



ORANGUTAN REINTRODUCTION AND POST-RELEASE MONITORING

IN BUKIT BATIKAP CONSERVATION FOREST, MURUNG RAYA

JANUARY 2015 TO DECEMBER 2015



CENTRAL KALIMANTAN ORANGUTAN REINTRODUCTION PROGRAM AT NYARU MENTENG

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



The Central Kalimantan Orangutan Reintroduction Program at Nyaru Menteng is supported by the BOS Foundation's global sister organisations and generous donations from individuals, foundations, charities and other organisations around the world.

The Batikap Reintroduction Project is supported by Save the Orangutan Foundation, Zoos Victoria, the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), Swedish Postcode Foundation (SvenskaPostkodStiftelsen), World Animal Protection (WAP), US Fish and Wildlife Service Great Apes Conservation Fund, The Orangutan Project, Mohamed Bin Zayed Conservation Fund, Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation, Orangutan Outreach, Primates helping Primates, BOS Switzerland and all our partners and sister organisations.

We acknowledge the enthusiastic support given by the Indonesian Government, the Province of Central Kalimantan, the Regency of Murung Raya, the regional Department of Nature Conservation (BKSDA), the Ministry of Forestry, the Department for Nature Conservation (PHKA) and all the people of Kecamatan Seribu Riam in Murung Raya.

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2015 SUMMARY

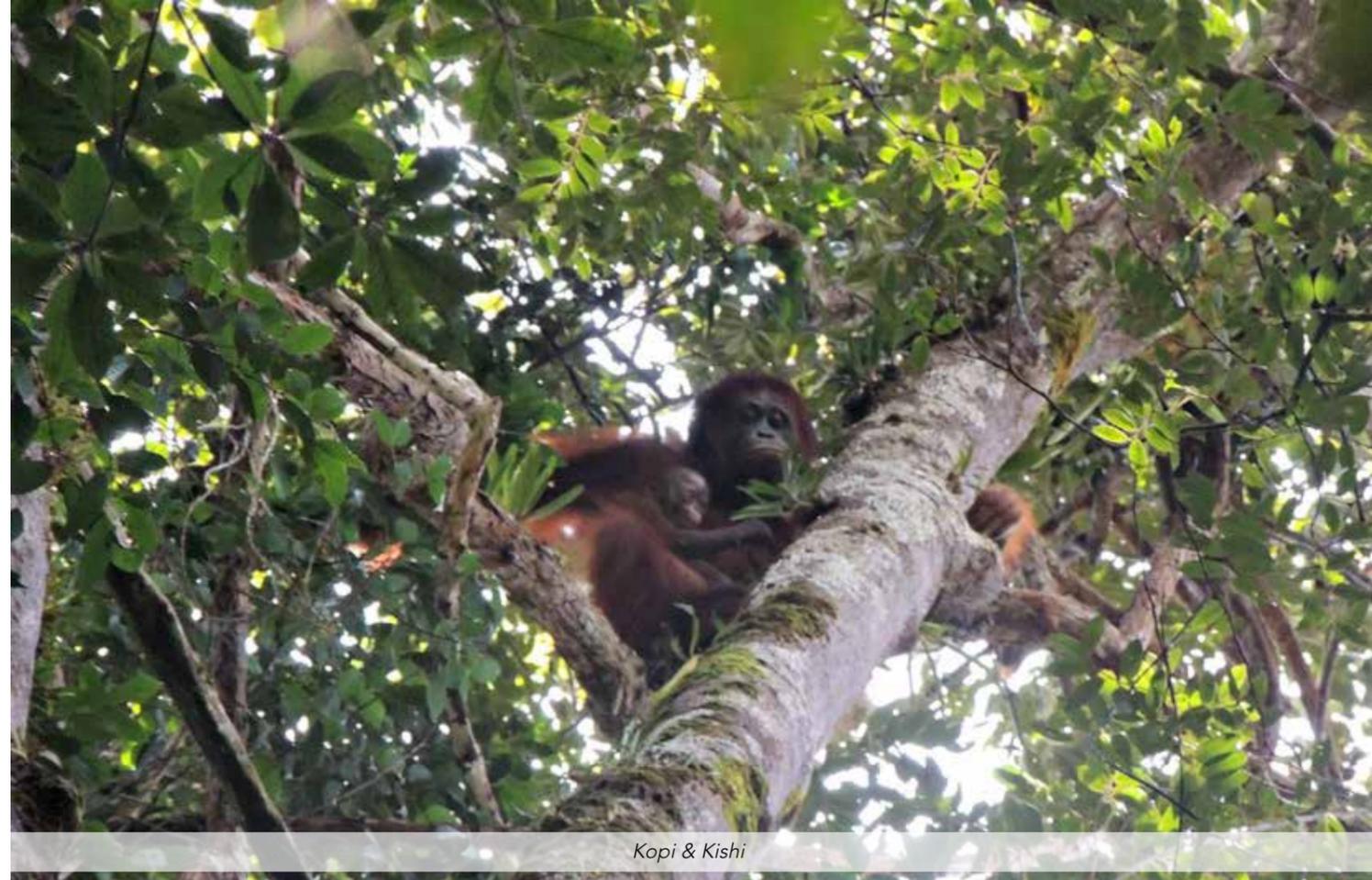
This has been another successful year with many highpoints for the BOS Foundation. From the birth of a new orangutan to the release of many others, our reintroduced orangutans continue to make excellent progress in adapting to life in the forest. An additional 23 orangutans have reached the first stage of success - meaning that we can confirm they have lived a full year in the wild without any aid. These 23 are rehabilitated Kitty, Hamlet, Dita and her infant Halt, Sarita, Jane and her two infants Jiro and Jojang, Inung and her two infants Ina and Indah, Manisha, Reno, Olympia, Troid, and Bonita; the semi-wild Cuplis and Wardah, and Zona, Cilik, Jessica and Mongki from earlier releases. Also on this list is Noor, BOS Foundation's first rehabilitated orangutan from Nyaru Menteng, who continues to make her dislike for human company known whenever she is encountered.

