



*Orangutan  
Appeal UK*

# Orangutan Appeal UK

**News**

Issue 33 – August 2017

# A Message From Our Patron Paul O'Grady

Dear All

I'm currently sat at a desk in the Netherlands writing a children's book about two brave lads and their fight to save a young orangutan from an evil Poacher.

All this was inspired after my trip to Sepilok to film a series called 'Animal Orphans' for ITV and where I was first introduced to a tiny little chap called Archie. He was a year old and extremely small for his age plus he was more than a little wary of strangers. However, for some reason best known to Archie he took a shine to me and from the very first moment when I held him, we got along famously.

I was lucky enough to get to feed him, nurse him, put him to bed and even try to teach him to climb. By that I don't mean that I was swinging through the reserve on a vine wearing a loin cloth hoping that Archie would copy me, I simply encouraged him to hang on to a length of rope, inches from the ground and edge his way along it.

Archie wasn't having any of it though and after a short spell of just hanging there and moaning he was quick to get back to me for a cuddle and me, not being much in the way of a tutor, was only more than happy to abandon the lesson and oblige.

To have a young, vulnerable, wild animal like Archie put his trust in you is not just an incredible experience it's also a massive responsibility that must be taken seriously and from that moment on I vowed to myself that I would do whatever I could to help these extraordinary creatures.

The orangutan's status has heightened from Endangered to Critically Endangered which means that if we don't act quickly the orangutan will be wiped off the face of the earth forever. Harsh, I know, but sadly it's the truth.

Multi- national corporations are systematically destroying their natural habitat by cutting down the rainforests. We must speak out against the decimation of The Lungs Of Our Planet just as we must support the vital work that is carried out at Sepilok. The way forward in animal preservation is to educate future generations and here



Paul and Archie

at Sepilok they are making an educational video to inspire and encourage both adults and children alike to help us get the message across that time is simply running out.

The compassion, care and dedication that goes into helping the orangutan here at Sepilok is both inspirational and humbling and to enable them to continue this work they urgently need funds.

Please help us in any way you can so that orangutans like my Archie can live a safe and happy life when he is finally released into the Tabin Wildlife Reserve.

Thanks very much

**Paul O'Grady MBE**

P.S. Now that you've read this I hope you're going straight to the website to adopt an orangutan. You are, aren't you?

## Dr Sen Joins Cardiff University



Dr. Sen

Dr Senthilvel Nathan, Assistant Director and Chief Veterinarian for Sabah Wildlife Department, has worked closely with the Appeal for many years. Dr Sen arrived at Cardiff University in May where he is pursuing his PhD in Conservation Genetics and Management of the Proboscis Monkey.

Dr Sen graduated from University Putra Malaysia with a Degree in Veterinary Medicine in 1997. He joined

the Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD) in 1999 and is currently the Assistant Director. Dr Sen oversees

various conservation programmes including Borneo Rhino Sanctuary, Borneo Elephants Sanctuary, Sepilok orangutan Rehabilitation Centre (SORC) and Sabah Wildlife Rescue Unit (WRU). He is also a member of the IUCN Asian Elephant Specialist Group.

Dr Sen's avid love for nature has brought him into the deep jungle of Sabah, successfully leading and co-ordinating numerous wildlife rescue and translocation operations over the years. In his key role he works closely with SWD's partners in conservation such as the Malaysian Palm Oil Council, SIME Darby Foundation and many local and Foreign Conservation NGOs and government agencies.

As OAUK are one of Dr Sen's sponsors for this degree, along with Yayasan SIME Darby we would like to:

**“Welcome him to the UK and wish him every success with his Degree as well as a memorable stay”.**

# Tiger Release

In 2001 a young orangutan was feeding with his mother on palm oil shoots in a plantation near the Kinabatangan River when sadly, he became separated from her. The plantation workers were trying to frighten her away from the crops and in the turmoil she had fled into the forest.

The young orangutan was taken to Sepilok by the Plantation Manager and after a thorough health check by the vet he was given warm milk and a cosy bed to sleep in. The Sepilok rangers decided to call him Tiger due to his long ginger hair.

After a couple of years at the centre Tiger was transferred to a local reserve where he could practise his climbing skills in the surrounding forest, but unfortunately his luck was about to let him down when a band of unknown men broke into the reserve one night and injured him badly. The alarm was immediately raised by the guards and Tiger was rushed to the vets at Sepilok to be treated.

