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Unilever Australia & New Zealand to source 100% traceable and certified palm oil for local foods business

21 November 2014 – Unilever Australia & New Zealand (ANZ) has today announced an important milestone in its journey towards sourcing 100% traceable and certified sustainable palm oil. By the end of 2015, all palm oil purchased by Unilever ANZ for locally produced food products will come from RSPO segregated sources.

From Q1 2015, Unilever's local food factories will begin using traceable and certified (RSPO segregated) palm oil, with the transition expected to be complete by the end of 2015. This significant step comes just three years after Unilever ANZ announced that all of its local palm oil use was covered through Green Palm certificates.

Clive Stiff, Chairman and CEO of Unilever ANZ, said: "The move to RSPO segregated palm oil for our locally produced foods products is an important step on our journey towards achieving full traceability and sustainability across our supply chain. While we know there is still more to do, I'm delighted we have made significant progress on our Unilever Sustainable Living Plan targets and remain at the forefront of businesses working to ensure the long term sustainability of the palm oil industry."

"This is about doing the right thing for our planet, our consumers and for the future of our business," added Stiff.

Unilever believes that a profitable and sustainable palm oil sector must get the right balance between social, environmental and economic objectives. This is a shared responsibility between governments, the private sector and society at large. Unilever is working with industry leaders and NGO's to find a solution to halt deforestation, protect peat land, and drive positive economic and social impact for local communities.

Unilever has also published its [Sustainable Palm Oil Progress Report](#), highlighting significant steps forward in the global traceability of palm oil from known sources. Unilever now has visibility of around 1,800 crude palm oil mills, representing around two-thirds of all mills in the global palm oil industry. In addition 58% of the palm oil reported in Unilever's supply chain globally is traceable to known sources.

Unilever is firmly committed to enhancing the livelihoods of the hundreds of thousands of smallholder farmers connected to its global supply chain and works to train smallholders in sustainable farming methods and improve incomes and working conditions.

Engaging with smallholders on palm oil is the next stage of the challenge and is critical to achieving full traceability. For many smallholders in developing countries, palm oil provides a way out of poverty and a chance to raise their families' aspirations, enabling them to send their children to school. Unilever is involved in programmes of this type, such as a pilot partnership with IDH in North Sumatra. Additionally, a broader social impact partnership with Solidaridad focuses on palm oil as a key commodity in West Africa with potential to scale into Asia and Latin America.

Launched in 2010 the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan commits the company to reduce its environmental impact and source 100% of agricultural raw materials sustainably by 2020. The move to traceable and certified sustainable palm oil for Australian & New Zealand foods demonstrates significant progress towards Unilever's vision to achieve a transformation of the palm oil market and see the entire industry to move to 100% sustainable palm oil by 2020.

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About Unilever

Unilever is one of the world's leading suppliers of Food, Home and Personal Care products with sales in over 190 countries. Globally, Unilever has over 173,000 employees, and in 2012 generated annual sales of over €50 billion. In Australasia, Unilever employs more than 1,500 people, and has offices and manufacturing facilities throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Working to create a better future every day, we help people feel good, look good and get more out of life. Unilever's portfolio features some of the world's best-known household names. In Australasia, our name brands include Flora, Lipton, Bushells, Dove, Rexona, Lynx, Vaseline, Omo, Surf, Continental, Toni & Guy, Clear and Streets.

Our ambition is to double the size of our business, whilst reducing our overall environmental footprint and increasing our positive social impact. We are committed to helping more than a billion people take action to improve their health and well-being, sourcing all our agricultural raw materials sustainably by 2020, and decoupling our growth from our environmental impact. Supporting our three big goals are more than 50 time-based targets. See more on the Unilever Sustainable Living Plan at <http://www.unilever.com.au/sustainable-living/uslp/>

Unilever has been recognised in the Dow Jones Sustainability World Indexes for 14 consecutive years. We are included in the FTSE4Good Index Series and attained a top environmental score of 5, leading to inclusion in the FTSE4Good Environmental Leaders Europe 40 Index. In 2012 Unilever led the Climate Counts Company Scorecard and the list of Global Corporate Sustainability Leaders in the GlobeScan /SustainAbility latest annual survey (2012) - both for the second year running. The company is an employer of choice in many of the countries in which it operates and is seen as a symbol for innovation and leadership development.

For more information about Unilever and its brands, please visit www.unilever.com.au

