Avery important result for 2017, which we are all very proud of, was the joint study identifying the new orangutan species, namely the Tapanuli orangutan. Our long-term programme in the region was foundational, as since 2005 we have been working in the Batang Toru Ecosystem, the last and only home in the world of the species. Unfortunately, although newly identified they are already considered the world’s most endangered great ape, with less than 800 remaining and some very serious threats to their habitat in place. In addition to contributing to this new discovery, in 2017 the routine orangutan post-release monitoring teams in our Jantho Orangutan Reintroduction Station in Aceh were delighted to find not one but two of the very first wild-born infant orangutans in the entirely new wild population of orangutans we are working to establish.

We are also happy to report that construction is running very well up at the Orangutan Haven. With the Orangutan Islands coming along nicely, and expected to be completed by the end of 2018. Otherwise we continue to conduct orangutan behavioural and habitat monitoring in Batang Toru, Jantho, Sikundur, and the Suq Balimbing stations stretching nearly the entire distribution of the species, and across each main habitat type! PPLH Bohorok team has also been much more active and engaging with an increased number of people on environmental education and organic farming, with much activity also in and around our EcoLodge Bukit Lawang.

Thankfully we also have the support of great partners, in many forms, be it from private citizens to other non-government organisations. But of course without collaboration from the Indonesian government, including Ditjen KSDAE, Ministry of Environment and Forestry and its UPT (BBTNGL, BKSDA Sumatera Utara and BKSDA Aceh), none of what we do would be possible. So, we thank you all for your partnerships and support, and we look forward to many more positive developments and successes together in the future!
A main highlight of 2017, not just for YEL-SOCP but also for the global primate community, has been the description a new species of orangutan, published in November 2017 in the scientific journal Current Biology (Nater et al. 2017). The Tapanuli orangutan, *Pongo tapanuliensis*, which has been the focus of our forest conservation efforts in Batang Toru for more than a decade, was found to be genetically and morphologically distinct from both Bornean (*Pongo pygmaeus*) and Sumatran orangutans (*Pongo abelii*), and is therefore a separate species. The three orangutan species—Bornean, Sumatran and Tapanuli—began to diverge from their common ancestor about 3.4 million years ago. The new orangutan species announcement created a lot of media attention and press conferences were held at the Ministry of Environment and Forestry in Jakarta and at the Governor’s office in Medan, North Sumatra Province.

“Despite only just now being described, with so few individuals left, the Tapanuli orangutan is already the most endangered great ape species in the world”, stated Matthew Nowak, Director of SOCP’s Biodiversity Monitoring Unit. Orangutans reproduce extremely slowly, and if more than 1% of the population is lost annually this will spiral the Tapanuli orangutan to extinction.

“We have worked with the local governments in Tapanuli since 2005 to socialize the various environmental services that the Batang Toru Ecosystem provides for local communities living near the forest, and their livelihoods, and in 2014 the Government finally granted protection status to most of the forest”, stated Burhanuddin, who focuses on community awareness and local stakeholder relations for YEL-SOCP.

A newly proposed hydrodam poses a huge threat, as it will affect the area with the highest density of this newly described great ape, and will further isolate their populations. A large gold mine, encroachment, and illegal logging are other threats continue to imperil the Batang Toru ecosystem, and hence the existence of the new species. The Tapanuli orangutan is now listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List: [http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/120588639/0]. So as ever, now is the time to act to save them.
Since 2011, the SOCP has reintroduced 101 ex-captive rehabilitant Critically Endangered Sumatran orangutans have been reintroduced into the Jantho Nature Reserve in Aceh Province, Sumatra. Subsequent to release, it is very important to monitor and have indicators that an animal reintroduction programme is successfully reaching its goal of establishing a new wild population of animals. On average, YEL—SOCP's Jantho field team has been able to monitor 16.8 individual orangutans per month (range=7–29 individuals) from the first releases in April 2011 through 2017, though naturally these were not always the same set of individuals. When calculated as a percentage relative to the total possible number of orangutans that could be found and followed within the site, on average 41.3% of the total growing population (range=17.4–100.0%) has been monitored each month from 2011–2017.

