



*Orangutan
Appeal UK*

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News

Issue 28 Feb 2015

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Post Release Monitoring Project welcomes new baby!

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my absolute pleasure to announce (drum roll please...) the second baby born to our post release monitoring project in Tabin! This is quite an achievement given that we have only reintroduced four females so far. Our long term supporters will undoubtedly be extra pleased to hear that it is Eynos that has become our new mother!

In November Eynos gave birth to a healthy baby girl and we've been tracking them ever since to make sure that she's a caring mother and that her baby remains healthy in these crucial early stages. Fortunately, Eynos is doing well and responding each and every time the baby cries out for food by moving her up to her breast to feed. The newborn is very greedy and certainly has a healthy pair of lungs on her so they make a great team!

Eynos first came to us on the 1st of March 2012; she had been quite badly bullied at Sepilok by a few of the more established adult females there, so I had high hopes when we brought her down to the much less densely populated Tabin where she could roam freely without always looking over her shoulder. What makes this news so amazing is the fact that before arriving with us she had two stillborn babies.

So for her to now produce a healthy, bouncing baby girl has really brought a smile to our faces! We are also particularly excited about the fact that the father must be a wild male from Tabin as neither of our recent males (Oscar and Mico) was there at conception. Her successful mating, carriage, birth and now rearing of the baby therefore proves that our compassionate approach to post release monitoring in Tabin is really working. This is such a great success story for everyone that has been involved in Eynos' rehabilitation; from the day that she was rescued by the Wildlife Department back in 2002, to the present day as we continue to monitor her progress after reintroduction.



With the addition of the new baby that now makes seven orangutans that we're following. We have two mother and baby combos, two other females and of course our most recent releasee from earlier this year, Mico. We've even had a visit in the last week from our old friend Hope, who for large chunks of 2014 has been pretty much doing her own thing somewhere far away from our monitoring zone. We last saw her all the way back in June so to be fending for herself for the last six months and returning in great shape is another gold star!



Sue, James and his team

Otan and Spike have been enjoying their second year together and we've noticed how much more playful Otan has become in recent months, perhaps to keep up with Spike but also probably because she's breast feeding much less now and has more energy for herself.

Anekara is just getting on with the job of fending for herself by foraging for most of her days. She's put on a good deal of weight in response to the great summer of fruit that we experienced in Tabin this year. In fact, all of our orangutans enjoyed a large harvest of numerous different fruits over the summer, as did I! I make a habit of tasting everything that I see the orangutans eating as a crude way of assessing the nutrients that the foods may contain. I can certainly confirm that ripe fruits generally taste much nicer than leaves or bark!

My team of research assistants are all doing great too. We are a very small family in Tabin but the research we are doing is unique due to the level of detail that we are going into. We face a big couple of years ahead and personally I cannot wait to write up the results of the last 5+ years that we've been operating in the jungle. It continues to be a pleasure to spend our days with these beautifully gentle apes and Eynos' new baby girl is the icing on the cake for a brilliant 2014.

Many thanks on behalf of my whole team for your ongoing support; we couldn't do our work without you!

James Robins
Primatologist

Eynos and her baby in Tabin

Sepilok News



Mimi and her baby

Apart from the exciting news from the Post Release Monitoring Team of Eynos' baby being born in Tabin, we have also received news that not one, but two new babies have been born at Sepilok! WOW!

In September, 21 year old Mimi (left) gave birth to a baby boy who is yet to be named. Mimi successfully raised her last baby boy, Ronny in the Kabili Reserve at Sepilok and she has already brought the new baby to the feeding platform to show him off and he seems to be doing great.

The young baby will stay with Mimi for up to eight years until he has learnt all the skills he needs to survive independently in the wild. Until then, he will rely on Mimi to care for him and teach him everything he needs to know and so far she is doing a fantastic job in raising him!

Mariko who was rehabilitated at Sepilok also gave birth to a girl in November. Unlike the orphaned babies going through the rehabilitation at Sepilok, these two young ones are lucky enough to have their mothers guide them through the early years in their life so this is truly a reason to celebrate.

Nonong's new home

We are delighted to announce that in September 2014 Nonong's new enclosure was completed and she is now living comfortably in her new home.

The enclosure provides Nonong with a more comfortable living environment with enough space to climb and move about safely. Nonong is a beautiful, playful orangutan who also loves relaxing in her hammock and taking a snooze. The new enclosure has

changed Nonong's life and she couldn't be happier!

OAUK would like to say a huge thank you to all of our supporters who have made this possible for Nonong and enabled her to enjoy a new quality of life which wouldn't have been achieved without all your dedication and support!

