

Biomass and biofuels

Consequences table answers

	Economic	Social	Environmental
Palm oil plantations have much less biodiversity than the tropical forests they replace.	Local people have to pay to buy things they used to find for free in the forest.	Traditional knowledge of hunting and wild plants is lost.	Plant and animal species are lost.
Palm oil trees have a higher productivity than other food crops.	People can make more money from the same area of land.		A smaller area of forest may need to be destroyed than if other crops were to be grown.
Palm oil plantation workers are often immigrants from elsewhere.	People from outside the local community receive payment for working on the plantation.	A large number of immigrants can result in the loss of culture of the local people.	More forest is destroyed to make room for housing.
Local people are sometimes given plots in the new plantation to replace their land.	Local people become reliant on the oil companies and have to buy food they used to grow.	Traditional knowledge of farming native crops is lost.	
Demand for palm oil is increasing due to the increasing demand for biodiesel as a fuel.	People can charge higher prices.		More forest is cut down to make room for palm oil trees.
Palm oil trees remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.			Less carbon dioxide is removed by palm oil trees than by the original forests.