

SINTANG ORANGUTAN CENTER PROJECT REPORT Q3

July - September 2023



Babies forest school





New Orangutan:

NENENG, 1 YEARS OLD FEMALE ORANGUTAN BABY

Melawi Regency, 3 August 2023 - Melawi Police members on a forest and land fire patrol quickly transformed into heroes when they stumbled upon a baby orangutan in the middle of the forest. This diminutive orangutan was initially found by a teenager who was playing in the forest near his house in Senain Hamlet, Nanga Kompi Village, Sayan District.

The orangutan baby, named Neneng, is known to be female. The owner of the house where Neneng was found said that he found her alone and separated from her mother and playing on the forest floor. After trying unsuccessfully to find signs of the mother or other orangutan family, the homeowner mercifully cared for Neneng for almost a year.



Neneng (female, 1 years old)



With good cooperation, Neneng was finally rescued from this unnatural circumstance. On the 2nd of August 2023, the Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC) team, in collaboration with the West Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA Kalbar), retrieved Neneng from the Melawi Police Resort. Following a meticulous evacuation process, Neneng was promptly transported to the Sintang Quarantine Centre for further care.

Neneng stands as a heartening example of the vital importance of cooperation between communities and conservation institutions in safeguarding wildlife. It is hoped that, with careful and professional care at the Sintang Quarantine Centre, Neneng can flourish and thrive and ultimately be released back into her natural habitat.



Neneng arrived at Sintang Quarantine Center





Forest School:

Five Orangutans Begin a New Journey at Jerora Forest School

On the 12th of August 2023, a total of five individual orangutans were successfully relocated from the Sintang Quarantine Center to the Jerora Forest School for behavioral rehabilitation. These five female orangutans exhibit varying characteristics and backgrounds, yet they are all prepared to participate in the rehabilitation program at this forest school. The following is a profile of each orangutan:



JOSS

Joss: a 6-year-old female, was rescued on the 27th of July 2018 from her owner in the Sayan District. At the time of rescue, Joss was estimated about 1 year old. She was found alone without her mother and had been kept by her owner for 4 months. Joss has undergone medical examination and is currently in good enough health to partake in the rehabilitation program at the Jerora Forest School.



GIEKE

Gieke: a 4-year and 10-month-old female, was born at the Sintang Quarantine Center to a mother named Penai. Due to her mother's unwillingness to nurse, Gieke had to be cared for separately by the medical team. Presently, Gieke has recovered and is ready to follow the rehabilitation program at the Jerora Forest School.



BONDAN

Bondan: a 5-year and 6-month-old female, was rescued on the 1st of March 2022 from her owner in the Sepauk District. Bondan was found in a malnourished state and lacked proper care under her previous ownership. Following adequate care and nutrition, Bondan's condition has improved and she is now ready to participate in the rehabilitation program at the Jerora Forest School.



OTAN

Otan: a 2-year and 11-month-old female, was rescued on the 21st of January 2021 from her owner in the Sekadau Hulu District. Otan was found abandoned after her mother was killed by hunters. Her previous owner provided condensed milk and inadequate care, leading to Otan's bout of diarrhea. However, after medical treatment and recovery, Otan is now prepared to undergo the rehabilitation program at the Jerora Forest School.



JULIA

Julia: a 3-year and 9-month-old female, was rescued on the 28th of December 2019 from her owner in the Sungai Tebelian District. This baby orangutan was found weak and dehydrated after being cared for by her owner for only 3 days. Julia was obtained from her deceased mother, who was caught in a snare in a local field. Currently, Julia has recuperated and is getting ready to embark on the rehabilitation program at the Jerora Forest School.

These five orangutans come from diverse backgrounds, ranging from illegal capture, loss of mothers, to poor health due to inadequate care. By being

relocated and rehabilitated at the Jerora Forest School, they will receive appropriate care, training, and an environment to prepare them for their re-adaptation to the wild.



Forest School:

Young Orangutans Thrive at Jerora's Forest School

Today, the forest school in Jerora bore witness to the joy and uniqueness of the young orangutans embarking on an adventure within Enclosure 2. Bondan, Joss, Gieke, Julia, and Otan, all possessed distinct characteristics and activities as they undertook this outdoor class. The location within forest Enclosure 2 provided an engaging exploration experience for these five young orangutans.

