

General Mills - Palm Grievance List

Last Updated: May 2023

| Organisation | Date of update | Exposure | District/Province | Country | Complainant | Issues raised | Actions Taken | Status |
|---|----------------|----------|--|-----------|------------------------|--|--|---|
| AgroPalma | May-19 | Direct | Acará River in northern Pará state | Brazil | General Mills Investor | Grievance questions related to a historical land rights case and employee working conditions legal case. | Grievances investigated. No further action on land rights case taken as case already subject to an RSPO CP grievance process. No further evidence identified regarding working conditions legal case. (May 19) | CLOSED |
| AgroPalma | May-23 | Direct | Acará River in northern Pará state | Brazil | CRR newsletter | Conflict with local communities related to historical land rights case. | <p>General Mills has engaged directly with Agropalma and understands that historical and conflicting legal decisions surrounding ownership of the land have continued to generate issues. There is now a new and ongoing legal process which will define ownership of the land and is expected to take some time to conclude. General Mills expects its tier one supplier to comply with the law and to support the outcomes of this legal process. The previous RSPO CP process was closed in 2021 (April 22)</p> <p>There is an ongoing legal case to resolve ownership of the disputed land. An interim agreement is in place by which Agropalma would take care of the land in question (which is the legal forest reserve of their farm) while allowing access for named members of the community to visit their cemetery and travel to community lands on the other side of the forest reserve. It appears this accord is being respected by both parties at present. (Feb 23)</p> <p>An RSPO audit late 2022 uncovered non-compliances which resulted in temporary suspension of certification for Agropalma's palm plantations in Feb. Agropalma put in a place an action plan and demonstrated progress for the certification to be re-instated in May, but no details have been made public. A mediation group with community and government representation has been established, but there is no public information on progress to date. (May 23)</p> | Monitor |
| Astra Agro Lestari | May-23 | Indirect | Morowali, Sulawesi Tengah Donggala, Sulawesi Tengah Mamuju Utara, Sulawesi Barat | Indonesia | FoE/Walhi | Historical grievance concerning environmental, human rights, and governance violations | <p>General Mills has identified 8/10 suppliers linked to AAL. General Mills is linked to Nusa Abadi, Tani Teladan, Pasang kayu, and Letawa, via 4 suppliers. General Mills is reaching out to its suppliers for investigation. (Apr 22)</p> <p>General Mills will monitor Wilmar's and P&G's grievance log quarterly for updates to the case and await outcome of independent assessment by Landesa/EcoNusantara (June 22)</p> <p>Summary conclusions of the Landesa/EcoNusantara assessment were published by P&G Aug 22, following which several buyers are reported to have suspended sourcing from the AAL subsidiaries involved</p> <p>AAL have committed publicly to appoint an independent third party to review the allegations, define terms of reference in consultation with stakeholders, publish the findings of this review and set out any necessary actions to address them (Dec 22)</p> <p>It is understood that EcoNusantara started work on this review in April, although their Terms of Reference for this exercise are yet to be made public (May 23).</p> | Monitor |
| Brasil Biofuels (BBF) | May-23 | Indirect | Acará River in northern Pará state | Brazil | Global Witness | Potential risk of violent escalation of long running land rights conflict. | <p>General Mills has identified a potential indirect linkage via one of its tier one suppliers to both mills owned by BBF (Biopalma Da Amazônia 1 and Biopalma Acara) and will follow up with that tier one supplier to request they raise the matter with their tier one who holds the direct buying relationship. (May 22)</p> <p>General Mills discussed the BBF action plan with the tier one supplier with the direct buying relationship. The tier one supplier conducts site visits per quarter for verification against action plan. The action plan will include de-escalation training to the BBF workforce and security team, to better respond to escalation with the nearby communities. The tier one supplier will share the progress against action plan with General Mills each quarter. (June 22)</p> <p>Further allegations of forcible eviction of indigenous communities, following a court decision in favour of the company (Dec 22)</p> <p>Fresh escalation reported with allegations of violence by BBF's security contractors in April '23. (May 23)</p> | Suspended/ No longer in supply chain |
