



Erik Meijaard

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#### Chair

Erik Meijaard

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#### Location/Affiliation

Jakarta, Indonesia

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#### Number of members

20

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#### Mission statement

The Oil Palm Task Force (OPTF) aims to inform the debate on the sustainability of palm oil, using the latest research and scientific information, and give guidance to, for example, IUCN about its policies and strategies that affect or are affected by palm oil. We aim to make use of IUCN's extensive knowledge networks on biodiversity and environmental issues, social, economic and cultural issues, and policy to comprehensively guide thinking on the complex issues of agro-industrial and small-holder oil palm in the world's tropical regions. The OPTF will act as an authoritative advisory body on oil palm and how this relates to global sustainability objectives, and an intermediary between the oil palm industry, the IUCN network, and the other stakeholders in the oil palm discussions.

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#### Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

##### Bolster work at national scales

###### ■ Research activities

i. Erik Meijaard conducted one site assessment in Indonesian Papua, where an oil palm development is taking place in an area still largely covered by forest (field visit was facilitated and paid for by the company; the international flight from Greece to Indonesia by the OPTF budget). An approach is underway to implement a landscape-level approach in this green field area that uses oil palm to generate local economic development in ca. 20% of the total landscape, using revenues, partnership and political support to ensure forest and peat protection of the remainder. The OPTF Chair met the company owner to further discuss this.

The Chair met with the EU Ambassador to Indonesia and Brunei and his technical team. The Ambassador has been at the fore front of discussion between the EU and Indonesia about the new motion for a European parliament resolution on palm oil and deforestation of rainforests. Several aspects of oil palm sustainability were discussed, including recent studies on adverse impacts of oil palm development and poverty in which the EU team was particularly interested. It was agreed to meet again once the OPTF Situation Analysis was completed. (KSR #12)

ii. Erik Meijaard visited two oil palm plantations in Indonesia in November 2017, one in West Kalimantan and one in West Papua. This was both to advice the companies on biodiversity and environmental management in their concessions and to use insights from these visits to inform the development of the Situation Analysis. Erik Meijaard also discussed with one company the idea to hold the third Task Force meeting in one of their concessions. The company agreed to that, but we ultimately decided to organize the meeting in London, because logistically it was easier. (KSR #12)

#### Communications

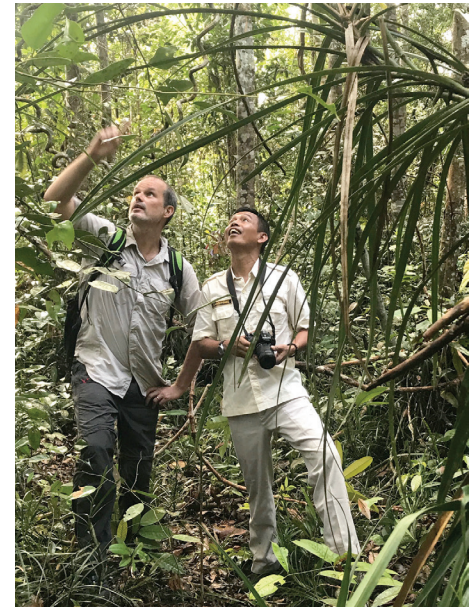
###### ■ Research activities

i. During the first workshop, tasks for the implementation of the Situation Analysis were agreed among the participants. Six consultancy contracts were drawn up and signed by the consultants and Borneo Futures, the implementer. The consultants are tasked to develop new datasets, review literature (including an extensive grey literature from Francophone Africa), and develop short, 200-word texts that will be used to guide the Situation Analysis write-up during the second workshop. (KSR #32)



Left to right: Andrew Bovarnick, Global Head of UNDP's Green Commodities Programme, Nadine Zamira, designer of the Oil Palm and Biodiversity Situation Analysis and Erik Meijaard, Chair of the Oil Palm Task Force  
Photo: Nadine Zamira

Erik Meijaard, Chair of the Oil Palm Task Force, looking at orangutans in an Indonesian oil palm plantation with Nardiyono  
Photo: Nadine Zamira



■ Synergy

i. The workshop of the Task Force was held from 15 to 17 June 2017 in Cambridge, UK. During this workshop the objectives and modus operandi of the OPTF were clearly defined, as well as the terms of reference for membership, and the approach for implementing the Situation Analysis.

ii. The second workshop was held in Greece. This was a writing workshop, during which we laid the foundations for the Situation Analysis by writing short texts on different topics. The result of the workshop was the draft Situation Analysis that was ultimately put online for external review in December 2017.

**Increasing diversity of SSC**

■ Synergy

i. Two Terms of Reference (TOR) for the OPTF were developed, one for general membership to the task force and one for membership to the OPTF Advisory Committee. The membership TOR was distributed among participants to the first workshop and several IUCN Commission Chairs. Membership processes were discussed with Claire Santer at IUCN, who is entering new members into the CRM and Union Portal.

**Acknowledgements**

The development of this Situation Analysis was supported by the IUCN project "Global Commons: Solutions for a Crowded Planet", funded by the Global Environment Facility.

**Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020**

**Communications**

Communication: develop Task Force website.

Research activities: coordinate the IUCN review process of the draft Situation Analysis (with support from the SSC Chair's Office) and incorporate the comments and suggested edits into the final Situation Analysis.

Synergy: (1) conduct third workshop for discussing situation analysis and developing OPTF strategies 2018-2020; (2) internal IUCN meeting to discuss strategic objective of IUCN Oil Palm Task Force to focus on palm oil production in forest frontiers.

**Increasing diversity of SSC**

Membership: expand Task Force membership and coordinate membership registration with IUCN.

**Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020**

Oil palm threatens tropical wildlife when plantations are developed in forested areas. We seek to minimize impacts on tropical wildlife by helping promote palm oil production practices that avoid negative impacts on threatened wildlife species, such as orangutans, while maximizing socio-economic benefits from palm oil production. The broader sustainability context of vegetable oil production requires that the task force also looks at other oil producing crops to ensure that reductions in palm oil production and concomitant reductions in conservation threats do not lead to disproportionate increases of production of other vegetable oil crops and even larger negative conservation impacts elsewhere.

**Summary of activities (2016-2017)**

Key Priority Area ratio: 3/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Bolster work at national scales (2 activities)
- Communications (3 activities)
- Increasing diversity (1 activity)

Main KSRs addressed: 12, 32

Resolutions 2016 WCC: 061

KSR: Key Species Result