



Orangutan
Appeal UK

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News

Issue 27 Aug 2014

Happy Birthday Spike!

Otan is still doing a marvellous job raising young Spike. Wild born Spike turned one year old in May and his playful character shines through everything that he does. At this stage, Otan will allow him to go 4-5 metres away from her to practice his climbing while she's busy feeding herself.

Spike first sampled solid foods at three months old and since then there has literally been nothing in the forest that he hasn't at least tried! He is a real handful for Otan but she is so patient and watchful over him, even when he is hanging off her face!"

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Sepilok News

Good News!

Lumiyud was rescued from the raging monsoon floods of 2011 by a fisherman who found her on the river bank where she had become separated from her mother. The young orangutan was taken to Sepilok where she could be cared for and was named Lumiyud, which means "flood" in Malay. Since her tragic start in life Lumiyud has successfully endured the difficult rehabilitation process necessary to enable her to survive in the forest.

Lumiyud, who is one of our current adoptive babies, is being released NOW! Wish her luck!

OUR NEW ADOPTIVE BABY is the endearing little **Bidu Bidu**.

Don't delay – Adopt Him Today – and learn about his very special story!



Bidu Bidu

We have some more good news, Clenan's baby has finally been named Awantang (*pictured below*) which means 'handsome' in a tribal dialect. Our Liaison Officer Saph said "I was hoping that he would be called Elvis, as he is incredibly cute but I'm not too disappointed as I think the name is very fitting".



Awantang is getting very independent. Clenan has brought him to the feeding platform several times lately and he is really starting to move away from her, even swinging on the ropes by himself! Clenan is such a brilliant mum and is still keeping a close eye on him to make sure he doesn't get into trouble.



Gelison

Gelison is making good progress since he has been promoted to the Outdoor Nursery. At the end of May he followed Clenan all the way through to Platform A, which is where the tourists are allowed to watch the feeding sessions, and a couple of days later spent his first night in the jungle! Gelison's carer Victor, was so worried about him that in the morning he went looking for him and thankfully found him not too far away on one of the trails.



Mariko

Mariko is one of the Kabili Reserve's resident mature females and she has been seen visiting the feeding platform lately and is looking in extremely good condition. Some of the young orangutans such as Kalabatu and Matamis are scared of her and instantly leave if Mariko turns up.

Our thanks to Cede Prudente for use of his photographs



Baby Ceria

Ceria has been a real menace lately! On one occasion he decided that none of the other orangutans were going to be allowed to feed at the platform and pushed the entire day's rations off the side. Luckily ranger Jomius scared him off before all the food was lost, but he did get away with a bunch of bananas which he took bites out of and spat at the crowd!

Obviously Ceria, who is 9 years old, is experiencing changes in his hormones which often produces boisterous behaviour in young males.

Since this incident Ceria has been to the feeding platform several times and now seems less intent on causing trouble, though he does look very menacing at times and far from the cute baby that arrived at Sepilok 7 years ago.



A menacing Ceria

Nonong's enclosure

We are pleased to announce that construction of Nonong's enclosure has started. As many of you already know, Nonong is a very special orangutan who was destined to become part of the Post Release Monitoring Project in Tabin, however at the age of 4 she contracted cerebral malaria which paralysed her down her left-hand side.

Sadly, she will never be able to live free in the forest due to her condition, but the Appeal aims to give every orangutan the best life possible. So for this beautiful orangutan it will be her new enclosure, where she will have her own space

and be free to move around and play, but still have the company of the youngsters next door.

A special thanks to Banana Tree Indochina Restaurants, who have been raising funds for this Project. Also to Allison Seidler for her very generous donation, and to **everyone** who has contributed to make Nonong's life happier.

We only need £2,500 to hit our fundraising goal and finish the enclosure.

Please continue to support Nonong – she really is a very special case.



Nearly £14,000 was raised by Banana Tree for the Appeal

Banrock Wines

Thank you so much to Accolade Wines and Banrock Station for their continued support as one of OAUK's "Business Partners". It's a year since they kindly donated \$10,000 AUD (£5,500.00) and we have put this to great use at Sepilok.



