



Press Release

First Release for 2018 to Celebrate World One Million Tree Day

This release will be the 8th conducted in the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park (BBBR-NP) by the BOS Foundation, in coordination with the Central Kalimantan BKSDA, the BBR-NP office, and USAID Lestari. With this release, the total number of orangutans released to the area will reach 75.

Nyaru Menteng, Central Kalimantan, January 10, 2018: Continuing on with the #OrangutanFreedom campaign - with the target of releasing as many orangutans as possible to natural forests and to pre-release islands, since 2017 - as well as commemorating World One Million Tree Day, the BOS Foundation together with the Central Kalimantan BKSDA and the BBR-NP office will today release four more orangutans from the BOSF Nyaru Menteng Rehabilitation Center to the BBR-NP forest in Katingan District.

The four orangutans include two males and two females, who will be transported over land and river in a 10-12-hour journey from Nyaru Menteng to predetermined points in the BBR-NP.

Dr. Ir. Jamartin Sihite, BOS Foundation CEO, said; "These four orangutans are ready to taste life in the wild, and delaying their release to wait for others to join them would not be a wise choice. We still have hundreds of orangutans waiting at our rehabilitation center in Nyaru Menteng. To accelerate the release process, we have prepared a number of pre-release islands to help orangutans become familiar with environments that resemble natural, wild forests. And to continue our #OrangutanFreedom campaign, this year we have set a target to release at least 200 orangutans to either pre-release islands, sanctuaries, or wild forests.

Please bear in mind that the rehabilitation process takes years to accomplish. Orangutans are not a species that we can simply release to the forest; it takes a long time for them to hone the vital skills they need to survive in the wild. Not only does it take time, but it is also costly. We can only succeed at conserving orangutans and their habitats if we work together. It is not something we can do alone. Protected by law, orangutans are the closest human relatives, and they play an important role in regenerating forests. We are compelled to work hard toward preserving this extraordinary species, as sustainable and protected forests are instrumental in sustaining a good quality of life for all. In the new year, let's move forward with new hope."

Ir. Adib Gunawan, Head of the Central Kalimantan BKSDA, said; "We need to push forward with all efforts to release orangutans back to their natural habitats, because there are still hundreds of orangutans waiting in the rehabilitation centers. In marking World One Million Tree Day, the Central Kalimantan BKSDA, in cooperation with the BOS Foundation, the BBR-NP office, and USAID Lestari, will again release orangutans from Nyaru Menteng to the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park in Katingan Regency. We fully welcome this cooperative effort.

As the orangutan conservation strategy and action plan stipulates - 'ensuring the sustainability of the orangutan population and its habitats through partnership of the parties' - we need to collectively continue to protect habitats and wildlife by involving all parties, including the community around the forest area."

Ir. Heru Raharjo, M.P., Head of the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park (BBBR-NP) Office, said; "We, as the bearers of responsibility and management of the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park, greatly appreciate the cooperation that has been built between the BOS Foundation, the Central Kalimantan BKSDA, and USAID Lestari in conducting orangutan release activities in the BBR-NP, which until now



has seen 75 orangutans released to natural habitats. This many released orangutans living freely in the forest indicates a great achievement toward the conservation of this protected great-ape species. We, together with all stakeholders involved, will do our utmost to provide a good life for all released orangutans in the BBBR-NP, and hope they will create a new, wild population."

This release activity, involving the BOS Foundation, the Central Kalimantan BKSDA, and the BBBR-NP office, also involves USAID LESTARI, which has committed to actively support the orangutan release program in the BBBR-NP until this year.

To ensure a successful conservation effort involving all stakeholders, the BOS Foundation continues to work closely with the Government of Indonesia at all levels: the Ministry of Environment and Forestry; the Central Kalimantan Provincial Government; Katingan Regency Government; the Central Kalimantan BKSDA; and the Bukit Baka Bukit National Park office.

The BOS Foundation would like to express appreciation for the support and contributions from a number of other partners, including the Katingan District community, individual donors, and partner organizations that assist with conservation efforts in Indonesia.

Contact:

Paulina Laurensia
Communications Specialist
Email: pauline@orangutan.or.id
Mobile: +62 813 4733 7003

Monterado Fridman (Agung)
Coordinator of Communications and Education Division of Nyaru Menteng
Email: agungm@orangutan.or.id
Mobile: +62 811 523 9918

Rosenda Chandra Kasih
USAID LESTARI Kalimantan Tengah Landscape Coordinator
Email: rosenda.kasih@lestari-Indonesia.org
Mobile: +62 811 529 533

Editor's Note:

ABOUT BOS FOUNDATION

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

The BOS Foundation currently cares for around 600 orangutans in two rehabilitation centres, with the support of 440 highly dedicated staff members 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 ORANGUTAN RELEASES



Since 2012, the BOS Foundation has released 330 orangutans to three release sites in Central (Bukit Batikap Conservation Forest and Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park) and East Kalimantan (Kehje Sewen Forest).

This is the 8th release conducted by the BOS Foundation in the BBR-NP since August 2016. This release takes the total population of released orangutans in the BBR-NP to 75 individuals.

ABOUT USAID LESTARI

USAID LESTARI is a collaborative project between the governments of the United States of America and the Republic of Indonesia. USAID LESTARI fully supports the efforts made by the Indonesian government to reduce greenhouse emissions and increase efforts to conserve forest biodiversity and mangrove ecosystems rich in carbon storage.

USAID LESTARI focuses on regions with unscathed primary forests, high carbon deposits and rich biodiversity. These regions include Aceh (the Leuser landscape), Central Kalimantan (the Katingan-Kahayan landscape), and Papua (the Lorentz Lowlands, Mappi-Bouven Digoel, Sarmi and Cyclops landscapes).

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 only presented to the very top household names, recognized globally and in their home countries and BOS Foundation thanks all those who supported and voted for our organization.