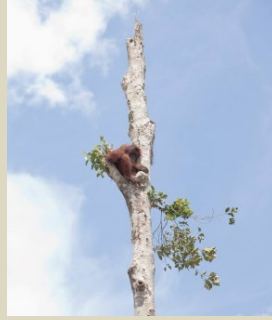


Palm Oil Crisis



What is Palm Oil?

It is a form of edible vegetable oil

- from the African Oil Palm (*Elaeis guineensis*)
- an introduced crop grown in 43 countries

It is used in many food and non-food items

- cookies, crackers, ice cream, candy
- soap, lotion, cosmetics, cleaning products
- explored as a source of bio fuel

It is in very high demand

- majority produced in Borneo and Sumatra (the only two islands where wild orangutans live)
- plantations cover 27 million hectares worldwide

The Problem:

Palm oil producers destroy forests to create palm oil plantations

Impact on Orangutans

- Loss of habitat = loss of living space and fruit trees
- Habitat fragmentation = can't get to food and mates
- Survival skills and mental maps of forest compromised
- Threats from fires set to clear the land
- Displaced orangutans become stressed and may starve
- Suffer from smoke and pollution from plantations and mills
- Orangutans become more accessible to poachers
- Plantations block travel corridors
- Conflict when coming into closer contact with humans
- Less suitable habitat remains for future reintroduction of rescued orangutans



What Can I do?

- Educate yourself, your family, and your friends. Help raise awareness.
- Read labels and become familiar with products using palm oil.
- Change your buying habits and limit your use of palm oil.
- Write to companies asking them to remove palm oil from their products.
- Put pressure on companies and demand higher standards of sustainability.
- Donate to Orangutan Outreach to support protection/care for orangutans.

Visit redapes.org for more information