Banrock's support has enabled us to employ 3 new Malay carers; Bonnie, Amoy and Pamie, to work with the youngsters at the Centre.



New staff

Post Release Monitoring Project

So the biggest news since I last wrote to you all is that Mico is a new addition to our Tabin family! He came to us on April 2nd and within just two days he had found Eyos to range with. This was exactly what we were hoping for as orangutans are so adept at one-to-one learning due to the long dependency periods (six-eight years) that they spend with their mothers.

Their relationship lasted just one week before Mico's overenthusiastic foraging stirred a swarm of bees into action, and, in the ensuing melee both he and Eyos (and the rest of us!) ran off in different directions to escape. Mico wasn't alone for long though, and within a few days he had found Anekara.

They then spent about ten days ranging around together only to be split up by the huge, locally dominant flanged male! Anekara had followed the sound of a long call and with Mico sticking to her like glue she soon came into visual contact with the local boss. As is expected in situations like this, Mico, as the much smaller and younger male, didn't want to be too close with the big guy so rather than continuing his dogged pursuit of Anekara, he instead ran off into the warm embrace of nearby Hope once again!



Mico and Eyos

system! Phew! That means a lot less sweating for us, at least for now!

Mico has of course also made the most of his one-on-one time and the romantic opportunities with our girls! Like a typical male, he seems to lose interest in whoever he is with after a couple of weeks before deciding to divert his attentions to the next lucky lady!

So not only do our other orangutans have a good influence on Mico's foraging levels and diet, but they also seem to help keep him within the reach of the post release monitoring team. Because of this, we're all hoping that he'll stay interested in our females and hang around for much longer at the release site!

I myself and the boys in Tabin are all happy and healthy too! After almost five years in the forest I still think it's our privilege to be able to share our lives with these beautiful animals in their natural environment, exactly where they should be!

Thorough post release monitoring is so important to find out what really happens to these guys and how well they adapt, yet it wouldn't be possible at all without all of our generous supporters, so for that I thank you all for supporting the Appeal and all of us in what we are trying to achieve!

James Robins
Primatologist



Mico free in Tabin

When following our females, Mico doesn't like to be much more than about ten metres behind them wherever they go. Right now he's a big softie, and if he loses sight of whoever he's with at that time, he'll often whimper until he manages to find them again! Since his release he has probably spent no more than ten days ranging alone. This has really been great for Mico as he has been able to watch and learn from each of our girls to see 1) what they are eating; 2) where they are getting their food from; and 3) how he should behave in Tabin.

Mico's diet is already so much more varied and colourful compared with the other males we have released previously. On a personal level, another reason why we think it is good that Mico has been spending so much time with our girls, is because when travelling alone he's ventured up to four hours away by hard trekking!!! Thankfully our girls have all established relatively small home ranges either within or not too far from our trail

Our new vet

My name is Rosalie Dench, and I have recently joined the Orangutan Appeal as their new Veterinary Advisor. I have been involved in orang-utan conservation projects in Borneo for over ten years, and have been working with orang-utans in a veterinary capacity for the last four years. As such, I am aware of the challenges facing orang-utan rehabilitation centres like Sepilok, both from veterinary and conservation perspectives. I hope that in my new role I will be able to draw on my experiences enabling me to offer veterinary advice to the Orangutan Appeal whenever the need arises.

In February 2014, I joined Sue and Emily at the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre for a week, to familiarise myself with the set-up and routines at the Centre. It was lovely to meet the on-site vet, Dr Laura, and the rest of the Sepilok team, and to gain a better understanding of their rehabilitation system. There is no “one size fits all” with rehabilitation programmes: every centre operates slightly differently according to their needs and resources. But the mainstay of veterinary care in these centres is preventative medicine: hygiene, husbandry and routine checks to pick up the first sign of any illness; and these principles are reflected in the day-to-day work of the Sepilok staff.

