**On May 3, 2025,** the Betung Kerihun and Danau Sentarum National Park Authority (BBTNBKDS), in collaboration with the Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC), conducted a community outreach program in Nanga Hovat Hamlet. This initiative aimed to enhance local understanding of human-wildlife conflict mitigation, introduce scholarship opportunities, and launch the installation of Starlink internet services in the area.

## Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Awareness

The first session of the program focused on mitigating human-wildlife conflicts, particularly those involving orangutans. The materials covered topics such as orangutan behavior and practical steps to minimize conflict risks. The villagers were provided with actionable guidance on how to respond if they encounter orangutans, including rehabilitated individuals.

To support this effort, informative posters were distributed to the community. These posters contained easy-to-understand summaries, helping locals recognize the importance of orangutans as integral to the forest ecosystem.

## Installation of Advisory Signs

In addition to the awareness session, four advisory signs were installed in strategic locations to provide accessible information about conflict mitigation and appropriate responses when encountering rehabilitated orangutans. The signs were placed in the following locations:

- **Nanga Hovat Hamlet – The nearest village to the orangutan release site.**
- **Muara Rongun – A primary orangutan release point.**
- **Muara Luvang Ajen – A frequently used activity area for the local peoples.**
- **Riam Najep Apui – Another key activity location.**

These signs are expected to serve as effective educational tools, accessible to anyone active in the area.

## Scholarship Opportunities and Starlink Installation

To improve access to education in Nanga Hovat, the program introduced scholarships to support motivated students in pursuing further education. This initiative aims to inspire the younger generation in Nanga Hovat to prioritize learning, addressing the low education levels in the region.

BBTNBKDS offers a special enrollment pathway for students near the National Park to attend the State Forestry Vocational High School (SMK Kehutanan Negeri Samarinda) in East Kalimantan. With a recommendation letter from BBTNBKDS, eligible students can apply through this special route. The program is designed to ensure graduates can work locally, including in Nanga Hovat, as part of the BBTNBKDS workforce.

SOC will also help children who want to continue their education to high school or college to attend school in Sintang. Currently, SOC is trying to register three students from Nanga Hovat Hamlet. One student has been registered to a college majoring in teaching. For the other two, they are still looking for high school schools, although there are difficulties because the two students do not meet the academic requirements to enter high school. However, the community's enthusiasm for this program is very high, showing great enthusiasm to provide the best education for the young generation of Nanga Hovat Hamlet.

As a groundbreaking initiative, Starlink internet service was introduced to the hamlet to provide high-speed connectivity, enabling villagers to access information more easily, enhance educational opportunities, and improve communication. Previously, the lack of connectivity posed significant challenges. For example, vital information such as family updates, emergencies, or market prices often reached villagers too late, as they had to travel downstream for a signal. Farmers cultivating kratom frequently transported their harvests without knowing current market rates, sometimes selling at low prices due to a lack of bargaining power. With Starlink, farmers can now negotiate with buyers remotely before transporting their product. However, due to limited electricity from solar panels, the service operates from 5:00 to 9:00 PM daily, as agreed upon with the community. It can also be activated during emergencies or critical needs. Despite its limited hours, Starlink has significantly improved access to information and communication, supporting the community's educational, economic, and social needs. This initiative is a vital step in enhancing the welfare of the Nanga Hovat community while supporting conservation efforts in the region.

Fostering Collaboration for Conservation:

# Insights from Visits to Jerora Forest School by Saka Wanabakti and UNIMAS Students

Project Report
**April – June 2025**

**On May 18, 2025, Jerora Forest School** received a visit from members of the Sintang Branch of Saka Wanabakti, fostered by the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park (TNBBBR) Sintang. The Scout Work Unit (Saka) Wanabakti is part of the Indonesian Scout Movement that provides knowledge and skills in the fields of forestry and the environment, as well as instilling a sense of love and responsibility in managing natural resources. The presentation provided to new members of Saka Wanabakti include, introduction to Orangutans, such as basic information about the orangutan species and the importance of their conservation, the role of forests in the survival of orangutans, explanations of rescue, rehabilitation, and release efforts in orangutan rehabilitation, and real actions to protect orangutans and their habitat.

