

RAINFOREST
ADVENTURE



DEFORESTATION FOR PALM OIL

HOW DEMAND FOR
VEGETABLE OIL IS
DESTROYING RAINFORESTS

RAINFORESTS – SO FAR AWAY AND YET SO NEAR



THE RAINFOREST

is the most biodiverse ecosystem on Earth. And it is closely linked to our lives.



ITS ANCIENT TREES

are being felled for us – to make furniture or paper, or to grow oil palms or livestock feed on the land.



WHEN A FOREST DIES,

thousands of animal and plant species disappear with it. People living in the forest lose their livelihoods.

OIL PALMS IN PLACE OF ANCIENT TREES

Palm oil is pressed from the fruit of the oil palm tree.

You may not notice it, but palm oil is almost everywhere. Because it is so cheap, industry has been using it in recent years in food, detergents and diesel fuel. Oil palm plantations are spreading as demand for the oil rises.

Oil palms only grow in places that also suit the rainforest, and so to make room for plantations, countless giant trees are being felled – often illegally. According to the United Nations, oil palm plantations are the main reason why nature is being destroyed in countries like Malaysia and Indonesia. Worldwide, we are losing an area of rainforest as big as 35 football pitches every minute.

This flyer explains why palm oil is so widespread, how it affects us and the world around us, and what you can do about it.



DID YOU KNOW?

Diesel cars and lorries in Europe use 1.9 million tonnes of palm oil every year. It takes 7,000 sq. km to produce it... which means 5,000 orang-utans lose their habitat. To find enough food, an orang-utan needs 1.5 sq. kilometers of rainforest.

THE PROBLEM

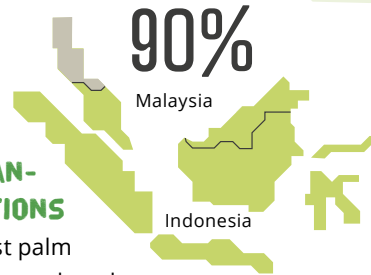
USES

About half the products in your supermarket contain palm oil – for example processed foods, cosmetics, soaps and candles. More and more palm oil is also being added to diesel fuel.



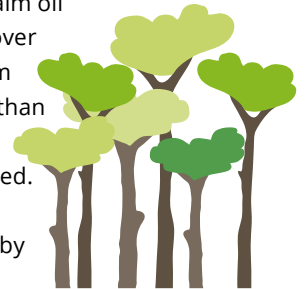
PLANTATIONS

Most palm oil is produced in Indonesia and Malaysia. The plantations need a lot of chemicals, and almost no animals or other plants live in them.



DEFORESTATION

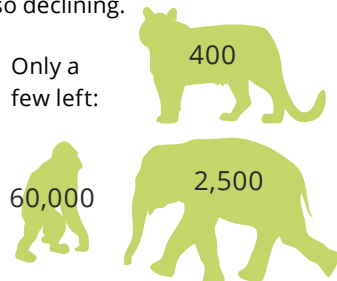
Worldwide, palm oil plantations cover 170,000 sq. km – that's more than England and Wales combined. That area was once covered by rainforest.



THE EFFECTS

HABITAT

As the forest shrinks, the number of endangered orang-utans, Borneo pygmy elephants and Sumatran tigers is also declining.



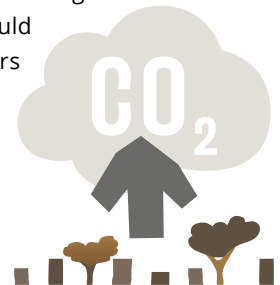
LAND GRABBING

People are often brutally evicted from their land for plantations. If they resist, they are threatened and often arrested.



CLIMATE CHANGE

A huge amount of CO₂ – up to 6,000 tonnes per hectare – is released when a rainforest is destroyed. An average European would need 800 years to produce that much.



THE SOLUTION

SHOP WITH CARE

It's possible to live without palm oil – healthier too.

- ✓ buy fresh food
- ✓ make your own pizza, cake and biscuits
- ✓ read product labels
- ✓ use traditional cleaning products like vinegar or baking soda

CHECK THE CONTENTS

Palm oil can hide behind many names. When in doubt, ask the manufacturer.

- ✗ palm oil / palm butter
- ✗ vegetable oil
- ✗ cetearyl / cetyl
- ✗ lauryl / lauroyl / laurate
- ✗ stearyl / stearate

INFORM OTHERS

Share what you have learned about palm oil and its effects with others. Tell your friends and family about it, or give a report in class.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT RAINFOREST-RESCUE.ORG/TOPICS/PALM-OIL