

**Research Activity Report**  
**Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”**

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<b>1. Country/location of visit</b>
Japan/Kyoto University
<b>2. Project title</b>
Conserv'Session #7: Terry Pratchett: Facing extinction with Tomoyuki Tajima
<b>3. Date</b>
2017. 05. 20
<b>4. Main host researcher and affiliation</b>
none
<b>5. Progress and results of your outreach activity</b>
<p>This session was held at the International Seminar House and gathered 41 persons. It sounded by far the most international session we ever had as well as the most entertaining as the number of questions and comments exceeded the average. We were also glad that Prof. Jane Singer from the graduate school of global environmental studies joined our event and shared her experience as a researcher in Sumatra island. Tomoyuki Tajima (PhD candidate at Kyoto University Laboratory of Human Evolution Studies), our invited speaker, who has been studying male mating strategies of Bornean orangutans since 2010, had prepared a nice presentation expanding on what the film “Facing Extinction” just introduced regarding orangutan’s survival threats. Deforestation, hunting and pet trade are the most important ones. During Mr. Tajima’s short presentation, the public also learnt about the lack of trained local scientists studying orangutans in Malaysia which may explain why or be a consequence of the not so high interest that locals vow to orangutans.</p>
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div>
<p><b>Tomoyuki Tajima (left) talking about orangutan’s survival threats to a full room (right).</b></p>
<p>Another turning discussion point was palm oil, the main cause of deforestation and habitat fragmentation, that lead to isolating orangutan populations and therefore threaten their survival. In response to some comments from the audience on how to recognize/avoid products containing palm oil, Zsofia Budai (Conserv'Session) came up with some tips given by the Orangutan Foundation International on how “to kick palm oil out of your life” (see picture). Then, we were glad to have the presence of Mr. Christopher Wong (WWF Malaysia) who heard about this event by chance and joined. He let everybody expressed her/his comments and was the last one to provide updates on the situation in Malaysia before revealing his identity – as he did not want to biased the debate.</p>

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# BE A CONSCIENTIOUS CONSUMER

## 3 EASY WAYS TO KICK PALM OIL OUT OF YOUR LIFE

### # 1 - Check the ingredients

Palm oil is tricky to spot! There are hundreds of chemical names for palm oil derivatives.

Here's a few of the names used to disguise palm oil:

- Cetyl palmitate
- Elaeis Guineensis Glyceryl Stearate
- Ethylhexyl Palmitate
- Hydrated Palm Glycerides
- Octyl palmitate
- Palm Kernel Oil, Palm Kernel Olein, Palm Kernel Stearin
- Palmolein
- Palmate Sodium Laureth Sulphate
- Palmitate Vitamin A, Ascorbyl Palmitate
- Palmitic Acid
- Palmitoyl Oxostearamide
- Palmitoyl Tetrapeptide-3
- Palmityl Alcohol
- Sodium Dodecyl Sulphate
- Sodium Isostearoyl Lactylate
- Sodium Kerneolate
- Sodium Lauryl Sulphates (or Sulfoacetate)
- Stearic Acid, Steareth -2, Steareth -20

Remember: 70% of the time when the ingredients say “vegetable oil”, it's actually palm oil!

If you're not sure, then keep in mind, it's probably palm oil, if...

- saturated fat is more than 40%
- “palm” appears anywhere in the ingredients (as a word or syllable)
- it's a pre-packaged sweet with an unbelievably long shelf-life
- it's a frozen microwave dinner
- It doesn't have another oil clearly listed (sunflower, olive, coconut, canola, etc)

### # 2 - Use a cell phone App

You know what's easier than analyzing the ingredients? Letting an App do it for you.

Scan the barcode with your smartphone and get the answer on the spot!

[orangutan.org/app](http://orangutan.org/app)

### # 3 - Know the good guys

Overwhelmed with trying to figure it out in the aisle? Us too! **The best way to live a palm oil free life is to do your homework before you go to the store.** Instead of watching for what to avoid, go shopping with a list of what's safe.

There are a lot of resources online to help you determine if your favorite products and brands contain palm oil. When all else fails, calling the manufacturer is the best way to get a definitive answer. (And it lets them know that people are paying attention to palm oil!)

Check out OFI's "Safe Choices" guide at  
[orangutan.org/palmoilSAFEchoices](http://orangutan.org/palmoilSAFEchoices)

**THE DEMAND FOR PALM OIL IS DRIVING ORANGUTANS TO EXTINCTON.**

TO LEARN MORE, GO TO:  
[www.orangutan.org/palmoil](http://www.orangutan.org/palmoil)

**WHAT IS PALM OIL?** Palm oil is made from the fruit of the African oil palm tree and grown throughout the world. Today, 85% of palm oil comes from Malaysia & Indonesia.  
**WHAT IS PALM OIL USED FOR?** It's in 50% of all household & food products sold in the West. It's in everything from shampoo, toothpaste, detergent, frozen microwave dinners, cookies, peanut butter, lotion, make-up, & much more!  
**PALM OIL IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF CLIMATE CHANGE.** Every day more virgin rainforest is burned & cleared to plant more palm oil plantations. Palm oil is the leading cause of deforestation in Borneo & Sumatra where orangutans live. Loss of habitat is why orangutans are dying. 5,000 orangutans are killed each year because of palm oil expansion. Orangutans have lost 90% of their habitat in the last 20 years.

**ORANGUTAN FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL**  
[www.orangutan.org](http://www.orangutan.org)



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Established in 1986 by Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas, Orangutan Foundation International is a nonprofit charity that relies on supporters to continue its important work of protecting endangered orangutans.

OFI has protected more than 1.5 million acres of rainforest habitat and saved hundreds of captive and orphaned orangutans from death or a dire life in captivity—giving them a second chance to grow up and be free.

**3 easy ways to kick palm oil out of your life by the Orangutan Foundation International!**

## 6. Others

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