



## BOS CANADA

## NEWS 2007

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

# BORNEO ORANGUTAN SOCIETY CANADA

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thanks to Andrea Cowen for our logo

## 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, so that administrative costs are minimized and the funds we raise reach the field projects we support.

2007 was our second year of operation as a registered charity. It proved to be a landmark year. Several of our Directors and members visited orangutan conservation projects in Indonesian Borneo for purposes of research, reviewing project needs, and consulting or assisting programs for rehabilitating ex-captives to forest life. Three respected orangutan experts agreed to act as our Scientific Advisors. In Canada, we presented an exhibition of orangutan photos, published an up-to-date orangutan fact sheet, made our first grant to support orangutan conservation in Borneo, and made presentations to interested groups in Canada and Indonesia. We raised \$5,500 in support of orangutans, of which \$5,000 went to conservation projects in the field and the production of educational materials.

2007 brought enough support to enable us, in 2008, to launch a conservation grants program, gain a contract to translate great ape reintroduction guidelines into Indonesian, and invite top orangutan researchers to speak in Toronto. Thanks to all our supporters, past and current. We look forward to another productive year.

## FUNDS FOR ORANGUTAN FOREST SCHOOLS

In March 2007, BOS Canada granted \$3500 to the BOS Foundation's Orangutan Reintroduction Project (ORP) at Samboja Lestari, E. Kalimantan. ORP and projects like it rescue orangutans captured illegally from the wild and rehabilitate them to free forest life. All are orphans, captured from the wild as young infants, and most reach ORP as older infants or young juveniles. For orangutans, captivity is not only illegal, it is mainly neglectful or abusive and it worsens as they grow older.

BOS Canada's grant supported ORP's forest school, which helps young ex-captives learn basic skills for forest life: travel in the trees, forest navigation, finding food, nesting, and living with other orangutans. Ex-captives come from backgrounds ranging from cramped cages to city apartments, so most know almost nothing about forests or even other orangutans. Our grant funded two new forest school staff for a year plus facility repairs and upgrades.

The forest school uses a small forest (30 ha) in Samboja Lestari's 1800 ha property as a safe place for ex-captive infants to explore and learn. In 2007, it supported 10-17 infants 2-5 years old. Most ex-captive infants are too inexperienced and many are too small to fend for themselves. So ORP staff take them into the forest for several hours daily, where they supervise their learning and monitor their progress, and then return them to cages overnight to ensure their safety. Staff also provide milk, fruit, and vegeta-

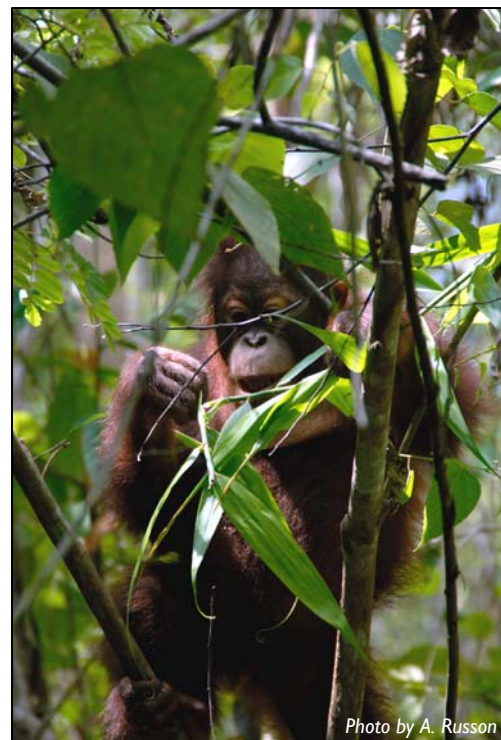


Photo by A. Russon

bles before the infants go into the forest in the morning and after they return in the afternoon.

Several BOS Canada members visited the forest school and were pleased to see the infants' progress and expansion of this program. Consider donating if you would like to continue helping them back to forest life.



