

The Plight of the Orangutan – What Needs to be Done?



The plight of the Orangutan.

The orangutan, one of our closest relatives in the animal kingdom, is facing an unprecedented threat to its existence. Due to palm oil plantations and logging, the population of the orangutan is frantically decreasing. We need to do something about this before it's too late!

What is an orangutan and why should we care?

Our primate buddies, that share 97% of human DNA, secretly help the earth by dropping seeds into the ground that have landed on their fur. If this crisis continues, then we will suffer too! These apes deserve to live just as much as

we do. So why are their homes being destroyed by our machinery? We are the cause for their habitat destruction!

What is the problem with their habitats?

Our close cousins - living in the lush rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra are facing multiple problems such as: deforestation, agricultural expansion, palm oil plantations and logging. Also, all these machines that cut down football field sized amounts of land everyday, are releasing carbon-dioxide into the air which adds to climate change. Without a safe rainforest to live in, these wonderful creatures will sadly face extinction!

What is the issue with palm oil plantations?

The issue with palm oil is, that in order for the palm oil to be planted, large areas of the rainforest need to be cut down. As forests are being cleared, more and more orangutans are losing their homes daily. Another issue, is that when people buy products that contain palm oil, the company needs to restock the item and then more palm oil needs to be planted. The cycle just repeats!

What is the illegal wildlife trade, and what is happening?

A shocking truth about the illegal wildlife trade for orangutans, is that baby orangutans are being stolen from their parents, and sold as exotic pets! This can also happen where the parents are instead taken away; the young baby will then be an orphan! Fortunately, the government now pays rangers,

to enter the rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra, and look out for poachers - if they see any, they have permission to shoot them!

What can people in the West do to help?

If you wish to make a difference, something we can all do to help is, make just one little change to your weekly shopping list. It only takes a few seconds to check if your products contain palm oil. A further solution, could entail supporting charities such as: the orangutan foundation and the rainforest alliance.

What little things can people do to make a difference?

Small things can make a big difference, and we can all do something to help these innocent creatures. Even a little change to your shopping list could save an orangutan! This is a call to action for us all! So, what will you do to help?