

# Continuation of Human Impacts

## Palm Oil

- Why does palm oil drive habitat destruction?
- Why are the forests burned?
- How can we prevent habitat destruction from palm oil production? You can help by avoiding purchases with palm oil, or if it does have it, you can use it sustainably.

Notes from the first video:

Palm oil has a lot of uses in our world.

- Palm oil is found across the world. It is found in a lot of products such as fuel and makeup.
- 62,000 Square miles were committed to palm oil.
- Global consumption of palm oil has quintupled since 1990.
- Palm oil is very cheap to make.
- Indonesia falls victim to 10,000 square miles of torched land.
- The burning of forests threatens a lot of ecosystems, notably Sumatra.
- Each year, a large expanse of land is taken for plantations.

## Feral Animals

- How much does invasive species cost Australia each year?

They cost our economies \$390 Billion over the past 60 years. This derives from the cost of removal,

- What are some of the worst feral animals in Australia?

The worst feral animals include:

Cats: Due to a price. They are very dangerous.

Rabbits: Quite bad for farms

Pigs: Similar to pigs

Fire ants:

## Chemical Pesticides

Chemical pesticides and pollutants are toxic substances that can contaminate soil, water, turf and other vegetation

DDT is an insecticide that is colourless, odourless and tasteless. Famous for its environmental impacts

Entered the food chain through wind and water and passes into cells

It is a cumulative poison as it builds up in an organism over time

This cumulative toxin is then transferred through the food chain/ web and it magnifies as it is consumed

DDT impacted good insects as well as bad, this wiped out populations of bees

No bees means flowers and crops cannot be pollinated

*Extension: Biological control is used where possible to naturally control populations and insects (this embraces the natural balance of ecosystems and allows them to function without human intervention)*

- What are some of the environmental impacts of pesticides?
- What are some of the environmental impacts of plastics?

Pesticides are man made chemicals. Monoculture (single crop farming) has grown in popularity.

DDT is an insecticide that is colorless, odourless and tasteless. It was used in agriculture to kill insects that damaged crops as well as kill mosquitoes that carried malaria. It has been banned for a few reasons.

1. It enters the food chain through wind and water and passes it cells
2. It is a cumulative poison as it builds up in an organism over time.
3. DDT impacted good insects as well as bad. This wiped out some populus of bees.

## Microplastics

They are formed from the breaking down of plastics. These are becoming big issues in the water. 85% of plastic in our environment is microplastics.