

## **Response to the Article Published in The Economist (7<sup>th</sup> March 2019)**

Wilmar International Limited (Wilmar) would like to respond to The Economist article, published on 7 March 2019, titled “A Pale Shade of Green: The Palm Oil Industry’s Effort to Curb Deforestation has Lots of Flaws”<sup>1</sup> by Guy Scriven. We wish to clarify that on 13 February 2019, we provided Mr Guy Scriven with detailed comments to Greenpeace’s report alleging that Wilmar was linked to deforestation. The published article cites Greenpeace’s allegation but Wilmar’s comment was not acknowledged or mentioned. As a result, the article appears to be inaccurate, biased and highly misleading.

For the benefit of readers and our stakeholders, we are putting on record the salient points of our explanation provided to Mr Scriven.

Wilmar did not, and still does not, possess any shareholding, interest, management control or influence over GAMA. Former Wilmar executives with familial ties with GAMA did not hold any decision-making power or influence on Wilmar’s sustainability policy or its implementation.

Wilmar had stopped sourcing palm oil from the suppliers associated with GAMA on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018, immediately after verifying the alleged non-compliance to the ‘*No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation*’ (NDPE) policy.

However, as part of Wilmar’s engagement with third-party suppliers, we continued to assist GAMA in their sustainability efforts. GAMA has since developed and is implementing its own sustainability policy<sup>2</sup>. We are continuing to monitor the progress of its policy implementation closely.

Further to that, the three other companies that were named in the Greenpeace report, referred to by the author, were not suppliers of Wilmar. The three companies in question are PT Graha Agro Nusantara, PT Agrinusa Persada Mulia and PT Agriprima Cipta Persada.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.economist.com/asia/2019/03/09/the-palm-oil-industrys-effort-to-curb-deforestation-has-lots-of-flaws>

<sup>2</sup> <http://gamaplantation.com/assets/gama-files/page/Gama-Plantation-Sustainability-Policy-18Sep2018.pdf>