Tiger had been traumatised badly by this experience and his recovery was very slow. Thank goodness he was



*Freedom*

receiving the best care that could possibly be given.

After a while he was doing well but became ill and had to be admitted to the Clinic again. It took nearly two years for him to recover from this illness and return to full health.

Tiger was now approaching his teenage years and was released into the Kabilu reserve which surrounds Sepilok. He settled in well but after several months he had a fight with a dominant male who was visiting the reserve looking for a girlfriend. Needless to say, Tiger came off worse and once again returned to the clinic where he stayed for over a year being closely monitored.

Finally, it was decided by the vets that Tiger should be given the chance of freedom once more and a joint effort was made by Sabah Wildlife Department and the UK Appeal to release him into the Tabin reserve some 4.5 hours drive from Sepilok.

Sepilok's vets carried out meticulous health checks, including x-rays of his chest and lungs to ensure he was fit enough to face the task ahead of him. The green light was given and plans were made for his transportation to Tabin. Tiger was sedated the evening before his release and laid on a thick bed of leaves



*Release Team*

in his travelling compartment. At 5.30 am the next morning he was loaded on to the vehicle for his journey to Tabin. Some of the orangutans had been watching what was going on and in particular Kalabatu was fascinated by the activity and insisted on staying until we drove out of the gates with Tiger on his way to freedom.

We finally reached Tabin after stopping on the way to give Tiger some water and ensure he was protected from the sun. The Appeal's Team of research assistants were waiting for us and were joining forces with the Sepilok Rangers to track Tiger for a few weeks to ensure he was able to find his own food, make his own nest and travel freely through the canopy.

The Team stood back to give Tiger as much space as possible and the door was opened. Tiger didn't hesitate, he climbed a nearby tree and slowly started to move deeper into the forest.



*On his way*

After a shaky start, Tiger's confidence began to grow and within a couple of weeks he was moving freely through the forest. The Team watched as he built nests each night and often they heard him "long call". An orangutan's "long call" can be heard across the forest for several miles and tells rival males and interested females that he is in the vicinity.

It was a very exciting moment when Tiger met up with Rosalinda, one of the PRM Project females, and they spent several hours together!!

Enjoy your freedom Tiger you definitely deserve it.

# Sepilok News

## Bellalona

This wild female started visiting the feeding platform back in March 2016. She is a very distinctive orangutan with lovely almond-shaped eyes and beautiful long hair. Bellalona was visiting the feeding platform 3 or 4 times a week but in December she disappeared. A month later she visited the platform carrying her newborn baby. As with all orangutan mothers, Bellalona is very protective of her little one so the gender of the baby is as yet unknown. Both are looking healthy and doing well, and Bellalona is definitely back asserting her place at the feeding platform making sure she gets her share!



*Bellalona and baby*

## Mariko and Piba

There is seldom a day when this mother and baby duo are not seen at the feeding platform. Piba enjoys snacking on sugar cane and green beans. Piba is also very active, and there are often ooh's and ahh's from visitors as he climbs up tall trees. A few weeks ago there was a lovely moment with a new mum from England and her baby boy. Mariko stopped opposite her, and began



*Mariko and Piba*

looking at the baby boy, and then to Piba, and then back at the baby again. She was comparing the human baby and the orangutan baby. The mum said that this was one of the most amazing moments of her life!

However, Mariko is not always so tolerant. Recently, there were a lot of macaques there, perhaps 12 and only Mariko and Piba. One of the macaques got too close to Piba so Mariko grabbed the monkey by the legs, swung it around and threw it head first into the bushes below to the sound of shrieks from the watching visitors.

## Lumiyud

Is now 6 to 7 months into her pregnancy and whenever she gets the chance, she spends 30 minutes or more devouring all the food on the platform.

## Peanut

He had a major tantrum on the boardwalk when he got lost. He was out in the forest with the rest of the gang but he got separated and left behind. Peanut climbed onto the handrail and started to cry and scream until a ranger heard him and escorted him safely back to the Outdoor Nursery. The whole of the way his bottom lip stuck out and his arms dragging like a young child would do. Poor Peanut, he still has a lot to learn.

