

**SINTANG ORANGUTAN CENTER**

# **PROJECT REPORT**

**January - March 2023**







Image 1: the participants of training

## JERORA FOREST SCHOOL ACTIVITY:

# TRAINING FOR TRAINER

Jerora, 21 January 2023, as many as 24 local farmers from several villages in Sintang and Melawi Regencies took part in permaculture and organic-based farming training activities organized by SOC. This training activity specifically targets local communities who work as farmers as well as several elements of society who are also involved in agriculture in their daily lives. Community enthusiasm was evident before the training activities began, some of the participants had already started discussing the agricultural activities they were carrying out. Some had already looked at the organic garden that was being worked on by the SOC's farming team. The training for trainers workshop activity starts at 08:30 a.m. at the Jerora Training House.



Image 2: the participants fill the absence





The first session began with the presentation of theory by the presenters, with the first material given being about permaculture, agricultural systems, improving soil conditions and the production and use of biochar on agricultural land. Then the next presentation was about the use of liquid fertilizer, EM4, natural insecticides and herbicides. After that, it was continued with a presentation on eco enzymes, which also closed the first session. After all the presentations were finished, it was followed by a lunch break and lunch for participants, presenters and the committee for 1 hour.



Image 3: the speakers of each materials







Image 3: practicing the theories

The second session consisted of field practice, starting with making biochar, and then continuing with making and using compost. After that, it continued with the practice of making eco-enzymes and closed with the practice of making liquid organic fertilizers and natural insecticides.



Image 4: practicing the theories









Image 5: Mongki in her cage

## MONGKI'S EVACUATION

On January 27, 2023, the Wildlife Rescue Unit Conservation Section II Sintang Team from the West Kalimantan BKSDA together with the Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC) evacuated Mongki, a female orangutan. Mongki was handed over by a resident from KM 56, Melawi Regency, who had been cared for for about 7 years. At first, Mongki was found by a resident who was looking for Agarwood in the interior of the forest. After that, he decided to give it to Mongki's current owner. Mongki was kept in a wooden cage with a tin roof measuring 1.5 m x 1 m x 1.5 m.



Image 6: Mongki's cage

While with the owner, Mongki is given food such as rice, bananas, vegetables and other foods that are in the owner's house. Based on the results of a health inspection by the medical team, Mongki's health condition is not very good, this can be seen from the condition of her hair which is dull and dry, and her lips are pale and thin. Meanwhile, when she sees humans, she is quite alert but doesn't look afraid. Mongki also doesn't want to be touched.

After the evacuation, Mongki was entrusted to SOC to undergo health and behaviour rehabilitation. Mongki is currently in the SOC quarantine cage in Jerora. During this first month, Mongki will first undergo dietary improvements to recover her health from the malnutrition she has experienced. After that, Mongki will undergo further health checks to ensure she does not carry an infectious disease that could be transmitted to other orangutans at the SOC rehabilitation centre.







Image 8: Dora & Rocky to release location by boat

The 11<sup>th</sup> Release:

## DORA & ROCKY BACK HOME

February 21, 2023, is the day Dora and Rocky have been waiting for. How could it not be, after about 8 years of undergoing various rehabilitation processes and forest school activities, now they can finally breathe freedom in the heart of the Kalimantan forest.

