Sintang Orangutan Center

# PROJECT REPORT Q1

January – March 2025

# RESCUING OCA AND OCI

## New Hope for Baby Orangutans

Project Report
**January-March 2025**

# Oca.

**On January 20, 2025,** the Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) of West Kalimantan, in collaboration with the Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC), successfully rescued a 10-month-old female baby orangutan from Bekinci Village, Hulu Sungai Subdistrict, Ketapang Regency. The baby orangutan was named Oca.

- Oca was first found by a villager of Bekinci Village on January 5, 2025, while engaging in activities in the forest. The baby orangutan was found on the forest floor near her mother, who had already died. It is suspected that this occurred due to human conflict or the impacts of habitat destruction threatening the orangutan population.

- After finding her, the villager brought Oca to the village to be cared for temporarily at his house. While there, she was treated like their own child—kept outside of a cage and fed soft rice, tea, and occasional fruits. Although the villager's intention was good, this care was not suited with her natural needs as an orangutan. Fortunately, the villager reported Oca's discovery to the village head, who then reported it to the BKSDA of West Kalimantan.
- To rescue Oca, a joint team from the BKSDA West Kalimantan and SOC took a long journey. Traveling from Sintang to Sandai Sub District in Ketapang Regency took 8 hours by road, followed by an additional 4-hour journey to Batu Lapis Village then by boat for 2 hours to reach Oca's location.
- Upon arrival, the SOC Medical Team examined Oca. The examination revealed that she was in good health but required intensive monitoring. She was then taken to the SOC quarantine facility for further medical evaluation and quarantine procedures.

# Oci.

**Just a day after Oca's rescue,** on January 21, 2025, the BKSDA West Kalimantan received another report from members of Indonesian National Armed Forces (TNI) in Mandau Baru Village, Nanga Pinoh Subdistrict, Melawi Regency. The report stated that a villager had handed over a 6.5-month-old female baby orangutan, which was later named Oci.

- This case began when TNI members received information about a villager keeping a baby orangutan as a pet. The TNI immediately initiated a persuasive approach, educating the villagers about the orangutan's status as a protected species and the importance of surrendering it to the authorities. The villagers eventually agreed to hand over the baby orangutan to the BKSDA West Kalimantan.
- A team from BKSDA West Kalimantan and SOC quickly set out from Sintang to Nanga Pinoh. After a 1.5-hour drive, they arrived at the location and examined Oci. The examination showed that Oci was severely malnourished, as evidenced by her thin body and signs of dehydration. Despite this, she responded well to initial treatment.
- During further examination at the SOC quarantine facility, it was discovered that Oci's right arm had a fracture. The medical team immediately took action by putting a cast on her arm. During the quarantine period, Oci received intensive care, including proper feeding to overcome malnutrition, as well as regular health monitoring.

- Both Oca and Oci are now in quarantine at the SOC facility. The quarantine process aims to ensure their medical and behavioral health while reducing the risk of disease transmission to other orangutans. After completing quarantine, they will enter the rehabilitation phase to prepare them for independent life in the wild.
- The cases of Oca and Oci highlight the importance of educating communities about wildlife protection, particularly orangutans, and the cooperation between various parties in conservation efforts. The success of this rescue is a reminder of how vulnerable orangutans are to human threats and the need for real steps to protect their natural habitat..
- Hopefully, Oca and Oci can go through the rehabilitation process well and one day return to the wild, contributing to the preservation of the orangutan species.

# SD KARYA BANGSA FIELD TRIP TO JERORA FOREST SCHOOL

**On February 5 and 6, 2025, Jerora Forest School welcomed a visit from students of SD Karya Bangsa.** A total of 85 children participated in this activity, ranging from grades 1 to 5. Due to the large number of participants, the visit was divided into two days. This event was a collaboration between the Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC) and the West Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA).

The first day began at 8:00 AM, with 50 students from grades 1 and 2. Given their young age, the materials presented were designed to be simple and easy to understand. The children were introduced to rare and protected animals in Indonesia, including orangutans.

Project Report
**January-March 2025**

**Using engaging images**, simple stories, and interactive quizzes, the children learned about the importance of protecting wildlife and their habitats. They were then taken on a guided tour of the forest school via safe pathways to observe orangutans from a distance while learning about their natural behaviors and the rehabilitation process conducted at Jerora Forest School.

On the second day, 35 participants from grades 3 to 5 attended. The materials provided were more in-depth and divided into two sessions:

- **Session by the Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC):**

The children were given a deeper understanding of orangutans as an endemic and protected species, including their habitat, behavior, and critical role in maintaining ecosystem balance. Additionally, they learned about SOC's efforts in rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing orangutans back into the wild.

