Dear Members of the European Parliament,

We, the undersigned organisations, as representatives of civil society from across Asia, Africa and Latin America, are seriously concerned about the devastating impact that Europe’s demand for biofuels is having on our forests and millions of our people, and about its significant contribution to rising greenhouse gas emissions.

Soon, you will vote on vital reforms to EU biofuels policy. Unless you take action to restrict demand for biofuels, Europe will continue to force the transformation of our countries’ vital forests, community lands and biodiversity hot-spots into industrial-scale, monoculture oil palm plantations.

The EU’s use of palm oil for biofuels has been rising rapidly, and increasing EU biofuels consumption is also indirectly driving palm oil expansion globally.

Escalating demand for palm oil means an unsustainable global land footprint. Around 90% of the world’s palm oil is grown in Indonesia and Malaysia. The Indonesian government plans to double palm oil plantations to around 28 million hectares by 2020 – an area larger than the entire United Kingdom. Malaysia’s existing plantations cover over 5 million hectares, with planned expansion of 60,000-100,000 hectares a year on customary lands. In Latin America, Colombia recorded over 476,000 hectares of land allocated for palm oil in 2013 and Peru experienced a five-fold increase in oil palm plantations over the past 15 years: 72% of new plantations expanded into forested areas.

The Philippines and West and Central Africa have been earmarked as the new frontiers for oil palm development: since 2001, foreign companies have signed deals allocating nearly 4 million hectares to palm oil in West and Central Africa and the Philippine government plans to expand to up to 8 million hectares - 20,000 hectares of which are within the Palawan UNESCO Man & Biosphere Reserve.

This relentless drive for palm oil has devastating and often irreversible consequences for people and the environment in our countries, including:

- **Land grabbing and conflict**: Oil palm companies often occupy customary land without obtaining the free, prior and informed consent of local and indigenous communities, forcing the displacement of people from their ancestral homes. The encroachment of oil palm plantations into indigenous peoples’ ancestral lands violates international law. Non-recognition of land rights causes conflicts between communities and companies, often resulting in violence perpetrated by state security forces in support of oil palm companies, as well as extra-judicial killings. 731 conflicts over land tenure between communities and oil palm plantation companies have been recorded in Indonesia alone.
• Labour and gender injustice: The industrial oil palm plantation system frequently fails to respect the rights of workers, causes gender injustices and often involves child labour, denying children their right to education. In Caraga, Philippines, 24% of workers in the palm oil industry are reported to be children between 5-17 years old. A high percentage of plantation workers are casual labourers who have no guarantee of safety at work or job security, and are paid wages too low to meet their daily needs.

• Loss of clean water supplies, food sovereignty and cultural integrity: Palm oil plantations require huge amounts of water and contaminate vital water sources with effluents, including rivers and lakes used for fishing, washing and drinking. The destruction of forests and fertile agricultural land to make way for oil palm plantations is jeopardising the food sovereignty and cultural integrity of entire communities who depend on the land as their source of food and livelihoods.

• Increased carbon emissions: Industrial oil palm plantations are one of the world’s largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions due to Direct and Indirect Land Use Change causing deforestation, draining of carbon-rich peatlands, forest fires and the burning of land. Biofuels which drive the expansion of palm oil will not only fail to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; they could make climate change worse.

The EU Biofuels policies’ sustainability criteria are ineffective in stopping these impacts.

We urge all Members of the European Parliament to vote for biofuels policy reforms which ensure the protection of our people and environment from the impacts of palm oil expansion. **We therefore call on the EU to halt the demand for biofuels in Europe and refrain from using biofuels derived from palm-oil plantations which:**

1. Drive direct and indirect land use change (ILUC), resulting in the clearing of natural forests and peatlands and globally significant carbon emissions.

2. Have taken over community lands important for food, clean water supplies, cultural integrity and protecting the environment;

3. Are developed on lands where companies are in conflict with indigenous peoples and local communities;

4. Are controlled by companies that are involved in human rights violations, including workers' and women's rights and the use of child labour, and that do not respect good governance principles and the rule of law in producer countries.