Sepilok staff are also currently building a garden area for Nonong; which will make a fantastic enrichment for her and shows the care and dedication that everybody at Sepilok has for this very special orangutan.



Sue helps Nonong unto her new home and (below) a smiling Nonong



Sepilok's 50th anniversary with Jumrafiah!

Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre celebrated its 50th Anniversary on the 9th October 2014 and OAUK were delighted to be invited to this special event. The Centre hosted a two day celebration recognising half a century of rescuing, rehabilitating and releasing orangutans back to the wild.

The event highlighted an important landmark in Sepilok's ongoing work to protect orangutans and to give each one the best opportunity for a future in the rainforest.

Sabah Wildlife Department's Deputy Director Jum Rafiah Abd Sukor presented the Appeal with a commemorative plaque to mark their collaboration and support.

The Appeal are very proud to have been a part of the celebrations and look forward to working alongside Sepilok for many more years to come.



House of Commons Awareness Event

2014 was a very exciting year for Orangutan Appeal UK and one of the highlights was most definitely our House of Commons event in October; 'Tragedy or Hope? The Plight of the Orangutan vs. Man.'



Bill Wiggin MP and Sue



Sue giving her presentation



Bill Wiggin MP with Cede Prudente

The event, which was hosted by Bill Wiggin MP, brought together over 80 MPs, conservationists, academics, TV personalities, and corporate leaders to hear about the plight of the orangutan and what we are doing to secure their future. Wildlife presenters George McGavin, Ian Wright and Bill Oddie as well as world-renowned conservationist, Ian Redmond – famous for his association with the film 'Gorillas in The Mist', were among the guests who attended the event.

The evening marked the launch of our 2015 campaign which aims to raise awareness of the undisputable links between climate change and the degradation of the planet's rainforests and subsequent wildlife loss. Over the last 15 years the number of orangutans in the wild has fallen dramatically from over 100,000 to an estimated 40,000. By far the greatest impact on orangutan numbers has been as a result of the rapid deforestation of its natural environment, due in large part to the cultivation of palm oil, used globally in a wide variety of foods and consumer products.

Our primatologist James Robins, gave an informative presentation on the devastation caused by the encroachment of agriculture into the rainforests which creates serious problems for not only the species which inhabit them, including the orangutan but also for humans. James explained how ultimately our long term survival depends on the preservation of the rainforests, which are known as the lungs of the earth as they are responsible for filtering the air we breathe, the purity of our water and regulating our climate. Who could be a better ambassador for saving our rainforests than the incredible orangutan?



Primatologist James Robins

The event also featured an exhibition of photos by renowned Malaysian wildlife photographer and conservationist Cede Prudente. His photographs were showcased alongside wildlife paintings by Jacha Potgieter and Emma Bowring who unveiled her stunning new painting of our adoptive baby "Beryl" which is now for sale.

Guests also enjoyed an exclusive preview of our new eight-part documentary series called; "Meet the Orangutans" featuring the work of Sue and the Appeal at Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre which will start to be aired worldwide on Discovery Channel's Animal Planet at 8pm on 12th February 2015.



(Above) Jacha Potgieter and his work



(Left) Emma Bowring's showcase

We are delighted that we were able to share the importance of our work at The House of Commons and thrilled to inform you that Bill Wiggin MP has invited us to host another event there in October 2015. We will have a limited number of tickets available for our supporters which will go on sale during the summer....

SO DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR CHANCE TO ATTEND!

Lastly, I want to thank everyone involved and acknowledge the fantastic effort made by our artists Jacha, Emma and Cede - and the Appeal Team who made this such a memorable occasion – thank you all.

Sue Sheward

Cede is now our patron!

Since the House of Commons event Cede Prudente has agreed to become a Patron to the Appeal. Cede is an award winning professional wildlife photographer, conservationist and expert guide who escorts David Attenborough on his filming missions in Sabah.

Cede was born in Lahad Datu, Sabah, Malaysian Borneo. Based in Sandakan on Sabah's east coast, he lives in one of the world's most diverse and fascinating environments. With Borneo as his home, he is ideally situated to document every aspect of this remarkable natural world and introduce it to others.

To see more of Cede's work please visit his website: <http://www.cedepudente.com/video/>

OAUK are excited to announce that we are giving our supporters the chance to win this exclusive authenticated Cede Prudente photograph of King which was featured at the House of Commons!

Entries for our unique raffle cost £2 each and can be purchased on our website by making donations and noted "raffle tickets" or by phone at our office on 01590 623443. Your raffle number will be entered into our prize draw which will be drawn on 1st of September. (Registered under the Lotteries Act 1976 at Guildford Borough Council).