Photo by Jim Helmer

## PHOTO EXHIBIT—ELEVATOR DIGITAL GALLERY

From Apr 26-29, 2007, BOS Canada exhibited 35 orangutan photographs at the Elevator Digital Gallery, Toronto. Aims were to heighten awareness of orangutans and their situation in the Toronto area and to raise funds for orangutan support efforts in Borneo. The exhibit attracted over a hundred visitors and raised over \$2,500. We were especially pleased to welcome several well known photographers and representatives of the Indonesian Consulate in Toronto.

photos are available for sale; see images at

[www.flickr.com/photos/7797434@N08](http://www.flickr.com/photos/7797434@N08)

Special thanks to **Elevator Digital**

for donating gallery space and several framed photos, support, and advice.

## OTHER BOS CANADA WORK IN 2007

We strive for “hands on” involvement in orangutan conservation. Many BOS Canada members work actively with orangutans and other great apes. In 2007, we collectively worked on:

- **Orangutan Fact Sheet.** Thanks to an Endangered Species Reserve Fund grant from the Toronto Zoo, we developed an up-to-date orangutan fact sheet and distributed it in Canada, Indonesia, UK, and USA. Download a copy at [www.orangutan.ca](http://www.orangutan.ca) or request one from [boscanada@gmail.com](mailto:boscanada@gmail.com)
- **Site visits.** BOS CAN Directors attended the BOS Foundation (Indonesia) AGM in Borneo, visited both its orangutan reintroduction projects, and discussed BOS CAN support.
- **Research.** BOS CAN members joined teams to assess the suitability of a proposed release site for rehabilitant orangutans, worked on studies of social learning, culture, and play-learning links in rehabilitating ex-captives, and intentional communication in orangutans at the Toronto zoo. We are developing studies on orangutan-human conflict, methods for assessing orangutan presence and distribution in target forest areas, and improving
- criteria for release site selection.
- **Rehabilitation Programs.** We helped design and provide enrichment for rehabilitant orangutans restricted to cages.
- **Awareness.** We exhibited orangutans photos at a brain injury awareness event (Toronto), gave public talks on orangutans in Canada (Toronto, Oakville, Vancouver) and Indonesia (Malang, Denpasar, Jakarta), displayed information at the National Home Show (Toronto), and contributed to regular visitor information and its orangutan awareness day at the Toronto Zoo.
- **Professional conferences/meetings.** We participated in a York University research seminar, “comparative cognition in context, and gave presentations on our orangutan studies at several conferences across North American and at the Brookfield Zoo orangutan workshop.
- **Other notable activities.** An interview by CBC Radio’s *Quirks & Quarks*, contributing to great ape reintroduction guidelines, and scientific advising for Animal Planet’s *Orangutan Island* series.

## VOLUNTEERS , SPONSORS, & DONORS

Many thanks the volunteers, sponsors, and donors who helped BOS Canada in 2007

### VOLUNTEERS

Laura Adams  
Lisa Casagrande Hoshino  
Justin & Andrea Cowen  
Jackie Craig  
Seema Duggal  
Gail Helmer  
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Fauna Foundation, Montreal, [www.faunafoundation.org](http://www.faunafoundation.org)  
National Home Show, [www.nationalhomeshow.com](http://www.nationalhomeshow.com)  
BrainBoost Tutoring, Vancouver, [www.brainboosttutoring.com](http://www.brainboosttutoring.com)  
RocketDog Training & Pet Care, Vancouver, [www.rocketdog.ca](http://www.rocketdog.ca)  
Elevator Digital, Toronto, [www.elevatordigital.ca](http://www.elevatordigital.ca)  
Mt Pleasant Glass & Mirror, Toronto, (416-486-9762)  
Toronto Zoo, [www.torontozoo.com](http://www.torontozoo.com)  
Zoocheck Canada, [www.zoocheck.ca](http://www.zoocheck.ca)  
Canadian Association for Bushmeat Awareness  
Now Magazine, [www.now.ca](http://www.now.ca)

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Roderick Stutt  
Christopher Uy  
Susan Wells  
Hilary Young

## BOS CANADA IN 2008

### Events:

- *Lecture*, Dr. A. Russon, *Close Encounters with the Red Ape*. Apr. 24, George Ignatieff Theatre, 15 Devonshire Place, Toronto.
- *Lecture*, Dr. Serge Wich, specialist in orangutan social behavior and ecology, recently launched new research on the southern-most orangutan population in Sumatra. Date: TBA (Oct.)
- *Missing orangutan mothers*: Mother's day table at the Toronto Zoo, highlighting the illegal pet trade, which kills wild orangutan mothers to steal their infants.
- *Orangutan awareness weekend*, Aug 8-10, Indomalaysia pavilion, the Toronto Zoo.

