



Palm oil: Perspectives from a Conservationist

- Speaker:** **Ms Liz Clarke**
 World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- Chair:** **Assoc Prof Dan Friess**
 Department of Geography, NUS
- Date/Time:** Friday 19 October, 3.30pm
- Place:** Earth Lab (AS2 #02-03), Department of Geography, NUS

Abstract

Palm oil is the world's most produced, consumed and traded vegetable oil. Global demand has driven growth in production from 15 million tonnes in 1995 to around 63 million tonnes in 2015. Palm oil is a versatile commodity used in a multitude of products, from an industry employing millions and credited as providing a path out of poverty for millions. However, conversion of land to oil palm has also come at significant environmental and social cost, and there are concerns that it will continue on this pathway. It is a controversial commodity often in the media spotlight. This seminar will provide perspectives from a conservationist, unpacking some of the complexities, challenges and key issues, and the approaches taken to addressing these.

About the Speaker



Elizabeth (Liz) Clarke is the Global Palm Oil Lead for WWF, the world's leading conservation organization. Liz is on the Board of Governors for the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and is an Organising Committee member of the Palm Oil Innovation Group (POIG). Prior to joining WWF, she managed the Business and Biodiversity Programme for the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), to include the global palm oil programme and the launch of the Sustainability Policy Transparency Toolkit (SPOTT), and was a sustainability consultant for AECOM. Liz is a Board Member for the Wildlife Friendly Enterprise Network, and previously chaired the Biodiversity and Ecology section of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and served on the Executive Committee of the Business and Biodiversity Offsets Programme (BBOP). Liz has a Masters in Environmental Policy from Cambridge University and a degree in Zoology from Imperial College, London.

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