



Guide on Responsible Environmental Practices and Conservation of Ecosystems

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet is our second guide published as part of our capacity building and knowledge sharing initiative catering to smallholders and suppliers in the wider landscape where we operate as well as workers in Wilmar-owned operations.

This guide is a tool designed to support the implementation of Responsible Environmental Practices and Conservation of Ecosystems to achieve sustainable management of oil palm plantations, which is aligned with the requirements and demands of international markets.

The adoption of these practices are essential to minimise and mitigate environmental impacts arising from the production process. They are simple actions that encourage a more efficient use and management of resources, while positively impacting the productivity of the plantation and our personal lives.



PROTECTION OF ECOSYSTEMS

- Protect forests and/or natural ecosystems
- Conservation of peatlands
- Do not use fire in the preparation of land or in the removal of crops and/or vegetations



PROTECT FORESTS AND/OR NATURAL ECOSYSTEMS

"Forests play essential regulatory, protective, and productive roles within natural ecosystems. These functions include preventing soil erosion, controlling floods, maintaining humidity levels, and providing water catchment areas."



*High Conservation Value

CONSERVATION OF PEATLANDS

Respect peatlands as crucial carbon sinks and ecosystems.

"Avoid draining and new planting on peatlands to mitigate climate change and maintain water resources."



DO NOT USE FIRE IN THE PREPARATION OF LAND OR IN THE REMOVAL OF CROPS AND/OR VEGETATIONS

There should be no use of fire.

"Burning of vegetation emits Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. These cause air pollution and can lead to respiratory problems in the neighbouring communities."





PROTECTION OF BIODIVERSITY

- Protection of native plants and animals especially the Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species
- Signposting and education on the protection of plants and animals
- Do not litter in forests, rivers, farms or plantations

IDENTIFICATION AND PROTECTION OF SPECIES

"The wild animal species are necessary for the natural balance of the ecosystem and they are the biological treasure of the world."

E.g.

- Wildlife Conservation Enactment (1997), Sabah
- Wild Life Protection Ordinance (1998), Sarawak
- Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 (Act 716), Malaysia
- Ministry of Environment and Forestry Regulation No. P.106/MENLHK/SETJEN/KUM.1/12/2018, Indonesia
- The Wildlife Resources Management Act 2024 (Act 1115), Ghana
- Forest Protection (Amendment) Act 624 (2002), Ghana
- Endangered Species (Control of International Trade and Traffic) Act, 1985 & 2016 (Amendment), Nigeria
- National Environmental (Protection of Endangered Species in International Trade) Regulations, 2011, Nigeria.
- The Wild Animals Law, 1965, Nigeria

SIGNPOSTING AND EDUCATION ON THE PROTECTION OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS

"It is important to inform our families, workers and neighbours that poaching in the plantations is prohibited. Animals in the plantations must be respected and protected."



DO NOT LITTER IN FORESTS, RIVERS, FARMS OR PLANTATIONS

"Trash, on top of being a source of pollution, dirt and contamination, is dangerous to the lives of animals that get close to it."



USE AND CONSERVATION OF WATER

- Protect water bodies and wetlands
- Avoid water contamination and pollution
- Protect and rehabilitate degraded riparian areas with native plants



PROTECT WATER BODIES AND WETLANDS

Water is the source of life and a thermoregulator for the environment.



Avoid planting of oil palm near water bodies.

"If we protect riverbanks and riparian areas, we can avoid landslides and floods that may affect communities."

AVOID WATER CONTAMINATION

Littering and spraying agricultural chemicals in riparian zones are forbidden.

"Clean water is the source of life and it is vital to our quality of living."



Stop fishing with
electrocution and poison.

PROTECT AND REHABILITATE DEGRADED RIPARIAN AREAS WITH NATIVE PLANTS

“Riparian zones act as natural buffers, filtering pollutants and sediments to maintain water quality. They also aid in soil erosion control and serve as water catchments.”

