

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **WILMAR INTERNATIONAL LIMITED**

#### **Wilmar International Announces Policy to Protect Forests and Communities**

*No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation Policy to meet rising market demand for traceable, responsibly produced vegetable oil*

Singapore, 5 December 2013 – Wilmar International, Asia’s leading agribusiness group, and global consumer goods leader Unilever today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that aims to accelerate sustainable market transformation for palm oil. In parallel, and key part of the MoU, Wilmar launched a new “No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation” policy that aims to advance an environmentally and socially responsible palm oil industry.

The policy, which can be found on Wilmar’s website ([www.wilmar-international.com](http://www.wilmar-international.com)), establishes mechanisms to ensure that both Wilmar’s own plantations and companies from which Wilmar sources will only provide products that are free from links to deforestation or abuse of human rights and local communities. It includes measures to protect high carbon stock and high conservation value landscapes, and to ensure respect for community rights and support for development.

“We believe that the palm oil industry can provide a sustainable and affordable source of vegetable oil to meet rising global demand for responsible products,” said Wilmar Chairman and CEO Kuok Khoo Hong. “We can produce palm oil in a way that protects forests, clean air and local communities, all while contributing to development and prosperity in palm oil growing regions. We know from our customers and other stakeholders that there is a strong and rapidly growing demand for traceable, deforestation-free palm oil, and we intend to meet it as a core element of our growth strategy. We welcome more participation from the industry, financial institutions, and civil society to join this initiative, which will accelerate the achievement of our common goals.”

“We are truly impressed by the commitment Wilmar announced today,” said Pier Luigi Sigismondi, Unilever’s Chief Supply Chain Officer. “Unilever firmly believes that it is only through constructive dialogue and close cooperation that we can lead the transformation of the industry. Wilmar, as our strategic partner in palm oil, is clearly committed, with us, to accelerating the much needed sustainable market transformation and to helping us to achieve transparent, traceable and certified palm

oil supply chains. We will continue to engage with our suppliers, NGOs, governments, the RSPO, end users and other industry stakeholders to develop collaborative solutions to halt deforestation, protect peat land, and to drive positive economic and social impact for people and local communities. We applaud Wilmar's commitment and new policy and are looking forward to our other leading suppliers to following suit."

Wilmar will consult with a wide range of stakeholders including governments, local communities, civil society, non-profit organizations and business partners to guide effective implementation of the policy.

As a crucial part of its commitment, Wilmar announced that it will become a member of The Forest Trust (TFT), a global non-profit organization that works with businesses to deliver responsible products. TFT's Executive Director Scott Poynton and Climate Advisers' Managing Director Glenn Hurowitz have been working closely with Wilmar to develop the policies.

"We are grateful for the vision and contributions provided by Catapult and Climate Advisers to help achieve a sustainable palm oil industry, and look forward to working with them to protect forests, wildlife, and the climate," Kuok said. "TFT's proven track record and immense expertise will ensure that our commitment is implemented rapidly, effectively, and with broad involvement from stakeholders. We will work closely with our suppliers to provide the support they need to transition to sustainable production."

"Wilmar's new policies include all the elements needed for success: a commitment to production that doesn't involve deforestation, peatland conversion, or exploitation, and a credible plan for implementation," said Scott Poynton, Executive Director of TFT.

"Given its central role in the palm oil industry, Wilmar's commitment has the potential to truly transform agricultural production to a responsible basis," said Glenn Hurowitz. "Wilmar and Unilever's efforts can be a model for other companies that want to grow their businesses in a way consistent with the urgent need to address deforestation and climate change."

### **About Wilmar**

*Wilmar International Limited, founded in 1991 and headquartered in Singapore, is today Asia's leading agribusiness group. Wilmar is ranked amongst the largest listed companies by market capitalisation on the Singapore Exchange.*

*Wilmar's business activities include oil palm cultivation, oilseeds crushing, edible oils refining, sugar milling and refining, specialty fats, oleochemicals, biodiesel and fertilisers manufacturing and grains processing. At the core of Wilmar's strategy is a resilient integrated agribusiness model that encompasses the entire value chain of the agricultural commodity processing business, from origination and processing to branding, merchandising and distribution of a wide range of agricultural products. It has over 450 manufacturing plants and an extensive distribution network covering China, India, Indonesia and some 50 other countries. The Group is backed by a multinational workforce of about 92,000 people.*

*Wilmar's portfolio of high quality processed agricultural products is the preferred choice of the food manufacturing industry, as well as the industrial and consumer food businesses. Its consumer-packed products occupy a leading share in its targeted markets. Through scale, integration and the logistical advantages of its business model, Wilmar is able to extract margins at every step of the value chain, thereby reaping operational synergies and cost efficiencies. Wilmar remains a firm advocate of sustainable growth and is committed to its role as a responsible corporate citizen.*

*For more information, please visit [www.wilmar-international.com](http://www.wilmar-international.com)*

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