

# Orangutans are critically endangered and may only have ten more years before they are extinct in the wild.

This gentle red ape now barely survives in the tropical forests of Sumatra and Borneo where it once roamed over great areas of Asia.

Threats to orangutans are mainly due to illegal activities:

- Logging
- Mining
- Palm Oil Plantations
- Forest fires
- Poaching
- Pet trade

Rainforests are destroyed to make way for palm oil plantations.



**What is Palm Oil?** You might not have heard of palm oil, but chances are you ate some with your breakfast this morning or washed your hands with it. Palm oil is found in a vast range of products from bread to margarine, chocolate, soap, lipstick and much more.



Conversion to palm oil plantations can be considered one of the biggest threats to the remaining rainforests.

As human population increases, more and more forest is cut down for lumber and to make room for farms.

**When trees go, orangutans go with them.**

## Why should we care about rainforests so far away?

**Because, it's a small world after all.** Rainforests are very important because they directly benefit the health of our entire planet.

They act as giant lungs for the Earth by absorbing large amounts of carbon dioxide and producing oxygen in exchange.

Rainforests also provide us with many foods, raw materials and medicines.

They are home to many unique species of animals and plants.

**Orangutans are in trouble because people have destroyed their habitat. It is up to people to save them.**

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