One undeniable indicator of reintroduction programme success is the presence of natural births among reintroduced animals, which signifies that the habitat is appropriate for a healthy reproducing population. After nearly seven years of reintroducing orangutans at Jantho, we were all eagerly anticipating the first birth of the relatively young aged population. As such, we were delighted to have discovered the first Jantho wild born infant in September, when we encountered Marconi, a 12–16 year old reintroduced female orangutan with a new male infant, named Masen (after the Ulu Masen Ecosystem—which Jantho sits within), who was gauged to be around 6–8 months of age. It was much to our further delight then in November, when we came across Mongki, an adult female that we released back in 2011, together with ‘Mameh’ (meaning ‘beautiful’ in the local Acehnese language) – the first female infant born in Jantho. Both of these mothers were rescued from the illegal pet trade, where they had been kept in horrible conditions, with chains around their necks to hold them in place.

We are thus so happy that they have been given a second chance at a free life in the forests where they belong, and further that they are creating new life and a new hope for the species.

We are proud to have been able to help these new mothers and all of the other orangutans that have passed through our care, and thankful of the support we have received from around the world to conduct this work. We look forward to many more births and the creation of an independently viable population at Jantho!

“This is really great news. After several years of reintroducing orangutans in Jantho we are finally seeing the results of all our hard work. With Masen, and now Mameh, we are witnessing the beginnings of the new population we’re trying to establish, one that will eventually be comprised of individual orangutans that have never experienced captivity or contact with humans. Mongki’s new female infant gives all of us hope that we really can prevent the extinction of these amazing creatures.”

– Muhklsin, manager of the Jantho Reintroduction Centre –
A major focus of the SOCP is our specialist Rehabilitation and Quarantine Centre, a newly expanded four-hectare complex at Batu Mbelin, North Sumatra, which is the only such station for Critically Endangered orangutans in Sumatra. Its main function is on the confiscation, care and rehabilitation of individuals rescued from the illegal pet trade as well as wild orangutans displaced from the forest (ie orangutans isolated in areas being converted to non-forest uses, such as oil palm plantations) that need medical attention before being returned to a new forest home.

In 2017 there were 14 new arrivals to Centre. Of these 7 of the orangutans were below 4 years age. Upon arrival at the Center our team conducts full medical check up to assess each individual condition and investigate any abnormalities. The medical check-up consists of physical examination, blood and fecal sampling for pathogen screening, chest radiography and tracheal wash sampling for tuberculosis test. While waiting for the laboratory results the orangutan will be placed in the individual cage separated from the rest of population currently at the station. This quarantine period last for about 3 months – but please don’t worry, we also take each orangutan out from their holding cages, it’s just that we keep them separated from other orangutans until we know they are healthy!

Once they pass this initial phase they will join other orangutans in the Socialisation Facility at the centre. Just as with human babies, mothers play an incredibly important role model for young orangutans for receiving care and learning the skills needed to survive independently. However, for ex-captive orangutans that have all lost their mothers to the illegal pet-trade/conflict, a peer group of other orangutans has to the surrogate support needed to learn and to develop the skills to survive and thrive in the wild forests of Sumatra. Therefore we place the orangutans into socialisation groups, which enables them to interact and learn from other orangutans, known as social learning. To boost the learning process take the orangutans outside of the holding cages and let them explore the surrounding forest environment in what we term the Forest School setting. We now have three Forest Schools on-site, having in 2017 secured 1.6 hectares adjacent to the original land. Two of these consist of tracts of natural forest, supplemented with rubber hoses and hammocks to encourage more climbing and nest-building, and 1 specialist infant Forest School, comprised of bamboo shoots and basic climbing implements, which allow for human caretakers to maintain close watch and control over the younger orangutans under our care.

Here the orangutans begin (re)learning about life in the trees, and are able to socialize with one another, practice climbing and traversing through the forest, building nests, and foraging in a naturalistic setting. This is a vital aspect of their rehabilitation, learning from their peers and developing skills in the forest setting, all as preparation for eventual reintroduction to the wild. The latest Forest School on the new land is particularly good for foraging training, as since the land was formerly a mixed-agroforestry garden, there are many fruit trees that the orangutans can feed from! We also occasionally mix age groups, so that the infants can interact with and learn from those in the older socialization groups, which also serves to acclimatize the older orangutans to younger ones in the forest - all scenes that will eventually play out on their own in the forests where we are creating new, viable populations of the species.
Biodiversity Monitoring Unit

During 2017

A Very Busy Field Season

YEL - SOCP’s Biodiversity Monitoring Unit had a very busy 2017 field season. At each of our orangutan monitoring stations, our teams worked tirelessly to find, follow, and better understand the behaviour of wild orangutan populations. At our Batang Toru station, which consists of primarily upland tropical rainforest, our monitoring team conducted 84 individual orangutan follows, for a total of 672 follow hours. Similarly, at our Sikundur station, consisting of lowland regenerating tropical rainforest, our team conducted 291 individual orangutan follows, amounting to 2,989 follow hours.

