



## Press Release

### **Celebrating Indonesia's Independence With 100th Orangutan Released to Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park**

*The Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) Foundation - winner of the 2017 Animalis Edition World Branding Award - in cooperation with the Central Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA), the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park (Taman Nasional Bukit Baka Bukit Raya; TNBBBR) Authority and USAID LESTARI, is conducting its 11th orangutan release to the TNBBBR.*

**Nyaru Menteng, Central Kalimantan, August 14, 2018:** Following last month's successful release of 13 orangutans, BOS Foundation's Nyaru Menteng Orangutan Rescue and Rehabilitation Center will today return 10 more orangutans to the natural forests of the TNBBBR, Katingan District, Central Kalimantan. This release will bring the total population of rehabilitated orangutans reintroduced to the TNBBBR to 102, since the first release to this National Park two years ago, in August 2016.

The ten orangutans to be released in today's event include three males and seven females ranging in age from 13-16 years. They will embark on a 10-12-hour journey over land and via river from Nyaru Menteng to predetermined release points in the TNBBBR.

**Ir. Wiratno, MSc., Director-General of Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystems for the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KSDAE-KLHK), as represented by Ir. Puja Utama, M.Sc., Head of Sub-Directorate of Species Preservation, said;** "Wildlife conservation efforts are only achievable through collaboration. Data from the KSDAE Directorate-General indicates that more than 50% of our animal populations inhabit areas outside of conservation areas, such as forests demarcated for production purposes (Hutan Produksi) or the provision of certain ecosystem services (Hutan Lindung), and areas earmarked for other uses (Areal Penggunaan Lain). It is imperative that all stakeholders – those from the private sector, local governments, NGOs, and the indigenous peoples of Borneo – protect these animals.

Looking forward, we hope that orangutans found outside of conservation areas will be protected just the same as those living inside conservation areas. Our passion and willingness to work in cooperation is key to creating stronger synergy."

**Dr. Ir. Jamartin Sihite, BOS Foundation CEO, said;** "The month of August has a special meaning for Indonesians, as we commemorate our nation's Independence annually on August 17. International Orangutan Day also falls in the same month. So, we want to designate this particular month as 'the month of freedom and independence for orangutans'. It was just last month, in July, that we reintroduced 13 orangutans to the TNBBBR in Katingan; but, we need to fulfil our target of releasing 100 orangutans to the wild this year, and we are trying our utmost to accomplish this! For us at the BOS Foundation, there is no time to slow down and relax, especially when it comes to orangutan protection. Moreover, we are concerned about recent reports of forest and land fires sparking up again in Sumatra and Kalimantan, the only two islands where orangutans still exist.

This is a crucial moment, when we can prove to the world our commitment to the conservation of our forests and the biodiversity found within. Deforestation levels usually peak during the dry season, as do the number of forest fires. We don't recklessly release orangutans to just any forest; the TNBBBR is a well-protected national park. Together with the BOS Foundation team, staff from the TNBBBR regularly conduct patrols to ensure the security of the forest and the national park's biodiversity. Let's protect and safeguard the forest for all living creatures, including humans."



**Ir. Adib Gunawan, Head of the Central Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA),** said; “Conservation work takes a long time and requires collective participation from all parties concerned. The Central Kalimantan BKSDA continues to work with the TNBBBR Authority, USAID LESTARI, and the BOS Foundation to release rehabilitated orangutans. This eleventh release in Katingan District will bring the total population of orangutans in the TNBBBR to 102, a remarkable result achieved through the dedication and hard work of many parties over two years.

Everybody should be involved in the effort to conserve our natural resources. Wild animals, as part of forest biodiversity, play a significant role in maintaining the quality of forests. Take orangutans, for instance: they are the only great ape species native to Asia, and they are vital in sustaining forest habitats. We must protect and safeguard our forests! Let’s achieve the Central Kalimantan Orangutan Conservation Strategy and Action Plan, to 'ensure the sustainability of orangutan populations and their habitats through the partnership of all parties'.”

**Ir. Heru Raharjo, M.P., Head of the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park (TNBBBR) Authority,** said; “Orangutan populations are extremely important, not least for their significant role in maintaining forests. The Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park in Katingan Regency, Central Kalimantan, is a suitable orangutan release site, and we, the National Park Authority, will take every possible measure to ensure the safety of these orangutans, through periodical monitoring, evaluation, and protection to give the released orangutans every possible opportunity to form a new wild orangutan population.

But one needs to understand that our authority is limited within the area of the national park. We need more forest areas, aside from national parks, to utilise as orangutan release sites. We need to work hand-in-hand to protect our remaining forests, and look for ways to allocate more forests to accommodate rehabilitated orangutans.”

**Erin E. McKee, USAID Indonesia Mission Director** added, "USAID is proud to partner with the Government of Indonesia and the BOS Foundation to support multi-stakeholder efforts for orangutan conservation. This 100th release marks a key milestone, one that we hope will inspire even broader commitment to protecting Indonesia's orangutan and their forest habitats.”

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

The BOS Foundation would like to express appreciation for the support and contributions made from a number of partners, including the Katingan District community, USAID LESTARI, Save the Orangutan our other global partners, the SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund, private-sector donors, and other institutions that assist with the conservation effort in Indonesia.

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### **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 550 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](http://www.orangutan.or.id).

#### **ABOUT ORANGUTAN RELEASES**

Since 2012, the BOS Foundation has released 358 orangutans (368 after today's release) 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 11th release conducted by the BOS Foundation in the TNBBBR since August 2016. This release takes the total population of released orangutans in the TNBBBR to 102 individuals.

#### **ABOUT USAID LESTARI**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is the lead U.S. Government agency that works to promote and demonstrate democratic values and advance a free, peaceful and prosperous world. Through international development programs and disaster assistance, USAID partners to save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance, and help people emerge from humanitarian crises to progress beyond assistance and attain self-reliance.

The USAID LESTARI project supports the efforts of the Government of Indonesia to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, to increase biodiversity conservation in forest ecosystems and ecosystems of high conservation and carbon value.

#### **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. The BOS Foundation thanks those who supported and voted for our organization.