



FAUNA & FLORA
International

Conserving wildlife since 1903

21st April 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support for the Inquiry into Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labeling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009.

There is an urgent need to improve the sustainability of the palm oil industry to reduce its impact on the world's forests. Palm oil is in huge demand for use in food and cosmetics, as well as feedstock for biofuels. Over 85% of palm oil is grown in Indonesia and Malaysia, both of which harbour high levels of biodiversity in their rainforests, including the endangered orang-utan.

As a conservation organization which specializes in working with communities and businesses to sustain biodiversity around the world, Fauna & Flora International believes in mandatory labeling of palm oil. FFI is on The Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). The organization was part of the process of reviewing RSPO certification and is committed to promoting the growth and use of sustainable palm oil products through credible global standards. The engagement of stakeholders from business, government and non-government organizations in the RSPO process is important to achieving a sustainable, biodiverse palm oil industry.

Fauna & Flora International is a hundred year old international NGO with particular expertise at creating and managing successful governmental and business relationships for the benefit of biodiversity. We do not campaign. We do not mobilize the public. We do not cause scandals. Instead we work with very senior figures in the business and government community and match them to counterparts in the biodiversity and conservation sector. For example, in Australia we are supported by Directors at Goldman Sachs, Macquarie Bank and Australia Zoo (to name but three).

There are millions of people who rely on the palm oil industry for survival; this is why creating a larger market for sustainably grown palm oil is so important. Mandatory labeling of palm oil will drive a stronger market for "Certified Sustainable Palm Oil", creating lasting employment. We know that sustainable industries are far more successful at protecting the rights of labourers with regards to pay and work conditions and the opportunity for workers to be trained in environmentally sustainable agriculture is one not to be missed.

I wish you the best of luck with the inquiry.

Mark Rose
Chief Executive Officer

PATRON: HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

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