



*Orangutan  
Appeal UK*

# Orangutan Appeal UK



**News**

Issue 31 – August 2016

# Post Release Monitoring Project

## Rosalinda and Ganang Release

Our Post Release Monitoring Project in the Tabin Wildlife Reserve is the perfect place for our recently graduated rehabilitated orangutans to test their ability to live a wild life. For many years rehabilitated orangutans had been released into the wild but without anyone observing them or recording how successful these young orangutans were at caring for themselves, so once released there was no way of finding out if they had survived.

In 2009, in partnership with the Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD), the Appeal launched its ground breaking post release monitoring programme. Since then nine orphans have joined the programme – Ganang and Rosalinda will be next!

**Rosalinda** is the daughter of Jessica, a rescued orphan orangutan who had been through the rehabilitation programme herself before being released into the Kabili Reserve.

Jessica was thriving and adapting well to her new life in the reserve. She had started visiting a large male, called King Ghaz, who was in a holding enclosure awaiting his transfer to Tabin. King Ghaz was Sepilok's very special dominant male who Appeal Chairperson, Sue Sheward, met on her first visit to Sepilok in 2000. King Ghaz needed to be translocated to a larger, more remote reserve where he could breed freely, but funding needed to be found before this could be done. Sue returned to the UK and immediately set to work raising enough money for King



*Rosalinda as a baby*

to be the first orangutan ever to be translocated **inside** a helicopter. It didn't take long to raise the £7,000 for the hire of a helicopter from Sabah Air which was piloted by Captain Naru and King was transferred successfully to Tabin Reserve.

A few months later, to everyone's surprise, Jessica was diagnosed as being pregnant and it is believed that King Ghaz was the father. In 2003 Rosalinda was born.

Tragically, not long after giving birth Jessica became very ill and died. Rosalinda was so young she would not have been able to survive on her own in the reserve, so she was taken into the centre to be cared for and began her journey through the rehabilitation programme.

Rosalinda was a sociable orangutan who enjoyed playing and learning with the other orangutans. She was a very strong climber and would be the first to initiate tree-climbing, and to encourage others to do the same. Gradually, she became more independent and started venturing into the forest on her own and foraging for food.

In 2007 she was released into the Kabili Reserve where she quickly adapted to her new independent life.

In May 2016, after being thoroughly checked, Rosalinda was given a clean bill of health and permission to be released into Tabin Reserve.

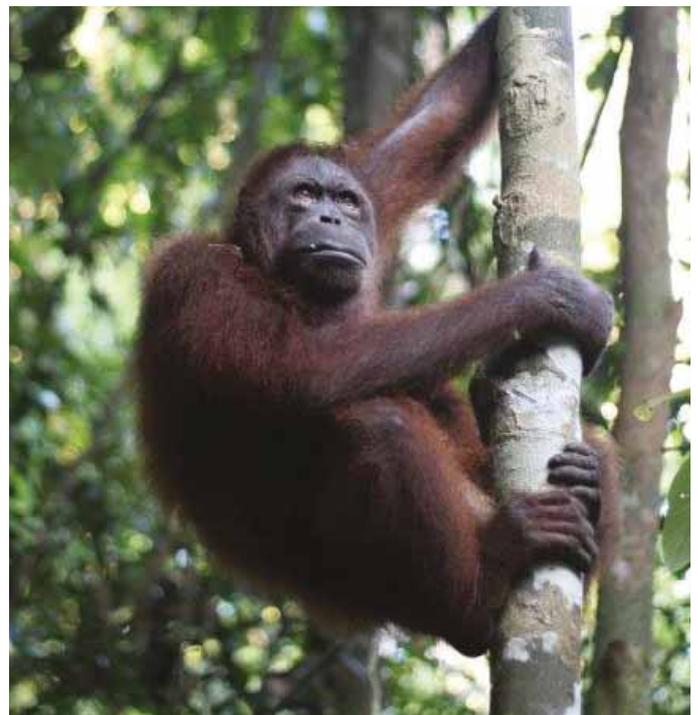
**Ganang** was found by a worker on a plantation when she was approximately 1 year old and had been kept illegally as a pet in a nearby village. In 2006 she was surrendered to Sepilok. Although she showed some human tendencies she was in good condition.



*A young Ganang*

During her captivity she had never encountered another orangutan, therefore had never learnt how to socialise and was quite scared of other orangutans.

