

University of California, Santa Barbara, Bren School Instagram Post



Alt text: Aerial view of a palm tree plantation, showing lines of trees planted in a grid. There are 3 large pools shown on the left side of the image, with yellow, green-brown, and white liquids.


Is there such a thing as sustainable palm oil? 🌴🌍

While Indonesia faces deforestation and increased fires, many corporations are committed to purchasing palm oil from exclusively “sustainable” sources. But are these certifications just another wave of greenwashing sweeping the tropics?

Bren Professor Robert Heilmayr’s 2017 research got to the bottom of how these certifications impact deforestation and fire.

By examining tree cover loss and fire occurrence in Indonesia alongside plantation audit reports, Heilmeyer found that these certifications led to a 30% decrease in deforestation. But these certifications did not have a clear effect on reducing fire or peatland clearance.

So while we remain far from truly sustainable palm oil, certifications are helping move the industry in the green direction.

 Read more in the link in bio.

#Brenschool #EnvironmentalScience #dataforgood #deforestation #climateactionnow
#ScienceCommunication