



From the President ...

500 – what a magical number! Especially when it is associated with the word ‘freedom’. We are incredibly proud to report that we just released our 500th orangutan back into the wild, and you can read all about this milestone on pages 2 and 3. I couldn’t think of a better way to welcome you to our last edition of 2022.

It has been an exciting year, carefully getting back to normal, opening our centres for visitors again, and restarting our volunteer program.

Thanks to your fantastic support, we cannot just look after the orangutans in our centres but also provide much-needed care for the 72 sun bears at Samboja Lestari. To all of you that gave to our Sun Bear Spring Appeal, a huge THANK YOU.

While we are thrilled about all the good news, we also have

a bittersweet one. We recently welcomed five new orphans to our centres, and you can learn more about them below.

All we do is only possible because of you, our dear supporters, and our dedicated staff in Borneo. That’s why we can’t think of a better way to end this edition than by introducing you to Indar Yaumy, another one of our amazing orangutan warriors.

I am sure you can’t wait to start reading, but before you do, I would like to let you know about our Christmas Appeal. With your help, we want to unlock more cages so that all releasable orangutans in our care can eventually enjoy the freedom they so much deserve. A donation in someone’s name is a great gift that gives back. Please also check out our Instants Gifts for an immediate surprise. Or what

about adopting an orangutan for a loved one?

I wish you a peaceful holiday season, and thanks again in the name of the orangutans.

Yours,

K WELFORD

Kerin Welford
President



Overcoming the trauma

At first, Temon seemed to hate humans. The latest arrival at our Nyau Menteng centre nervously bit anyone who tried to touch her. It took weeks for the little female to trust the surrogate mother who currently takes care of her. We suspect that her biological mother was killed in conflict with humans.

It’s always a bittersweet moment when we take in orphaned orangutans. Seeing them suffer from their traumatic past as illegally kept pets or found alone and injured hurts. However, we are relieved to know that they have a brighter future with your support.

In the past few months, we received five orphaned babies: Besides Temon, we welcomed Baimah, Segi, Rabia and Spansar.

Luckily, they are all making great progress in Forest School, especially, Temon, who has already learned crucial skills. As a result, her care team believes she is more than capable of cruising through every stage of rehabilitation until she can return to her true home in the wild.

Whatever lies ahead, the BOS team in Borneo will support each new arrival every step of the way as they adjust to their new life.





A milestone for freedom

500 releases! For us, this is not just a number. It is the result of hard work, never giving up hope, and, most of all, it means that precisely this many rehabilitated orangutans are now where they belong: home, in the Bornean rainforest.

At first sight, it's business as usual at BOS Foundation's Nyaru Menteng Orangutan Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre. The release team, consisting of veterinarians, the transport crew and technicians, prepares the three male orangutans for their release journey, a procedure performed many times before.

The veterinarians sedate Ben, Gonzales and Lima, weigh them, take blood samples and do an overall final health check. At the same time, other team members lay out the transport boxes of the orangutans with fresh leaves to make them comfier for the long trip to the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya

National Park in Central Kalimantan. But looking closer, there is an unusual look of sheer exhilaration on everyone's faces. The knowledge that they are embarking on a memorable trip with 12-year-old orangutan Ben being the 500th orangutan they will release since 2012 when BOS restarted to reintroduce orangutans to the wild again.

An early start and a long gap

It all began between 1992 and 1994 when BOS conducted the first orangutan releases with 60 candidates in one of the last intact coastal lowland rainforests in East Kalimantan, the Sungai Wain Protection Forest.

A year prior, in 1991, the passion of several people inspired them to initiate an informal movement to save orangutans from the illegal wildlife trade and return them to the wild.

They started using the government-owned research station, Wanariset, as a rehabilitation centre for the rescued orangutans with nowhere else to go. This movement later became the BOS Foundation.

By 1998, BOS Foundation had rescued over 500 orangutans from areas of habitat loss due to human development activities in East Kalimantan. Luckily, they could release many of them into the Bukit Beratus Protected Forest in the second series of releases between 1998 and 2001.

Then, after 2001, releases shut down. Where to reintroduce orangutans when there are no safe and large enough areas to do so? The BOS team had to take action and find new release sites, which was a huge challenge and required breaking new ground in conservation.

It was in April 2009 when BOS established RHOI, Restorasi Habitat Orangutan Indonesia. The purpose of this company is to provide safe forests for wild and rehabilitated orangutans through the Ecosystem Restoration Concession (ERC) scheme of the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

A new era of releases begins

A year later, BOS realised this vision of RHOI with the procurement of an ERC, a business license that gives the company the right to use and manage the land for 60 years. RHOI



was given an 86,450-hectare forest, which they named 'Kehje Sewen Forest', coming from the Wehea Dayak word for orangutan - very appropriate as its procurement opens the opportunity for it to be used as a release site for orangutans in East Kalimantan.

The lucky streak rolled on. In February 2012, BOS inaugurated a second new release site in Central Kalimantan with the release of four orangutans into the Bukit Batikap Protection Forest. With this release, the countdown to now 500 started. More orangutans were reintroduced into the Kehje Sewen Forest in East Kalimantan just a month later. And in 2016, the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park became the third BOS Foundation release site.