This led to her being bullied by some of the older females. However, Ganang progressed well through the rehabilitation process, and in 2005 the decision was taken to release her into the Kabili Reserve which surrounds the centre. She spent very little time at the feeding platform and lived a solitary life in the forest. From time to time she continued to seek out human company, and on a couple of occasions the rangers were called to collect her from one of the local lodges. It was decided to relocate her much deeper into the forest, but she returned to the outdoor nursery shortly afterwards. This cycle of events continued until the decision was made to relocate Ganang into the Tabin Reserve, where she could live an undisturbed life away from humans.



*Ganang takes off into the trees*

## The Release

In May 2016 Ganang and Rosalinda, both females aged 13 years old, were transported from Sepilok to Tabin, accompanied by a team from Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD). Our PRMP research assistants were already waiting for them, having carefully checked the release site for any potential hazards. Sepilok's vet, Dr Laura, gave both girls a final health check before they were then released.

Ganang was the first to be released. As soon as her door was opened she went straight into the forest and climbed high into the canopy to make a nest. Rosalinda was a little more cautious and preferred to observe her surroundings from the top of a nearby tree. Ganang began to move through the forest with Rosalinda following closely behind, and in the evening they began foraging for food.



*Ganang eager to be free*

After satisfying her hunger, Ganang made a nest for the night, but no sooner had she finished when Rosalinda took it over, forcing Ganang to leave and build another one from scratch!

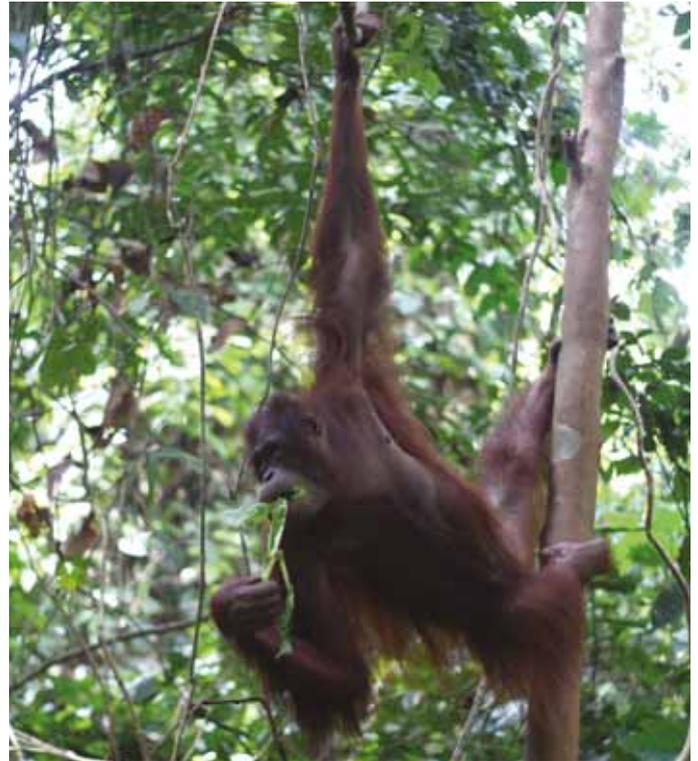
After five days of tracking and monitoring by our PRMP team, it was found that both girls needed more time to adjust to their new lives in Tabin. Ganang is better at foraging than Rosalinda, but their skills are not yet good enough to support their diets, so on the fifth day the team had to intervene and provide some supplementary food.

What Ganang and Rosalinda have experienced is very stressful. Being moved to a brand new forest environment for any orangutan changes everything for them. They



*Rosalinda takes her time!*

need to start again on so many levels; not least in terms of finding food and working out their place in the jungle hierarchy. Currently we have two research assistants intensively monitoring each orangutan. They will spend on average 12 hours per day recording and monitoring the orangutans' behaviour, from the moment they leave their nest in the morning, to when they settle down to sleep at night. The team are also there to help build their confidence gradually over the next couple of years, and with our hard work we'll hopefully be able to turn these two into confident, self-sustaining orangutans before too long and hope they will become mums to their own infants in the future.



