



## Briefing Note on NDPE Policy

Rainforest Action Network  
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**A NDPE policy** is a policy that is applied by banks or brands to clients, investees or suppliers of forest-risk commodities that detail mandatory requirements for their production practices to adhere to “**No Deforestation, No Peatland and No Exploitation requirements (NDPE)**”.

- **No deforestation** requirements prohibit the clearing of forests and areas with [High Conservation Value](#) for new commodity production. The leading tool for identifying forests for conservation is called the [High Carbon Stock Approach](#) – this open source tool enables suppliers to identify High Carbon Stock forests and High Conservation Value areas which require protection from conversion and lands that may be used for the production of commodities, such as palm oil, pulp and rubber. Cross-commodity NDPE policies include requirements that prohibit the conversion and degradation of all natural ecosystems, not just areas of forests, such as shrublands, grasslands and savannahs.
- **No peatland** requirements prohibits new development of commodities on lands that require the drainage and degradation of peatlands—a terrestrial wetland ecosystem that has carbon-rich soils formed by decaying organic matter and are important to keep intact to avoid emissions that exacerbates climate change.
- **No exploitation** requirements prohibit the violation of human rights, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, communities and workers and require suppliers to adhere to international human rights norms and best practices to fulfill communities rights to give or withhold their consent to any production of commodities on their lands or territories. Requirements for remedy for environmental and social harms caused by the suppliers, and producers throughout their supply chains, over time, are also prerequisites detailed in a NDPE policy.

**No Deforestation, No Peatland and No Exploitation (NDPE) policies** have become a benchmark for truly responsible production practices following the adoption of NDPE requirements by a critical mass of producers, processors and end users throughout palm oil supply chains. NDPE production requirements are now being adopted in cross-commodity policies, including those applied in pulp and paper, rubber, cocoa supply chains, by banks, investors and brands.

The first NDPE policies were adopted in 2013, following increasing concerns by civil society, investors, and end users of palm oil that the social and environmental impacts of palm oil production were not being addressed via the largest palm oil certification system—the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil. At the time the RSPO standard allowed deforestation, development on peatlands up to 3 meters in depth, and lacked adequate social safeguards including improved working conditions to address forced labor of foreign workers in Malaysia and child labor and precarious workers in Indonesia. A number of brands—including those that were the focus of RAN’s Snack Food 20 campaign—adopted procurement policies that detailed NDPE requirements that went beyond the RSPO standards. Investors also advocated to the largest agribusiness companies to adopt NDPE policies. These clear signals from the global market and financiers led to major traders of palm oil—such as Wilmar, Golden Agri Resources and Musim Mas to adopt NDPE policies and begin efforts to implement these policies to their own operations and throughout their supply chains.

Not all NDPE policies are as strong as the ‘NDPE’ benchmarks defined by international civil society organizations. A few examples of weaknesses are outlined below:

- A NDPE policy that lacks key elements of the NDPE production requirements
- A NDPE policy that lacks an adequate scope for compliance.
- A NDPE policy that only applies to palm oil, not all forest-risk commodities

### **Rainforest Action Network**

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