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Palm Oil and Exported Deforestation

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Introduction

Palm oil is used in our everyday lives through:

- Beauty/hygiene products
- Bioenergy
- Food



Figure 1: The center of oil palm fruit

Indonesia and Malaysia account for 85% of the world's palm oil production, making them the largest exporters.

Because palm oil is a highly productive crop and is in high demand, how can companies integrate sustainability to limit deforestation and preserve biodiversity?

Purpose/Aim

Increase awareness of how palm oil production has led to deforestation and loss of biodiversity.

Determine what people and companies can do to support sustainable production of palm oil.

Methodology

The IUCN Oil Palm Task Force analyzed the classification of forests and their geographical and temporal scopes and the use of satellite images.

Results

General Break Down:

- 1/4 of global forest loss* comes from tropical deforestation
- 95% of deforestation occurs in tropical regions
- 28% of deforestation occurs in Southeast Asia
- 13.94% share of tropical deforestation in Indonesia
- 18.4% is driven by oilseed production

Palm Oil Break down:

- 2% of global tree loss
- 0.2% intact forest loss*

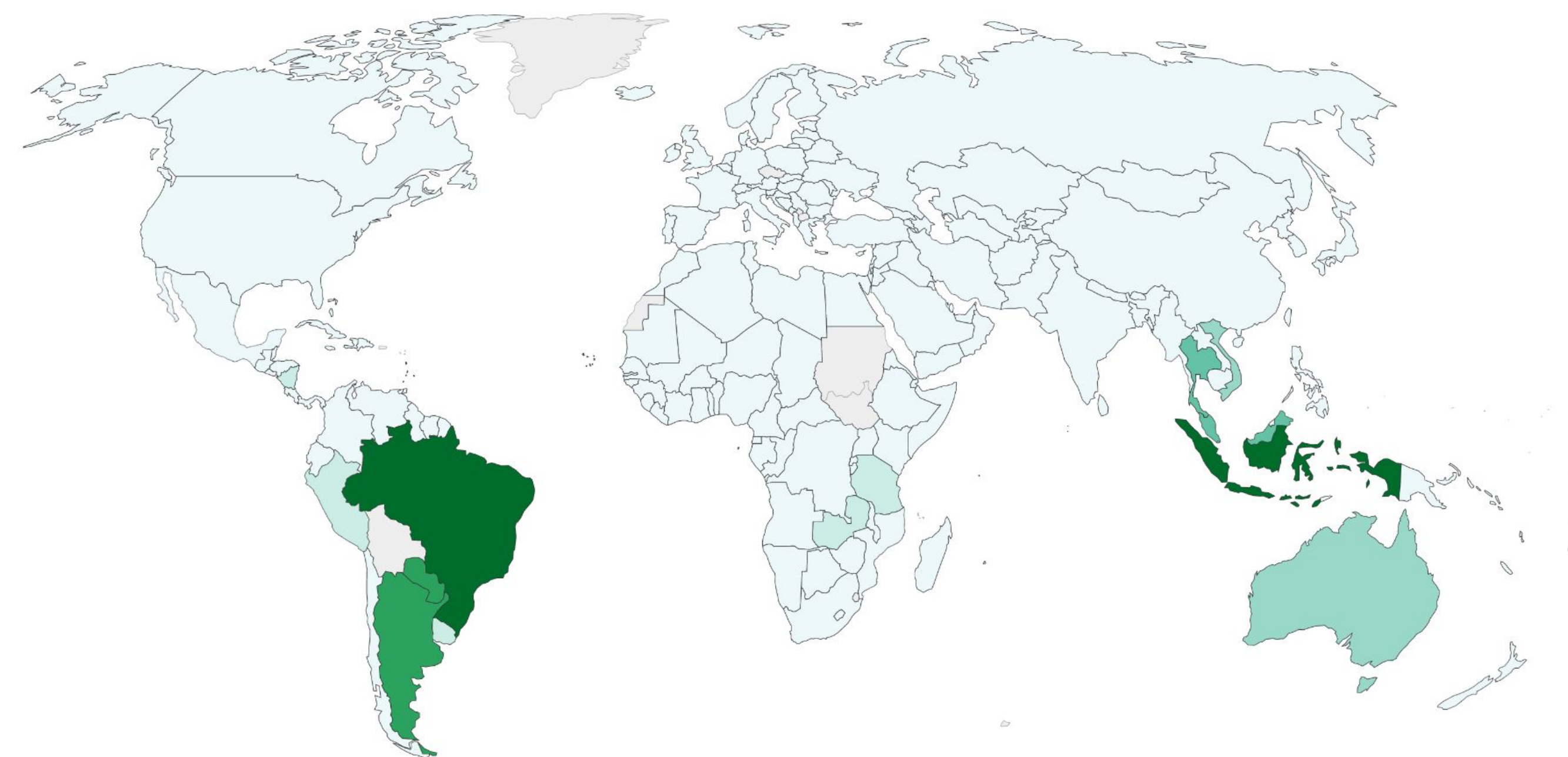
*combines permanent deforestation and forest degradation

Oil Palm plantations account for 15% of deforestation in Indonesia

Chart/Diagram/Table/Image

Exported deforestation, 2013

Exported deforestation is the amount of annual deforestation that is driven by the production of food and forestry products that are exported for consumption in other countries. This is measured in hectares.



No data 0 ha 10,000 ha 25,000 ha 50,000 ha 100,000 ha 250,000 ha

Source: Pendrill, F., Persson, U. M., Godar, J., & Kastner, T. (2019). Deforestation displaced: trade in forest-risk commodities and the prospects for a global forest transition. OurWorldInData.org/forests • CC BY

Figure 2: Indonesia is one of the world leaders in exported deforestation as palm oil production continues to grow.

Conclusions/Future Research

As palm oil production has become more sustainable, there has been a decrease in deforestation.

Figure 3: Oil Palm Plantation



Based upon the findings, we recommend the following:

- Eliminate the use of palm oil for biofuel
- Decrease land hectares, increase crop yield
- Require suppliers with sustainability certification
- Avoid boycotts, instead support sustainable palm oil products

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