

## PRESS RELEASE

### Support for sustainable palm oil production in Sabah, East Malaysia – aiming to stop deforestation

- A conservation and sustainable development project has been launched in Sabah's Tabin landscape, building on the three pillars "Protect, Produce, Restore"
- The project targets to certify local palm-oil farmers for sustainable production, restore ecological connectivity and protect wildlife habitats
- Tabin landscape is home to around 1,250 orangutans and 350 Borneo elephants

**Kota Kinabalu / Berlin / Essen / Hamburg, December 14, 2020** – Skin care company Beiersdorf and specialty chemicals company Evonik are joining forces to support a newly launched project by the nature conservation organization World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), targeting the conservation and sustainable development in Sabah State of East Malaysia on the island of Borneo. The project is implemented in Tabin landscape, which faces enormous ecological and economic challenges: its delicate ecosystem is home to a large number of endangered animal species and at the same time is a key area for oil palm cultivation and production of palm oil – a mainstay of the regional economy and a core raw material for the cosmetics industry.

#### Sustainable palm oil production and wildlife protection

Based on the three pillars "Protect, Produce, Restore", the project's objective is to make palm oil production more sustainable and to stop deforestation. The target in Tabin landscape is to reach 20,000 hectares of middle- and small-growers to be certified by the Roundtable of Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) by 2025. It is also planned to create a land-use plan to underpin sustainable agriculture and forestry and to work with the project partners to protect the natural habitat of endangered wild animals in Tabin Wildlife Reserve. And finally, to establish at least one ecological corridor through restoration of forest habitats, which allow wild animals to move freely between previously separated forests. The project partners also want to stabilize the population of endangered species such as the orangutans, and to minimize the human elephant conflicts in the project area over the next five years.

The Tabin landscape covers a total of around 400,000 hectares of land – roughly four and a half times the size of Berlin. Approximately half of this is covered by palm oil plantations. The Tabin Wildlife Reserve is the natural habitat that safeguards many threatened and endangered species, including around 1,250 orangutans, 350 Borneo elephants, 50 Banteng and 40 Sunda clouded leopards.

#### Taking responsibility together

"Reducing the ecological footprint is the key to a future worth living in. Everyone has to contribute to this, including the private sector. This is why the WWF cooperates with companies that want to take responsibility for their raw materials on the ground, in the sourcing countries. In the Tabin landscape we can work side by side to stop deforestation and protect endangered animal species," says Dr. Martin Bethke, Executive Director Business and Markets, WWF Germany. "In line with the goal to strive for deforestation-free supply chains, we are looking forward to the cooperation with Beiersdorf and WWF. It is with all parties involved that we can ensure responsible processing of palm oil derivatives in the long term," says Yann d'Hervé, Head of Evonik's Care Solutions business line.

The skin care company Beiersdorf is also sending a clear signal with this project: "Environmental protection and the responsible use of natural resources are our top priority. Together with Evonik and WWF we are very pleased to make another important contribution to nature conservation in Sabah, and to further expand our commitment to sustainable palm oil," says Dorle Bahr, Head of Environmental Sustainability at Beiersdorf.

## **Focus on sustainable supply chains**

Beiersdorf and Evonik have both been committed to a sustainable palm oil economy for many years, for instance through the [Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil](#) (RSPO). Both are also founding members of the [Action for Sustainable Derivatives](#) (ASD) initiative, which has been working to maximize transparency and sustainability along the entire palm oil derivatives supply chain since 2019. With the new sustainable development project in the Tabin landscape, in partnership with WWF, the companies are further expanding their palm oil engagement.

## **About WWF**

The World Wide Fund For Nature (WWF) is one of the largest and most experienced nature conservation organizations in the world and is active in more than 100 countries. It is supported by around five million supporters worldwide. The WWF global network has 90 offices in over 40 countries. Around the globe, WWF employees are currently working on 1,300 projects to preserve biodiversity. WWF Germany is committed to nature conservation in 21 project regions worldwide. The focus is on the preservation of the world's last major forest areas, both in the tropics and in temperate regions; the fight against climate change; the commitment to living seas, and the preservation of rivers and wetlands. WWF Germany also carries out projects in Germany.

## **About Evonik**

Evonik is one of the world leaders in specialty chemicals. The company is active in more than 100 countries around the world and generated sales of €13.1 billion and an operating profit (adjusted EBITDA) of €2.15 billion in 2019. Evonik goes far beyond chemistry to create innovative, profitable and sustainable solutions for customers. More than 32,000 employees work together for a common purpose: We want to improve life today and tomorrow.

The focus of the business of the Nutrition & Care division is on health and quality of life. It develops differentiated solutions for active pharmaceutical ingredients, medical devices, nutrition for humans and animals, personal care, cosmetics, and household cleaning. In these resilient end markets, the division generated sales of around €2.9 billion in 2019 with about 5,300 employees.

## About Beiersdorf AG

Beiersdorf AG is a leading provider of innovative, high-quality skin care products and has more than 135 years of experience in this market segment. The Hamburg-based company has about 20,000 employees worldwide and is listed on the DAX, the German benchmark equities index. Beiersdorf generated sales of €7.6 billion in financial year 2019. Its product portfolio comprises strong, international leading skin and body care brands, including NIVEA – the world's no. 1 skin care brand\* – Eucerin, Hansaplast/Elastoplast, and La Prairie. Millions of people around the world choose Beiersdorf brands every day because of their innovative, high-quality products. Further renowned brands such as Labello, Aquaphor, Florena, 8X4, Hidrofugal, arix, Maestro, and Coppertone round off the extensive portfolio. Beiersdorf's wholly owned affiliate tesa SE, another globally leading manufacturer in its field, supplies self-adhesive products and system solutions to industry, craft businesses and consumers.

\* Source: Euromonitor International Limited; NIVEA by umbrella brand name in the categories Body Care, Face Care, and Hand Care; in retail value terms, 2019.

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