

Biodiversity



Forest being cleared for palm oil in West Kalimantan. The loss of rainforest and biodiversity is one of the key controversies surrounding the expansion of palm oil. Photo credit: Eric Wakker, 2009.



High conservation value forest set aside by the company, PT REA. Photo credit: Eric Wakker, 2007.

Climate Change



Peat land clearing and land fires in Riau, Sumatra. Draining and burning peat releases large amounts of carbon into the atmosphere.
Photo credit: Eric Wakker, 2002.



A “Palm Oil Mill Effluent” (POME) lagoon in Sabah. The methane created by these POME lagoons contributes significantly to the palm oil industry’s carbon footprint. Photo credit: Oliver Pye, 2011.

Social



A palm oil harvester at work in Sabah. In Malaysia, most work is done by migrant workers from Indonesia. Photo credit: Oliver Pye, 2011.



Roll call at a palm oil mill in Sabah. Transnational palm oil companies operate mills in both Malaysia and Indonesia. Photo credit: Oliver Pye, 2011.

Conflict



Taking palm oil seedlings to plant in Sarawak. Seen as a development engine by some, the development model embodied in the palm oil industry is contested by others. Photo credit: Eric Wakker, 2008.



A demonstration protesting the celebrations of “100 years of palm oil” in Medan, Sumatra. Small scale farmers and women daily workers claim palm oil has “impoverished farmers and the environment”. Photo credit: Oliver Pye, 2011.