*Rosalinda – a taste of freedom*

## PRMP – Update

Before Ganang and Rosalinda were released into Tabin, the Post Release Monitoring Project Team were spending all of their time following the other orangutans that we've had with us for years. We were mainly focusing on Mico, Anekara (and her baby Daniel), and Hope (and her baby Doris). As for Eyos and Otan we preferred to leave them alone from last year onwards as their babies are a bit older, and we don't want them to get too used to having humans around. We did catch up with Otan and Spike recently though, and they're as curious as ever, still beating each other up as much as possible within the realms of friendly mother/son play! Spike turned three in May, and as our first Tabin baby it was so great to see how big he is getting. Mico is stalking the release site alone these days, as all the new mums have lost interest in him, as he has them! It's a new world for Mico now as for more than a year he was almost always with another orangutan. Hope and Anekara are both handling the pressures of motherhood well so far, and their babies (and them) are looking healthy and fat. We're so proud of having gotten them to this stage, and we hope to keep doing the same for the new ones too! From all the team and I, thanks for your support!

**James Robins**  
Primatologist

# Sepilok News

## Mariko

Beautiful Mariko, a 25 year old female, finally gave birth on Sunday 17 April. Her previous baby Koko, who was born in 2015, had to be taken into the nursery to be raised as Mariko was not producing enough milk for her.

The sex of her latest offspring is unknown at the moment, but Mariko has been seen with the baby at the Outdoor Nursery and both appear to be well. At present, mum and baby are being closely monitored by the rangers to ensure she is able to cope with feeding her new addition.



*First glimpse of Mariko's new baby*

Mariko is coming quite often to the feeding platform, but as yet we haven't managed to get a decent photo of the baby as it's usually hidden by Mariko's beautiful long auburn hair!

## Boogie Boy Growing Up



*Boogie Boy in the forest*

Boogie Boy, who is 5 and a 1/2 years old, has been growing up fast and is clearly influenced by the presence of the semi-wild orangutans. Recently he has become increasingly independent, and rather than come into the nursery to rest at night, he prefers to follow his new friends into the forest and often disappears for days on end. It has

been wonderful to see his independence grow and his climbing skills develop so well. His new best friend seems to be Jonkey, a wild adult male that often visits the area, so he is clearly learning good skills first hand.

## Love Is In The Air?

Ceria has always been a regular visitor to the Outdoor Nursery, but recently it has been noticed that he's been coming more than usual – and we can't help but wonder if it is more than just the food that is of interest to him. In fact, it's becoming noticeable that a relationship seems to be blossoming between him and Wulan. Ceria has always been our resident 'delinquent', and if there's ever trouble you can guarantee that Ceria is in the midst of it. However, we've noticed that his behaviour around Wulan is definitely less aggressive, so she's clearly having a good influence on him.

## Clenan

Clenan, a 19 year old female and her daughter Awantang, are often seen at the main feeding platform. Looking at this photograph it would seem that this caring Mum is sharing her papaya with her youngster, but what it doesn't show, is that in fact, she was taking it from her hands so she could eat it herself! Oh well, when you have to look after a youngster who is learning how to climb and trying to become more independent, a Mum has to keep her strength up too!



*Clenan steals from Awantang*

## Selamat

Selamat's hair is finally growing back. Maybe now visitors will stop referring to him as Gollum, a nickname we've always disliked.

His friend Jaya died in March 2012, which caused Selamat to suffer

from depression resulting in weight and hair loss. However, since January 2014, slowly but surely he has gained weight and his hair has grown back.



*Selamat's new look*

## New Ropes

Nothing lasts forever, and the climbing ropes at the Outdoor Nursery needed replacing recently. The rangers moved in to take the old ones down and install new ones, but nothing can be done at Sepilok without a helping hand from the residents. Wulan kept a very close eye on progress to make sure it was done properly, and Chikita and Gelison even tried to get involved – proving that many hands don't always make light work.



*Rangers get a helping hand!*

# Sepilok News Cont'd

## New Rescue Vehicle



*The new vehicle*

In the field of wildlife rescue, having a reliable vehicle that won't leave you stranded deep in the rainforest is crucial. Fifteen years ago, the Appeal purchased a Land Rover Defender for Sepilok for their essential rescue work. It has been used extensively and has saved countless numbers of not only orangutans, but also other wildlife such as sun bears, snakes and even crocodiles. After so many years of active service, Sepilok had little choice but to retire the vehicle as it was becoming unreliable and needed to be replaced. It was time for Orangutan Appeal UK to offer their help in providing a replacement to ensure that this vital work continued.

