

Activities and Accounting of Batu Mbelin Orangutan Quarantine Centre, North Sumatra, Indonesia



Infant orangutans playing in the quarantine centre; Nov. 2009

Tri-monthly report to Australian Orangutan Project

October 1st to December 31st, 2009

By Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme



The Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme is a collaborative project involving:-



Introduction

The Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme is a collaborative programme involving the Swiss based PanEco Foundation, the Indonesian Yayasan Ekosistem Lestari (Foundation for a sustainable ecosystem), Germany's Frankfurt Zoological Society (which manages the orangutan reintroduction site in Jambi Province) and the Indonesian Government's Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation. It is a multifaceted programme engaged in all aspects of Sumatran orangutan conservation including a) Confiscation, quarantine and reintroduction of illegal pet orangutans, b) Surveys and monitoring of remaining wild populations, c) Research on conservation and behavioral ecology of wild orangutans, d) Habitat conservation and e) Education and awareness raising.

A major focus of the work of SOCP is the confiscation, quarantine and reintroduction in Jambi, of confiscated illegally held pet orangutans. This requires the long term operation of SOCP's orangutan quarantine facility near Medan, North Sumatra. Construction of the quarantine began in 2001 and by mid 2002 the first orangutans had already moved in. This was followed by the first successful reintroduction of wild Sumatran orangutans in Jambi, in January 2003. By the end of 2009, a total of 187 orangutans had been received at the quarantine centre and 125 had been transferred to Jambi for reintroduction, of which more than 110 have already been released to the wild.

Previous 3 month plan and status of implementation:

- Conversion of old food preparation and store to staff accommodation completed.
- Repainting and repairs to roof of staff canteen and isolation cage block I completed.
- Footbridge to the long term cages upgraded.
- Ayub Danianto (keeper) attended workshop on Shape of Enrichment, 18-21 October 2009, at Ragunan Zoo
- Drh. Yenny attended vocational training at Zurich University-Zoo Zurich, Switzerland, 14 November-14 December 2009, together with Drh. Anhar Lubis (VESSWIC-Medan) and Drh. Darmawi (University Syiah Kuala)
- One new keeper, Arista Ketaren, recruited and began work in mid October
- Eight orangutans arrived at the quarantine station; 6 (six) from Aceh, 1 (one) from Riau Province and 1 (one) back from FZS/Jambi Reintroduction station for medical treatment.
- Transfer of 5 (five) orangutans to Jambi/FZS on 14th December 2009. These were Ayu (OU109), Jeki (OU134), Frangki TP (OU163), Evan DM (OU166) and Alex (OU177)

Additional activities during the period:

- Confiscation of orangutans Sakdiah (OU181), Dennis (OU182), Wenda (OU183) and Ruben (OU184), all from Blangkejeren in central Aceh.
- Confiscation of orangutan Marconi (OU187) from Police in Alue Bilie, Nagan Raya.
- General health examinations under anaesthesia of Sakdiah, Ruben and Dennis whilst Wenda had blood samples taken only.
- Repairs to damaged fence around the isolation cages (due to tree fall) and to some of the transport cages.
- Daily activities as per normal.

Status of orangutans

Tabel 1 . Orangutans in the quarantine centre at 1st October- 31st December 2009
(Shading, gray= new arrivals, green= translocation to Jambi/FZS, yellow= back from Jambi/FZS)

