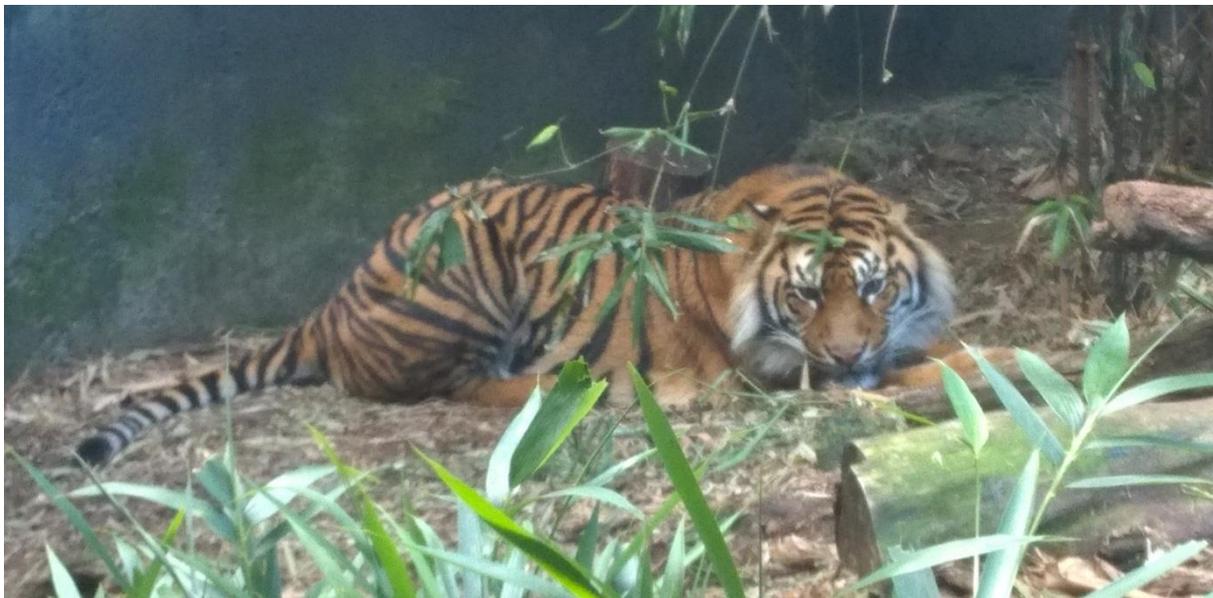


# How we are killing Sumatran Tigers and Orang-utans

By Joyce Year 2

**Sumatran Tiger and Orang-utan populations are becoming endangered as unsustainable palm oil plantations continue to remove native trees so they can plant oil palm trees.**



[A Sumatran Tiger from Taronga Zoo.](#)

Around the world, people are buying items that contain palm oil such as; food, soaps, shampoo and dishwashing liquids. This has caused a high demand for palm oil. As a result, Indonesian and Borneo people are cutting down native trees because they want to make money from palm oil trees.

The food industry favours this oil for many reasons. Palm oil is edible, making it perfect for use in food. It does not have any flavour so it won't change the taste when used in cooking and it has a much longer shelf life than other vegetable oils.

More and more people want palm oil which results in an increase in palm oil plantations. Unfortunately, palm oil trees only grow in the tropics and require a lot of water, so forests are being cleared in Malaysia, Indonesia and Borneo.

The production of palm oil in this region benefits the locals as it provides them with a source of income. More importantly, palm oil trees will produce fruit for 30 years, they are easy to grow and produce more oil per fruit than any other oil producing species of plants.

Banning palm oil production altogether would not solve the problem. Instead, palm oil producers would grow other oil plants. This would be a problem as all other oil plants require more land to produce the same amount of oil as palm oil produce.

Shoppers should buy items that contain sustainable palm oil. They can look out for the RSPO logo which shows that the product uses sustainable palm oil. If everyone made the switch to sustainable palm oil, it would go a long way to helping Sumatran Tigers and Orang-utans.