As the tunnel to the forest school opened, Joss and Gieke swiftly took the lead, skillfully making their way toward the forest school. They exited the overnight enclosures with great enthusiasm, while Otan and Julia were not far behind in following suit. However, Bondan appeared more hesitant. She chose to remain within her comfort zone and required assistance from the staff to traverse the tunnel. Slowly but surely, she eventually managed to join her companions at the forest school.

Upon reaching the forest school, these young orangutans revealed their unique personality traits. Gieke, with her superior exploration skills, agilely climbed to the top of the tree canopy. In the morning, she preferred to venture alone, displaying a strong focus on her explorations. Yet, as the afternoon arrived, Gieke interacted more with the other infants, showcasing her social side.

Meanwhile, Joss seemed thoroughly enthusiastic about the forest school activities. Although she initially followed Gieke, she later chose to explore on her own. She spent more time in the lower canopy, occasionally pausing to play with the observing staff. Bondan's presence appeared to be a distraction for her, as she seemed intrigued by Bondan and accompanied her on an exploration in the morning for a brief period, but this did not diminish her enthusiasm.




Gieke in action, exploring at the middle canopy




Joss in action, exploring at the lower canopy

Bondan, despite his initial reluctance, eventually became actively engaged in the exploration. Unlike Gieke, who favored the upper canopy, Bondan more frequently occupied the lower canopy and forest floor. She showcased her creativity by being the most active in searching for food. Tender leaves, shoots, termites, and ants became delectable treats for Bondan. It was evident that Bondan leaned towards a solitary nature, although she began to join the other infants as noon approached.

A young orangutan with reddish-brown fur is climbing a vertical tree trunk. The orangutan is positioned in the center-right of the frame, facing right. Its body is pressed against the trunk, with its arms and legs wrapped around it. The background is a dense forest with green foliage and dappled sunlight. The overall scene is a close-up of the orangutan's climbing action.

Bondan is climbing a liana that is growing in the forest school

A close-up photograph of a young orangutan named Otan. She is hanging from a thick, dark tree branch with her right arm. She has thick, reddish-brown fur and a dark face. She is looking directly at the camera with a calm expression. The background is filled with green leaves and branches, creating a dense forest canopy.

Otan enjoying the view from the upper canopy

Equally captivating, the still very young Otan displayed great enthusiasm in embarking on the adventure. She possessed remarkable climbing abilities, even at her tender age of 2 years. Julia initially followed Otan, but they eventually parted ways. Otan fearlessly ascended to the tree canopy, while Julia preferred to remain in safer places and occasionally sought comfort from the staff. Despite experiencing falls, Julia remained unharmed and continued to follow the staff on the exploration journey.



Julia struggled while trying to swing from the liana to the nearby tree

Orangutan Relocation:

LEON

On July 24, 2023, the SOC team received a report from the community about an orangutan entering a garden owned by a local resident in Hovat. The encounter with the orangutan took place at a location called Sekutang. In response to the report, the monitoring team based on Mentibat's camp conducted a field inspection. During the examination, the orangutan was indeed found at the specified location. The monitoring team immediately initiated surveillance, tracking the orangutan until it slept at a place called Tekasing, slightly further upstream.

The following day, the monitoring team continued its observation. Meanwhile, another team reported the encounter to the SOC team in Sintang. Responding to the report, the SOC Sintang team decided to relocate the orangutan back to the Betung Kerihun National Park. The relocation team departed at 06:40 pm, heading towards Kapuas Hulu, and arrived at Tanjung Karang Village (Kapuas Hulu) at 01:50 am. They rested at the Betung Kerihun National Park Mendalam office until morning.



Leon's rescue team at Mentibat Release Station

On July 25, 2023, the relocation team set off to the orangutan's location and arrived at 01:45 pm. Upon arrival, the medical team immediately tranquilized the orangutan using a blow dart. Once the orangutan was sedated, the medical team performed various actions, including physical identification, chip reader scanning, dental examination, measurement of body size and weight, and blood sampling. Based on the identification results, the orangutan was identified as Leon, released two years ago in April 2021.

After completing all medical procedures, orangutan Leon was placed in a transport cage. Once awake from sedation, the orangutan was transported to the Mentibat base camp and scheduled to be released back into the Betung Kerihun National Park the next day.



