

DON'T PALM US OFF FACTS



DID YOU KNOW?

- Today, the most common cause of deforestation and fragmentation in Indonesia is related to palm oil development.
- An estimated 40% of food on our supermarket shelves contains palm oil.
- In SE Asia alone, the equivalent of 300 football fields are deforested every hour for palm oil production.
- Palm oil typically costs the lives of up to 50 Orang-utans each week.
- Australians unknowingly consume on average 10 kilograms of palm oil each year because we do not currently have the ability to exercise consumer choice.
- Sustainable Palm Oil Plantations are a possibility however you need you to tell FSANZ you want palm oil labeling if they are to become a reality.
- Once palm oil is labelled, consumers can actually drive a market for proper certified sustainable palm oil because they can demand it of manufacturers (as we've seen with Fair Trade and Rainforest Alliance products).
- Palm oil from certified sustainable RSPO sources only accounts for 8 percent of the global supply of palm oil.
- 90% of Orang-utan habitat has been lost already. If all of it is lost then so are the livelihoods of many people.
- The industry needs to increase yields on land that has already been cleared but right now there is very little incentive for them to do this.
- We share 97% of our DNA with Orang-utans. You could say they are our wild cousins.
- Over 85% of the world's palm oil comes from Malaysia and Indonesia.

Most of the palm oil that ends up in our food is unsustainably harvested. In fact, only eight percent of the global supply of palm oil comes from sustainable RSPO certified sources. A sustainable palm oil industry that does not destroy anymore virgin rainforest is a reality. The industry just needs to use land that has already been cleared. But right now there isn't the demand for palm oil that is produced this way.

You have a right to know whether the products you buy contain palm oil. However without legislation change, palm oil will remain unlabelled and you just won't know if the food products you are buying are pushing orangutans to extinction.



What can you do? You can [sign the petition](#) calling for the labelling of palm oil. Tell Food Standards Australia New Zealand that you want the choice, our petition is open until July 1st..

See Also

[Australian Orang-utan Project](#)

<http://www.orangutan.org.au/>

[Palm Oil Action Group Australia](#)

<http://www.palmoilaction.org.au>

[Round Table for Sustainable Palm Oil \(RSPO\)](#)

<http://www.rspo.org>