

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to support the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling - Palm Oil) Bill 2009. The unsustainable palm oil is destroying not only orangutans' habitat. I attach photos of what used to be a prime habitat of one of the 5 biggest populations of the proboscis monkeys in the world, which lives along coast and riversides of Balikpapan Bay in East Kalimantan. I have been studying these monkeys since 2006. They now lost their food resources and their birth rate declined dramatically. According to the Population and Habitat Viability Analysis using the VORTEX program, they are expected to be extinct in 14 years unless their habitat gets restored. The palm oil company may now be forced to rehabilitate the riverbanks in order to get their products certified. Cases like this are happening all over Indonesia and Malaysia. But what we truly need in order to save species such as orangutans or proboscis monkeys, is certification of the sustainable palm oil and its labelling. Unless people would get the chance to select the certified products, the strategy will not work; it would be more profitable for the corporations to destroy the forest rather than to improve their image.

Stanislav Lhota, M.Sc., Ph.D.