Leon was spotted by the riverbank



Anesthesia process to transfer Leon

On July 26, 2023, the SOC relocation team, along with KSDA and Betung Kerihun National Park representatives, released orangutan Leon. Departing from the Mentibat base camp at 09:05 am, after a journey of approximately one and a half hours, the team arrived at the release point. The chosen release site was Riam Matahari, located 20.6 kilometers away from the Mentibat base camp and marking the boundary of the Betung Kerihun National Park. This release location was even farther from the initial encounter point (the community's garden), with a distance of 28.3 kilometers. Given this distance, it was deemed safe to assume that the orangutan would not return to the community's gardens. The release of Leon took place at 11:10 am. Following the release, the SOC team, along with KSDA and Betung Kerihun National Park, returned to the base camp to continue the next agenda, which involved community outreach activities.



Several medical check-ups on Leon were conducted before he was put into the transport cage





Leon's release process

After out of the transfer cage, Leon immediately climbed the nearby tree



Orangutan Relocation:

NICKY

On Friday, the 4th of August 2023, the SOC team at Mentibat conducted their routine patrol activities. While passing a location called Riam Begatan, the patrol team observed an individual orangutan situated by the riverbank. The patrol team stopped and approached to observe the orangutan briefly. After the observation, the patrol team returned to the base camp and notified the Sintang team via telephone. At that moment, there was no immediate action required as the orangutan was still within the confines of the national park and a considerable distance from the base camp boundary.

As a result of the communication with the behavior team at that time, a decision was made to conduct periodic patrols in the meeting area (Begatan). Two days later, on Sunday, the 6th of August 2023, the monitoring team at Mentibat reported to the Sintang team that the orangutan they had encountered two days prior had already reached the base camp. The orangutan had caused damage to a 15 HP speed engine and spilled oil from the tank. Moreover, the orangutan was accompanied by a large number of bees. It turns out she is Nicky, who was released on 9 October 2021.



In response to the report, the Sintang management provided guidance to drive Nicky towards the upstream direction of the river and instructed capturing her by using a trap in the transport cage as an alternative approach. The Mentibat team began executing this instruction by setting a trap in the transport cage and luring Nicky with food. Once Nicky entered the cage, the door was promptly closed. Around 9:00 am, Nicky was successfully captured and confined within the cage. The subsequent step was to release it, as per Sintang's guidance, as far upstream as possible.

The following day, the Mentibat team successfully relocated Nicky despite facing serious challenges such as a large number of bees and the extremely low water level due to the dry season. The 15 HP speed engine sustained damage from hitting rocks in the water during the relocation upstream, especially when passing through Riam Matahari. Despite encountering obstacles, the activity was carried out successfully, and Nicky was released far upstream.

Nicky was released far upstream located around Riam Matahari



Biochar: Fostering Orangutan Well-being and Environmental Sustainability at Jerora Forest School

This time around, we'd like to provide the latest update on the ongoing activities conducted by the Agricultural Division of Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC). Currently, the SOC team is actively engaged in the process of producing biochar, which will play a crucial role in supporting food supply at the Jerora Forest School environment and the well-being of the orangutans residing there.

Biochar is the outcome of the biomass pyrolysis process, in which organic materials like wood or straw are heated in an environment devoid of oxygen. As a result, the resulting biochar carries a number of highly significant benefits, including enhancing soil structure, retaining soil moisture, and stimulating plant growth. At SOC, we're enthusiastically about carrying out this initiative to ensure the sustainability of the environment in Jerora Forest School and to enhance the well-being of the orangutans, who are an integral part of that ecosystem.

The biochar that we've successfully produced will serve as an irreplaceable component in supporting plant growth within the confines of Jerora Forest School. These plants have a vital role in providing natural sustenance for the orangutans residing there. The presence of this high-quality food source will undoubtedly contribute to the health and well-being of the orangutans, while also creating an environment that aligns with their natural needs.



Logs from dead trees used as the material for biochar



We're extremely confident that this step is a tangible manifestation of our commitment to environmental preservation and conservation, as well as our genuine concern for the well-being of the orangutans. We're hopeful that this biochar production endeavor will yield long-term positive impacts for the plants, the environment, and of course, the orangutans that we wholeheartedly protect.



The shredded biochar will be used as a planting medium in the organic farm



New Orangutan

Sinta Gave Birth to a Female Baby Orangutan

On the morning of the 20th of August 2023, at the Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC), a baby orangutan was born to a female named Sinta. Sinta is a 10-year-old orangutan who is currently undergoing a rehabilitation program. This incident has caught the attention of the research and caretakers team at the SOC, primarily due to prior experiences with a female orangutan named Penai, who tended to neglect her young after giving birth.

