

## **Blackpool Zoo Palm Oil Statement**

We understand the serious threat that is posed to biodiversity, indigenous communities, and the environment by the mass production of palm oil. In 2016 we instigated a full palm oil audit. The purpose of the audit was to identify any products we use or sell that contained unsustainable palm oil, and work with our suppliers to move towards sourcing only certified sustainable palm oil (CSPO) products. To date, all the products sold for human consumption within our catering outlets are palm oil free or contain sustainable palm oil. We conduct annual palm oil audits to ensure these standards are maintained.

We believe that it is not a practical solution to avoid the use of palm oil altogether as we acknowledge the financial importance of palm oil for millions of people's livelihoods, and recognise that as the highest yielding oil plant, palm oil is better suited to meet the increasing demands for the world's vegetable oil without increasing the amount of land use, and thus subsequent destruction of habitat. As such we are supporting the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) who are the primary body for sustainable palm oil standards and endorse the efforts that they take to ensure that sustainable palm oil is the norm.

Whilst we have achieved CSPO in all food products we are aware that as a company we use palm oil in other products such as animal feed and in cleaning products as oleochemicals. As the palm oil in these is harder to trace, we are investigating this matter further.