In August 2015 we published an appeal in our newsletter, and thanks to the help and generosity of our supporters and The Turney Charitable (Animal Welfare) Trust, we have been able to buy a brand new Toyota Hilux for them. Our Founder, Sue Sheward MBE, presented the vehicle to the Director of Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD), Mr William Baya, at a special ceremony in Sepilok in April, which was officiated by the Assistant Minister for Tourism, Culture and Environment, Datuk Pang Yuk Ming. Also present were the Mayor of Sandakan, Datuk James Wong and a representative from the Sabah Forestry Department, Fadzil Yahya along with Dr Sen Nathan, Assistant Director of SWD and many prominent local people.

Datuk Pang applauded the work of the Appeal: "We greatly appreciate your gift of the beautiful new rescue vehicle, which will enable Sepilok to continue their vital rescue work for all species of Sabah wildlife. Thank you Sue and Orangutan Appeal UK for your loyal support on the conservation work that we do here in Sabah"



*Vet nurses Ibris & Amoy*

The orangutans and the wildlife that share their rainforest are losing their vital habitat, having a dedicated care team is crucial for their survival. Orangutan Appeal UK will remain committed to supporting Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre in this mission, and send a heartfelt thank you to all of our supporters worldwide who have made this possible.

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*Datuk Pang cutting the ribbon with James Wong, Sue Sheward & William Baya*

## X-Ray Cassettes for Sepilok

Sepilok provides veterinary services for not only the orangutans in their care but also rescued wild orangutans. Previously, if an orangutan was injured and required an x-ray, they had to be transported to the local hospital because the centre does not have all the necessary equipment. This can be a stressful experience and has added risks for both the orangutans and humans.

Recently, a new law was passed that animals could not be treated at human hospitals any longer. It now became vital that we provided x-ray equipment for Sepilok.

So we are very pleased to have been able to procure x-ray cassettes for use with a donated x-ray machine, which means injured orangutans can now be x-rayed at the centre! However, we still need to raise funds to purchase an x-ray developer which will allow the team to process and interpret the images. If you can help please contact us on [info@orangutan-appeal.org.uk](mailto:info@orangutan-appeal.org.uk).



*Our primatologist James Robins presents the cassettes to the Director of Sabah Wildlife Department, Mr William Baya*

# OuTrop – Borneo Nature Foundation Update



Aided by OAUk, OuTrop have expanded substantially over recent years, in an effort to protect more forest and orangutans in Borneo. To better reflect the increasing diversity of our work, we are now combining all of our activities under a new umbrella organisation: The Borneo Nature Foundation (BNF). Within BNF, the OuTrop programme will continue orangutan conservation efforts in our long-term Sabangau site, while we simultaneously establish new programmes in other areas. In addition to our Sabangau fire-fighting efforts (see previous OAUk newsletters), OAUk have provided support for a number of our initiatives, which we detail below.

## Drones as a fire-fighting and conservation tool



*Burnt forest*

Our quadcopter drone was extremely useful during last year's devastating fire season, helping fire-fighting teams to identify fire hotspots and optimal fire-fighting strategies (see December 2015 newsletter).

With the wet season underway and fires abated, we have begun using the drone to map areas that burned last year and assess the scale of the damage in areas (see image). Sabangau Forest burned during the 2015 fires, the image was taken using our quadcopter drone. Note the distinct

line separating the grey/burned and green/unburned areas.

Despite its huge benefits for small-scale work, this quadcopter drone is limited for large-scale mapping and patrol purposes by its short battery life, meaning it can cover only 50 hectares of forest a day. We are therefore acquiring a fixed-wing (plane) drone that can fly much greater areas, and a drone engineer from Jakarta is due to build us a bespoke new drone, designed specially to cover our needs. This fixed-wing drone will be able to cover around 3,000 hectares of forest a day.

## Research and Conservation Project

Located smack in the centre of Borneo, the forests of the Barito Ulu region are some of the island's most beautiful and diverse. Yet they are becoming increasingly threatened by mining, logging and oil palm. Relatively little is known about the area's forests or their orangutans, and few conservation organisations are active in this very remote region.

In our new Barito Ulu Project, we therefore aim to preserve the region's forests and important ape populations, by working together with stakeholders to improve nature conservation in partnership with development. This will be achieved through research, advocacy, education and community-led conservation activities. OAUk have provided start-up support for this project to re-establish the old University of Cambridge research station in the region (see image), and we have now begun recruiting local staff and sourcing supplies to this end. A very exciting time!

