

PROJECT REPORT Q3

July-September 2026

Sintang Orangutan Center

Rescue and Direct Release of a Wild Orangutan in Kapuas Hulu, West Kalimantan

1

On July 2, 2026, a video uploaded by the Instagram account @putussibauinformasi showed an orangutan in the vicinity of an abandoned house. The video subsequently attracted public attention, and information about the orangutan's presence was received by the Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC) team. Based on the information obtained, the orangutan was sighted in Seluan Village, North Putussibau District, Kapuas Hulu Regency. The SOC team was then requested to respond to the situation and carry out the rescue of the individual.

On Friday, July 3, 2026, the SOC team departed from Sintang for Putussibau. The team arrived at the location where the orangutan had been seen by local people at approximately 5:30 p.m. Upon arrival, the team conducted a field investigation and interviewed local, people to gather information about the orangutan's presence and movements.

According to them, the abandoned house shown in the video was located along the roadside and directly bordered a forested area. Across the road were a vegetable garden and several durian trees that were fruiting at the time. The garden owner reported seeing the orangutan cross from the forest into the garden for two consecutive days to search for and eat durian fruit, on July 1 and 2, 2026.



On Friday afternoon, around 5:00 p.m., the garden owner once again spotted the orangutan inside the forest while heading toward a small stream to bathe. This sighting occurred approximately 30 minutes before the SOC team arrived at the location. Based on this information, the team conducted a search inside the forest to locate the orangutan. During the initial search, the individual was not found. However, the team identified several signs of orangutan activity in the surrounding area, including broken branches, feeding remains, and a nest. These signs were found not far from the forest entrance and around the abandoned house where the orangutan had previously been seen in the video. The search continued the following day. The team was then divided into three, search groups, with two people in each group. All three groups entered the forest at 8:30 a.m. and conducted the search based on information about the orangutan's location and the signs of its presence identified during the previous search.

At approximately 9:10 a.m., one of the teams located the orangutan feeding on a *kubal* fruit tree. Upon noticing the team's presence, the orangutan responded by moving farther into the forest. After assessing the terrain and confirming that the situation was suitable for intervention, the team proceeded with the sedation process using a dart gun. At 10:35 a.m., the dart successfully reached the target and the anaesthetic was administered.



Approximately five minutes later, at 10:40 a.m., the orangutan began to lose consciousness and fell from the tree. The team immediately evacuated the orangutan from the forest and moved it to a safer location for a physical examination. The examination confirmed that the orangutan was a male weighing 34.2 kilograms and estimated to be approximately 10 years old. Overall, he was found to be in good physical condition, with good body proportions and a Body Condition Score (BCS) of 3/5. His skin and hair appeared clean and glossy, and no serious injuries were found. A minor abrasion was observed on his back, which was suspected to have resulted from contact with branches when he fell from the tree following the sedation. During the identification process, the team did not find a microchip on the orangutan. This was one of the indicators that the individual had not originated from a rehabilitation center where individuals had previously undergone identification procedures. Before the orangutan was transferred to a transport cage, the team implanted a microchip as part of the identification and individual record-keeping process. After the orangutan had fully recovered from the effects of anaesthesia and regained consciousness, he was transported from the discovery site to the BKSDA Resort Office in Putussibau to prepare for the journey to the release site.

Later that same day, the orangutan was released into Betung Kerihun National Park, specifically in the Mendalam River area downstream from Lubang Ajen, at 11:25 a.m. The release was carried out after the team confirmed that the individual was in suitable condition to return to his natural habitat. This response highlights the important role of local communities in reporting the presence of wildlife near residential areas.



Initial information provided by local people, together with information shared through social media, helped the team obtain details about the orangutan's location and movements, allowing the response to be carried out in a more targeted manner. Because the individual was found to be in good health and there were no indications that he had originated from a rehabilitation center, the orangutan was able to be returned directly to a suitable natural habitat. This release represents a collaborative effort to support the long-term survival of orangutan populations and reduce the potential for human-wildlife conflict in communities surrounding forest areas.



