

Issue 24 FEB 2013

Orangutan Appeal UK NEWSLETTER



Orangutan Appeal UK

NONONG'S PLIGHT

We strive to rehabilitate all of the orangutans that come into the centre but sometimes we are beaten by circumstance and it is taken out of our control. It is at this point that we want to do the very best to help each individual animal and ensure that they have the best possible chance of living a full and happy life. Nonong was one of those orangutans.

It was decided that Nonong would become a long-term resident of the Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre.

On October 11th, 2003 a little orphaned Orangutan was found at Ladang Perkahalus. She was brought in to the Sepilok rehabilitation centre by a local plantation worker. Just one-year-old she weighed only 2.7kg. After completing her initial quarantine period, Nonong started progressing well in her rehabilitation. Three years on she was thriving and the centre had high hopes for a successful future release which would have been part of the new 2006 Post Release Monitoring Project. Tragically at the age of four, Nonong contracted Cerebral Malaria.



Nonong

After a long illness she survived but with permanent paralysis of her left arm and suffering from fits and occasional mild seizures. For these reasons it was impossible to release Nonong back into the wild as her chances of survival were significantly decreased and she would be prone to attack from other wild Orangutans. As the Malaysia religion prevents Euthanasia, so began a long series of discussions regarding the best option for this little orangutan.

Nonong undergoes regular medical checks by our resident vet Dr Nigel and is now a happy healthy 10-year-old weighing in at 29kg. Nonong is a very lively orangutan and enjoys playing with the other juveniles in the exercise enclosure and jungle gym. She has befriended Bella, a little four-year-old and they are often seen together playing and climbing. She also enjoys play-fighting with the other orphaned babies that are undergoing rehabilitation at the centre which included Sen and Ceria before their recent release into the reserve.

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WE NEED URGENT HELP!

We need help programming our Facebook marketing.

Are you familiar with, or do you have a level of skill on FACEBOOK which could help us create "landing platforms" and similar options??

Facebook's constant growth and massive influence indicate that it is here to stay!

Facebook represents a huge opportunity for the Orangutan Appeal UK in our marketing strategy which we need to include as a key player,

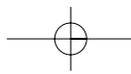
especially as they have more than 600 million active users.

If, with your help, we can build an engaging Facebook presence it will attract and engage quality customers, and quickly grow our charity.

SO CAN YOU HELP, AS WE DONT HAVE THE EXPERTISE?

If you think you can, please email us at manager@orangutan-appeal.org.uk





NONONG'S PLIGHT

Continued



Nonong's medical check

Everyone who meets Nonong falls in love with her as she is so endearing and special.

It was earlier this year when visiting Sabah that the Appeal's founder, Sue Sheward, discovered that there was a problem with Nonong's housing.

Nonong is growing up fast and there is an urgent need for a new enclosure to be built to house her. At the moment there is no such facility at Sepilok and

she must endure being moved in and out of her small enclosure daily. This can be very stressful and occasionally has been known to bring on seizures which leave her exhausted. What Nonong needs URGENTLY is a new enclosure which is large enough to ensure she can live comfortably, and have the ability to forage, climb and live as close as possible to a natural existence.

The Orangutan Appeal UK has adopted 'Nonong's Plight' as its latest project and we hope to raise the funds to start building the enclosure for her in the very near future.

The cost of this project is estimated at



Sue with Nonong

£20,000, and although this is a huge amount of money to raise, Nonong's need is great. She is one deserving orangutan that is close to our hearts and we desperately want to make this project happen. Consequently, we have set up a separate fund where those of you who would like to help us achieve this goal can donate whatever you feel is an appropriate amount. Please help us give Nonong the best possible home for her future.

If you would like to make a donation towards this project you can:

- Send a cheque made payable to the Orangutan Appeal UK,
- Text the code NONG22 to 70070 and the amount you wish to donate, eg. NONG22 £2 (£1, £2, £3, £4, £5 or £10)
- Visit our website donation page at www.orangutan-appeal.org.uk

BUT REMEMBER TO TELL US IT IS FOR NONONG'S PROJECT.