**“OAUk is very excited and proud that we are to be involved with BNF's projects and look forward to what we can achieve in the future”.**



*Forest along the Busang River*



*Broken research station*

## New Corridors Project

This year OAUk are supporting a small pilot project, led by Indonesian scientist **Achmad Yanuar**, to investigate the potential for developing orangutan and other wildlife corridors along rivers between two isolated forests in Indonesian Borneo. Yanuar and his team have been looking for signs of orangutan nests along a river in a canoe, and were lucky enough to see a wild orangutan mother and her baby. Unfortunately, this female appeared to be trapped in a pulp and paper plantation with nowhere

else to go, which highlights the importance of restoring natural forests in the area.

Yanuar is now preparing his survey report, which he intends to present to the local wildlife and forest authorities to encourage their support for linking the two isolated forests. We're really excited about helping Indonesian and Malaysian scientists conduct important work in their homelands, and we'll certainly keep you updated on how this new project progresses over the next few months.

# Our Ambassadors & Donors

In April we were thrilled when the two-part series "Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans" aired on ITV in the UK reaching an audience of over 2.5 million. The programme followed Paul as he visited Borneo and fell in love with baby Archie. We received some wonderful feedback and a number of donations as a result of people watching the programme, as well as many new supporters who were previously unaware of the plight of the orangutan. We would like to thank Paul, Joan, and the team at Shiver for making this possible.



*Sue with our patron Paul O'Grady*

Artist and OAUK Ambassador **Emma Bowring** painted a poignant portrait of Paul and Archie, using a photograph taken by one of our other ambassadors **Cede Prudente**. Paul was delighted when Sue presented it to him at ITV studios and said he couldn't wait to get home to put it on display. Prints and greetings cards of Emma's painting of Beryl are available on our website with 100% of the profits donated to the Appeal.

International stuntman, television presenter and OAUK ambassador **Nicholas Daines** joined Sue on her latest trip to Sepilok and has produced a series of short video reports highlighting OAUK's projects, which include the new rescue vehicle and the Tabin release. Please visit our website and Facebook page to see the latest ones. Nicholas has also been promoting the work of the Appeal in the USA. We are very grateful for all his hard work and commitment to the Appeal.

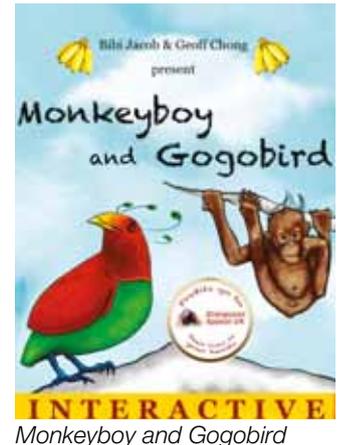
Conservationist, business partner and ambassador **Jacha Potgieter** and his team at the **Alpine Coffee Shop and Galeri** ([www.betwsrailwaystation.co.uk](http://www.betwsrailwaystation.co.uk)) in Wales are having a busy year helping to raise funds and awareness. In June, they opened a new pizzeria called Hangin' Pizzeria, and are donating a percentage of the sales to the Appeal, this is in addition to donations from their other businesses. In October 'Team Alpine' will take on the challenge of climbing Africa's highest mountain, Kilimanjaro, to raise even more funds. Thank you Jacha and team and we wish you all the best with the climb!

If you'd like to sponsor 'Team Alpine' please visit [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Jacha-Potgieter-2](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Jacha-Potgieter-2)

## Business Partners

We are very pleased to have been chosen to be **Bacon6's** Charity of 2016 who are experts in business management ([www.bacon6.co.uk](http://www.bacon6.co.uk)). We also welcome **Organik Orangutan** as a new business partner who make organic, palm-oil free cosmetics.

Writer and narrator Bibi Jacob has teamed up with illustrator Geoff Chong from Sabah, Borneo to create a delightful e-book called **'Monkeyboy and Gogobird'**, a heart-warming story about the friendship between a cheeky orangutan and a flamboyant bird. Suitable for ages 2-8, it is the perfect bedtime story for little ones and a great picture book to keep them entertained. 100% of the profits are being generously donated to us. Priced at just £3.49, it is available to download onto your Apple device from iTunes or iBooks.



**BananaTree**, award winning Indochina restaurant with branches in London, Oxford and Milton Keynes, have been supporting us since 2012 by donating 25p for every signature dish they sell, which comes to over £600 per month! Our sincere thanks to owners **William** and **Anne Chow** for their ongoing and generous support.

