



Erik Meijaard

### Chair

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### Location/Affiliation

Brunei Darussalam

### Number of members

26

### Social networks

Website: <https://www.iucn-optf.org/>

### 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.

### Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Oil palm threatens tropical wildlife when plantations are developed in forested areas. We seek to minimise impacts on tropical wildlife by helping promote palm oil production practices that avoid negative impacts on threatened wildlife species, such as orangutans, while maximising 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.

### Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

#### Assess

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

#### Plan

Planning: develop a study on the socio-economic impacts of oil palm and how these affects biodiversity and environmental outcomes.

Policy: global mapping of oil palm and other vegetable oil crops.

#### Network

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

Synergy: (1) conduct third workshop for discussing situation analysis and developing OPTF strategies 2018-2020; (2) internal IUCN meetings to discuss strategic objective of IUCN Oil Palm Task Force to focus on palm oil production in forest frontiers; (3) get conflict of interest statements from all Task Force members.

#### Communicate

Communication: (1) develop Task Force website; (2) translation of *Oil palm and biodiversity. A situation analysis by the IUCN Oil Palm Task Force* into Indonesian.

Scientific meetings: organizing symposium at IUCN Congress.





Looking down on an oil palm canopy  
Photo: Marc Ancrenaz

## Activities and results 2019

### Plan

#### Policy

i. The global mapping of oil palm continues. We have compared machine learning versus deep learning approaches, allowing more accurate crop mapping.

### Communicate

#### Scientific meetings

i. The Task Force successfully applied for a Session at the IUCN World Conservation Congress. We are currently discussing the program for this 2-hour session, inviting speakers, agreeing on presentation topics and seeking communication opportunities. (KSR #28)



Oil Palm plantation in the Agropalma estate, Belem, Brazil  
Photo: Erik Meijaard



A juvenile Bornean Orangutan, *Pongo pigmaeus*, encountered in a conservation set aside managed by Kayung Agro Lestari (Austindo Nusantara Jaya), Kalimantan, Indonesia  
Photo: Nardiyono

## Summary of activities 2019

Components of Species Conservation Cycle: 2/5

Plan **1** |

Communicate **1** |

Main KSRs addressed: 28

Resolutions addressed: WCC-2016-Res-061

KSR: Key Species Result