If you have any other queries, please feel free to get in touch with us also at manager@orangutan-appeal.org.uk

SUPPORTERS' NEWS

Blythe Macnamara is eight-years-old and is passionate about orangutans. She has been working hard to raise awareness and money to help support them. She held a car boot sale, wrote numerous letters on the plight of the orangutans and drew some incredible pictures of them which she sold for £1 each.



Blythe carbooting

Blythe has sold dozens of her pictures which has enabled her to take out another adoption. We think she is a very special girl who deserves a very big **THANK YOU**.

We would like to share with you all, this lovely

letter from a young supporter:

"Hi, every year, my aunty Roseanne adopts one of your orangutan babies as my birthday present. I have learned so much about your work, and really want to help. So, this year for my 10th birthday, I asked my friends to give donations to your work instead of presents. I am really thrilled to be able to pass this money on; Mum tells me this is the equivalent of the \$300 Australian we raised."

Love Breanne.

We would like to thank three schools for their huge effort in fundraising for the Appeal. Staff and 18 students from Hampton School for boys in Middlesex visited Sepilok in July. After adopting Gelison (renamed "Barry" after the headmaster!) they have raised £300 from cake sales and mufti days. Blockhouse Bay Intermediate School in Auckland, New Zealand painted a large orangutan mural to be covered in coins donated by the students. After doing a presentation to the school on the plight of the orangutan, they soon had enough coins for three adoptions! Year 9 pupils at Lady Manners School in Derbyshire had the quirky idea of every pupil taking home a money pot so that each time a family member bought a product containing palm oil over

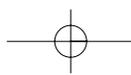
Christmas they put a donation into their pot. This money will purchase adoptions for each form!

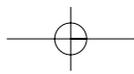


Lady Manners School

● The Appeal has set up a new **Education Package for Schools**, a do it yourself presentation that is full of information and activities centred on the Orangutans in Borneo. Each activity is mapped to the National Curriculum to support educational development. These "ready to deliver" packages aim to raise awareness while ensuring that every child learns about our responsibility to ensure the sustainability of our beautiful planet.

Get your packs now or would you prefer a visit? Contact us on 01590 623443 or email education@orangutan-appeal.org.uk





VETS NEWS

Well here we are again! Back at Sepilok for another tour of duty with a list of essential "to do's" from our Chairwoman Sue and a welcoming committee of Toby, Mico, Sogo and Ann on patrol at Sepilok.

It has been a busy time since arriving, getting back up to date with routines and planning new projects. The wet season is here and with it comes the general increase in illness that we see - malaria, diarrhoea etc. In the laboratory we are busy checking samples for parasites to ensure that our worming programme is adequate. In addition we have the task of the routine quarterly blood tests on at least 80% of the semi-wild orangutans. Luckily I have the assistance of a volunteer UK vet who has been helping for a couple of months, I am sure she had no idea how busy we might be when she offered her services!



↖ Gelison in his bucket ↗



↖ Ibritinah helping Nigel ↗

Earlier this year we designed and made some new feed cages which are being used successfully at the outdoor nursery.

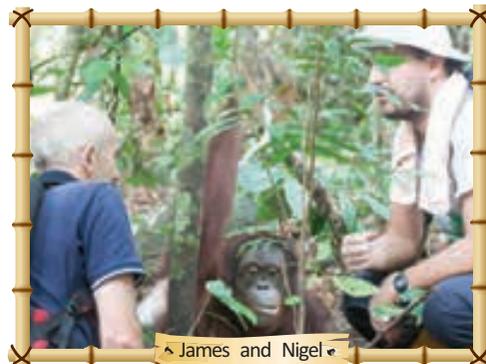
As part of their rehabilitation process, the orangutans at 'outdoors', whose next step will be release into the reserve, can now only get their food by climbing into the trees to where the cages containing fruit and vegetables have been hauled up by the rangers. Since the introduction of this method we have found that after feeding, the orangutans do not immediately return to the ground but instead remain high in the branches playing and exercising. This creates a much more natural behaviour pattern and encourages the orangutans to forage in the canopy.