## Ceria

He has come a very long way since his rescue over 10 years ago, just look how much he has grown! When he was found being kept illegally as a pet, Ceria weighed just 2kg which was a dangerously low weight for his age. Ceria was cared for at Sepilok's Intensive Care Unit and the dedication of the veterinary staff has helped him grow from a tiny, fragile baby into the handsome male he has become.



*Ceria*

## Yokmal

There was great excitement at the Outdoor Nursery recently when big, full cheek padded wild male "Yokmal" made an appearance. He hadn't been seen for approximately 2 years and word travelled quickly. See picture on the front cover.

# Post Release Monitoring Project

The success of our Post Release Monitoring Project (PRMP) continues into its ninth year. Since our last update we're pleased to say that we have had another baby born to the project! This time it was one of our most recently released females, Ganang, that joined the ranks of the Tabin mothers. She gave birth to a bouncing baby girl in late February.



*Ganang tending to baby Sue*

Ganang became pregnant whilst she was at Sepilok just before we released her last May, and she carried the pregnancy all the way through with us in Tabin. Like the others, she seems to have mastered the art of mothering pretty well, and she looks after her little girl very carefully. The baby was our fifth in Tabin, and is the third girl. We thought it was about time therefore that we named her after the Appeal's founder and Chairperson, Sue Sheward, who has helped to make all this possible. Not to mention little baby Sue's feistiness and determination meant that 'Sue' was the logical choice! We felt it was a fitting honour to thank Sue for all that she has done for us and the orangutans that we have released and

## New Sepilok Information Film

When Sabah Wildlife asked our Chairperson Sue if the Appeal would make a new film for them to show the thousands of visitors that pass through the Centre each year, we were happy to help.

Currently, visitors to the Centre see a film made by the Appeal over 10 years ago and it was certainly in need of updating. This is the perfect opportunity to show the world what an amazing partnership has been developed between Sabah Wildlife and OAUK.

Our first priority was to make sure we had a producer who understood the work of Sepilok and would be able to portray the importance of this work if the orangutan was to survive, especially at a time when it's "At Risk Status" had been heightened to "Critically Endangered".

It was not a difficult decision as the Producer, **Phil Stebbing**, who made the "Meet the orangutans" series, immediately came to mind and when I asked him if he would help us he agreed.

Months of planning followed – and the Malaysian award winning photographer, **Cede Prudente** was also

successfully rehabilitated in Tabin Reserve.

The other orangutan that we have been following since the last update is Rosalinda, who is sadly still struggling. Her confidence to explore over large parts of the forest just isn't there. She spends most of her days high up in the canopy observing events on the forest floor, just waiting for



*Rosalinda observing*

her next feed. She barely does much of her own foraging so we're worried about her long term future and ability to survive on her own. We're beginning to think that Sepilok would be a much safer place for her to live out the rest of her life, as there is always veterinary support, lots of other orangutans, and loads of supplementary food available for her whenever she needs it. It's also where she was born and raised so we're hoping that she may feel more comfortable back there than she is Tabin. It's a natural part of reintroduction that some animals aren't ready or suited for it, and Rosalinda just seems to be one of those that needs more help than we can give. Sepilok is the best place for her, and with the entire team of dedicated Appeal and SWD staff to look after her, her future still looks bright!

We continue to be on the lookout for our four successful mums and their babies who are coping very nicely with life in the rainforest.

convinced he should be part of this new documentary so it was all systems go.

Permits were applied for, health checks undertaken and storylines went into the melting pot.

In May 2017 Sue and the Producer met in Sabah to make the new documentary which would be shown to thousands of visitors and also be offered on sale to supporters.

The Team were delighted as everything they had hoped to film fell into place and they were even able to be present when a full cheek padded male was released into Tabin Reserve.

A big thank you to SWD, WRU and everyone who made it possible to make this documentary. All you need to do now is watch it!!! It will be on sale from October.



*Filming begins*

## Borneo Nature Foundation

Long-term supporters of OAUk and BNF will be aware that our Sabangau Forest site in Indonesian Borneo is home to an estimated 6,900 orangutans. This makes it one of the most important sites for conservation of orangutans (plus many other forest wildlife species) on Borneo. Sadly, it is also threatened and remains at risk from timber-cutting, wildlife hunting and particularly forest fires. As we experienced during the devastating fire season in autumn 2015, fires are the now biggest threat to the Sabangau Forest and the world's largest orangutan population that resides here.