To find out more visit [www.bananatree.co.uk](http://www.bananatree.co.uk).

Show your dedication to the environment by becoming one of our business partners. We have various packages available to suit all levels of sponsorship, giving you access to our vast network of worldwide supporters through our newsletter, mailshots and social media sites. You could even receive an exclusive orangutan adoption through our Platinum scheme. To discuss the benefits of becoming a business partner, please get in touch with Adrienne at [manager@orangutan-appeal.org.uk](mailto:manager@orangutan-appeal.org.uk) or 01590 623443, or visit our website for further information [www.orangutan-appeal.org.uk/how-to-help/business-partner-scheme](http://www.orangutan-appeal.org.uk/how-to-help/business-partner-scheme)



*Nicholas with our Tabin research assistants Arnold, Alex, Ronald & Linekar*

# Supporter News

## Runners



Adele Grange

**London Marathon – Adele Grange** showed her passion for orangutans by running for OAUK and raising over £2000!

**Edinburgh Marathon – David McCall-Smith** ran with a picture of an orangutan in his pocket to encourage him to the finish line and raised over £500. **Anna May** from Bradford also ran the Edinburgh Marathon and raised £72, and **Rebecca Marsden** ran the **Manchester Marathon** to make a

difference to orangutans and raised £205.

**Derby and Brighton 10k's – Mark Jackson** and **Jemma Dinsmore** raised £162 from the Derby 10k and donated an extra £130 from their wedding. **Daisy East** ran the **Brighton Marathon** and raised £242.



Mark Jackson & Jemma Dinsmore

## Fundraisers

10-year old **Amy Pianta** from Australia set up a stall before school every day to raise funds, and her friend **Jack Bradley** organised



Amy and Jack

a fancy dress party and they raised £145!

**John Reed** and his work colleagues at **Aker Solutions** wanted to help support the orangutans so held a bonus ball raffle. They raised £124.

**The Ethical Film Club** in the New Forest held a raffle at their film screening and raised £53.

## RUN FOR THEIR LIVES

If you would like to join our team, please email Robyn at [admin7@orangutan-appeal.org.uk](mailto:admin7@orangutan-appeal.org.uk) for more info

## Schools and Colleges

**The British International School of Kuala Lumpur** raised £750 from their music concert. A group of **International School of Kuala Lumpur** Grade 5 students held a non-uniform day and raised £150.

**The Alice Smith School** in Malaysia raised £375 after a visit from OAUK ambassador Jacha Potgieter and the **Mutiara Grammar School**, also in Malaysia, raised £85 after their annual fun run.

We couldn't continue our vital work without the help of our dedicated fundraisers, grant givers and donors, so **THANK YOU** from all of us at Orangutan Appeal UK

## In Fond Memory

Leaving a gift to charity in your will is a wonderful way to be remembered.

In this issue we remember **Daphne Anne Wilkinson** who left a gift of £500 to us, and we also pay tribute to **William Henry Brown** who left £3,000 in his will to the Appeal.

If you would like to find out more about leaving a gift for the future to Orangutan Appeal UK, then please call Sarah on 01590 623443 or email [pa@orangutan-appeal.org.uk](mailto:pa@orangutan-appeal.org.uk). We understand that this is a personal decision to be made with your family and you do not need to tell us. We are happy to answer any questions you may have though, and we will always respect your privacy.



The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN – Red List of Threatened Species) now classifies the Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) as critically endangered. The status has been changed from endangered, which means the orangutan faces “an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild”. This is incredibly sad news and proves just how much more we need to do to save the species from extinction.

## Baby Elephants Need Help

We have received an urgent request for assistance from Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD) to help a number of orphaned baby Bornean Pygmy Elephants they have rescued.

These elephants are now endangered as there are only 1,500 left in the wild.

Many are less than one year old and have been orphaned as a result of habitat loss and human-elephant conflict. Although under law the species is fully protected, the killing of elephants is increasing at an alarming rate, leaving many babies without their mothers.

It costs £35 per day to feed one baby elephant – 1 tonne of milk formula is needed per month to feed these babies!

SWD DESPERATELY need help from organisations and individuals for their “Milk for Orphaned Baby Elephants Sponsorship Program”.

**If you would like to donate do so via the donations page of our website, please select Bornean Pygmy Elephants from the dropdown menu.**

All donations will be passed on to the Borneo Elephant Care Centre at Sepilok.