



BOS CANADA

NEWS 2009

FOR THE PROTECTION OF WILD AND REHABILITANT ORANGUTANS & THEIR NATIVE HABITAT

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ABOUT BOS CANADA

BOS Canada is an independent, registered Canadian charity founded to support orangutan conservation and to raise awareness of the serious threats to orangutan survival. We are dedicated to protecting wild and rehabilitant orangutans and their native habitat. Activities in Canada focus on education and fundraising. Donations and other funds raised support orangutan protection in the field, in Indonesia and Malaysia, e.g., rescuing displaced wild orangutans, rehabilitating ex-captives to forest life, and surveying existing orangutan populations and habitat. We operate entirely by dedicated volunteers, minimizing administrative costs and ensuring that the funds we raise reach the field projects we support.

ORANGUTAN UPDATE: HOW MANY REMAIN?

A recent review (Wich et al., 2008) estimates that the number of orangutans remaining in the wild is approximately **55,100**, with roughly:

6,500 orangutans in Sumatra
48,600 orangutans in Borneo

Due to rapid forest lost, these numbers continue to diminish at an alarming rate. The authors conclude that "unless extraordinary efforts are made soon, [orangutans] could become the first great ape species to go extinct."

Wich, S. A. et al. (2008). Distribution and conservation status of the orang-utan (*Pongo spp.*) on Borneo and Sumatra: how many remain? *Oryx*, 42(3), 329-339.

THE THINGS THEY DO FUN FROM THE FOREST: STORIES FROM EXPERIENCES OBSERVING ORANGUTANS BY LAURA ADAMS

I observed orangutans for my masters thesis "Social Learning Opportunities in Orangutans". However, the orangutans also observed me, with just as much detail and interest.

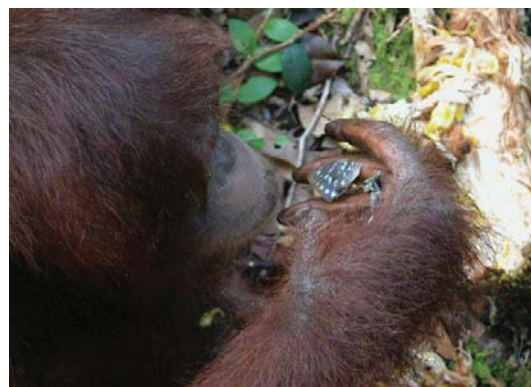
Such an event started one day when a vibrant blue butterfly landed on my knuckle as I was taking notes. I peered in awe of its bright delicate beauty. People are always concerned about terrifying creatures of the rainforest like pythons and tarantulas. They forget that the majority of the little beings they encounter are benign and fascinating. I did not have a true sense of the biodiversity we are trying to protect until I saw the variability of ants--red, black, striped, some so tiny you can hardly see them, others the size of toonies. Beetles can be iridescent, in cumbersome armor, or sculptured in silly shapes that make me feel like I am in Wonderland.

As I rotated my wrist to see all angles of the butterfly's powdery wings, a nearby orangutan called Cheta picked up on my sudden careful interest. She approached and leaned in close over my shoulder to see what I was inspecting. For a moment we both watched the butterfly intently. Then Cheta reached toward it, but I quietly rested my other hand on hers to prevent her from grabbing the tiny but magnificent insect. Cheta continued to watch the butterfly and then leaned forward and blew very gently and deliberately at it. The butterfly took flight, but only for a brief dainty circle above us, and then returned to its perch on my hand. After a moment, Cheta blew a second puff of air at the butterfly and the

butterfly again flew a leisurely ballet and returned to my hand. Cheta blew at the butterfly a third time and the butterfly again repeated its flight, but this time it landed on Cheta's hand. Cheta carefully lifted her hand and rotated her wrist to see it closely, inspecting every detail just as I had done. Then, with her other hand she snatched the butterfly and shoved it in her mouth!

For the rest of the summer, Cheta ate butterflies regularly and was the only orangutan that I observed doing so. This event actually ended up in my data as potential social learning of a new food source (luckily, butterflies are not harmful to orangutans). I also learned just how quickly orangutans can learn from us, an important detail to keep in mind when rehabilitating ex-captives and evaluating ecotourism!

Laura is a PhD student at York University under the supervision of Dr. Anne Russon. She collected observational data at Nyaru Menteng and Samboja Lestari Rehabilitation



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year we broadened our scope, to obtaining grants for our own projects in addition presenting lectures and offering conservation grants. We were pleased to welcome Dr. Kristin Andrews as a member of our Board of Directors, Seema Duggal as our Treasurer, and Jackie Craig and Michael Reid as education and communication coordinators respectively.

