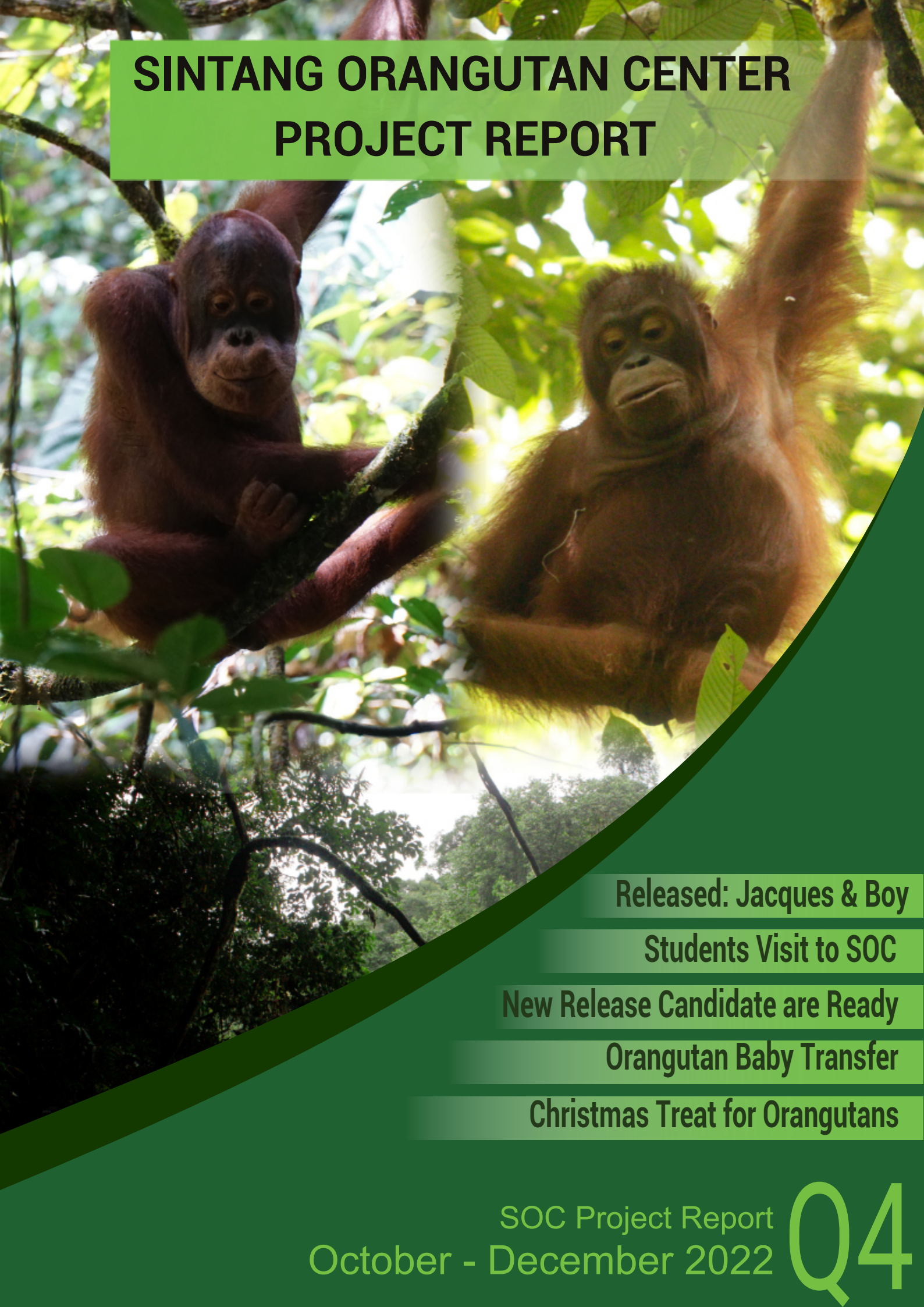


SINTANG ORANGUTAN CENTER PROJECT REPORT



Released: Jacques & Boy

Students Visit to SOC

New Release Candidate are Ready

Orangutan Baby Transfer

Christmas Treat for Orangutans

SOC Project Report
October - December 2022

Q4

Release of Jacques and Boy

Jacques and Boy are the 22nd and 23rd orangutans that have been released into the Betung Kerihun National Park (TaNa Bentarum) on October 14, 2022. This collaboration activity between SOC, the West Kalimantan BKSDA and the Balai Besar Taman Nasional Betung Kerihun dan Danau Sentarum (TaNa Bentarum) is the 10th release in the last 5 years since 2017. It is hoped that this activity will continue and all orangutans currently at SOC can be released to their original homes in heart of Borneo rainforest.



