



## Freedom costs as little as \$58

The Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation Australia (BOS Australia) and its Indonesian counterpart have secured a 112,000 hectare site in Kalimantan, Indonesia for the release of rehabilitated orangutans.

These great apes will only be released once the area is deemed sustainable, so BOS Australia has issued a challenge to raise \$65,000 in 65 days to fund the initial planning stage of the ground-breaking project.

Orangutans require around 100 hectares of land in the wild, and just \$58 per 100 hectares will cover the cost of preparing the land needed for the freedom of each orangutan.

Then 75 to 100 orangutans are expected to be released from two neighbouring sanctuaries within the next 12 to 18 months.

BOS Australia has been working for years to secure safe release sites for some of the 4,000 orangutans currently being cared for in Kalimantan, and BOS Australia President, Malcolm Carson, said this is the biggest ever operation of its kind.

“This is the first time truly rehabilitated orangutans have been released from the Nyaru Menteng sanctuary, and while they are currently being well cared for, our ultimate goal has always been to ensure their safe release into the wild where they belong,” he said.

“Previous attempts to release orangutans have been plagued with difficulties, but now we have successfully secured a release site in Central Kalimantan for at least the next 95 years, and we are determined to undertake planning and development to ensure the site is properly prepared and safe for its new occupants.

“Orangutans should be able to roam free in the wild, and it is hoped they will breed within the freedom and security of these release sites, reversing predictions by some that these magnificent creatures could be extinct in the wild within ten years.”

Unfortunately such preparation doesn't come cheap, but Mr Carson says that monetary contributions are not the only way to get involved.

“Supporters could hold a raffle, or sell cakes at their workplace, but simply passing the message on to others and raising awareness of the orangutan's plight is equally important,” he said.

For more info, or to make a donation, visit [www.orangutans.com.au](http://www.orangutans.com.au) or call (02) 9011 5455.

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More photos available upon request. Interviews available with BOS Australia President Malcolm Carson, Project Team Coordinator Louise Grossfeldt or Committee Member Tony Gilding.

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## BOS Australia – Media Backgrounder

The Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation Australia (BOS Australia) is a not-for-profit volunteer organisation, which has been raising funds since 2001 to support the work of its Indonesian counterpart the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOS).

BOS Australia aims to support BOS activities in Borneo through:

- » Fundraising
- » Raising public awareness
- » Education programmes

As a largely volunteer organisation, BOS Australia is able to ensure a very high percentage of donor dollars get to where they are most needed. In 2009, BOS Australia distributed \$317,000 to the two Indonesian projects it supports – the Nyaru Menteng and Samboja Lestari orangutan rehabilitation sanctuaries.

BOS was formed in 1991 when Dr Willie Smits, a tropical forest ecologist and senior advisor to the Minister of Forestry of Indonesia, found a sick orangutan in the local market. He managed to keep her alive and was then given a second problematic baby, opening his eyes to the problems facing the orangutan population.

Since its inception, BOS has achieved an enviable track record of success. It has purchased thousands of acres of land as nature reserves, assisted in the confiscation of more than one thousand illegally obtained orangutans, cared for and rehabilitated orangutans of all ages (including orphaned babies), reintroduced orangutans into the wild, and educated and provided livelihoods for thousands of local people.

BOS is presently running the world's largest primate conservation project and employs more than 200 permanent staff. The Foundation's interests cover biodiversity issues (flora and fauna), forest rehabilitation, forest inventory and monitoring (through its company PT SarVision Indonesia), agroforestry (to improve the welfare and education of local people), as well as working with orangutans and other protected wildlife.

BOS Australia supports these aims to ensure the conservation of orangutans and their ecosystem.

BOS Australia has DGR status with donations over \$2 tax deductible for Australian tax-payers.

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