



the Jane Goodall Institute

May, 2010

To whom it may concern,

I fully support the proposed amendment to the Australian Senate that aims to label palm oil in relevant food products in Australia.

Having worked with primates for more than 50 years, it is with great sadness that I have witnessed a steady decline in their numbers globally.

Orang-utans possesses 97 per cent of our DNA. They think and feel in very similar ways to us. We have a responsibility to future generations to save these unique animals, our wild cousins, from extinction.

I believe that the mandatory labelling of palm oil is an important and encouraging step towards doing this. By choosing not to buy products containing unsustainably produced palm oil, Australians can show that they care about the future of this amazing species which is losing huge areas of its habitat as its rainforest home is cut down for oil palm plantations.

Legislation of this sort would make Australia one of the first nations to make a determined push for certified sustainable palm oil – and this will help to reduce the shocking decline in orang-utan numbers caused by the clear cutting of tropical forests for the production of palm oil.

I fully support this legislation and urge the Senate Community Affairs Committee to recommend this Bill be passed by the Australian Senate.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Goodall PhD, DBE
Founder – the Jane Goodall Institute &
UN Messenger of Peace



the Jane Goodall Institute Australia

In 1977, Dr Jane Goodall founded the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) for Wildlife Research, Education and Conservation to provide ongoing support for field research on wild chimpanzees. Today, the mission of JGI is to 'advance the power of individuals to take informed and compassionate action to improve the environment for all living things.'

JGI is a leader in the effort to protect chimpanzees and their habitats, and is widely recognized and respected for establishing innovative community-centered conservation programs in Africa and the Roots & Shoots education program in over 100 countries.

The Jane Goodall Institute Australia engages and inspires Australians to take action in global and local environmental, conservation and humanitarian issues. It fosters public understanding of the interconnected nature of our community to support habitat and species conservation within Australia and across the globe. JGI Australia promotes informed and compassionate action to improve the environment shared by all of Earth's living creatures.

Roots & Shoots (R&S) is the Institute's environmental and humanitarian education program. It is a global youth network taking action to make the world a better place. We believe education inspires understanding and compassion and R&S connects youth of all ages to make a difference by becoming involved in their communities. Each group plans and implements service-learning projects that promote care and concern for animals, the environment, and the human community. Our mission is to foster respect and compassion for all living things, promote understanding of all cultures and beliefs and inspire each individual to take action and make the world a better place for the human, animal, and ecological community.

Submission to the: Inquiry into the Food Standards Amendment (Truth labeling- Palm Oil) Bill 2011.

In support of this Bill

Please see attached letter by Dr Jane Goodall the United Nations Messenger for Peace and Dame of the British Empire and Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute.

JGI Australia supports this Bill as it ensures that every Australian can make informed choices on their purchase through the clear and simple method of labeling. We believe we need to make this positive decision for the Australian people, the sustainable and commercial use of our environment and the animals.

Our environment – we firmly believe that all Australian's deserve to live sustainably now, but also for our children and their children. The labeling of palm oil will not only be the responsible thing to do but also support the growth and purchase of sustainable sources of palm oil, aiding the economies of all countries involved. There is enough degraded land to plant hundreds of palm oil plantations in Asia. This Bill provides an incentive for companies to source certified sustainable palm oil, which contributes to keeping our old growth forests and growing Palm Oil in degraded or grasslands.

The forests of the world hold over 50% of the world's diversity in animals and plants. We cannot recreate old forests. We need to conserve some areas for prosperity, as forests are our rainmakers, carbon reservoirs and home to the planet's great diversity. Forests are the source of our most staple foods and modern medicine, providing livelihoods for over 400 million of the world's poorest people.

The Australian people – as part of a holistic framework we work with communities to ensure always that their needs are met, this is vital for any process to move forward. The people have asked for this labeling through national Zoo campaigns and even our own social media survey prior to this issue going to Parliament in June, 2011. We are a small NGO yet we have been able to secure 6,000 signatures to label Palm Oil.

The Animals - we are citizens of the world, we share this planet with many species of animals and plants. By buying sustainable palm oil we will decrease deforestation saving not only the orang-utan but all the other species that are in the world's forests. The biodiversity of this planet is at stake.

Our conservation work is primarily in Africa. Our staff in the field, have recently reported the dramatic increase in Palm Oil plantations in some of the most diverse areas in the forests of Africa. One of the world's greatest biodiversity hot spots the Congo Basin is now under an additional threat - Palm Oil plantations.