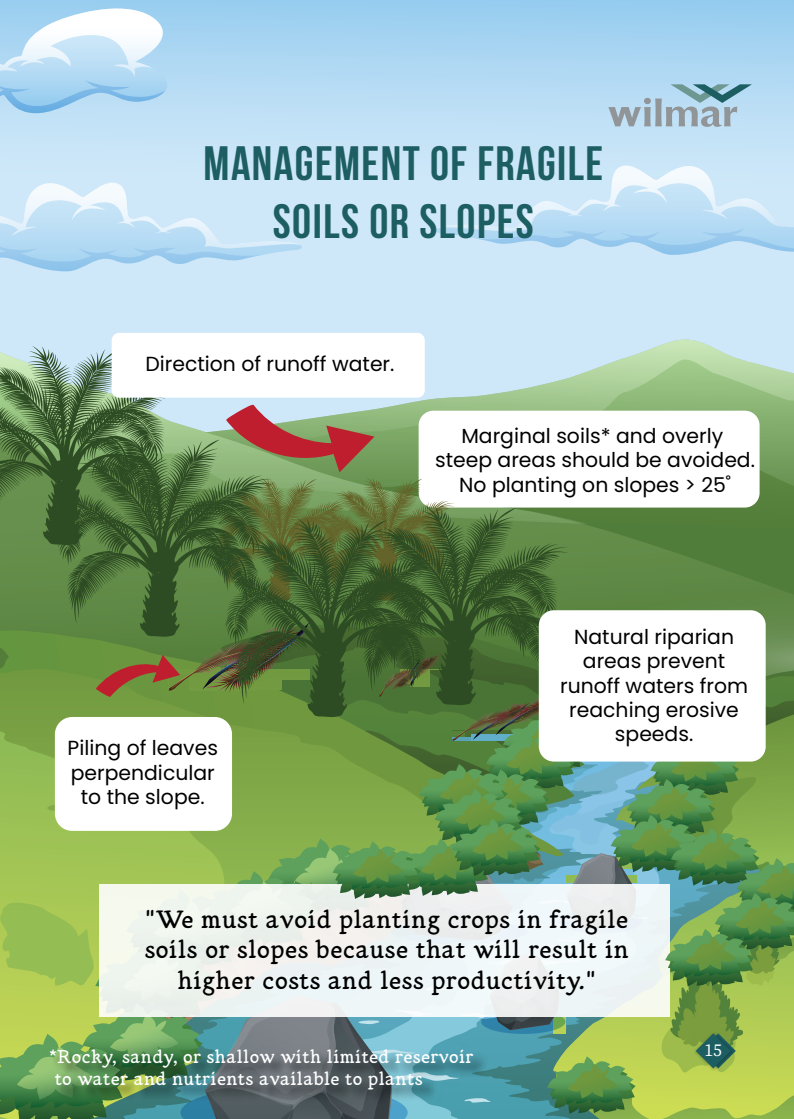


SOIL PROTECTION

- Management of fragile soils or slopes
- Judicious use of inorganic fertilisers and promote nutrient recycling practices
- Avoid farming practices that causes soil erosion and degradation



MANAGEMENT OF FRAGILE SOILS OR SLOPES



Direction of runoff water.

Marginal soils* and overly steep areas should be avoided.
No planting on slopes $> 25^\circ$

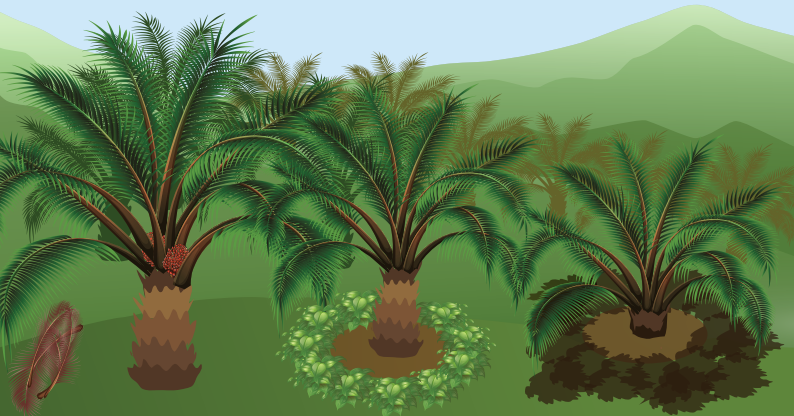
Natural riparian areas prevent runoff waters from reaching erosive speeds.