Our new 2015 infant is Kishi, who was actually born to Kopi around October of 2014, but only discovered several months later. Since orangutans can become especially seclusive with their young infants, we were unaware of the existence of Kishi until her discovery in March. Kopi was observed kiss-squeaking and throwing branches, whilst successfully hiding her young infant from sight. At just a few months old, Kishi did little more than cling to his or her mother, but this is a positive sign of the health and vitality of this population of reintroduced great apes.

Our monitoring team continues to work tirelessly to monitor of all the orangutans in Batikap. However with an additional 24 orangutans released in 2015, we now have over 140 orangutans to monitor, which is a challenging task. Orangutans often travel out of radio tracking range only



Inung & Ina



Kopi & Kishi

to reappear many months later. Inung and her infant Ina were rediscovered through a chance sighting by a team collecting phenology data. Another example is the large male Danur, who was not sighted for 18 months. He was rediscovered in September 2015, healthy and feeding well and accompanied by a much younger male. Over the four days we spent with Danur, this unidentified male continued to feed, travel and play nearby, and even though the two were never in especially close proximity, Danur tolerated his presence. We picked up no transmitter signal from him, and although we suspect he is one of a shortlist of three individuals, he still remains unidentified to this day.

New discoveries continued in 2015 for our team on a radio-tracking climb up Bukit Ahmat Tilan (TBAT). Each month the higher peaks in the Batikap Conservation Forest are climbed in order to pick up tracking signals without the interference of dense forest vegetation. Typically these surveys serve only to provide the direction of our orangutans for later observation. In November, however, we found long-term resident Jamiat near the peak of the hill together with Bonita. Not only did this observation confirm Bonita as a first-year success, but it also reaffirmed Jamiat's presence in the forest. Jamiat was part of the first release of rehabilitated orangutans back in 2012. Three years

later, although the now-17 year old male has not yet developed the shaggy hair and cheek flanges of a dominant adult male, he has become very confident with the females. After spending several days' with Bonita, aggressively kiss-squeaking at the observers, he was later seen together with another female, Manisha. Hopefully, Jamiat will sire some new offspring in the not too distant future.