**Conservation Grants** : We launched a small grants program for projects that contribute to orangutan conservation (See box below) .

### Policy documents.

- *Translation* : We will handle translation of the new IUCN Guidelines on Great Ape Reintroduction into Indonesian, then printing and distribution in Indonesia.
- *Policy development*: Our members are contributing to the development of IUCN guidelines on tourism with great apes.

**Field Research Projects** : Orangutan-human conflict, new methods for assessing orangutan distribution, culture and cognition

### **\*\* NEW \*\***

## **CONSERVATION GRANTS**

BOS Canada is launching a small grants program to support projects that contribute to orangutan conservation. For 2008 we have a fund of \$3,000 CAD, 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: Mar 31, 2008  
for details, see [www.orangutan.ca/conservation\\_grants](http://www.orangutan.ca/conservation_grants)

## ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

Orangutans are in dire straits, now numbering only 50,000 in the wild. The IUCN now classifies Bornean orangutans as *Endangered* and Sumatrans as *Critically Endangered*, i.e., at great risk of extinction in the near future. The Sumatran orangutan has the dubious distinction of being one of the 25 most endangered primates in the world. Habitat destruction remains orangutans' main threat, now in the form of forest clearing for plantations, mines, and other commercial development.

Recent years have brought some heartening news. In Sept. 2005, the international community, via the United Nations' Environmental Programme (UNEP), took a strong stand on the need to protect all great apes by drafting the *Kinshasa Declaration*. Countries that signed committed themselves to significantly reducing current rates of loss of great ape populations and their habitats by 2010 and to securing the future of all great apes species and subspecies in the wild by 2015. Indonesia and Malaysia both signed, confirming their will to protect orangutans within their borders. Given the major threats that palm oil plantations and resource extraction industries pose to orangutans, both governments must act to protect enough good habitat for orangutans to secure their survival in the wild.

Since then, several important moves have been made to secure the survival of orangutans. In 2007, these included:

- Specialists in Indonesia published better management practices for orangutan-human conflicts in oil palm plantations, for distribution to oil palm plantation companies
- The IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist Group published guidelines on reintroduction practices for great apes
- The IUCN/SSC Primate Specialist group is developing guidelines for tourism with great ape.
- Four orangutans smuggled out of Indonesia were repatriated to Indonesia from Malaysia (Sept. 28)
- Indonesia launched its new Orangutan Action Plan for 2007-17 at the UN Climate Change Conference, Bali (Dec. 6-7). The action plan was formally endorsed by the President of Indonesia.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

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



Image by Purwo Kuncoro



## NOTABLE READING

### Technical documents.

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. [as-sets.panda.org/downloads/ou\\_bmt\\_report.pdf](http://as-sets.panda.org/downloads/ou_bmt_report.pdf)

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

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)

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

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

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).

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)

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)  
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).

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

### Recent books featuring orangutans.

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

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

Russon, AE 2002. Orangutans: Wizards of the Rainforest. Key Porter, Toronto.

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

Smith, D 2001. What the Orangutan Told Alice. Deer Creek Publishing, Nevada City, CA.

van Schaik, CP 2004. Among Orangutans. Harvard Univ. Press, Cambridge MA.

## WEBSITES WORTH CHECKING OUT

Orangutan Network: <http://www.aim.unizh.ch/orangutannetwork.html>

South East Asian Primatological Association: <http://www.aseanprimates.org>

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

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

International Primatology Society: <http://www.internationalprimatologicalsociety.org>

European Primate Network: <http://www.euprim-net.eu>

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>

World Directory of Primatologists: <http://pin.primate.wisc.edu/wdp>



Photo by P. Kuncoro



Photo by P. Kuncoro

## BOS CANADA DONATION

I would like to make a tax-deductible donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to BOS Canada to support orangutan protection projects.

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

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