NGOs Exposed – No Moral Case Against Palm Oil

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The Outline of Presentation

• Making a big mountain out of a mole hill: palm oil and Western Environmental NGOs.
• The EU trade protectionist policy and their paid agents
• The Western Environmental NGOs immoral campaigns
• Malaysian and Indonesian palm oil industries countering campaigns
• Future developments, sustainable oils and global warming and the money behind them.
• Winners and losers over a non-issue, but science is on the side of palm oil.
The Outline of Presentation

• Making a big mountain out of a mole hill: palm oil and the WENGOs.

You will be shocked to see how ridiculous a campaign that the WENGOs are prepared to pursue when given some money by the EU environmental ministries.

In the next chart, the arrow shows oil palm occupies a very small share of world grain and oil seed planted area. The WENGOs want to stop the expansion of the oil palm area but not other bigger areas which involve bigger deforestation. Is stopping deforestation truly their intention?
In 2008, oil palm’s share was tiny (only 15 out of 975 million hectares, 1.56%).
Since 1961, palm has added 11 million ha, other oil crops 137 million.
Contribution of crops to carbon stock loss (GHG emission)

M t CO$_2$

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>World grains</th>
<th>Other oils</th>
<th>Oil palm</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1971</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Largest contributor to climate change is fossil fuel usage.

![Pie chart showing contributions to climate change. Fossil fuel contributes 57%, deforestation 17%, others 3%, CH4 14%, N2O 8%, and F-gases 1%.]
## World Cultivated Area of Oilseeds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use Type</th>
<th>Total Area (million ha)</th>
<th>As % of Area</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Total Agricultural Land *</td>
<td>4267</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil Seeds **</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>4.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soyabean **</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>1.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rapeseed **</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td>Sunflower **</td>
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<td>0.46</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oil Palm</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
<td><strong>0.22</strong>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coconut **</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Oil Seeds **</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>1.37</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Malaysian Oil Palm</strong></td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td><strong>0.09</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

_Sources:_  
* FAO  ** Oil World  *** Oil palm cultivation comprises 4.7% of total land area planted with oil seeds & 0.22% of world agricultural land
Summary

• The area occupied by oil palm is so insignificant compared to total agricultural areas of the world such that it contributes very little to deforestation and GHG emission compared to other agricultural crops.

• When compared to GHG emission of other sectors such as fossil fuel which emits 57% share of GHG emission, even the agricultural sector emission share is small, about 17%. Therefore the 0.22 % share of oil palm in agriculture which emits 17% of global emission is equal to 0.22/100 x 17 ie 0.0374 %. This does not take into account that oil palm is sequestering CO2 as a forest plantation.

• Let me print it bigger: 0.0374 % i.e. palm oil carbon footprint

• Blaming oil palm for global warming is truly making a huge mountain out of a very small mole hill. It is shocking what the WENGOs can do to spin the facts.

• Developing countries have the right to increase their carbon footprint by planting more oil palm because they have not taken up their rightful share of agricultural development and they have not yet developed enough as developing countries. They need to overcome poverty through economic activities like planting more oil palm.
The Outline of Presentation

• Making a big mountain out of a mole hill: palm oil and the WENGOs.

• The EU trade protectionist policy and their paid agents: The WENGOs
The Problem: EU Biofuel Ambition not Sustainable

- EU is a major net importer of oils and fats of 8 million tonnes per year even before biodiesel demand was fully established.

- Demand of oils & fats for EU biodiesel development could increase by another 8 million tonnes by 2015.

- 1st Need: The EU has to open up new land to produce oilseed to supply the biodiesel target. The needed expansion could be an area of the size of Denmark and Belgium combined. Such land is not available as deforestation and loss of biodiversity will occur. The EU thus has to import most of its additional requirements.

- 2nd Need: Biodiesel has to be subsidized to be viable to customers but EU is trying to avoid subsidizing imported biodiesel oil sources.
EU-27: Net Import Trend

Source: Oil World
The Dilemma: EU Avoiding to subsidize imported Biodiesel or its imported raw materials

- EU has not enough land for expansion in rapeseed production, and needs to import palm oil and becomes even a bigger net importer of oils and fats to meet its biodiesel target.

- The EU does not want to use tax-payers’ money to subsidize imported biodiesel or imported oils for its biodiesel production.

- The EU has to create a discriminatory policy to continue subsidizing biodiesel from locally produced rapeseed oil but not from imported palm oil.

