



## From the President...

### This month we focus on three stories.

Firstly, some confirmation of news we have suspected for a while. The Bornean orangutan is now classified as 'critically endangered'. This is a disturbing development and one that inspires us to redouble our efforts. Habitat loss is the largest cause and sadly, whilst the overall clearing rate appears to have slowed, there are still large swathes of valuable forest being cleared every day.

Secondly, we announce our participation in an important initiative, The Responsible Palm Oil Network. This network comprises 16 zoo-based conservation and wildlife organisation across Australia and NZ. After much discussion, we have formulated a way to voice our concerns about habitat loss due to palm oil.

On the better news front, we have continued with releases. An inspiring release story is featured on page

three. So far we have helped fund the release of 222 orangutans back to the wild. The program has been a great success and we continue to focus on releases as our first priority.

This month we also acknowledge the efforts of our administrator Emma who moves on to a part-time role after six years of wonderful service. We are currently recruiting for a full-time fundraising manager.

Tony Gilding  
President

## Bornean orangutan now 'critically endangered'

**In July we received the devastating news that the status of the Bornean orangutan has been reclassified from 'endangered' to 'critically endangered' by the IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature).**

By 2025, just 9 short years from now, experts predict that 86% of the Bornean orangutan population will have been lost forever. Putting that into real terms, this is a decline from an estimated 288,500 individuals in 1973 to a projected total of just 47,000 animals remaining by 2025.

Furthermore, if the decline continues at its current rate, some fragmented

populations will become extinct in the next 50 years.

So why has this happened?

### Habitat loss

Deforestation in Borneo is occurring at an alarming rate. In the 10 years between 2000 and 2010, the mean annual rate of deforestation for Borneo was 3,234 km<sup>2</sup> per year (or a bit less than one football field a minute). These forests are cleared to make way for agriculture, due to population pressures and palm oil plantations. Additionally, the palm oil plantations often clear the land by burning the forest, which has led

in the past to catastrophic forest fires regularly seen across Indonesia. In 2015, more than 20,000 km<sup>2</sup> of forest were lost to fires, which resulted in hundreds of orangutan deaths.

### Illegal hunting and the pet trade

Compounding loss of habitat, surveys in Kalimantan suggest that 2,000–3,000 orangutans have been killed every year in Indonesian Borneo during the past four decades. This represents a loss of 44,170–66,570 individuals, or more than 50% of the original population in just 40 years. Such a rate of killings is obviously unsustainable. Added to that, Bornean orangutans are very slow breeders and produce on average one offspring every 6–8 years, which explains their extreme sensitivity to hunting pressure.

These findings confirm that habitat protection alone will not ensure the survival of orangutans, and that effective reduction of orangutan killings is urgently needed.

Note: The information on habitat loss and hunting used in this article has been taken from IUCN:

Ancrenaz, M., Gumal, M., Marshall, A.J., Meijaard, E., Wich, S.A. & Husson, S. 2016. *Pongo pygmaeus*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2016: e.T17975A17966347. <http://bit.ly/2bPJRIe>; downloaded on 24 August 2016.







## Responsible palm oil network

**Unsustainable palm oil production results in massive deforestation, rapid biodiversity loss in tropical ecosystems, and significant greenhouse gas emissions. Global consumption of palm oil and its derivatives is increasing, requiring urgent conservation action to save habitats and species.**

BOS Australia is proud to be a signatory of the Australasian Responsible Palm Oil Network. The network, comprising 16 zoo-based conservation and wildlife organisations across Australia and New Zealand, is driving the transition to Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (CSPO) by encouraging companies to use only CSPO in all the products they make and sell.

### Our objectives

The network's objectives are to raise public awareness about palm oil and the connections between consumer choices and deforestation,

to promote the use of CSPO with grocery manufacturers, government agencies and the Australian community, to introduce clear palm oil labelling, and to support the genuine achievements of companies who are leading the market

### Our vision

The network's vision is that 100% of all products in Australia and New Zealand are deforestation free. Through our work, we aim to halt and reverse deforestation globally, and encourage the restoration of forest cover at least to the levels seen in 2010, and protect the world's last intact rainforests.

