

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**13** CLIMATE ACTION



**15** LIFE ON LAND



**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



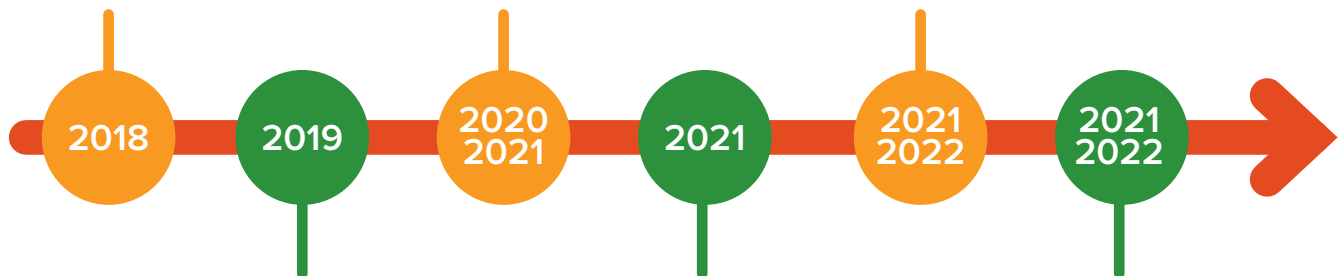
● A D V A N C I N G   I N   T H E ●  
**ZERO DEFORESTATION**  
**VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT**

Actions undertaken by **GREPALMA** and its members in the period 2018-2022

Environmental and Climate Change Policy by **GREPALMA** and its members

Satellite Monitoring Study for the sustainable development of palm oil production in Guatemala

Permanent satellite monitoring of palm plantations and surrounding areas



Public Statement by **GREPALMA** Members Zero Deforestation Voluntary Commitment

National Monitoring System for the Sustainable Development of Palm Oil

Cross-agency working group on Zero Deforestation

The Palm Growers' Association of Guatemala (**GREPALMA**) published in 2018 the **Environmental and Climate Change Policy by GREPALMA and its Members**, whose objective is to provide strategic guidelines for the improvement of environmental management, adaptation and mitigation of climate change throughout the palm oil production chain, including actions for monitoring and evaluating progress.

The Policy was developed within the framework of the cooperation agreement between the Low-emissions Development Project of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Chamber of Agriculture (CAMAGRO). This policy is based on eight strategic pillars and their respective lines of action: Pillar 1: Water Management in Plantations and Processing Plants, Pillar 2: Actions for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change, Pillar 3: Solid Organic and Inorganic Waste Management, Pillar 4: Soil Management and Conservation, Pillar 5: Conservation and Restoration of Biological Diversity, Pillar 6: Social Relations, Pillar 7: Systematization and Dissemination of Information on the Environment and Climate Change, and Pillar 8 : Capacity building.

In response to Strategic Pillar 5: **Conservation and Restoration of Biological Diversity** and its three action lines: 1) Avoid the loss of natural forests in new areas of cultivation; 2) Forest restoration within the lands managed by palm producers and in strategic zones within their areas of influence and; 3) Establishment of biological corridors or connectivity zones for isolated ecosystems, **GREPALMA** and its members signed, in 2019, the **Zero Deforestation Public Voluntary Commitment Statement**.



Water Management in Plantations and Processing Plants



Actions for Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change.



Solid Organic and Inorganic Waste Management.



Soil Management and Conservation.



Conservation and Restoration of Biological Diversity.



Social Relations.



Systematization and Dissemination of Information on the Environment and Climate Change.



Capacity building.

Through accession to the Zero Deforestation Voluntary Commitment, **GREPALMA** and its signatory members state the following commitments:

- 01 to not deforest natural forests for oil palm cultivation,
- 02 to contribute to environmental conservation and restoration in favor of sustainable development,
- 03 to ensure that their palm oil production is free of deforestation,
- 04 to act under principles of extended responsibility, influencing the practices of the stakeholders in their value chains;
- 05 to collaborate nationwide with the creation and promotion of the Zero Deforestation Voluntary Agreement in the palm oil chain in Guatemala, which will come into force in 2020 and:
- 06 to participate in dialogue to promote the commitments acquired through this public statement and encourage other stakeholders in the chain to join.