Jamiat



Tarzan & Dewi

Tarzan from our first-ever release and the presumed father of many of the newborn infants, has spent time with several of the newly-released females including Dewi, Compost and Mentos. Tarzan was released four years ago and his radio-tracking implant no longer transmits a signal. Even so he still makes a regular appearance and is often heard long-calling from deep within the forest. Other orangutans still frequently seen over three years since their release include Gadis and her son Gaharu, who are a regular sight in the trees along the main river. Similarly, Emen

and Embong are often seen from our boat on the river as we travel towards the north of Batikap. Emen is a particularly uplifting sight, since she was one of the first to undergo an intervention back in November 2012. Shortly after her release Emen had appeared sickly and lethargic and did not leave her nest to forage. However, once Emen and Embong were provided the nutrition they needed they recovered to become the success story they are today.

Knowing that we can intervene successfully helps us make the right decisions when similar cases occur. Twice in 2015 we needed to intervene. The first case, new release Jambi, was similar to that of Emen. She became lethargic just weeks after her release and would do little more than lay in her nest as her son Jamartin attempted to explore the branches above her. Yet after just three days of provisioning, Jambi had the energy she needed to leave her nest and forage for herself and her young infant. We were presented with a different scenario with Kitty. She was originally released back in February 2014, and had already been brought to camp and treated once when she became sick, before being released once again. She returned to camp again in September 2015, this time of her own accord - and didn't leave. Kitty became a nuisance at camp, stealing goods and persistently hanging around, occasionally stealing food. When

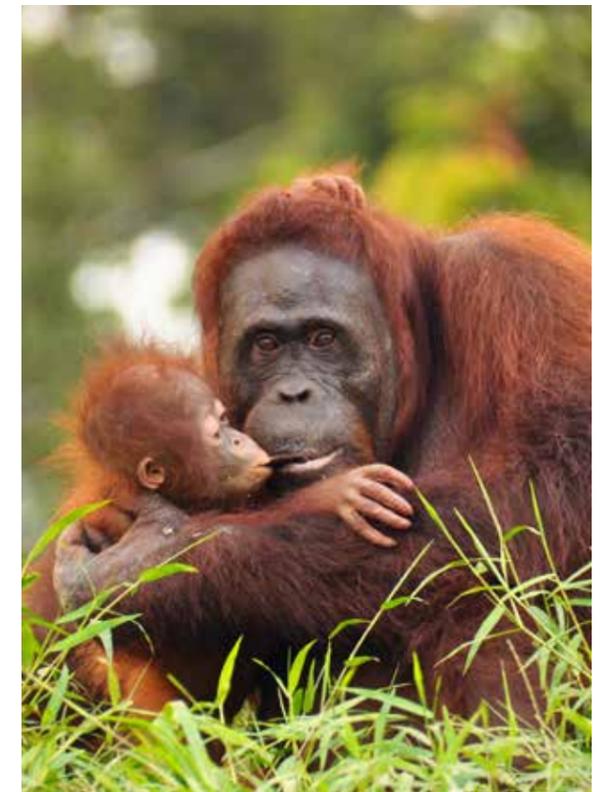


Jambi & Jamartin

tests of her urine and faeces proved that she had no internal problems, it became clear that our camp was too tempting for her. As we previously did for Jojo and Isis, Kitty was relocated away from camp, back to her original release point several kilometers to the north. As frustrating as Kitty's presence in camp may have been, she also presented herself in good health, and just in time to be included in this year's "success" group.

