

PRESS RELEASE

TWO REHABILITATED ORANGUTANS GIVE BIRTH IN THE WILD IN LESS THAN THREE MONTHS IN ACEH, INDONESIA

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The Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme (SOCP) has confirmed two wild births from rehabilitated Sumatran orangutans in the Jantho Nature Reserve in Aceh, Indonesia, within less than three months. The latest birth was recorded from Wenda, a rehabilitated female orangutan released into the Jantho in 2014, following the confirmation of Bulan's infant in May 2026.

The birth of Wenda's infant was confirmed on 29 July 2026 when SOCP's Post-Release Monitoring (PRM) team observed Wenda with her newborn through the forest canopy during monitoring activities. The infant is estimated to be less than one week old and appeared healthy throughout the observation period. The baby remained closely attached as Wenda moved naturally through the forest.

Wenda was confiscated in 2009 when she was approximately one year old. Following rehabilitation at the SOCP Orangutan Quarantine and Rehabilitation Centre in Sibolangit, North Sumatra, she was transferred to the Jantho Orangutan Reintroduction Centre in 2013 and released into the wild in 2014. Since her release, Wenda has been regularly monitored by SOCP's Post-Release Monitoring team.

During our observation, Wenda appeared active while moving through the forest canopy, with her infant clinging tightly to her chest. The baby looked healthy and stayed in close contact with Wenda, **said Hafiz, Manager of the Jantho Orangutan Reintroduction Centre.**

To date, more than 190 rehabilitated Sumatran orangutans have been released into the Jantho Nature Reserve. With Wenda's infant, eleven births have now been confirmed among reintroduced orangutans in Jantho.

The confirmation of two births is an encouraging reflection of the effort behind orangutan rehabilitation and reintroduction. It shows that rehabilitated orangutans, when given the opportunity to return to their natural habitat, can survive, reproduce, and contribute to the establishment of a new wild population. While these achievements are encouraging, they also remind us of the continued importance of protecting the forests as their home, **said M. Yakob Ishadamy, Conservation Director of Yayasan Ekosistem Lestari (YEL).**

The Sumatran orangutan (*Pongo abelii*) is classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. Habitat loss, forest fragmentation, and the illegal wildlife trade continue to threaten the species throughout its remaining range.

The confirmation of two wild births within a short period provides another encouraging sign that rehabilitated orangutans can successfully return to the wild and contribute to the future of their species.

About SOCP

The Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme (SOCP) is a collaborative initiative between Yayasan Ekosistem Lestari (YEL) and Indonesia's Directorate General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation (KSDAE).

SOCP works to conserve Sumatran and Tapanuli orangutans through rescue and rehabilitation, reintroduction, habitat protection, research, monitoring, and community engagement.

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