

Business & Human Rights Centre

The Foundry, Oval Way
London SE11 5RR

25 September 2026

Dear BHRC Asia team,

Wilmar's Response to the Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific Statement on Transboundary Haze (9 September 2026)

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the joint statement issued by Friends of the Earth Asia Pacific and its members – WALHI, Sahabat Alam Malaysia and LRC on transboundary haze.

Wilmar shares the concern at the heart of that statement: recurring haze has serious consequences on people and communities. We recognise that millions across the region, especially children, the elderly, Indigenous Peoples and communities living closest to affected areas, bear real impacts on their health, their right to clean air, and their daily lives and livelihoods. Preventing forest and land fires, and the haze they can cause, is a responsibility we take seriously and one that requires sustained collaboration across governments, companies, communities and civil society.

The statement names Wilmar, among other companies, in the context of fires in Indonesia. However, it does not identify the specific sites, dates or the basis on which incidents have been attributed to areas under our management. Wilmar would welcome any specific, concession-level information that would allow the allegations to be properly assessed. Where credible evidence points to non-compliance within our operations or supply chain, we investigate and act in accordance with our policies, as set out below.

Wilmar has maintained a strict No Burning Policy across all our palm oil operations since 2006. The policy applies to our subsidiaries and third-party suppliers, and has been a core component of our No Deforestation, No Peat and No Exploitation (NDPE) Policy since 2013. The use of fire for land preparation or development is prohibited, and deliberate breaches by suppliers may lead to suspension or termination of commercial relationships.

Across more than 230,000 hectares of oil palm plantations in Indonesia, Malaysia, Ghana and Nigeria, we take a prevention-first approach to fire management. We use satellite-based monitoring to detect hotspots within and up to five kilometres beyond our concession boundaries, with every alert verified on the ground. We also maintain trained firefighting teams and equipment on year-round standby. Through the current period of heightened risk these measures are actively in force, alongside continued coordination with government agencies and industry partners.

Given that drained peat is highly combustible and a primary driver of haze, peatland management is central to our fire prevention efforts. In line with our NDPE Policy we undertake no new development on peatland, regardless of depth. On peat planted before the introduction of the Policy, we manage water tables to keep peat moist and reduce fire risk.

Addressing the root causes of fire also means working with communities. As a member of the Fire Free Alliance since 2016, we have conducted fire-prevention outreach in 147 villages, including 74 around our operational areas in 2025, promoting alternatives to burning and providing access to machinery and technical assistance, where appropriate.

Beyond our own estates, we monitor fire risk across approximately 24.4 million hectares in our supply chain through our Supplier Group Compliance Programme. Fire alerts in supplier concessions are assessed through our grievance mechanism, with corrective action where warranted. Supplier grievances and progress are publicly reported through our grievance procedure.

We recognise that climate change is lengthening dry seasons and raising fire risk across many landscapes, which makes prevention, preparedness and collaboration more important, not less. Nearly two decades of experience have strengthened our focus on risk reduction, early detection, year-round preparedness and community partnerships, and we continue to invest in strengthening these systems.

We welcome open scrutiny of haze and its impacts and agree that transparency and accountability, across governments, companies and capital, are essential to addressing the issue. Wilmar remains committed to protecting the communities affected by fire and haze, while engaging openly with civil society, government agencies and affected stakeholders. We would welcome any specific information the coalition is able to share and will continue to engage constructively on these concerns.

Yours sincerely,



Joshua Lim

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Wilmar International Limited