- Biodiesel has to be subsidized to be accepted by customers.
The EU has to use non-tariff means to discriminate palm oil from receiving biofuel subsidies or tax relief

- EU Renewable Energy Directives (RED) have purposely assigned an emission saving default value (DV) on palm oil (19%) to be below the acceptable threshold limit of 35%. Rapeseed was assigned a DV of 36%. Our lawyers have confirmed this policy to be infringing WTO provisions. Scientific studies by independent EU consultants put the DV of palm oil above 60%.

- To defend the blatant discrimination, WENGOs were paid by the EU environmental commissions and ministries to mount anti-palm oil campaigns. Some WENGOs obtain up to 70% of their operating budget from these official sources.

- The WENGOs have let loose a huge army of followers to campaign against palm oil irrespective for food or fuel.
RED – Green Protectionism

• According to an EU statement,
  “bio fuels should not be made from raw materials from tropical forests or recently deforested areas, drained peat land, wetland or highly bio diverse areas... the conversion of a forest to a palm oil plantation would fall foul of the sustainability requirements.”

• This is green protectionism pure and simple; it biases the rules so they favor European rapeseed oil and American corn ethanol at the expense of agricultural biodiesel from poor tropical regions.
Summary

• The EU protectionist stance in agriculture is well established. Palm oil is seen as competing for biodiesel market in the EU and the protectionist strategy has been formulated through the RED policy.

• The EU has the dilemma that it needs to import palm oil to meet its biodiesel target; it needs to protect rapeseed farmers from competition, and it needs to avoid paying subsidy to imported palm oil without infringing WTO rules.

• Their present strategy is to continue with the trade protectionist policy and use their paid agents (the WENGOs) to put palm oil industry on the defensive. They make use of the past experience that small developing countries have rarely succeeded in taking their complaints against big developed countries at WTO.

• Ironically, their leaders go to China and India announcing that they want to promote and protect free trade. Is it the “Do as I say but not as I do” syndrome again?
**The Outline of Presentation**

- Making a big mountain out of a mole hill: palm oil.
- The EU trade protectionist policy and their paid agents.
- The Western Environmental NGOs immoral campaigns.

There is no logical explanation to their campaigns!
The Western Environmental NGOs: Want No Deforestation Only in Developing Countries involved with oil palm

• Strangely, only Western Environmental NGOs (WENGOs) are campaigning against palm oil. Environmental NGOs from developing countries are not campaigning against palm oil (This must be because WENGOs are being paid to do it).

• The WENGOs want no deforestation in developing countries but they are not fighting to stop deforestation in developed countries.

• The WENGOs want no deforestation only for oil palm cultivation but deforestation for competing oils is not of concern to them.

• The WENGOs accused oil palm of emitting GHG but they are not concerned with major emitters of GHG especially from industries in their own countries like the use of coal and other fossil fuels.

• The WENGOs want only palm oil to be certified sustainable but other competing oils especially from their countries are not required to be certified sustainable.

• The WENGOs were supposed to stop deforestation for future expansion in palm oil production for use as biofuel. Now they and their followers especially, are campaigning against palm oil past expansion as well as the future.
Emission from Coal versus Palm Oil

• 1 tonne of coal will emit 3.7 tonnes of CO₂.
• The 18 million tonnes of coal produced in the UK annually will emit 66 million tonnes of CO₂, contributing to global warming.

• 66 million tonnes of CO₂ emission per year is equivalent to deforestation of 378,000 hectares of degraded rain forests per year.

• This is more than double the yearly expansion of oil palm cultivation in Malaysia which in the past involved deforestation of degraded forest land zoned for agriculture.

• Both oil palm and Coal mining are economic activities that involve emission of CO2. The WENGOs only want to curtail oil palm planting but they could have better results if they campaign to shut their coal mines. Could this be double standards again?
The Western Environmental NGOs: Do not Care for Development Needs of Developing Countries

- The WENGOs are interfering in the sovereign right of democratic and western educated governments of developing countries to develop their agricultural land.

- The common people elected the government to govern and develop their countries. They did not elect the WENGOs. It is up to the people and their government to develop their land and plant the desired crops that they choose to overcome poverty prevalent in these developing countries. Why must the WENGOs curtail the poor countries from overcoming poverty?

