

# Eliminating deforestation

## OUR APPROACH

At General Mills, we recognize that eliminating deforestation and preserving natural ecosystems are essential to meeting our climate commitment. To drive positive outcomes for both people and planet, we are focused on forest-positive strategies for commodities at high risk of deforestation and where we can make a meaningful impact. These include palm oil, cocoa, cashews and corn from Brazil. As a result of our recent climate footprinting work, we know that collectively the production of these ingredients makes up approximately 15%\* of our ingredient-derived GHG emissions, and most of those emissions come from land use change. By eliminating deforestation in these commodities, we are not only protecting our forests, but also the people who depend on them.

## 350 million

The World Bank estimates that 350 million people depend on forests for sustenance and income.\*\*

General Mills is a founding member of the Consumer Goods Forum Forest Positive Coalition of Action, formally launched in September 2020, which requires member companies to collaboratively work toward a forest-positive future, and proactively work with suppliers to mainstream deforestation-

free production across their business. Click [here](#) to view more on the Forest Positive Coalition of Action.

We recognize that deforestation and land use change have significant impacts for climate change. That's why we are looking to the work of SBTi, in particular the newly released Forest, Land and Agriculture (FLAG) Guidance, as well as where we can drive impact as we continue to evolve our strategies and programs.

**Palm Oil:** General Mills is a relatively small buyer of palm oil, but we recognize that our purchasing practices and cross-sectoral collaboration toward deforestation-free palm oil can positively impact ecosystems and people as well as drive progress toward our science-based target and reduce Scope 3 GHG emissions.

To help ensure our palm oil purchases do not contribute to deforestation of the world's rainforests or negatively impact the communities and habitats that depend on them, we have sourced 100% of our palm oil as Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certified sustainable since 2015.

Our [Statement on Palm Oil Sourcing](#) lays out the principles we expect of direct suppliers, to ensure that they are in line with industry best practices, and contains information on our palm oil metrics, traceability, supplier mill list, and grievance process. Our approach, as well as the industry approach, to

responsible palm oil is continually evolving, and we are committed to working with our suppliers, peers and partners to support the development of a forest-positive, people-positive and climate-positive palm oil supply chain.

General Mills is actively engaging its suppliers in direct review of their palm oil production and sourcing practices, traceability to mill, and evolving where possible to traceability to production. We work closely with our suppliers and industry partners, like [Proforest](#), to build sustainability performance and compliance with our commitments through active score carding, conversations and collaboration. As part of our effort to advance progress, General Mills uses the [No-deforestation, No-peat and No-exploitation Implementation Reporting Framework \(NDPE IRF\)](#) — a reporting tool designed to help companies understand and track progress in delivering NDPE commitments, including deforestation-free supply chains. Click [here](#) to view our NDPE IRF profile, updated August 2022.



## Supporting sustainable palm oil production

General Mills is collaborating with Musim Mas Group to implement a program at origin designed to integrate independent smallholders from villages neighboring the Leuser Ecosystem in Aceh Singkil, Sumatra, Indonesia, into the sustainable palm oil supply chain. Through this partnership, we are investing in a smallholder hub program focused on improving the economic security of smallholders and assisting smallholders on their journey toward sustainable production through collaboration with local government. Investment from General Mills supports the capacity building of village extension officers who provide good agricultural practice, financial literacy, and NDPE training and resources to smallholders.



▶ Engaging smallholder farmers to improve sustainable farm management

\*Based on our fiscal 2022 corporate GHG footprint results

\*\*Source: World Bank, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/forests/forests-area>

