

PROJECT REPORT Q2

# April-June 2026

Sintang Orangutan Center





# Growing Young Conservationists Through Environmental Education at Jerora Forest School

The environmental awareness and education activity in May 2026 was conducted through an Outing Class program with SD Negeri 12 Jerora. Held at Jerora Forest School, the activity was attended by 30 fifth-grade students accompanied by 3 teachers, who participated in a series of activities from morning until midday.

In this activity, the Education Team of Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC) introduced students to orangutans and SOC's role in orangutan conservation efforts, particularly in Sintang, West Kalimantan. The activity was designed to be interactive, allowing students not only to gain theoretical knowledge but also to experience direct learning in a conservation environment, including an orangutan observation session at the forest school.

The students' enthusiasm peaked during the observation session. Accompanied by the SOC team, they had the opportunity to observe orangutan behavior and learn about the rehabilitation process carried out to support orangutans before their return to the wild.

As part of the environmental learning activities, the program continued with a tree-planting session. This activity served as an important opportunity to introduce the role of forests as orangutan habitats while encouraging students to develop a sense of responsibility toward environmental conservation from an early age.

Before the activity concluded, the SOC Education Team conducted a light evaluation session through a mini game with a crossword puzzle. This activity provided a fun way to review the lessons learned and assess the students' understanding of the topics discussed.

SOC continues to strive to raise awareness among younger generations on orangutan conservation and habitat protection. We hope that educational activities like this can become an initial step in building awareness and encouraging children's involvement in conservation efforts in the future.











# Empowering Young Environmental Leaders Through Orangutan Conservation Education

On Sunday, 7 June 2026, Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC) welcomed 30 participants from Saka Wanabakti Sintang, a scouting-based youth organization focused on environmental and forestry education. Through its activities, Saka Wanabakti promotes forest conservation, biodiversity protection, and sustainable natural resource management while encouraging young people to develop environmental awareness and actively participate in conservation efforts.

This visit continued the engagement between SOC and Saka Wanabakti, following their previous visit to the center in 2023. The activity was conducted as part of SOC's outreach program, which aims to strengthen young people's understanding of orangutan conservation, forest ecosystems, and the importance of protecting wildlife habitats.

During the program, participants learned about orangutans, their ecological role as a key species in maintaining forest ecosystems, the threats they face in the wild, and the conservation efforts carried out by SOC.

Through interactive presentations and discussions, participants explored topics related to habitat loss, human-wildlife coexistence, and the role of communities in supporting conservation initiatives.

As members of Saka Wanabakti, who are actively involved in environmental and forestry-related activities, the participants showed enthusiasm and curiosity throughout the session. The discussion encouraged them to see conservation not only as a responsibility of conservation organizations, but also as a collective effort where young generations can actively contribute.

SOC hopes that this visit will inspire participants to deepen their appreciation for orangutans and forests, and bring conservation awareness back to their communities and future activities.





# Strengthening Forest Conservation Through Multi-Stakeholder Environmental Awareness





On Tuesday, June 23, 2026, the Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC) was invited by the Regional Forestry Law Enforcement Agency for Kalimantan as a guest speaker at a forest conservation awareness program held at the Baning Kelam Resort Hall, Suaka Enggang, Sintang.

The event began at 7:30 AM with participant registration, followed by the opening ceremony conducted by the organizing committee. More than 70 participants attended the program, representing a wide range of backgrounds, including village government officials, local community members, law enforcement personnel (Indonesian National Police and Armed Forces), university students, high school students, and members of local reptile enthusiast communities. Bringing together participants from diverse sectors was intended to strengthen collaboration and encourage collective action in protecting forests and conserving biodiversity.

The primary objective of the program was to increase public awareness and encourage active community participation in the protection of forests, native flora, and wildlife. Through presentations delivered by various

government agencies and conservation organizations, participants gained a broader understanding of the importance of healthy forest ecosystems and the role that every stakeholder plays in preventing environmental degradation and wildlife crimes.