Learning About Orangutan Conservation at Jerora Forest School

2

On July 31, 2026, the Sintang Orangutan Center hosted an educational visit from Sekolah Sains Karakter Indonesia. The school, which incorporates science-based learning and character development into its educational approach, provides students with opportunities to learn directly through field activities. SOC served as one of the learning locations where students could learn about orangutans, conservation efforts, and the importance of the relationship between people and nature.

The activity took place from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. and was attended by 14 students and six accompanying teachers. The program began with a presentation by the SOC Education Team covering an introduction to orangutans, their role in the ecosystem, the importance of forests as orangutan habitat, and an introduction to SOC and its conservation efforts through rehabilitation programs.

Participants also learned how orangutans may end up in rehabilitation centers and why they need to undergo a rehabilitation process before they can be returned to their natural habitat. This material helped participants understand that rehabilitation is an important stage in preparing orangutans to develop and maintain the behaviors they need to survive in the wild.



After the presentation, participants took part in an educational game by answering questions displayed in the presentation. Students took turns coming to the front to answer questions about orangutans based on the material they had learned. This activity provided an interactive learning experience while also helping the Education Team assess the participants' understanding of the material.



The activity continued with a tour of the Jerora Forest School complex. Participants were introduced to the rehabilitation center's environment and had the opportunity to observe Forest School activities firsthand. During the tour, the SOC team explained various aspects of orangutans, including their physical characteristics, behaviors, and the stages they undergo during the rehabilitation process.



Sintang Orangutan Center

Participants also gained an understanding of how Forest School activities contribute to preparing orangutans for their eventual return to their natural habitat. The activity continued with a tour of the Jerora Forest School complex. Participants were introduced to the rehabilitation center's environment and had the opportunity to observe Forest School activities firsthand. During the tour, the SOC team explained various aspects of orangutans, including their physical characteristics, behaviors, and the stages they undergo during the rehabilitation process. Participants also gained an understanding of how Forest School activities contribute to preparing orangutans for their eventual return to their natural habitat.



Throughout the activity, participants showed interest in the material and actively engaged in discussions and question-and-answer sessions. Their questions covered a range of topics, including orangutans, the rehabilitation process, orangutans' lives in their natural habitat, and the role people can play in supporting conservation efforts. At the end of the activity, several participants were given the opportunity to explain what they had learned and share actions they could take to support orangutan conservation.

Participants said they could share information about orangutans and the threats they face with their friends and family. They also recognized that keeping the environment clean is one way they can show concern for the environment in their daily lives. Through this educational visit, participants gained not only information about orangutans and conservation but also an opportunity to observe rehabilitation activities firsthand at Jerora Forest School. Field-based learning is expected to help participants better understand the importance of protecting forests and wildlife while recognizing simple actions they can take to support conservation efforts within their own communities.



From Rescue to Rehabilitation: Brooklyn's Journey

3



On August 21, 2026, the West Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA Kalimantan Barat) received a report from the Head of Nanga Ella Hilir Village, Ella Hilir District, Melawi Regency, regarding an orangutan being kept by a local people. In response to the report, BKSDA Kalimantan Barat coordinated with the Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC) to verify the situation and carry out the orangutan's evacuation. On August 22, 2026, the SOC team departed from Sintang and traveled to Nanga Pinoh, the capital of Melawi Regency, which is approximately a one-and-a-half-hour drive. In Nanga Pinoh, the SOC team met with BKSDA Kalimantan Barat officers to coordinate, conduct a field briefing, and prepare the necessary equipment before continuing to the location. From Nanga Pinoh, the journey to Nanga Ella Hilir Village took approximately one hour.





Upon arrival in the village, the team coordinated with the village head who had submitted the report. The team was then escorted to the orangutan owner's house, which was located not far from the village office. At the location, the team found a male orangutan estimated to be around five years old being kept behind the owner's house. The orangutan was housed in a cage measuring approximately 1 meter by 0.5 meters.

