

# Palm Oil Sustainability

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LFS 450 | UBC Food Services

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# Outline

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- I. Project Background
- II. Project Goals and Objectives
- III. Project Relevance
- IV. Research Methodology and Methods
- V. Key Findings
- VI. Discussion
- VII. Conclusions and Recommendations

# Project Background

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Community Partner: UBC Food Services



UBC FOOD  
SERVICES



Our Project:

- Effects of palm oil production
- Data collection
- Sustainable procurement strategies



<http://ubclarm.ubc.ca/ubc-food-services-logo-2/>  
[https://www.healthline.com/healthsource/images/AN\\_images/AN405-palm-oil-fruit-732x549-Thumb.jpg](https://www.healthline.com/healthsource/images/AN_images/AN405-palm-oil-fruit-732x549-Thumb.jpg)

# Research Goal

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Provide insight into the **ramifications of palm oil production** and **opportunities for sustainable palm oil procurement**



# Research Objectives

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- I. Identify potential environmental and social impacts associated with palm oil production
- II. Discover reduction strategies of other universities and institutions
- III. Identify prevalence of palm oil in the UBC Food Services food supply
- IV. Construct sustainable palm oil strategies for UBC Food Services



[https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcTFKel7gd5SSaOLmUmHvMAi4KFvcZf7HfEMKNOawall\\_NX-Lk](https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:ANd9GcTFKel7gd5SSaOLmUmHvMAi4KFvcZf7HfEMKNOawall_NX-Lk)

# Project Context - Campus Relevance

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<https://www.mikestewart.ca/eton-at-ubc/>

- Palm oil awareness at UBC
- Consumers will be more conscientious of their food sources
- Demand for sustainable palm oil
- Best practices and policy
- UBC Food Services
  - Food Vision and Values

# Research Methodology

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## Community Based Action Research

- Change-oriented research
- Collaboration
- Communication

Quantitative and qualitative data



# Research Methods

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- Literature Review
  - Environmental assessment
  - Common palm oil names & sustainable sources
  - Approaches to sustainable palm oil
- Interviews
- UBC Food Services visual audit and document audit

The logo for Hero Market features the word "Hero" in a large, bold, black sans-serif font. Above "Hero" are the words "COFFEE + MARKET" in a smaller, black, all-caps sans-serif font, with "COFFEE" on the left and "MARKET" on the right, separated by a plus sign.The logo for Harvest features the word "HARVEST" in a bold, teal, sans-serif font. The letter "a" is lowercase and has a unique, stylized shape.The logo for Open Kitchen features the words "OPEN" and "KITCHEN" stacked vertically in a black, all-caps, sans-serif font. The letters are widely spaced and have a slightly shadowed or 3D effect.



# Key Findings

# Environmental Assessment

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- Rainforest deforestation / Biodiversity loss
- Global warming by releasing carbon
- Land ownership conflict, rural livelihood and food insecurity
- Highest yield oil crop



[http://www.saynotopalmoil.com/Whats\\_the\\_issue.php](http://www.saynotopalmoil.com/Whats_the_issue.php)

# Food Labels - Palm Oil

It has to contain word “palm” according to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency

Some examples:

- Palm oil
- Modified palm oil
- Palm kernel oil
- Palm fruit oil



[https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/71BvgNUTivL\\_\\_SL1356\\_.jpg](https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/71BvgNUTivL__SL1356_.jpg)

# Sustainability Standards and Certifications

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## Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO)

- Sustainability certifications
- RSPO NEXT



## Palm Oil Innovation Group (POIG)

- Builds upon RSPO standards

## Rainforest Alliance

- Sustainable Agriculture Standards
- Collaborates with RSPO and Consumer Goods Forum



<https://twitter.com/rspotweets>

<https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/business/sites/default/files/uploads/396/rainforest-alliance-certified-seal-lg.png>

