Referring to the considerable losses that can occur due to landfire, it is imperative that we sufficiently address the threats of fires in and around our concessions.

Goodhope has enforced its strict zero burning policy since 2010—prohibiting open burning on any of its premises—and implements fire prevention and control plans to mitigate the occurrence of land fires within and in the vicinity of its concessions.

All management units take measures to prevent and mitigate the threat of land-fires and effectively respond to any fire outbreaks. We foster multi-stakeholder cooperation with government agencies and local communities to build mutual cooperation and partnership in early detection, early warning and early response to mitigate land/forest fires threat. We conduct fire awareness training and fire response drills for both employees and local communities and we ensure the availability of adequate fire equipment and trained fire response teams.

As part of our early warning system, we regularly check information from the ASEAN Specialized Meteorological Centre (ASMC), which provides regional data on fire threats by defined indices, and will ensure the implementation of adequate actions.

We use the Global Forestwatch information system to monitor hotspot data in order to determine the location of any potential fires within or in the proximity of a concession area. This system uses satellite imagery to map areas that have significantly higher temperature, indicating a high possibility of forest / land fire. Furthermore, the RSPO fire monitoring system provides alerts to support members.

A daily hotspot report is submitted to the management of each of our concessions. In this way, on-site field verification teams are notified of any hotspot located within our concessions or within 3 km from our concession boundaries. The teams conduct ground verification at the location. In cases where fires are confirmed, our fire response teams are immediately dispatched to extinguish the fires.

In 2019 there were a total of 402 hotspots detected in our concessions and 22 fires recorded, impacting 23.3 hectares of land. Within the proximity of our concessions, a total of 847 hotspots were detected and 32 fires were recorded. The fires impacted 41.5 hectares community-owned land within concessions. The principal cause of fires both inside and outside concession was due to clearance for agricultural purposes on land owned by local communities.

As part of our efforts to prevent future losses due to land fire, Goodhope is implementing a more comprehensive community engagement campaign, including demarcation of fire-prone areas and high risk areas; mapping land ownership and working together working with the local communities and local authorities on more effective approaches for the conservation of forest areas and mitigation of threats.

To address the degradation of forest due to fires in 2019, a forest rehabilitation program is underway by PT Rim Capital, involving planting local tree species in areas impacted by fires.