Since then, BOS has released several orangutans yearly, except in 2020, when COVID-19 hit. But even during the pandemic, we made the impossible possible. With strict health measures in place and by using helicopters, we released ten orangutans to the protected forests of Bukit Batikap and Kehje Sewen in February 2021.

Struggles, tears and bliss

Now, BOS conducted its 40th release from Nyaru Menteng, with Lima being the 498th, Gonzales the 499th and Ben being the 500th rehabilitated orangutan to return home. As always, it included tears of goodbye from caretakers, struggles for the transfer crew to make their way through muddy roads and wild waters, and superhuman powers to lift the heavy transport boxes

through steep and rough terrain to the release site. But it also included this indescribable joy of knowing that these three orangutans can finally savour the wild life they are supposed to live in the Bornean rainforest.

For Lima and Ben, the journey to freedom took 12 years, while Gonzales' spent ten years in rehabilitation. All three lost their mothers early in life.

Ben was born in a clinic at the BOS Foundation's Nyaru Menteng Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre in May 2010. Sadly, his rescued orangutan mother, Nanga, could not take care of him, so our team had to make the difficult decision to separate the two when Ben was still an infant. Lima was rescued in April 2010 at about 12 months old. He had been illegally kept as a pet. And Gonzales was found by a research student in Tuanan village in February 2012 at around two years of age.

But while Ben's release is a milestone in BOS Foundation's release history, CEO Jamartin Sihite's joy is tempered by the many obstacles we still have to overcome to save the species and with hundreds of orangutans in our centres who need our care and support. "Although we have faced countless challenges, from the limited availability of funds and safe forest release sites to the hardships of managing a lengthy rehabilitation process and reaching isolated release points, many obstacles remain. However, we are elated and proud to take a moment to celebrate the release of 500 orangutans over these ten years."



Give A Gift Of Freedom This Christmas

Help unlock more cages
and release orangutans
back into the wild.



Will you help us unlock more cages this Christmas?

Because of incredibly generous and passionate supporters like you, we have been able to release 500 orangutans back to their wild homes. However, we still have many more that are waiting for their cages to be unlocked, and we really need your help this Christmas.

Each release of an orangutan back to their home in the wild can cost over \$10,000, and even once an orangutan completes their journey to freedom, our job is not over. One of our post-release monitoring teams

will continue to track and observe the released orangutans for up to several months, making sure they adapt to their new environment and remain free from threats of human interference such as poaching, illegal palm oil and logging operations.

Our ultimate goal is to one day have no more orangutans left to release – a world where all our red cousins are safe and free in the wild. We truly believe that together we can achieve the unimaginable!

Please **give the gift** of freedom to an orangutan this Christmas!

HELLO, I AM INDAR YAUMY



Please meet Indar Yaumy, another amazing orangutan warrior from our Orangutan Habitat Restoration (RHO) program in East Kalimantan.

Can you tell us about your meteoric career since you started working for BOS four years ago?

I was initially employed to aid the Post-Release Monitoring (PRM) efforts through my role in data management. My main tasks involved supporting orangutan release activities in the Kehje Sewen Forest and orangutan transfers to the Juq Kehje Swen pre-release island. I was later given the greater responsibility of analysing our PRM reports and planning community empowerment activities. In 2020, I took the Forest Planning and Project Officer position and created a Kehje Sewen Forest management plan within the ecosystem restoration scheme. In this role,

I planned activities that would benefit the forest, orangutans, and community and carried them out in collaboration with other stakeholders. This year, I was appointed deputy manager for the Kehje Sewen Forest and Juq Kehje Swen Island, where I now oversee all activities.

What was your most memorable experience with orangutans?

It occurred during my first orangutan release. Things had not gone as planned, and I had to retreat quickly as two male orangutans headed in my direction. I did not have time to process what was going on. Now I know better always to prepare an evacuation route.

Did you always want to work in this field?

I was always deeply fascinated by conservation, and working with

orangutans has been my dream since I was a child.

What is your hope for the future?

I hope to see an increase in wild orangutan populations and want more orangutans living freely in the forest, thus helping to keep Kalimantan one of the lungs of the world. I also hope the government will provide greater support for conservation and want to see and take part in improving the management of Indonesia's forests.

Do you have any advice for people working in conservation?

Remain steadfast and do the best you can to conserve forests and orangutans. While it might be a long and arduous process, even the tiniest actions can create real change for the future, like correctly disposing of litter and cigarette butts and not burning the land irresponsibly.



BOS Australia
primates helping primates

Borneo Orangutan Survival Australia

+ 61 2 9011 5455

PO Box 7699,

Bondi Beach NSW 2026

[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 2022

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 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 to help us help them.

Donations by cheque are payable to Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) Australia at PO Box 7699, Bondi Beach NSW 2026.

Make a one-off or regular payment via direct debit or by credit card, either online or by calling us on +61 2 9011 5455. We also accept **Paypal** donations. See the link on the homepage of our website.

Save paper and the environment and opt-in to receive our newsletter via email at contact@orangutans.com.au.