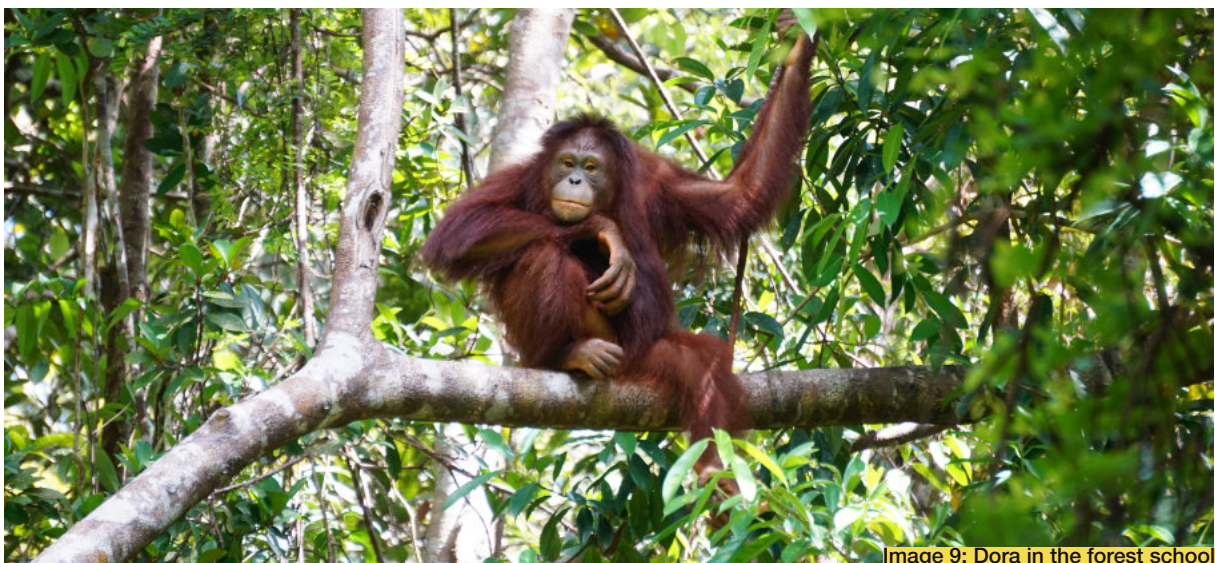


Image 9: Dora in the forest school



Dora is a female orangutan who was previously evacuated by the SOC team together with the West Kalimantan BKSDA from Tayan Hulu District, Sanggau Regency on 11 March 2015. When she was rescued, she was only about 2 years old. She spent her time at the Sintang Quarantine Center before being transferred to the Jerora Forest School in 2018 when she was almost 5 years old. During her time in forest school, Dora was one of the orangutans who was rarely seen active on the forest floor compared to the other orangutans who attended forest school with her, she loved to explore and was usually followed by other orangutans when exploring. After 5 years of going to forest school, now Dora (9 years) is ready to be released with Rocky.



Image 10: Dora in her old cage

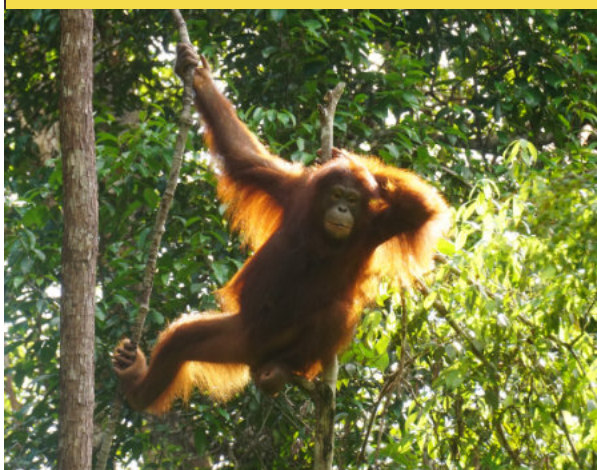


Image 11: Dora moved to translocation cage





Image 12 Dora in the forest school





Rocky is a 10-year-old male orangutan who was evacuated by the SOC team with the West Kalimantan BKSDA on 30 December 2015 from Parindu District, Sanggau Regency. Rocky arrived at the Sintang Quarantine Center when he was about 3 years old. And on 20 October 2018, together with Dora, he was transferred to the Jerora Forest School to undergo a behavioural rehabilitation process. Now, after 5 years at the forest school, Rocky has the opportunity to be released back into the forest with Dora.

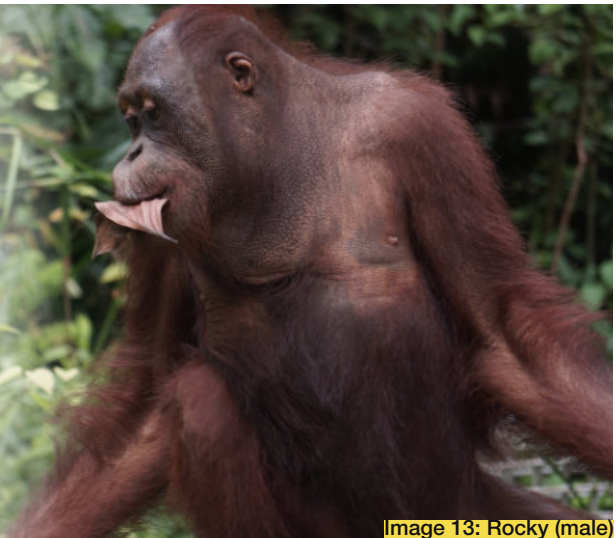


Image 13: Rocky (male)