The cage was inadequate to support the orangutan's physical and behavioral needs. It was made of wood and enclosed with sheets of corrugated metal, leaving the orangutan with very limited space to move. There was only one small opening, which the owner used to provide food and water. The area surrounding the cage was also unsuitable. It was being used as a household waste disposal area, and the team found a dead rat directly beneath the cage. Such environmental conditions may increase the risk of health problems for the animal. While waiting for the medical team to prepare for the sedation procedure, the team gathered information from the owner. According to the information provided, the orangutan had been kept for approximately two years. The owner explained that her husband, who worked in Central Kalimantan, had brought the orangutan home after purchasing two orangutans from someone who was selling them.

One of the individuals reportedly did not survive because it was already in poor physical condition when acquired, including fractures in several parts of its body. The individual died approximately one month after being kept, leaving only the orangutan that was subsequently evacuated. The owner also explained that as the orangutan grew larger and became more active, they began experiencing difficulties keeping it. The orangutan had repeatedly damaged parts of the cage and objects around it. To prevent it from escaping, the cage was reinforced with additional sheets of corrugated metal, and the door was permanently nailed shut. During the period it was kept by the owner, its diet generally consisted of rice, cakes, crackers, and fruit when available.

Once all preparations were complete, the medical team administered sedation according to established procedures. As the sedative took effect, the team opened the cage by removing the nails securing the door using the available equipment. The orangutan was then safely evacuated and taken for an initial health examination. The examination showed that the orangutan was generally in good health and had a relatively well-nourished body condition. Its body weight was recorded at 16.5 kilograms. The team also found a wound on the left temple area near the eye, which became one of the conditions requiring monitoring during the quarantine period. After the evacuation was completed, the orangutan was immediately transported to SOC's Jerora Forest School Rehabilitation Center in Sintang. The journey continued into the evening. Upon arrival at the rehabilitation center, the orangutan - who was eventually named Brooklyn was immediately placed in the quarantine facility for monitoring and further examination before proceeding to the next stage of rehabilitation.



During the initial observation period in quarantine, Brooklyn showed a relatively good response. He appeared active, although it remained somewhat shy when encountering unfamiliar surroundings and people. His appetite had begun to develop, although the amount of food consumed was still relatively small. Brooklyn had also not yet shown an interest in drinking milk but was already willing to drink water. One of the behaviors observed was his ability to use the drinking water faucet independently. He's not only obtained water from the faucet but also repeatedly wet his body, appearing to bathe himself. This behavior has become part of the team's observations during the quarantine period.

The current dry-season weather may be one factor associated with this behavior, although further monitoring is still needed to better understand the habit. For the time being, Brooklyn will remain in quarantine and undergo gradual monitoring. The team will continue to observe his health condition, eating patterns, activity levels, responses to its surroundings, and other behaviors. These observations will serve as a basis for determining its care needs and the next stages of rehabilitation. This evacuation was made possible through collaboration among the local community, the village government, BKSDA Kalimantan Barat, and SOC as part of efforts to protect wildlife. Reports from the public play an important role in helping authorities identify and respond to wildlife being kept inappropriately, allowing the animals to receive proper care and appropriate treatment.