After a night spent in the rudimentary camp, which is set in a clearing in the forest some 25km from the road, we set off into the jungle long before dawn. The truck dropped us at the end of a marked trail and we started on the hard, hour long trek uphill to the GPS marked spot that Otan had used to nest the previous night.



↖ Matamis feeding from cages ↗

I am pleased to report that the general health of the orangutans is good and we have also had some successes. Tompong had been getting very thin and investigations revealed a deficiency of intestinal enzymes. We have been treating her for the last month with a supplement and I am delighted to say she is gaining weight. She also seems to have a new lease of life and is currently zooming around in her enclosure using a pink plastic bowl like a dodgem car so she is obviously improved enough that we can release her back into the reserve. Orangutans love to play and sleep in the rubber skip buckets that we introduced to the Centre last year as well as playing with the hessian sacks which came with them. Unfortunately, neither are indestructible and we are now down to just a handful of torn and twisted buckets so further action needs to be taken to replace these in the near future.



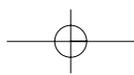
↖ James and Nigel ↗

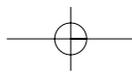
Part of my duties is to make the monthly five hour journey into Tabin to the Appeal's Post Release Monitoring Project and after my absence of a few months I was anxious to see our released orangutans.

The sight of an orangutan that you have known in captivity emerging from its nest high in the trees and moving with complete freedom in its natural environment was a wonderful sight.

Otan and Eyos were both looking healthy, strong and totally at ease. We performed routine vet

Continued overleaf ▶





VET'S NEWS Continued

checks and left them to continue to enjoy their freedom. James Robins, our primatologist, and his researchers are collecting important information that is allowing us to make positive changes which will improve the orangutan's chances of success in the wild.

The rehabilitation process is constantly under review as we look for new ways to improve it. In conjunction with the centre we are reviewing general nutrition and attempting to provide a similar diet to that encountered in the wild.

We have been attempting to add some extra iron into their diet to reduce anaemia, this idea was based on previous findings published in journals I had seen. To do this we introduced Kankung and Bayam (types of local

spinach) into the orangutan's daily diet. This was viewed by some of the rangers as "mad orang putih (English) doctor" but I was undaunted. Unfortunately, the rangers were proved correct when Seleamat sniffed the pile offered to him and was obviously unimpressed, and would only consider using it as nesting material. Oh well back to the drawing board!

There are still many things to do and every day brings new challenges but as I look out of my office window and see forest and young orangutans learning to climb on the jungle gym there is no doubt that we are all helping the long term survival of these magnificent creatures.

Thanks everyone for your support. Toby and I give you the thumbs-up!



Thumbs-up from Toby

Dr Nigel Hicks BVSc MRCVS
Senior Veterinary Surgeon
OAUK

COP NEWS

Orangutan Appeal UK have been sponsoring Centre of Orangutan Protection (COP) who are a local NGO based in Kalimantan, Southern Borneo, since their formation six years ago. The Appeal has provided the group with two rescue vehicles, the Ape Crusader and the Ape Defender which enables them to travel the vast area of Kalimantan rescuing orphaned, injured and illegally held orangutans. Fian Khairunnisa, COP's senior co-ordinator, has sent us this report.

