



**sonett**  
ÖKOLOGISCH KONSEQUENT

## Palm oil in Sonett Products

We very much share reservations about palm oil, if, due to palm-oil plantations, valuable virgin forest areas are being cleared and substituted by enormous monocultures, if agricultural workers are being exploited or indigenous inhabitants even driven out of their territories in pursuit of profit. But the "evil" is not palm oil per se, it is rather the irresponsible and destructive cultivation methods which are. It is a completely different matter, however, with **palm oil derived from certified organic cultivation**. Here nature is not exploited in monocultures, nor poisoned using pesticides and artificial fertilizers, but it is being cared for and developed as arable land.

In our production palm oil takes up a relatively small part. For our liquid soaps we preponderantly use olive oil, sunflower oil, coconut oil and rapeseed oil. The percentage of coconut oil and palm fat we need for our powder and bar soaps due to their solidity at low temperatures. For our soap production SONETT exclusively uses **certified organically grown palm oil** from Columbia. The clearing of virgin forest areas is prohibited for organic cultivation. The cultivation is carried out without the use of artificial fertilizers and pesticides, procedure which is under constant vigilance.

We do, however, use two purely plant-based surfactants in our formulations: sugar surfactant and fatty alcohol sulphate. These are industrially produced, thus minimizing our influence on the type of raw material used. The manufacturers buy the fatty acids in the global market place. Those are obtained from blended oils which often also contain some palm oil. For the time being we have no ecological alternatives to these two surfactants (petrochemical surfactants are out of the question for us) and to produce them without using some palm oil is still technically not feasible. At least we are assured by our manufacturers of sugar surfactants and fatty alcohol sulphates that the percentage of palm oil used is **RSPO certified**. In our opinion, to abstain from the use of palm oil altogether, is going far beyond the actual objective. The enormous yield of palm oil per cultivated hectare is unsurpassed. In order to achieve the same yield all of the other oils need a multiple number of surface areas; i.e. to completely do without palm oil most probably would have the opposite effect. One would need an enormous amount of additional cultivation areas, thus accelerating the clearing of virgin forests rather than impeding it. Instead of merely avoiding any palm oil, one should rather see to it that the oil palms are really cultivated in an ecological way, i.e. without pesticides, without synthetic fertilizing and – above all – by no means in gigantic monocultures which destroy virgin forests. Only certified organic cultivation could guarantee this. Even though RSPO is going in the right direction, it is still a long way from perfect!

Sonett products where no conventional palm oil has been involved (guaranteed!):

Dishwasher Detergent, Regenerating Salt, Curd Soap, Gall Soap – bar, Scouring Powder, Softener, Bleaching Agent, Decalcifier, Laundry Rinse, Starch Spray, Surface Disinfectant, Hand Disinfectant, Eco-Sponge.