

Continental Once Again with Top Performance in International Sustainability Rating



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To minimize environmental risks and emissions in its natural rubber sourcing, Continental has defined clear responsibilities and obligations for all parties involved in its sourcing policy. Continental also employs third-party partners to evaluate its suppliers based on verified self-reports. For example, since 2017, Continental has been working with EcoVadis, the world's leading provider of sustainability ratings for companies and global supply chains.

In other projects, such as a collaboration with the German development organization Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the company has been promoting a digital system for the traceability of natural rubber from the project region in Indonesia's West-Kalimantan on Borneo since 2018. By optimizing the supply chain and offering training in the sustainable cultivation of natural rubber, smallholders are able to increase quantities, quality, and yields, thereby improving their incomes. A cultivation strategy based on sustainability also prevents logging and deforestation, conserving valuable resources. Following a successful pilot project, the number of smallholders integrated into the main project is expected to increase from 450 to around 4,000 by 2024.

The use of sustainable raw materials for tire construction and the commitment to their production and processing have long been a high priority at Continental. For example, Continental and its partners are intensively researching in Anklam (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Germany) the industrialization of the use of so called Russian dandelion (*Taraxacum koksaghyz*) for the extraction of natural rubber. In the future, the aim is to be able to grow part of the natural rubber required close to the company's own tire plants in order to reduce CO emissions caused by long transport routes and to conserve valuable resources. The use of sustainable raw materials also includes the use of recycled polyester from recycled plastic bottles, which Continental

is currently introducing into the series production of its tires, as well as the use of silicate from the ash of rice husks, an agricultural waste product. Plant-based oils and resins also reduce the proportion of crude oil-based materials already today. Continental's goal is to successively use 100 percent sustainably produced materials in its tire products by 2050 at the latest.

Continental has been participating in the annual reporting and disclosure of climate protection-relevant data for the CDP assessment for more than ten years. In addition to top rating for supply chains, the company was honored with a “B” rating for its efforts in the field of climate change mitigation. In the category of sustainable water management, Continental’s actions and data also scored a “B.”

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