Despite all of our successes, births and releases, we also experienced two deaths in 2015. Two young adolescent males, one 11 months post-release, the other over 27 months after release, were found dead near the riverbank in January and June respectively, one in the water and one in an ageing nest. In both cases, no obvious cause of death was present or discovered later, and no warning signs were observed prior to their passing. Whether this was the result of malnutrition, poison, disease, human interference or otherwise we don't know, and whether this is part of the natural wild mortality or a direct result of their troubled background and rehabilitation, we can only speculate. This brings the number of orangutans known or presumed dead to 13 out of 155 released to date.

For some orangutans, however, even death is not the end of the road. This is true for one young male, who was only four years old when his mother died in 2014. With no implant to track him and intervene, we assumed that this infant would not be able to survive on his own. However, something extraordinary happened in the Batikap forest; he has been adopted by a rehabilitant female. We don't know how or when this occurred, but the two have remained together and healthy since. Now 6 years old, the young male is still seen feeding, following and nesting with his foster-mother



Kitty and Kate



RELEASE

We carried out two releases in 2015. The first one of the year and the 10th release for BOS Foundation in Batikap took place in early February. Due to complications of obtaining a helicopter, this release was completed overland, and therefore had to be for a minimal group size. We started with one individual to test all the logistics, followed by a group of 4 orangutans. Orangutans were driven from Nyaru Menteng and transported by boat along the rivers until reaching their destination in Batikap Conservation Forest. It typically takes three days to accomplish this journey, but for the orangutans, the process was sped up to 48 hours. People were on standby at each staging post to ensure quick transit from car to boat and back again, and large flotation devices were attached to the sides of each travel cage to ensure the cage wouldn't sink if difficulties were encountered along the river.

After resting in acclimatization cages for a day, these 5 orangutans, three adult females and two unflanged males, were released. They encountered instant company as well. Straight out of her cage, Mentos was approached by Noor, who was released a year prior, and the two engaged in a brief conflict. Jatihan, who was released in the same area, unsuccessfully tried to mate with both of these females. The day after their release, upon hearing long calls from Tarzan, all of the released females moved closer to him. Dewi and Compost reached him first and mated frequently, though not in much peach. When Dewi mated with Tarzan, Compost would kiss-squeak constantly, and when Compost mated with Tarzan, Dewi tried to intercept. Although Noor was also attracted by the call, she would not allow Tarzan to mate with her. Two weeks after the release, Dewi and Tarzan remained in close association with Mentos and Compost not too far off.



During the second release in 2015, and the 11th overall from Nyaru Menteng, 19 orangutans were released via helicopter transport. This method is much preferred as it cuts down the stressful transition time allowing for both the larger and the more delicate orangutans to be released. Due to the speed and relative comfort of using helicopter transport, 4 mother-infant pairs - a sensitive group - were able to be released in the Batikap forest. Likewise, the large male Samba was able to make his debut in the wild. The group was divided into two depending on their priority ranking and compatibility with the other candidates. All mothers with dependent offspring were released at a site closer to camp and more accessible for their monitoring. Additionally, the young, unflanged males Wombat and Sigi were released in this group. For the first few days of their release, this group remained in close proximity with infants Sawung and Jamartin - named after the BOS Foundation CEO who joined the release in the field - playing together while their mothers fed. In contrast

the northern Monnu site saw the influx of the semi-wild and independent release group, including potentially aggressive Samba. This group did not remain so social, but with so many adult females forming their home ranges in close proximity to a large flanged male, we expect they will soon contribute to the viability of Batikap's population.

Since their release the monitoring team have been tracking daily to monitor as many individuals as possible. This has been less smooth with a severe drought at the end of 2015, hampering our efforts as boat travel to many parts of the forest was impossible for a long period. This meant that some of the orangutans disappeared into the forest and have not been recorded since their release, this includes Wombat and Mawar with her infant Mumpuni. We remain hopeful that we will encounter these individuals soon, and are grateful that the severe forest fires that affected much of Borneo in 2015 didn't occur in Batikap.