- **Session by the West Kalimantan BKSDA Team:**

The BKSDA team shared information about other protected wildlife and plants in Indonesia. They also explained BKSDA's role as the agency responsible for biodiversity conservation and forest protection efforts.

**After the educational sessions,** the children participated in fun activities, such as assembling orangutan-themed puzzles, which helped reinforce their understanding of orangutans in an enjoyable way. They also watched a short video about orangutans, offering a vivid glimpse into their lives in their natural habitat and emphasizing the importance of conservation efforts.

As with the first day, the forest school tour was the highlight of the visit, where the children observed orangutans from a safe distance while hearing fascinating stories from the guides.

This activity aimed to raise awareness among children about the importance of wildlife conservation from an early age. Through this firsthand experience, it is hoped that they will grow into a generation that cares for the environment and contributes to protecting Indonesia's endangered wildlife.

The collaboration between SOC and the West Kalimantan BKSDA in this event is a vital step in fostering a stronger connection between younger generations and nature. Hopefully, activities like this will continue and inspire other schools to undertake similar initiatives.

# BONDAN & JOSS READY FOR THE WILD

Project Report
**January-March 2025**

**Bondan and Joss**, two female orangutans who are now leading release candidates at the Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC), are symbols of hope for orangutan conservation in Kalimantan. With distinct personalities and backgrounds, they have shown remarkable abilities throughout their long rehabilitation journeys toward freedom.

- **Bondan**, now 7 years old, is known for her independence and bravery. She was rescued in Sintang Regency in March 2022 at approximately 4 years old in a dire condition. Bondan suffered from malnutrition, a thin body with a bloated stomach, and severe intestinal parasitic infections. After being rescued by the West Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) and SOC, she underwent intensive treatment to recover her health.

**Once rehabilitated, Bondan began an extraordinary journey.** On her first day at Jerora Forest School in August 2023, Bondan immediately displayed her courage by exploring the treetops independently, unlike other group members who were more cautious. Although she once suffered an injury after falling from a tree, Bondan persevered. Following her recovery, she became even more active in the forest, honing her skills in foraging for natural food, building nests, and avoiding human interaction.

- **Bondan** has now met all the release criteria set by SOC, including recognizing more than 53 types of natural food, building nests proficiently, mastering various locomotion methods, and demonstrating minimal dependency on humans.
- **Joss,** who is now 6 years old, has had a different journey. Rescued in July 2019 from Melawi Regency, Joss was found at around 1 year old with a healed fracture in her right arm. Before her rescue, Joss had been kept in a wooden cage for four months and fed human food, including sweetened condensed milk.

When she first joined Jerora Forest School, Joss displayed a more timid and cautious nature. She often followed Bondan and Artemis, two of her group mates, for a sense of security. Over time, however, Joss began to show her independence, venturing out on her own, though she still stayed relatively close to her group members.

- **Joss** is also known for her dominance in the socialization cage, but her behavior shifted in the forest school. She developed unique habits, such as taking food from other orangutans and even claiming nests built by Artemis. Despite this, Joss demonstrated exceptional adaptability in the forest. She has identified over 60 types of natural food—more than Bondan—and has met other release criteria, including nest-building skills and minimizing human interaction.

Following their final medical examinations on March 18, 2025, Bondan and Joss were moved to an isolation cage as the final step in their release preparation. This marks a new chapter in their long rehabilitation journey, bringing renewed hope for orangutan conservation in Kalimantan.

- **Bondan and Joss** are living proof that, with collective efforts, orangutans who have lost their freedom can return to their natural habitats as independent and self-sufficient individuals. Their stories are not only inspiring but also a reminder of the importance of protecting this species and their habitats for future generations.

# JAMILAH WELCOMES HER BABY

Jamilah & Her Baby

Project Report
**January-March 2025**

**On March 12, 2025,** Jamilah, a 24-year-old female orangutan still undergoing rehabilitation at the Sintang Orangutan Center, gave birth to a male infant.

In the morning, during the animal keepers' routine feeding, one of the keepers assigned to the socialization cage found Jamilah lying weakly in a corner near the door. Upon closer inspection, Jamilah was seen lying down, tightly embracing her newborn. It is estimated that the birth occurred in the early hours of the day.

The keeper immediately reported this to the medical team. Acting quickly, the medical team sedated Jamilah to ensure the well-being of both mother and baby. During this process, the baby's placenta was cut, and a health check was conducted. The examination confirmed that Jamilah's baby was healthy and showed no signs of any abnormalities.

**Jamilah** has demonstrated highly protective behavior toward her baby. Whenever a keeper approached to provide food, clean the cage, or when the medical team checked their health, Jamilah clutched her baby tightly and emitted warning sounds, seemingly trying to deter anyone from coming too close.