The first presentation was delivered by the West Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) and focused on the protection and enforcement of laws related to protected plant and wildlife species. This was followed by a presentation from SOC on orangutan conservation and rescue efforts. The session covered the conservation status of orangutans, the major threats they face in the wild, human-orangutan conflict mitigation, wildlife rescue procedures, rehabilitation, and the process of reintroducing rehabilitated orangutans back into their natural habitat.

The next session was presented by the Sintang Forest Management Unit (KPH Sintang), which highlighted sustainable forest management practices and emphasized the importance of community involvement in protecting forest ecosystems. The final presentation was delivered by the Regional Forestry Law Enforcement Agency for





Kalimantan, covering the protection and monitoring of forest products, forestry regulations, and law enforcement efforts to combat illegal activities that contribute to forest destruction and biodiversity loss.

Throughout the program, participants demonstrated a high level of enthusiasm and engagement. This was evident during the discussion and question-and-answer sessions, where attendees actively asked questions about wildlife protection, strategies for managing human-orangutan conflicts, and ways local communities can contribute to forest conservation. The lively discussions reflected a growing awareness of conservation issues and reinforced the importance of collaboration among government agencies, conservation organizations, law enforcement authorities, and local communities.

This awareness program served as an important platform for strengthening partnerships and fostering a shared commitment to protecting Indonesia's forests. It is hoped that the knowledge and perspectives gained during the event will inspire participants to become active advocates for conservation and contribute to the long-term protection of Kalimantan's forests and their remarkable biodiversity, including orangutans, whose survival depends on healthy and intact forest ecosystems.











# Strengthening Long-Term Partnerships for Orangutan Conservation in West Kalimantan

As part of its continued commitment to strengthening orangutan conservation and protecting forest ecosystems in West Kalimantan, Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC) renewed its Cooperation Agreements (Perjanjian Kerja Sama/PKS) with the West Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA West Kalimantan) and the Betung Kerihun and Danau Sentarum National Park Authority (BBTNBKDS) for the period of 2026–2031. These renewed agreements provide the foundation for the continuation of long-term conservation programs while reinforcing collaboration between government institutions and conservation organizations to protect Bornean orangutans and their habitats.

The Cooperation Agreement between SOC and BKSDA West Kalimantan focuses on supporting orangutan rescue operations, the management of the Sintang Orangutan Rehabilitation Center, and the implementation of orangutan translocations and releases. Through this partnership, both parties are committed to improving the effectiveness of rehabilitation efforts so that rehabilitated orangutans are better equipped to survive and adapt in their natural habitats. The expected outcomes of these activities include improved survival and adaptation skills among rehabilitated orangutans, increased wild orangutan populations in their natural habitats, and a reduction in incidents of human–wildlife conflict.



In addition, the agreement with BKSDA West Kalimantan includes initiatives to strengthen human resource capacity through training, education, public outreach, and conservation awareness campaigns. These programs aim to enhance the knowledge and skills of personnel involved in biodiversity conservation, particularly orangutan conservation, while increasing public understanding and awareness of the importance of protecting biodiversity and conserving orangutan habitats.

The Cooperation Agreement between SOC and BBTNBKDS focuses on strengthening institutional capacity and supporting the long-term management of orangutan release areas within Betung Kerihun National Park. This collaboration includes capacity-building initiatives through public outreach, conservation awareness programs, educational scholarships for students from Nanga Hovat Hamlet, and support for educational facilities and infrastructure. These activities are intended to strengthen the capacity of institutions and local communities to actively participate in sustainable conservation management.

To support the successful release of rehabilitated orangutans, the agreement also covers pre-release food resource surveys, community outreach related to orangutan releases, the implementation of release operations, and post-release monitoring and evaluation. These activities play a critical role in ensuring that released orangutans successfully adapt to their natural habitat while providing valuable data to assess the effectiveness of rehabilitation and release programs.

The partnership also includes support for protecting orangutan release areas through joint patrols, as well as the procurement and maintenance of facilities and equipment that support protection and law enforcement activities. These efforts are intended to safeguard release sites from threats such as illegal encroachment, poaching, and other activities that may compromise the integrity of protected areas.



As part of a broader landscape conservation approach, SOC and BBTNBKDS are also committed to supporting community empowerment by promoting environmentally sustainable natural resource-based livelihoods and increasing the economic value of eco-friendly local commodities. This approach is expected to improve community livelihoods while encouraging greater participation in protecting forests and orangutan habitats.