*Local team of fire-fighters*

Now is a worrying time for BNF and partners, because we are currently entering the annual dry season in Kalimantan, so fire risk is high and expected to increase over the coming months. Current predictions suggest a 50-50 possibility of another El Niño event occurring this year, which could lead to a prolonged drought and severe fires. It is therefore critical to prepare for the worst.

With long-running support by OAUk, we work with the local Community Patrol Team in Kereng Bangkirai village to carry out regular forest patrols. This involves patrolling the forest on foot and by boat to prevent illegal activities, and particularly detect forest fires. As the dry



*Forest devastation*

season progresses and risk of fire rises a patrol team are therefore on high alert.

This year, as well as supporting two existing fire-fighting teams in the Sabangau area, we are establishing two new teams in the local villages of Kereng Bangkirai and Sabaru. Our Conservation Team are working closely with these local communities to enhance local support for forest protection and fire-fighting efforts, and invite local community members to join the fire-fighting teams. Following recruitment, we will run training sessions and prepare all the necessary equipment needed in the event of a fire. The aim is to have teams fully trained, equipped and ready for action before any fires start, which is usually during August or September.

We thank OAUk and its supporters for their commitment to supporting our fire-fighting teams which helps to conserve orangutan populations.

## Centre for Orangutan Protection

The Centre for orangutan Protection (COP) is an Indonesian organisation founded by Hardi Baktiantoro. COP campaigns against activities that threaten orangutans and their natural habitat and aims to educate local communities on their plight. They also rescue orangutans and have saved many from palm oil plantations and those being kept as pets illegally.

OAUk has supported COP since its foundation back in 2007. Over the years we have purchased two 4x4 vehicles (the Ape Crusader and the Ape Defender), for them to use for orangutan rescues, undercover operations and community awareness activities.

COP have now set up a brand new orangutan rehabilitation centre, with the help of the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and OAUk. The centre is located in Berau, East Kalimantan, amongst a highly diverse rainforest. It is therefore a great place for the orangutans to develop climbing, nesting and foraging skills!

Two years ago in April 2015, the first 13 orangutans which had previously been housed at KRUS Zoo arrived at their new home (as well as 6 keepers and a vet). The majority of orangutans that arrive at the centre take part in 'forest school' to learn how to climb and behave like wild orangutans, and prepare them for their eventual release into the wild. Unfortunately, some of the orangutans are too old or ill to ever be released so will be cared for at the centre for the rest of their lives.



*Orphan at COP's centre*

In July of this year, the first orangutans rehabilitated at the centre, two males called Nigel and Oki, will be released. Both had spent years in very small cages with minimal food. They were kept in poor conditions, their hair dull and falling out and some almost hairless.

After 7 years Nigel is now 11 years old and Oki is 13, and they are finally ready for release.

This will be very exciting for everyone at COP and OAUk!

# Our Ambassadors & Donors

Recently, international stuntman and OAUK ambassador **Nicholas Daines** accompanied Sue on a trip to Sepilok and played an important role assisting with a new filming project at the Centre. We are extremely grateful to Nicholas for his dedication to the orangutans and to the Appeal.

Wildlife artist, **Jacha Potgieter**, has been an ambassador for the Appeal for several years. Earlier this year, after an informative visit and talk from Jacha, **Rydal Penrhos School** in Colwyn Bay adopted three baby orangutans.

Jacha also recently assisted **Woodheys Primary School** near Manchester with an art project to help raise funds. Two pupils, Milo and Dante, suggested the idea for the project and wanted Jacha to be involved. During the visit Jacha gave a talk about the threats orangutans face and helped the school build orangutan sculptures out of recycled rubbish. Jacha judged the student's art at the school's summer fête.

Jacha's **Alpine Coffee Shop and Galeri** ([www.betwsrailwaystation.co.uk](http://www.betwsrailwaystation.co.uk)) have launched a range of Ape-themed beers, including an Orangutan Lager, with a donation from the sale of each coming to the orangutans. We thank Jacha and his team for everything they are doing for the Appeal.



**Cede Prudente**, the renowned, award-winning Malaysian wildlife photographer, conservationist and OAUK ambassador is well-known worldwide for his excellent photographs. They are now featuring in an updated version of Elizabeth Bennett's book 'A Natural History of the Orangutan', published by Natural History Publications (Borneo).