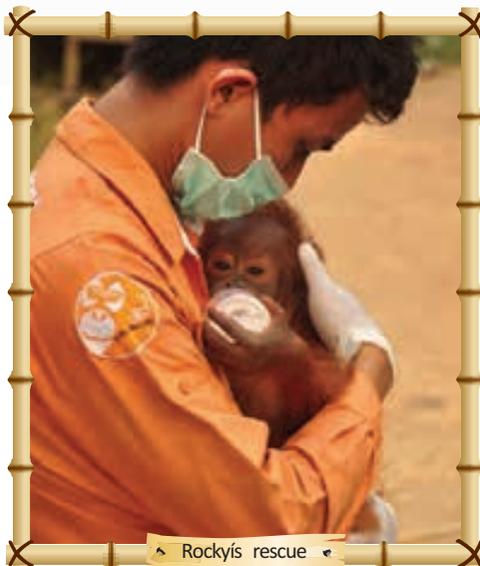
Three rescues in three months

Rocky and Imun were rescued on October 4th, 2012 from Sangatta, East Kalimantan. The APE Defenders and the Natural Resources Conservation Centre (BKSDA) joined forces for the rescue, but due to poor road conditions it still took 11 hours to get to where Rocky was being kept.

When they reached the captives home they spotted a tiny 1.5 year old male sitting on a wooden bird perch. Just below the perch thorns had been placed to prevent him from climbing down and running away. He was in very poor condition. His stomach was bloated as they had been feeding him ice and he had the symptoms of a cold with a runny nose and was sneezing. On the journey home the team had to wrap Rocky in a blanket and hold him close to warm him up as a common cold can easily kill an orangutan.

The team then headed off to find Imun, a four-year-old female who was also waiting to be rescued.

At 3am the next morning the team arrived at a rubber



Rocky's rescue

plantation in North Sangatta. With only the moon for light the team had to walk 500 metres along a grassy path just to reach the rubber plantation. Imun was found in a cage so small that she couldn't stand upright. The team did not see another person that night, only the eerie rubber trees and the moon. They quickly pulled apart Imun's cage and took her away from that place forever.

In December, with the help of the local BKSDA (Forestry), the Ape Crusader team found a baby orangutan on farm land without his mother, who needed to be cared for 24 hours a day as he was very young. They called the baby Joey and took him to the BOS centre where they had previously taken Rocky. It was hoped that Joey would eventually be introduced to Rocky and they could grow up together learning how to be wild orangutans. As Imun was older she was taken to a local conservation centre where she would be cared for.

Also a young orangutan called Kirno was bought to our attention when he was purchased from a timber worker in Java for the price of RM45 (£10). For six years he was held in a 2mx1.5m concrete cage with iron bars and only a tiny window. Never able to leave his cage, he had to eat, sleep and defecate in it. With no quality of life, Kirno was in a terrible condition with a serious head wound, probably self-inflicted. Kirno is now recovering slowly at the Taru Jurug Zoo in Solo and his case is being processed through the authorities. We hope it will reinforce the laws against keeping orangutans as pets as it brings into light the terrible and unnecessary suffering it causes.

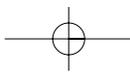
Appeal sponsoring COP

In February this year we are sponsoring COP's communications co-ordinator, Arfiana Khairunnisa (Fian), to visit the UK to study at the famous Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust in Jersey. This course will enable Arfiana to take back to Indonesia invaluable knowledge which will help COP in their mission to protect the endangered Orangutan.

It is also hoped that in the near future COP and OAUK will be able to open an emergency rescue centre so that confiscated orangutans would immediately have somewhere to be cared for. In this event Fian's new found knowledge will be invaluable.

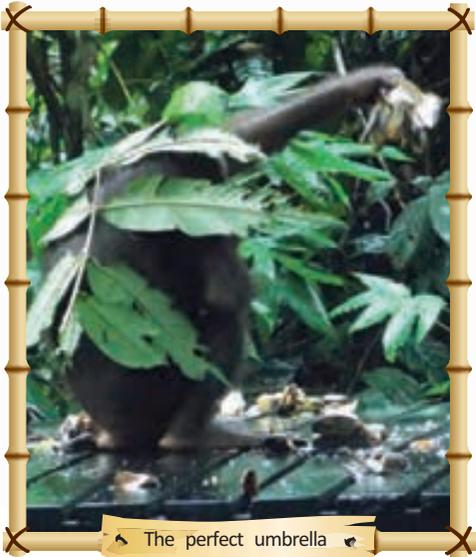
While in the UK we are planning for Fian to team up with our primatologist, James Robins and Vet Dr Nigel Hicks, to give several presentations on our work. We hope that our supporters will attend these presentations for our ongoing quest to raise awareness and education. Details will be given in a future mailshot.