- The WENGOs do not seem to understand that farmers will plant other crops if palm oil does not fetch a good price. Boycotting palm oil will not save forests.
### Summary: WENGOs Immoral Anti-Palm Oil Campaigns

- The WENGOs are essentially paid agents of the EU environmental authorities, because they take money from the EU authorities to finance their anti-palm oil campaigns.

- The WENGOs are focusing only on palm oil, and this is immoral because other oils, other industries and other countries are not targeted. These other entities do not perform as good as palm oil in many parameters of interest such as sustainability or global warming.

- The land occupied by oil palm in negligibly small (1.56%) compared to areas under grains and oilseeds that it is so illogical to blame oil palm for causing GHG emissions, or habitat loss, or world deforestation.

- To carry out their campaigns and turn the many positives of palm oil into negatives, the WENGOs have resorted to telling lies, and quote bogus studies from other NGOs who produce non-refereed publication or quote unsubstantiated ‘scientific’ facts. They claim freedom to voice their views (lies) as part of their democratic practices but they are not ashamed to propagate lies as non of their allegations are supported by scientific evidence.

- They claim to be experts in oil palm cultivation, rainforest conservation or conservation of orang utans. In reality most of them are desk researchers and their so called scientific reports are often authored by lawyers. Some Greenpeace persons who have no PhD degrees or relevant high qualifications are making statements on the nutritional effects of palm oil as though they are the authority.
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• **Malaysian and Indonesian palm oil industries countering campaigns**

  We have complied but the WENGOs anti palm oil campaigns are still active!
WENGOs claim orangutan population is reduced because of deforestation by oil palm. They projected that the orangutans will be extinct by 2012.

**Countering statements**

- Sabah and Sarawak have sufficient permanent forest reserves which are not allowed for conversion. So how can orangutan population be reduced or become extinct by 2012? A survey in 2009 funded by the POWCF showed that the orangutan population has stabilized between 16000 and 18000 because the forest reserve area has stabilized at least at 50% of the total area of the states.

- UN convention requires only 10% of a country’s land to be retained as forest for biodiversity conservation purposes. Malaysia overall has 56% permanent forest area.
Countering the Wild Allegations by WENGOs

• Oil palm cultivation is accused of causing deforestation.

Countering statements
• In Malaysia, oil palm is cultivated on land allocated by law for agriculture. All countries need to allocate some of their land for agriculture.

• Malaysia allocates about 25% of its land for agriculture and up to 70% of this is grown with oil palm and 25% rubber. Farmers are free to plant their preferred crops on this legal agricultural land. The UK allocates 72% of its land for growing monoculture crops and farming.

• Malaysia has 56% permanent forest, and pledged to maintain at least 50% of its land as permanent forests. Developed countries have less than 30%. For e.g. the UK has only 11% forest. How much more forests should be preserved and how much land should be devoted to agriculture in a developing country? Who set the standards for land use: the WENGOs or the sovereign governments of the developing countries? Should we follow their example, or should they follow our example i.e. they have to plant back forest on their over exploited agricultural land.
Countering the Wild Allegations by WENGOs

• Oil palm cultivation is accused of causing deforestation

**Countering statements**

• The next chart shows how we have complied by keeping more than sufficient forest to meet the UN requirement, and to ensure adequate forest for biodiversity conservation purposes, mitigation of global warming and operating a vibrant forestry industry.
Forest in Developed vs Developing Countries

Average: 25.5%

Average: 57%
Countering Baseless Charges by WENGOs

• The WENGOs allege the rights of indigenous forest peoples are impacted by oil palm expansion.

Countering statement

• These charges are inflated and ignore the fact that laws exist to arbitrate whenever cases of infringement occurs. In most cases the status of infringement is unclear, but often it is the indigenous people infringing on government land.

• The argument that forest peoples are hostile to the development that comes with growth of the oil palm industry is never substantiated. On the contrary, the majority of rural people including the Penans want developments including land to plant rubber or oil palm. That is why they vote for the government of the day.

• Many are glad of jobs and basic amenities that enable them to escape poverty and enjoy a better life. Some are already millionaires while the rural townships are booming because of revenue from oil palm and rubber.
**Countering Statement**

- It is all about land allocation. It is up to farmers to plant the best crop to generate maximum revenue based on yield and price of the crop. Land is the limitation. We cannot force our farmers to produce food. They may well plant their land with rubber, or timber if they can get a higher income from it.