| No | Record Code | Name | Chip | Sex | Aproox age on arrival | Origin | Entri date | Location end June 09 | Exit date | To |
|----|-------------|---------------------------------|------------|-----|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|-----------|
| 1 | OU27 | Tila | 00063C09E4 | F | 2 | N.Tala,Sampan Getek/ SUMUT | 23-09-2003 | Permanent Isolat | | |
| 2 | OU69 | Beckham (2 nd) | 00066D58A2 | M | 4 | Jambi TNBT/FZS | 25-07-2006 | Isolat IIB | | |
| 3 | OU105 | Kevin | 000683191D | M | 2 | Belawan, Medan/ SUMUT | 13-11-2006 | Social A | | |
| 4 | OU45 | Leuser/Loser (2 nd) | 0006832258 | M | 7 | Jambi TNBT/FZS | 23-11-2006 | Permanent Isolat | | |
| 5 | OU109 | Ayu | 00068343D8 | F | 1 | Blangkejeren/NAD | 21-12-2006 | Social A | 14-12-2009 | Jambi/FZS |
| 6 | OU112 | R. Fidel/Ugo B | 0006B9471A | M | 4 days (infant) | Bukit Lawang/ BTNGL | 12-02-2007 | Social B ¼ | | |
| 7 | OU119 | Miriam (MRT/1 st) | Not yet | F | 1 month | Jambi TNBT/FZS | 14-09-2007 | Social B ¼ | | |
| 8 | OU125 | Jarot Pakpahan | 0006B933AC | M | 8 Month | Padang Sidempuan/ SUMUT | 26-03-2008 | Social B ¼ | | |
| 9 | OU134 | Jeki | 0006830B40 | F | 1.5 | Patumbak/SUMUT | 09-04-2008 | Social A | 14-12-2009 | Jambi/FZS |
| 10 | OU143 | Meutia | 0006831AFC | F | 14 | Sunggal/SUMUT | 17-09-2008 | Isolat IV AD | | |
| 11 | OU144 | Mamut | 00066FFE8 | M | 8 | Banda Aceh/NAD | 26-10-2008 | Social B | | |
| 12 | OU145 | Tobi | 00066FF817 | M | 6 | Banda Aceh/NAD | 26-10-2008 | Social B | | |
| 13 | OU146 | Pibi | 00066D580A | F | 5 | Banda Aceh/NAD | 26-10-2008 | Social A | | |
| 14 | OU147 | Gober | 0006894686 | F | 25 | Sampan Getek/SUMUT | 22-11-2008 | Permanent isolat | | |
| 15 | OU149 | Robert | 0006893571 | M | 6 | Blang Jeranggo/NAD | 19-12-2008 | Social A | | |
| 16 | OU150 | Pingkiboy | 0006894C61 | M | 1.5 | Rikit Gaib/NAD | 19-12-2008 | Social B 3/4 | | |
| 17 | OU151 | Delavita | 0006896B15 | F | 7 | Lawe Sikap/NAD | 19-12-2008 | Social A | | |
| 18 | OU152 | Dewabunien | 0006B93989 | M | 5 | Lawe Sikap/NAD | 19-12-2008 | Isolat IIIC | | |
| 19 | OU153 | Vewe | 00068966F7 | M | 6 | Lawe Sikap/NAD | 19-12-2008 | Social B | | |
| 20 | OU154 | Nando | 0006B94892 | M | 7 | Gunung Merutung/NAD | 19-12-2008 | Social B | | |
| 21 | OU155 | Coty | 0006B94BF5 | F | 1.5 | Cot Simantouk/NAD | 22-12-2008 | Social B 3/4 | | |
| 22 | OU156 | Miky | 0006B94E31 | M | 2 | Alue Billie/NAD | 22-12-2008 | Social B 3/4 | | |
| 23 | OU157 | Suro | Not yet | F | 2 weeks | Bukit Lawang/BTNGL | 08-01-2009 | Clinic/Isolat IIC | | |
| 24 | OU159 | Virina | 0006B95C58 | F | 6 | Kutacane/NAD | 10-02-2009 | Social B | | |
| 25 | OU160 | Dito | 0006B93F51 | F | 2 | Banda Aceh/NAD | 22-02-2009 | Social B 3/4 | | |
| 26 | OU118 | Dek Nong (2 nd) | 0006832BFD | F | 12 | Jambi TNBT/FZS | 25-02-2009 | Isolat IV B | | |
| 27 | OU162 | Juna Dezky | 0006894221 | M | 6 | Kutacane/NAD | 20-03-2009 | Social B | | |
| 28 | OU163 | Frangki T.pura | 0006B8F8B5 | F | 5 | Tanjung Pura/SUMUT | 07-04-2009 | Social A | 14-12-2009 | Jambi/FZS |
| 29 | OU164 | Ongki Patumbak | 0006B9823E | M | 1.5 | Patumbak/SUMUT | 15-04-2009 | Social B 3/4 | | |
| 30 | OU165 | Brownie | 0006B932D8 | F | 1.5 | Banda Aceh/NAD | 30-04-2009 | Social B 3/4 | | |
| 31 | OU166 | Evan Dairi Meha | 0006B955B1 | M | 4 | Dairi/SUMUT | 18-05-2009 | Social A | 14-12-2009 | Jambi/FZS |
| 32 | OU167 | Kis Kis | 0006B9A7DB | M | 4 | Aceh Tamiang/NAD | 27-05-2009 | Social A | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|-------|---------------------------|------------|---|-----|--------------------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-----------|
| 33 | OU168 | Yusniar | 0006B9343A | F | 2 | Blang Pidie/NAD | 28-05-2009 | Social B 3/4 | | |
| 34 | OU169 | Jeff Corwin (tito) | 0006B96514 | M | 2 | Idi-Langsa/NAD | 06-06-2009 | Social A ¾ | | |
| 35 | OU170 | Jecko (toti) | 0006B935E0 | M | 2 | Idi-Langsa/NAD | 06-06-2009 | Social A ¾ | | |
| 36 | OU171 | Frens | 0006B95755 | M | 1.5 | Singkil-Subussalam/NAD | 24-06-2009 | Social A ¾ | | |
| 37 | OU172 | Chaka | 0006B950F0 | F | 1.5 | Singkil-Subussalam/NAD | 24-06-2009 | Clinic/Isolat IIC | | |
| 38 | OU173 | Morgan Aqiqa | Not yet | M | 4 | Born at Quarantine/SUMUT | 13-07-2009 | Isolat IV AD | | |
| 39 | OU174 | Sangir | 0006B96435 | M | 6 | Sangir-Kutacane/NAD | 29-07-2009 | Social B | | |
| 40 | OU175 | Tono | 0006B9461B | M | 3 | Kuala Simpang/NAD | 01-08-2009 | Social A ¾ | | |
| 41 | OU176 | Pungut | 0006B93882 | F | 2 | Kuala Simpang/NAD | 01-08-2009 | Social A ¾ | | |
| 42 | OU177 | Alex | 0006B9871E | M | 6 | Simalingkar/SUMUT | 06-08-2009 | Social A | 14-12-2009 | Jambi/FZS |
| 43 | OU178 | Butet | 0006B9390F | F | 6 | Tapaktuan/NAD | 14-08-2009 | Social A | | |
| 44 | OU179 | Manohara | 0006830AD1 | F | 6 | Banda Aceh/NAD | 12-09-2009 | Isolat I A | | |
| 45 | OU180 | Coconut | 00066FF80F | M | 4 | Banda Aceh/NAD | 26-09-2009 | Social A | | |
| 46 | OU181 | Sakdiah | 0006832E18 | F | 7 | Blangkejeren/NAD | 17-10-2009 | Social A | | |
| 47 | OU182 | Denis | 0006831AA1 | M | 5 | Blangkejeren/NAD | 17-10-2009 | Social A | | |
| 48 | OU183 | Wenda | Not Yet | F | 1 | Blangkejeren/NAD | 17-10-2009 | Clinic/Isolat IIC | | |
| 49 | OU184 | Ruben | 000682FE70 | M | 4 | Blangkejeren/NAD | 17-10-2009 | Isolasi IB | | |
| 50 | OU185 | Oscar | Not yet | M | 4 | Kutacane/NAD | 03-11-2009 | Isolasi IIA | | |
| 51 | OU186 | Bobby | Not yet | M | 3 | Pekan Baru/Riau | 12-11-2009 | Isolasi IC | | |
| 52 | OU187 | Marconi | Not yet | F | 4 | Alu bilie/NAD | 12-12-2009 | Isolasi IIIC | | |
| 53 | OU98 | Masita (2 nd) | 00066D67E4 | F | 15 | Jambi/FZS | 13-12-2009 | Isolasi IIIB | | |