I was also able to call in on the tourist centre at Sepilok during my visit. This area is open to the public, and serves as an educational tool for people to learn more about orang-utans and their conservation. The opportunity to see these wonderful creatures moving through the trees is an



Rosalie with Sue

amazing experience, and helps put the conservation message in context for both Malaysian and International visitors to the centre.

My visit coincided with that of a film crew from Discovery Channel, who are making a documentary about the vital work OAUK are doing at Sepilok. Filming wild animals is challenging, even in captivity – nothing ever goes quite to plan, and orang-utans are particularly determined to do things their own way!

Overall it was a very interesting, useful and enjoyable visit. I feel I am now better prepared to advise the Orangutan Appeal on veterinary aspects of their important work in supporting this rehabilitation process.

Orangutan Tropical Peatland Project

OuTrop works in the Sabangau Forest in southern Borneo, which is home to the world's largest orangutan population. We've been working to help protect this population since 1999 through on-the-ground conservation efforts and scientific research to help understand how effective orangutan conservation can be best achieved.

Our Orangutan Behaviour Project is an essential component of this effort and we have just achieved a major milestone: collecting over 20,000 hours of orangutan behaviour data! This has taken nearly 11 years and the combined efforts of nearly a hundred local and international researchers to compile.

These data provide important information on orangutan activity patterns, feeding ecology and energetics, health and parasites, ranging and dispersal, social and cultural behaviours, and life history. This helps us understand both how orangutans survive in the forest and how human activities impact their populations.

Twentino Fritsman, a local OuTrop researcher who collected the 20,000th hour of data, says: “It has been a privilege to spend so much time following these special animals. Over 10 years I've been lucky enough to watch some orangutans go from infancy through to full adulthood. But most exciting is making sure we have the knowledge to help save them”.

Based on this understanding, it is clear that the major current threat to Sabangau's orangutans is peat swamp drainage by old illegal-logging canals and subsequent forest fire. We're working together with the local Community Patrol Team to help prevent fires by restoring flooded swamp conditions.

Although water levels at the time of writing remain high in the forest, this situation could change rapidly and so complacency is not an option. In particular, the chances of an El Niño event occurring this year are 65% which is very worrying.

We have therefore been concentrating our efforts on fire prevention through attempting to block the old illegal-logging canals through dam construction. Two large dams have already been built at the mouth of a canal and construction of another 26 dams is underway. This work is vital, as drained swamps are vulnerable to fire.

We are also ensuring that the fire-fighting team are properly equipped and prepared to fight any fires. We are extremely grateful to Orangutan Appeal UK for their much needed support and funding of our Fire Teams and our combined efforts make sure that Sabangau is a safer place for the orangutan population that calls it home.

OuTrop dambuilders



Sepilok Liaison Officer's Report

To be honest, growing up in a city, the closest I got to the great outdoors and wildlife encounters had been on screen. I loved watching wildlife documentaries and marvelling at the world's strange and exotic creatures, not really believing that I would ever get to meet them!

I'm lucky in that I'm quite well travelled. I'd been to the Amazon rainforest, which was amazing but not very successful in terms of wildlife spotting. So when Sue offered me the chance to work as Liaison Officer at Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, I knew it would be a golden opportunity to see some of my favourite mammals up close!



Our Liaison Officer Saph

So far the experience has been even better than I'd hoped! First there's the forest itself; so green and lush, it stirs up recollections of Tolkien's elf kingdoms. And so alive, too! There's exotic birdsong during the day, the bizarre croaking of the frogs at night, and the constant buzzing of thousands of insects. One of my favourite sounds here is the dinosaur-esque cry of the hornbills; a squawk that surely belongs in another era.

On my days off I usually opt to go on a long trek through the Kabili Reserve, an area of primary rainforest which is home to an abundance of different species. I've been lucky enough to spot gibbons swinging through the treetops at an incredible speed, whooping at dawn.

The diversity is incredible and the variation between animals of the same family is immense.

