



PALM OIL AND BIODIVERSITY

- Palm oil is used in biodiversity-rich tropical regions
- Palm oil is imported from tropical regions
- Palm oil production is expanding
- Oil palm expansion is causing deforestation and habitat loss
- Because other oil crops are more expensive to produce
- To reduce its impact on biodiversity, the IUCN has developed a set of guidelines for palm oil production

What is the issue?

Palm oil is derived from the fruit of the oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis* Jacq.), native to West Africa and grows best in tropical climates with abundant water. It is the most widely used vegetable oil in the world, with three quarters of total palm oil production used for food, particularly cooking oil and processed oils and fats. It is also used in cosmetics, cleaning products and biofuels.

Between 1980 and 2014, global palm oil production increased by 100% from 4.5 million tonnes to 9 million tonnes. This was driven by the high demand for palm oil and its relatively low production cost. Industrial-scale oil palm plantations now occupy an area of 18.7 million hectares worldwide (as of October 2014), with smallholder oil palm plantations occupying a significant area. **demand is expected to grow by 50% per year until 2050**

Most (85%) of palm oil comes from Indonesia followed by Thailand and Nigeria. The biggest consumers of palm oil are China, India, the USA and the EU.

Oil palm production is a major source of vegetable oil and is allocated to oil

Oil palm expansion is causing deforestation of natural habitats in particular in Central and South America. Logging and land clearing for agriculture. On average, at least 50% of all land cleared between 2005 and 2015 was used for development.

PALM OIL AND

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