- In Malaysia it is better to plant oil palm compared to jetropha (a non-edible biofuel source) as the former gives higher yield (2 to 3 times higher) and has more markets i.e. both for food and fuel, compared to jetropha.

- Oil palm is therefore the most viable raw material for fuel use. Its high yield saves ten times more land from deforestation for conversion to agriculture for growing low yielding crops such as soya.

- If in future rubber prices are attractive again, farmers will likely plant rubber, and use the money to buy food produced by others. Rubber is also important for the world.
WENGOs blame planting oil palm on peat emits massive emission of CO2

Countering Statement

• Research found that GHG emission from oil palm plantations on peat land is much lower than that from the original degraded forest peat swamp. Oil palm actually rehabilitates degraded peat forests with reduced GHG emission results.

• The development of tropical peat land for oil palm plantations is simply to change the vegetation.

• This means total greenhouse gas emissions by comparison have turned out to be far less.

• This contrasts with temperate peat land development in the northern hemisphere which involves the mining of peat for energy, thus increasing the carbon emission.

• If oil palm carbon foot print is 0.0374% of world’s emission, that from oil palm planted on peat must be 0.00374 %, assuming 10% of plantation is on peat. Even increasing oil palm planting on peat by 100 times will not add much to the emission foot print. Yet planting of palm on peat is protested, while burning fossil fuel (57 % emission footprint) is promoted by the WENGOs. They want OPEC to sell them more supplies of crude petroleum.
Methane Cycle & Palm Oil’s Sustainability

- A study comparing palm oil plantations on peat land with both virgin peat land and sorghum plantations on peat land discovered methane was sequestered only when oil palm was planted.
- Methane was released in virgin lands when sorghum was planted.
- In other words, palm oil plantations are net methane sinks relative to alternatives.

This finding flies in the face of allegations of increasing emissions due to development of peat land, one of the central claims of the WENGOs and the European Commission.
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Future Development: Land Needed for supplying growth in Future Demand of oils and fats

- World population is expected to increase by 70-80 million / year
- Demand of oils & fats expands by 4-5 Million MT/year
- To supply 5 Million MT of soybean oil, an additional 10 Million hectares of land per year is required.
- Only 1 Million ha is required if palm oil is the choice. Oil palm prevents 10 times more land from deforestation to meet oil shortages in the future.
- World arable land is stagnant / shrinking due to population growth.
- By 2020, arable land will drop to less than 1 acre per capita. Oil palm is the solution because it is high yielding and requires little land area to produce the targeted quantity.
- Palm oil provides a responsible solution to meet future shortages in oil and fats
WENGOs anti-palm oil campaign having counter-productive effects

• If palm oil future production expansion is discouraged, through moratorium on deforestation in Indonesia and Malaysia, 10 times faster rate of deforestation will occur as world shortages in oils and fats will have to be supplied by inefficient crops such as soyabean or rapeseed oils produced in other countries.

• Rate of GHG emissions will be accelerated by 10 times accordingly due to the planting of inefficient low yielding crops. Animal habitats will be reduced by a similar rate of 10 times compared to a situation where oil palm expansion is allowed its normal expansion.

• The EU will be forced to use expensive and high carbon footprint rapeseed oil in meeting their RED biofuel targets, and consumers will be bearing the burden of high cost biodiesel in the EU.

• Oil palm planted on agricultural land captures 10 times more CO2 and emits 10 times more oxygen. By avoiding the use of palm oil in the malicious WENGO’s campaign, the benefits of palm oil through carbon emission reduction and oxygen release will be negated.

• Palm oil offers the best outcomes: it avoids accelerated deforestation, it mitigates global warming, it provides oxygen compared to other economic activities such as coal mining or petroleum production.
World Arable & Permanent Crop Land Per Capita

Source: FAOSTATS

Per capita crop land has declined since 1960. Pressure on farms to increase yields.
Grain production per capita will be declining
Net Importing & Exporting Countries for Oils & Fats (2009)

Source: Oil World
Future development: Supply & Demand Balance

- Looking at 6 regions of the world, only 2 regions are net exporters of oils & fats i.e. Asia Pacific (palm oil) & Americas (soybean oil).
- Other 4 regions are net importers. 75% of net imports are by developing countries.