Jacques (top) and Boy (bottom)



On 13 October 2022 at 7.18 a.m. Jacques and Boy departed from Jerora Forest School with the SOC team and the West Kalimantan BKSDA to Putussibau to be released into the Betung Kerihun National Park. The overland trip to Putussibau takes about 6 hours, and continues via a river trip by speed boat to Mentibat base camp for 3 hours. Upon arrival at the Mentibat base camp, the two orangutans were moved into the habituation cage for one night to rest. The next morning the journey continued upstream of the Mentibat River to a new release site in Jepala Lala. If the previous release location was at the Rongun estuary about 30 minutes from the base camp, the Jepala Lala location is 1.5 hours from the base camp.

The location of Jepala Lala has steep hilly contours and is still a bit far from the mountains, in contrast to Rongun which is indeed close to the mountainous area. Finally, at 9.30 a.m. Jacques and Boy's long journey paid off, they found freedom in their real new home.

Jacques was the first to be released, when Jacques immediately got out and climbed into the nearest tree beside his transport cage. He then stopped in the middle of a tree canopy while looking at the people who were in the boat. Not long after, it was Boy's turn to be released in the same location. Unlike Jacques, who immediately climbed a tree, Boy preferred to sit on his transport cage and eat the remaining coconuts in his cage while looking at the boat.



Jacques climbed straight away to the nearby tree after the release

For a while the two of them explored together until about 80 m asl, and after that the two separated, Jacques moving up towards the mountains while Boy moved towards the river. Throughout his travels, Jacques ate lots of forest fruit and young leaves. Jacques was once seen picking up a rock on the forest floor then carrying it to the lower canopy of a tree and then sucking on the rock, this behavior was observed at an altitude of 150 m asl. It wasn't long before Jacques moved to the right of the hill moving slightly down and there he found a ripe forest fruit tree. Jacques was quite a long time in the tree canopy.



Jacques and Boy exploring together for a while

Boy, who had been moving towards the river, then moved up the hill and accidentally met Jacques who was in the upper canopy. During his journey towards the hills, Boy had time to make a nest for noon nap on the forest floor at 12.10, but after the nest was finished, Boy did not rest and instead continued exploring until he finally met Jacques at a ripe forest fruit tree. From there they explored together where sometimes Jacques led the way, and sometimes Boy led the way. They sometimes played and explored together a lot in the lower canopy and forest floor, especially Jacques, he was very active in moving and looking for food. Every time he was at a tree he would eat several types of young leaves, as well as when he was on the forest floor, he also ate young grass on the forest floor. Meanwhile Boy spends a lot of time on the forest floor curious about the observers who follow him.



Boy once was released from the cage

The next day, the monitoring team could no longer see Jacques' whereabouts. The monitoring team continued to search for Jacques until November 10, but he was still not found.

Unlike Jacques, who moved towards the mountains away from the release site, Boy moved around the release site then towards the river and slightly towards the mountains. Boy was still observed until October 23, when he was not seen again. Boy was observed again on November 1-5, although he had disappeared on November 3. After that Boy was never seen again. Boy's last location was seen not far from where he met Jacques, on a steep hill. It is suspected that the two of them moved to Lubang Ajen downstream.



Monitoring team observing the orangutan

Visit of STKIP Persada Khatulistiwa Sintang & Tanjungpura University

On October 19, 2022, and on October 25-26, 2022, college students from STKIP Persada Khatulistiwa Sintang and Tanjungpura University have visited SOC.



College Students form STKIP Persada Kharulistiwa Sintang

During the STKIP activity, 35 students from the Elementary School Teacher Education (PGSD) study program along with 1 lecturer and staff made an educational visit to the Sintang Quarantine Center. In this activity SOC explained its activities and introduced the orangutan to the participants. Apart from that, the participants also had the opportunity to see orangutans from a distance. All students looked enthusiastic in participating in this activity. In addition, they also had the opportunity to visit the Betang Kobus House to receive local cultural education.

