

# Activities of Batu Mbelin Orangutan Quarantine Centre, North Sumatra, Indonesia



Miriam, 04-2010

Tri-monthly report

April 1<sup>st</sup> until June 30<sup>th</sup> 2010

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 first quarter 2010, a total of 193 orangutans had been received at the quarantine centre and 135 had been transferred to Jambi for reintroduction, of which more than 120 have already been released to the wild.

## **Previous 3 month plan and status of implementation:**

- Continuing maintenance of the cage social block B is not yet finished, but the fixing of two medium transport cages has been finished
- Build new baby facility during the above process (60% finished)
- Build an incinerator (finished)
- Processing/moving temporary compost storage - completed
- Introduction of the two blind orangutans, Leuser and Gober (full body contact) is underway. Enrichment has been installed in their cage and they have been given time to adapt to the changes.
- Help student (Hannah RT) in assembling and implementing behavioural enrichment to all orangutans. Transfer of 10 (ten) orangutans to Jambi - Mamut (OU144), Tobi (OU145), Robert (OU149), Delavita (OU151), Vewe (OU153), Nando (OU154), Virina (OU159), Juna Dezky (OU162), Butet (OU178), Sakdiyah (OU181)

## **Additional activities during the period:**

- Recruitment of a new replacement keeper.
- Confiscations - in the last 3 months (April – June 2010), there has been the arrival of 3 new orangutans - Kimong (OU191), Mamat Lapan (OU 192), Mambo (OU193), all from North Sumatra.
- General Health examination of one orangutan (Kimong) and additional health checks of Seumayam (left arm), Mamat Lapan and Mambo (blood tests only).
- Daily activities as per normal.

## Status of orangutans

Table 1. Orangutans in the quarantine centre at 1<sup>st</sup> April - 30<sup>rd</sup> June 2010

(Shading, grey = new arrivals, yellow = back from Jambi/FZS, red = deceased, green = transfer to Jambi, purple = Bukit Lawang).

No	Record Code	Name	Chip	Sex	Approx age on arrival	Origin	Entry date	Location at end June 09	Exit date	To
1	OU27	Tila	00063C09E4	F	2	N.Tala,Sampan Getek/ SUMUT	23-09-2003	Permanent Isolot		
2	OU69	Beckham (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	00066D58A2	M	4	Jambi TNBT/FZS	25-07-2006	Isolat IIA		
3	OU105	Kevin	000683191D	M	2	Belawan, Medan/ SUMUT	13-11-2006	Permanent Isolot		
4	OU45	Leuser/Loser (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	0006832258	M	7	Jambi TNBT/FZS	23-11-2006	Permanent Isolot		
5	OU112	R. Fidel/Ugo B	0006B9471A	M	4 days(infant)	Bukit Lawang/ BTNGL	12-02-2007	Social B ¾		
6	OU119	Miriam (MRT/1 <sup>st</sup> )	00066D7AF4	F	1 month	Jambi TNBT/FZS	14-09-2007	Social B ¾		
7	OU125	Jarot Pakpahan	0006B933AC	M	8 Month	Padang Sidempuan/ SUMUT	26-03-2008	Social B ¾		
8	OU143	Meutia	0006831AFC	F	14	Sunggal/SUMUT	17-09-2008	Isolat IV A		
9	OU144	Mamut	00066FFEA8	M	8	Banda Aceh/NAD	26-10-2008	Social B	07-06-2010	JAMBI
10	OU145	Tobi	00066FF817	M	6	Banda Aceh/NAD	26-10-2008	Social B	07-06-2010	JAMBI
11	OU146	Pibi	00066D580A	F	5	Banda Aceh/NAD	26-10-2008	Social B		
12	OU147	Gober	0006894686	F	25	Sampan Getek/SUMUT	22-11-2008	Permanent isolot		
13	OU149	Robert	0006893571	M	6	Blang Jeranggo/NAD	19-12-2008	Social B	07-06-2010	JAMBI
14	OU150	Pingkiboy	0006894C61	M	1.5	Rikit Gaib/NAD	19-12-2008	Social B ¾		
15	OU151	Delavita	0006896B15	F	7	Lawe Sikap/NAD	19-12-2008	Social B	07-06-2010	JAMBI
16	OU152	Dewabunien	0006B93989	M	5	Lawe Sikap/NAD	19-12-2008	Social B		
17	OU153	Vewe	00068966F7	M	6	Lawe Sikap/NAD	19-12-2008	Social B	07-06-2010	JAMBI
18	OU154	Nando	0006B94892	M	7	Gunung Merutung/NAD	19-12-2008	Social B	07-06-2010	JAMBI
19	OU155	Coty	0006B94BF5	F	1.5	Cot Simantouk/NAD	22-12-2008	Social B ¾		
20	OU156	Miky	0006B94E31	M	2	Alue Billie/NAD	22-12-2008	Social B ¾		
21	OU157	Suro	Not yet	F	2 weeks	Bukit Lawang/BTNGL	08-01-2009	Isolat I ABC		
22	OU159	Virina	0006B95C58	F	6	Kutacane/NAD	10-02-2009	Social B	07-06-2010	JAMBI
23	OU160	Dito	0006B93F51	F	2	Banda Aceh/NAD	22-02-2009	Social B ¾		
24	OU118	Dek Nong (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	0006832BFD	F	12	Jambi TNBT/FZS	25-02-2009	Isolat IV B		
25	OU162	Juna Dezky	0006894221	M	6	Kutacane/NAD	20-03-2009	Social B	07-06-2010	JAMBI
26	OU164	Ongki Patumbak	0006B9823E	M	1.5	Patumbak/SUMUT	15-04-2009	Social B ¾		
27	OU165	Brownie	0006B932D8	F	1.5	Banda Aceh/NAD	30-04-2009	Social B ¾		
28	OU167	Kis Kis	0006B9A7DB	M	4	Aceh Tamiang/NAD	27-05-2009	Social B		
29	OU168	Yusniar	0006B9343A	F	2	Blang Pidie/NAD	28-05-2009	Social B ¾		
30	OU169	Jeff Corwin (tito)	0006B96514	M	2	Idi-Langsa/NAD	06-06-2009	Social A ¾		
31	OU170	Jecko (toti)	0006B935E0	M	2	Idi-Langsa/NAD	06-06-2009	Social A ¾		
32	OU171	Frens	0006B95755	M	1.5	Singkil-Subussalam/NAD	24-06-2009	Social A ¾		
33	OU172	Chaka	0006B950F0	F	1.5	Singkil-Subussalam/NAD	24-06-2009	Clinic/Isolat IABC		
34	OU173	Morgan Aqiqa	Not yet	M	4	Born at Quarantine/SUMUT	13-07-2009	Isolat IV A		