- Net imports of oil and fats increased from 25 million tonnes in 2000 to almost 50 million tonnes in 2009. As future net imports increase, there will not be a corresponding increase in net exports from Malaysia and Indonesia if new agricultural land expansion is discouraged.
- The shortages in oils and fats will impact importers (mostly developing countries) immensely as oils & fats prices will increase.
World Dependence on Imported Oils Surges

The graph illustrates the trend of world dependence on imported oils from 2000 to 2009. It shows the net imports ('000 MT) of various countries and regions, including China PR, EU-27, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Others. The net imports have significantly increased over the years.
EU: Total Usage of Oils and Fats: Importance of the Energy Sector

Source: Oil World
EU: Biodiesel: Production Trend

Source: Oil World
High Land Productivity of Oil Palm

Oil palm productivity compared to other oilseed crops
• 11 x more than Soyabean
• 10 x more than Sunflower
• 7 x more than Rapeseed
Worldwide Oil palm occupies less than 5% of oil crop area and less than 1% of agricultural land area.
Mileage per hectare per year - based on a VW Polo -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biofuel</th>
<th>Mileage (km)</th>
<th>Yield (litre)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Soy Biodiesel</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>440</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rapeseed Biodiesel</td>
<td>23,660</td>
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<td>Bioethanol</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jatropha Biodiesel</td>
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<td>Sundiesel (BtL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biomethane</td>
<td>99,600</td>
<td>4,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palm Biodiesel</td>
<td>109,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: “Biofuels”, Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V. (FNR), 2006; Preusser (2008) and own data
Summary: Palm oil is part of the solution to mitigate Climate Change

• Reluctance of developing countries to use science in looking for ways to reduce GHG emission.

• Palm oil outperforms other oils as potential biofuel source.

• The previous charts summarize the dependency of the EU on imported biodiesel raw materials, and palm oil emerges as the most capable in delivering maximum milage from each hectare of land grown with oil crop.
Summary: Slow Progress at Climate Change Talks

• Reluctance of developing countries to commit to deep cuts in emission reductions.

• Developed countries want to ‘jump ship’ from the Kyoto Protocol to a new agreement which includes the US and developing countries.

• The biggest battle remains on the model of the developed countries’ emission-reduction commitments.

• Palm oil is part of the solution but the WENGOs want to make it to be part of the problem.

• However, there is a lot of money involved in exploiting the global warming issue. It is likely that the issue will be kept alive by the WENGOs, and their anti-palm oil campaign will continue.
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• **Winners and losers over a non-issue, but science is on the side of palm oil.**
RSPO : Producer efforts to meet stakeholders’ expectations

• RSPO is a voluntary B to B scheme for market access of palm oil into the EU
• It should remain as a voluntary scheme as not all stakeholders (especially governments) are represented in its policy and management committee.
• It should not be made mandatory by governments as affected governments have not put in their inputs in the RSPO schemes
• Major palm oil producers are capable of supplying RSPO certified palm oil as developed by the RSPO scheme.
• The EU and the WENGOs can have as much RSPO’s certified sustainable palm oil as they wish by paying the premium to cover the cost of certification.
• Do not blame the producers if the NGOs are not united enough to convince the buyers on the virtues of RSPO certified palm oil.
Indonesian Deforestation Moratorium and Malaysia’s Minimum 50% Forest Conservation make the oil palm debate a non-issue

• Land is cleared in developing countries to develop agriculture similar to what was done in developed countries. The developing countries have not deforested more than the developed countries.

• There is no deforestation due to oil palm beyond the need to develop the agricultural sectors of the developing countries involved.

• The payoff is huge to these developing countries, in the form of employment, poverty eradication, foreign exchange revenue, and preventing more of their own forests and other countries’ forests from further deforestation.

• If Malaysia were to produce the 20 million tonnes of its annual palm oil equivalent by planting soyabean crop, it would need 50 million ha of land, which exceeds the 33 million ha of the total country area. The oil palm only uses 14% of the country’s area and saves a lot of agricultural land and forest land. Similarly agricultural and forest land is saved from being planted by inefficient oilseed crops when other countries import palm oil from Malaysia.
• Indonesia has deforested 25 million hectares, but oil palm only occupies 7 million hectares.

• Deforestation is thus not due to oil palm but due to poverty, inducing shifting cultivation and illegal logging which cause more deforestation.

• On the contrary, oil palm rehabilitates degraded land to become productive and sequesters carbon.

• Canada is deforesting at a rate of 100,000 ha per year for planting crops including rapeseed to compete with palm oil.

