



Malaysia's Orangutan Diplomacy

[Source: IE](#)

Recently, **Malaysia** has withdrawn its proposal to gift **ape species orangutans** to countries that import Malaysian **palm oil**, inspired by **China's "panda diplomacy."**

- Instead, the new plan invites importers to "sponsor" orangutans, with the funds going towards their conservation in Malaysia.
- Malaysia, the **second-largest palm oil producer** (after Indonesia) is facing pressure to make its palm oil industry more **sustainable due to its links to deforestation**, which threatens orangutan habitats.
- **About Orangutan (*Pongo*):** The Malay word orangutan means "**person of the forest.**"
 - These are **highly intelligent, long-haired, orangish primates** found only in **Borneo and Sumatra**.
 - There are 3 species: **Bornean, Sumatran, and Tapanuli**.
 - They have **long arms and gripping hands and feet** for moving through trees, eating fruit, and playing a **key role in seed dispersal**.
 - Unlike other great apes, they are **more solitary and communicate primarily through facial expressions** and body language. They are endangered due to **rapid deforestation, largely driven by palm oil plantations**.
 - **IUCN Status: Critically Endangered**
- Recently, Malaysia and India have upgraded their existing Enhanced Strategic Partnership to a **[Comprehensive Strategic Partnership](#)**.



Read More: [Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between India and Malaysia](#)

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