The Males of Sepilok

It is fair to say that Sepilok has been home to some very impressive male orangutans over the years; from the large adults with their bold orange beards to the majestic dominant flanged males. They are a remarkable sight if you have ever had the pleasure of seeing them grace the feeding platform or surveying their home high in the tree tops. With so many handsome males, it comes as no surprise that Sepilok has also welcomed many babies in to the world.

So, who is Sepilok's most eligible bachelor?

King is a remarkable male who was OAUk's first in helicopter translocation from Sepilok to the Tabin Reserve. As a valuable breeding male, there is a good chance King has continued his bloodline through many offspring.

King Ghaz



King Ghaz

Tom King

Wild born male Tom King (right) was a fully flanged male who was brought to Sepilok after he had been found raiding a nearby village and was at risk of being shot. At 28 years old he was the second orangutan to be released into the Tabin reserve by helicopter.



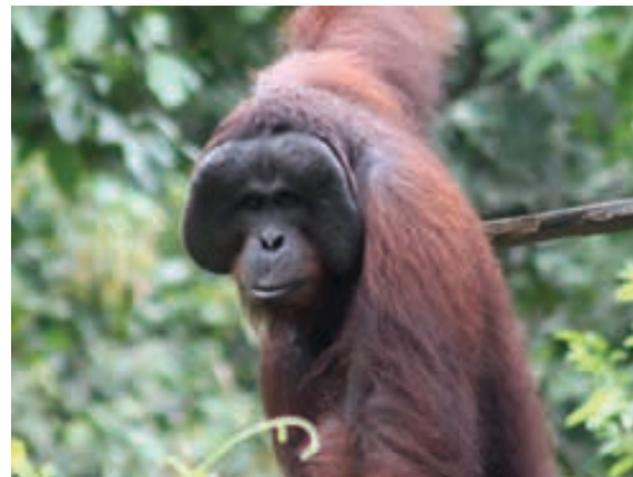
Tom King

Misouri



Misouri

Famous for his appearance in OAUk's DVD "Man of the Forest" Misouri was a full flanged male who was approximately 14 years old when he was moved from Sepilok to Tabin in 2004.



CID

CID

CID is one of Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre's most successful graduates. He was brought to the Centre in 1987 aged five and since his release has gone on to become a very strong and powerful fully flanged male who roams the forest. CID is already known to have fathered many babies in the Kabili Reserve, so there is a high possibility he could be the father of Otan's baby Spike.

Yokmel

Yokmel is a partially flanged, wild born male currently living in the Kabili Reserve. He is an elusive character, who has only been seen at the feeding platform a handful of times, but when he does swing by he always makes an impression. His sheer size makes him a hard one to miss.



Yokmel

Yokmel had been spotted paying particular attention to 21 year old female Mimi and had been seen following her around. Could Yokmel be the father of Mimi's new baby boy?

Ringo



Ringo

Ringo is one of the feeding platform's regulars; although wild born he has spent some time at Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre for various medical treatments.

Despite suffering health setbacks, Ringo is a wilful male who still remains one of the most impressive orangutans living in the Reserve.

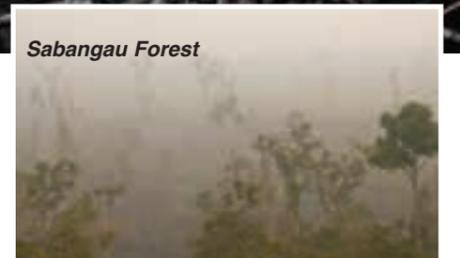


Firefighting team

Orangutan Tropical Peatland Project

The latest news from OuTrop's firefighting team

Sabangau Forest



It has been an extremely challenging few months for the conservation of orangutans and their rainforest habitat in Sabangau. A long and intense dry season provided ideal conditions for fires to establish in the region's peat forest. These fires threatened to destroy the forest, creating the most serious threat currently faced by the world's largest orangutan population.

In response, the local Community Patrol Team conducted daily waterway and forest patrols to detect smoke columns, mobilise emergency-response teams and control fire spread. The normally flooded peatland was desperately dry at the end of a long drought season so the risk was huge. Fighting peat fires is a very difficult task because they burn at very high temperatures and can travel underground, suddenly bursting through the peat surface. Fire fighting team

Massive amounts of water are therefore needed to extinguish them. The work is intense and dangerous but the team's quick response, coordinated action, and community socialisation worked successfully to prevent forest loss in CIMTROP's Sabangau Natural Laboratory where OuTrop are based.

