



Press Release

Commemorating National Heroes' Day with Release of Three More Orangutans in Kehje Sewen Forest

Cooperation between the East Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA), the Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) Foundation, and PT. Restorasi Habitat Orangutan Indonesia (RHOI) will see three more rehabilitated orangutans released to the Kehje Sewen Forest in East Kutai District, East Kalimantan. This release will also mark Hari Pahlawan, or National Heroes' Day, which is celebrated annually in Indonesia on November 10.

Samboja, East Kalimantan, November 12, 2019. The East Kalimantan BKSDA is again working together with the BOS Foundation and PT. RHOI to release three more rehabilitated orangutans who are ready to return to the wild. Today, the orangutans started their journey from the Samboja Lestari Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre to the Kehje Sewen Forest, an 86,450-hectare Ecosystem Restoration Concession forest located in East Kutai District, East Kalimantan.

The southern part of the Kehje Sewen Forest, where the group is headed, has been used as an orangutan release site since 2015. The trip to reach this location relies heavily on four-wheeled vehicles, boats, and strong porters to lift the transport cages and carry the orangutans to the release points in the forest. The entire trip takes around 20 hours in total.

The three orangutans that will be released include mother-infant pair Jubaedah (20 years) and Jubaedi (2 years), and an adult male named Titon (19 years). Mother Jubaedah and her son Jubaedi were rescued at the start of the year. They had been found with multiple injuries and were suffering from malnutrition. Following several months of treatment, they have fully recovered and are now ready for release. Titon was born in Samboja Lestari, and through many years of rehabilitation, has built a wild orangutan skillset and established his independence. Now, he is finally ready to return to wild habitat.

This release will increase the total population of rehabilitated orangutans in the Kehje Sewen Forest to 118 individuals.

Ir. Sunandar Trigunajasa N., M.M., Head of the East Kalimantan BKSDA, stated: "This will be our last planned release for this year in East Kalimantan. Throughout 2019, our cooperation with the BOS Foundation and PT. RHOI has resulted in six release activities, and the return of 21 orangutans to the wild."

"We still have a lot of work to do, as there are many more orangutans at the Samboja Lestari Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre awaiting their chance at true freedom. In order to achieve orangutan conservation and the protection of habitat, we require the support and participation of all parties. We all benefit from orangutan and orangutan habitat conservation, with fresh air, clean water, a regulated climate, and the forest's medicinal properties."

"You can join us, by not capturing, killing, or taking orangutans as pets! These illegal activities potentially disrupt the ecological balance of our forest ecosystems. If you know of anybody

keeping orangutans in captivity, please report it to us or to the BOS Foundation. Let's protect our forest and its biodiversity."

Dr. Ir. Jamartin Sihite, MSc., BOS Foundation CEO, said: "There are still many orangutans awaiting the opportunity to be released. But we still need to find new forest areas for future releases. The Kehje Sewen Forest is approaching its maximum capacity of 150 orangutans. By our calculations, the forest can only accommodate another 30 individuals. We are in dire need of a new forest area to be managed under the IUPHHK-RE scheme as an orangutan release site and we require the support of various parties to acquire it."

"National Heroes' Day commemorates all the battles that our predecessors had to fight to provide us with the freedom we enjoy today. We too, can be heroes by helping orangutans to regain their freedom in the forest. This should be the proper way of celebrating the Heroes Day. So let's all be environmental warriors, by helping to save orangutans and their habitat. Your support for the rehabilitation of orangutans in Samboja Lestari means you are helping to create the new capital city with an urban forest concept."

The BOS Foundation would like to express its deepest gratitude to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, the East Kalimantan BKSDA, the East Kalimantan Provincial Government, the Regional Governments of East Kutai and Kutai Kartanegara Regencies, and the people of East Kutai and Kutai Kartanegara Regencies. We would also like to thank the following donors for their support in making these rehabilitation and release activities possible: the Giving Day for Apes campaign (funded by the Arcus Foundation, the Swiss provider of a matching grant, and the numerous private donors who responded to that appeal), BOS Australia, BOS Germany, BOS Switzerland, BOS UK, Save the Orangutan, and private sector entities such as Kitabisa.com, Pupuk Indonesia, Pupuk Kaltim and Rekind Industri. We would also like to thank all the conservation warriors around the globe for assisting our orangutan conservation efforts in Kalimantan.

Contact:

Djati Witjaksono Hadi

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

Nico Hermanu

Communications Officer

Email: nico@orangutan.or.id

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 almost 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

ABOUT PT. RHOI

PT. Restorasi Habitat Orangutan Indonesia (RHOI) is a company that was 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 'forest for orangutans' 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 433 orangutans (436 after this release) 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 the BOS Foundation (including today's release) has reached 50 individuals.

This is the 23rd release 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 this forest to 118.