

Orangutan Outcasts

How Palm Oil is Destroying the Ecosystem
 Lily Beals, Aaron Brady, Lukas Gandras, Norah Giles, Jai Patel
 Worcester Polytechnic Institute



The Problem

The palm oil industry is causing Bornean Orangutan habitat destruction in Malaysia.

Project Goals

- Assess the processes driving orangutan habitat loss and the consequences
- Evaluate solutions for orangutan conservation
- Share our findings to help raise awareness

Research Questions

- What are the drivers of the palm oil industry?
- How does deforestation affect orangutans?

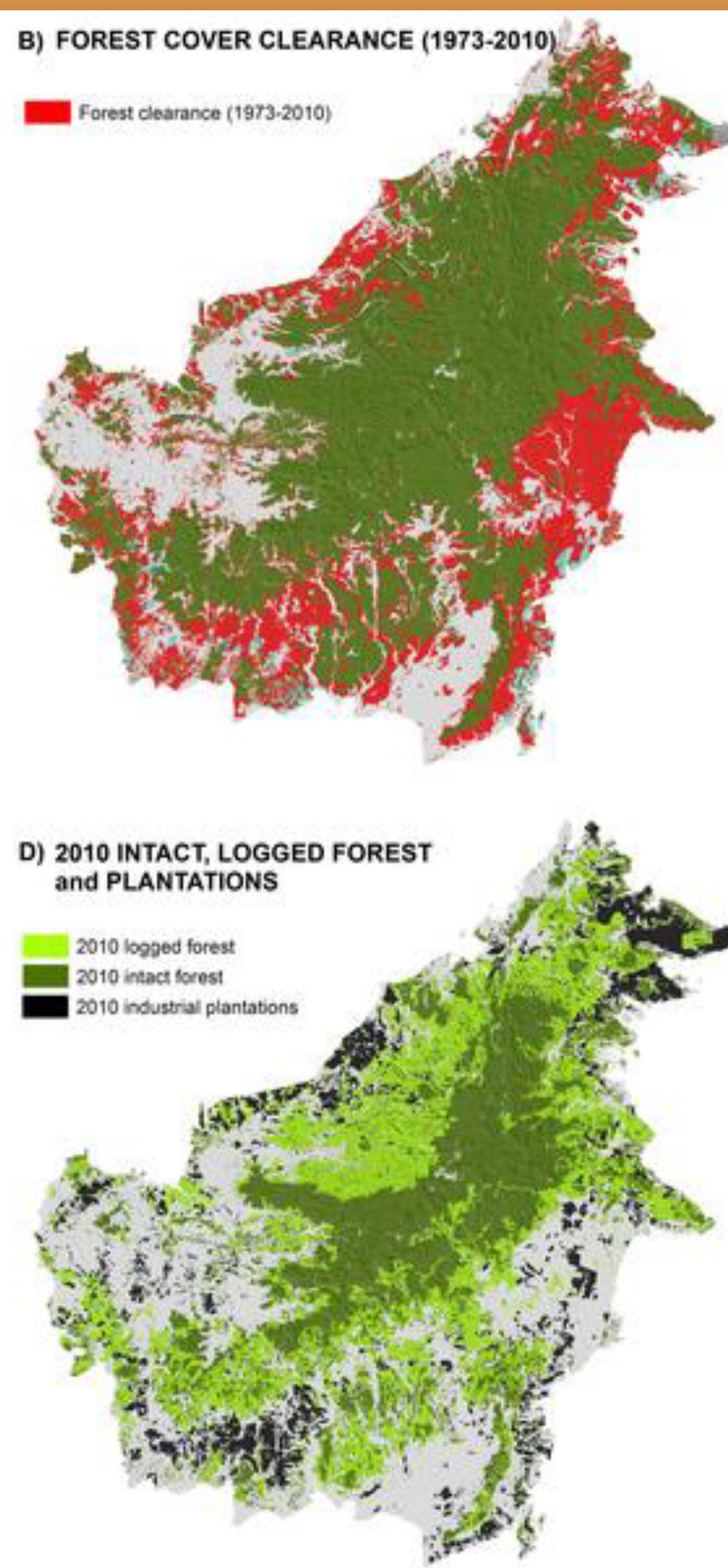
Deforestation & Palm Oil Industry

12.1%

Decline in Orangutan Habitat



Bornean Orangutan



Monoculture of Oil Palm Trees

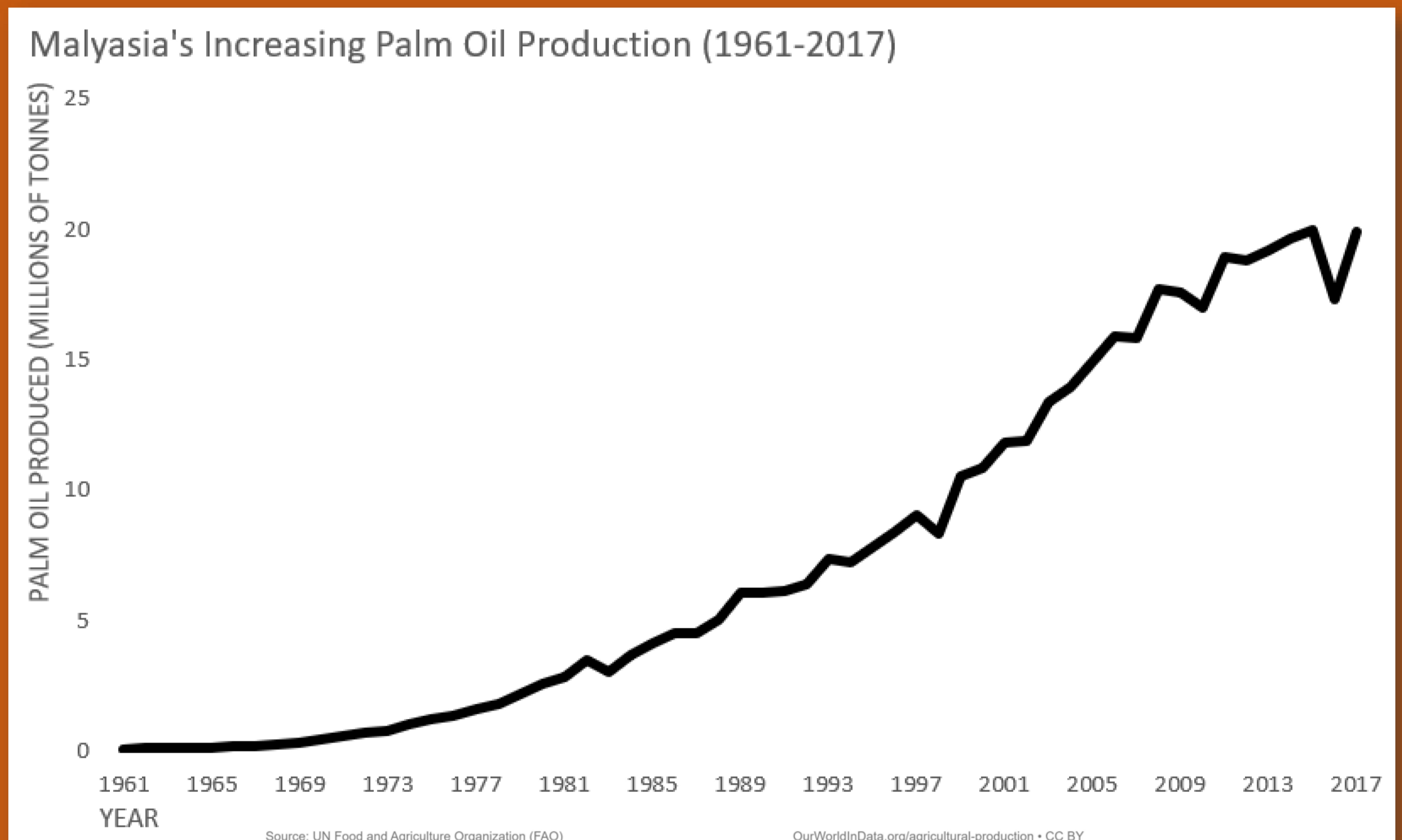
Top Right: Red shows forest lost to deforestation in Borneo
 Bottom Right: Map of logging and plantations in Borneo in 2010

Global

The wide use of palm oil has caused an increase in global supply and demand.

Local

Economies are extremely dependent on palm oil for trade and stability.



Global Companies with Palm Oil in their Products

Methods/Approach

- Analyzed sources from local, industrial, and conservationist perspectives
- Provided us information on palm oil production and changes in orangutan population and behavior

Solutions

Countries are making efforts to strictly import sustainable palm oil. **12,000+** smallholders have obtained RSPO certifications.

Conservation efforts are being made to protect forests, reclaim illegal palm oil plantations, rehabilitate orphaned orangutans, and educating local communities.