SEPILOK NEWS

The copious amount of rain which has fallen during 2012 hasn't been confined to the UK, Sepilok has seen some of the worst storms and flooding during November and December this year. One orangutan made this delightful umbrella in an effort to keep off some of the rain.



The perfect umbrella

Rain and flooding is miserable at the best of times, but there are always brighter moments when you are working with orangutans and that moment came for Paul Bowers, (our Liaison Officer at the centre) this Christmas, when he spotted Sogo on the roof of the cafe.

Past adoptive parents of Sogo will be pleased to know that she has come on in leaps and bounds and definitely won't take any nonsense from the other residents at the centre. On this occasion she was showing her displeasure by grabbing handfuls of leaves from the gutters



Sogo on the roof



Who's copying who?

and throwing them down onto a troublesome dog who was barking at her.

Other young orangutans such as Toby are not quite so gentle in their mischief-making. Toby and Ann are currently the talk of the centre as they are considered to be Sepilok's "Bonnie and Clyde" who will stop at nothing to achieve their goals. Ann recently bit the leg of one of the local staff and left a very sore looking wound.

Toby in particular is a very smart orangutan. During a recent downpour at the feeding platform, the visitors were looking for places to stand which would offer a little cover. Many started to move off the platform only to be met by the grinning Toby casually sauntering towards them along the walkway. He moved so elegantly, with such purpose and then casually slipped his long arm around the neck of a local man and pulled the chap towards him. Initially it was thought to be a token of friendship but instead Toby thrust his hand into the visitor's pocket and tried to steal his wallet! Fortunately the visitor hung on to his belongings and Toby went about his business somewhat crestfallen.

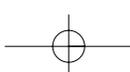
Sadly, an American tourist ignored all warnings about taking his umbrella with him to the feeding platform and was rather surprised when Toby took it from him and started to pose with it to the amusement of all watching. Needless to say when it was finally recovered it was in a state of disrepair but the American donated 50RM to say thank you for the experience.

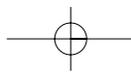


Clinic fire

Toby and Ann took their mischief to a higher level when they managed to make a hole in the roof of the clinic. Not satisfied with that, they then decided to see what was inside and, in the process, disturbed the wiring in the roof space. In the early hours of Sunday morning, a fire broke out but fortunately it was confined to the corridor outside Dr Nigel's office so no people or orangutans were injured in the blaze. The one good thing that has come out of this is the recognition of a need for a fire sprinkler system to be installed, which is being done urgently.

It is very unusual for a visitor to leave Sepilok without some good memories and once again this year there have been more than 100,000 visitors - an amazing achievement.





POST RELEASE MONITORING (PRMP)

Our primatologist James Robins has been running the PRMP in the Tabin Reserve, Sabah for over three years now and in response to common questions from our supporters such as “how do you spend your days in the jungle?” James has sent us the following:

Tabin - A day in the life

03:30 – As usual, I’m woken up by the smells of frying garlic and onions. It’s amazing how early some of my staff get up in the morning to prepare for a day in the forest following our orangutans!