Meanwhile, as many as 4 students from the Faculty of Forestry and 5 students from the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (FMIPA) of Tanjungpura University also visited SOC. Their activities were divided into 2 sessions from 25-26 October 2022.



College students form Tanjungpura University

On the first day, the Education and Public Relations team introduced SOC's activities, such as information on evacuation, rehabilitation of orangutans, and management of orangutan releases to their natural habitat.



Medical team giving explanation about medical treatment for orangutan

This activity was conducted at the Sintang Quarantine Center. And on the 2nd day, activities were carried out at the Sintang Quarantine Center and also in the Jerora Forest School area, where our medical team provided information about medical procedures for orangutans, necropsy on orangutans, prevention of zoonotic diseases in animals, and of course visiting medical facilities at the Jerora Forest School. After that, the activity continued with the practice of using anesthetic blowgun and visiting organic farming activity where the produce was used to feed orangutan.



Activity in Jerora Forest School

The Visit of Khadijah Kindergarten

On November 5 2022, 19 students and 3 accompanying teachers and parents from Khadijah Kindergarten visited SOC to take part in an animal awareness activity about "Knowing Protected Animals". This activity is part of a field visit organized by the Kindergarten to close the 2022/2023 academic year.



Teachers, childrens and parents of Khadijah Kindergarten

SOC often organizes outreach activities for the younger generation to provide awareness to children from an early age about the importance of protecting animals, and how to play an active role both directly and indirectly in efforts to protect the environment and its preservation. On this occasion, Khadijah Kindergarten students learned about identifying various types of protected Indonesian animals. Starting from its origin, voice and body shape. The students also received a brief introduction about orangutans, starting from their body shape, food, and why we cannot keep them as a pet. After the outreach activity. was finished, it was continued by coloring pictures of orangutans and ending with having lunch together



The activities during socialization

New Release Candidate: Rocky and Dora



Rocky (left) and Dora (right)

At the end of 2022, the Jerora Forest School has prepared 2 orangutan candidates who will be released into the Betung Kerihun National Park (TaNa Bentarum) in early 2023. They are Rocky and Dora, from behavior, ability to survive in the wild and health aspects, both have been deemed suitable for release.



Young Rocky in the forest school

Rocky is a male orangutan who will turn 10 years old this December. When evacuated by the West Kalimantan BKSDA with SOC on December 30, 2015, it is estimated that Rocky was only 3 years old at that time. Based on the description of the person who kept him at the time, Rocky came from the Ketapang area. Rocky was at the Sintang Quarantine Center until October 20 2018, after which he was transferred to the Jerora Forest School to continue the behavioral rehabilitation process at the Forest

School along with other orangutans. Finally, towards the end of 2022 the Behavior team stated that based on the behavioral and medical aspects it was stated that Rocky's health condition was very good and was suitable for release.



Dora in the forest school

Dora is a female orangutan at the Jerora Forest School who is currently 9 years and 9 months old. When she was evacuated from her owner in Sanggau Regency on March 11 2015, Dora was estimated to be around 2 years old. Because her arrival at the Sintang Quarantine Center was close to Rocky's, naturally the two of them have been close friends since they were babies. Like Rocky, Dora was transferred to the Jerora Forest School on October 20, 2018 to undergo a behavioral rehabilitation process. After Dora went through forest school for about 4 years, from a behavioral and medical perspective it was stated that Dora was fit to be released. Now both of them are in isolation cages to undergo the quarantine process before being released into the wild.