Forest schools grant and project. With the support of a collaborative Knowledge Mobilization Grant from York University, a BOS Canada team (Anne Russon, Laura Adams, Purwo Kuncoro, and Joshua Smith) developed designs for age-graded forest schools for the behavioral rehabilitation for immature ex-captive orangutans. Forest schools may be among the most effective programs for rehabilitating ex-captive orangutans to free forest life. They are typically protected areas of local forest into which small groups of healthy youngsters are placed to encourage their learning forest and social skills. Some function reasonably well but problems have arisen, pitfalls are known, and no standards exist. Our aim was to develop guidelines for orangutan forest schools that improve methods for fostering adaptive and discouraging counterproductive learning, improve evaluation of individual orangutan's progress, respect international standards, and facilitate early identification and remediation of problems.

We completed these guidelines and offered them to the BOS orangutan reintroduction project in East Kalimantan. This project is now establishing a new release site for returning its ex-captives to forest life, so it should need new forest schools in the near future. Hopefully, these guidelines will prove useful in developing these facilities. For those interested, the guidelines are available on our website (see www.orangutan.ca/article)

Great Ape Guidelines on Reintroduction and Conflict: Translation and grant. Over the last few years, the Great Ape Section of the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Primate Specialist Group has published several sets of "best practices" guidelines in aid of great ape conservation. We are very pleased that they have been translating these guidelines into the languages of great ape habitat countries, and even more pleased that Purwo Kuncoro, a BOS Canada member, is translating both conflict and reintroduction guidelines into Indonesian. The Indonesian version of the reintroduction guidelines is now

completed and will soon be available electronically; the conflict guidelines will be posted as soon as they are available. We obtained a grant from the Great Ape Trust of Iowa to print and distribute the reintroduction guidelines in Indonesian and hope to have them ready for an orangutan workshop planned for mid 2010.

(see www.orangutan.ca/article and <http://www.primates-sg.org/sga.htm>)

The Show Must Not Go On: Ending Orangutans in Entertainment—Dr. Rob Shumaker. On April 15, we were proud to co-sponsor, with Zoocheck Canada, a lecture by Dr. Rob Shumaker on recovering orangutans from the entertainment industry. Dr. Shumaker is a resident scientist at the Great Ape Trust of Iowa, which aims to provide the best possible care for great apes in captivity. Mainly due to Dr. Shumaker's efforts, the Trust brought an end to the use of orangutans in entertainment in the USA just a few months before his lecture. This is considered a landmark achievement in ending the inappropriate treatment of orangutans and one with wide-reaching implications. Dr. Shumaker is also recognized as a specialist in the study of great ape intelligence, has appeared in numerous documentaries because of his research, and author of numerous scientific papers and books, including his most recent book *Primates in Question*.

BOS Canada Conservation Grants. In 2009, we continued and expanded our small conservation grants program in support of projects that contribute to orangutan conservation. We offered funds to four projects (Lita Kabangnga, Gail Campbell-Smith, Panut Hadiswoyo, Laura Adams). These projects are still ongoing, so their reports will appear in our next newsletter. We raised additional funds to assist the Great Ape Trust support the entertainment orangutans they have rescued.

Looking ahead. For BOS Canada, plans for 2010 include putting our 2009 projects into practice, sponsoring more lectures by field experts who are doing important work to protect orangutans and other great apes, funding more conservation-oriented work in orangutan habitat, and undertaking conservation work in the field ourselves.

We sincerely thank all our members, volunteers, contributors, and donors who have enabled our work to date, and very much hope that we can count on continued support this coming year.

VOLUNTEERS, SPONSORS, & DONORS

Many thanks to all the volunteers, sponsors, and donors who helped BOS Canada in 2009

VOLUNTEERS

Laura Adams	Purwo Kuncoro
Adam Bebko	Bill Longo
Elaine Belore	Kim Meehan
Darryl Burgess	Charmaine Quinn
Jackie Craig	Michael Reid
Kaaren Dickson	Joshua Smith
Seema Duggal	Devin Whalen
Rachel Horton	(webmaster)
Diane Kalil	

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MY THIRD JOURNEY TO SEPILOK ORANGUTAN REHABILITATION CENTRE, BORNEO. **BY CHARMAINE QUINN**

I recently returned from my third summer at the Centre. During my visit I was able to see the progress of the baby group who are in their first stage, socializing with other toddlers and starting their daily climbing lessons, the nursery group who are now in the second stage of their programme and the juvenile group, many who are now at Platform 4, an area in the protected Kabili Forest where the more confident orangutans who are becoming self-sufficient are being released.