05:25 – After packing our gear and a breakfast of instant noodles and eggs, we leave camp every day at this time without fail. It’s still dark this early in the morning but it starts to get light around 05:45, so we always begin our daily treks into the forest in darkness. Depending on where the orangutans made their nest the previous night, we could be walking for anything between five minutes to an hour and a half! Most of the oranges we’ve released all seem to prefer higher ground so this means lots of huffing and puffing for us as we try to get to their nesting site before they wake up and start their day!



jkfj

06:05 – Today I am tracking the beautiful Eyos. She’s just woken up and left her nest. The first thing she does, like many of us, is go to the toilet! Just make sure you’re not standing under whatever tree she’s in! Eyos then takes a few minutes just looking around waiting for the cobwebs to clear; she registers the same confused and fuzzy look as we do on waking!

06:15 – Ok, back to the serious business at hand; Eyos is hungry already! She comes down from her nesting tree to the ground and starts walking to one of her favourite feeding patches. On the way she stops to feed on some rattan. It’s amazing to watch how

delicately she pulls the edible parts from the rest of the plant because rattan is really spiky and painful to touch. She’s got really tough hands though and the thorns are no match for Eyos’ pulling power! After a few minutes chowing down on the sweet tasting pith, she continues her journey until she reaches her spot and climbs high up a Laran tree to feast on its abundant fruits for the next hour and a half!



Eyos looking bored

09:12 – Slow down Eyos! She’s travelled to an area that she’s never been to before so my tracking partner and I have to use our machetes to clear our path just to keep up with her. Phew! We almost lost her then; but there she is over there – raiding an ants’ nest!

13:31 – As she reaches another of her favourite feeding spots, she crosses a river and stoops to have a little drink of water. It’s a beautiful thing to see these animals interact with the forest so naturally.

14:42 – Oh no! Looks like Eyos has just got stung by a bee! She was merrily eating Kunau kunau fruits when suddenly she came racing down the tree trunk at a million miles an hour, whimpering in pain! From our position on the ground we can see that there are still a few angry bees buzzing around above her, but she’ll be fine; just another lesson learnt – recognise a bees’ nest and don’t disturb it Eyos!

15:29 – Here comes the thunder and torrential rain! It’s not hard to see why they call this place the rainforest! Eyos is sitting on a branch holding a bunch of leaves above her head trying to stay dry. She looks thoroughly miserable and wet up there despite her makeshift

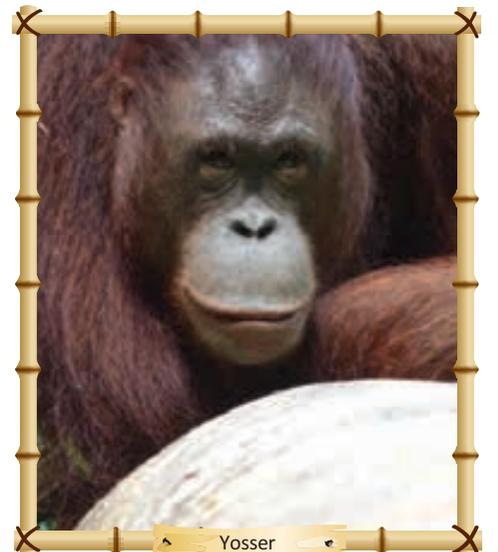
umbrella! Even though I’ve got a real umbrella I always end up much wetter than the orangutans after a downpour... still trying to work out how!

17:39 – Eyos has just climbed high into the canopy and we can hear the familiar sound of breaking branches. That means she’s building her night nest! It usually takes her about five to 10 minutes to finish building unless she’s feeling lazy and just decides to reuse one of her older nests.

18:00 – Ok, it looks as though she’s asleep already as we haven’t seen any movement from her since she finished building her nest. Time for us to trek back out towards the road and head back to camp.

18:30 – Home sweet home! First thing to do is cook dinner because all of the tracking teams are hungry after another long day in the forest. Once that’s done, we need to hand wash all of our field gear, and ourselves of course, as we tend to get very dirty and sweaty on an average day!

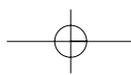
21:00 – After debriefing with the other tracking teams about how the other orangutans got on that day, it’s time for bed – ready to do it all again tomorrow!