## Business Partners

Specialist in tailor-made Asian holidays, **TransIndus**, recently interviewed OAUK founder **Sue Sheward** for their newsletter about her vital work with the orangutans. TransIndus have been a Bronze business partner since 2015.

This year vegan, palm-oil free snack bar company **N'eat Healthy** came on board as a Bronze level business partner. N'eat Healthy are passionate about orangutans and have even adopted baby Beryl!

 Award-winning Indochina restaurant, have supported OAUK since 2012 with 25p donated from every signature dish they sell. We are sincerely grateful to **William** and **Anne Chow** at BananaTree for their kind and generous support.

## Baby Elephants Still Need Help

In August 2016 we received an urgent plea for assistance from Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD) who had rescued several orphaned baby Bornean Pygmy Elephants.

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

The youngsters 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.

A number of kind supporters helped us purchase milk for them on a short term basis until we were able to secure supplies from a milk manufacturer. NOW they are in need of help again until new supplies arrive.

Any donation you send, either by cheque or online, adding the comment "Ellies" at 'checkout' would be greatly appreciated.



# Supporter News

## Fundraisers

In April **Chrissie Martin** completed the challenging Zipwire Velocity in Wales – the fastest zipwire in the world! She raised a fantastic £628 for the orangutans.

Last year **Leo Allcorn**, who goes to school in Dubai, dressed as an orangutan for a day to raise funds. This year he wanted to do more so with his brother **Karl** he held an orangutan-themed car-boot sale. They raised £105!



Leo and Karl Allcorn

Regular supporter **Lynne Haddow**, who lives in Brunei, organised a fundraising lunch and awareness event and raised an incredible £665.

**Sarah Farmer** completed a personal swimming, walking and cycling Triathlon challenge and raised £120 for the orangutans.

## New Vet at Sepilok

Sabah Wildlife Department have taken on a new veterinarian at Sepilok, **Dr. Nabila**. Dr. Nabila is fitting into her new role very well and is a valuable member and asset to the skilled veterinary team.

### Join Our Team

Whether it's running, cycling or baking cakes, there are so many ways to help!

Contact Robyn at

[fundraising@orangutan-appeal.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@orangutan-appeal.org.uk)



Nunnery Wood School

## Schools and Colleges

Burns House at **Burgess Hill School for Girls** organised a fun day for all the students at the school after previously adopting baby Peanut and wanting to do more to help him. They arranged and ran stalls in groups including a tuck shop and a snow cone stand. They raised a brilliant £142.85.

The students in Year 3 at **Bishop Perrin School** held a raffle and raised £210 for the orangutans.

**Nunnery Wood School** in Worcestershire adopted baby orangutan Beryl and then held a 'Name the Orangutan' competition and cake sale, raising £214 for the Appeal.

## Grants and Donations

We would like to say a very special thank you to the **ARCUS Foundation** for their continued support of our Post-Release Monitoring Project. We would also like to thank the **Turney Charitable Trust** for their generous grant of £7000, the Rufford Foundation for supporting our care staff with their kind grant of £5000 and the **Barry Green Memorial Fund** for a grant of £500 to assist with the rescue of poorly treated animals.

## Leaving a Gift in Your Will

Our vision is simple: To protect the orangutan from extinction and preserve its rainforest habitat. To do this we rely 100% on funding from voluntary sources.

One way to donate is by leaving a gift in your will. This is a wonderful way to leave a lasting impact for future generations with no immediate cost to you. Imagine how sad it would be if the next generation could only see an orangutan in a museum and learn about the rainforests in their history lessons.

Did you know that a charity gift in your will can be just a small percentage of your assets such as 1%? Every gift, whatever the size, makes a big difference towards our goal of ensuring the long term survival of orangutans.

Leaving a gift to charity needs to be carefully considered so if you require further information please let us know. Your privacy will be respected.

The only information you would need to give to your legal advisor is our registered address and charity number: Orangutan Appeal UK, Charbury, Orestan Lane, Effingham, Surrey KT24 5SN Charity no: 1138538

For more information on gifts in wills please call us on 01590 623443 or email [info@orangutan-appeal.org.uk](mailto:info@orangutan-appeal.org.uk)