACE

Ban Palm Oil?



A Solution: RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil

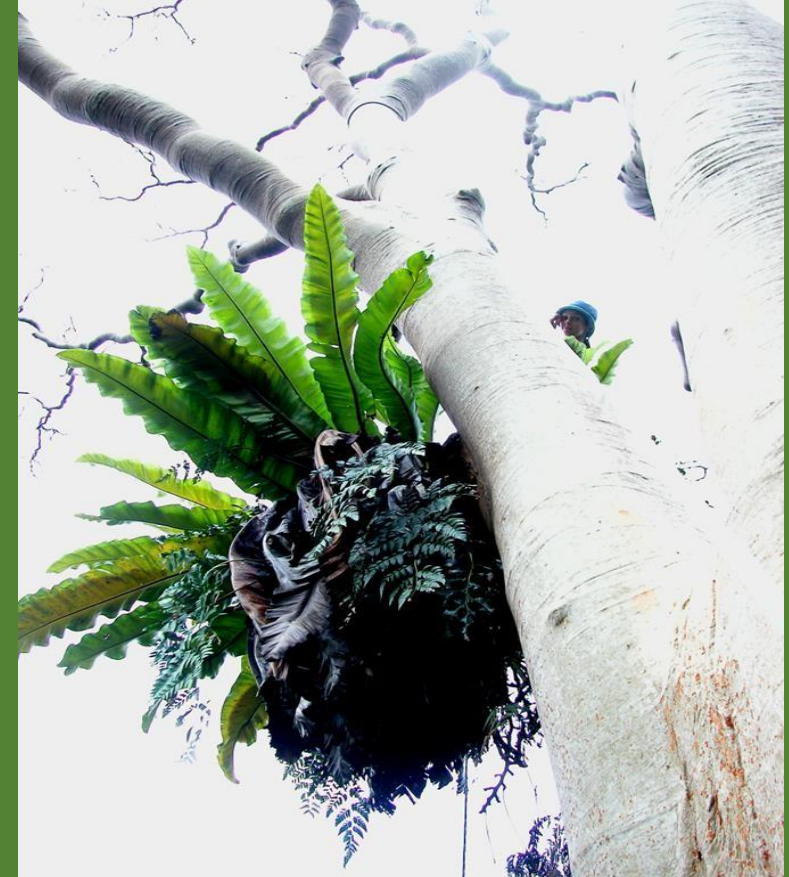
- 1) Commitment to transparency
- 2) Compliance with applicable laws and regulations
- 3) Commitment to long-term economic and financial viability
- 4) Use of appropriate best practices by growers and millers
- 5) Environmental responsibility and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity
- 6)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



(RSPO, 2007)

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- ❖ Studying the Birds' Nest Tree Fern (*Asplenium nidus*)
- ❖ Epiphyte (epi (Greek) 'upon' and 'phyton' – plant)
- ❖ Potential biodiversity reservoirs in palm oil plantations



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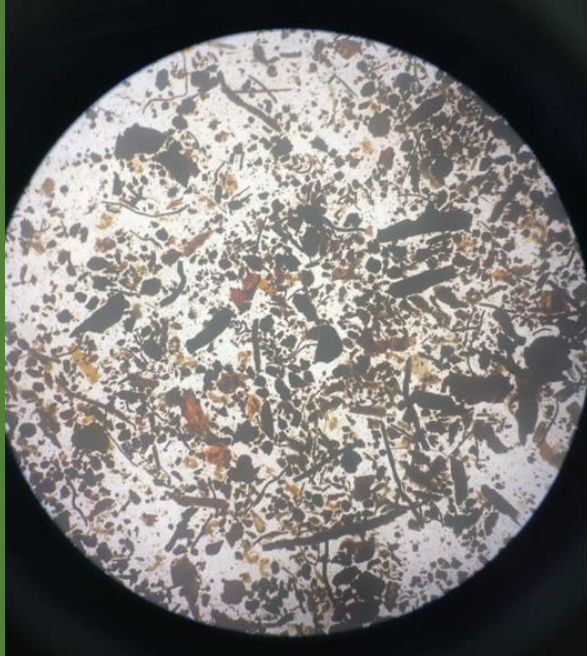
Scheffers et al. 2014 Global Ecology & Conservation



Lipinia vittigera and *Hemiphyllodactylus typus*

(Donald et al. 2017)