Since Sepilok has a soft-release programme, the orangutans at Platform 4 are given provisional feedings of bananas and milk daily. There are Release Readiness Criteria in place at the Centre whereby orangutans should be able to build a nest, have the experience of as many forest foods as possible, possess good climbing skills, prefer orangutan over human contact, have experience with a least one fruiting cycle at a release site, and post-release monitoring.

I was also able to assist Sylvia Alsisto, the Officer in Charge of Sepilok during my stay and with this privilege I was able to meet former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his family, who were touring the facility. He was extremely complimentary of the work that is being done at Sepilok and enjoyed seeing the orangutans and their progress.

On my last day, I followed the research team and a primatologist from Japan to Platform 4. I saw many of the original group I have been involved with since 2006. One special female named Rosalinda recognized me, brought me a banana down from the platform, and handed it to me with a little whimper. Then she went back up and came down

with two more bananas, and gestured with her hands for me to take them. The primatologist turned to me and said "she remembers you, she likes you". It was a very emotional experience as orangutans do not have a history of sharing food unless it is between a mother and child. I am looking forward to returning next summer to do the project again and seeing their progress.



Ex- British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Charmaine Quinn at Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre

BOS CANADA CONSERVATION GRANTS

This year we are happy to fund four very exciting projects. **Lita Kabangnga**, a Master's student at the Institut Pertanian Bogor in Java, is studying orangutan nests and nest building in East Kalimantan. She is particularly interested in trying to determine how many nests orangutans build each day. **Gail Campbell-Smith**, a PhD student at the University of Kent, has a research project on human-orangutan conflict. She is seeking to find effective solutions for limiting conflicts so as to help promote the survival of wild orangutans in areas that are facing human encroachment. **Panut Hadiswoyo**, who is working with the Orangutan Information Centre in North Sumatra, is providing conservation education training for teachers in Sumatra so that they can go back to the classroom better equipped to teach their students about the value of the rainforest and the orangutans who live in them. She hopes to inspire the next generations to protect their natural resources. **Laura Adams**, a PhD student working with Anne Russon at York University, is examining the problem solving behavior of rehabilitant orangutans in order to better understand how to help them master the skills they will need to return to forest life. We look forward to hearing from our 2009 grant recipients on how their projects turned out, and will be publishing their reports in our next newsletter.

Our next call for grant applications will be announced on our website early in 2010. We support research and conservation efforts through our grants program because we think that by learning more about orangutan behavior, and by teaching others what is learned, we will be better able to help assure the continuation of orangutans in the wild.

CONSERVATION GRANTS

2010

BOS Canada holds a small grants program to support projects that contribute to orangutan conservation. For 2010 we have a fund aimed for awards in the \$ 500 to \$1,000 CAD range. We encourage applications from colleagues and students, especially those from orangutan habitat countries for whom a small grant can provide valuable assistance to their conservation efforts.

deadline for applications: March 31, 2010
for details, see www.orangutan.ca/conservation_grants

THE SHOW MUST NOT GO ON: ENDING ORANGUTANS IN ENTERTAINMENT

DR. ROB SHUMAKER

RESIDENT SCIENTIST, GREAT APE TRUST OF IOWA

On April 15, BOS Canada, in collaboration with Zoocheck Canada, was proud to present a lecture by Dr. Rob Shumaker on his work in achieving a major step towards ending inappropriate treatment of orangutans. Largely due to Dr. Shumaker's efforts, Great Ape Trust of Iowa reached an agreement with the last company in the USA using orangutans in entertainment. The agreement was to hand its eight orangutans over to the Trust and to sign a binding pledge not to work with orangutans in any entertainment capacity again. Rocky, then a 4-year old male and the most visible orangutan in show business (he posed with Fergie in *Elle* magazine), is among the orangutans included in this agreement.

This is considered a landmark achievement that will significantly and permanently change the use of orangutans in entertainment and media in the USA. A recently published Letter to *Science* magazine (March 14, 2008) presented data that show a clear link between depictions of great apes in entertainment and conservation attitudes of the general public. Depicting great apes frivolously gives the impression that they are not endangered and can undermine support for their conservation and welfare. Retiring these eight orangutans from entertainment then has the potential for tremendous positive impact in the conservation community. Some have suggested it will lead to the end of orangutans in entertainment in the United States. On top of the conservation and conservation education benefits, bringing these orangutans to Great Ape Trust of Iowa will dramatically improve their quality of life.