Translocation of Four Baby Orangutans to the Sintang Quarantine Center



All the babies leaving Tembak Forest School

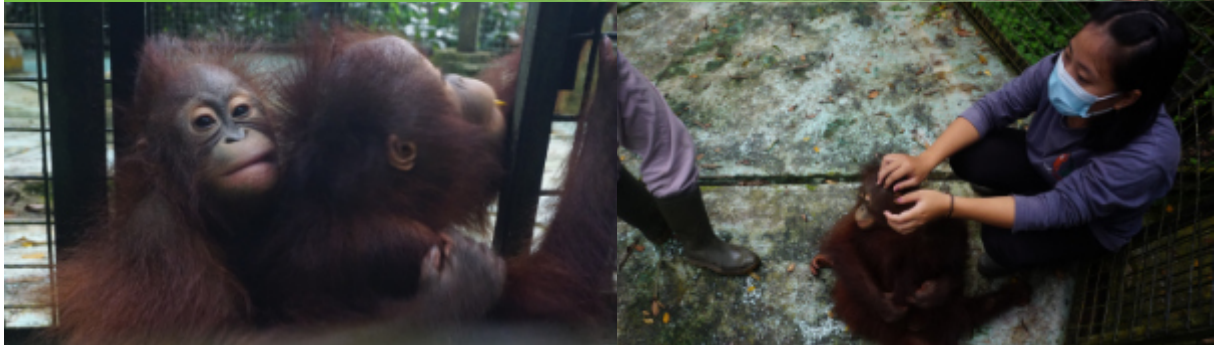
On November 30, 2022, 4 female orangutan babies were transferred from the Tembak Forest School to the Sintang Quarantine Center, they were Joss (4 years), Gieke (4 years), Julia (3 years), and Otan (2 years). The transfer of these four individuals was carried out due to their unfavorable health condition and their vulnerability to illness, especially during the rainy season. Apart from that, because the nutritional factors given were not varied, there was concern that it could hinder the baby orangutan's growth. Because the location of the Tembak Forest School is quite far from the city, most of the daily supply of fruit and vegetables is very dependent on the less varied produce from the community gardens around the forest school. Meanwhile, fruit cannot be stored in large quantities because it easily rots. So based on these problems, the medical team and the orangutan behavior team decided to move the four babies to the octagonal cage at the Sintang Quarantine Center first. While at the Tembak Forest School, Josh, Gieke, Otan and Julia took part in a lot of baby forest school activities, every one week they attended 2 forest school activities.



All the babies were carried by the staffs to the transportation cage



The orangutans arrived at Sintang Quarantine Center



The Last Forest School for Mona and Aming



Anesthesia process of Mona and Aming

The first week of December 2022 will be the last week for Mona and Aming to participate in forest school activities in Tembak, because on 20 December 2022 they have been transferred to Jerora Forest School to undergo release preparations after Dora and Rocky.

At the December forest school, in general Mona and Aming did a lot of exploring in the middle canopy to the forest floor, where in the morning Mona explored a lot on the lower canopy and forest floor, then during the day she spent a lot of time in the middle canopy, which was mostly for resting. Then in the evening she returned to the lower canopy and forest floor.



Mona and Aming last day at forest school

This variation in Mona's roaming pattern is closely related to her diet. Mona went down to the forest floor to look for cambium and young leaves from plants around the lower canopy to the forest floor. When in the middle and lower canopy, she also often explores while eating young leaves and forest fruit that she found along the way.

Mona's interaction pattern with Aming was also the same as usual, Mona spent more time following Aming when he explored. Meanwhile in the afternoon Mona enjoys playing wrestling with Tom.

On December 20, 2022, Mona and Aming were transferred to the Jerora Forest School, as they were other orangutan release candidates after Dora and Rocky. The sedation process for them was carried out at 08.00 a.m. and after that a health check was carried out and the body length was measured for them. After the medical examination was completed, Aming and Mona were moved to the transport cage to be taken to Jerora. The pick-up team departed from the Tembak Forest School at 11.00 a.m. and after a 4-hour journey they finally arrived at the Jerora Forest School. Then both were put into isolation cages to undergo the quarantine process.



Several medical check-ups before going to Sintang

The Christmas Gifts for Orangutan

December has arrived! It's time to give Christmas gifts to all the orangutans at SOC. Merry Christmas and New Year 2023 for all of us, I hope this Christmas celebration will strengthen the sense of kinship and brotherhood for all of us in welcoming the coming year.