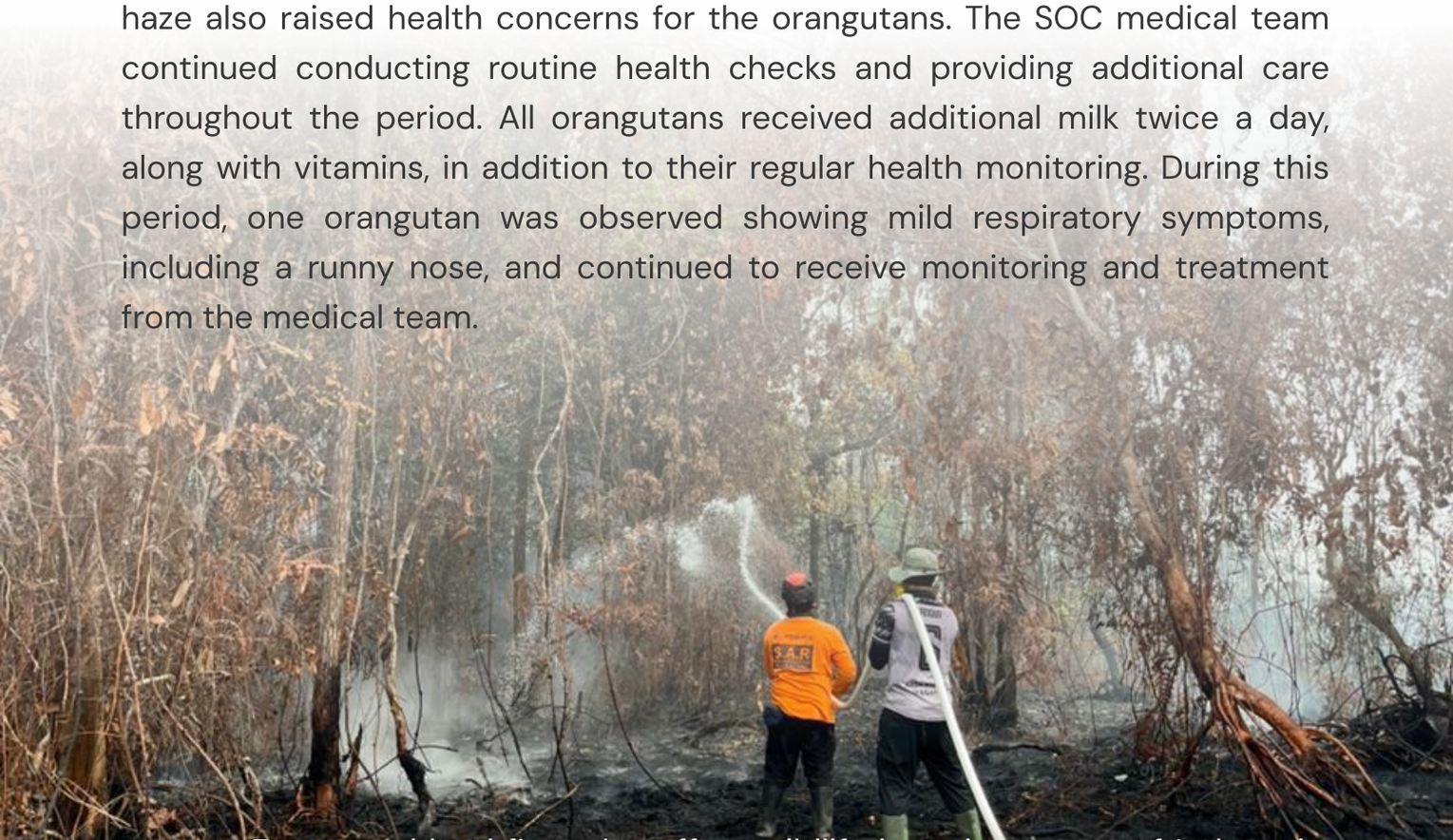
Jerora Forest Fire: Firefighting, Monitoring, and Orangutan Care

4

Prolonged dry-season conditions increase the risk of forest and land fires across various parts of Indonesia, including West Kalimantan. Drier conditions make vegetation and peatlands more susceptible to fire. Climate phenomena such as El Niño can further intensify these dry conditions, resulting in a higher risk of fires. To anticipate these conditions, the Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC) team conducts routine monitoring around the rehabilitation center, including Jerora Forest School, using drones. The monitoring is carried out to assess the condition of the surrounding area and detect fire hotspots as early as possible. On August 31, 2026, while conducting daytime drone monitoring, the SOC team detected a fire in a forested area near the boundary of Jerora Forest School. After becoming aware of the fire, the team immediately went to the location to begin firefighting efforts.