Dr. Shumaker is a recognized specialist on great ape intelligence. He has authored numerous scientific papers and books and appeared in numerous documentaries about his research. He has spoken in Toronto on his cognitive research but this is his first presentation on his work on welfare. Great Ape Trust aims to provide the best possible care for great apes in captivity. It works with its great ape residents

on non-invasive scientific projects that explore their intelligence and learning.

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**Media releases and website links** on the significance of this accomplishment below:

Lori Perkins, chair of the Orangutan Species Survival Plan and director of animal programs at Zoo Atlanta, calls the agreement a significant event with wide-ranging implications.  
[www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/07/080717092041.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/07/080717092041.htm)

A survey conducted of visitors to Great Ape Trust and cited in *Science* magazine (Mar 14, 2008) showed that the appearance of apes in advertising and entertainment negatively influenced the general public's perception of the conservation status of apes in the wild.  
[http://www.eurekalert.org/pub\\_releases/2008-07/gato-gat071608.php](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2008-07/gato-gat071608.php)

See more articles about these entertainment orangutans at [www.greatapetrust.org](http://www.greatapetrust.org)



Dr. Rob Shumaker



Rocky, now enjoying the freedom to roam forests at the Great Ape Trust.

## ***REPORT ON THE 2009 GREAT APE HEALTH WORKSHOP***

***BY MICHAEL J.C. REID***

From Aug 21-23, the Lake Victoria Hotel in Entebbe, Uganda hosted the 2009 Great Ape Health Workshop. This was the first conference on great ape health since the creation of the Great Ape Health Monitoring Unit (GAHMU) in 2004 in Leipzig, Germany. Four orangutan researchers attended, three of whom represented Borneans (myself, Drs. Michael Muelhenbein whose research is based at Sepilok in Sabah (Malaysia), Marc Ancrenaz who directs the Kinabatangan Orang-Utan Conservation Project (KOCP) in Sabah) and one represented Sumatrans (David Dellatore of the Sumatran Orangutan Society).

This successful workshop brought together experts in a wide variety of fields, such as veterinary medicine, parasitology, primate behaviour and ecology, and primate conservation. More than 20 talks on issues relating to great ape health were presented, on topics ranging from habituation of great apes at new research sites and great ape ecotourism to health and hygiene protocols at research and tourist sites the vaccination of great

apes against potentially and the vaccination of great apes against potentially deadly diseases.

Participants also broke off into smaller working groups on specific great ape health issues. Working groups discussed important issues such as health and hygiene protocols at research and tourist sites, ethical questions surrounding the treatment of wild great apes, investigating disease in great apes, routine monitoring of great ape health, and differences in disease-related deaths at different great ape sites. Each participant was asked to participate in two working groups and the findings of the working groups were presented to the rest of the workshop participants for discussion.

Results of the recommendations made by the working groups will be included in the IUCN good practice guidelines on the monitoring of disease in great apes. Overall it was a great conference on very important issues relating to great ape conservation.

## ***WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?***

***BY KRISTIN ANDREWS***

As Canadians, most of us don't get the chance to see an orangutan except on a screen or in a zoo. As someone who loves orangutans, you may enjoy watching an orangutan on a television show or advertisement. Shows that portray orangutans in their natural environment are one thing. But using orangutans as actors or models in the entertainment industry is another thing altogether. Even if the orangutan "star" is not abused physically or mentally and is not taken from his or her mother when he or she is too young—and it's questionable whether such non-abusive conditions ever exist—the results of using orangutans in entertainment may be disastrous for the species.

A recent study led by Steve Ross, the Supervisor of Behavioral and Cognitive Research at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago, suggests that people's beliefs about ape endangerment are related to their exposure to the species on television, in movies, or in advertisements. Visitors to the ape exhibit at the zoo were asked whether they thought that chimpanzees, gorillas, and orangutans were considered endangered species. Most visitors thought that gorillas and orangutans were endangered (95% and 91% respectively), but only 66% thought that chimpanzees were. When people were asked to explain their answers, what emerged was that people think chimpanzees are not endangered because they see them in Hollywood, as pets, actors and models. The visitors reasoned that if chimpanzees were endangered, they would not be used in this way.

And though people think that orangutans are more endangered

than chimpanzees by a long shot, those concerned about orangutan conservation still have reason to worry given the belief that chimpanzees are not endangered *because* they are in the media. It is worrying because orangutans are endangered; there are about 55,000 of them in the wild. And it is worrying because orangutans are appearing in advertisements and television shows as well. For example, last year the American insurance company Aflac used a young orangutan in a television commercial, and in Germany an orangutan was used in a print advertisement for Braun razors.

