



SHELL AND SUSTAINABLE AVIATION BIOFUELS

Shell is an enthusiastic proponent of aviation biofuels, called "Sustainable Aviation Biofuels"(SAF). [On their website](#), they claim: "SAF can be made from renewable sources such as used cooking oil, municipal waste and woody biomass. It is a safe, proven fuel, which has the potential to reduce lifecycle emissions by up to 80%, compared with conventional aviation fuel."

Nobody has ever been able to turn municipal waste or wood into jet fuel. Used cooking oil may be a viable feedstock technically - but there's only so many chips people eat, hardly enough for the leftover veg oil to keep fleets of airplanes flying. But Shell does have concrete plans for sourcing quite a lot of biofuels for aircraft in the near future, plans that are deeply troubling to anyone who cares about climate change, social justice and forests:

- Shell has signed a contract to purchase 2.5 billion litres of aviation biofuels from a refinery sourcing soya and animal fats, currently under construction in Paraguay. Soya production in Paraguay has long been linked to land-grabbing, human rights violations, deforestation and pesticide poisoning. Cattle ranching - the source of the animal fat - is the main cause of the destruction of the Chaco forest, a highly biodiverse ecosystem suffering one of the highest deforestation rates in the world. The Chaco is home to Indigenous Peoples, many of whom are being evicted and losing their livelihoods. According to an investigative report by Paraguayan researchers and campaigners, soon to be published by [Stay Grounded](#), the new refinery will bring more destruction, more extinctions and more suffering to Paraguayan communities.
- Shell has just [announced](#) plans to start producing large quantities of biofuels, including for aviation, in Singapore. Singapore lies at the heart of the global palm oil market, next to Malaysia and Indonesia which, between them produce over 80% of the world's palm oil.
- Shell has signed an [aviation biofuels agreement](#) with the Finish oil and biofuel company Neste. Neste, the world's largest biofuel producer, is building a large new aviation biofuel refinery in Singapore. They source large quantities of palm oil and palm oil products and, according to a [report published by Friends of the Earth Netherlands](#) in December, 2020, "palm oil suppliers of biofuel producer Neste are responsible for the deforestation of at least 10,000 hectares since the beginning of 2019."