The firefighting operation continued until approximately 2:00 a.m. The response continued the following day and was carried out over the next several days. Some of the affected areas consisted of peatland, where fires can continue smoldering below the surface even when no visible flames are present. Therefore, the team conducted repeated extinguishing, cooling, and inspection efforts to ensure that no remaining embers could reignite the fire. In addition to responding directly to the fire, the SOC team continued monitoring the area around Jerora Forest School through field patrols and drone surveillance. These activities were carried out to detect any new fire hotspots and ensure that the area surrounding the rehabilitation facilities remained safe.

The fire and resulting smoke haze also affected orangutan rehabilitation activities. For the time being, Forest School activities were suspended, and the orangutans were kept in socialization cages. This measure was taken to reduce their exposure to smoke and protect their safety while environmental conditions were not yet suitable for activities in the forested area. The smoke haze also raised health concerns for the orangutans. The SOC medical team continued conducting routine health checks and providing additional care throughout the period. All orangutans received additional milk twice a day, along with vitamins, in addition to their regular health monitoring. During this period, one orangutan was observed showing mild respiratory symptoms, including a runny nose, and continued to receive monitoring and treatment from the medical team.



Forest and land fires also affect wildlife in various parts of Indonesia. Animals may lose their habitat and food sources and face the risk of injury or death when they are present in burned areas. In Ketapang Regency, West Kalimantan, one orangutan was reported to have been affected by a forest fire during this period. The fire near Jerora Forest School highlights the importance of preparedness during the dry season. SOC will continue monitoring the area, responding to fire hotspots when detected, and ensuring that the orangutans' health remains closely monitored. Rehabilitation activities will also be adjusted according to environmental conditions to protect the orangutans throughout periods of increased fire and smoke-haze risk.



From Fire Hoses to Lianas: Creating Enrichment for Orangutans

5

As part of routine animal welfare management, the Sintang Orangutan Center continues to develop enrichment facilities for orangutans under its care. One of the efforts involves adding structural enrichment to socialization cages and several other enclosures to support the orangutans' daily activities.