Finally, at our Suaq Balimbing station, which consists of lowland peat swamp forest, our team assisted by visiting researchers conducted 405 individual orangutan follows, for a total of 3,872 follow hours. Provided that these stations represent the full range of habitat types for orangutans on Sumatra, the information generated from these follows, when combined with the climatological and phenological patterns that are also monitored monthly at stations, provides us with a powerful tool for our ongoing conservation strategies.

At our Jantho reintroduction station, our monitoring team also conducted 1,247 individual orangutan follows, amounting to 12,200 follow hours. In addition, our Jantho remote monitoring team conducted 10 remote surveys, amounting to a total of 294 km walked. During these surveys, our teams spotted 115 orangutan nests and seven orangutans directly.

For the seven direct orangutan contacts, it had been between 1-2 years since the last time that they had been observed. The orangutan follows and remote surveys allow us to better monitor the orangutan population and have highlighted that individual orangutans are capable of surviving for years without human provisioning.

In addition to our usual monitoring work, we hosted and/or sponsored both local and international researchers at each one of our stations. A total of 19 local student research projects were sponsored by YEL - SOCP in 2017, from universities such as Andalas University, Bogor Agricultural Institute, Medan Area University, University of North Sumatra, and University of Syiah Kuala. Additionally, we hosted 18 international researchers, from universities such as Bournemouth University, Southern Illinois University, and University of Zurich.

While a large proportion of these projects were orangutan related, including topics such as diet, mother-infant interactions, nest making, orangutan development, male interactions, and orangutan vocalizations, a number of other projects focused on other animal species or forest ecology, ranging from ant/termite species inventories and taxonomy to elephant surveys, local vegetation, microclimate in relation to primate behavior, and siamang vocalizations. These projects, coupled with our ongoing work, highlight the importance of our field projects to the ongoing understanding of orangutans, but also the local flora and fauna that inhabit their remaining forested habitats.
There are a number of orangutans at our Rehabilitation Station who are permanently incapacitated by conditions including paralysis and blindness, which are largely the direct result of human impacts on their lives. They can never be released, either for their own safety or to prevent the spread of disease amongst wild primate populations, and therefore face the prospect of spending the rest of their lives in individual cages (potentially as long as 50 years or more), unless a more acceptable solution can be found. With the Orangutan Haven we plan to provide these orangutans with a more positive and meaningful future and in doing so communicate the plight of their Critically Endangered wild cousins and the realities of the situations they face to a wide audience. We reached a number of milestones at the Orangutan Haven in 2017 with the completion of the 30-meter long spectacular bamboo bridge and nearby a micro hydro power plant, with a capacity of 6.5 kW capacity, providing enough energy for 50% of the Haven’s total need – with the remainder generated through a solar power array, estimated to be constructed by 2020. Besides that, we also cleared out an 1,800 meter main arterial access road running across the site, and began forming the 9 islands where the permanent resident “unreleaseable’ orangutans” will get a be

The Micro Hydro Machine to support the electricity at Orangutan Haven (Suryadi)
In 2017 there was a considerable increase in the number of visitors to our environmental education centre in Bohorok. Due to the increasing number of programmes on offer. These include modules on organic farming, waste management, forest conservation, capacity building, cooking classes and many others, which presented in an interesting way for national and international visitors (edutainment). Total there were 1,609 visitor that have visited PPLH Bohorok, from schools universities, government institutions and private companies from around the world.

PPLH Bohorok has also been active in conducting community-based activities, namely community development in the field of organic agriculture focus in assisting the farmers group in organic practices training and certification as well product marketing. So far, there are about 10 farmers group that have been formed, whose grow various types of organic vegetables and fruits.

In the external aspect, PPLH Bohorok maintains relationships with stakeholders, such as the North Sumatra Environmental Office, local government agencies, schools, companies, NGOs, interest groups and talents, the general public, and others.

We have also been active in presenting a series of awareness activities to the community around the Leuser Ecosystem, during this time focused on four sub-districts in Langkat Regency of North Sumatra province.

Through this we aim to share information related to protected animals in the region and animal monitoring activities conducted by YEL at our Orangutan monitoring stations throughout the island.