Image 14: Rocky with his old owner



Image 15: Rocky's old cage

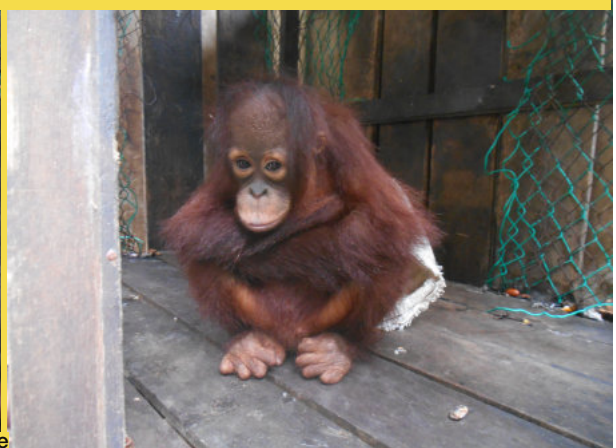
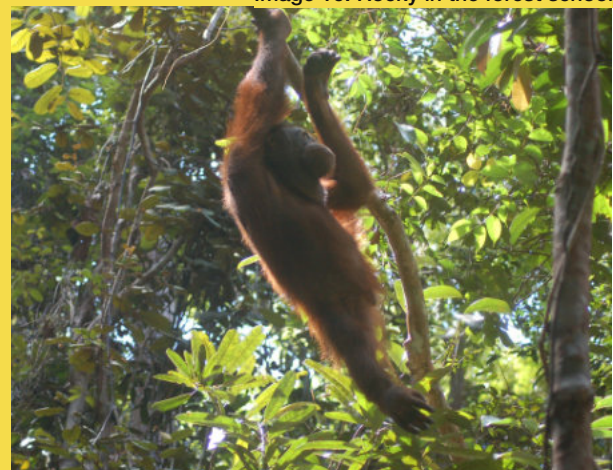






Image 16: Rocky in the forest school





The release of the two orangutans was carried out on February 21, 2023, at 9.00 a.m., and back to the previous release location at Muara Sungai Rongun in the Betung Kerihun National Park (TaNa Bentarum). The original plan was for Dora and Rocky to be released in Jepala Lala, but this could not be done because it was the dry season, so the river water level dropped, and the boat could not reach the location. Dora was the first orangutan to be released into the wild, and a few minutes later Rocky's cage was also opened. Both were observed to be adapting well to their new home.

Dora's movements could still be observed for 4 days, while Rocky's could only be observed for 3 days. The two of them explored in different directions since the first day, Rocky headed downstream of the release site while Dora headed up the hill upstream of the release location. Their roaming patterns are quite different, where Dora prefers to be in the upper canopy, while Rocky prefers the lower canopy and forest floor. Meanwhile, the diet of the two individuals is quite similar because they eat a lot of leaves and not too much variety of food.



Image 17: Dora and Rocky release process



Image 18: Rocky in the release site

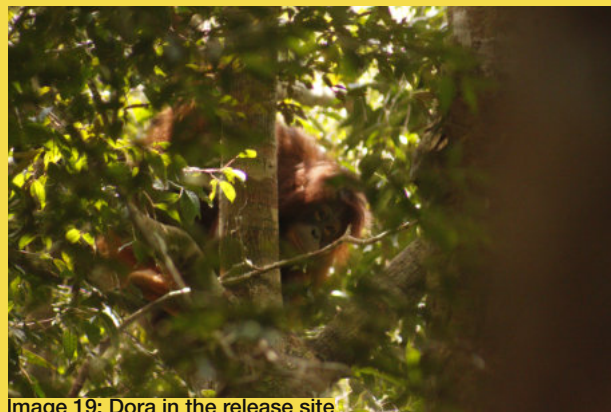


Image 19: Dora in the release site



Unlike orangutans who had been released before, Rocky and Dora did not like to explore the ridges when they were released. Rocky instead heads towards the river. The two of them also seemed to be on the slopes more often and this made it quite difficult for the observers to follow their movements.