35	OU174	Sangir	0006B96435	M	6	Sangir-Kutacane/NAD	29-07-2009	Social B		
36	OU175	Tono	0006B9461B	M	3	Kuala Simpang/NAD	01-08-2009	Social A ¾		
37	OU176	Pungut	0006B93882	F	2	Kuala Simpang/NAD	01-08-2009	Social A ¾		
38	OU178	Butet	0006B9390F	F	6	Tapaktuan/NAD	14-08-2009	Social B	07-06-2010	
39	OU179	Manohara	0006830AD1	F	6	Banda Aceh/NAD	12-09-2009	Social B ¾		
40	OU180	Coconut	00066FF80F	M	4	Banda Aceh/NAD	26-09-2009	Social B		
41	OU181	Sakdiah	0006832E18	F	7	Blangkejeren/NAD	17-10-2009	Social B	07-06-2010	
42	OU182	Denis	0006831AA1	M	5	Blangkejeren/NAD	17-10-2009	Social B		
43	OU183	Wenda	Not Yet	F	1	Blangkejeren/NAD	17-10-2009	Isolat IABC		
44	OU184	Ruben	000682FE70	M	4	Blangkejeren/NAD	17-10-2009	Social A ¾		
45	OU185	Oscar	0006B95D2E	M	4	Kutacane/NAD	03-11-2009	Social B ¾		
46	OU186	Bobby	0006B94EF9	M	3	Pekan Baru/Riau	12-11-2009	Permanent Isolat		
47	OU187	Marconi	0006B94DB3	F	4	Alu bilie/NAD	12-12-2009	Isolasi IIIC		
48	OU98	Masita (2 <sup>nd</sup> )	00066D67E4	F	15	Jambi/FZS	13-12-2009	Isolasi IIAB		
49	OU188	Mongky	0006B93768	F	4,5	Meulaboh/NAD	24-01-2010	Social B		
50	OU190	Seumayam	0006B989F8	M	7	Ujung Jarum-Nagan Raya/NAD	26-03-2010	Isolasi III A		
51	OU191	Kimong	0006B91B18	F	15	Tanjung Balai/North Sumatra	22-04-2010	Isolasi III A		
52	OU192	Mamat Lapan	0006B989F8	M	2	Sei Lapan, Langkat/North Sumatra	25-05-2010	Clinic/Isolasi ABC		
53	OU193	Mambo	0006B989F8	M	4	Sibolangit/North Sumatra	17-06-2010	Isolasi III B		

### **Medical cases of note:**

Medical check ups were completed for two orangutans - Kimong and Seumayam, while Mamat Lepad and Mambo had blood tests.