### Use only 100% CSPO

This network calls on companies to source and use only RSPO Certified Sustainable Palm Oil (100% Segregated) as a minimum, building towards being verified by the Palm Oil Innovation Group Charter.

### Clear labelling

We support the adoption of Recommendation 12 of the 'Labelling Logic' report by the Legislative and Governance Forum on Food Regulation, the Ministerial Forum responsible for food labelling policy in Australasia.

This recommendation would see all vegetable oils clearly labelled in the ingredients list of food products. Clear labelling will enable Australasian consumers to distinguish between products that contain conventional or deforestation free palm oil, and consequently encourage consumers to demand responsibly sourced palm oil.

### Let your voice be heard

You can sign the petition calling for clear palm oil labelling at:

<http://bit.ly/2ca5SCw>

## How can you help save the orangutan?

By supporting BOS Australia and therefore BOS Foundation, you're already helping save the orangutan.

- Every dollar you **donate** goes directly to helping BOSA and BOSF care for injured and orphaned orangutans: <http://bit.ly/1NKyBr0>
- By **adopting one of our orangutans**, you can take comfort in knowing that they are being cared for around-the-clock by dedicated 'nannies' who teach them everything they need to know to survive back to the wild: <http://bit.ly/1hqBvZA>

- The Samboja Lestari project, developed and managed by BOS Foundation, is a unique reforestation concept in East Kalimantan, Borneo. This once species-rich area had been cleared and burnt, leaving it an ecological wasteland. Since 2001, BOS Foundation has been working to **restore the rainforest** over an area of around 17 million m<sup>2</sup>. For as little as \$10/sqm, you too can help restore the rainforest at Samboja Lestari: <http://bit.ly/1OZN7Bu>

- Download Taronga Zoo's **Wildlife Witness** app, and use it when travelling overseas to report incidents of illegal wildlife trade: <http://bit.ly/1TFnbOO>
- Contact the Australian government and voice your support for **clear labelling of palm oil** laws so you can make an informed choice when you shop: <http://bit.ly/2ca5SCw>

Together we can make a difference, before it's too late.





## First release to BBR National Park

**In August, BOS Foundation and the Central Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) released 10 rehabilitated orangutans back into the wild. The release occurred at our new release site in Central Kalimantan, in the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya (BBR) National Park.**

Prior to this release, a ceremony to symbolically mark the release of orangutans took place. The event was attended by several VIPs, including the Director-General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation (KSDAE), from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and his officials, and representatives from the Central Kalimantan Provincial office.

This 13th release from Nyaru Menteng includes three pairs of mother and baby as well as two males and two females. The babies were born at Nyaru Menteng and have been reared and taught everything they need by their mothers so they will be able to survive out in the wild.

On the days of departure, the Orangutan Release team got preparations underway by sedating the release candidates, and loading them into their transport cages onto transport vehicles. The orangutans were transported in two separate groups of five orangutans each, three days apart.

The convoy left Nyaru Menteng and took the four-hour route by road to Tumbang Tundu.

Upon arrival at Tumpang Tundu, the cages were transferred onto small boats, and the team took the five-hour river journey upstream along the Bemban River to reach the release camp located deep in the National Park. The team stopped every two hours to check on the orangutans.

As both groups were released, each of the orangutans climbed the nearest tree and immediately moved off to explore their new surroundings, free once more, in the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park.

## Staff changes

**It is with sadness, but mostly gratitude, that BOSA farewells our longstanding BOSA Administrator, Emma Dunphy. Emma has worked tirelessly for BOSA since 2010, providing effective support to the Committee, developing and improving administrative systems and providing multiple services for our adopters and supporters.**

Fortunately for BOSA, we are not losing Emma completely, as she moves into a part time administration role, assisting the new Fundraising Manager to transition into his/her role and continuing to provide administrative support for the BOSA Volunteer Enrichment Program.