In terms of programme strengthening, PPLH Bohorok has initiated the planning of cooperation with various relevant government departments in order to socialize their “Tropical Rainforest, Amazing Ecosystem” textbooks, to be used as student learning materials in 2018.

Internal training has also been a routine agenda undertaken by PPLH Bohorok since 2017. This training is expected to build the capacity of PPLH Bohorok and Ecolodge Bukit Lawang teams to be more solid and better awareable to socialize environmental issues to others.
In 2017 we have been very active in closing illegal drainage canals in the Tripa Peat Swamps of South Aceh province. This is done with the aim of rewetting the peat swamp ecosystem conditions, so it can be return to its natural state and provide its natural and highly valuable environmental services.

Regular monitoring of the area is also being conducted, through ground surveys, drone flights and remote sensing via satellite imagery. Monitoring results are then reported to the government management unit for Tripa (Kesatuan Pengelolaan Hutan – KPH) to be followed up, including illegal clearing of land and also fire hotspots. The regular monitoring has been very helpful to the government in the securing the conservation of the area – with there being a return of natural vegetation in some locations, especially where canals have been blocked, as the water level can be maintained. We are also happy to report that there have been fewer incidents of fire in Tripa in 2017 – so although there’s still work to be done progress is being made!

Sustainable Community development activities are also still running and are being strengthened. In general, the community groups have been self-sufficient and able to run their own businesses and it has become the source of income for the family. Beside engaging in several organic and livestock management trainings for the local community, the focus of community assistance activities conducted by YEL in Tripa in 2017 is also a visit to schools around Tripa. There are 3,500 students who have been visited from 38 different schools. School visits are conducted to inform students about the essential functions of Tripa peat swamps and the importance of saving it.
## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Balance Sheet (in IDR)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets:</th>
<th>2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash &amp; Cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Account Receivables</td>
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<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
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<td>Mobile Fixed Assets</td>
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<td>Immobile Fixed Assets</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL ASSETS</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities &amp; Shareholders’ Equity:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Accruals / Balance carried forward</td>
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<td>Foundation’s members fund</td>
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<td>Other Funds</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY</strong></td>
<td><strong>22,183,407,875.00</strong></td>
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### Statement of Activities (in IDR)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Income:</th>
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<tr>
<td>From Donation</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
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<th>Project Costs:</th>
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<td>Conservation Division</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL PROJECT COSTS</strong></td>
<td><strong>24,867,393,159.79</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SURPLUS**                            | **710,654,520**                          |

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## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

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- Ian Singleton
- Sofyan Tan
- Tracey Yani
- Harjatanya
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- Stefanie Frey

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- Burhanudin - Batang Toru Daily Manager
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- Suherry Aprianto - Orangutan Haven Coordinator
SUPPORTERS 2017

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- Abaxis, Inc
- Orangutan Veterinary Advisory Group (OVAG)
- Ape Tag AZA Ape TAG Conservation Initiative
- Arcus Foundation
- Auckland Communities Foundation (Auckland Zoo)
- Chester Zoo
- Darin Family
- Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
- European Association of Zoos and Aquaria
- Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo
- Fort Worth Zoo
- Full Circle Foundation
- Global Conservation
- Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries
- Greenville Zoo
- Indianapolis Zoological Society
- International Primate Protection League
- Jakarta Animal Aid Network (JAAN)
- JMG Foundation
- LUSH
- Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund
- Orangutan Coffee Project
- Orangutan Conservancy
- Orangutan Land Trust
- Orangutan Foundation UK
- Orangutan Outreach
- Orangutan Veterinary Aid (OVAID)
- Orang-Utans in Not e.V.
- PanEco Foundation
- Philadelphia Zoo
- Portland AAZK (Oregon Zoo)
- Prince Bernhard Nature Fund
- ProWildlife e.V.
- Rainforest Trust
- Raw Wildlife Encounters
- SavingSpecies
- Scholl Foundation
- Sumatran Orangutan Society
- The Body Shop
- The Orangutan Project
- The Richard Cann Wildlife Foundation
- Toronto Zoo
- University of Zurich
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- VegVoyages
- Wildlife Asia
- Woodland Park Zoo (PSAAZK)
- Zoo de la Boissière du Doré
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Cover Photos
Front cover: Adult male Tapanuli Orangutan (Tim Laman)
Inside front cover: Waterfall in Batang Toru (Maxime Aliaga)
Inside back cover: Marconi and Masen in Jantho (Maxime Aliaga)
Back cover: The Aceh River in Jantho (Suryadi)