



Press Release

Alba, The Albino Orangutan, Thrives Well in Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park

Jakarta, Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK), Friday, 28 February 2020 – The Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation (KKH), the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park (TNBBBR) Authority, and the Central Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) – in collaboration with the Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) Foundation – recently released three more rehabilitated Bornean orangutans. Immediately following their release, the three orangutans were observed by the post-release monitoring (PRM) team.

During a monitoring on Unyu, one of newly released orangutans, the team saw she encountered Alba, the only albino orangutan known to man.

Their immediate greeting served as a heart-warming reminder that during her time at BOS Foundation's Nyaru Menteng Rehabilitation Centre, Alba had been housed together with Unyu.

The Director of Biodiversity Conservation, Indra Exploitasia, welcome this discovery and stated that this was an interesting reunion.

"I requested the PRM team – consisting of staff from the National Park Authority and the BOS Foundation – to continue observing Alba for the next 3 (three) months. We really want to ensure that Alba can thrive and live independently in this National Park forest."

Nearly three years ago, on 29 April 2017, the Central Kalimantan BKSDA in collaboration with the Kapuas Hulu Sector Police, and the BOS Foundation rescued Alba in Tanggirang Village, Kapuas Hulu District, Kapuas Regency, Central Kalimantan. Following her rescue, Alba spent almost two years in Nyaru Menteng, before she was released back into her natural habitat in TNBBBR, on 18 December 2018.

Head of the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park Authority (BTNBBBR), Agung Nugroho added that the PRM team consists of selected individuals from local communities who bear the responsibility of ensuring the orangutans released in this national park can thrive well. Their participation also guarantees sustainability of the program, which is very important in terms of nature and biodiversity conservation.

"I have received reports that Alba is capable to explore far, feeds well, and build nests as she travels. She also socializes with other released orangutans in this national park. That is a truly a good thing. We all hope that Alba continues to survive in this forest, and live wild."

Meanwhile **the BOS Foundation CEO, Dr. Ir. Jamartin Sihite**, said that his men are committed to working together with the Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation and the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park Office in conducting observations and monitoring on the released orangutans in the national park.

"Through this joint effort, we can assess the success rate of orangutan and habitat conservation efforts in Central Kalimantan."

Since her release in December 2018, up to the end of 2019, observations showed that, on average, Alba spent 56.5% of her active hours in the forest feeding, 27.2% of her time travelling, 13.8% of her time resting, and 2.2% of her time engaged in other behaviours, such as nesting and social interactions.

Most recently, Alba was observed in February of this year, and the team will continue to observe her regularly for the foreseeable future. In addition to Alba, the other released orangutans will also be observed through regular patrols and monitoring to ensure that they can survive in the wild without human assistance.



Conservation work is a collaboration that requires all to actively participate. We always welcome support from others who strive to protect the environment, for the benefit of Indonesia and beyond.

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Editor'S Note:

ABOUT THE BOS FOUNDATION

Founded in 1991, the BOS Foundation is a non-profit Indonesian organisation 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 organisations.

The BOS Foundation currently cares for more than 400 orangutans across two orangutan 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 RELEASE

Since 2012, the BOS Foundation has released 468 orangutans into two release sites in Central Kalimantan (Bukit Batikap Protection Forest, and Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park) and one in East Kalimantan (Kehje Sewen Forest).

Since 2012 until now, there have been 20 natural births in the wild at the three release sites. Of these 20 births, there are 4 'second generation' babies born in the wild by orangutans that we previously rehabilitated in both East Kalimantan and Central Kalimantan.