Through the renewal of these Cooperation Agreements for the 2026–2031 period, SOC, BKSDA West Kalimantan, and BBTNBKDS reaffirm their shared commitment to strengthening collaboration in orangutan rescue, rehabilitation, translocation, release, habitat protection, community empowerment, and human resource development. This long-term partnership is expected to make a significant contribution to the conservation of the Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) and the preservation of West Kalimantan's rich biodiversity for future generations.



# Messi's Journey to Forest School: A New Chapter in Rehabilitation



Good news comes from Messi, a 23-year-old adult female orangutan who has recently reached an exciting new milestone in her rehabilitation journey by beginning Forest School. Messi was rescued in December 2024 after being illegally kept as a pet by a local resident in Balai Karangan, Sanggau Regency.

When she was an infant, Messi was purchased for just IDR 200,000 and spent approximately 22 years confined to a small cage, no larger than a chicken coop. During those two decades, she was deprived of the opportunity to grow, learn, and develop the natural behaviors that wild orangutans acquire in their forest habitat.

Having spent most of her life away from the wild, Messi's natural instincts and survival skills are significantly different from those of wild orangutans. For this reason, she is undergoing behavioral rehabilitation through the Forest School program. The program is designed to help her gradually relearn

essential skills needed for life in the forest, including exploring her surroundings, recognizing the forest environment, foraging for natural food, and building nests.

However, entering Forest School is not an immediate process. Before being introduced to the Forest School enclosure, Messi first underwent a gradual acclimation and preparation phase. Since April 2026, she has been introduced to electric fencing as part of her adaptation to the boundaries of the Forest School area.

This introduction took place in her overnight cage, where a low-voltage electric wire was installed along the tunnel leading to the Forest School. This step is an important part of helping Messi safely become familiar with her new environment while gradually building the confidence she needs before exploring a much larger forested area.





Messi's Forest School sessions officially began in June 2026. During her first session, she was still hesitant to leave her overnight cage. Despite encouragement from SOC's veterinary, behavior, and animal keeper teams, including placing food at the end of the tunnel, Messi chose to remain inside.

Considering that she had spent nearly her entire life confined to a cage, this response was entirely understandable. Leaving the only environment she had known for more than two decades and stepping into a forest was a significant and unfamiliar experience.

In the following days, the SOC team continued the process with patience, adjusting their approach along the way. Instead of providing her meals inside the overnight cage as usual, food was gradually placed inside the tunnel. This strategy was intended to help Messi develop a positive association with the tunnel and understand that it is a safe space, with the hope that she will eventually gain the confidence to venture into the Forest School enclosure.

Through a consistent, patient, and carefully managed rehabilitation process, the SOC team hopes that Messi will continue to build her confidence, explore her surroundings more independently, and gradually regain the natural behaviors needed to progress through her rehabilitation journey.







Returning Orangutan Families to the Wild:  
**SOC's 18th Release in Betung  
Kerihun National Park**



On June 30, 2026, the West Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA West Kalimantan), in collaboration with the Betung Kerihun and Danau Sentarum National Park Authority (BBTNBKDS) and Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC), successfully released five rehabilitated orangutans into their natural habitat in the Mendalam Sub-watershed, Betung Kerihun National Park, Kapuas Hulu Regency, West Kalimantan.

This marked SOC's 18th orangutan release since the release program began in 2017. To date, SOC has successfully returned 42 rehabilitated orangutans to the wild and relocated three wild orangutans to safer habitats as part of its long-term orangutan conservation efforts in West Kalimantan.

The five released orangutans consisted of three adult females and two dependent offspring: Benazir, a 14-year-old female; Jamilah, a 25-year-old female with her one-year-old son, Ulin; and Sinta, a 13-year-old female with her two-year-old daughter, Sabine.

All five individuals completed their rehabilitation at Jerora Forest School, the rehabilitation facility managed by Sintang

Orangutan Center. Throughout the rehabilitation process, they were trained to develop the essential skills needed for survival in the wild, including recognizing and locating natural food sources, building nests, moving through the forest canopy, avoiding potential threats, and exhibiting behaviors characteristic of wild orangutans. Based on behavioral assessments, forest school evaluations, regular veterinary examinations, and comprehensive team assessments, all five individuals met the required criteria and were declared ready for release.