Table 1: Orangutans reintroduced during Release #10: 5-27 February 2015

Category	Sex	Age	Age at arrival	Origin
Ex-captive Rehabilitants				
Maha	M	10	E ± 2.5-3	Mahajandau, Central Kalimantan
Compost	F	13	E ± 1.5-2	Parenggean, Central Kalimantan
Dewi	F	20	M2 ± 6-6.5	Surabaya
Mentos	F	17	E ± 2-2.5	Tangkiling, Central Kalimantan
Jatihan	M	9	E ± 2-2.5	Kereng Pangi, Central Kalimantan

Table 2: Orangutans reintroduced during Release #11: 26-27 August 2015

Category	Sex	Age	Age at arrival	Origin
Ex-captive Rehabilitants				
Afri	F	18	M1 ± 4-4.5	Palangkaraya
Benjol	F	12	E ± 1.5-2	Parenggean, Central Kalimantan
Cheetah	F	17	E ± 2.5-3	Jakarta
Chiki	F	16	M1 ± 4-4.5	Banjarmasin
Jambi	F	18	E ± 2.5-3	Jebiren, Central Kalimantan
Mawar	F	21	M2 ± 6.5-7	Palangkaraya
Meklies	F	11	E ± 2.5-3	PT. Globalindo Alam Perkasa
Nora	F	15	E ± 2-2.5	Ketapang
Sofi	F	13	M1 ± 4.5-5	PT. Globalindo Alam Perkasa
Sumeh	F	19	M1 ± 3.5-4	Palangkaraya
Didik	M	18	M1 ± 3.5-4	Palangkaraya
Mardianto	M	12	E ± 2.5-3	PT. Mustika Sembuluh
Sigi	M	10	E ± 2.5-3	Sampit
Wombat	M	10	E ± 2.5-3	Tangar, Central Kalimantan
Born on Islands				
Gembira	F	8		Born to Sumeh
Meklias	M	2		Born to Meklias
Mumpuni	M	2		Born to Mawar
Jamartin	M	1		Born to Jambi
Sawung	M	1		Born to Sumeh



POST RELEASE MONITORING

Our 12-person monitoring team walks pre-mapped transects daily to determine the position and movement of the orangutans using radio-tracking to locate transmitter signals. These daily expeditions mainly start and end from basecamp, moving out by boat or on foot and returning in the late afternoon. However, the transects are not sufficiently widespread to find the more elusive or wide-ranging orangutans. The release area has become very large and contains many orangutans hence the team must set up camps on the outer edges of the research area for more intensive monitoring. Expeditions range anywhere from 3 to 10 days long, and our dedicated technicians spend that time carrying out day-to-day radio-tracking, but without the comforts of base camp to return to after a day of fieldwork.

Many of these take place up in Monnu, located in the far north of the release site. This site has been used for releases since the beginning of our reintroduction program, owing to the large shingle bank that we utilize for helicopter drops. Many of these expeditions start with the team camped at the Monnu release site, near where some of Release 11 group are establishing their home ranges, and then moving into the forest to explore the remote ridges and valleys to try and find orangutans not recorded for periods of time. Despite the challenging conditions, our field team has not only made contact with some of our evasive new releases, but also found those who have gone unobserved for months. Determining the locations of missing orangutans such as Bonita, Trold and Cuplis proves how beneficial these expeditions are, not only for the new release groups, but also to catch up with older reintroduced orangutans. These orangutans were of course healthy and content deep in the forest and didn't need our help, but knowing they were healthy and surviving helps us measure success rates and improve our rehabilitation practices accordingly.

Monnu expeditions have also proven beneficial for capturing unique behaviors that the orangutans exhibit.

One of these is the mandi (bath), or the wading, swim-like behavior rare in orangutans. On two occasions in Monnu we have observed Nora dunk her full body in the river between bouts of foraging.

