

To The Honourable Niall Blair,

Slowly and with ease, the graceful, elegant powerful black and orange shape stalks through the once expansive wilderness. Its paws, wickedly sharp, create silent vibrations that scare all animals... but one. In the leafy greens the exceptional tiger with its unbeatable eyesight spots brown and white. The deer, completely at mercy to the ferocious carnivore, unaware of its demonic presence, is to die today. The breeze flickers realising there will be no chase... but then, a sound, heard both by the tiger and the deer. Click, Click. And then... bam, the powerful tiger pounds away. In the bushes, the one thing that is not afraid of the tiger, man, with a destructive weapon that they call a gun.

The Caspian Tiger is now extinct due to habitat destruction, climate change and over hunting. All these reasons are because of human activity. Back then, we did not know that we were doing so much harm to such an extraordinary animal. In the last 50 or so years however, we have improved that matter as we have become more knowledgeable in the field of science. However, we have not taken many step to help critically endangered species. The Palm Oil Industry is threatening multiple already Critically Endangered animals because of its impure systems of management. If we label Palm Oil on labels for products instead of it being labelled "Vegetable Oil," companies will need to find a safer type of oil. Customers are powerful and would not like to contribute to the deaths of 1000 orang-utans per year.

Palm Oil is a vegetable oil that can be found in 50% of supermarket items from a chocolate bar to soap. Palm Oil itself is not a bad thing and it is in so many products because of how easy it is to grow Palm Trees making Palm Oil cheaper. However, many industries that produce Palm Oil have horrific

systems of management. To make the Palm Oil Farm, they must chop down trees in the forests of Indonesia and this has devastating effects that the world has to bare. In America, unlike Australia, they clearly label Palm Oil on products so if people wish to avoid the product, they can. If in Australia we would label Palm Oil on products, shops will be challenged by their customers to find a more reliable sources of Vegetable Oil.

But why should we care? Why will customers care if it says Palm Oil or Vegetable Oil on their chocolate bar or not? I'll give you a example, eggs. Customers prefer to buy Cage Free Eggs than any other eggs in the eggs aisle of the shop! Why do you think that happens? Do you know why? Because the customers know that the chickens were raised properly, and they are happy or at least, were happy. The same will be if we label Palm Oil! Customers will be happy that they are stopping the effect of Global Warming, The deaths of thousands of animals per year, child labour and the vulnerability of an entire culture of people if they don't buy Palm Oil.

The Palm Oil Industry, you could argue, is supporting the people by supplying them with money. However, masked by the good things they are doing, lies a much more sinister story. The Palm Oil Industry is a culprit of child labour, and you thought the world was better than that. This is not the middle ages! This is the 21st century! Child labour has been used for similar things in the past, but nothing compares to the devastation of it now. Child labour is and should have always been illegal. Underpaid children are common in the Palm Oil Industry as well as children who work for more hours a day as an average adult hauling trees around in the hot sun. In the Palm Oil Industry, children are treated like repugnant beings, knowing only one way to live. Labelling Palm Oil will help people realize that they are buying a product that child labour has helped to manufacture.

The Indigenous people of Indonesia are suffering enormously, as the forest that they need to prosper is gradually decreasing. They live and hunt off these forests and need it as much as a fishing town needs the ocean. And with no other option, they have join the Palm Oil Industry. Although this is better than bankruptcy for the people, they are vulnerable to the price of Palm Oil if it drops. However, you must remember that the Palm Oil Industry itself is destroying the homes of a millennia of ancient and indescribably unique culture in a heartbeat.

The Palm Oil Industry is not only threatening the people who live off the forests but also the animals that live in them. Sumatra is the last place left in the entire world where some of the most iconic animals live side by side. This includes the tiger, elephant, rhino, orang-utan and bear. Such diversity in such a far corner of the earth working peacefully together. These animals have at least one similarity. Their numbers are dwindling rapidly. The Sumatran Rhino has already left us forever and the Sumatran Tiger has reached "Critically Endangered" statistics and other animals are not far behind. The ecosystems of the rainforest is at risk of diminishing even if one more animal dies out. If this happens, animals who normally eat that animal has no more food, ergo, they often become extinct themselves. However, there are good news as well for these dying animals. Some of us have taken it upon themselves to help these desperate animals. Why would we lose such brilliant diversity for a bottle of Palm Oil?

Another reason we should label Palm Oil on our products is for the world's future. Global Warming is a huge problem already in 2018, but if it continues to increase at the rate it is increasing now, it is estimated to have grand and deadly side effects in future years. The world is getting hotter and hotter because we are pumping Carbon Dioxide into the atmosphere. The extra Carbon Dioxide is trapping in extra heat from the sun. We call this the

Greenhouse Effect. Humans in the unstable Palm Oil Industry are chopping down trees and replacing the native trees with Palm trees. This is a catastrophe because the trees that we are cutting down suck in Carbon Dioxide. With less of these trees sucking in Carbon Dioxide, the Carbon Dioxide has nowhere to go but in the air. Not only does the Palm Oil Industry cut down trees, but the fires they use to burn the trees also excrete Carbon Dioxide! The more Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere, the hotter the world gets and this has problems for all of the world. Apart from days where you spend too much money on air conditioning, the future of the world if we continue with what we are doing lies with extinct ecosystems, more extreme weather phenomena and large expanses of land going underwater due to sea level rise. If Palm Oil leads to the end of the world, why should we not just label it and be cautious around such a product? A world of turmoil is not worth just a bottle of Palm Oil, manufactured by the greatest offender to the future of the world. If we label Palm Oil, customers will be aware when they are threatening the world's future.

Palm Oil is a product that customers may like to avoid. Right now, society may make feeble attempts to avoid Palm Oil, but why can't we save them the effort and slightly change the words on packaging in supermarkets? The people have very personal reasons to avoid Palm Oil, like some people avoid types of eggs, or they might have one of the reasons that I have presented to you today. Whatever the customers think about Palm Oil, a culprit of child labour, an industry destroying the homes of a unique culture, a company endangering some of the world's most loved animals or one of the offenders of global warming, we all have our reasons. There are ways that companies produce palm oil sustainably, we just have to help them along the way. The future of the world, even when things seem gloomy, is bright and will always be. When you shine your light on the troubles around you however, the world becomes dimmer. Palm Oil is one of those problems

around us. If we label Palm Oil on products in the shops all around us, society, if they wish to avoid Palm Oil may appropriately do so. It can be their choice.

Archie