



Press Release

BOS Foundation to Reintroduce Six More Orangutans to Kehje Sewen Forest on National Education Day

The BOS Foundation will today release six more orangutans from their East Kalimantan Orangutan Reintroduction Program at Samboja Lestari to the natural habitat of the Kehje Sewen Forest. Whilst this release is a continuation of the #OrangutanFreedom campaign launched in 2017, and yet another positive step toward orangutan conservation, the BOS Foundation is still struggling to acquire safe forest areas to release the hundreds of orangutans currently undergoing rehabilitation at their centres.

Samboja, East Kalimantan, 2 May, 2017: The BOS Foundation—winner of the 2017 World Branding Award Animalis Edition—in cooperation with the East Kalimantan Natural Resource Conservation Agency (BKSDA), will today release more rehabilitated orangutans to the Kehje Sewen Forest in Muara Wahau, East Kutai Regency. This is the 15th release in the Kehje Sewen Forest—an 86,450-hactare Ecosystem Restoration Concession, acquired by BOS Foundation’s partner company, PT. RHOI, in 2010—and will bring the population of released orangutans in this forest to 86 individuals.

The six orangutans to be released today include three males: Arnold (12), Derek (10), Totti (12); and three females: Seto (9), Tinatun (10), and Sakura (10). The three males and Sakura have all completed the pre-release stage of rehabilitation on Juq Kehje Swen, a pre-release island located in Muara Wahau. Meanwhile, the other two females, Seto and Tinatun, will be coming directly from Samboja Lestari. All six orangutans have successfully developed the vital survival skills and behaviours essential for independent life in the wild. Since 2012, the BOS Foundation has worked tirelessly to release orangutans that have spent years waiting in rehabilitation centers, and thus far has managed to reintroduce a total of 334 (340, after this release) orangutans to release sites in East and Central Kalimantan.

Dr. Ir. Jamartin Sihite, BOS Foundation CEO said: “We are still working on our #OrangutanFreedom campaign with the aim of releasing 100 orangutans this year back to natural habitats. Rehabilitation is a lengthy process, and there is a limited amount of forest available for releasing rehabilitated orangutans. This means there are still hundreds of orangutans in our Central and East Kalimantan rehabilitation centres waiting for the chance to return to the forest. In the forest, we regularly observe and monitor how our released orangutans are adapting to their new environment. We only consider a release successful once we are certain the orangutan in question is living independently in the wild and thriving.

This release coincides with Indonesia’s National Education Day. The BOS Foundation wants to see the young generation in this country receive positive messages on environmental issues, as they will become the environmental leaders of the future, and after all, it is their environmental inheritance we are striving to protect. We need affirmative action, and all stakeholders must take part in providing environmental education for the younger generations, and the public in general. The forest needs orangutans, and we need the forest.”

Ir. Sunandar Trigunajasa N., Head of East Kalimantan BKSDA, added; “Cooperation between the East Kalimantan BKSDA and the BOS Foundation has successfully seen 86 orangutans released back to natural habitat in a well-protected forest. Several organisations and individuals have also been involved throughout the process. This is inevitable, as we all know



too well that conservation is a collective effort, involving many stakeholders. The East Kalimantan BKSDA deeply appreciates the involvement of those organisations and individuals in actively supporting the orangutan and forest conservation effort.

Anybody can join the movement! You can hold hands with us and actively support the cause by reporting if you see a wild animal, particularly the rare and protected ones, being kept illegally. Please stop hunting, catching, killing, or domesticating exotic animals like orangutans, gibbons, or hornbills, which are all protected by law. Let's protect forest biodiversity."

Dr. Aldrianto Priadjati, Deputy Director of Conservation for PT. RHOI, said; "This is the 15th release in the Kehje Sewen Forest. We have been releasing orangutans in this forest since 2012, and according to a survey conducted prior to our first release, this forest area can accommodate around 150 orangutans. To date, we have released 86 individuals, and even though this means that we can still release another 60-70 orangutans, the area is not capable of accommodating all 150 orangutans currently undergoing rehabilitation at the Samboja Lestari Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre.