## GREPALMA MEMBERS

WHO HAVE EXPLICITLY JOINED

THE COMMITMENT

2019 - 2021

- AGRIPALMA, S.A.
- AGROINDUSTRIA PALMERA SAN ROMAN, S.A.
- AGROPECUARIA NUEVO SAN CARLOS, S.A.
- AGROPECUARIA RAUDALES LA CACHIMBA, S.A.
- ASESORÍA TÉCNICA PROFESIONAL DEL PETÉN, S.A.
- BALEU, S.A.
- CORPORACION UNIACEITES, S.A.
- CAUCHOS Y PALMAS, S.A.
- COROZAL, S.A.
- CORPORACION PALMAS SAN AGUSTIN, S.A.
- DESARROLLO DE PROYECTOS E INVERSIONES DE GUATEMALA, SOCIEDAD ANÓNIMA (DEPROINGUA, S.A.)
- ENTRE PALMAS S.A.
- GRUPO HAME
- INDUSTRIA DE JABONES Y DETERGENTES LAS PALMAS, S.A.
- LAGUNA BLANCA, S.A.
- NATURACEITES, S.A.
- PALMERAS CAPITAL, S.A.

**GREPALMA** has promoted specific initiatives to advance in the fulfillment of this commitment, namely:

- 1) Implementation of the Satellite Study for the sustainable development of palm oil production in Guatemala carried out between 2020 and 2021 by Satelligence;
- 2) National Monitoring System for the Sustainable Development of Palm Oil, implemented in 2021.



# SATELLITE BASED STUDY

for the sustainable  
development of palm  
oil production in  
Guatemala

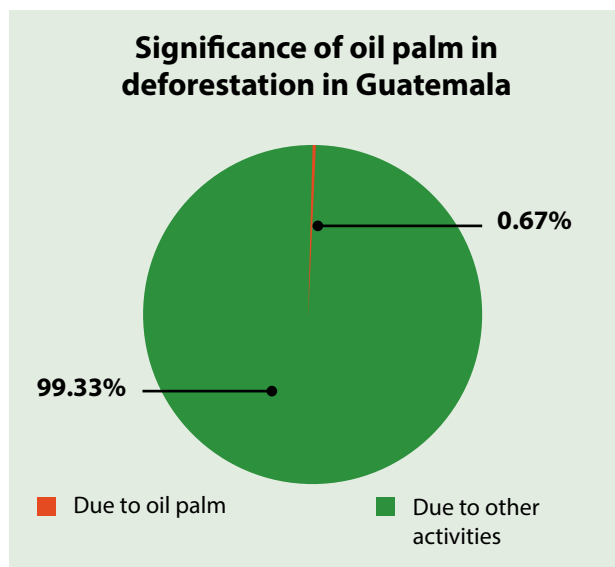


The results of the study, presented in May 2021, are of the satellite monitoring of 37,770 km<sup>2</sup> of Guatemalan territory, which includes part of the departments of Petén, Izabal, Alta Verapaz, Escuintla, San Marcos, Suchitepéquez, Retalhuleu, Quetzaltenango, Quiché and Chimaltenango where palm cultivation areas and their surroundings were monitored.

The satellite image analysis done of the period 1989-2020 by Satelligence, with a **98.6%** accuracy rate determined that a total of **180,614** hectares are planted with oil palm in Guatemala, which is 1.67% of the arable land in the country, based on data updated to 2020; the analysis done of the last 32 years shows that that 16,470 hectares out of this extension are associated with deforestation.

*“Unlike most oil palm producing countries, over **90%** of the plantations in Guatemala have been established on low carbon- level land and are not associated to deforestation” reported Niels Wielaard, founder and director of Satelligence during the presentation of the study.*

According to data from the Guatemalan Forest Information System, between 1989 and 2020 around 2,455,617 hectares of forest were lost in the country. Considering this information and the findings of Satelligence, it is estimated that oil palm cultivation represents 0.67% of total deforestation nationwide.



**Source:** Made by GREPALMA with information from the Forest Information System of Guatemala and Satelligence.

# NATIONAL MONITORING SYSTEM

## for the Sustainable Development of Palm Oil in Guatemala

The results of the satellite study for the sustainable development of palm oil production in Guatemala became the starting point for the National Monitoring System for the Sustainable Development of Palm Oil in Guatemala, which defines three lines of action:

01

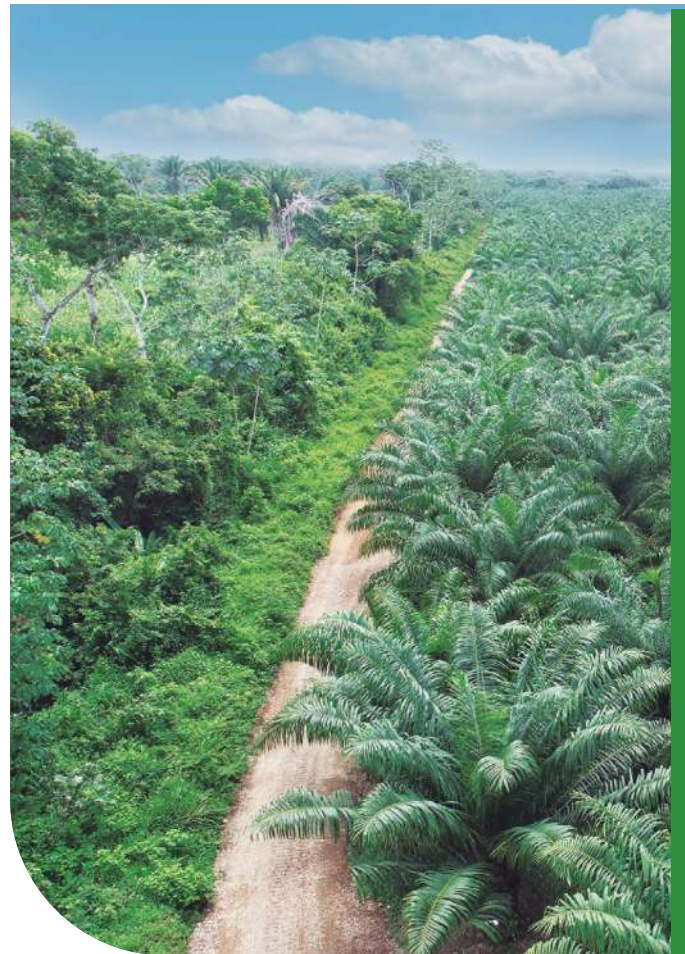
Permanent satellite monitoring of **GREPALMA** member oil palm plantations to ensure a deforestation-free supply chain;

02

Creation of the Zero Deforestation cross-agency working group with public and private stakeholders, academia and international organizations to follow up on and further pursue commitments made and;

03

Promotion of environmental conservation programs, projects and initiatives.



Based on the results of this study, satellite monitoring was established to verify compliance with the Zero Deforestation commitment assumed by **GREPALMA** and its members, with the technical support of Satelligence. Monitoring is currently in force for the period 2021-2024.



# SATELLIGENCE REPORTS

## FOR 2020 - 2021

Monitoring period reported on by <b>Satelligence</b>	Hectares deforested to grow oil palm ( <b>GREPALMA</b> member farms)
October – December de 2020	0 (zero hectares)
January – March de 2021	0 (zero hectares)
April – June de 2021	0 (zero hectares)
July – September de 2021.	0 (zero hectares)
October – December de 2021.	0 (zero hectares)

Currently, about 11,000 hectares of preserved forest are under management schemes within the farms of **GREPALMA** members. Likewise, companies in the sector support efforts to preserve biodiversity. An example of this is the conservation of more than 19,000 hectares in the Maya Biosphere Reserve with the direct support of palm growers and international organizations. Added to this, there are conservation projects in the Laguna del Tigre Park and El Rosario National Reserve.

This shows the commitment of the palm-growing sector of Guatemala toward environmental conservation and the sustainable production of palm oil.

In 2021, the Zero Deforestation Cross-agency Working Group was formed with the participation of: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARN); National Protected Areas Council (CONAP); National Forest Institute (INAB); the Forestry Association; the Solidarity Network; Del Valle University of Guatemala (UVG); Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA); and **GREPALMA**

The objective of this working group is to design initiatives to promote environmental management, conservation and restoration, as well as to promote the sustainable development of oil palm cultivation in Guatemala.



Currently, the group is in the process of designing and establishing environmental projects to be carried out jointly starting in 2022.

The actions promoted by **GREPALMA** based on the concept of the Environmental and Climate Change Policy and the resulting initiatives on environmental matters are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and are part of the advances in the sustainable production of palm oil in Guatemala.

### ABOUT SATELLIGENCE



Internationally supported Dutch organization specializing worldwide in scalable processing of radar imaging and optical satellites; currently working with public and private organizations with an environmental and social emphasis, as well as with major clients and buyers of palm oil interested in demonstrating a deforestation-free supply chain. More information in <https://satelligence.com/about-us>

### GREPALMA members of



5ª. Ave. 15-45 zona 10  
Edificio Centro Empresarial  
Torre 2, nivel 4, oficina 408-409  
Guatemala, C.A. 01010  
Phone:: (502) 2366-3648  
Email: [info@grepalma.org](mailto:info@grepalma.org)  
[WWW.GREPALMA.ORG](http://WWW.GREPALMA.ORG)

Follow us in /GREPALMA

**“SUSTAINABLE PALM-GROWING, OUR COMMITMENT”**