As of now, both Jamilah and her baby are in good health. Jamilah has shown exceptional caregiving abilities, offering great hope for their future at the Sintang Orangutan Center.

**The medical team** also checked Jamilah's physical condition and milk production. Once she recovered from the sedation, Jamilah's baby was guided to her breast to receive colostrum, essential for the baby's immune system.

After the medical procedures were completed, Jamilah was left alone with her baby. The keepers placed leaves they had gathered into her cage. Jamilah skillfully arranged the leaves and branches into a nest on the cage floor, all while continuing to cradle her baby.

The medical team and keepers conducted remote monitoring to ensure that Jamilah could nurse her baby successfully. This observation was crucial because Jamilah is a rehabilitated orangutan who requires close supervision to prevent potential challenges in caring for her infant. Monitoring results showed that Jamilah was able to nurse her baby well.

# STRENGTHENING COLLABORATION

## to Protect Orangutans in Melawi Regency

Project Report
**January-March 2025**

**On March 19 and 20, 2025, the Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) of West Kalimantan, in collaboration with the Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC),** held a meeting with various stakeholders at Melawi Regency. The meeting aimed to follow up on various orangutan rescue cases that have occurred in the region in recent years.

Most of the cases handled involved infant orangutans that were either kept as pets by local villagers or were victims of wildlife trafficking. This situation highlights the need for more coordinated rescue efforts, especially given the vast forested area in Melawi Regency, which spans approximately 600,000 hectares.

Through this coordination, SOC identified several key findings, such as: Locations near settlements where wild orangutans are likely to be found, and also human activities near forested areas, including hunting, which remains prevalent.

These findings underscore the importance of raising community awareness about the need to protect orangutans and other endangered wildlife. During the discussions, SOC engaged various stakeholders, including police, village heads, sub district officials, the Melawi Forest Management Unit (KPH), and local communities.

As a follow-up, SOC plans to implement outreach programs targeting communities, particularly at the identified areas. These programs will focus on educating the public about wildlife protection and the negative impacts of wildlife trafficking and hunting.

Additionally, SOC is strengthening partnerships with relevant parties to ensure further coordination in addressing cases involving wildlife. This initiative is expected to enhance oversight and control, enabling more effective responses to similar cases in the future.

January - March 2025

# ABOUT
# SINTANG ORANGUTAN CENTER

**The Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC)** is a local environmental NGO that colaborate with the Indonesian government to rescue, rehabilitate and release orangutans back into the wild.

In addition to the orangutan work, SOC also provides awareness and education programs for local people to reduce deforestation by providing sustainable agricultural alternatives, stop illegal poaching and the keeping of illegal pets like orangutans. SOC is located in Sintang, West Kalimantan, an Indonesian province on the island of Borneo.

SOC's rehabilitation program aim is to rehabilitate orangutans and provide them with the survival skills to prepare them for release back to the wild. After a series of medical health examinations healthy orangutans are transferred to the socialization groups where they can learn together with friends. The final stage before release is a training period in a so-called forest school which is a fenced in intact rainforest.

We work under an official agreement with the Forestry Ministry Department. So far we have rescued and taken care of more than 50 orangutans since 2010. Orangutans were rescued from illegal wildlife trade, or confiscated from people who kept them as pets. We also collaborated in rescue orangutan victims of conflict with local people.

We release orangutans in a special part of the Betung Kerihun National Park.


**Sintang Orangutan Center**

Jl. M. Saad No.8-Sintang 78611
Kelurahan Tanjung Puri
West Kalimantan - Indonesia
Tel: **+62 565 2022968**
Fax: **+62 565 2022968**
Email: **sintangorangutancenter@gmail.com**
Website: **soc.or.id**


KEMENTERIAN KEHUTANAN REPUBLIK INDONESIA

TAMAN NASIONAL BETUNG KERIHUN

yayasan penyelamatan orangutan sintang

## SUPPORT US IN PROTECTING ORANGUTAN AND THEIR FOREST

## Sponsored by:

ORANGUTAN RESCUE

Zoologischer Stadtgarten Karlsruhe

DUDLEY ZOO & CASTLE

YAYASAN ARSARI DJOJOHADIKUSUMO

Orang Utan Help Lëtzebuerg asbl www.orangutan.lu

MAMAT ORANGUTAN HILFE

BOS BORNEO ORANGUTAN SURVIVAL

Masarang HK Society

Lebensraum Regenwald e.V.

HARPA

Kitabisa

International Community Fansfornature

LUSH yagi SPCA INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL ANIMAL RESCUE

Orangutan Conservancy www.orangutan.com