

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of The Centre de Rehabilitation des Primates de Lwiro a Primate Sanctuary in the Democratic Republic of Congo, to put forward our support for the proposed bill - Inquiry into Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labelling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009.

Encouraging sustainable palm oil production through fair labelling in developed nations is the best solution to the rapid devastation of the rainforests of South East Asia. Following the destruction of the rainforests of South East Asia due to unsustainable palm oil production, the rainforests of the Democratic Republic of Congo are likely to be the next destination for these plantation types, along with Papua New Guinea. Our region has already suffered greatly through threatening processes such as illegal mining and poaching.

It is absolutely vital that developed nations label palm oil and create a market driver for sustainable palm oil.

As a developed nation Australia should set an example and introduce mandatory labelling as soon as possible. The government needs to show others that changing legislation can make a difference. We now live in a globalised world and the purchases of people in nation such as Australia have far reaching impacts.

Yours sincerely,

  
**ONGD COOPERA**  
C. Muro de la Mata 9, 6º Dch.  
26001 LOGRONO (LA RIOJA)  
02620968

Carmen Vidal  
Manager and Veterinarian  
Centre de Rehabilitation des Primates de Lwiro