Piling of leaves perpendicular to the slope.

"We must avoid planting crops in fragile soils or slopes because that will result in higher costs and less productivity."

*Rocky, sandy, or shallow with limited reservoir to water and nutrients available to plants

JUDICIOUS USE OF INORGANIC FERTILISERS AND PROMOTE NUTRIENT RECYCLING PRACTICES



Placement of
fronds/leaves/
crop residues cover

Use of cover crops and
organic mulches
for soil improvement

Application of
Empty Fruit Bunches (EFB),
husks or mulches

*EFB are placed inter-row for matured palm
and in circles for immature palm.*

**"Coverage with leguminous plants
contribute to enhancing the physical and
chemical condition of soils, as well as
promoting nutrient recycling."**

AVOID FARMING PRACTICES THAT CAUSE SOIL EROSION AND DEGRADATION



Adopt Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

Moderate use of the tractor
when feasible

Avoid blanket
spraying

Application of pest
control products
correctly and wisely

"Eroded and degraded soil does not allow
for good crop development."

PRECAUTION DURING REPLANTING

- Protect and remediate the slope
- Plant cover crops immediately to protect the soil, especially along roads, slopes, and areas not planted with oil palm
- Demarcate the riparian zone clearly and avoid disturbance to the riparian area
- Realign planting design and terrace. Optimise land use by planting in triangles
- Buy seedlings from reputable producers, nurseries or licensed vendors



MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL OF WASTE

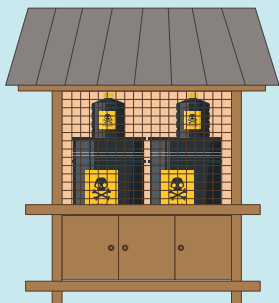
- Management and disposal of dangerous waste
- Management and disposal of ordinary waste



MANAGEMENT OF DANGEROUS WASTE

Proper storage of chemicals

Appropriate disposal of scheduled waste/hazardous and toxic waste



"Dangerous waste especially chemical waste from plantations pose a pollution risk that can affect the environment and your health."

MANAGEMENT OF ORDINARY WASTE



"By separating waste correctly, we will have a cleaner and more organised plantation with lower risks of pollution."

ADHERE TO LEGAL COMPLIANCE

“Follow the national/state/provincial laws & regulations, as well as certification requirements, regarding environmental standards in the operation and management of the plantation.”

E.g. Environmental Quality Act, 1974, Malaysia

Department of Irrigation and Drainage, Malaysia

Sabah Water Resources Enactment 1998, Malaysia

Government Regulation No.60/2012, Indonesia

Law No. 32/2009 on Environmental Protection and Management, Indonesia

Law No. 18/2008 on Waste Management, Indonesia

Government Regulation No. 82/2001 on Water Quality Management and Water Pollution Control, Indonesia

Government Regulation No. 81/2012 on Household Waste Management and Waste Similar to Household Waste, Indonesia

Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994 (ACT 490), Ghana

Environmental Assessment Regulation, 1999 (L.I. 1652), Ghana



SAFEGUARDING OUR NATURAL TREASURES AND RESOURCES

“Inform and report to relevant authorities any illegal activities, such as wildfire, poaching, wildlife trafficking, illegal logging, land encroachment, pollution, etc.”



SUPPORT SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES

- Adopt best management practices
- Support landscape scale collaborations
- Balance community needs and forest protection
- Live in harmony with nature and protect biodiversity



CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PRODUCTION OF THIS BOOKLET

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