When Sinta's baby orangutan was born, the SOC team noticed that Sinta was still learning how to breastfeed her child. This process requires intervention from the Animal Keeper to assist in the process. Interestingly, Sinta responded to this help calmly, without showing aggressive or defensive behavior. She let her child be assisted by the Animal Keeper in breastfeeding while still protecting and hugging her baby.

Observations also revealed moments where the baby tried to look for milk naturally, but Sinta responded by giving her a finger. This may reflect Sinta's confusion about what actions should be taken in the early stages of the parent-child relationship. The SOC team is diligently trying to help provide milk to Sinta's child and introduce the concept of breastfeeding to form a natural bond between mother and child. The results of this effort were very positive, and the baby began to try to breastfeed directly from its mother, although it still received assistance from the SOC team.



Sinta's new baby

Overall observation results indicate that Sinta is gradually honing her instincts as a mother. The intensity of milk provision from external sources can be reduced with this development, although it is important to remember that Sinta's adaptation process to new situations still requires continuous monitoring and support



Sinta with her baby



New Orangutan

Jack, New Female Baby Orangutan



Jack while rescued by the team

On 25th September 2023, a team from the West Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Center (BKSDA) and the Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC) carried out the evacuation of a female baby orangutan found in the forest within the PT KSK (Kalimantan Satya Kencana) company area in Bukit Jeronang. The location of discovery of the baby orangutan bordered the KPH forest region and was still primary forest, approximately 1.5 hours away from the nearest settlement.

According to the keeper, the baby orangutan was found alone near a river without its mother. Despite having no physical wounds, the baby orangutan's physical condition showed signs of malnutrition, undernourishment, and serious dehydration. The finder, who is a farmer, had been caring for the baby orangutan for 3 months in a wooden cage measuring 1 x 1 meter. During the period of care, the baby orangutan's diet was limited to bananas, sugar cane, guavas, and occasional sugar water. The baby orangutan was named "Jack" by its keeper.

The evacuation was carried out carefully on 25th September 2023 by the rescue team from BKSDA West Kalimantan and SOC to minimize stress on Jack. Following the evacuation, Jack will receive comprehensive medical treatment, including addressing malnutrition and dehydration. The rescue team will also ensure Jack is placed in an environment that corresponds with its natural habitat to facilitate physical and psychological recovery. This evacuation is anticipated to aid in saving and restoring Jack's condition, opening opportunities for reintegrating Jack into the wild through appropriate care and behavioural rehabilitation, achieved through medical and behavioural rehabilitation processes.



Jack's cage, made of wood plank 1x1 meter



New Orangutan

Rayo, New Male Baby Orangutan

On 29 September 29, 2023, a rescue operation was carried out to save an orangutan, which was later named Rayo, by the West Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) in collaboration with the Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC). This activity was initiated based on a report from a resident, Mansyur, from Nanga Raya Hamlet, Nanga Raya Village, Belimbing Hulu Subdistrict, Melawi Regency.

Previously, the orangutan was found by the owner in the protected forest area, Sungai Beluai. The orangutan was abandoned on the forest floor without a mother, attracting the attention of Oktonius who was gathering wood and hunting in the area. The orangutan, which is known to have been kept by the owner since April 2023, is estimated to be around 1 year old, but is experiencing very poor physical condition, including malnutrition and diseases such as worms and flu.



Rayo live in a very small cage



So far, the food given to these orangutans is rice, rice water, sweetened condensed milk and occasionally watermelon, which does not meet their nutritional needs. The owner placed this orangutan in a cage made of bamboo with dimensions of approximately 1 x 1 x 1 zzzm, which is similar to a chicken coop. The owner's motivation for keeping the orangutan was solely because the orangutan was abandoned without a mother who could care for him.

However, after the owner received information and an appeal regarding the protection of wild animals which are protected by law, he and his friend, Mansyur, immediately reported this finding to the authorities. This rescue action is a very important step to support the conservation of wild animals, especially orangutans, and increase awareness of environmental and wildlife protection in society.



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.

SUPPORT US IN PROTECTING ORANGUTAN AND THEIR FOREST

Sintang Orangutan Center
Jl. M. Saad No.8-Sintang 78611
Kelurahan Tanjung Puri
West Kalimantan - Indonesia
Tel: +62 565 2022968
Fax: +62 565 2022968
info@soc.or.id

<http://soc.or.id/>



Kementerian Lingkungan
Hidup dan Kehutanan



Balai Besar Taman Nasional
Betung Kerihun dan Danau Sentarum



BKSDA
Kalimantan Barat



Sponsored by:



orangutansintang



sintangorangutancenter



sintang orangutan center