As can be seen from Table 1, a total of eight orangutans arrived at the quarantine centre during the period and five were transferred to Jambi reintroduction station/FZS.

Medical cases of note:

Four (4) orangutans underwent routine medical checks under anaesthesia; Sakdiah, Ruben and Dennis, whilst Wenda only had blood sample tested as she is still very young.

Marconi

Marconi was confiscated from a police officer who was keeping her chained up in a dark room at the Police station in Alue Bilie, South-west Aceh. She had been kept as a pet for 2 weeks. At first the owner did not allow Pak Safwan (head of BKSDA, South Aceh), Ian Singleton and Asril to take her, but they pushed him for several hours to give her up as she was clearly in poor health would probably have died soon after if they had not taken her for treatment there and then. After lengthy negotiations, fortunately they were able to put her in a travel box (easily done as she did not have the energy to bite) and take her to the quarantine centre for treatment.

On arrival she was still very weak, and very skinny, and she did not want to eat. She also had several wounds on her neck, body, hands and legs. A particularly deep laceration on her left leg made it very painful and difficult for her to walk or climb. A few of her finger nails and part of one finger were also missing.



OU Marconi on arrival at the quarantine centre.

After a few weeks of treatment Marconi's appetite began to improve markedly, her wounds were healing well and she became much more active. As of now she is housed in one of the isolation cages and getting plenty of exercise to build up her condition by climbing on the bars and rubber ropes etc.