Yours faithfully,

(197 worldwide civil society organisations)
AFRICA

BURUNDI
Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)
Unissons nous pour la Promotion des Batwa (UNIPROBA)

CAMEROON
NGO Cameroon Ecology (CAMECO)

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO
Bonobo Alive

LIBERIA
Sustainable Development Institute (FOE Liberia)

UGANDA
National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE)

ASIA

IRAN
Abolhassani Indigenous Tribal Confederacy
CENESTA (Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment)
UNINOMAD (Union of Indigenous Nomadic Tribes of Iran)
UNICAMEL (Union of Indigenous Camel Herders of Iran)

INDIA
Alliance for Food Sovereignty in South Asia [AFSSA]
Beyond Copenhagen collective India
Bharat Jan Vigyan Jatha - BJVJ
Community Media Trust
Deccan Development Society
India Climate Justice (ICJ)
Indigenous Perspectives India
Millet Network of India (MINI)
Southern Action on Genetic Engineering [SAGE]

INDONESIA
AGRA PUSAT
Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN)
Aliansi Perempuan South East Sulawesi
Aliansi SERBUNDO
AlPekaje
Ayo Indonesia Foundation
CAPPA-Ecological Justice Jambi
Elpagar, West Kalimantan
Forum Pengawasan Masyarakat Kayong Utara
FORUM WILAYAH, West Kalimantan
FORUM WILAYAH ASPPUK
GEMAPALA (Papua Barat)
Gemawan
HAK organization
IDRAP
Indonesia for Global Justice
Institut Dayakologi
Jaringat Rakyat Kakap
JasoiTanah Papua (West Papua)
JKPP (Jaringan Kerja Pemetaan Partisipatif)
Jurnalis Perempuan Khatulistiwa
KOMNASDESA South East Sulawesi
KpSHK
Lanting Borneo
Lembaga Dayak Panarung
LP2M West Sumatera
Merauke (SKP KAME)/Office for Justice and Peace of Archdiocese of Merauke (Papua)
OPPUK (Organisasi Pengatan dan Pengembangan Usaha-usaha Kerakyatan)
PEREMPUAN AMAN
Perkumpulan Huma Indonesia
PERKUMPULAN WALLACEA
POKKER SHK
PPSW- Borneo
Save Our Borneo
Sawit Watch
Seknas ASPPUK
Sekretariat Keadilan dan Perdamaian Keuskupan Agung
Sekretariat Konsil LSM, Jakarta
Serikat Perempuan Basis Khatulistiwa (SPBK)
Serikat Perempuan Pantai Utara
Serikat Petani Serumpun Damai
SETARA Jambi
SKP Keuskupan Agun, Merauke (Papua)
SPKS (Serikat Petani Kelapa Sawit/National Oil Palm Farmers Union, Indonesia)
Swandiri Institute
Transformasi untuk Keadilan Indonesia (TUK Indonesia)
WALHI Central Kalimantan
WALHI East Kalimantan
WALHI Jambi
WALHI Lampung
WALHI Nasional
WALHI Riau
WALHI South Kalimantan
WALHI South Sulawesi
WALHI South Sumatera
WALHI West Kalimantan
WALHI West Sulawesi
Yayasan Betang Borneo (YBB)
Yayasan Dian Tama
Yayasan Merangat, West Kalimantan
Yayasan Nurani Perempuan, Kaltim.
Yayasan Setara Jambi

MALAYSIA
Borneo Resources Institute, Malaysia (BRIMAS)
Center for Orang Asli Concerns
Consumers' Association of Penang (CAP)
Friends of the Orangutans (FOTO)
HUTAN-Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Programme
IDEAL Sarawak
Institute for Development of Alternative Living (IDEAL)
Jaringan Orang Asal Se Malaysia/Indigenous Peoples Network of Malaysia (JOAS)
Malaysians Against the Expansion of Palm Oil Plantations
Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) - FOE Malaysia
Sarawak Indigenous Lawyers Alliance (SILA)
Sarawak Indigenous Lawyers' Association (SILA)
Save Sarawak’s Rivers Network (SAVE Rivers)
Third World Network, Penang (TWN)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA
Derimbat Community Development Foundation Inc.
Fagagara Land Group Incorporated
Irena Ecotourism & Conservation Inc.
Jacquinot Bay Ecotourism & Conservation Association
Katopuna Landcare Group
Managalas Development Foundation Inc.
Ona Keto Peoples Foundation Inc.
Pari Womens Development Association Inc.
Partners With Melanesians Inc.
Pomio Potong Paga Association Inc.