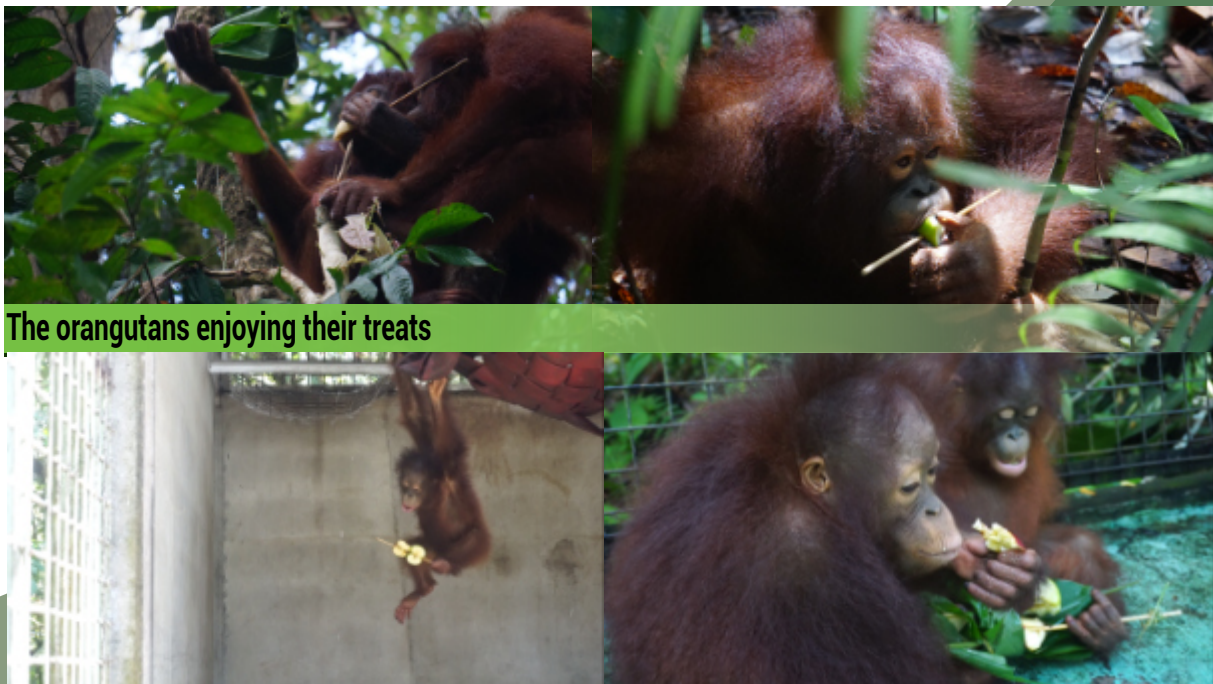
This time, all the orangutans at SOC got an enrichment that was not like usual. Usually orangutans get vegetables and fruits such as mustard greens, yam, kale, and bananas, this time they got pears, red apples and green apples! Quite different from last year, when they got watermelon, tomato and cucumber ice.



Enrichment terat for orangutans

The first group to receive Christmas gifts this time were the orangutan group at the Sintang Quarantine Center, they are Mamat, Mungki, Artemis, Bondan, Bablu, Joss, Gieke, Otan and Julia. As usual, when giving enrichment for Mamat, the staff had to approach him first, and when he got the enrichment Mamat didn't eat it right away but instead looked at the staff who gave it, but not long after that Mamat began to open her Christmas gifts. Of the three fruits, Mamat ate pears first. It was different with Mungki, when he saw the staff providing enrichment he immediately approached and immediately took his own and ate the green apples first. Artemis was the only orangutan who ran away when he saw the staff providing enrichment. He waited until the staff moved away a bit, after that Artemis took his Christmas gift and immediately brought it to the top of the cage where he could enjoy his food in peace. Meanwhile, Bablu, is the only orangutan who opens a gift wrapper first before eating the contents. It's the same with Artemis, after getting the prize Bondan immediately brought food to the top of his cage just like Artemis. Then Joss and Gieke, without wasting much time, both of them immediately devoured their Christmas presents on the floor of the cage, and lastly Otan and Julia, where when they were given gifts, they even fought over food and in the end they shared one gift and ate together.

After all the orangutans at the Sintang Quarantine Center have received their gift, now is the time for the orangutans at the Jerora Forest School to receive their gifts. The first orangutans to receive gifts were Benazir and Banir. As a good mother, Benazir first put the fruit in her mouth, then she fed Banir the fruit she was given. After that the next group given was Amory, Jochem and Rocky. They really enjoyed their own meal. Jochem and Amory ate on the cage floor, while Rocky was on the top of the cage. After the three orangutans, now it's Penai, Beno, Dora, Oli, Jamilah and Matuari's turn. Beno had to be moved to the tunnel when he was given fruit, otherwise he would be snatched by other orangutans. The last orangutans to receive Christmas gifts at Jerora Forest School were Hope and Sinta because they were both still attending forest school.



The orangutans enjoying their treats

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

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