Thankfully, as I'm working on the edge of the reserve, I get to check out the local wildlife constantly. Sitting in the Sepilok reception, I often see the pig-tailed macaques causing trouble outside, and there's a resident slow loris that can be seen at night in the car park. Once we had a visit from a red leaf monkey, a langur with fiery red hair which lit up in the afternoon sun.

But of course, it's the almighty orangutan that really brought me to Sepilok. And what incredible creatures they are! The more I see of and learn about them, the more I'm amazed by how much we have in common, and the more I realise how lucky I am to be here.

I have a particular soft spot for some of the more mischievous ones, like C.T. who seems desperate to get her hands on a T-shirt. Once she tried to steal a staff polo shirt from the café and when that failed, she raided my stall! Sen is just as cheeky. Several times I've seen him sitting on the roof of the café drinking an ice-cold beverage, seized from an unsuspecting visitor.

Every day I accompany tourists to a viewing platform to watch the orangutans feeding and socialising and you never know who you might see there. We've had a few visits from wild males who come for the females! A male orangutan will normally travel with a female, mating with her until he thinks she's pregnant then he scarpers. Not exactly romantic, but interesting to observe!

Most people, when picturing an adult male orangutan, will imagine a dominant ('flanged') male – cheek pads, throat pouch and a big hunky body! However, lots of males won't actually reach this stage of maturity but are fully capable of reproducing yet look similar to adult females. It's these 'unflanged' males that we usually see at the feeding platform, as they roam far and wide to find a mate. A male will only start to develop flanges if the social conditions are right, and the change can happen very quickly, in just a few months!

I was lucky enough to see Yokmel, who has very recently become a flanged male. And what a magnificent sight! He's much bigger than any of the other orangutans, and his cheek pads form a dramatic frame around his face. His hair is very long and he has an enormous throat sack under his chin. He came to the platform when there were no females in sight which makes me wonder whether he's started using a long-call. A flanged male has it easy when it comes to mating. All he has to do is sit back, long-call away, and wait for a female to seek him out!

Life at Sepilok is great and I'm even starting to envy the orangutans. They live such a peaceful existence, gradually making their way between the tree-tops, observing the world below.

If only I had hands instead of feet!

Saph Gordon



Yokmel

COP News

The last couple of months have been particularly busy for the Centre for Orangutan Protection (COP) and its founder Hardi Baktiantoro, involving more than three separate rescues:

MOMON - Another baby orangutan found without its mother. This baby, called Momon by the family keeping her, did not have thick hair or complete teeth, was not able to eat anything, and could only drink milk when the family found her. She was kept in a cage next to a chicken coop, and since no chicken dared to approach, Momon lived alone without any companions. The cage measured 1 x 1 x 0.5 square metres. Although it wasn't locked, Momon never left the cage. She was fed rice daily and sometimes if she was lucky she would get milk in the morning.

Momon looked very stressed and quite often banged her head into the cage wall. Although painful, this little girl just kept on doing it. Momon lived in the cage for 480 days, half her life at her age. She could only see the forest between the cage walls and hope there was some chance of her mother coming back to take her into the forest.



Momon

Momon's is just one of hundreds of stories of orangutans who lose their mothers due to agriculture and mining in Kalimantan. Despite Momon's past, we can give her a better future and try to ensure that other baby orangutans do not also lose their mothers this way.



Rescued baby

JAMBONG AND ALUNG – COP was contacted on 21st May about a baby orangutan kept in captivity for almost a year. The COP Team confirmed the report and met the orangutan's keeper. The orangutan was named Alung. She was kept in a former garage in a cage made from iron fencing. Her daily food was rice and vegetables. She was not alone, but was accompanied by a porcupine kept next to her. Alung would pull the porcupine's quills until it turned to play with her.

Later the same day, the Team got a report of another orangutan. When the COP Team arrived they found a baby orangutan less than a year old, which according its keeper had been found after land clearing by a palm oil company, but he refused to name the company.