PHILIPPINES
ALDAW (Ancestral Land/Domain Watch)
Alternate Forum for Research in Mindanao (AFRIM), Inc.
Alyansa Tigil Mina (Atm)
Aniban ng Mangggagawa sa Agrikultura
Asian Farmers’ Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA)
CALG (Coalition against Land Grabbing)
Ecological Society of the Philippines
ELAC (Environmental Legal Assistance Center)
EU-ASEAN FTA Campaign
Focus on the Global South
NATRIPAL (United Tribes of Palawan)/Nagkakaisang Tribu ng Palawan
Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme Philippines (NTFP-EP Philippines)
Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates
Philippine Human Rights Information Center (PHILRIGHTS)
Philippine Movement for Climate Justice
Socsksargend Care
The Batak Federation
Urban Agriculture Advocates & Practitioners Network, Inc.

THAILAND
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)
Assembly of the Poor
Thai Poor Act

LATIN AMERICA
ARGENTINA
Asociación contra la Contaminación Ambiental de Esteban Echeverría.
BIOS Argentina
Eco Sitio

BRAZIL
Brazilian Confederation of Private Nature Reserves/CNRPPN (representing 16 associations in Brazil)

COLOMBIA
CENSAT - Friends of the Earth Colombia
Comisión de Justicia y Paz Colombia
Corpoguali
Corporacion Sembradoras de Identidad
Educar Consumidores Colombia
La Campaña Semillas de Identidad

COSTA RICA
COECO Ceiba - Amigos de la Tierra Costa Rica

EL SALVADOR
CESTA, Amigos de la Tierra El Salvador

GUATAMALA
Asociación CEIBA
Plataforma de Solidaridad con Chiapas y Guatemala de Madrid
Red por la Defesa del Territorio y Soberanía Alimentaria de la Costa Sur (REDSUR)

HAÏTI
Plateforme haïtienne de Plaidoyer pour un Développement Alternatif (PAPDA)

HONDURAS
Organización Fraternal Negra Hondureña (OFRANEH)
World Forum of Fisher Peoples (WFFP)

MEXICO
Maderas del Pueblo del Sureste AC, Oaxaca-Chiapas
Otros Mundos, A.C./Amigos de la Tierra Mexico
Plataforma de Solidaridad con Chiapas Y Guatemala de Madrid

**URUGUAY**
Regional Latinoamericana de la UITA (Rel-UITA)

**OTHER / INTERNATIONAL**
Amigos de la Tierra Espagne
Biofuelwatch
Bonhoeffergruppe der Evangelischen Auferstehungsgemeinde
Carbon Trade Watch
Comité Óscar Romero De Vigo (COR)
Coordinadora Ecoloxista d'Asturies
Corporate Europe Observatory
Cultural Survival
Denkhausbremen
Ecologistas en Acción (Spain)
EcoNexus
Energiehunger - Nein Danke Network
ENFID (European Network of Filipino Diaspora)
Forest People’s Programme
Friends of the Earth Europe
Friends of the Siberian Forest
Global Forest Coalition
ICCA Consortium
Informationsgruppe Latinamerika-IGLA (Information Group on Latin America)
International Coalition for Papua
International Primate Protection League (IPPL)
Justiclima.org
La Organizacion Traperos de Emaus
Misereor e.V. (German Catholic Bishops’ Organisation for Development Cooperation)
Oil Palm Action Group, Australia
ONG Africando
Orang-Utans in Not e.V. (Orangutans in peril)
Paul K. Feyerabend Foundation
Pro Wildlife e.V.
Protect the Forest
Proyecto Gran Simio (gap/pgs-espana)
Redmanglar Internacional
Regenwald-Institut e.V.
Rettet den Regenwald (Rainforest Rescue Germany)
Salva la Selva
Sierra Club
Soldepaz Pachakuti
Solidarity Sweden - Latin America
Survival International
TAPOL
The Bioscience Resource Project
The Gaia Foundation (UK)
The Woodland League
Watch Indonesia! e.V.
World Rainforest Movement


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