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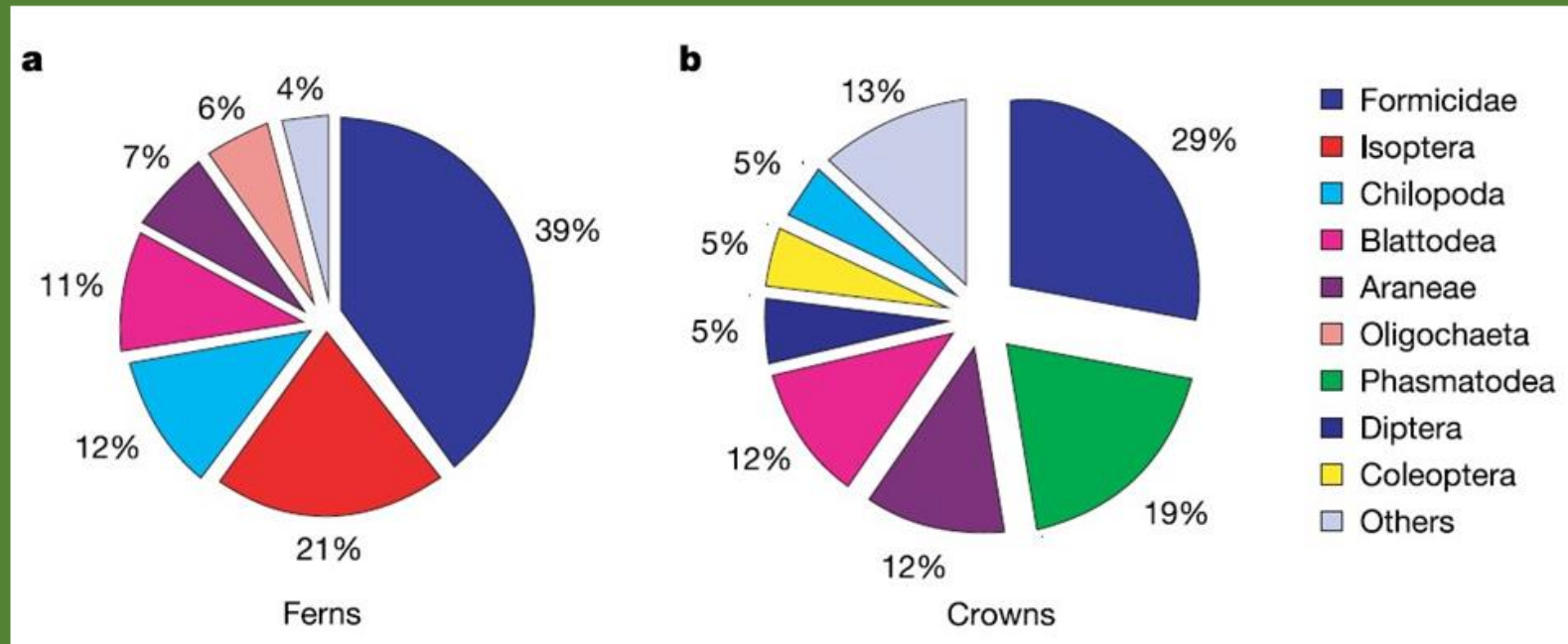


Figure 2 - Contributions of various taxa to overall invertebrate biomass in ferns and tree crowns, (Ellwood and Foster, 2004)

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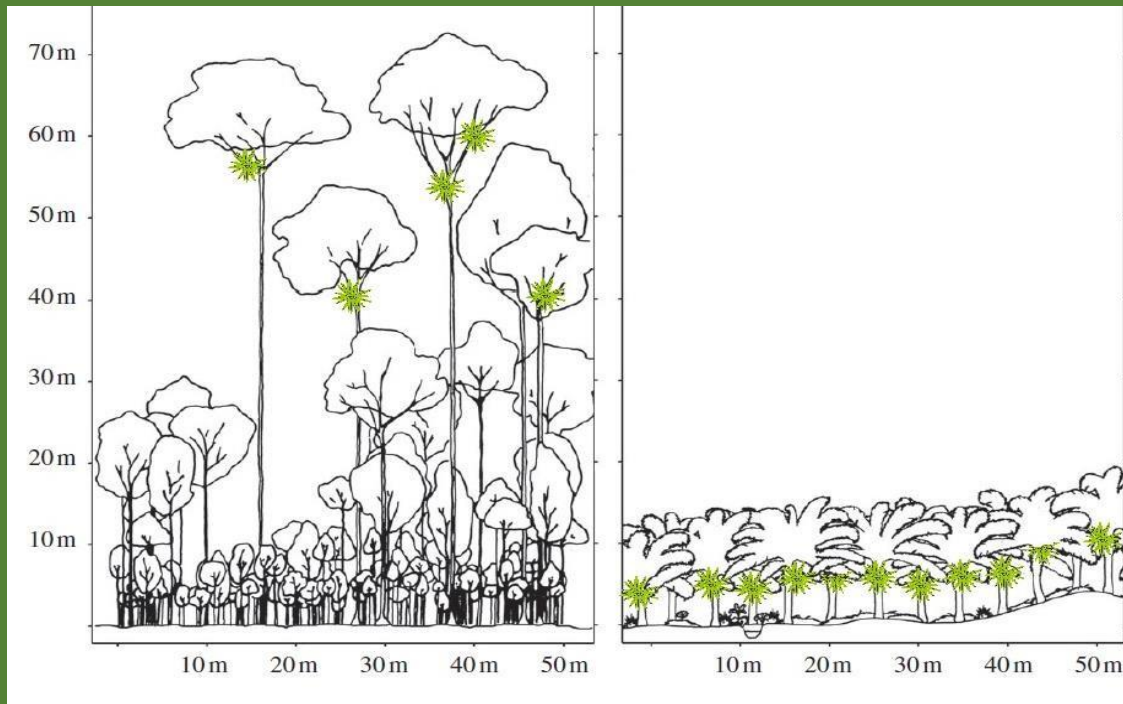


Figure & Image © Josie Phillips

REF Impact: Eden Project Palm Oil Exhibit



REF Impact: UWE Palm Oil Exhibit



- ❖ Collaboration between Dr James Lee (ACE) and Dr. Farnon Ellwood (HAS)
- ❖ Mini-replica of Eden Project exhibit
- ❖ Encourage the UWE community to further consider their consumer choices

Bristol Zoo Campaign



supporting
**Sustainable
Palm Oil**



**Bristol Zoological
Society**
Saving Wildlife Together

What are The Students' Union and UWE doing?



- ❖ The Students' Union – Committed to stocking only RSPO certified palm oil products in their shops
- ❖ UWE – The first in-depth sustainable palm oil policy of any UK university + letter to TUCO



TUCO's Response:

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



A Challenge for your Institution...



- ❖ Write a letter to TUCO to show your support
- ❖ Pledge to include sustainable palm oil within your strategic plans and/or future policies



Take the Palm Oil Pledge!

<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>

If this presentation is to be reused (for educational purposes or otherwise) please acknowledge Amy Staff as the original author.

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