The release of mothers with their dependent offspring represents an important milestone in orangutan conservation. Returning mothers and their young to their natural habitat allows maternal care and learning to continue under natural conditions. In the wild, young orangutans learn directly from their mothers how to identify food sources, build nests, navigate the forest, and recognize and avoid potential dangers. This extended learning period continues for several years until the young orangutans become fully independent.



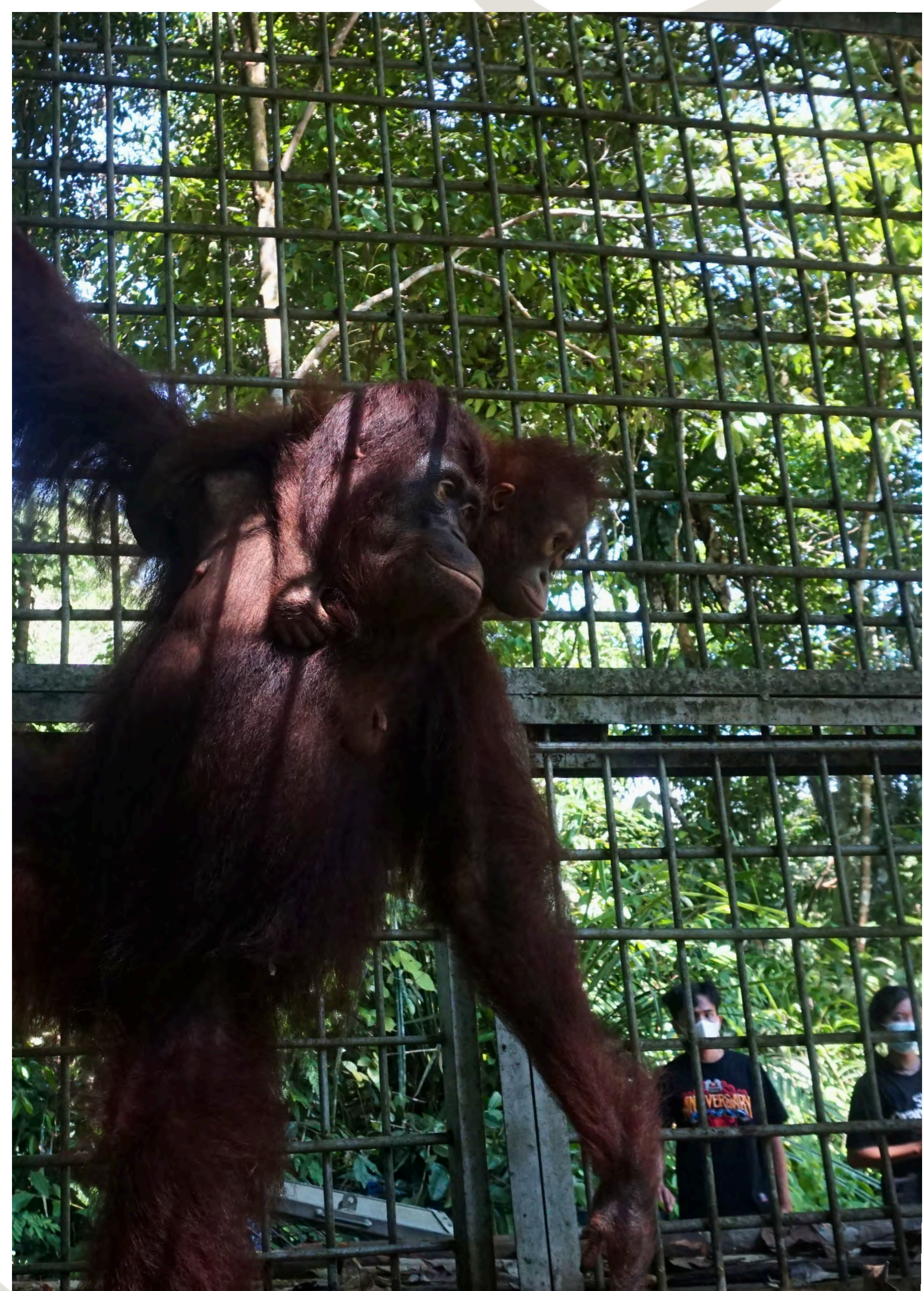