If the public perception of orangutan endangerment is related to their exposure on the media, it is important to limit the use of orangutans in entertainment and advertising campaigns. Orangutans need our help if they are going to survive in the forest, and they will only get our help if people know they need help. Education campaigns about orangutan conservation is one part of the solution, but we must make sure those campaigns are not undermined by popular advertisements portraying orangutans as pets or objects of amusement.

What can you do to help? If you see a commercial that uses a live orangutan, you can contact the public relations branch of the company and tell them that you are opposed to the use of orangutans in the media. Companies don't want to use controversial advertisements, and they are usually very responsive to such complaints. It only takes a minute, but a phone call or a written letter can do a lot.



## ***A SUMMER VISIT WITH RELATIVES—MY FIRST EXPERIENCE WITH WILD ORANGUTANS***

***BY ADAM BEBKO***



I recently completed my BA thesis at York University with Dr. Anne Russon, studying captive orangutans at the Toronto Zoo. Watching them for hours let me better appreciate the incredible intelligence and quietude of our red-haired cousins. Itching for more, I asked Prof. Russon if it would be possible to visit Indonesia during the summer to help with her research. She said it was a possibility, and eventually worked out a way for me to go and volunteer for her project (Orangutans Kutai) in Indonesia.

I arrived in East Kalimantan excited, jet-lagged, and nervous. I stayed in a residence at BOS' Orangutan Reintroduction Project at Samboja Lestari. There ex-captives live in cages or on islands, and some are taken into the forest during the day to learn forest survival skills. To minimize human contact, I was allowed to see only orangutans who tested positive for hepatitis-B, from a distance, who won't be released for fear of transmitting the disease to others. They were on a small forested island so I was excited to see them in a more natural set-

ting, although still reminiscent of zoo environments.

A few days later, we headed to Kutai National Park, one of the few large protected areas where wild orangutans still live in East Kalimantan. For the final leg, we got picked up by a pickup truck. My spot was out back on top of all our equipment! We drove through areas of what used to be rain-forest but are now completely destroyed by human settlements or banana and palm oil plantations. Out back, I also ate a lot of dust.

We finally reached the Sangatta River, which leads into the national park, loaded our gear into a boat, and went upriver to a research post. Along the banks we saw hornbills and gibbons. Not two minutes out of the boat, we spotted a female orangutan with her infant eating figs in a tree just a few meters away. The wild orangutans in this area are habituated to humans and don't mind being watched.

The next day, we headed farther upriver and camped for a week in a more remote area where orangutans are not habituated to humans. After days of only seeing a few orangutans from afar along the river, we finally ran into a female with her 5-6 year old child. Both got very agitated and began 'kiss-squeaking', a sound that irritated orangutans use to warn of intruders. We even saw one use a leaf-tool that it made to make the kiss-squeak louder and sharper. I couldn't believe we had observed tool-use on the very first sighting! These orangutans also broke off big branches and threw them at us, so we had to keep away and

dodge the debris. After they realized we meant them no harm, we were able to follow them. Dr. Russon decided to name the young male Adam after me! I was so honoured and surprised. It was also Dr. Russon's first time seeing an unhabituated orangutan from close up. We headed back to camp that night elated and excited.

For the next week we searched, sometimes bushwhacking through the jungle for hours with machetes. We ended up finding several more orangutans, including more mother/infant pairs. We used GPS handsets to track our movements and mark the most promising research areas.

After returning from the jungle I was put in charge of GPS data, made maps of the area, and loaded them into the GPS units. Now the GPS units show area maps that can be used to track the orangutans' ranging behaviour. My Indonesian experience with made me certain I would continue studying orangutans and try to help save such an amazing species. Next year I plan to attend graduate school in primatology.



Avoid products using non-sustainable rainforest resources  
 (e.g., protected tropical woods, palm oil)

Avoid activities that exploit or mistreat orangutans  
 (pets, entertainment, intrusive research)

Recycle, especially cell phones  
 ([www.eco-cell.org](http://www.eco-cell.org))

Support orangutans through **BOS Canada**  
 or other orangutan support organizations

Volunteer with BOS Canada

Donate to BOS Canada



## ORANGUTANS RECOVERING IN KUTAI NATIONAL PARK, E KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA

BY ANNE E. RUSSON

This year, I launched a new study of wild orangutans in Kutai National Park. The park spans 200,000 ha area of lowland tropical rainforest just N of the equator along the coast of East Kalimantan. It hosted the first orangutan research site in Kalimantan, Mentoko, where Peter Rodman did pioneering studies in 1970-71.

