Kristin Urquiza
Senior Advisor for Climate and Biodiversity, Mighty Earth

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Joseph D'Cruz
Chief Executive Officer, Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil
Cc: RSPO Board of Governors

October 30, 2026

Dear Mr. D'Cruz,

When RSPO members gather in Jakarta next week, the haze outside the venue will tell the story the agenda omits. We write to ask you to add an emergency session on the fires in Indonesia to the official RSPO meeting agenda and invite civil society and affected communities to participate. We also ask that the Board of Governors put fires on its agenda during its November 5 meeting.

Indonesia is living through the worst fire season in a decade. Satellite monitoring efforts have estimated more than 1.9 million hectares burned between January and September 2026, a staggering 38% increase compared to the same period in 2019. Haze has drifted over Malaysia and Singapore, and firefighters have lost their lives trying to hold the line.

Indonesians have made their demands clear. On October 28, thousands rallied in Jakarta and other cities, calling for the government to declare the fires a national disaster and to hold the companies responsible to account. Students in Riau, Jambi and South Sumatra have protested outside their governors' offices for weeks, and civil society groups in West Kalimantan have sued the government for negligence.

The human toll is far from abstract. Researchers at Harvard and Columbia estimated that the 2015 haze crisis contributed to approximately 100,300 premature deaths across the region, and with even more land burning this year, the recent fires will inevitably have even wider-spread implications for human health. Between August

20th and October 19th alone, Indonesia's Ministry of Health recorded more than 310,000 cases of acute respiratory illness across Sumatra and Kalimantan, with nearly half affecting children under nine years of age.

Despite the magnitude of the issue and its human and environmental consequences, the RT2026 program for November 3 and 4 includes no session on fires, haze, or peat.

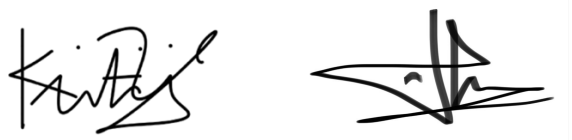
This week, Singapore summoned the leaders of 10 companies the country is investigating over links to the haze, several of which are RSPO members. As the world watches in horror scenes of school children and orangutans struggling to breathe through thick haze, the crisis casts a dark shadow over the palm oil industry's image and undermines the credibility of the industry's sustainability claims. This represents a major brand liability for member consumer companies and poses a risk to the downstream supply chain. Next week, the RSPO has a chance to show the world that it is taking concrete action to both mitigate current fires and prevent future outbreaks by restoring forests and peatlands.

We ask the RSPO to call on its grower members to act by: 1) sending crews, equipment, and money to fight the fires in and around their concessions, 2) publishing their fire prevention plans and hotspot data, and 3) committing to restoring and protecting forests and peatlands across the landscapes where they operate. Restoration must include land cleared since the industry's 2015 cut-off date, with public plans, maps and budgets.

Mechanisms like the Legacy Landscapes Fund are excellent vehicles for investment in the conservation of remaining forests. Earthqualizer Foundation has estimated the industry's recovery debt at more than 877,000 hectares for forest and peat cleared between 2016 and 2021. Central Kalimantan, where the fires are burning most aggressively today, carries the largest share of Indonesia's debt.

We would appreciate your reply before RT2026 opens on November 3, and we plan to share this letter and your answer publicly. A Mighty Earth representative will attend RT2026 and either of our teams would be glad to meet in person to help you execute this session with your team in Jakarta.

Sincerely,



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