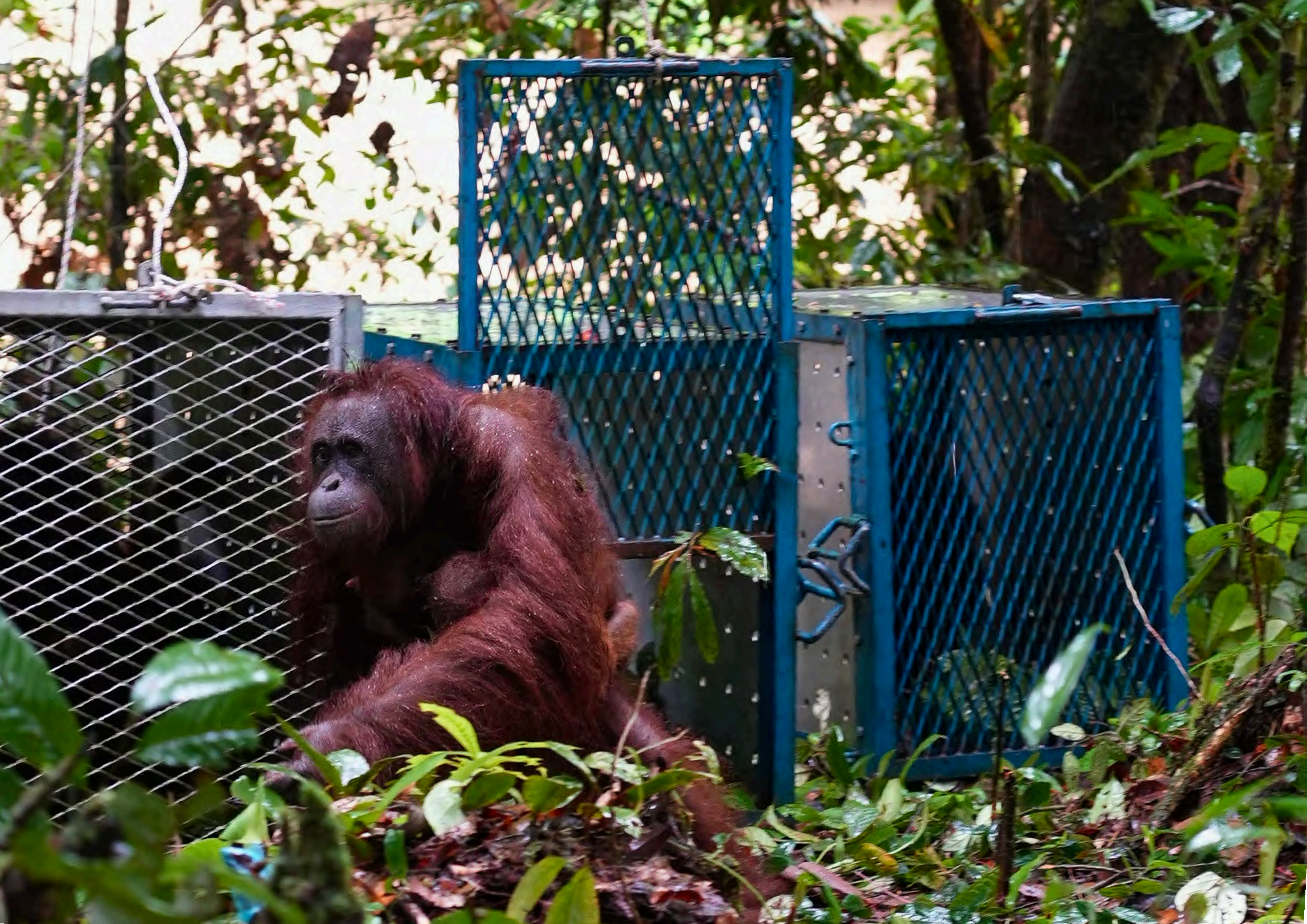
Preparations for the release began on the evening of June 28, 2026, when the BKSDA West Kalimantan and SOC teams departed from Jerora Forest School in Sintang Regency for Putussibau, Kapuas Hulu Regency, by land. After traveling overnight, the team arrived in Putussibau on the morning of June 29. There, they were joined by the BBTNBKDS team. Once all personnel, equipment, and logistical preparations had been completed, the combined team continued the journey by boat along the Mendalam River to the Mendalam Orangutan Release Station within Betung Kerihun National Park.