Kutai is now a far cry from what it was in Rodman's days. It twice suffered massive damage from forest fires that swept Borneo—first in 1982, a disaster of global proportions, then again in 1997-98. Commercial enterprises that now encircle the park have removed most of the original forest, and growing numbers of local people poach and clear forest to make their own farms.

Despite the damage, Kutai remains critical to orangutans. Authorities estimate that ca 60,000 ha of the park's forest survived unscathed and another ca 60,000 ha are recovering as secondary forest. By current estimates, Kutai now supports about 600 wild orangutans, the third largest protected population in E Kalimantan. Kutai's orangutans are also important as members of the *morio* subspecies, who represent the extreme of orangutan adaptation. E Kalimantan forests provide the poorest orangutan habitat, being the least productive of orangutan foods and

subject to the longest, most severe droughts. How Kutai's orangutans cope with these harsh conditions is an important question, because little research has been published on them for the last 20-25 years.

This first year's work, May-Aug, focused on finding and exploring a good research site. My team first joined a 5-day survey with park rangers up the Sangatta River, the park's northern boundary. We were encouraged to see good numbers of orangutan nests along the river and six orangutans. We followed this with a second survey downriver from Mentoko (rapids make upriver areas difficult to access) to check orangutan distribution more carefully and cut walking trails. This time, while we found high orangutan nest counts along the river, we found no orangutans themselves. The fruit season was over so orangutans may have moved to areas with better food—or they may simply have hid from the commotion of our hacking through the forest. But their absence worried me enough to make a third survey to search for them. We were fortunate to have the help of local staff who have worked with Kutai orangutans for years and know their habits. Thanks to them, we found four females with offspring in eight days, all plump and healthy, plus fresh orangutan plant damage in three other locations, so we just missed three more. This settled our research site, and we are now in the process of developing it. The good news: for orangutans that survived the terrible fires, things are finally getting better and they are doing well. With care, they should continue to flourish.

Beyond orangutan detecting, we had a good bit of adventure. For the first survey, we traveled up the Sangatta River overland because rapids make upriver boat travel extremely difficult, and then downriver by boat. Near our upriver camp, we found traces of illegal logging and extensive trails leading to felled trees, sawed lumber, and chainsaws which park rangers confiscated. Barely had we started downriver when we caught a second set of illegal loggers in the act; rangers confiscated their chainsaw too. Travel then continued smoothly until we hit rapids. We ran the first two rapids



Adam, wild juvenile observing the observers.

cleanly but had to walk past the third while six of the team roped our two boats down. The fourth rapids, aptly named House of Rocks, did us in. One boat snapped like a matchstick, on a rock, as the team tried to rope it down. No one was hurt and most of our goods were safe on shore, but the loss left us limping home in our one remaining boat. Other notable events include almost stepping on a 6-7m python asleep under leaves across our track, and one of the rangers getting bit by a poisonous centipede.

The last facet of this story is conservation. Our site is on the Sangatta River, so forest is protected on the south side of the river but not on the north. Poachers have clearly been entering the park by crossing the Sangatta River for a long time. Everywhere we surveyed, we found illegal trails reaching several km into the park and poachers' remains—old shelters, traps, skulls, and sawn remains of felled trees. A public road with heavy local traffic now runs along the north side of the Sangatta river, increasing risks to Kutai and its orangutans. Local people were actively clearing forest between the road and the river while I was there, and incursions into the park all now all the easier. It is well known that orangutans cluster along rivers—indeed, that is where we spotted them and most nests. These fires and incursions pose serious and immediate threats to Kutai orangutans' most important habitat and their lives. Our hope is that our research site can contribute to protecting orangutans in this sector of Kutai.



"Pirates of the Sangatta"



## ***REHABILITANT ORANGUTANS AT RISK FOR FUTURE CONFLICT WITH HUMANS***

***BY JOSHUA SMITH***

Orangutan-human interactions are potentially lethal, a controversial issue in orangutan tourism, and a central feature of orangutan rehabilitation. Yet interactions between orangutans and humans have received very little scientific study and orangutan contributions to interactions with humans in particular have been ignored. My recent observational research at the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundations' Orangutan Reintroduction Program at Samboja Lestari (ORP) identified a combination of factors likely to predispose rehabilitant orangutans to orient to and initiate interactions with humans.