Masita

Masita first arrived at the quarantine in March 2006 and was later transferred to Jambi in September 2007, with Caroline, Bobo, Handsome etc. She was subsequently released into the forest and spent quite some time as a free orangutan again. Despite this good progress, however, she was found late in 2009 to have developed a major wound on her head, with most of the top layers of skin completely missing over most of the top and back of her head. The actual cause of this is unknown but staff in Jambi did speculate that it might involve a reaction to a bee sting as they had seen her get stung, and later to be scratching the skin on her head. Whether or not this is indeed a response to a bee sting is difficult to determine, but whatever the cause this is indeed a serious reaction. It is possible that Masita has some deeper underlying condition, making her hyper reactive to minor injuries. In fact she

had had some earlier small cuts etc that took long periods to heal when she was first at the quarantine centre, so we suspect there probably is some underlying syndrome, but as yet we do not know what or how to deal with it. In the meantime, Masita was returned to the quarantine for treatment and has responded well, such that the scalp injury is now almost completely healed.



Masita wound at her head (at Jambi)

Wenda

Wenda is one of the new arrivals, from Blangkejeren in Aceh. She is a very small orangutan and is always hugging on to her new friend, Chaka. So much so that the staff suspect she thinks Chaka is in fact her mother! Generally she appears fit and well but she surprised the vets in November when she suddenly excreted an enormous tapeworm (*Taenia Sp.*) length \pm 50 cm, after being given a routine antihelminthic drug.



**Wenda (arrow)
Dek Nong**

Tape worm from orangutan Wenda

Dek Nong's general condition and body weight decreased somewhat during the period. She has a wound on her hand that is not healing well and her appetite and activity levels are reduced. Dek Nong's condition and its treatment remain a mystery to us and we are keen to look for a volunteer veterinary intern to come and focus on investigating this case, as well as those of Masita and Beckham in detail. In the meantime we do our best to maintain her diet and well being and monitor her intensively.

Beckam

Beckham is another long term treatment case. In the last 3 months His condition has also declined a little, along with his appetite. However, he is coughing less frequently and the discharge from his nose is less common. He is clearly frustrated and as he gets older he is becoming noticeably more aggressive towards the staff than he used to be. Like Dek Nong, Beckham needs a detailed veterinary study to really uncover the source of his problem and attempt to address it.

Other activities

A small Kemiri (candle nut) tree near to isolation cage block IV fell down one windy night and brought an adjacent rubber tree down with it. Between them they damaged the fence around the isolation area. All staff worked together to remove the trees and to repair the fence. Staff also repaired transport cages, checked all the nuts and bolts in the centre, doors and padlocks etc and painted some of the cages.



The damaged fence



Transport crates undergoing repairs

Capacity building, training and research :

- Ayub Danianto (keeper) attended a workshop on the Shape of Enrichment, 18-21 October 2009 at Ragunan Zoo, Jakarta
- Drh. Yenny Saraswati attended vocational training at Zurich University-Zoo Zurich, Switzerland, 14 November-14 December 2009, together with Drh. Anhar Lubis (VESSWIC-Medan) and Drh. Darmawi (University Syiah Kuala)
- Hannah Rose Trayford from Cambridge University started her research focusing on behavioural enrichment for captive orangutans in rehabilitation and reintroduction programmes in Indonesia.

Plans for the next 3 months:

- Continuing intensive treatment of Masita, Marconi, Dek Nong and Beckham until stable.
- Searching for a veterinary graduate interested to work as a volunteer intern to research Dek Nong, Beckham and Masita's conditions and seek solutions
- Continue the process of introducing the two blind orangutans, Gober and Leuser, to each other, already begun with sound and smell contact, but to now include tactile contact from within adjacent cages.
- Repairing quarantine facilities such as septic-tank and bio filtration.
- Medical checks for Oscar (OU185), Bobby (OU186), Marconi (OU187) and Masita (OU98).
- Increasing the pressure on Aceh Government and Dirjen PHKA for a decision regarding the possibility to release orangutans in the Cagar Alam Jantho Conservation Area as proposed by SOCP in 2009.
- Requesting KSDA to seek an alternative long term solution for the two white-handed gibbons still residing in the quarantine centre.
- Construction of boardwalk and new compost facility at the site (to replace the old one damaged by tree fall early in 2009).
- Begin construction of new infant care facility at the site, especially for young infant orangutans requiring 24 hr care.