| Energy & Palma/La Fabril Group | Dec-21 | Indirect | San Lorenzo canton, Esmeraldas province | Ecuador | NGO Signatories | Open letter from civil society to consumer goods companies re: concerns over Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation by palm oil company in Ecuador | Following internal due diligence, there is confirmation that Energy & Palma appears in General Mills supply chain through historic purchasing from a single tier one supplier. As of Q1/Q2 2021 purchasing, this supplier is no longer in the General Mills supply chain. General Mills will follow up with its tier one supplier to confirm future buy/nobuy position. | CLOSED |
| Felda Global Ventures Holding Bhd (FGV) | May-23 | Indirect | All FGV operations, across Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah | Malaysia | Greenpeace RAN | See May 2018 For FELDA: historic labour rights abuses/issues. RSPO CP investigation leads to RSPO membership suspension for 1 mill (Kilang Sawit Seriting) + 4 FFB plantations. Requirement for corrective action plan by RSPO CP. | <p>Communication issued to all tier one palm suppliers in January setting out 'Policy Expectations' and continued transparent and monitoring on FGV and Greenpeace 26.</p> <p>FELDA labour rights action plan submitted to RSPO end March 2019, subsequently published on website here - Case documented on RSPO grievance tracker - Raised to General Mills Grievance Committee.</p> <p>RSPO suspension on FGV certificate for Seriting complex lifted (Aug 19).</p> <p>FGV commits to third-party verification by NGO groups (Sept 19).</p> <p>RSPO re-imposes partial suspension in response to verification findings (Jan 20)</p> <p>FGV develops action plan to address failings in collaboration with Fair Labor Association (FLA) (April 20) - US Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) issues a Withhold Release Order on palm oil from FGV Holdings (Sept 20)</p> <p>GMI instructing relevant suppliers to issue a no buy order for palm originating from this company to our direct suppliers (Oct 20)</p> <p>WRO remains in place and latest CP directive issued 7/22 remains unresolved, pending confirmation that there is no evidence of systemic/systematic labour violations (May 23)</p> | Suspended and monitor |

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| IndoGunta Capitol Group | Aug-20 | Indirect | Manokwari, Papua barat | Indonesia | CRR newsletter | IndoGunta: clearance of 709 ha of forest and peatland during the first half of 2020 & alleged ownership connections with Salim Group. Capitol Group: 554 ha of deforestation in the group's concessions from January to June 2020 | General Mills is following up with suppliers to confirm supply base exposure and to verify the grievance. Update (12/10/20): General Mills has confirmed no exposure to IndoGunta. General Mills maintains a nobuy position on Salim Group Companies and will take appropriate action as required. General Mills is exposed to PT Medco Papua Hijau Selaras (Capitol Group) by two suppliers. Both suppliers have ongoing grievance cases investigating Capitol Group. | Suspended and Monitor |
| Liguria mill: East New Britain Resources Group Narangit mill: East New Britain Resources Group Mamusi mill: Rimbunan Hijau | Jul-21 | Indirect | Bairiman, East New Britain | Papua New Guinea | Global Witness | Deforestation, failure to conduct FPIC and worker health and safety violations, among others. | General Mills is following up with direct suppliers to confirm supply base exposure and to understand actions being taken. Update (October 21): General Mills has confirmed no exposure to East New Britain Resources Group and Mamusi mill. General Mills will monitor supply chain to ensure that East New Britain Resources Group and Mamusi mill does not reenter their supply chain. | No longer in supply chain |
| List of 26 producer groups as identified in Greenpeace May 2018 letter to FMCGs. | May-18 | Indirect | Papua | Indonesia | Greenpeace: Moment of Truth | Multiple current and historic grievances raised. | Follow up with tier one suppliers to confirm and/or investigate General Mills linkages to the producer groups named in the report. Confirmed that for all 8 tier one suppliers, all producers are either a) suspended or not in the supply chain, b) covered by an active grievance procedure, c) resolved through a grievance process. General Mills will continue to monitor for resolution of any active grievance cases. | CLOSED |