We are still seeking more release sites, and also sanctuaries for orangutans that lack the natural skills and behaviours to survive independently, within the framework of the Ecosystem Restoration Concession in East Kalimantan. We would welcome and appreciate any assistance or support from various sectors."

The man-made island of Juq Kehje Swen, where Derek, Totti, Arnold, and Sakura worked through the pre-release stage of rehabilitation, came into existence thanks to a partnership between the BOS Foundation and PT. Nusaraya Agro Sawit (PT. NAS). This is an 82.84-hectare forest area located in the Muara Wahau Sub-District. The island contains good forests for orangutans, is isolated all year long, and is suitable for supporting the adaptation and socialisation needs of rehabilitating orangutans. In terms of food availability and space, it can accommodate around 40 individuals.

Ir. Martusin Yapriadi, Director of PT. Nusaraya Agro Sawit, added; "Our partnership with the BOS Foundation is our way of supporting sustainable conservation in East Kalimantan. For PT. NAS, sustainable environmental governance is a vital element in the running of our business. We are, therefore, committed to supporting the BOS Foundation's efforts by providing a pre-release habitat for rehabilitated orangutans as the final step before their release to the wild. For us, this partnership proves that a sustainable business can run harmoniously alongside the conservation effort. We hope this can inspire other parties to become actively involved and support the ongoing conservation effort in East Kalimantan."

The BOS Foundation acknowledges the cooperation of the East Kalimantan BKSDA, the governments of East Kalimantan Province, East Kutai Regency, and Kutai Kartanegara, and the local residents of said regencies. The BOS Foundation is also extremely grateful for the moral and financial support provided by our global partners: BOS Switzerland and BOS Germany; PT. Nusaraya Agro Sawit (PT. NAS); Children's International Summer Villages (CISV) IC Krakatau Chapter; individual donors; and other organisations from around the world concerned with orangutan conservation in Indonesia.

Contact:

Paulina Laurensia

Communications Specialist

Email: pauline@orangutan.or.id

Mobile: +62 813 4733 7003



Suwardy

Communications Staff Samboja Lestari

Email: ardy@orangutan.or.id

Mobile: +62 811-5066-284

Editor's Note:

ABOUT THE BOS FOUNDATION

Founded in 1991, the BOS Foundation is a non-profit Indonesian organisation dedicated to the conservation of Bornean orangutans and their habitats, working together with local communities, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia, and international partner organisations.

Currently, the BOS Foundation is working to rehabilitate almost 600 orangutans, with the support of 440 highly dedicated staff and experts in the fields of primatology, biodiversity, ecology, forest rehabilitation, agroforestry, community empowerment, communications, education, and orangutan welfare. For further information, please visit

www.orangutan.or.id.

ABOUT PT. RHOI

PT. Restorasi Habitat Orangutan Indonesia (RHOI) is a company established by the BOS Foundation on April 21, 2009, solely to acquire the Utilization of Forest Timber Products licence through Restoration of the Ecosystem (IUPHHK-RE), also known as the Ecosystem Restoration Concession (ERC).

As a non-profit organisation, the BOS Foundation is not permitted to apply for certain licences due to government regulations. Hence, RHOI was established. The permit gives RHOI the authority to manage a concession area - in this case, a forest area – which is imperative in the planning and implementation of orangutan releases.

On August 18, 2010, RHOI was issued an ERC permit by the Ministry of Forestry, for an 86,450-hectare section of rainforest in East Kutai Regency, East Kalimantan. This ERC provides a suitable, protected, and sustainable habitat for orangutans for at least the next 60 years, with the option of extending for another 35 years. The funding to purchase the permit, which costs around US\$1.4 million, was received from donors and the BOS Foundation's partner organisations in Europe and Australia.

The forest's name, 'Kehje Sewen', translates as 'orangutan' in local Dayak Wehea language. By name and nature, the Kehje Sewen Forest has become a forest for orangutans. For more information, please visit www.theforestforever.com.

ABOUT WORLD BRANDING AWARD

The World Branding Award is an annual event organised by the World Branding Forum, a registered non-profit organisation in England and Wales. Awards are presented to the top household names, recognised globally and in their home countries. The BOS Foundation thanks all who supported and voted for the organisation.