#### **Mambo**

Mambo is a new arrival, confiscated at Sibolangit, not far from the centre. This orangutan had been there for 1.5 years at a tourist area. During that period SOCP had investigated and coordinated with the Forestry Department to evacuate him, but the information was leaked over time and the owner hid him. Last month SOCP again received information regarding the orangutan. On 17 June 2010 the Forestry Department staff and SOCP team rescued him and Mambo was brought to the centre.



#### **Mamat Lepad**

Mamat Lepad was taken by Asril on 27 May 2010 from the Sei Lepad area. Originally Mamat Lepad was found by a farmer at his farm as he made a rubber clearing. The farmer tried to chase away the orangutan but Mamat Lepad sat silently and wouldn't move. Finally, the farmer took the orangutan, which appeared to be unhealthy, and housed him in the henhouse at the farm. The farmer attempted to care for him as a pet for a week, until he handed him over to SOCP. When he arrived in quarantine, Mamat Lepad was unhealthy, very thin (weighing only 1.4kg), had dry skin and appeared to suffer from dehydration. A faecal check revealed the presence of both *Strongyloides* and *Trichuris sp.* His appetite was very good; he was not a fussy eater and wanted all foods in large quantities. He was also given vitamins by way of mixing them in with pap (bolus).

For the first week in quarantine, Mamat received intensive care and resided in the clinic. After one week he showed good progress and was moved to the isolation cage with Chaka, Wenda and Suro. At night he was returned to the clinic.



Note; Mamat when he first arrived (left) and after one week in intensive treatment (right).

### Seumayam

In the two months since Seumayam arrived (26/03/10), he has never been seen using his left arm. The wound now appears to have dried out, but his arm appears to be useless. The problem has been discussed with Dr. Andreas Messikomer (a Swiss orthopaedic surgeon), and it was suggested that a nerve sensitivity test be undertaken with an electromyogram. We were not able so far to borrow a proper EMG machine (apparently there are only 2 in Medan), but we were able to borrow an electro-stimulator from RS Adam Malik and the nerves were tested under the supervision of a local Neuro Surgeon from the Military Hospital, Dr Bayu Dewanto. The result showed two of the 3 nerves appeared to be functioning okay, but not the radial nerve, meaning that Seumayam's arm is unable to make any extensor movement. The problem may have been caused by damage to his shoulder, causing extra strain. The next decision of how to treat Seumayam is pending ongoing discussions.



a.



b.

Note ; a. Seumayam with his left hand in quarantine; b. Seumayam in the location he was confiscated from, still using his left hand to hold the chain.



a.



b.

Note: a. Using the electro stimulator on Seumayam in quarantine; b. Xray of his left shoulder.

The next plan is to discuss with other colleagues and attempt to solve the arm problem, as well as get a human neurologist to check and test with the EMG (electro myograph) to check muscle and nerve function.

### Kimong

This orangutan was confiscated from a private mini zoo at Tanjung Balai in North Sumatra. The owner was a businessman, Mr. Abi Besok. The zoo also contains other species such as elephant, tiger and sun bear. Rumour has it that there were previously two orangutans in the zoo, but one was killed by a tiger (the orangutan and tiger cages were adjacent). Kimong had resided at the zoo for the past eight years until the SOCP team and Forestry Department evacuated her on 22 April 2010



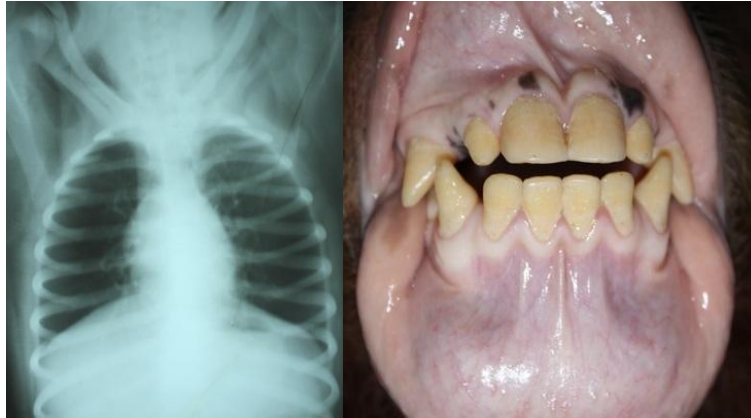
a.



b.



c.



d.

e.