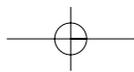


Yosser

Of course, we also need to input all of the data that we collect into the computer. We also have to keep our research camp clean, safe, and in good working order.

Throw in meetings, conferences, and the other work I do for the Appeal on our other projects, and it’s a pretty packed work schedule. It’s hard and lonely work at times but so worth it to know how valuable the data is and to see these animals free – where they belong!





LUCKIEST PERSON IN THE WORLD

Ever since I was young, I knew I wanted to work with animals, but it was when I visited Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre in Sabah as a tourist in 2010 I realised I wanted to be involved with the conservation of primates, and particularly great apes.

I was really inspired by the work that goes on at Sepilok and so I adopted a baby orangutan from the Orangutan Appeal UK as I wanted to help. I received my adoption pack which contained a newsletter that the Appeal publishes every six months and read that they were looking for someone to work at the Centre as a Liaison Officer.

Immediately, I knew I wanted to apply and I became the luckiest person in the world when, after a gruelling interview, my dream came true, and Sue chose me for the role!

A few months later, after I received my training at the Appeal's office in Brockenhurst, I was on my way to Sabah. I settled into my job very quickly and there was never a dull moment! I loved being able to pass on my enthusiasm and raise awareness of the importance of orangutan conservation in Borneo.

My role was to present the Appeal to the visitors at Sepilok by giving education talks before the daily feeding sessions and promoting the adoption programme which brings in essential funds, as well as gathering news and photos of the orangutans that live in the surrounding reserve.



There were so many highlights of the role and one of the most exciting moments was when the magnificent CID came to visit the feeding platform! Wow! He is a huge, fully flanged, alpha male who resides in the reserve but



only makes an appearance once or twice a year on average so it was amazing to be able to see him five times whilst he pursued the love of his life a young female called Clenan.

There is always a lot of orangutan mischief going on at the centre, from stealing cameras and umbrellas, to chasing the builders around trying to steal their tools.

Another highlight of my time as the Liaison Officer was when I was mugged by an orangutan called Ann.

It was 6am and there was a ranger knocking on my door and shouting that there had been a burglary at the centre and my cupboards had been broken into and the contents, polo shirts, had been stolen and were being worn as hats by the culprits.

This was no ordinary robbery - this

was, of course, the work of the orange apes! I quickly dressed and went to see what was going on and found C.T. fleeing from the chaos she had caused and Ann trying to open yet another pack of polo shirts. As I approached the scene, Ann saw me and came over, not to greet me, but to continue her criminal rampage by mugging me!

Her hand and face were in my pockets searching for anything she could get hold of and it took all my strength to get away from her with my belongings.

Working at Sepilok made me realise why I love working with animals - they are so unpredictable and every day is different, so it never gets boring. I saw many orangutans during my time and began to understand their individual personalities. There is nowhere else in the world I could wake up to the sound of hornbills on my roof, see a pit viper on my way to work, watch macaque monkeys steal a tourist's lunch and see a baby orangutan learn to live in the wild.

I want everyone to know how much of a difference the Appeal makes for these beautiful apes of Sabah and ask you all to continue your support.



So thank you Sue for giving me this opportunity! I can only hope that I can do something in the future as great as you have with Orangutan Appeal UK.

Hetty Upton
Liaison Officer 2012

NEW LANDROVER

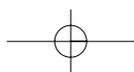
The Post Release Monitoring Project in Tabin is moving forward in leaps and bounds (literally) as the newly released orangutans learn how to forage and care for themselves in the wild.

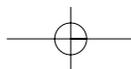
As a result the tracking teams have been struggling to keep up and this has not been helped by their ailing truck.



In November 2012 the Appeal purchased a new Land Rover for the project with the help of Abi Irving and Guava International Ltd, who negotiated a good deal for us with Land Rover Malaysia, for which we are very grateful.