This activity also involved a team from the West Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) who presented education on important flora and fauna that are under legal protection. Also BKSDA's role in conservation, management of conservation areas, protection, and sustainable use of natural biological resources. After the material session, the members toured Jerora Forest School to see firsthand the orangutan rehabilitation process. This experience was very memorable, especially for members who were seeing orangutans in person for the first time.

**On 11 June 2025,** SOC received another visit from students of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). This activity was part of the "Student Mobility" program initiated by the Persada Khatulistiwa Sintang Teacher Training and Education College (STKIP). During the visit, UNIMAS students learned about the orangutan rehabilitation process from the rescue stage to release. UNIMAS students shared information about the orangutan population in Malaysia, which is located on the island of Borneo but has a smaller population compared to the Kalimantan region in Indonesia.

The visit also ended with a tour of the Jerora Forest School. The participants were very enthusiastic about seeing the orangutans undergoing rehabilitation at SOC. Many of them had active discussions, shared experiences, and asked about steps to preserve orangutans in their habitat. These two visits emphasized the importance of collaboration across organizations, educational institutions, and countries in supporting orangutan conservation efforts and raising awareness about environmental protection.

Jamilah and Ulin:

# A Mother's Journey of Nurture and Adaptation in the Forest School

After giving birth to her baby named Ulin in March 2025, Jamilah returned to forest school with her baby in May. This program aims to give Ulin firsthand experience of life in the forest, the environment that will later become her home. By following her mother, Ulin can learn directly and naturally about the forest. That morning, the tunnel door to Jamilah's cage opened precisely at 9:00 AM. Without hesitation, Jamilah stepped out, cradling Ulin with one arm while using her other hand to support herself as she moved. Slowly, she walked along the path near the forest school's electric wire barrier, navigating the forest floor and observing her surroundings. Once she entered the forest, Jamilah found a shaded spot under a large tree. There, she began breaking small branches and arranging leaves to build a simple nest on the forest floor.

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After her nest was ready, Jamilah lay down, gently patting Ulin, who was soundly sleeping on her chest. This tender moment lasted about 30 minutes before Jamilah continued exploring, leaving her nest behind. She discovered a rattan shoot on the forest floor, which she calmly ate. Although she attempted to climb trees, Jamilah seemed hesitant to go too high. Several times, she only reached the lower canopy before descending back to the forest floor. This cautious behavior was likely due to her protective instincts, as Ulin was constantly in her arms. After several attempts, Jamilah decided to continue exploring the forest floor, finding shaded spots among the bush where she rested again with Ulin. As midday approached, Jamilah disappeared from the observers' sight. After their lunch break, the animal keepers searched for her and found her around 3:00 PM. Jamilah was sitting on the forest floor under a large tree, eating young leaves while holding Ulin close. Until forest school observations ended, Jamilah remained in the same spot.

During the evening feeding, Jamilah and Ulin were not seen at the feeding platform. However, the next morning, the food provided had run out, indicating that she had actively foraged during the night. In the following days, Jamilah showed greater courage. She began taking Ulin to the upper canopy and spent more time up there. She explored carefully, searching for food, and seemed to enjoy the freedom of her natural habitat. Even so, when she descended to the forest floor, Jamilah used the time to rest while holding Ulin securely in her arms.

One noticeable behavior was Jamilah's reluctance to interact with the observers. Whenever they approached, she would immediately move away, quietly and almost soundlessly, often causing the observers to lose track of her. This behavior reflects her natural instincts to protect her baby from potential threats. Jamilah's journey with Ulin exemplifies the beauty and challenges of adapting to life in the forest. The small steps she takes, from building nests to venturing into the upper canopy, are a testament to her efforts to prepare her baby for life in the wild, all while maintaining her strong maternal instincts.

# ABOUT
# SINTANG ORANGUTAN CENTER

**The Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC)** is a local environmental NGO that colaborate 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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yayasan penyelamatan orangutan sintang

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