

Sintang Orangutan Center

Bombom and Kingkong

Back to their truly home.



14th
Orangutan Release

Kingkong

Female, 8 years 11 months



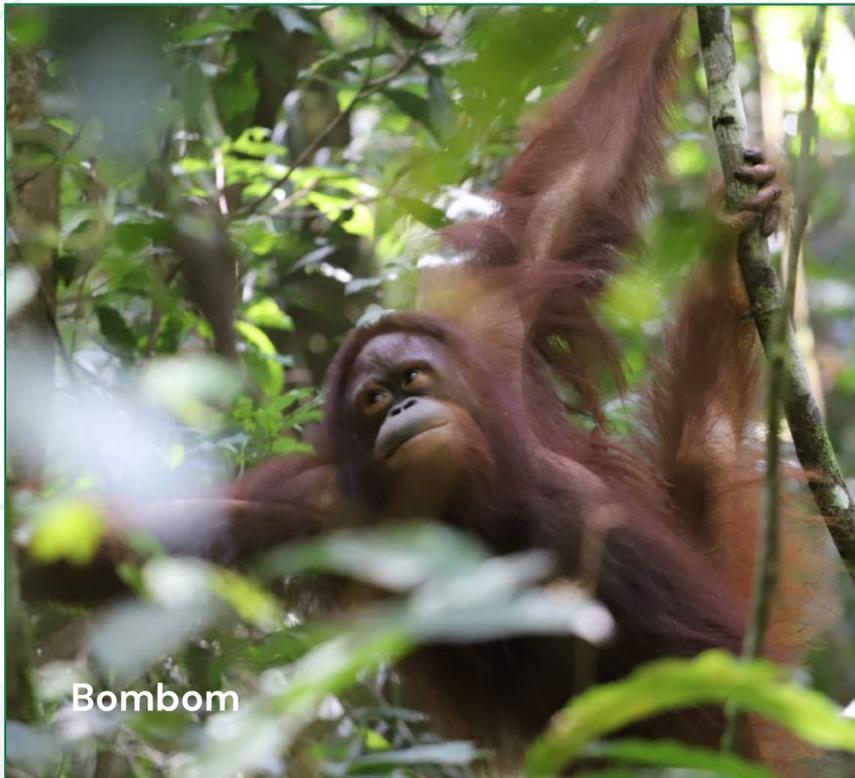
Bombom

Male, 9 years 2 months



The 14th Released:

Bombom & Kingkong

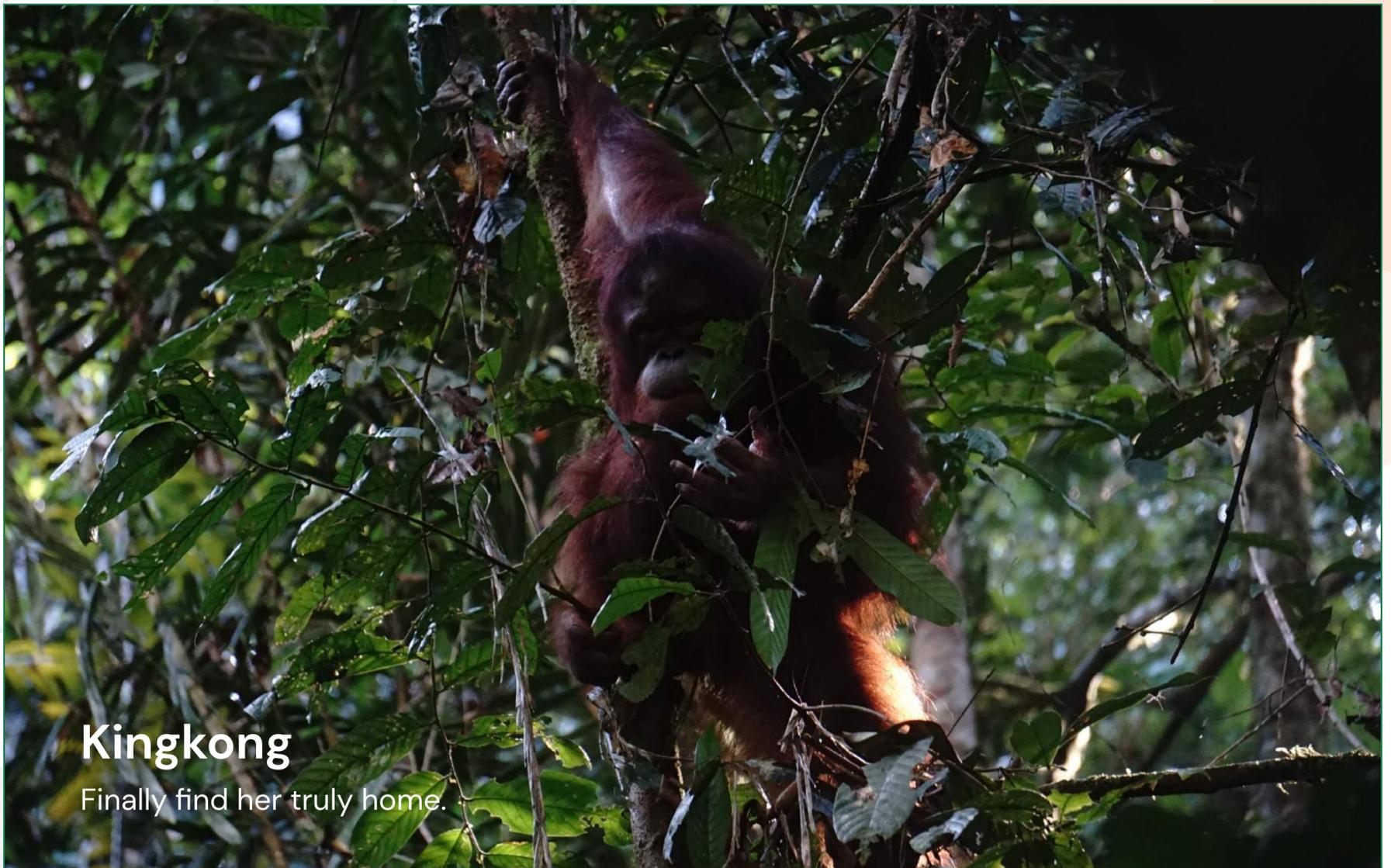


On Sunday, 28 July 2024, Bombom and Kingkong finally experienced true freedom, after spending approximately seven years at the Sintang Orangutan Center for behavior rehabilitation. They have now returned to their new home in the Betung Kerihun National Park. Bombom, a male orangutan who is currently nine years and two months old, was released alongside Kingkong, a female orangutan who is currently eight years and eleven months old.

Bombom was rehabilitated at the Sintang Orangutan Center since 22 August 2019, rescued at a young age (about 4 years old). Bombom transferred at Jerora Forest School in May 2020. Afterward, continued his forest schooling at Tembak Forest School in April 2021, then returning to the Jerora Forest School in October 2021 for another year of schooling before finally being released.

Kingkong arrived at the center on 27 August 2020, she started her journey at the Jerora Forest School, where she learned basic surviving skills, she then advanced to the Tembak Forest School, underwent the comprehensive forest school program. Kingkong back to Jerora Forest School on 5 June 2023.

The journey to the release location was quite challenging, because it had not rained for a long time so the river water level was quite low. The speedboat went rather slowly to avoid the rocks that appeared. The journey to the release location in Jepala Lala (110 m asl), which usually can be reached in 1 hour 15 minutes from the Mendalam basecamp, finally ended in two and a half hours. Nevertheless, Bombom and Kingkong looked calm and fine, as if they were enjoying the journey to their home.



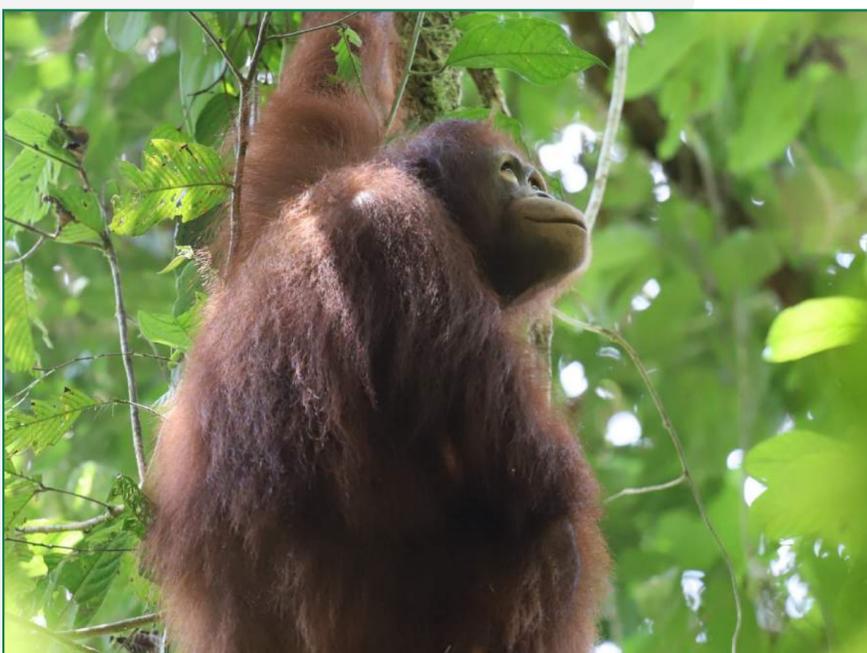
Kingkong

Finally find her truly home.