Background

Methods

**Results**

Discussion

Conclusion

Recommendations

# Visual Audit and Document Audit

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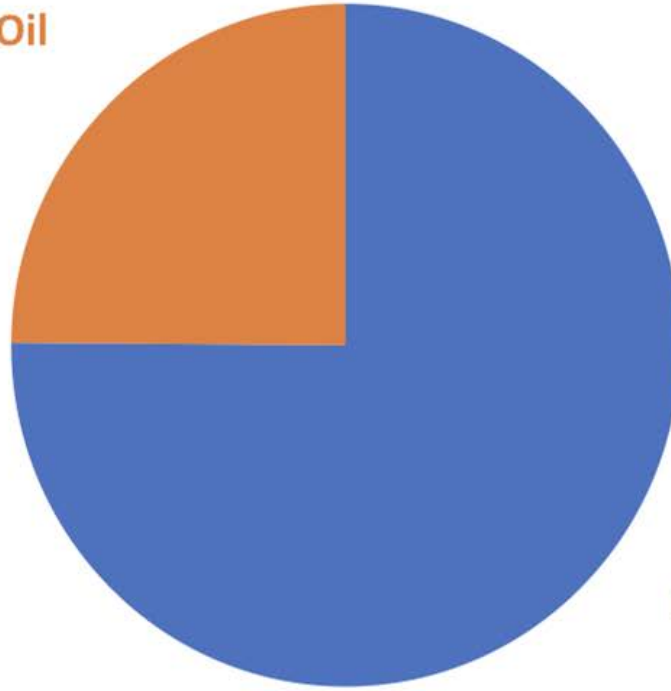
- Visual audit: food products containing oil
- Document audit: fill in data gaps
- Items audited = 209



# Visual Audit and Document Audit

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Products Containing Palm Oil  
25%



