



Ginger Cassady
Executive Director
Rainforest Action Network
425 Bush Street, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94108

Mars, Incorporated
6885 Elm Street
McLean, Virginia 22101
USA

October 13, 2021

Dear Ginger,

Mars is fully committed to the implementation of our 'No Deforestation, No Peatland and No Exploitation' policies and to upholding human and land rights across our forest-risk commodity supply chains.

Our efforts on this issue have been evidenced by the radical simplification of our palm oil supply chain, our [Palm Positive Plan](#), reducing the number of mills our Tier 1 suppliers source from 1500 to fewer than 90 this year, with a glidepath to further halve that in 2022.

Since the launch of our plan September 2019, we have made sweeping transformations to our palm supply chain to prevent deforestation and to advance respect for human rights across our suppliers' extended supply chains. In 2020, we announced our deforestation-free milestone which is based on rigorous mapping, management and monitoring. Through simplification, we have focused on awarding longer-term contracts to suppliers who can commit to our environmental, social and ethical expectations, while driving positive improvements throughout their extended supply chains.

We're also collaborating on the ground, working with relevant third parties and stakeholders to create a path for successful, sustainable smallholder farming and natural resource management. Mars is partnered with Earthworm Foundation in Malaysia and Indonesia on efforts to balance the protection of biodiverse areas with local communities' livelihoods which includes socialization and implementation of Free Prior Informed Consent and the respect for customary land rights. Also, Mars uses satellite mapping to monitor land-use with third-party validation through its partnership with Earth Equalizer/AidEnvironment that enables Mars to take evidence-based action to simplify and select the suppliers and mills it sources from.

Through our work with the Consumer Goods Forum's (CGF) Forest Positive Coalition, we're calling for deforestation action beyond our direct supply chain and have worked with peers to report transparently, as evidenced by the recent release of the CGF's [Forest Positive Coalition of Action 2021 Annual Report](#) where we report progress on a range of forest risk commodities.

MARS

Mars is also committed to the protection of communities, human rights defenders and workers in the palm oil industry. Since 2017, we have worked with Verité and our supplier Wilmar to explore how businesses across the palm oil supply chain can better understand, address and prevent human rights risks, with a focus on forced labor. Verité published a detailed [case study](#) of insights from this work in 2020. We funded additional work with Verité to launch a new, customized [online toolkit](#) in 2021, equipping palm oil producers across the sector with practical guidance to design and manage their own effective due diligence systems.

We have also begun to develop longer-term, supplier-driven initiatives to reduce human rights risks, including those related to forced labor, with other key suppliers in Malaysia and in Brazil, and will continue this approach across our supply chain. As we continue this stepped-up engagement, we're committed to sharing our learnings along the way through regular public updates and engagement in industry forums. We continue to support the Consumer Goods Forum Palm Oil Working Group, which commissioned [research](#) to identify risks of forced labor in the palm sector in Indonesia and Malaysia in 2018. Insights from the report are informing where we prioritize action, including collaborative work on [human rights due diligence systems in the palm oil sector](#).

Transformational change requires action beyond our direct supply chain. Our goal is to only work with suppliers who commit and deliver supply chains that meet our deforestation-free expectations for both our needs and all their other customers. We'll be increasing our work on land rights and communities in the coming months and year, and we look forward to our continued engagement on the issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. D. Parkin', written in a cursive style.

Barry Parkin
Chief Procurement & Sustainability Officer
Mars, Incorporated