Our Chairperson, Sue Sheward MBE, presented the new vehicle to the Sabah Wildlife Director, Dr Ambu at a ceremony in Kota Kinabalu, for use on this ground-breaking project.





KEEPING FIRE AT BAY

Early in 2012 the work of OU Trop came to the Appeal's attention as their Fire Team was battling to keep the peat fires under control. As a relatively small NGO they needed help in finding funding for this essential work and the Appeal was delighted to offer them support in the form of a £5,000 grant.

The Orangutan Tropical Peatland Project (OuTrop) is a not-for-profit NGO that works to conserve wild orangutans in Indonesian Borneo through conservation-based research and locally-led on-the-ground conservation actions. These efforts are focused in the Sabangau peat-swamp forest in southern Borneo; home to the largest remaining orangutan population in the World, numbering almost 7,000 individuals.

Among other threats, Sabangau's orangutans are at risk from dry-season fires, which can completely decimate their forest home. These fires are particularly problematic because, unlike

in dryland forests, fires in peat swamps such as Sabangau actually burn away the peat substrate. Because peat takes many thousands of years to form, this effectively prevents forest regeneration following fire. The result of this is highly degraded, burnt areas, with very low regeneration potential and that are highly vulnerable to repeat burning. Preventing those first fires from taking hold is therefore essential and each dry season – which typically runs from around April/May-September – is always a time of worry. This is particularly true in years when the dry season extends longer than normal, as was the case in 2012....

The extended dry season this year – which lasted until the arrival of the rains in November – led to large numbers of peat fires throughout the province of Central Kalimantan. This resulted in our Sabangau orangutan study site becoming shrouded in thick, nasty smoke for most of October and November. Fortunately, the efforts of the local Community Patrol

Team, plus a little luck, meant that no fires directly threatened our study population during this risky period.



Water source

Of course, as the dry season progressed through October and November, and the rains still hadn't arrived, there was much concern that the forest could catch fire, endangering these orangutans. This risk grew the longer the dry season went on. To prepare for this growing threat, the Community Patrol Team began digging a number of permanent "bores" deep beneath the peat. This is important to prepare for fires in areas far from surface water sources, where copious amounts of water must be pumped up from beneath the peat to extinguish fires. These bores – positioned around our research site – are essential for ensuring preparedness to fight fires in future years, safeguarding the forest and its orangutans.

As we move into the wet season, the Community Patrol Team focus on logging patrols – illegal logging is a wet-season activity, as loggers use canals to float logs out of the forest.

The ongoing support of the Orangutan Appeal UK is vital for ensuring that these essential conservation measures to protect this important orangutan population can continue, and we thank you for this.

Dr Mark Harrison BSc PhD CBIOL MSB
Managing Director
Orangutan Tropical Peatland Project



Fighting fires

IN MEMORY & REMEMBERING US IN YOUR WILL

We were very sad to hear that Doris Goosmann lost her battle with cancer in July. Doris visited Sepilok with her husband in 2010 and has been a valued supporter ever since. After her visit Doris adopted Chikita and found comfort in her pictures during her last days in hospital. Her generosity continued as Doris left £1,400 to the Appeal in her will and

her friends and family donated a further £1,300 in her memory.

Linda Tarbet advised us that her mother had recently passed away and very kindly left us £1000 in her will. Linda started adopting in June 2008, first Michelle, then Sen and then most recently Lumiyud in June 2012.

It makes a huge contribution to the work we are able to do when we receive a legacy from one of our supporters and is such a wonderful way to contribute to something you believe in. If you would like more information about leaving a Legacy, please contact Emily on 01590 623443 or send us an email at manager@orangutan-appeal.org.uk

TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS – WITHOUT YOUR HELP WE COULDN'T CONTINUE OUR WORK TO SAVE THIS BEAUTIFUL APE – THANK YOU SO MUCH - IT REALLY IS APPRECIATED!

