

Indonesian Palm Oil Deforestation

The palm oil production in Indonesia was started in 1964 and the production was low. As the years went on the palm oil production rate has skyrocketed. Along with that came the increase in deforestation, oil palm planting, demand for palm oil and many other positive and negative effects.



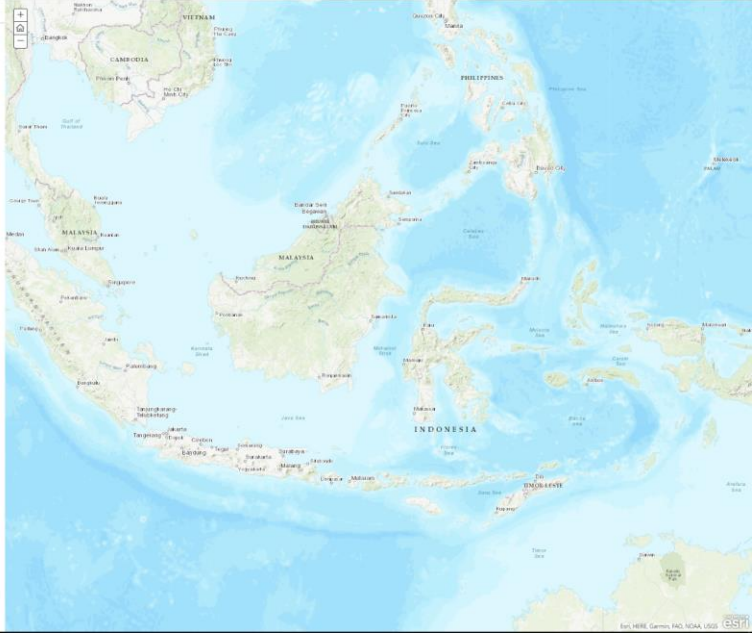
The Threat to Wildlife

In Indonesia these oil palm trees are homes to many animals, some on the brink of extinction such as the Sumatran tiger, orangutans, the flat headed cat and several more.

Their habitats are being destroyed and many are being killed, those who survive the harvesting of the palm oil usually find it hard to adapt to the new environment. This new environment are the palm oil farms replacing the full tree filled rain forest habitats to flat farms producing palm oil. This results in a lack of food, shelter and leads to ultimately deforestation. One of the negative results of the palm oil industry, the endangering animals.

Peat Drainage and Carbon Emissions

Peat lands and palm oil tree forests are areas rich in carbon that are cleared to start oil palm plantations. The clearing of the forest releases a small amount of carbon into the atmosphere due to its carbon rich soil. The real issue comes with the clearing of peat lands, which are carbon rich swamps. To remove these large areas they must be burnt, when burning the carbon from these areas is released into the atmosphere in large amounts. "Peat lands can hold up to 18 times as much carbon as the forests above them; when they are drained and burned, both carbon and methane are released into the atmosphere—and unless the water table is restored, peat lands continue to decay and release global warming emissions for decades." (Union of Concerned Scientists)



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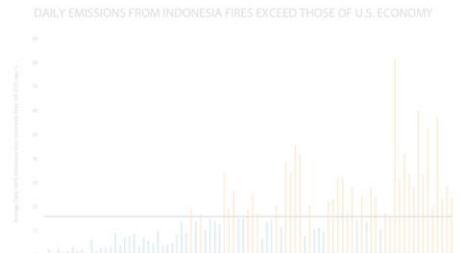
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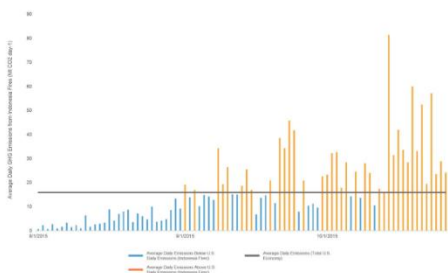
Animals Affected by Palm Oil

 Orangutan Sumatran (CR) pop. 7,300 Bornean (EN) pop. 45-69,000 ↓ ~1,000 / yr	 Sumatran Rhino (CR) pop. 170-230	 Sumatran Tiger (EN) pop. < 500	 Proboscis Monkey (EN) pop. < 6,000
 Sun Bear (VU) pop. ↓ 30% in last 10 years	 Flat-Headed Cat (EN) pop. < 2,500	 Bay Cat (EN) pop. < 2,500 <25 ever recorded	
 Clouded Leopard (VU) pop. < 1,500-3,200	 Asian Elephant (EN) pop. < 53,000	 Lar Gibbon (EN) pop. 15-20,000	 Fishing Cat (EN) pop. <10,000
 Malayan Tapir (EN) pop. 1,500-2,000			

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DAILY EMISSIONS FROM INDONESIA FIRES EXCEED THOSE OF U.S. ECONOMY

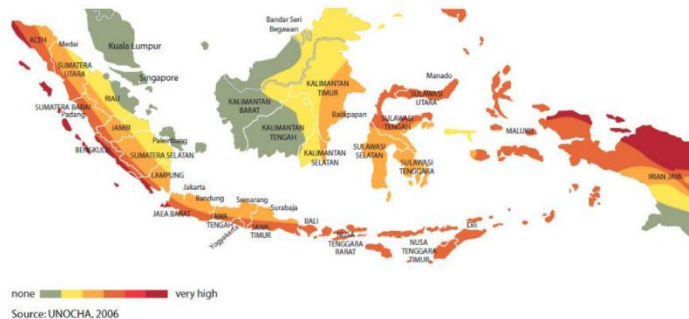


SOURCE: GLOBAL FIRE EMISSIONS DATABASE and CAT WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

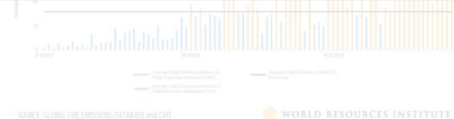
Protected areas of Borneo and Population vs GHG emissions

Due to the dangers of this industry for palm oil there has been protected protected

Figure 1: Degree of exposure to natural hazards



Source: UNOCHA, 2006



SOURCE: GLOBAL FIRE EMISSIONS DATABASE and CAT WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Protected areas of Borneo and Population vs GHG emissions

Due to the dangers of this industry for palm oil there has been protected protected areas created, such as national parks and habitats for endangered animals. On the map the transparent red and orange covering the land are GHG emissions (red high/blue low), the blue represents the protected areas (overlapped by population) and the gray and red represent the population high amounts to low amounts. These protected areas are supposed to be areas where forests cant be cleared, animals are protected and carbon emissions should be low. According to the map and the analysis the protected areas and their populations are not protected from the surrounding emissions.



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