WINROCK’S WORK IN SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL

Winrock is a recognized leader in U.S. and international development with a focus on social, agricultural and environmental issues. Inspired by its namesake, Winthrop Rockefeller, Winrock combines scientific and technical expertise with entrepreneurial innovation to deliver market-based solutions that improve lives around the world. Winrock’s mission is to empower the disadvantaged, increase economic opportunity and sustain natural resources across the globe.

Winrock has played a key role in promoting sustainable commodities around the world, including extensive work in sustainable palm oil production in cooperation with donor-funded agencies and the private sector.

THE CHALLENGE:
To produce sustainable palm oil means dealing with competing challenges: economic growth, environmental impact and social sustainability. Winrock implements solutions that address these issues, while retaining a focus on smallholders, business transformation, efficient production and alignment among the private sector, smallholders and government.

PARTNERING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR:
Winrock believes that building a sustainable future requires collaboration with the private sector, independent producers and the government. In March 2016, Winrock launched a sustainable palm oil public-private partnership in Indonesia, Aliansi Sawit Lestari Indonesia (ASLI), funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). ASLI is a partnership of USAID, Government of Indonesia (GOI), Winrock International, and the private sector, that underpins the private sector’s efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change from deforestation and degradation in Indonesia and supports a more sustainable Indonesian palm oil sector. Through a partnership with the Packard Foundation, Winrock will assist in exploring the development of a jurisdictional approach to a “Green District.”

A FOCUS ON SMALLHOLDERS:
Smallholders produce 40 percent of the world’s palm oil. Inefficient and economically-disadvantaged smallholder practices result in disproportionate environmental impacts and missed livelihood opportunities. Winrock addresses these challenges by conducting smallholder studies, characterizations and capacity building. In 2016, Winrock began the Smallholder Protocol for Peat project in Indonesia with funding from IDH, Cargill and Costco. This project will create a protocol for smallholders and tengkulak (middle men) to identify and manage peatland areas in existing plantations and around new plantings. Under the USAID ASLI project, Winrock is undertaking smallholder characterization and analyses in specific regions. In Liberia, Winrock’s
USAID Smallholder Oil Palm Support Project II (SHOPS II) is in its second year of supporting smallholders by providing technical assistance and linking oil palm nursery operators with private sector suppliers of improved seedling stock.

**LEVERAGING CLIMATE SCIENCE:**
Winrock plays a recognized role not just in climate change science, but in the development of science-based standards and protocols for measurement and monitoring of GHG emissions from land use and forestry. With funding from the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO), Winrock projected the expansion of oil palm cultivation using geospatial models and estimated the resulting GHG emissions from policy scenarios. The RSPO Carbon Assessment Tool carbon stock measurement approaches are based on Winrock’s global standard for carbon stock estimation. Winrock authored the first two Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) methodologies applicable to peatland palm oil production in Southeast Asia. Winrock puts scientific analysis into everyone’s hands through the development of user-friendly web tools such as Grow Asia’s “The Counter” (www.growasia.org/counter).

**GENERATING CLEAN ENERGY FROM PALM OIL WASTE:**
Winrock has provided technical assistance for POME-to-energy projects and published the handbook *POME-to-BIOGAS Project Development in Indonesia*. In March 2016, Winrock completed the USAID Capacity for Indonesian Reduction of Carbon in Land Use and Energy (CIRCLE) project, which engaged 30 palm oil mills for technical, financial and sustainability analyses. The CIRCLE project cooperated with third-party developers to secure financing and investment ($3-4 million per plant) for POME-to-energy projects. By 2017, CIRCLE will have leveraged $41.6 million of investment in POME-to-energy power plants, which will offset 420,000 tons of CO2 annually.

**ADDRESSING CHILD LABOR AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING RISKS:**
Beyond palm oil, Winrock has worked with governments and NGOs to reduce child labor in the tea, cocoa and rubber industries of Rwanda, Ghana, Liberia and other countries. Winrock has been fighting human trafficking in the seafood industry for almost a decade through USAID’s Cambodia Countering Trafficking-in-Persons project (CTIP). Winrock recently announced a Campaign Against Labor Trafficking partnership with Concordia to develop a collaborative, standards-based, industry-wide approach to address human rights and labor abuses in the fishing industry. The partnership will connect local and global initiatives, and will forge relationships with actors across global supply chains.