

OLI AND MONGKI

RETURN TO THE WILD

15TH RELEASE

SINTANG ORANGUTAN CENTER



Wednesday, February 19, 2025, marked a historic day for Oli and Mongki. After undergoing medical and behavioral rehabilitation at the Sintang Orangutan Center, they were finally released into their natural habitat, Betung Kerihun National Park.

Oli, a 17-year-old male orangutan, and Mongki, a 10-year-old female orangutan, now have the opportunity to live freely in their new home. This release is the culmination of a long rehabilitation journey, during which they learned essential survival skills needed to thrive in the wild. Betung Kerihun National Park, with its rich biodiversity, is an ideal place to support their new life. We hope that Oli and Mongki adapt well and enjoy the freedom they have long awaited.

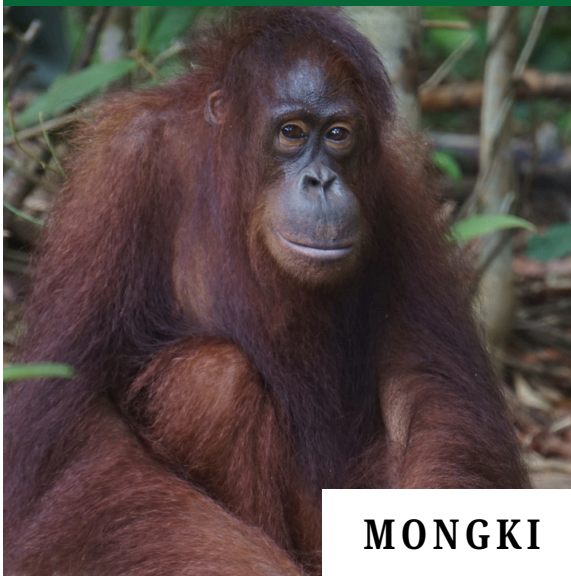
Oli has had an incredible journey to freedom. He was rescued on September 25, 2014, from being kept as a baby, in Sanggau Regency at the age of 7. At the time, Oli was in very poor condition—thin and in dire need of medical care.



OLI

Upon arriving at the Sintang Quarantine Center, Oli underwent intensive medical rehabilitation, including nutritional recovery and overall health improvement. After years of care and monitoring, Oli began a crucial phase of his life in May 2021: behavioral rehabilitation at the Jerora Forest School. There, Oli acquired vital skills such as identifying natural foods, building nests, and developing independence for survival in the forest. Through hard work and dedication, Oli finally met the criteria for release.

Mongki also has a story filled with struggle before returning to the wild. On January 27, 2023, Mongki was rescued from his owner, in Melawi Regency who had kept her for the past 7 years, she was in poor health. Her fur was dull and dry, her lips were pale, and her body was thin, indicating the need for immediate medical attention.



MONGKI

After arriving at the Jerora Forest School, Mongki was placed in an isolation enclosure to begin her medical rehabilitation. X-rays revealed the presence of bullets in her body, requiring the medical team to perform surgery to remove them. After undergoing intensive medical recovery, Mongki advanced to the next phase of rehabilitation—learning survival skills at the Jerora Forest School.

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There, Mongki demonstrated remarkable progress, mastering the skills necessary to live independently in the forest. After successfully completing various stages, Mongki finally met the criteria for release.

The release journey of Oli and Mongki from the Putussibau pier to the Orangutan Mendalam release station was a challenge, traveling through the Kalimantan jungle to the headwaters of the Kapuas River. Despite the low water level of the Mendalam River, the team carefully managed the trip using boats, maneuvering cautiously to avoid rocks protruding above the water's surface. This required the boat to move slowly, but the journey proceeded smoothly, and the team arrived at the release station on the first day.

At the following day, after Oli and Mongki spent their first night in the habituation cage, the journey continued to the release site in Jepala Lala (110 meters above sea level). This trip was quicker, taking about 1 hour and 30 minutes. The rain from the previous night had raised the river's water level, making the trip smoother than before.

During the boat trip, Mongki showed signs of water anxiety. She often covered her eyes with her hands or lowered her head, as if to avoid the view of the river. Despite this, the journey went smoothly, and the team arrived at Jepala Lala around 11:30 AM. After ensuring all preparations had been completed and waiting for the other boats to arrive, Oli and Mongki were released at exactly 00:30 PM.