On occasion, the expeditions are slightly more challenging and on one trip the expedition team accidentally made contact with flanged male Samba and were quickly scared off into the river. Samba was either looking for food or asserting his dominance in his actions to destroy the expedition camp leaving behind broken tents and punctured plastic food containers. After these antics Samba made a night nest right above the camp and the team subsequently, spent an uncomfortable night nearby before retrieving their belongings the next day. Many of our larger males have displayed aggressive behaviour towards people during the first year post-release, but have calmed and remained more elusive since. It is not surprising considering the turmoil of their early lives, but successfully reintroducing these males is one of the most difficult parts of reintroduction.





REINTRODUCTION SUCCESS RATES

As part of our ongoing commitment to present the results of our monitoring, here we update the monitoring results from our previous four reports. In our previous reports we presented an overview of the orangutan's behavior, particularly feeding behavior, to identify how they adapted (or in some cases, failed to adapt). In this report we focus on the overall survival rates, and how the pre-release history of the individual orangutans affects this.

We have released 155 orangutans since February 2012, in eleven separate release events. These comprise 38 wild-rescued orangutans, 83 rehabilitants and 34 individuals that were born on the pre-release islands, some still with their mothers and some living independently. Of the 131 independent individuals released, 83 are female and 48 male.

Our definition of initial success is for an orangutan to “live wild and unassisted by people”, and we measure this at intervals of 12, 24 and 36 months. At the time of writing this report we have 136 orangutans released between February 2012 and February 2015 for which we can estimate the 12-month success rate. To estimate success rates for the subsequent intervals, we use the number of individuals that successfully achieved the previous interval, i.e. 94 for the 2-year success rate and 35 for the 3-year success rate (Table 3); and then combine the single year value to estimate cumulative 24-month and 36-month success rates (Table 4).

In Table 3, for each interval we present the number of orangutans which survived, the number of orangutans known to have died, and the number that are ‘missing’, i.e. we haven’t confirmed their status at any point after the milestone has been reached. These data show that the number of orangutans

which die is higher in the first year than in subsequent years, and also that as time in the forest increases, so the number of ‘missing’ orangutans increases. This is due to number of reasons, including the dispersal of orangutans away from their release point; radio-transmitter batteries expiring (especially from year 2 to year 3); as well as the probability of some deaths occurring. Another factor is that the number of orangutans to be monitored is greater every year. The monitoring team prioritize monitoring the new arrivals and spend less time searching for orangutans released 2-3 years previously.

We calculate that at least 71% of orangutans survived their first year in the wild, with 8% confirmed deaths and 21% unknown outcomes. The actual success rate is therefore in the range 71%-92%. Our cumulative 2-year survival rate is 41%-91% and over 3 years the range is 27%-90%.

Table 3: Success rates for each of the first three years post-release for individuals known alive at the start of that year. ‘Wild’ means individuals rescued directly from the wild and translocated direct from a cage. ‘Rehab’ means individuals rescued from captivity which spent time in Forest School and /or pre-release island. ‘Independent’ Born means conceived, born and raised on the pre-release islands, and now old enough to live independently.

Single year Survival Rates	n	Survived	Unknown	Died	Survived	Unknown	Died
All Individuals							
YEAR ONE	136	97	28	11	71%	21%	8%
YEAR TWO	94	54	39	1	57%	41%	1%
YEAR THREE	35	23	11	1	66%	31%	3%
All Independent							
YEAR ONE	116	85	22	9	73%	19%	8%
YEAR TWO	82	46	35	1	56%	43%	1%
YEAR THREE	29	19	9	1	66%	31%	3%
Independent Wild							
YEAR ONE	38	35	3	0	92%	8%	0%
YEAR TWO	35	20	15	0	57%	43%	0%
YEAR THREE	20	12	7	1	60%	35%	5%
Independent Rehab							
YEAR ONE	68	41	18	9	60%	26%	13%
YEAR TWO	38	21	16	1	55%	42%	3%