| PT's Agra Bumi Niaga & Mopoli Raya | Mar-20 | Indirect | Aceh Timur | Indonesia | RAN | RAN request for supply chain reentry for both PTs due to stepped up NDPE commitments. E21 | Confirmed that PT ABN is no longer in the supply chain and General Mills expects continued monitoring via tier one suppliers. Confirmed that PT Mopoli Raya has already reentered the supply chain via indirect supplier. (March 20) | CLOSED |
| PT. Bumi Daya Agrotamas & PT. Muara Jambi Sawit Lestari (PT MJSL) | Oct-19 | Indirect | Subulussalam, Aceh; Tanjung Jabung T, Jambi | Indonesia | RAN | PT. Bumi Daya Agrotamas, alleged to be buying from PT Laot Bangko via agents/dealers. Musim Mas buying from PT BDA. General Mills buying from mill owned by parent, Bima Golden Powerindo, which also owns PT Laot Bangko. | Investigation conducted. Confirmed that PT BDA ceased sourcing from PT Laot Bangko in August and therefore not in the General Mills supply chain. Musim Mas working with BDA on a traceability action plan. General Mills requires supplier assurance on BDA action plan and progress before sourcing resumes. MJSL links investigated. MJSL confirmed not in the supply chain for 7/8 suppliers. For 8th supplier, MJSL purchase was spot buy only. Group association connections between PT MJSL and Bima Golden Powerindo challenged by General Mills' suppliers (noncontrolling stake by shared owner). | CLOSED |
| PTPN 1 Blang Tualang, PT SPS II PT Laot Bangko, PT Agra Bumi Niaga, PT Dua Perkasa Lestari, PT Kallista Alam | May-19 | Indirect | Aceh Timur | Indonesia | RAN | Multiple past and ongoing cases of alleged land clearance and deforestation within Leuser ecosystem. | See May 2018 for PT SPS II. PT Laot Bangko, PT Agra Bumi Niaga, PT Dua Perkasa Lestari, PT Kallista Alam investigated and confirmed not in the General Mills supply chain. PTPN 1 Blang Tualang confirmed to be in the General Mills supply chain. General Mills has investigated and confirmed that a number of its tier one suppliers, who are buying indirectly through trade partners, have entered PTPN 1 into their public grievance trackers and that investigations are ongoing to verify RAN's claims (Nov 19). | CLOSED |
| PT Indo Sawit Perkasa & PT Indo Alam | May-20 | Indirect | Subulussalam, in Aceh | Indonesia | RAN | Continued deforestation in the Leuser Ecosystem - request for General Mills to issue nobuy notice. | For PT Indo Alam, see May 2019 grievance entry. For PT Indo Sawit Perkasa, General Mills maintains expectation that all upstream supply puts in place credible TPP and purchasing safeguards to ensure noncompliant FFB does not enter the supply chain. | Suspended/ No longer in supply chain |
| PT. Global Sawit Semest & PT Samudera Sawit Nabati | May-23 | Indirect | Singkil-Bengung, Aceh | Indonesia | RAN | Two mills highlighted in RAN report (Sept/19) accused of buying oil from deforested areas within the Rawa Singkil Wildlife Reserve. GAR purchasing from both mills and entering General Mills supply chain. | Investigation conducted. GAR public response issued confirming that the supplier mills identified are not sourcing from the deforested areas. Musim Mas has instructed supplying mills not to source from either plantation company and has entered the mills into its grievance procedure here - see public response here. (September 19) Fresh uptick in deforestation in Rawa Singkil Reserve reported in September 22. Not much of this has yet been attributed to palm oil expansion yet. However, Musim Mas, Wilmar and GAR confirmed some of their indirect suppliers, local businessmen, had established illegal plantations within Rawa Singkil Wildlife Reserve in 2022. (Feb 23) These two mills, along with 10 others, are located in the Singkil landscape so could be provide a future market for any new palm plantations established in the Reserve. | Monitor and follow up with T1 suppliers |
| PT SPS II | Oct-18 | Indirect | Nagan Raya, Aceh | Indonesia | Rainforest Action Network (RAN) SPS II Case Study | Continued forest clearance | Follow up communication received from RAN. Further tier one investigation indicated that final two buyers Wilmar and GAR, are no longer buying from SPS II and therefore oil is no longer in the General Mills supply chain. Followed up to confirm with RAN in November. | CLOSED |
