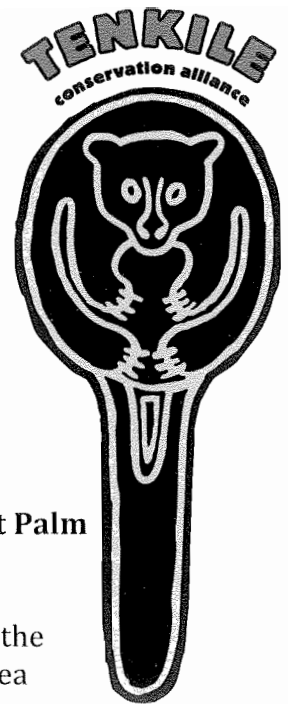


30th March, 2010

Community Affairs
Senate of the Australian Parliament
Canberra, ACT.
Australia.



To whom it may concern

Re: Tenkile Conservation Alliance's support for Melbourne Zoo's "Don't Palm Us Off" campaign.

On behalf of the Tenkile Conservation Alliance (TCA) and the landowners of the Torricelli Mountain Range (39 villages; ~10,000 people) in Papua New Guinea (PNG), we very strongly support the Food Standards Amendment (Truth in Labeling – Palm Oil) Bill 2009.

Planned and active oil palm plantations now surround the Torricelli Mountains in PNG's north-west and pose a major threat to the area's unique and endangered fauna, such as the Scott's Tree-kangaroo, or Tenkile, which is only found in the Torricelli Mountain Range. We are greatly concerned for the environment, the animals and the villagers who rely on the land for subsistence farming.

Oil palm has already caused huge environmental catastrophes in PNG and so needs to be halted. Education for people who use palm oil in their food products is essential. People need to know that conversion of native forests to oil palm plantations is killing animals, destroying ecosystems and not benefitting the grass roots people in the long-term.

Labelling palm oil on food products containing this ingredient is a very important logical step towards informing the Australian community about the choices they can make towards saving the tropical rainforests of the world, which are in essence the lungs of the planet.

I would like the secretariat to strongly consider our submission and confirm that you are welcome to make it public, including publishing it on the web.

Yours truly

Jim Thomas
Director; Tenkile Conservation Alliance, PO Box 1304, Wewak
East Sepik Province, Papua New Guinea.
www.tenkile.com