Younger rehabilitants (i.e., juveniles, young adolescents) were more likely than older ones (i.e., older adolescents, adults) to initiate interactions with humans. Further, rehabilitants who had experienced longer duration rehabilitation from young ages (i.e. under 4 yr old) and close human contact procedures during rehabilitation were the most likely to orient to and initiate interactions with humans. Entry age may be a key component in this combination, because ex-captives who enter rehabilitation at early ages are more likely to re-

quire physical, social, and emotional support from humans, take longer to acquire the expertise needed to resume forest life,, and develop or continue attachments to humans. These factors probably put them at the greatest risk for future conflict with humans. This may be especially true of males , who appeared more likely to initiate interactions with humans and directed more aggressive behaviors to humans than females. This male combination of behaviors creates especially dangerous and potentially disastrous potential for conflict.

These findings have important implications for orangutan rehabilitation and the mediation of orangutan-human conflict. In light of the connection between early entry to rehabilitation and intense human contact and their contribution to human orientation, it seems particularly important to implement age-specific methods targeted to early entrants and designed to reduce human contact, prevent continued reliance on humans and reduce human orientation. Additionally, rehabilitants' human-directed behaviors should be assessed regularly as an indication of how

the "dehumanization" process is progressing, and procedures adjusted accordingly to ensure effective dehumanization to reduce the risk for post-release orangutan-human conflict.



Siah, tracking human visitors

## ***WORLD BANK ARM HALTS FINANCING TO PALM OIL INDUSTRY***

***SUMMARIZED FROM WWW.BUSINESSGREEN.COM***

On Sep 9, 2009, the World Bank's International Finance Corp (IFC) announced a moratorium on its investments in palm oil companies while it reviews the industry's funding practices.

The move came in response to an audit showing that the IFC breached standards on palm oil financing in its loans to Wilmar Int'l, one of the world's largest palm plantation owners, and the ensuing outcry from a coalition of 19 green groups.

The green coalition urged the IFC to freeze financing of palm oil projects in Indonesia until deficiencies in its policies were remedied. The President of the IFC agreed to

halt new investments until new strategies are in place.

Perhaps even more important, he asked the IFC to review the environmental and social performances of their palm oil investments, because of concerns over the environmental and social damage that palm oil development causes when its practices are not sustainable.

The IFC move has the potential to improve practices in the palm oil industry in the direction of greater sustainability. The help is needed, given buyers' resistance to paying the extra price for sustainably produced palm oil.

The IFC breach :

<http://www.businessgreen.com/business-green/news/2247986/ifc-breached-standards-palm-oil>

The green complaint :

<http://www.businessgreen.com/business-green/news/2247986/ifc-breached-standards-palm-oil>

Buyers snub sustainable palm oil :

<http://www.businessgreen.com/business-green/news/2242047/retailers-buying-sustainable>



## BOS CANADA IN THE NEWS

Toronto Star, *Entertainment is not for Orangutans*, interview with Dr. Rob Shumaker  
<http://www.thestar.com/article/618573>

National Post, *Travis the chimp was not crazy*, featuring comments by Laura Adams  
<http://www.nationalpost.com/story.html?id=1312435>

New York Times, *Humans intrude on Indonesian park*, with comments by Dr. Anne Russon  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/14/world/asia/14borneo.html>

*Orangutans Compared*, BOS Canada lecture by Serge Wich  
[http://ca.youtube.com/view\\_play\\_list?p=496C60FBBE1FAF34](http://ca.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=496C60FBBE1FAF34)

## NOTABLE READING

### Technical documents.

*Ape Tourism and Human Diseases: How close should we get?* Homsy, J 1999. Int'l Gorilla Conserv. [www.igcp.org/pdf/homsy\\_rev.pdf](http://www.igcp.org/pdf/homsy_rev.pdf)

*Designing forest schools for the rehabilitation of immature ex-captive orangutans.* Russon, A, Adams, L, Kuncoro, P & Smith, J. 2009. BOS Canada internal report.