When asked what her highlight has been working for BOSA for the last six-and-a-half years, without hesitation she cited volunteering on the BOSA Enrichment Program at Samboja in 2015 and getting to meet and work alongside the BOSF staff whilst there.

Her hopes for the future are that BOSA continues to build on its strong foundation; that we continue to develop diverse fundraising avenues and educational opportunities, and ultimately that we can raise funds to complete the rehabilitation and release of many more orangutans back into the wild.





# Volunteer profile



**Meet Janet Lackey, Enrichment Assistant and Orang-u-Friends Coordinator with BOS Australia.**

## Tell us a little about yourself?

I live in Sydney and have spent a few years working and travelling in Asia. I have always had animals in my life and am a self-confessed cat lady. I have a Bachelor of Early Childhood and worked in pre-schools in Sydney and Singapore. While living in Singapore, I spent my holidays volunteering in wildlife rescue centres in Indonesia and Thailand. These experiences inspired a career change and I am now working as a zoo keeper.

## What are your interests?

I am interested in animal and human behaviour, enrichment and

conservation education. I love to travel, learn and meet new people.

## Tell us about your work with BOSA?

I am currently working with BOSA Vice President Lou Grossfeldt on developing the enrichment program at Samboja Lestari and have just taken over coordinating the Orang-u-Friends program. These programs are a great match for me, with my background in teaching and passion for enrichment. Enrichment is an important part of providing animals with a high standard of care. It provides them with mental stimulation and can encourage species-specific behaviours. For orangutans in a release program this is especially important as they will need a wide repertoire of behaviours

and problem-solving skills when they return to the forest.

## What compelled you to work with BOSA?

My drive to work with animals started in wildlife rescue centres in Asia and I wanted to visit Samboja Lestari for a long time. During my first trip to Borneo last year, I was so inspired by the animals in their care and the work we were able to achieve, it was hard to leave. BOSA have been very supportive of my work and interests and they have developed a volunteer program where Lou and I are able to share the enrichment program with BOSA supporters.

## Tell us about something you do on a personal level for conservation?

Volunteering for BOSA is the best thing I can do to support conservation. By travelling to Borneo I am able to share my knowledge and interest in animal behaviour and enrichment with the team at Samboja Lestari. This benefits the orangutans in their care. I am creative and resourceful, I especially enjoy the challenge of finding new ways to use materials; 'found' or free objects are great to create enrichment with and saving materials from landfill.

## What is your hope for the future of orangutans?

I hope we are able to support the forest so they can return home.



**BOS Australia**  
primates helping primates

**Borneo Orangutan Survival Australia**

+ 61 2 9011 5455  
PO Box 3916  
Mosman NSW 2088

[facebook.com/bosaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/bosaustralia)  
[instagram.com/bosaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/bosaustralia)

Our newsletter is proudly written and produced by BOS Australia volunteers.

All images © BOS 2016

**Thank you for your continued support.**



## We Love Hearing From You

We know you've been spreading the orangutan word, so why not tell us about what you're up to? Email [contact@orangutans.com.au](mailto:contact@orangutans.com.au) or post your photos online at [facebook.com/bosaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/bosaustralia) or [instagram/bosaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/bosaustralia)

## Can You Help Us?

Your donations provide food, shelter, protection, medicine and companionship for orangutans in our care. Visit [www.orangutans.com.au](http://www.orangutans.com.au) to help us help them.

Donations by cheque are payable to Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) Australia at PO Box 3916, Mosman NSW 2088.

Make a one-off or regular payment via direct debit or by credit card either online or by calling us on (02) 9011 5455. We now accept **pay pal** donations too! See the link on the homepage of our website.

Save paper and the environment and opt-in to receive our e-letter via email. at [contact@orangutans.com.au](mailto:contact@orangutans.com.au)

[www.orangutans.com.au](http://www.orangutans.com.au)