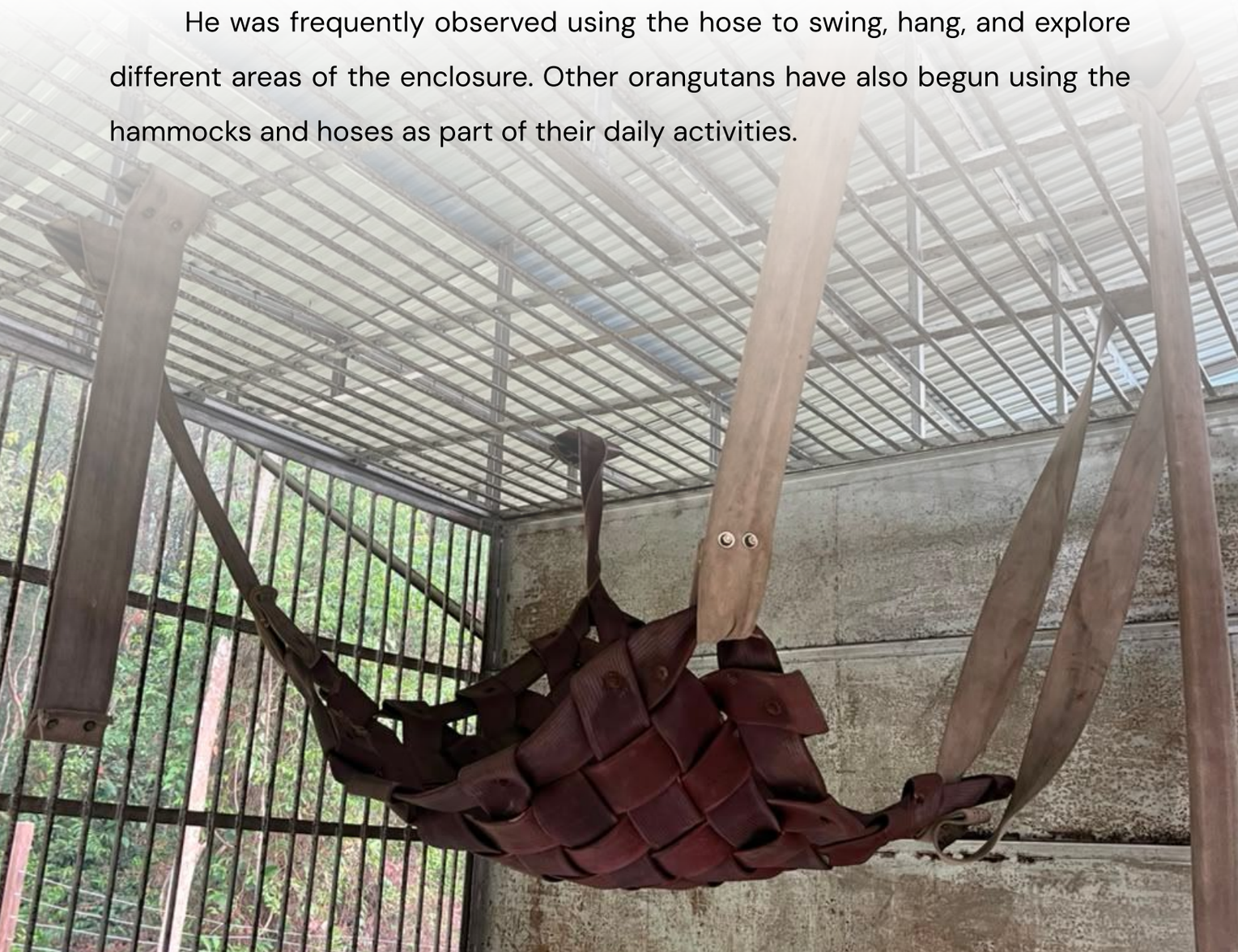


The initiative to install hammocks was first proposed by one of SOC's volunteers and was later implemented in collaboration with the rehabilitation team. Besides the hammocks, the team also repurposed used fire hoses that were still in suitable condition as structural enrichment.



Before being used, the hoses were cleaned and dried to ensure that they were safe and appropriate for the orangutans. The hoses were installed to hang down and resemble the lianas commonly found in orangutans' natural habitat. This design gives the orangutans opportunities to climb, hang, swing, and move around the cage more freely. Meanwhile, the hammocks provide additional elevated spaces that can be used for resting and relaxing. The enrichment is used by orangutans waiting for their scheduled Forest School sessions, individuals still undergoing quarantine, as well as orangutans classified as unreleasable who require long-term care at the rehabilitation center. The presence of these structural elements helps create a more varied environment and provides opportunities for the orangutans to express natural behaviors while under human care. The orangutans' initial responses to the new enrichment have varied but have generally been positive. One individual rescued in August 2026, who had previously been kept in a cage measuring approximately 1 x 0.5 meters, showed a high level of interest in the enrichment installed in his quarantine enclosure.

He was frequently observed using the hose to swing, hang, and explore different areas of the enclosure. Other orangutans have also begun using the hammocks and hoses as part of their daily activities.



In addition to supporting physical activity, structural enrichment helps optimize the use of the available enclosure space, including elevated areas that are important for orangutans as arboreal animals. The use of various climbing structures and additional resting areas also provides environmental variety that can support animal welfare throughout the rehabilitation process and during long-term care. To date, enrichment has been installed in most of the enclosures. The SOC team plans to continue installing hoses and hammocks in the remaining enclosures so that all orangutans under our care can benefit from these enrichment opportunities. Several enclosures that are still being developed include those occupied by Matuari, Beno, and Bablu. The rehabilitation team will continue monitoring and evaluating how each individual uses the enrichment. These observations form part of SOC's ongoing animal welfare management efforts and support the rehabilitation of orangutans under its care.



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.

Sintang Orangutan Center

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