At 11:45 AM, Kingkong, a female orangutan, emerged from her transport cage. Immediately after coming out, she headed to the nearest tree and stayed at the lower canopy, observing the team conducting the release. At 12:15 PM, Kingkong began exploring, but only moved to 2–3 trees. She explored the upper canopy and rested at a height of around 110 m asl.

After some time, at 12:30 PM, Kingkong continued her exploration from the middle to the upper canopy, while eating young leaves and resting. At 12:45 PM, she was seen again at the lower canopy at a height of 120 m asl., eating root fruits or liana fruits. The remnants of the fruit she was eating were thrown towards the monitoring team, but luckily did not hit anyone.

At 12:55 PM, Kingkong resumed exploring the upper canopy and made a day nest at a height of 122 m asl. However, she did not stay there for long. At 1:40 PM, Kingkong continued her exploration about 2–3 trees away from her day nest and rested while sitting. At 1:45 PM, she moved to a height of 125 m asl in the upper canopy and ate latung fruit.



At 1:58 PM, Kingkong descended to the middle canopy and urinated. She then continued exploring at a height of 129 m asl and made a new nest near her day nest. This nest was made from bird's nest fern, then at 2:35 PM she added leaves on the nest, and she rested there at 2:50 PM.

At 4:00 PM, Kingkong woke up but did not move and only sat on her nest until the monitoring activity was over. She started resting again as it began dark, indicating that Kingkong was starting to adjust to her new environment.

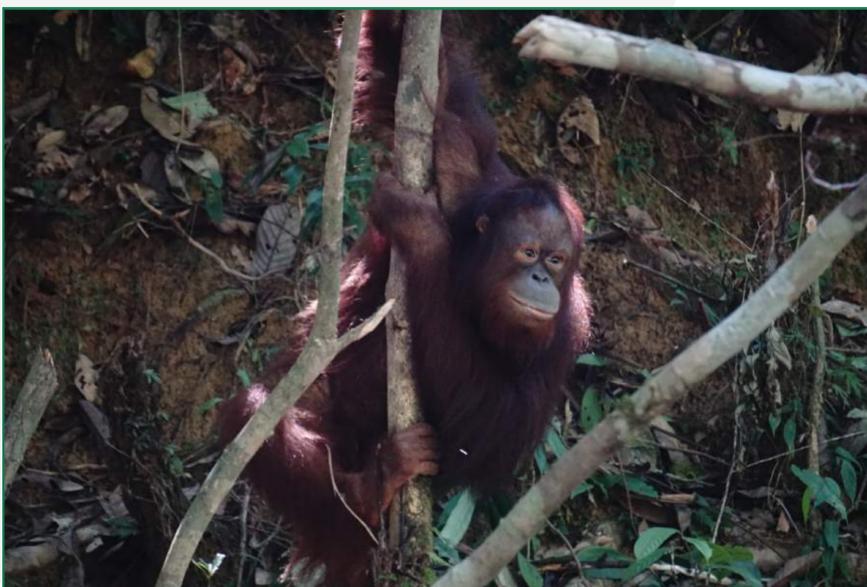




On the release day, Bombom was released at 11:58 AM local time, as soon as his transport cage was opened. Bombom swiftly entered the forest and climbed a tree near the release point, he then went down to the ground to approach the people. After five minutes, Bombom started climbing up again through the forest floor, but this time without climbing trees. At 12:23 PM, Bombom made a nest on the forest floor. However, he's disturbed by a noisy sound of a speedboat. Curiously, he tried to find the source of the sound.

At 12:50 PM, Bombom moved on the forest floor near the beach towards the noisy source. At 1:01 PM, he climbed to the lower canopy about four meters high and rested for a while before climbing to the middle canopy. At 1:38 PM, Bombom was still resting, lying on the middle canopy.

At 1:48 PM, he descended from the middle canopy, which was about 20 meters high, and then moved to the riverbank through the tree canopy. At 2:28 PM, Bombom rested while eating young leaves at the lower canopy, about four to five meters high. At 2:48 PM, he climbed back up to a higher point and rested on a tree branch about 20 meters high, eating young leaves.



At 3:28 PM, Bombom was still resting peacefully, moving passively from branch to branch about 20 meters high. At 3:48 PM, he climbed to an altitude of 100 m asl through the forest floor path, moving slowly.

At 4:28 PM, Bombom sat on the forest floor, contemplating while playing with the leaves around him. He was still on the forest floor at 4:48 PM. At 5:00 PM, Bombom began to climb to the middle canopy about eight meters high and made a nest for the night at around 10 meters high.

During the observation, Bombom was not seen eating forest fruits or shoots, and he was not observed urinating or defecating. His activities that day demonstrated the dynamic and complex behavior of an orangutan in their natural habitat.