Single year Survival Rates	n	Survived	Unknown	Died	Survived	Unknown	Died
YEAR THREE	7	5	2	0	71%	29%	0%
Independent Born							
YEAR ONE	10	9	1	0	90%	10%	0%
YEAR TWO	9	5	4	0	56%	44%	0%
YEAR THREE	3	2	1	0	67%	33%	0%
Dependent Infants							
YEAR ONE	20	12	6	2	60%	30%	10%
YEAR TWO	12	8	4	0	67%	33%	0%
YEAR THREE	6	4	2	0	67%	33%	0%

Table 4: Cumulative success rates over 1-year, 2-year and 3-year periods post-release

Cumulative Survival Rates	Survived	Unknown	Died
All Individuals			
1-YEAR	71%	21%	8%
2-YEARS	41%	50%	9%
3-YEARS	27%	63%	10%
All Independent			
1-YEAR	73%	19%	8%
2-YEARS	41%	50%	9%
3-YEARS	27%	63%	10%
Independent Wild			
1-YEAR	92%	8%	0%
2-YEARS	53%	47%	0%
3-YEARS	32%	66%	3%
Independent Rehab			
1-YEAR	60%	26%	13%
2-YEARS	33%	52%	15%
3-YEARS	24%	61%	15%

Reviewing the results we see that we have no known failures during the first or second years for wild-rescued, translocated individuals, with fewer categorised as 'missing' during the first year. This is partly because the wild-rescued individuals were the first released here, so monitoring effort could focus on them, but also reflects their ability to adapt quickly.

Orangutans born and raised on the islands have also adapted extremely well, and in many cases have stopped associating with their mother and started establishing their own range. We have no-known failures amongst this group although cannot confirm the status of some of those individuals.

Amongst rehabilitants, i.e. orangutans captured from the wild at a young age and confiscated and rehabilitated by the centre, the ability to adapt is variable and depends, as expected, on pre-release history. Investigating this further, orangutans who

came under our care early in their life entered the forest schools and learnt forest skills at a young age. Amongst these orangutan's adaptation has been good and there are no known failures, and fewer missing orangutans. Conversely, amongst those orangutans who came to us later in their life, presumably after a lengthy period of captivity, the success rate is smaller and there is a high proportion of missing orangutans, from which we conclude that several have likely died.

This information, together with the ability of orangutans born and raised on the islands to adapt well post-release, suggests that time in the forest as a young infant is critical for their survival post-release. In most cases we don't know how old they were when they were originally taken from the wild, but if they arrive in Nyaru Menteng early enough they are able to learn all the necessary skills in the forest schools and on the islands, and have a good chance at survival once they are reintroduced into the wild.

Table 5: Success rates for female rehabilitants over the first year, separated by age at rescue

ONE YEAR MILESTONE	n	Success	Unknown	Died	Success	Unknown	Died
Female rehab aged 3 or under at time of rescue	15	11	4	0	73%	27%	0%
Female rehab aged 4 to 5 yrs at time of rescue	18	14	4	0	78%	22%	0%
Female rehab aged 6 or older at time of rescue	13	4	6	3	31%	46%	23%



THE BUKIT BATIKAP CONSERVATION FOREST

OUR LONG-TERM COMMITMENT

CONSERVATION

The reintroduced orangutans in the Bukit Batikap Conservation Forest are only part of the myriad of species living in this part of the Heart of Borneo. A huge and diverse array of wildlife is found here and frequently seen, with rare mammal species such as the clouded leopard, binturong, sun bear and flat-headed cat widespread, and many primates including slow loris, red langur and the ubiquitous gibbon, of which many different groups can be heard singing every morning. We have been fortunate that many of our monitoring coordinators are experienced birdwatchers, and they have identified 263 species of bird so far in Batikap, making this one of the most important bird areas on the island of Borneo. Batikap is particularly important for hornbills, pigeons, pittas and pheasants, the latter of which include several rare species. We have also found the spectacled flowerpecker, the first Indonesian record of a recently-discovered species that has a specialized diet of mistletoe berries. The Batikap forest is large, pristine and contiguous for hundreds of kilometers, the rivers are well stocked with fish and many more species are surely waiting to be discovered. The work that the BOS Foundation does in this area is not only focused on monitoring individual orangutans, but is aimed at protecting this new population of Bornean orangutans and their habitat, and making a long-term commitment to conservation of this environment.

LOCAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT



The BOS Foundation monitoring team are not the only people working and fishing in this river. Tumbang Tohan is one of the most remote villages in Borneo, home to less than 100 people who make use of all the resources of the forest and river to make their living. It was founded deep inside what is now the protected area, and only recently relocated further downstream. Together with their sister village of Tumbang Naan, for a long time these were the only people of the Joloi River, cut off by rapids from settlements downstream, until logging companies arrived in the 1980's and opened up basic roads for trade and migration. Yet still today they are more likely to look inwards, exchanging goods and people with other remote villages on rivers beyond the mountains, and a rich culture has developed. For generations, these villagers have lived in synergy with the forest, reliant on it for food, medicine and rituals. They hunt pigs and deer, collect bird's nests, gaharu – a naturally occurring incense – and animal parts for trade to the cities and beyond, and retain an intimate knowledge of the forest.

Batikap is extremely remote and is protected by the government because it is an important watershed, and has thus far escaped conversion and damage, unlike that suffered by the lowland coastal forests of Borneo, through intensive logging, fires and the spread of industrial-scale agriculture. But mining for coal, gold and other minerals is being developed not far downstream, and because forests elsewhere are shrinking there are increased pressures on the remaining forests for its natural resources. Although the local community have been making their living from the forest for centuries, there is a threat from unregulated hunting and collection of forest products by outsiders, for example a recent wave of people from other provinces coming to Batikap to hunt Helmeted Hornbills for their ivory, and gold miners dredging the rivers near the borders of the protected forest. Many forest users are bringing guns which they sometimes use to shoot protected species, including orangutans on two occasions, pheasants and wild-cats, for meat, sport or trade.

The BOS Foundation is determined to protect the Bukit Batikap forest, and we work closely with government departments to achieve this. We have facilitated the regular patrolling of Batikap by SPORC (forestry police) units, in order to stop hunting of protected species, ensure that all forest users are aware of the regulations and the protected nature of the orangutans, and to reinforce the laws governing forest conservation here. Having the SPORC teams regularly check in on the work at Batikap not only ensures that we abide by the standards set by the Indonesian government, but also signals to the surrounding population that this is something important and valuable to their country.

Orangutan conservation can only be successful in synergy with local communities, and their support for our work is critical for protecting the orangutans and their habitat. Since before the first releases we started a program of community development here, following a well-established format that began with a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) in each village and led to them developing their individual village development plans (RPJMDES). We are helping each village achieve the plan by facilitating cooperatives, providing training, liaising with the government and directly engaging in sustainable development activities that align with both the village plan and BOS Foundation's mission. Programs are varied, but here our community development teams have distributed LPG stoves to reduce reliance on firewood and imported fuel and are tackling firewood efficiency in existing systems; have distributed mosquito nets and brought doctors and midwives to remote villages to improve health understanding and treatment; have implemented a pilot project to plant and grow agarwood (gaharu) trees; provided seed-funding and training for a hydroponic rice-farming system which aims to increase yields and enable multiple harvests on the same area of land; have conducted training on organic fertilizer production and mushroom cultivation; are introducing aquaculture systems to improve fish yields; and have established village cooperatives to benefit trade of all these products and more.

The long-term vision in Batikap is to create and protect a sustainable and self-sufficient population of orangutans. With support from government and communities we are making good progress to achieving that goal. The reintroduced orangutan population in Batikap is approaching capacity, but our vision and commitment is long-term.





THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT



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