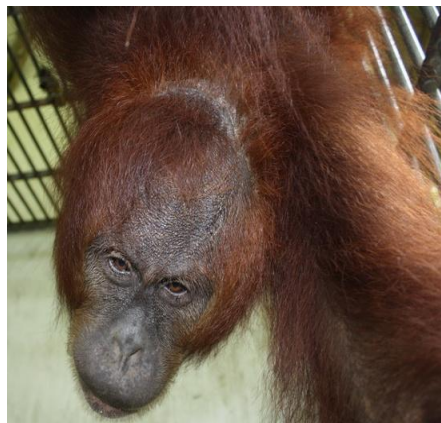
Note: a. Kimong in her cage; b. Vet (Drh. Yenny) during evacuation; c. Kimong during medical check; d. Kimong's chest x-ray; e. Kimong's teeth and gums.

### Masita

Masita's current condition is satisfactory; her head wound has closed perfectly. She is now housed in Isolation cage Block II B and C. Masita is now also well known for destroying almost all enrichment provided to her in her cage, much to the frustration of Hannah (researching behavioural enrichment) and the keepers! When presented with enrichment such as tyre hammocks, fire hose hammocks, visual barriers and others she tends to try to bite and forcibly remove them as quickly as possible!



b.



c.



Note: a. Masita today; b. After) Wound healing and closed completely; c. (Before) Masita's original wound

### Dek Nong

Dek Nong's condition is quite stable, her appetite and behaviour is the same as in the last reporting period. Physically, however, her left forearm is showing signs of redness and swelling. This swelling is similar in appearance to other swellings, but is not in the joints. Upon x-ray it was found that the bone is actually swollen and exhibits an empty space, and it is unknown as to why this has occurred. The problem was discussed with an orthopaedic surgeon and it was suggested that a biopsy sample be taken first to try to determine the cause.



**Bone (ulna) swelling and empty space inside the bone**

### **Other Activities:**

#### **Behavioural Enrichment**

Quarantine staff and Hannah (a student from Cambridge University) assembled and implemented behavioural enrichment material in a number of isolation cages, the permanent isolation cage and at the socialisation cage. Enrichment material has been constructed from used fire hose, blue barrels, used tyres etc.



Note: a. Staff assembling and fixing the enrichment

#### **Baby Facilities**

Toward the end of March 2010 the builders started work on the planned new infant care facility, located near the food storage. The building size is approximately 8m X 12m with facilities such as: a room for staff, small kitchen, bathroom, inside and outside enclosure etc. At the beginning of June the building progression stands at about 70% complete.



### **Transferring Orangutans to Jambi**

On Monday, 7 June 2010, ten orangutans were transferred to Jambi by car and truck. The individuals transferred were: Mamut (OU144), Tobi (OU145), Robert (OU149), Delavita (OU151), Vewe (OU153), Nando (OU154), Virina (OU159), Juna Dezky (OU162), Butet (OU178) and Sakdiah (OU181). The orangutans were accompanied by one keeper (Hendri) and the vet (Drh. Yenny). The journey took approximately 35 hours to Muara Tebo, Jambi, followed by a further 5 hours off-road by car to the reintroduction station. Yenny and Hendri also visited the Lubuk Kambing Station in order to check on the condition of Bim-Bim (OU18), who was reportedly quite ill.



Orangutan being darted while a keeper attracts attention    Anaesthetised orangutan being moved to the transport cage



Transport cages being loaded onto the truck on the main road, about 2 km from the Batu Mbelin quarantine centre near Medan, prior to the long journey

### Capacity building, training and research:

- Drh. Yenny attended a training session on, "Implanting sub-cutaneous radio transmitters for monitoring reintroduction orangutans" at Nyaru Menteng, South Kalimantan from 25-29 April 2010.
- Hannah Rose Trayford continued her research regarding behavioural enrichment, assembling, implementation and results.
- Ricko Layno Jaya (a Syiah Kuala University veterinary student) studied the work in quarantine.

### Plan for next 3 months:

- Repainting all empty cages at the isolation cage, permanent isolation and socialisation cages metal walkway
- Introduction of the two blind orangutans Leuser and Gober (full body contact)
- Help student (Hannah RT) to implement behavioural enrichment to all orangutans
- Re-check Seumayam's hand status and get an EMG (Electro Myogram) to check nervous function on his hand (neurologist to assist)
- Re-check Dek Nong's condition due to hand swelling (take biopsy sample from the bone and the skin)
- Bim-Bim (OU 18) will return from Jambi due to chronic illness (first week of July 2010)
- International Orangutan Veterinary workshop at Sibolangit, North Sumatra, August 2-6, 2010
- Transfer of more orangutans to Jambi or Jantho, if possible (5-8 orangutans)
- Melanie Panayiotou, veterinary student from Murdoch University, Australia, to spend 3 months in Sumatra investigating the most difficult cases we have (such as Dek Nong, Beckham, Masita etc.)

**Dr Ian Singleton**  
**Conservation Director, SOCP**  
**July 2010**