Upon arrival at the release station, Jamilah with Ulin, Sinta with Sabine, and Benazir were transferred from their transport crates into habituation cages. The orangutans remained in these cages for a short habituation period to rest and recover after the long journey from Sintang. During this period, the team closely monitored each individual to ensure they were in optimal condition before the release scheduled for the following day.

On Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at 6:00 AM, under overcast skies, Jamilah with Ulin, Sinta with Sabine, and Benazir were transferred from the





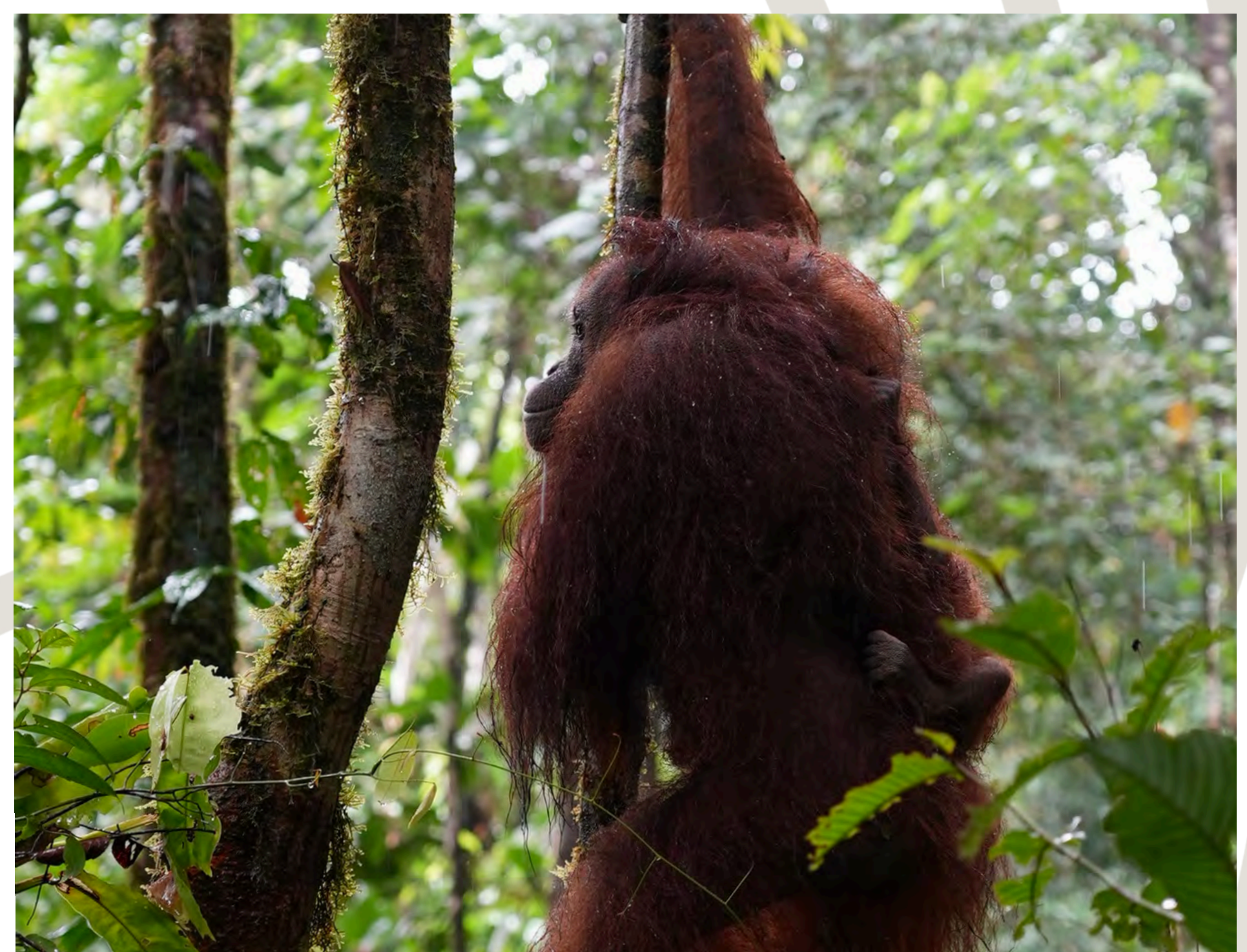


habituation cages into transport crates following standard release procedures. The entire process was carried out by veterinarians and animal keepers to ensure the safety and welfare of each individual during handling. While the orangutans were recovering from anesthesia prior to departure, heavy rain began to fall. Despite the unfavorable weather conditions, the release proceeded as planned while maintaining strict consideration for both team safety and animal welfare.

At 8:00 AM, the transport crates were loaded onto boats for the journey to the designated release site within the Mendalam Sub-watershed. The boat trip took approximately one hour under continuous heavy rainfall, with the boats traveling upstream against the current before reaching the release location, Jepala Lala.

Upon arrival, the team prepared for the release. At 10:35 AM, Jamilah's crate was opened first. She immediately climbed a nearby tree and began exploring the surrounding forest. The first wild food she

consumed was *sengkuang* fruit. Throughout the day, she also fed on *kelampai* leaves, *kayu malam* fruit, *empakan* forest fruit, and several additional natural food items that could not yet be identified by the monitoring team. During her first day in the wild, Jamilah actively travelled through the forest in search of food while continuously carrying and caring for Ulin. Ulin remained closely attached to his mother throughout the day's movements, demonstrating a strong mother-infant bond and natural maternal behavior.





Nine minutes later, at 10:44 AM, Sinta and Sabine were released. Sinta immediately left the crate and began exploring the forest, spending most of her time in the mid-canopy, although she occasionally descended to the forest floor. *Pesan* leaves were among the natural foods she was observed consuming on her first day, along with several additional plant species that have yet to be identified. Throughout the day, Sabine remained close to her mother, reflecting the natural maternal care and guidance that are essential for a young orangutan adapting to life in the wild.