Throughout this high risk period the Community Patrol Team conducted daily fire patrols to detect fires and mobilise rapid-response teams. When necessary, the team fought fires round-the-clock; tackling the flames from different directions

and extinguishing fires as soon as possible before they grew out of control. After fires had been extinguished, hotspots were revisited every two days to check that the fires had not re-emerged. Despite the team's best efforts, we believe that some forest was unfortunately lost however in the eastern Sabangau catchment, around the Kalampangan site, but this remains to be quantified.

The team's overall success would have been impossible without Orangutan Appeal UK's generous support. Funds were used to support the team's patrols, fuel their boats, maintain and replace equipment (including hoses, nozzles and pumps) and to work with local communities to improve their understanding of fire prevention. The firefighting team's actions were desperately needed during this critical period to help prevent fires in Sabangau and ensure the survival of its orangutans and we thank Orangutan Appeal UK and all its supporters for helping in this vital mission.

The direct costs for running the firefighting team are £10,637.

Orangutan Appeal UK would like to give a big thank you to the firefighting team for all their hard work!

Our documentary goes LIVE - Don't miss it!! - 'Meet the Orangutans'

Orangutan Appeal UK are very excited to announce that our eight part documentary series "Meet the Orangutans" will air on Animal Planet, February 12th at 8pm (Sky Channel 523).

The series features behind the scenes footage at Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation and follows our Chairperson – Sue Sheward MBE – as she works alongside Sepilok's vets and rangers. Sue introduces some of the Centre's most famous residents, who long term supporters may well recognise, and gives viewers a privileged insight into the daily goings on and what it is like to work alongside some of our closest cousins and the challenges it can bring.

Each episode will introduce some of Sepilok's current students undergoing the rehabilitation programme, including some of the youngest learners in the indoor nursery and some of the more advanced orangutans at the outdoor nursery who are in their final stage before release.

Viewers also get to know some of the Sepilok graduates;

Documentary filming in action

the successfully rehabilitated orangutans now living freely in the surrounding Kabili Reserve who still often pay a visit to the daily feedings. This is such an exciting opportunity for the Appeal and we are so happy to be able to share the wonders of Sepilok with all of our supporters!

Great news - for those who don't have a Sky subscription, Meet the Orangutans will also be available for download on iTunes from the 12th February!



Supporters News

Runners

Great North Run

Orangutan Appeal UK had some dedicated supporters take part in the Great North Run!

James Wood raised a total of £270.17, Natalie Cooksey and Kim Bolam raised £200 and £184.60 respectively and Linda Silcocks who also took part and described the event as 'a magical day' raised £621.28! That makes a grand total of £1276.05 raised by GNR runners!
Great South Run



Linda Silcocks



Sara Robinson

Sara Robinson, one of our longest standing supporters raised £432.53 and smashed her personal best! Steve Trowell and Nikita Mallon both raised a combined total of £449.78 and Tracey Dillon raised £157. That is a total of £1039.31 donated by our GSR runners!

Congratulations to Shobha Kassell who ran the Bournemouth Marathon and raised £370 and Samantha Nixon and friends who raised £198.26 for taking part in the Brighton Marathon. Nick Simpson-Eyre also ran the Belfast Half Marathon and raised a superb £247.68.

Fundraisers

Alan Proctor held a charity dinner in aid of Orangutan Appeal UK and raised £367.07. Linda Ambrose from Cheshire raised £170 by climbing Mount Kinabalu. Serenity Ringham donated £228.24 to us when she asked for donations instead of presents for her 4th birthday party!

Joanne Green took part in the extreme Tough Mudder Yorkshire challenge on the 9th of August 2014 and raised £225.12.



Serenity's 4th birthday

Jana Thomas from Czech Republic asked all her friends to donate to OAUK instead of giving her birthday presents and raised £220.

If you want to get involved and fundraise for Orangutan Appeal UK please contact Nick at admin2@orangutan-appeal.org.uk



Jana Thomas

Special thanks

OAUK would also like to give a very special thanks to everyone who helped us with our House of

Commons and Getty events in October including Print Directions, Talk Design and Print, Flux Framing, Brockenhurst College Art Department and Quayline Digital - we are hugely grateful for your support!

An enormous thank you must go out to Jacha Poteigter of The Platform Galeria who together donated an incredible £3130.50 to OAUK!

We would also like to thank Banana Tree Restaurants for their continual support; which raised a total of £19,500 for the Appeal!

New Facebook milestone!

In November 2014 we hit a new milestone on Facebook of 5,500 likes - thank you so much to everyone who follows and supports us!