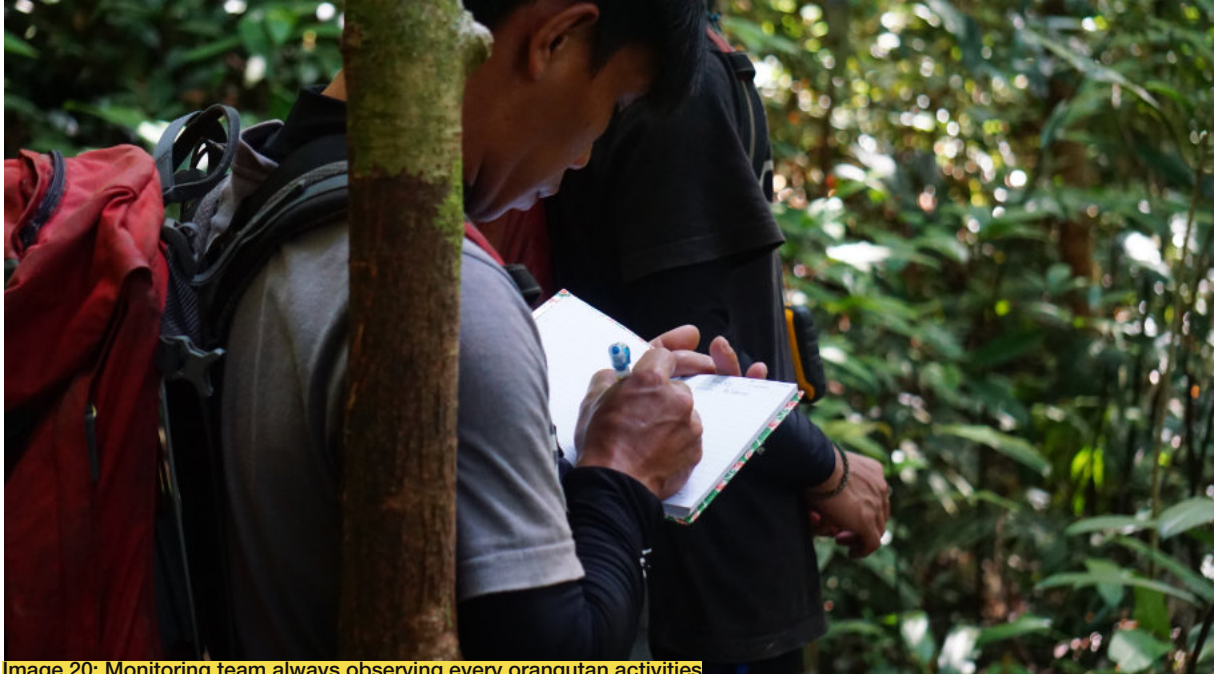


Image 20: Monitoring team always observing every orangutan activities



Image 21: Dora and Rocky in the release site





New Release Candidate:

# HOPE AND AMORY'S MEDICAL CHECK-UP

Starting in 2023, the SOC team together with the West Kalimantan BKSDA and the Betung Kerihun and Danau Sentarum National Parks have again released two adult orangutans Dora and Rocky to the Betung Kerihun National Park (TaNa Bentarum) on February 21, 2023. After both were released now it was Hope and Amory's turn to prepare to be released.

On March 13, the medical team conducted the final stage of the medical examination for Hope and Amory. Health checks include zoonotic infectious diseases that are of particular concern to the SOC team, such as Human Hepatitis B, HIV, Tuberculosis, and SARS-CoV 2. These checks are carried out at least 2 times while the orangutans are in the SOC rehabilitation centre. First when the new orangutan arrives at the rehabilitation centre, and finally when the orangutan will be released back into the forest. This is very important to do so that the orangutans to be released do not become agents of infectious communicable diseases in their natural habitat, which will later have the potential to become a source of transmission and can threaten other wild orangutan populations in the release area.



Image 22: Hope's being transferred to medical clinic





Image 23: Medical check-up on the orangutans

From a behavioural perspective, Hope and Amory have also been declared fit for release and have undergone a rigorous rehabilitation program to develop the skills necessary to survive in the wild. SOC's rehabilitation facilities have provided a conducive environment for orangutans to learn important survival skills such as foraging, climbing and nest building. Orangutans have also been trained to avoid potential threats from predators and other hazards in their natural habitat.

By being declared medically and behaviorally fit to be released, Hope and Amory were considered ready to be released into their natural habitat. The success of orangutan rehabilitation is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the rehabilitation team who have worked tirelessly to ensure the welfare of the animals. Releasing orangutans back into the wild will be an important milestone in their journey towards full recovery and an important step towards conserving their species.



