Palm Oil

*Transforming an industry towards sustainability*

Building sustainable value chains has been Aidenvironment’s core business for a quarter of a century. Since 1997 we have executed numerous influential consultancy assignments in the palm oil sector. Our clients include social and environmental non-governmental organizations (NGO), banks, biofuel producers, food companies, palm oil producer companies, donor organizations, certification schemes as well as government and semi-government institutions.

Aidenvironment is known for its critical yet reliable research. Our long-standing involvement in the sector has made us a familiar entity within the palm oil industry and NGO community. From our independent position, we have supported the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) since its inception.

‘With our partners, we convinced leading Asian plantation groups to stop irresponsible practices.’

**What we offer**
- Sustainability assessments at estate, corporate group or regional/national level
- Facilitation of stakeholder dialogue and mediation
- Smallholder support strategies
- Sustainable sourcing strategies
- Program development, management, monitoring and evaluation and fund raising

**Sustainability Assessments**
Aidenvironment conducts sustainability assessments of palm oil production by verifying policies and practices against legal frameworks and voluntary sustainability standards. Aidenvironment has developed advanced research techniques to assess compliance on the ground through in-depth corporate research, spatial analysis and field investigation. We conduct due diligence and portfolio reviews for investors and traders and case studies for NGOs.

We operate a shared brand “Chain Reaction Research” in partnership with Profundo BV (Netherlands) and Climate Advisers (USA).

**Our experience**
- Mapping certified palm oil concessions, for RSPO
- Social and environmental impact assessment of the Ghana palm oil sector, for Solidaridad
- Verification study of claims made in a Greenpeace report concerning suppliers in Central Kalimantan, for Unilever
- Due diligence and portfolio reviews for investors and traders
- Analyst Reports on sustainability and palm oil investment risk, for Packard Foundation

‘Through our work, Executive Management becomes aware of the impact of their operations on the ground.’

Verifying that CEO orders to halt land clearing are complied with.
Stakeholder Dialogue and Mediation
Aidenvironment is committed to help transforming the palm oil sector into an industry where affected stakeholders can openly express their grievances and see these duly addressed. Sadly, affected stakeholders still often find themselves having to resort to the media, the courts or RSPO complaints panel to be heard by corporate Chief Executive Officers. Aidenvironment helps with facilitation of dialogue and mediation.

Our experience
- Assist affected indigenous communities to seek remedy through RSPO’s Complaints System
- Supported mediation between villages in West Kalimantan and Wilmar International, facilitated by IFC CAO.
- Organization of field visits and consultations with NGOs for ABN-Amro and New Britain Palm Oil Ltd.
- Identification of good practices in land acquisition, for LANDac.

Swopping roles to understand workers and smallholders’ interests during an Independent Observer assignment in Papua New Guinea

Smallholder Support Strategies
Smallholders in the oil palm sector face multiple challenges in terms of yield improvement, access to markets, finance and certification. Aidenvironment has worked extensively with smallholders in various commodity sectors all over the world. We perform needs/gap assessments and baseline surveys and design smallholder investment strategies.

Our experience
- Diagnostic study of smallholder performance and investment needs in the Indonesian oil palm sector, IFC
- Development of business case to invest in independent smallholders in Indonesia, for IDH
- Advising RSPO on Group Certification and design of the Smallholder Support Fund
- Development of the smallholder system of the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials, for EPFL
- Study of how to include unorganized smallholders in certification schemes, for ISEAL Alliance

Sustainable Sourcing strategies
Today, every stakeholder in the palm oil supply chain needs to address sustainability. Aidenvironment develops for all players in the industry workable policies, procedures and tools to steer decision-making towards achieving sustainable practices.

‘Smallholders are integral part of the certified trade chain.’

Our experience
- Advising the leading Dutch Energy Company Eneco and Dutch leading banks on the development of their sustainable oil palm investment, finance and sourcing policies and tools, and training of their staff on implementation.
- By documenting irresponsible practices and facilitating our partners to engage decision-makers in dialogue, we play a pivotal role in driving the Sustainability Transformation of the palm oil industry.

Program Development, Monitoring and Evaluation
Aidenvironment has longstanding experience in project design and managing successful donor programs. We regularly perform independent evaluations for government agencies and other donors. We furthermore assist local organizations with fundraising, project management services and strategic management advice.

Our experience
- Assistance in palm oil program design and management, for WWF, Greenpeace, Oxfam Novib and DOEN Foundation.

Interested?
Contact Jan Willem Molenaar to find out how we can assist you:

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