

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



At this very second in time, our furry friends, orangutans, are facing a life threatening crisis! The jungles of Borneo and Sumatra are rapidly being cut down to make room for palm oil plantations. Now our orange-haired friends have no place to call home. Deforestation is driven by logging, planting palm oil trees and agricultural expansion. Also people use them for food! Why do we deserve a life but they don't? In addition, people capture orangutans and sell them as pets! We can't let this go on. If we all help, we can stop this crisis. Let's do this before it's too late!

What is an orangutan and why should you care?

Orangutans are part of the primate family. They have thick, orange hair and large cheek pads. Believe it or not, orangutans have about 97%

of human DNA. Did you know baby orangutans are just like human babies? Their homes are being chopped down at a rate. Sadly, these creatures have nowhere to go. Even though we are humans and they are animals we all have a close connection. Do you really want to say bye to your furry cousins forever?

What is the problem with their habitat?

Orangutans sadly have no home. Deforestation has a knock on effect. Trees are being cut down and then orangutans lose their home. There is no way orangutans can survive with no home. These furry creatures are losing their nests all for palm oil plantations! Every time a tree is cut down, an innocent orangutan loses it's home. This destruction displaces orangutans. Without a safe place to live, all orangutans could be gone in our lifetime. This needs to stop now!

What is the issue with palm oil plantations?

When trees are cut down, farmers usually plant palm oil trees. This isn't only bad for the animals that live in the jungle, it also affects the environment. Palm oil releases carbon into the air which causes climate change. If we all make just one change to our shopping list, by buying palm oil free items, we could help our orange-haired cousins just a little bit more.

What is the illegal wildlife trade and what is happening?

This most devastating is still ongoing! As we speak, people are making their way into the heart of the Borneo and Sumatra to hunt orangutans. People are even snatching baby orangutans

from their mothers. This is truly heartbreaking. Unfortunately, people sell orangutans as exotic pets or even eat them! Rangers are hired to stop this tragedy but this crisis isn't over yet.

What can people in the West do to help?

Even though charities are helping to save orangutans, like the Orangutan Foundation you can also do your part to help. For example, you could buy fewer products that contain palm oil. A further solution is raising awareness. This means you could do a sponsored walk just to make one small difference. If everybody in the West helps, our furry cousins of the jungle will have a better chance in life.

What little things can people do to make a difference?

You could make one small difference today by even changing your toothpaste. Let's do this now, for the orangutans.