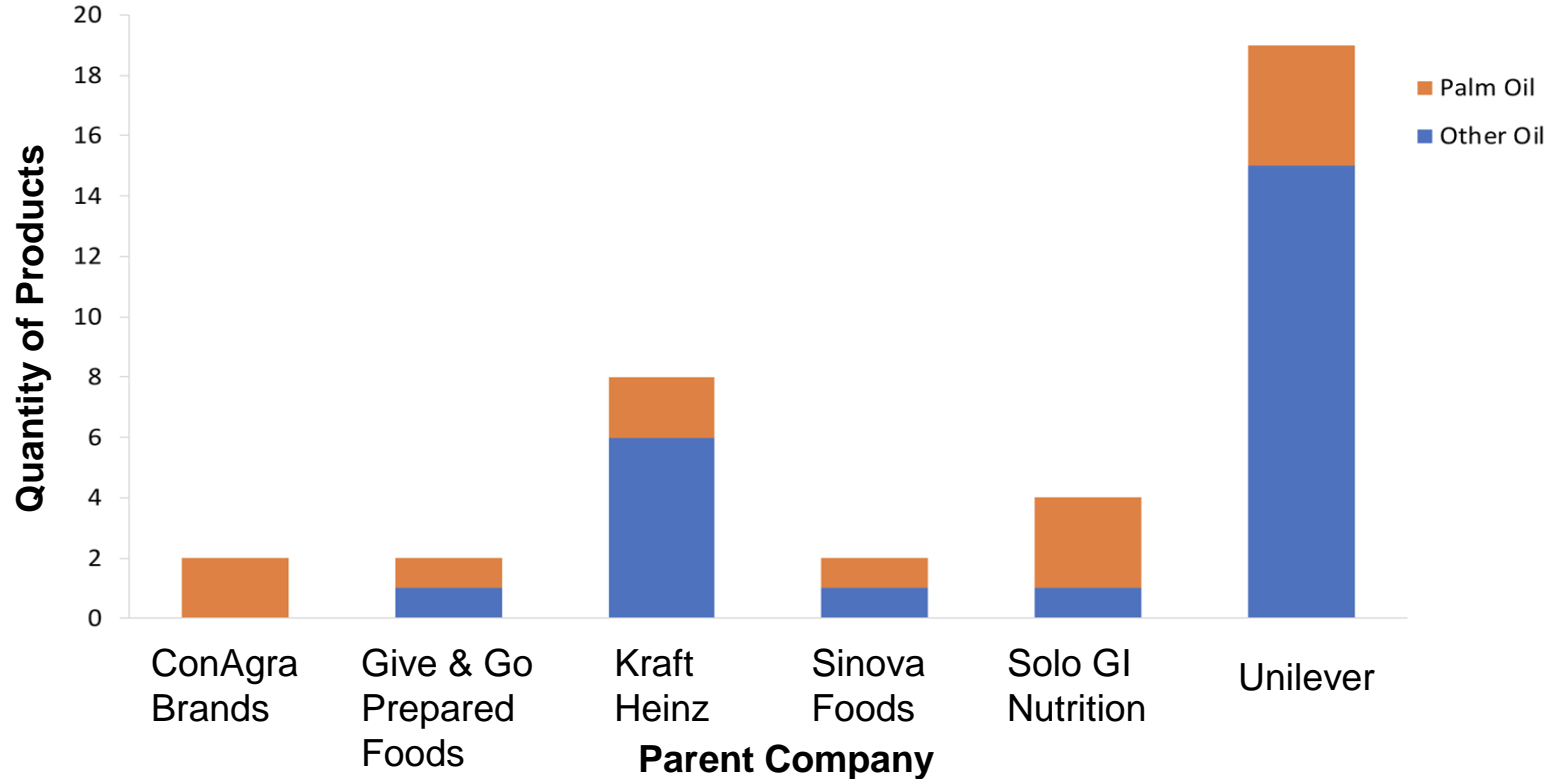
Products Containing Other Oils  
75%

# Visual Audit - Palm Oil By Product Type

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# Visual Audit - Palm Oil By Parent Company



