

To the Honourable Niall Blair,

The trees are crashing down around you, your home is being destroyed. You have lived there all your life, and now these people are cutting it all down! The grass and branches seemed to grab at your ankles, trying to pull you down into the path of the falling trees. This is what it feels like to lose your home. And it is most likely what all the orangutangs feel when their homes are destroyed to make way for unsustainable palm oil trees plantations. Something as simple as labelling a packet properly could save the lives of hundreds, if not thousands of animals across the world.

I believe that we should stop deforestation for the planting of palm oil trees because it is not only impacting orangutangs, but lots of other animals that live in the rainforests too. Tigers, elephants and an array of bird life are all having their habitats destroyed because of palm oil trees. And the worst part is, that the palm oil is not even being labelled properly! It is being labelled as 'vegetable oil'. The population can play a major part in anything, especially if it is for an endangered species. If we label palm oil properly, it will hit a nerve in all of us, knowing that we are consuming a material that is responsible for the habitat destruction of hundreds of animals every year.

Deforestation for the production of palm oil is wrong because it is not only the animals that are impacted. Clearing land for palm oil production is forcing the indigenous people from their land. How is this fair? We are destroying the homes of people who have lived there their whole lives, and for what? Money? These people have done nothing wrong. How would you feel if you were told to move or get bulldozed along with your whole town?

My final point is not about palm oil, but palm oil labelling. Let me give you an example. Most people prefer to buy free range or cage free eggs. Why?

Because we know that the chickens are being treated well. It is the same case for palm oil. All of us want to make the choice to be morally and ethically responsible as consumers. If we label it properly, not just as 'vegetable oil', it will change the way people buy it, because they will know that the product is contributing to the destruction of the habitats of endangered animals.

Kind regards,

Noah