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## Press Release

### Another Repatriated Orangutan Released to Natural Habitat of Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park

*The Republic of Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) in cooperation with the Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) Foundation – winner of the 2017 Animalis Edition World Branding Award – and USAID LESTARI, releases four more rehabilitated orangutans to the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park (TNBBBR) in Katingan Regency, Central Kalimantan. One of the orangutans to be released in this event, Pangkuy, was repatriated from Thailand in 2006.*

**Nyaru Menteng, Central Kalimantan, September 28, 2018:** The BOS Foundation's Nyaru Menteng Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre continues to release ex-rehabilitated orangutans ready to live in the wild. Following two successful releases conducted in August, which saw 23 orangutans reintroduced to the natural forests of the TNBBBR, this particular event will release 4 female orangutans to the national park in Katingan Regency. The release will take the total rehabilitated orangutan population in the TNBBBR to 106, since the first event in August 2016.

One of the orangutans in this release, a female named Pangkuy, was repatriated from Thailand in 2006. That year, the Indonesian Government, through its Ministry of Environment and Forestry, repatriated 48 orangutans from Thailand, which were then entrusted to the Nyaru Menteng Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre, which has thus far managed to release three individuals to natural habitats, and Pangkuy is the fourth to have completed the rehabilitation program and released to the wild.

All four orangutans in this release are female; joining Pangkuy (17 years old) will be, Sisil (13), and mother-infant pair, Clara (12) and Clarita (1). The group will be dispatched from Nyaru Menteng on a 10-12-hour journey across both road and river to reach the predetermined release points in the TNBBBR.

**Dr. Ir. Jamartin Sihite, MSc., BOS Foundation CEO,** said; "To receive and manage repatriated orangutans, all of which have been subjected to long periods of captivity, devoid of opportunities to develop natural skills and wild behaviours, is a considerable challenge for a rehabilitation centre. This is reflected in the low number of repatriated orangutans we have managed to release to the wild, despite more than 10 years of rehabilitation. This is a perfect example of how important strict law enforcement is to preventing, and eventually halting, the illegal wildlife trade.

"We cannot stress enough the importance of cooperation from all stakeholders; it is imperative for a successful orangutan and habitat conservation effort. Since we all benefit from the forest – which provides us with fresh air, clean water, forest products, and more – then we all must bear the responsibility. Our forests determine the quality of life for mankind, and as an umbrella species endemic to Sumatra and Kalimantan, orangutans play a vital role in helping maintain the quality of the forests on these islands. To allow such an environmentally-valuable species to become a victim of the illegal wildlife trade is simply irresponsible, and openly disregards the conservation work that others are working so hard to achieve. Let's work even harder to protect orangutans and keep them in their natural habitats."

**Ir. Adib Gunawan, Head of the Central Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA)** added; "Conservation is never an instant process. This is evident in the time that it takes to prepare an orangutan with a long history of captivity for release. The repatriated orangutan in this release has undergone 12 years rehabilitation. The amount of time and energy spent on getting her to this stage is astounding! This responsibility should not rest on the shoulders of the BKSDA, the government, and



organisations like the BOS Foundation alone. Mass organisations and those from the business sector must also be actively involved.

The Indonesian government will continue to enforce the strict laws that were put in place to curb the international illegal wildlife trade. We have repatriated orangutans on more than four occasions - from Thailand, Kuwait, and Malaysia – yet the illegal wildlife trade persists. We desperately need support from all parties to shut down the perpetrators and their networks.

There is an urgent need for more global cooperation among stakeholders. In this release alone, there are several parties involved - the Central Kalimantan BKSDA; the TNBBBR authority; USAID LESTARI, and the BOS Foundation. To date, the cooperation among these four parties has resulted in 12 release events over the past two years, and the reintroduction of 106 orangutans to the TNBBBR. This is not a huge number, given the size and scope of Central Kalimantan. We, therefore, must work even harder to protect and preserve our environment and its biodiversity.”

**Ir. Heru Raharjo, M.P., Head of the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park (TNBBBR) Authority,** added; “As an umbrella species that helps protect the habitat in which it occupies, and one that plays a significant role in forest maintenance, the orangutan is a vital part of our ecosystem. It is, therefore, imperative we protect orangutans! The Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park is a natural habitat that can suitably sustain a wild orangutan population. We ensure their safety here through security monitoring, evaluations, and periodical patrols. We sincerely hope that the released orangutans will produce new, healthy, wild orangutan populations in the national park.

Bear in mind, however, that the TNBBBR comprises only one small fraction of the total 93.6 million hectares of forest area in Indonesia. We need to also pay attention to other forest areas. Rehabilitated orangutans must be released to suitable forest areas located at the right altitude, with adequate forest food, a limited wild-orangutan population, and guaranteed, long-term security.”

**Reed Merrill, Chief of Party USAID LESTARI,** added; “USAID is proud to partner with the Government of Indonesia and the BOS Foundation to support multi-stakeholder efforts for orangutan and habitat conservation. The 12th orangutan release in the TNBBBR is testament to our commitment to ensure the implementation of forest and land management improvement programs initiated in 2016.”

This release includes Sisil, a 13-year-old female, who will be the first orangutan to be reintroduced from pre-release Salat Island. Located in Pulang Pisau Regency, Salat Island is part of a 2,089-hectare conservation area made possible by a partnership between the BOS Foundation and PT. Sawit Sumbermas Sarana (SSMS) Tbk. The island is currently inhabited by 23 orangutans undergoing the final stage of rehabilitation and awaiting release.

**Vallauthan Subraminam, SSMS CEO,** highlighted, “Orangutan rehabilitation remains a top priority for SSMS as Bornean orangutans are among the most Critically Endangered primate species in the world, with only 57,350 Bornean orangutans remaining in the wild. SSMS works with local communities, government, and BOS Foundation to help address factors that cause orangutan displacement, including strengthening our sustainability standards throughout our operations, and involving the local communities surrounding our concession areas in conservation programs.”

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, the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park Authority, and USAID LESTARI.

The BOS Foundation would like to acknowledge the support of a number of partners, including the Katingan District community, PT. SSMS Tbk., Wild Women Expeditions, our global partners, private-



sector donors, individual supporters around the world, and institutions that assist and contribute to 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 as many as 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 374 orangutans (378 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 12th release conducted by the BOS Foundation in the TNBBBR since August 2016, and takes the total population of released orangutans in the TNBBBR to 106 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 organisation.