Background

Methods

**Results**

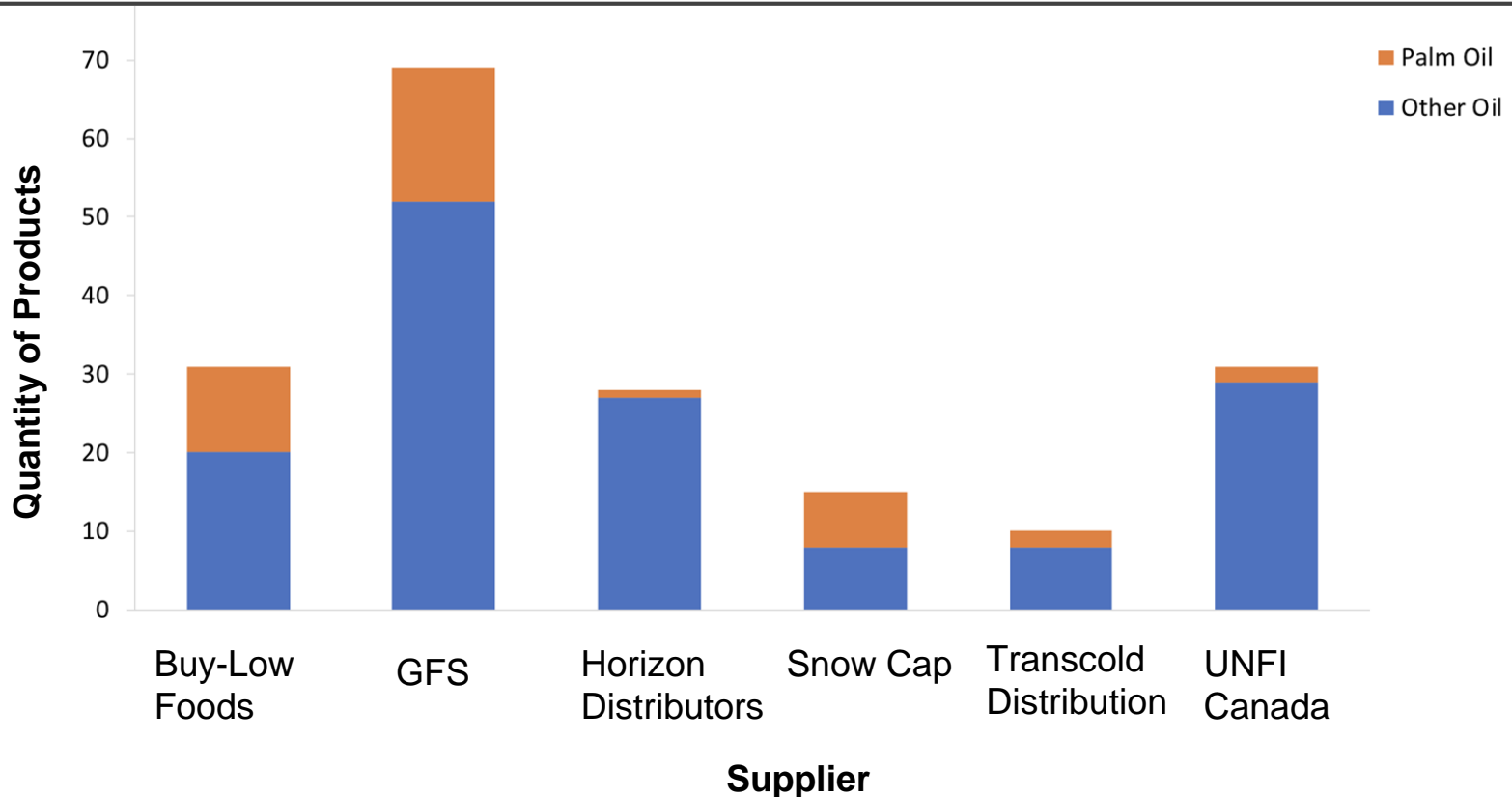
Discussion

Conclusion

Recommendations



# Visual Audit - Palm Oil By Supplier



Background

Methods

**Results**

Discussion

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# Visual Audit - Baked Goods

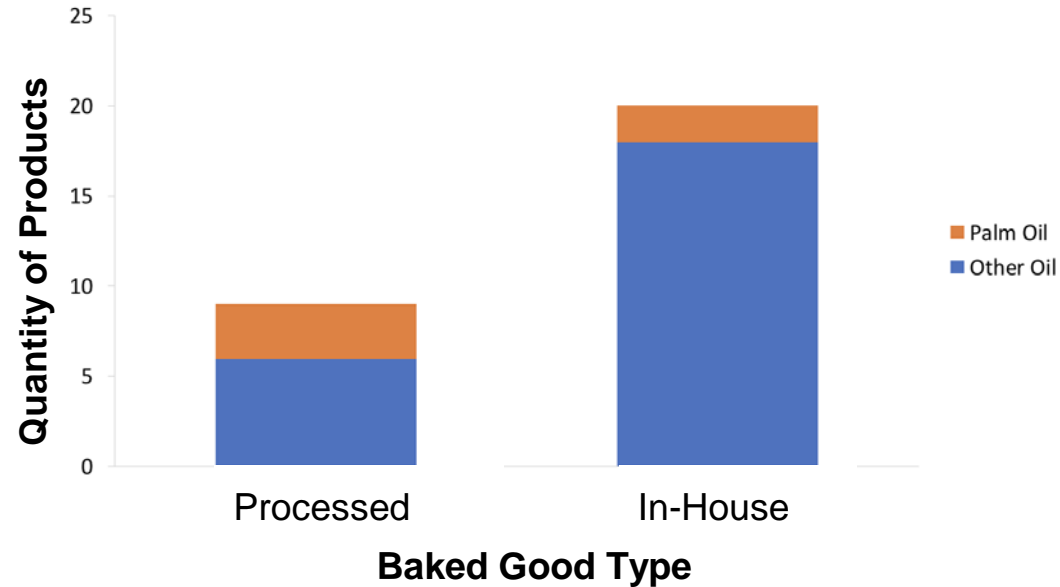
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## Processed Baked Good Product Types

