

Orangutans are rapidly becoming extinct in Indonesia and Malaysia due to palm oil overproduction



Loss of Habitat Due to Palm Oil

Key Facts

- Indonesia and Malaysia supply 85% of palm oil (WWF)
- Palm oil is found in 50% of packaged products (WWF)
- The average person consumes 17 lbs. of palm oil per year (EPRS)
- Palm oil exports in Indonesia valued at \$20.7 billion in 2017 (CNN)
- 20% of wildfires in Indonesia can be attributed to palm oil (EPRS)
- Close to 3000 orangutans are killed annually due to deforestation (Nat Geo)

Science Communication

- Forests are a natural carbon sink, and the destruction of natural forests releases massive amounts of carbon into the atmosphere.
- Palm plantations reduce biodiversity by causing disturbance & habitat fragmentation, and the lack of biodiversity in these monoculture plantations cannot support many native plants and animals

How to Help

- Avoid products that contain unsustainable palm oil
- Buy FSC- certified products
- Support charitable organizations
- Start fundraisers
- Spread the word

Justification

Orangutans play a vital role in seed dispersal and in maintaining the health of the forest ecosystem, which is important for people and a host of other animals. By conserving the orangutan's habitat, we also benefit local communities and other species.

Palm oil has been and continues to be a major driver of deforestation of some of the world's most biodiverse forests, destroying the habitat of species like the Orangutan.

Clear cutting techniques are devastating to wildlife



Solutions

Sustainable Harvesting

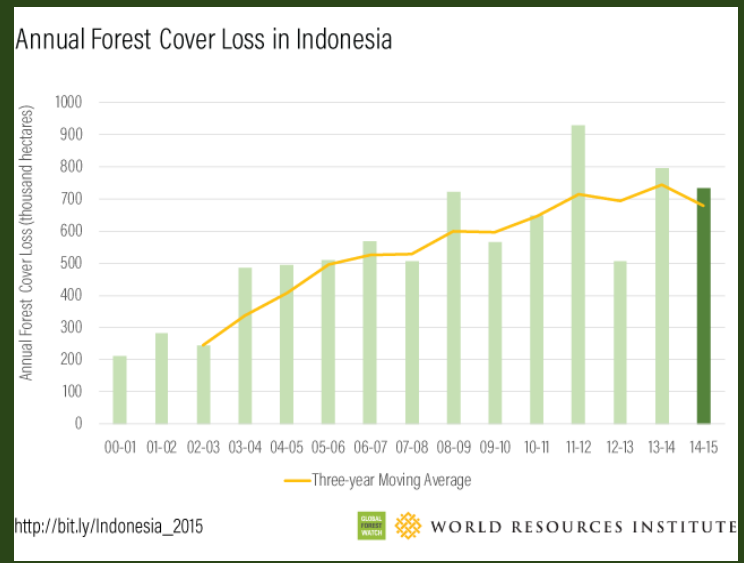
- More companies involved = lower price
- Creation of Verified Source Areas (VSA) for sustainable palm oil growth
 - Oil palms grown on fallow and agriculturally usable land to decrease carbon emissions

Decrease World-Wide Palm Oil Use

- Smaller demands = smaller supply
- Major economic changes occur
- Loss of jobs for many workers

Factors of Sustainability

- **Socio-economic**
 - Palm oil industry provides employment
 - Higher consumer demand
 - Beneficial for developing countries
 - Low price to produce palm oil
- **Socio-ecological**
 - Human population growth
- Loss of biodiversity/destabilization of ecosystem
 - Decreased water quality
- **Eco-ecological**
 - Decreased soil quality for agriculture
 - Decline in ecotourism



Palm oil gives jobs to many