



## Press Release

### Total of 111 Rehabilitated Orangutans Released to Kehje Sewen Forest as of the 4<sup>th</sup> Release of 2019

*The Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) Foundation and the East Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) are conducting a fourth release for 2019 in the Kehje Sewen Forest, East Kutai Regency, East Kalimantan. Four orangutans will be released this time, bringing the total number of rehabilitated orangutans released in the forest to 111 individuals.*

**Samboja Lestari, East Kalimantan, 26 August 2019.** The BOS Foundation, in cooperation with the East Kalimantan BKSDA, is again releasing orangutans that have completed the rehabilitation process at the Samboja Lestari Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre. Today, four orangutans will be released into the Kehje Sewen Forest, an 86,450-hectare Ecosystem Restoration Concession area located in East Kutai Regency.

**Dr. Ir. Jamartin Sihite, MSc., BOS Foundation CEO,** said; "In the month of August, we celebrate Indonesia's Independence Day. For us at the BOS Foundation, this month also means freedom for orangutans, especially since International Orangutan Day falls annually on 19 August. This month we will celebrate with the release of four more orangutans, which means that since 2012, we have released 111 orangutans in the Kehje Sewen Forest.

We hope that our continued release efforts help to reduce the threat of extinction for orangutans. However, the BOS Foundation is still accommodating as many as 500 orangutans in two rehabilitation centres. We still need to find suitable forest areas under the Ecosystem Restoration Concession scheme, with the support of all parties, particularly from the central and regional governments. This, backed by stricter law enforcement and public education on the protection of orangutans, will greatly assist the orangutan conservation effort".

**Ir. Sunandar Trigunajasa N., M.M., Head of East Kalimantan BKSDA,** said; "Since June, 3 cooperative efforts between the East Kalimantan BKSDA and the BOS Foundation have seen the release of 10 orangutans – five males and five females - to the Kehje Sewen Forest. Today, we release four more: one male and 3 females. The number of orangutans that can be released in one location is limited, and we still need to monitor how they are adapting to life in the wild.

I need to emphasize that nature conservation is a responsibility that does not solely lay on the shoulders of the BKSDA and the BOS Foundation. This massive task must involve all stakeholders, since we all reap the benefits of conservation. The government, the community, and mass organisations, including those from the private sector, must support each other in continuing efforts to conserve natural resources in East Kalimantan, in this case orangutans and other wildlife. Our community can also play a role in prevention, by reporting illegal activities, such as the capture, killing, or keeping of orangutans as pets. Let's work together to protect our forests and the biodiversity within them."

This orangutan release is also supported by PT. Bank Central Asia Tbk., a loyal supporter of the orangutan conservation effort by the BOS Foundation since 2012.

**Mingto Purba, Head of Regional Office XI PT. Bank Central Asia Tbk. (BCA)**, added; “Many are not aware that the orangutan plays a significant role in clearing the canopy to provide sunlight to the forest floor, which assists with reforestation. These seemingly small yet important functions are what drive BCA to continue supporting the orangutan conservation activities carried out by the BOS Foundation.”

The BOS Foundation would like to express its deepest gratitude to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, East Kalimantan BKSDA, East Kalimantan Provincial Government, Regional Governments in East Kutai and Kutai Kartanegara Regencies, as well as the people of East Kutai and Kutai Kartanegara Regencies. We would like to thank the patrons whose the support made these release activities possible, notably institutional funding from BOS Switzerland, and our other global partners (BOS Germany, BOS UK, BOS Australia, and Save the Orangutan); and BCA as the national leading bank, as well as supporters of conservation throughout the world for assisting our efforts to save and rehabilitate orangutans, and broader orangutan conservation in Kalimantan.

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**Contact:**

**Djati Witjaksono Hadi**

*Head of Public Relations Bureau of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry*

Mobile: +62 819 7793 3330

**Paulina Laurensia**

*Communications Specialist*

Email: [pauline@orangutan.or.id](mailto:pauline@orangutan.or.id)

Mobile: +62 813 4733 7003

**Nur Isnaini**

*Communications Coordinator for BOSF Samboja Lestari*

Email: [isna@orangutan.or.id](mailto:isna@orangutan.or.id)

Phone: +62 813 4809 0813

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This release is supported by:



**Editor's Note:**

**ABOUT 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 as many as 500 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](http://www.orangutan.or.id)

#### **ABOUT PT. RHOI**

PT. Restorasi Habitat Orangutan Indonesia (RHOI) is a company established by the BOS Foundation on 21 April 2009, solely to acquire a Utilisation of Forest Timber Products through a Restoration of Ecosystem Licence (IUPHHK-RE), also known as an 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 18 August 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 cost around USD 1.4 million, was received from donors and the BOS Foundation's global 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 further information, please visit <http://theforestforever.com/>

#### **ABOUT ORANGUTAN REINTRODUCTION**

Since 2012, the BOS Foundation has released 410 orangutans (after this release, 414) to three release sites in Central Kalimantan (Bukit Batikap Protection Forest, and Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park) and East Kalimantan (Kehje Sewen Forest). In the year 2019 alone, the number of orangutans released by BOS Foundation has reached 24 individuals.

This release is the 21<sup>st</sup> conducted by the BOS Foundation in the Kehje Sewen Forest, East Kutai Regency, East Kalimantan. It will increase the total number of orangutans released to the Kehje Sewen Forest to 111.