- Breads
- Frozen Pastries

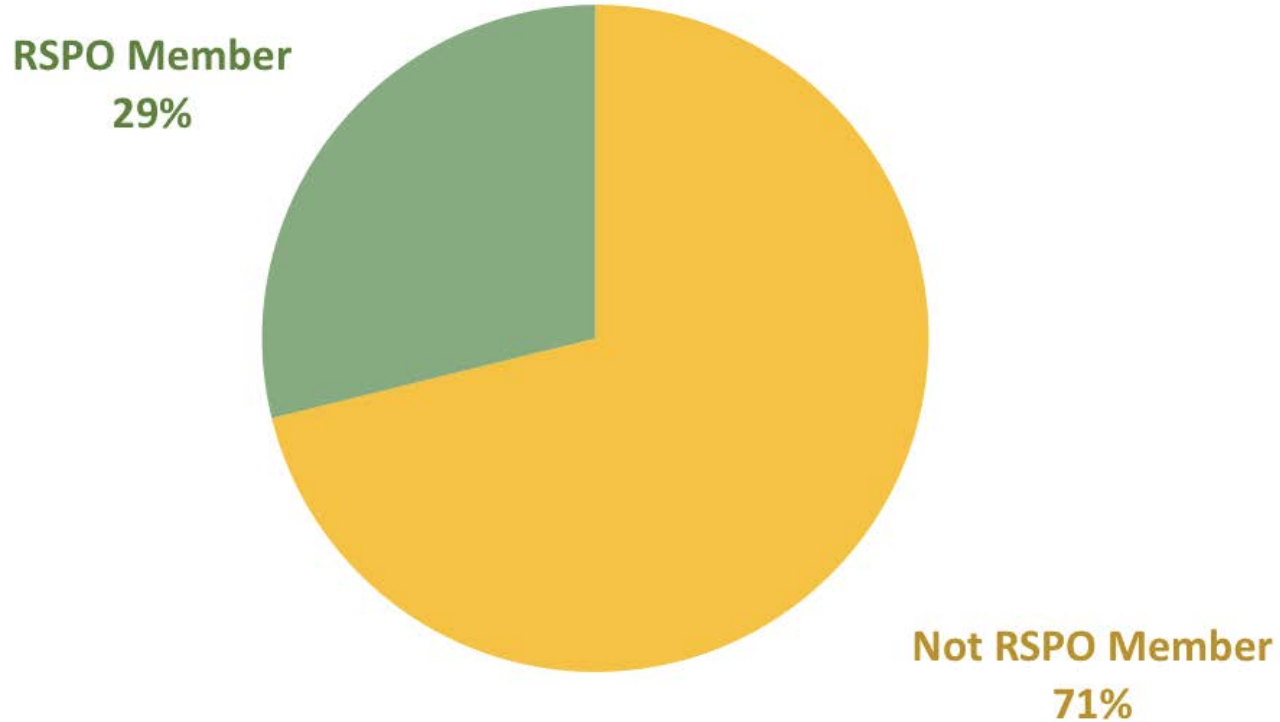
## In-House Baked Good Product Types

- Made from Scratch
- Frozen Batter



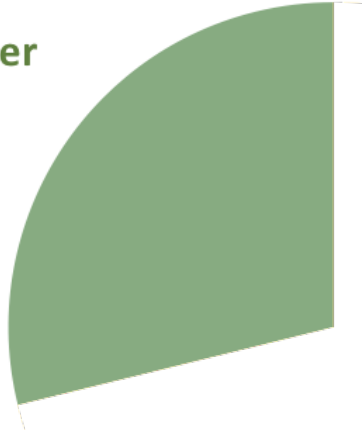
# Visual Audit - RSPO Certification

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# Visual Audit - RSPO Certification

RSPO Member  
29%



<http://www.adweek.com/agencyspy/wp-content/uploads/sites/7/2017/03/conagra-brands.jpg>  
[http://www.kraftheinzcompany.com/images/logo\\_main.png](http://www.kraftheinzcompany.com/images/logo_main.png)  
<https://www.preparedfoods.com/ext/resources/PF/PF-Images-7/ferrero900.png?1513366321>  
<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/thumb/e/e4/Unilever.svg/1200px-Unilever.svg.png>