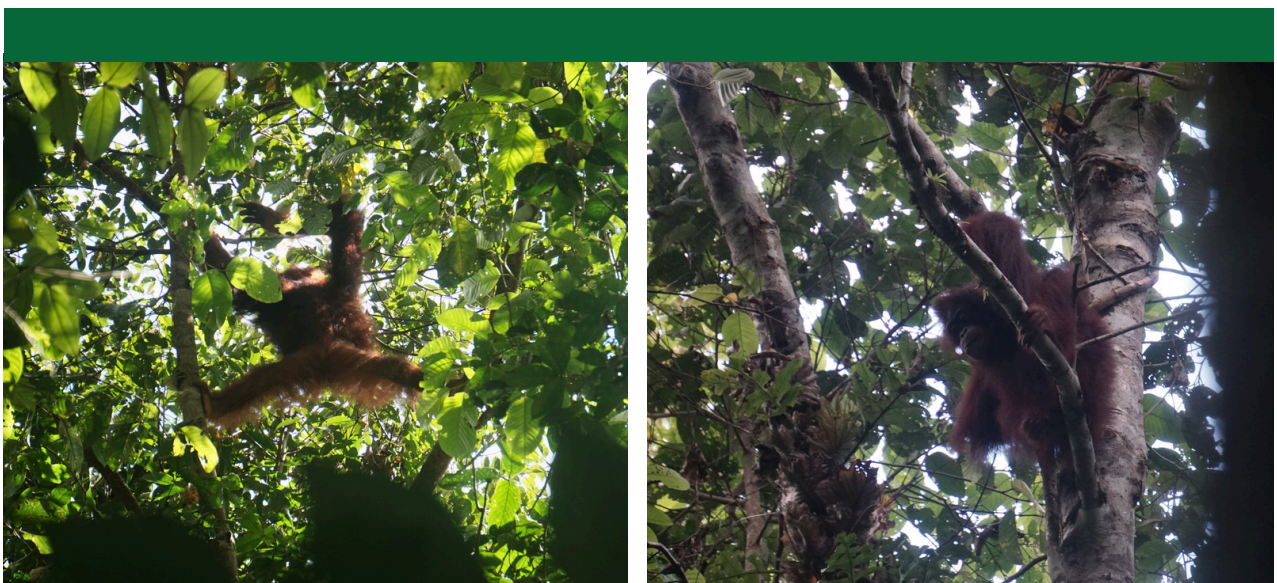




At 00:32 PM, Mongki's cage door was opened, marking the beginning of her freedom. She immediately stepped out, confidently walking into the forest. Without hesitation, she climbed the nearest tree, starting at the lower canopy before ascending to the middle canopy. There, she rested for quite some time at an elevation of 125 meters above sea level until rainfall prompted her to move.

By 1:30 PM, rain began to pour, and the tree where Mongki had been resting was not dense enough to shield her. She moved to another, more sheltered tree, about four trees away from her original spot. There, she sought cover beneath the broad leaves of a bird's nest fern (*Asplenium nidus*) until the rain stopped approximately 20 minutes later.

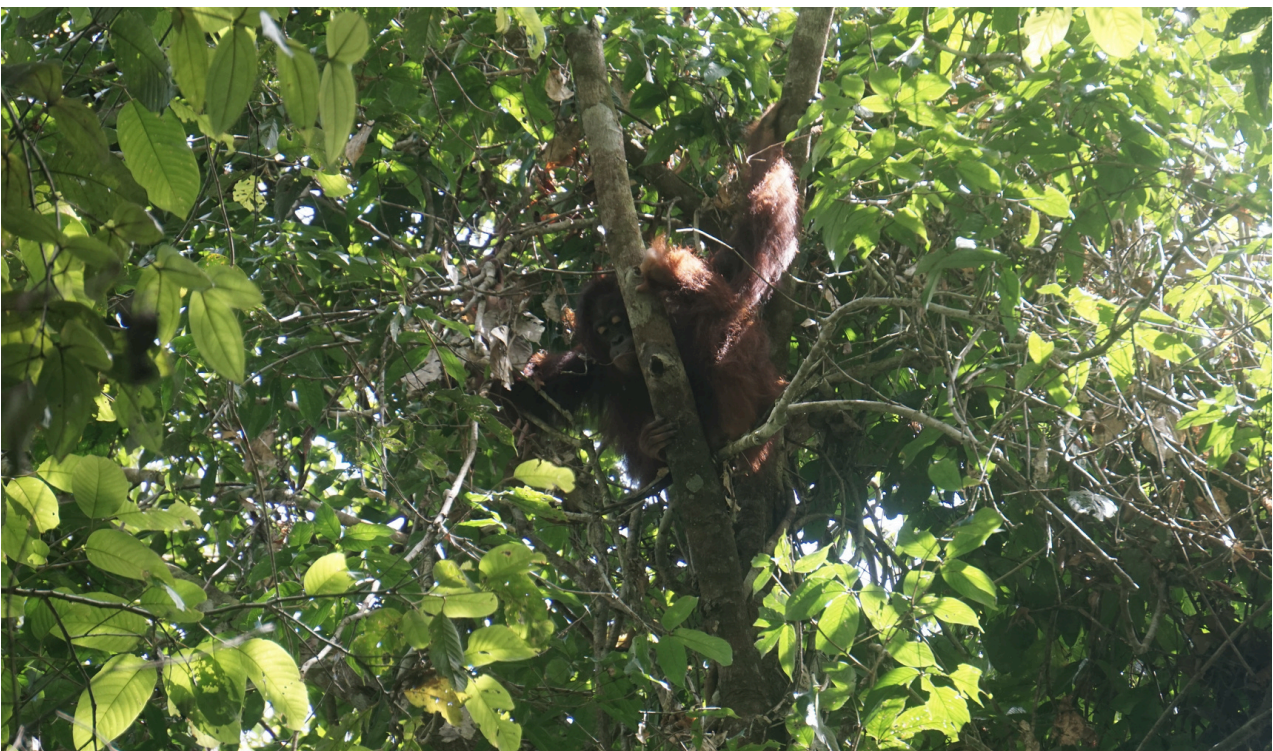
After the rain subsided, Mongki continued her exploration, this time at a slightly lower elevation of about 117 meters above sea level near the banks of the Mendalam River. She didn't venture far, spending most of her time in one tree, eating fresh, tender leaves.



