

**½ the items in your shopping basket could be impacting Sumatran Tigers.**

By Samika Year 4

**Unsustainable Palm oil is killing Sumatran Tigers and Orang-utans in Indonesia.**



A Sumatran Tiger from Taronga Zoo searching for food.

#### **The negative consequences of palm oil**

In Malaysia and Indonesia large areas of native forests are being cleared to grow fields and fields of palm trees. Around 300 football fields are removed or cleared every hour for palm oil production.

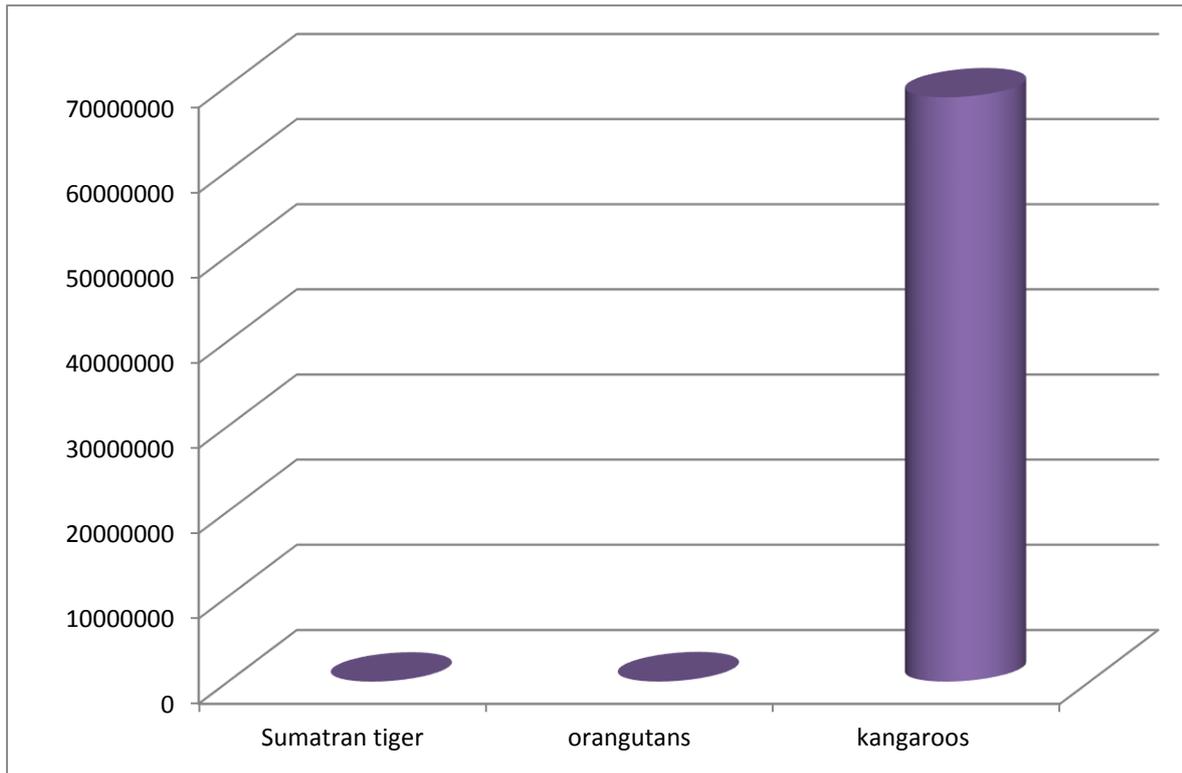
The process requires the removal of native trees, which is leading to deforestation in the region. These natural forests covers are the trees that Sumatran Tigers and Orang-utans require for survival. As a result, Sumatran Tigers and Orang-utans are dying of hunger and loss of home.

***“Lots of the rainforests where Sumatran Tigers like to live are being cleared.”***

According to Ben, a zookeeper from Tooronga zoo, “It affects Sumatran Tigers because it can take away Sumatran Tiger habitat. So lots of the rainforests where Sumatran Tigers like to live are being cleared.”

Local farmers are killing Sumatran Tigers who enter their plantations as they search for places to eat and live. They view them as agricultural pests. As their natural habitat decreases there is no place for the Sumatran Tigers to hide making it harder for them to escape. Consequently, farmers are pushing our Sumatran Tigers to extinction.

### Populations of Sumatran Tigers and Orangu-tans in their native countries



### A growing demand

The oil is very useful. Companies are using palm oil for ½ of the packaged products in the world. It is also used a lot in soaps, shampoos and toothpaste. It can be used in biscuits, crisps, ice cream, cereals and chocolate. It can also be found in biofuel.

Palm oil is favoured by the food industry as it is edible and can be used in cooking. It lasts for a very long time, more than the other vegetable oils on your shelves and has a smooth texture. This makes it perfect for cooking things that require oil.

Palm trees are important as they produce higher amounts of good quality oil as the fruits of a palm tree are 50% oil. They take up less space than other oil based trees. The trees produce fruits for about thirty years and grow quickly. This makes growing palm oil



cheaper and more efficient than other oilseed plants. The oil has multiple uses such as a food ingredient, a job producing industry and cheap source of food. The oil is produced in places such as Sumatra, Indonesia and Malaysia.

### **The future of palm oil**

To help protect Sumatran Tigers and Orang-utans, people can check if the products they buy contain palm oil. If so, is it sustainably sourced palm oil? Shoppers should look for the RSPO logo to be sure if it is uses sustainable palm oil. If it doesn't, **put it down** and look for one with it.



**A Sumatran Tiger taking it easy in the safety of the zoo.**