Benazir was the last individual released, at 10:54 AM. As soon as the crate door was opened, she climbed a nearby tree adjacent to the release site. Unlike Jamilah and Sinta, who actively explored their new surroundings,

Benazir spent most of her first day resting while gradually adjusting to her new environment. She was observed feeding on *kerimapuret* leaves and orchid leaves. Her movements remained relatively limited, and she stayed close to the release site throughout the afternoon.

As evening approached, all three adult females selected places to spend the night. At approximately 4:40 PM, Jamilah began constructing her night nest in a tree approximately 15 meters tall, with the nest estimated to be about 11 meters above the ground. Because of the dense canopy, the monitoring team could no longer directly observe her, although falling leaves clearly indicated that she was building her nest. Sinta chose to rest on a branch with only a simple





bedding of bent branches rather than constructing a complete nest. The tree she selected was approximately 18 meters tall, with her resting site estimated at around 10 meters above the ground. In contrast, Benazir did not build a new nest and instead rested directly on a branch approximately 23 meters above the ground in a tree measuring about 27 meters in height.

Overall, the first day following release demonstrated encouraging initial adaptation by all individuals. They exhibited natural behaviors, including exploring the forest, foraging for food, selecting resting sites, and, in the case of the mothers, continuing to protect and care for their offspring. These observations provide positive early indicators of successful adaptation to their natural habitat. Over the coming days and months, the monitoring team will continue conducting intensive post-release monitoring to document ranging patterns, feeding behavior, daily activities, health condition, and overall adaptation to the wild. The data collected through this monitoring program will play an important role in evaluating the success of the release and guiding future orangutan conservation efforts.





# 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.

## Sintang Orangutan Center

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