After reporting back to BKSDA (the Conservation and Natural Resources Agency), the Team were instructed to bring the orangutans back to the BKSDA Sampit office. The following day the Team confiscated the two orangutans and took them to Sampit, a journey which took five hours.

Today both orangutans are safe with BKSDA and the plan is to move them soon into the care of Orangutan Foundation International in Pangkalan Bun.

A route to compassionate conservation

Presentations by the Appeal's Primatologist James Robins, and Manager Emily Griffiths, were stage in the first week of June in Surrey and Brockenhurst in the New Forest. Also present were guest speaker Gordon Hunt from Durrell Institute on Jersey and Dr Blackham of Orangutan Tropical Peatland Project. The evenings were a resounding success and a total of £5,000 was raised.

The next presentation will be on 28th October in the HOUSE OF COMMONS where a short exclusive pre-view of the Appeal's new eight part series, filmed for Discovery Channel's Animal Planet will be shown. Tickets for this event will be on sale in August 2014 – so keep an eye on our website.



Supporters News

Runners

London Marathon



Congratulations to Sandie Walpole who ran the London Marathon and raised over £700 for the Appeal. After visiting Sepilok, she adopted a baby orangutan and became a supporter. Sandie ran with her orangutan puppet and finished a respectable 8,190 out of 36,000 runners.

Brighton Marathon

James Cornelius, Dan Robinson, Vincent Ratier and Katie Phillips, who all ran the Brighton Marathon for us this year and together, raised over £1,800. Well done! Contact us to find out how you can run for Orangutan Appeal UK.



Year 9 of Lady Manners School in Derbyshire (*below*) raised £316 with their Rainforest project, where each pupil created a leaflet to raise awareness of the orangutan plight.



Fundraising



Lise Christie did a skydive in Hawaii and raised £305. Afterwards she described it as "one of the best things I have ever done in my life."

Janet Morrell (*right*) celebrated her 70th birthday and instead of presents, asked for donations to be made and raised £500!



Nick Horne and colleagues hosted an Orange Friday at their work and raised £97 and enough money to adopt baby Beryl.

Barbara Spits held a Fashion Parade fundraising event in her living room and raised \$790.

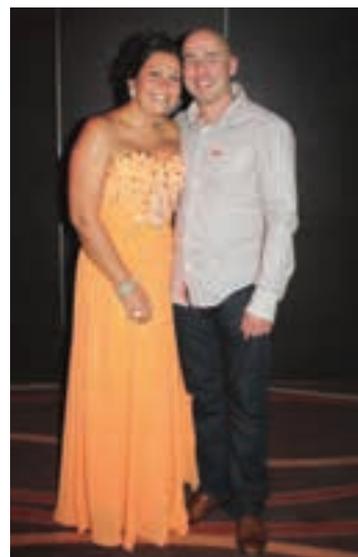
Hampshire W.I. Groups in Thorney Hill, Bransgore, Lovedean, Woodgreen, East Woodhay and Easton have together donated over £400 following presentations from the Appeal.

Following educational visits from the Appeal, Waterside Primary School in Hampshire and St Teresa's School in Effingham, Surrey raised £105 and £125 respectively for us.

Alexander Solomons and Oliver Shergold, students at Brockenhurst College, sold doughnuts and raised £119.00. Whilst Isaac Marsden (*right*), aged 4, along with the help of his mum Kerry, held an Orangutan Tea Party and raised £57.



Sharon Maris (*below*) hosted a Valentine's Charity Ball in Chesterfield and raised £1200!



Dante and Caedmon Trozzo from Sabah, Borneo asked for donations instead of presents and collected 600RM (£100)!

Worldwide Veterinary Service (WVS) donated several boxes of Vet Wrap for the orangutans at Sepilok.

Peter Crockett of SCDX Ltd donated £1000 to us and Mrs Brennickmeijer donated £500.

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL FUNDRAISERS.
YOUR SUPPORT MAKES OUR VITAL WORK
POSSIBLE.**