



# PALM OIL

## THE OTHER OIL CRISIS

Palm oil is pressed from the fruit of the oil palm tree. Because it generates high yields at low costs in countries with lax environmental laws, palm oil is the most widely used vegetable oil in the world, accounting for 65% all vegetable oil traded internationally.



Palm Oil is found in about **50%** OF THE PACKAGED GOODS SOLD IN SUPERMARKETS TODAY.



PALM OIL INDUSTRY REVENUE

Healthy tropical rainforests store massive amounts of carbon.

As these forests are cleared, all of that stored carbon is released into the atmosphere.

Conventional palm oil production exploits people and pollutes the environment.



**FROM CARBON SINK... AND WILDLIFE HABITAT**

**TO CARBON SOURCE... AND WASTED LANDSCAPE**

**TO INDUSTRIAL FARMS AND DIRTY BUSINESS**

Tropical peat soil stores even more carbon than the vegetation that grows above ground (as much as 28 times more). Rainforests also serve as habitat for millions of species, including orangutans, elephants, rhinos, tigers, gorillas and chimps. And over a billion people live in rainforests and depend on them for their livelihoods.

Even worse, fires in peat often spread underground—at one point in 2015, active wildfires in Indonesia released more carbon than the entire emissions of the US. And as fires burn, animals and people are killed or displaced.

Most palm oil plantations are inherently unsustainable monocultures that require enormous amounts of water and chemicals. Workers are often trafficked into bonded labor, and abused, overworked and underpaid. Government officials are commonly bribed to look the other way.



90% of all palm oil comes from plantations in Indonesia and Malaysia.



### TROPICAL DEFORESTATION

Produces more greenhouse gases than all of the world's cars, trucks, planes, boats and trains combined.



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Football fields' worth of tropical rainforests are destroyed every minute.

### WHAT WE BUY

Because there's palm oil in half of the packaged stuff we buy at the supermarket, most of us are buying dirty palm oil pretty much every day.



SOLUTION: CONSUME CONSCIENTIOUSLY

1. Get informed about which brands are acting responsibly and which aren't. At the [Zoological Society of London Sustainable Palm Oil Platform](#) you can learn what companies have made commitments to go deforestation-free and how well they're living up to those commitments.
2. Stop buying from the worst offenders. (And do what you can to just buy less processed food and cosmetics in general!)
3. Let them know you're doing so and demand a commitment to deforestation-free products and ingredients. [Rainforest Action Network](#) makes it pretty easy.

FUNDED BY:  
**YOU AND ME**



### HOW WE INVEST AND SAVE

We're just trying to save for retirement, but many of us are unwittingly funding the expansion of the dirty palm oil industry via our own 401ks, IRAs and other investments.



SOLUTION: INVEST MINDFULLY

1. Check your own investments for palm oil. Use our [Deforestation Free Funds web tool](#) to see if your money may be invested in the palm oil industry.
2. Ask your [investment managers to commit](#) to a deforestation-free, land grab-free investment policy.
3. Donate to [Friends of the Earth's efforts](#) to fight the Dirty Palm Oil industry