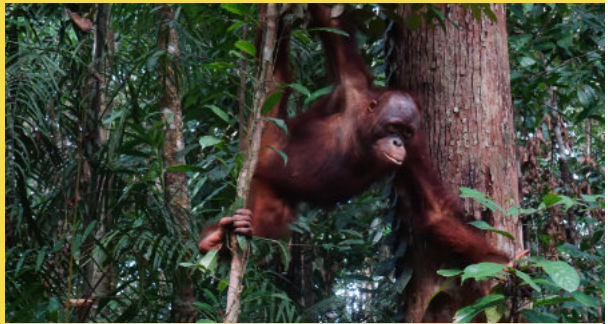


Image 24: Amory in the forest school

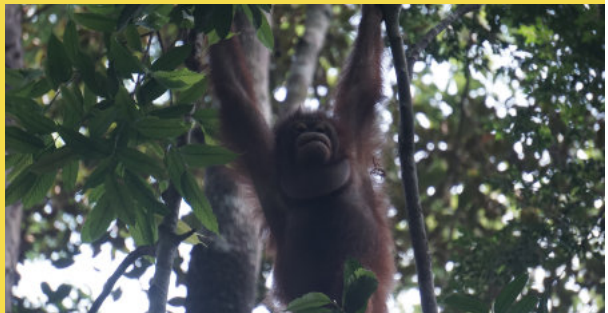
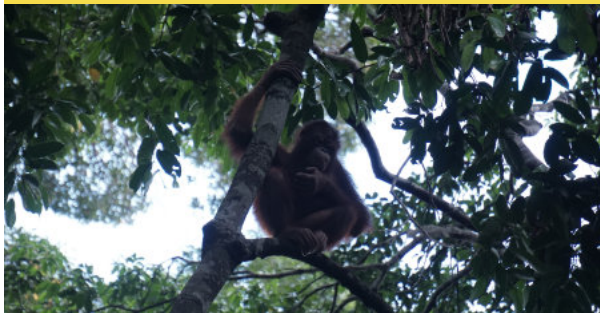


Image 25: Hope in the forest school





## MANUFACTURE OF SOLAR DRYER

Since the beginning of February 2023, the SOC zagricultural team has started building a solar-powered plant drying area. This solar energy dryer is used to optimize the use of sunlight in the drying process, by converting sunlight into heat energy through a heat collector. A solar dryer is an effective and environmentally friendly way to dry food, herbs and flowers, as it requires no energy other than sunlight. Using this device, solar energy is trapped and converted into heat, which is then used to evaporate moisture from the material placed in the dryer. This process eliminates the need for fuel or electricity, creating a cost-effective and environmentally friendly alternative that can help reduce our dependence on limited natural resources. In addition, this dryer can help improve the storage and preservation of food, and promote safer and healthier eating habits. On February 25, the solar dryer building was finally completed and could be operated.



Image 26:Construction of solar dryer floor



The construction of this drying dome starts with the assembly of the frame which must be mounted on a flat surface. Then, the hoops that form the dome are attached to the frame to create the base structure. A plastic cover is placed over the hoop, snugly positioned so that the air inside can be heated. Then put insulation inside the dome to keep the heat out. The dome is ready to use for drying fruits, vegetables and other foods. To extend its useful life, it is important to clean and inspect the appliance regularly, replace any damaged parts such as fans or heating elements, and ensure that sunlight reaches the drying rack properly. Also, solar-powered dryers should be stored away from moisture, dust and other environmental factors when not in use. With regular maintenance and good storage practices, this solar dryer can last for years.



Image 28: Completed construction of solar dryer





# SECOND ENCLOSURE AT JERORA FOREST SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION

The forest school's new enclosure construction project in Jerora started in September 2022 and is expected to be completed in March this year. Currently, the project is in the stage of installing vertical and horizontal power cables. After the path for installing the electric cable is complete, the next step is to install the vertical and horizontal electric cable bolts. Since the beginning of January 2023 the SOC team has started installing bolts for the wires, 18 bolts are needed for vertical poles, while 8 bolts are needed for horizontal sections. The installation of these bolts is an important aspect of the entire construction process, to ensure that the electrical cables are properly installed and functioning properly. The electrical system must be safe and efficient, and properly regulated for the safety of users in the forest school enclosure.