*Guidelines for Great Ape Re-introduction.* Beck et al. 2007. IUCN/SSC Occasional Paper No. 35, Gland Switz. [www.primate-sg.org](http://www.primate-sg.org)

*Guidelines for the Better Management Practices on Avoidance, Mitigation and Management of Human-Orangutan Conflict in and around Oil Palm Plantations.* Yuwono et al. 2007. WWF Indonesia. [assets.panda.org/downloads/ou\\_bmt\\_report.pdf](http://assets.panda.org/downloads/ou_bmt_report.pdf)

*Hanging in the Balance: An assessment of trade in orang-utans and gibbons on Kalimantan, Indonesia.* Nijman, V 2005. TRAFFIC SE Asia. [www.wwf.or.jp/activity/wildlife/lib/KalimantanOrangUtan.pdf](http://www.wwf.or.jp/activity/wildlife/lib/KalimantanOrangUtan.pdf)

*IUCN Redlist of Threatened Species*, 2007. [www.iucnredlist.org](http://www.iucnredlist.org)

*IUCN Great Apes "best practices" guidelines:* <http://www.primate-sg.org/best.practices.htm>

*Losing Ground: The human rights impacts of oil palm plantation expansion in Indonesia.* 2008. Friends of the Earth. [www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/losingground.pdf](http://www.foe.co.uk/resource/reports/losingground.pdf)

*Orangutan Population and Habitat Viability Assessment: Final Report.* Singleton, I. et al. 2004. IUCN/SSC, Aug. 2004. [www.cbsg.org](http://www.cbsg.org)

*Strategi dan Rencana Aksi Konservasi Orangutan Indonesia 2007-2017.* Dirjen PHKA, Departemen Kehutanan Repub Indonesia, 2007.

*The Last Stand of the Orangutan—State of Emergency: Illegal logging, fire and palm oil in Indonesia's national parks.* Nelleman, C. et al. (ed.), 2007. UN Environment Program. [www.grida.no](http://www.grida.no)

*The Oil for Ape Scandal: How palm oil is threatening the orang-utan.* Buckland, H. 2005. Friends of the Earth. [www.foe.co.uk](http://www.foe.co.uk)

### Journals

IUCN journals freely available:

- <http://www.primate-sg.org/journals.htm>
- \*\* *African Primates* from 1(1) 1995  
<http://www.primate-sg.org/ap.htm>
- \*\* *Asian Primates Newsletter* from 1(1) 1991  
<http://www.primate-sg.org/as.htm>
- \*\* *Asian Primates Journal* from 1(1) 2008  
<http://www.primate-sg.org/apj.htm>
- \*\* *Lemur News* from No. 1 1996  
<http://www.primate-sg.org/ln.htm>
- \*\* *Neotropical Primates* from 1(1) 1993  
<http://www.primate-sg.org/np.htm>
- \*\* *Primate Conservation* from No 1. 1981  
<http://www.primate-sg.org/pc.htm>

### Recent books featuring orangutans.

Caldecott, J et al. 2005. *World Atlas of Great Apes and their Conservation*. Berkeley: Univ. California Press/ UNEP MCMC.

Forth, G (2009). *Images of the Wildman in Southeast Asia: An Anthropological Perspective*. Routledge: New York.

Laman T & Knott C 2009. *Face to Face with Orangutans*. National Geographic Society.

Payne, J & Prudente, C 2008. *Orangutans: Behavior, Ecology, and Conservation*. MIT Press, Cambridge MA.

Shumaker, R 2007. *Orangutans*. Voyageur Press, St. Paul MN.

Wich, SA et al (ed.) 2009. *Orangutans: Geographic variation in behavioral ecology and Conservation*. Oxford Univ. Press.

## WEBSITES WORTH CHECKING OUT

Orangutan Network: [www.aim.unizh.ch/orangutannetwork.html](http://www.aim.unizh.ch/orangutannetwork.html)

Grasp (UNEP Great Ape Survival Project): [www.unep.org/GRASP/](http://www.unep.org/GRASP/)

International Primate Protection League: [www.ippl.org](http://www.ippl.org)

International Primatology Society: [www.internationalprimatologicalsociety.org](http://www.internationalprimatologicalsociety.org)

PrimateLit Database: <http://primatelit.library.wisc.edu>

Primate Info Net: <http://pin.primate.wisc.edu>

International Directory of Primatology: <http://pin.primate.wisc.edu/idp>

Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme: [www.sumatranorangutan.org](http://www.sumatranorangutan.org)

Sumatra Deforestation (mapping) <http://www.sumatranforest.org/>

Year of the Gorilla: <http://www.yog2009.org/>

IUCN Great Ape Section: <http://www.primate-sg.org/publications.htm>

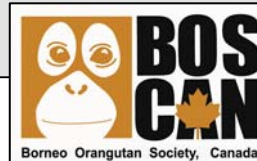
Sabah Orangutan workshop 2009:  
<http://thestar.com.my/lifestyle/story.asp?file=/2009/10/27/lifefocus/4847900&sec=lifefocus>



Photo by P. Kuncoro



Photo by P. Kuncoro

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