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/d4/Toyo\\_Suisan\\_Kaisha\\_company\\_logo.svg/1200px-Toyo\\_Suisan\\_Kaisha\\_company\\_logo.svg.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/d4/Toyo_Suisan_Kaisha_company_logo.svg/1200px-Toyo_Suisan_Kaisha_company_logo.svg.png)  
[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/9/9d/Campbell\\_Soup\\_Company\\_logo.svg/2000px-Campbell\\_Soup\\_Company\\_logo.svg.png](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/9/9d/Campbell_Soup_Company_logo.svg/2000px-Campbell_Soup_Company_logo.svg.png)  
<https://ceowatermandate.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/nestle-company-vector-logo-400x400.png>  
<http://www.foleyschocolates.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/foleys-logo-black.png>

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# Institution Approaches to Sustainable Palm Oil

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THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/sites/all/themes/uoe/assets/logo.png>  
<https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/1/11/UW-Milwaukee.png>

# Interview - University of Edinburgh

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Department of Social Responsibility and Sustainability

- Visual Audit
- RSPO certified palm oil
- Policy Development



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/sites/all/themes/uoef/assets/logo.png>

# Discussion

# Worst Offenders

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## Frozen desserts, cookies, and candy/chocolate

- 38% of all palm oil containing products
- Processed foods
- Low hanging fruit



[https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/918oNyGpAgL\\_SX522\\_.jpg](https://images-na.ssl-images-amazon.com/images/I/918oNyGpAgL_SX522_.jpg)  
[https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0336/7501/products/christie-chips-ahoy-300g\\_large.jpg?v=1488402617](https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0336/7501/products/christie-chips-ahoy-300g_large.jpg?v=1488402617)

<https://www.madewithnestle.ca/sites/default/files/kitkat-kitkat.png>  
[https://images.kindsnacks.com/catalog/category/shop-by-product\\_kind-bar\\_opt\\_1.png](https://images.kindsnacks.com/catalog/category/shop-by-product_kind-bar_opt_1.png)

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# Why RSPO?

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Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● RSPO NEXT: advanced criteria</li><li>● 3rd party audits and standards development</li><li>● Accessible to local and smaller scale manufacturers</li><li>● Data is transparent</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Deceiving certification types<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Mixed vs. 100% sustainable</li></ul></li><li>● RSPO NEXT is voluntary</li><li>● Lack of oversight</li></ul>

# UBC - A Force for Local Change?

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- UBC Food Services has purchasing power
- Local companies source partially sustainably procured palm oil
- Contact within the supply chain to encourage switching to certified



[http://wwf.panda.org/what\\_we\\_do/how\\_we\\_work/our\\_global\\_goals/markets/mti\\_solutions/certification/agriculture/palm\\_oil/](http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/how_we_work/our_global_goals/markets/mti_solutions/certification/agriculture/palm_oil/)



# Conclusions and Recommendations

# Conclusions

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## Palm Oil Production Impacts

- Deforestation, loss of biodiversity, rural livelihoods, land conflicts

## Palm Oil Prevalence at UBC

- Worst Offenders: Frozen desserts, cookies, and candy/ chocolate

## Sustainable Options

- RSPO NEXT, POIG, Rainforest Alliance



<https://latimeshighschool.files.wordpress.com/2017/11/palm-oil-fruit.jpg>

# Recommendations

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## Short Term Recommendations

1. Audit cleaning products for palm oil
1. Cost analysis of palm oil containing products and sustainable alternatives
1. Supply chain changes that target 'worst offender' products
  - RSPO certified suppliers
  - Promote certification



# Recommendations

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## Long Term Recommendations

1. Incorporate RSPO or “RSPO Next” into UBC’s policy framework
  - 80% of palm oil-containing goods = certified RSPO
  - 5 year timeframe
  - Encourage suppliers to adhere to RSPO NEXT or POIG



**UBC FOOD  
SERVICES**

<http://ubcfarm.ubc.ca/ubc-food-services-logo-2/>

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Thank You