| PT SPS II | May-18 | Indirect | Nagan Raya, Aceh | Indonesia | Rainforest Action Network (RAN) SPS II Case Study | NDPE violations, including ongoing forest clearance on peatland. | Confirmed linkage via Bunge Lodars Croklaan (BLC). Raised request for independent mediation of the case. BLC buying indirect via GAR. BLC provided copy of GAR's latest grievance tracker with update on SPS II process. General Mills satisfied that case subject to grievance process and engagement programme through GAR. GAR has deemed SPS II to be noncompliant and has not sourced from SPS II since 2018. | CLOSED |
| Samling Group, Mulia Sawit Group | Apr-20 | Indirect | Sarawak | Malaysia | Mighty Earth | Alleged ongoing deforestation, within Samling Group's Marudi and Batu Belah concession, plus Mulia Sawit's PT Persada Era Agro Kencana concession. | Investigated: no longer in the General Mills' supply chain. (April 20) | CLOSED |
| PT Sawit Sukses Sejati | May-23 | Indirect | South Tapanuli, North Sumatra | Indonesia | Mighty Earth | Satellite imagery (see below) shows that between April 2021 and March 2022 a total of ~340 hectares of forest (indicative HCS) was cleared in the PT Sawit Sukses Sejati concessions. This company is allegedly linked to through common ownership with 3 mills in GMI supply chain - PT Teguhkarsa Wanalestari, PT Asia Sawit Lestari and PT Prima Mas Lestari | | Investigation |

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| Sime Darby Plantation Berhad | May-23 | Indirect | All company operations, across Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah | Malaysia | Liberty Shared / US Customs and Border Protection | Labour rights abuses/issues, CBP and RSPO CP investigation forthcoming. | <p>Communication issued to all tier one palm suppliers setting out: a) expectations for compliance with the US CBP WRO, b) removal of oil originating from Sime Darby Malaysia from the General Mills' US supply chain, c) grievance tracking and continued transparency and monitoring on CBP/WRO findings.</p> <p>US CBP modified their finding, based on satisfactory evidence that Sime Darby no longer produce palm oil and its derivative products using forced labor. Consequently shipments containing Sime Darby-produced palm oil and derivatives will now be allowed to enter the U.S. (Feb 23)</p> <p>The RSPO complaint remained open in May '23. Sime Darby's set deadlines for action on non-conformities at the end of this month. They are expected to share information on progress on outstanding issues in the near future. (May 23)</p> | Monitor |
| Six concessions and producer companies operating in Leuser, Aceh. | May-19 | Indirect | Leuser, Aceh | Indonesia | RAN | Deforestation totalling 606ha in new (undeveloped) concessions in north east lowlands of Leuser ecosystem. Oil not currently in supply chain. More detail here 5 demands made of General Mills. | Reviewed General Mills exposure to six producer companies accused of deforesting to open up new concessions for oil palm planting; PT Nia Yulided, PT Putra Kurnia, PT Tualang Raya, PT Indo Alam, PT Tegas Nusantara. No linkages to General Mills plantations not supplying oil to the market. General Mills met with RAN in May. Raised to General Mills Grievance Committee. Two further communications with RAN. General Mills communicated nobuy position to tier one suppliers in early October. (October 2019) | CLOSED |
| Tunas Baru Lampung / Sungai Budi & Muli Sawit Agro Lestari | Sep-19 | Indirect | Banyu Asin, Sumatera Selatan; | Indonesia | Chain Reaction Research | Highlighted within CRR list of Top 10 Deforesters, January/June 2019. Alleged peat and peat forest clearing with supply chain linkages to a 6 FMCGs, including General Mills | Investigated and confirmed that all tier one suppliers are no longer sourcing from either producer group. (September 19) | CLOSED |
| Wilmar | Nov-18 | Indirect | | | Greenpeace By Email | Further escalation of Greenpeace campaign against Wilmar. Demands on publication of maps and to suspend Wilmar. | Superseded by Wilmar announcement in December 2018, committing to stepped up palm efforts including 'suspend then engage' position for grievances, and grouplevel concession mapping. Greenpeace campaign called off to allow for Wilmar implementation. No further correspondence received from Greenpeace. Wilmar implementing new commitments. | CLOSED |
| Wilmar | Oct-18 | Indirect | | | Greenpeace Moment of Truth | Adequacy of Wilmar Action Plan, including: Specificity around application of baseline cutoff date Publication of supplier maps Group level deforestation monitoring | Reviewed Wilmar Action Plan and identified areas for improvement. Responded to Greenpeace on October 12th, setting out General Mills position on action plan. Wilmar announced the cutoff date and approach to group level deforestation monitoring. | CLOSED |