- Why is deforestation in Canada not protested against by the WENGOs?
- Why does WWF not insist a RSRO for Canadian rapeseed oil, or protest on the habitat lost of the bears and wolves?
How to Save the Jungles?

• Plant oil palm
  • The oil palm presents us with the only viable way to preserve the jungles and the wildlife of South Asia.
• If NGOs succeed in banning the consumption of palm oil worldwide, the consequences would be catastrophic.
  - by Datuk Leslie Davidson
• Actually our call currently is to ask the market to use palm wood and save the forests. Our oil palm plantation generates more usable fibre and timber products compared to the forests per ha per year.
Right to Trade

• Both habitat conservation (for the orang utans) and GHG emissions are non issues for the Malaysian palm oil industry.

• Malaysia’s above average performance in both issues including being a net sequester of carbon at national level deserves recognition. Malaysia is a net carbon sink country before 2005. We should not be asked to clean the mess (GHG emissions) of other (developed) countries.

• We have therefore **EARNED OUR RIGHT TO TRADE and** have contributed our equitable share of responsibility.

• Trade in palm oil products should not be victimized just because these are exports of small developing countries.

• The act of palm oil bashing generates lucrative revenues for the WENGOs through funding from the unaware public and the EU governments.
Widespread Extinction of Mammals in UK and Australia

“The most notorious e.g. of a country where widespread extinctions have been brought about by agriculture activity is the UK. Most of Britian’s larger mammals have been wiped out. The NGOs time might be more profitably spent sorting out the wildlife problems in their own country “

Datuk Leslie Davidson

Australia has the worst mammal extinction record in the world- with 27 mammals have become extinct in the last 200 years. Their Cassowary bird population is less than 1000 in the wild. But their zoos are busy campaigning to save the orang utans which are already nurtured to a save and stable population by Malaysia efforts.

Read full story in GOFB Issue 3
The World Bank Group is suspending the long-standing palm oil finance program.

The framework under consideration is a direct move away from the World Bank’s historical mission and would elevate them to steward of environmental standards.

The effects would reverberate around the developing world with the most detrimental effect on the peoples of Asia and Africa.
An Honorable Industry & Proven Poverty Eradication Tool

- We are the leaders of an industry that not only provides a valuable product for global markets, but also jobs and employment, which help large numbers of people in the developing world feed their families.

- We care deeply about the environment and the preservation of our wildlife and our natural habitat.

- Let us take pride in the tremendous contribution that we have made, and are making, to raising living standards and stimulating economic growth in our country.

We must be united in the face of adversity, and be willing to fight back against those who slander our reputation, and frankly, seek our very destruction.
Government Certification

• A certification scheme needs a credible set of Standards and Conformance which verify its sustainability

• The scheme needs to meet perceptions among purchasers and other consumers about what concerns they generally believe need to be met

• It must meet the interests of Malaysia, and Government support and endorsement of the certification scheme is critical

Any voluntary scheme that the EU will deem ‘reliable’ will include the input of anti-development NGOs who want to limit development in tropical Asia and have targeted palm oil.
Palm oil – Vital For Economic Growth

• We must also send the message to both Europe and the United States that palm oil is vital to economic progress in southeast Asia, and has been critically important in reducing rates of poverty and bringing the region fully into the 21st Century.

• Ironically, WENGOs who oppose us will actually undercut efforts to protect the environment in this region if they succeed in their goal of destroying the palm oil industry.

It is not palm oil that causes deforestation, or threatens wildlife in developing nations, it is poverty.
Economic Prosperity is Interconnected

- If multinationals choose to boycott countries such as Indonesia at the behest of WENGOs they will lose out on an access to an abundant, healthy and sustainable food crop.

- They risk losing a huge consumer market of 220 million people.

- Southeast Asians are not only producers for Western markets, but are also increasingly mass consumers of Western goods.

- Job losses in our part of the world will directly lead to workers losing jobs in Britain, Holland and Switzerland.
The Palm Oil Industry is Here to Stay

We are here to stay, and we will stand our ground, from the palm oil plantations of southeast Asia to the corporate boardrooms of London and New York.

But the world needs palm oil for food, oleochemicals and fuel. We have to be responsible not to disappoint the world, especially the developing countries as palm oil from Malaysia helps their economy, food and other industries, and save agricultural and forest land from having to be planted with low yielding oilseed crops eg soya and rapeseed.

Maybe some are slow to get the good message.
Thank You

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