

# MALAYSIAN PALM OIL WILDLIFE CONSERVATION FUND (MPOWCF)

*Leading the way in  
conservation opportunities and efforts*

An initiative of the Malaysian Government and the Malaysian palm oil industry  
towards the conservation of the environment and wildlife in Malaysia



**M P O C**

## Introduction

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The palm oil industry adopts and implements sustainable and good agricultural practices, yet it has been accused of unsustainable practices including the destruction of rainforests and wildlife habitat, particularly the orang utan. These accusations driven by campaigns, primarily led by the European NGOs have resulted in misunderstanding among some traditional palm oil end users who have in turn taken drastic steps to reduce their palm oil usage in consumer products. The negative publicity perpetrated by the NGOs sometimes has led to calls to boycott palm based products in several European countries. These negative campaigns have similarly dented the use of palm oil as a renewable fuel requiring the need to prove that it is sustainably produced.

The Malaysian palm oil industry, backed by more than 90 years of responsible plantation practices on legally approved agricultural land in accord with legislations in the country, has similarly not been spared these accusations, despite numerous efforts to portray the correct efforts and information. The idea for the setting up of the Malaysian Palm Oil Wildlife Conservation Fund (MPOWCF) was therefore mooted by the Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) in 2006 coinciding with the period when the Malaysian palm oil industry was facing one of its biggest challenges in the form of these negative campaigns.



## Objectives

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MPOWCF was thus launched with an initial funding of RM20 million of which RM10 million is a grant from the Malaysian government and the balance of RM10 million is provided by the palm oil industry. The fund is administered by the Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC), which also has the overall responsibility to manage the various conservation projects funded through MPOWCF.

The MPOWCF serves the following purposes:

- Helps to portray the good image of Malaysian palm oil by providing concrete assurances that its cultivation does not cause deforestation or loss of wildlife and their habitat through a focused conservation research program to be undertaken by experts from the academia, government agencies and NGOs
- Provides funds for studies on wildlife, biodiversity and environmental conservation while factoring the overall impact of the palm oil industry on these parameters

Information obtained from these research projects will be used to convince and assure palm oil users and NGOs that Malaysian palm oil is produced sustainably with minimal or no negative impact on the environment and that utmost care is given to the protection and conservation of wildlife and biodiversity by the plantation industry.



## MPOWCF Highlights

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Some of our core targets and objectives include:

- Studies on effectiveness of biodiversity and wildlife conservation methods and their impact on oil palm cultivation
- Provide funds for efforts and activities on wildlife and biodiversity conservation
- Promote public awareness especially among plantation managements and workers on the benefits of environmental and wildlife conservation

Examples of projects already funded by MPOWCF include:

1. Establishment of a Jungle Patrol to protect wildlife in forest reserves bordering oil palm plantation in collaboration with the Sabah Forestry Department
2. Biodiversity conservation study on ox-bow lakes in oil palm plantations carried out by University Malaysia Sabah
3. MPOC collaborates with MK Land to operate the Orang Utan Island infant care unit in Bukit Merah Lake Resort
4. Survey of orang utan population in Sabah carried out by Borneo Conservation Trust, Sabah Wildlife Department and the NGO, HUTAN
5. Elephants, human wildlife conflict in forest reserves bordering oil palm plantations through Department of Wildlife, Malaysia (PERHILITAN)
6. Produce educational materials on wildlife conservation through collaborations with Tabin Wildlife Sanctuary and Sabah Forestry Department

The MPOWCF is a revolving fund based on grants from the palm oil industry and independent donors. It is managed and operated by MPOC, which will match any independent contributions towards the fund.

## Who can apply?

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Applications for project funding is open to universities, institutes of higher learning, research institutes, government agencies and certainly the NGOs and other interested stakeholders.

## Application criteria

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The criteria for the application are as follows:

- i. The fund would be used for studies, projects and surveys (among others) that examines wildlife, biodiversity and environmental conservation or promotional activities that is related to the palm oil industry
- ii. The end results of the proposals should ideally be able to portray and highlight the good image of the Malaysian palm oil industry in a scientific and factual manner that is acceptable to the international audiences
- iii. The data and findings obtained from the proposals would be used by MPOC to create education and awareness that supports the viewpoint of the industry; that is Malaysian palm oil is sustainably produced with minimal or no impact to the environment and biodiversity

## MPOWCF Application Procedure

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Interested applicants can submit their applications to the Chief Executive Officer, MPOC enclosing the following supporting documents:

- A brief corporate profile of your organization
- Proposal title and detailed proposal outlining
  - Objectives
  - Methodologies
  - Anticipated outcomes
  - Project duration and key milestones
  - Budget requested with appropriate justifications
  - Name, designation and contact details of project leader / coordinator

*For more information, please contact:*



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