Partner: Valeria Balza

Project: <https://vbalza.github.io/dataviz/palmoil/>

Some Overall Thoughts

I loved the feel of this project. It’s obvious you put some thought into fonts, colors, and styling which gives the project a professional feel. Additionally, the charts have a logical flow that gets your point across. One thing that’s was consistent that would have helped was using hierarchy with the chart titles. You made them a different color, but I think they should have been a larger font size to stand out more. Additionally, there may have been some more opportunities for annotating, but in a lot of the charts the lead in text did a really good job of explaining.

The Visuals

**Global Oil Palm Production:** Loved this one. A good choice of an area line chart to not only show the skyrocketing production, but also that so much of it is coming from Malaysia and Indonesia. The lead in did a good job summarizing what you wanted to get across and the effect of hovering to isolate one area was a nice touch. Categorical colors rather than a scale made sense here too.

**Total forest area replaced by oil palm:** The lead in did a good job explaining again. I think the choice of similar colors here was appropriate given that the two types of forest are still both forests. I’m not entirely clear on what a primary forest is though, so that explanation might have been nice in the notes. Also, an annotation for that spike around 2006 would have been illuminating.

**Greenhouse gas emissions from peatland conversion for oil palm:** Again, the lead in is a good explainer. A bar chart seems appropriate for comparing the impact and I like the interactivity with this chart as well. With the way it’s set up it would have been nice if there was some indicator for what gas the chart was showing (like by bolding the button you click or by changing the legend). I might have forgone the interactivity and used a stack bar chart so we could see all the info at once (you could have done something similar as your line chart where you could isolate one gas at a time). With the button approach you hide some of the info from a reader.

**Species groups threatened by oil palm cultivation:** Good, choice of a color scale, that obviously matches with the scale of endangerment. I think the bar chart again was a good choice for comparing the differences in the categories of endangered species. However, it feels like the more important comparison would have been between the total number of species that palm oil threatens vs other oil crops (it could have been almost the exact same chart otherwise).

**Vegetable oil yield by crop type:** My second favorite chart. Using area to show the magnitude of palm oil vs other crops is very effective. The labeling makes it easy to understand and lead in again does a good job explaining the takeaways. The color for coconut might be too similar to palm oil, but obviously there is no problem telling the difference between the two.