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At 4:36 PM, Mongki was spotted near the riverbank, enjoying kubal fruit she had found on one of the trees. She ate enthusiastically, spending about 40 minutes there. As the evening approached, she began searching for a place to rest.

By 6:06 PM, the monitoring team concluded their observation of Mongki's activities. She chose a semalan or forest rambutan tree as her resting spot. In the upper canopy of the tree, Mongki rested on a large, comfortable branch without building a nest.





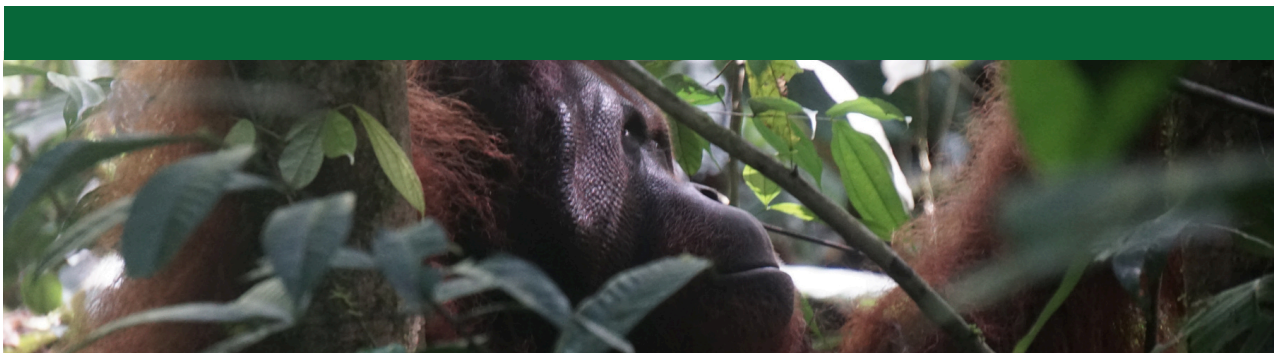
At 00:37 PM, Oli's cage door was opened. Without hesitation, he stepped out and began exploring the forest floor. Unlike Mongki, who moved to the right, Oli chose to walk straight ahead, munching on young leaves he found along the way.

By 1:00 PM, Oli climbed into the lower canopy of smaller trees, about 10 meters away from Mongki's location. However, unlike Mongki, Oli did not stop to eat but continued exploring, appearing focused on his journey.

At 2:00 PM, Oli ascended to an elevation of approximately 138 meters above sea level, alternating between the forest floor and the lower canopy. After about 20 minutes, he decided to climb to the upper canopy, where he ate fresh young leaves and rested on a large branch.

At 2:40 PM, Oli descended back to the forest floor, seemingly curious about the monitoring team observing him. He watched the team for a while, but after his curiosity was satisfied, he climbed back into the lower canopy to continue his exploration.

By 3:00 PM, Oli rested in the lower canopy for about 15 minutes before continuing his journey. He occasionally ate shoots or young leaves before climbing back to the upper canopy. Using lianas, Oli moved skillfully from one large tree to another, demonstrating his agility in his new environment.



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At 4:00 PM, Oli was seen hanging on a liana, taking a short break while enjoying the forest ambiance. He then climbed to the upper canopy of a large tree about 25 meters tall. There, Oli began constructing a nest out of branches and leaves, though it was relatively small. He rested in the nest until 5:40 PM.

As a light drizzle began at 5:40 PM, Oli woke up from his nest. After moving around it a few times, he decided to relocate to a larger branch offering better shelter. By 6:00 PM, Oli settled there to rest and sleep, marking the end of his first day in the wild.