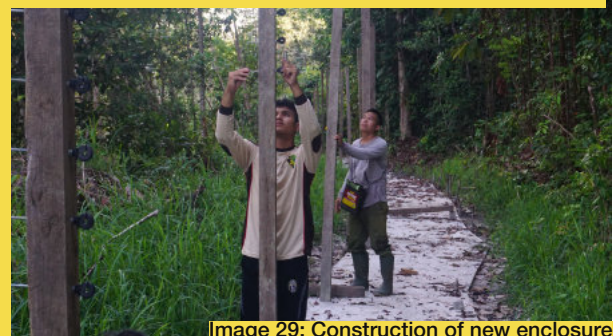


Image 29: Construction of new enclosure



With the construction of the new forest school enclosure, more orangutans have the opportunity to attend forest school simultaneously. Currently, the forest school consists of Mona, Aming, Hope, and Sinta, in addition to the Oli and Jochem groups, as well as several other orangutans who will be relocated from the Tembak Forest School and the Sintang Quarantine Center. The construction of the new forest school enclosure will also enable more adult orangutans to participate in forest school activities.





## PROGRESS ON CONSTRUCTION OF OVERNIGHT CAGE AT THE JERORA FOREST SCHOOL

**A**fter three months of waiting for the construction of the orangutan overnight cage components to be produced by the contractor, SOC was finally able to complete the assembly of all the new cage components on March 3, 2023. The team's arrival was eagerly awaited cage component which is very important for the expansion of rehabilitation facilities to improve the quality of life of orangutans.

Previously the team had prepared the foundation and made sure it was strong enough to support the new cage. The team has carefully planned the foundation positions and dimensions to ensure that each component will be securely attached to the foundation. Once foundation construction was complete, the SOC team wasted no time and immediately hired a truck to transport the new cage components to the rehabilitation facility. The team works tirelessly to ensure that components are safely transported to the site. Once the new cage components arrived at SOC's rehabilitation facility and were carefully inspected, the team immediately began the installation process. The next day, the team began installing each component of the cage on the foundation. The installation process is carried out with care, ensuring that each component is placed correctly and securely.

With increased capacity, this rehabilitation facility can accommodate more orangutans, including orangutans from other facilities and contribute to efforts to conserve endangered species. As part of the capacity building plan, the SOC rehabilitation facility in Jerora will accommodate three orangutans transferred from the Tembak Forest School. The three orangutans, Tom, Manfred, and Kingkong, will be moved soon.





Image 30: The staffs bring the component to Jerora

However, before the transfer is carried out, the animal keeper team and the behaviour team need to organize a new orangutan group to avoid conflict or problems. The team needs to ensure that the transferred orangutans fit in with their new group and are comfortable in their new environment. This process requires careful planning and observation, and the team is committed to ensuring that the orangutans receive the best possible care and support.





Image 31: Construction of new overnight cage

The team began the process by conducting a thorough assessment of the orangutan's behaviour and personality. They analyze the orangutans' social skills, temperament, and communication skills, as well as other factors, to determine the best way to introduce new orangutans to existing groups.





## MONA, AMING AND MONGKI'S MEDICAL CHECK-UP

On 13 February 2023, Mona and Aming completed their final stage of medical examination. This final health check is a crucial step in determining whether Mona and Aming are ready to be released back into the wild. The examination begins with an assessment of zoonotic infectious diseases, which are of particular concern to the SOC rehabilitation facility. The medical team carried out tests for various diseases, including Human Hepatitis B, HIV, Tuberculosis, and SARS-CoV 2, to make sure the orangutans were healthy and free of infectious diseases and did not endanger other wildlife.



Image 32: Medical check-up



Unlike Mona and Aming, Mongki is a newcomer who arrived at the Sintang Quarantine Center on January 27, 2023. Thus, this health check was the first to be carried out since her arrival at the Quarantine Center. The SOC medical team realized the importance of conducting a thorough Mongki health check to ensure her health and the health of other orangutans.

Like the health checks carried out by Hope and Amory, Mongki's health checks also cover several infectious diseases, including Human Hepatitis B, HIV, Tuberculosis, and SARS-CoV 2. By carrying out a health check, the medical team ensured that Mongki was free from infectious diseases and that she could safely interact with other orangutans at SOC.

Mongki's medical examination was an important step in her rehabilitation journey, as it helped identify potential health problems that could affect her recovery. The medical team can also take the necessary steps to solve this problem and provide the treatment Mongki needs. The successful completion of the medical examination marks an important milestone in Mongki's journey to recovery and a significant step towards her release back to nature.



Image 33: Mongki in isolation cage



## About Sintang Orangutan Center

The Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC) is a local environmental NGO that collaborate 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.

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## SUPPORT US IN PROTECTING ORANGUTAN AND THEIR FOREST

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