

SINTANG ORANGUTAN CENTER PROJECT REPORT Q2

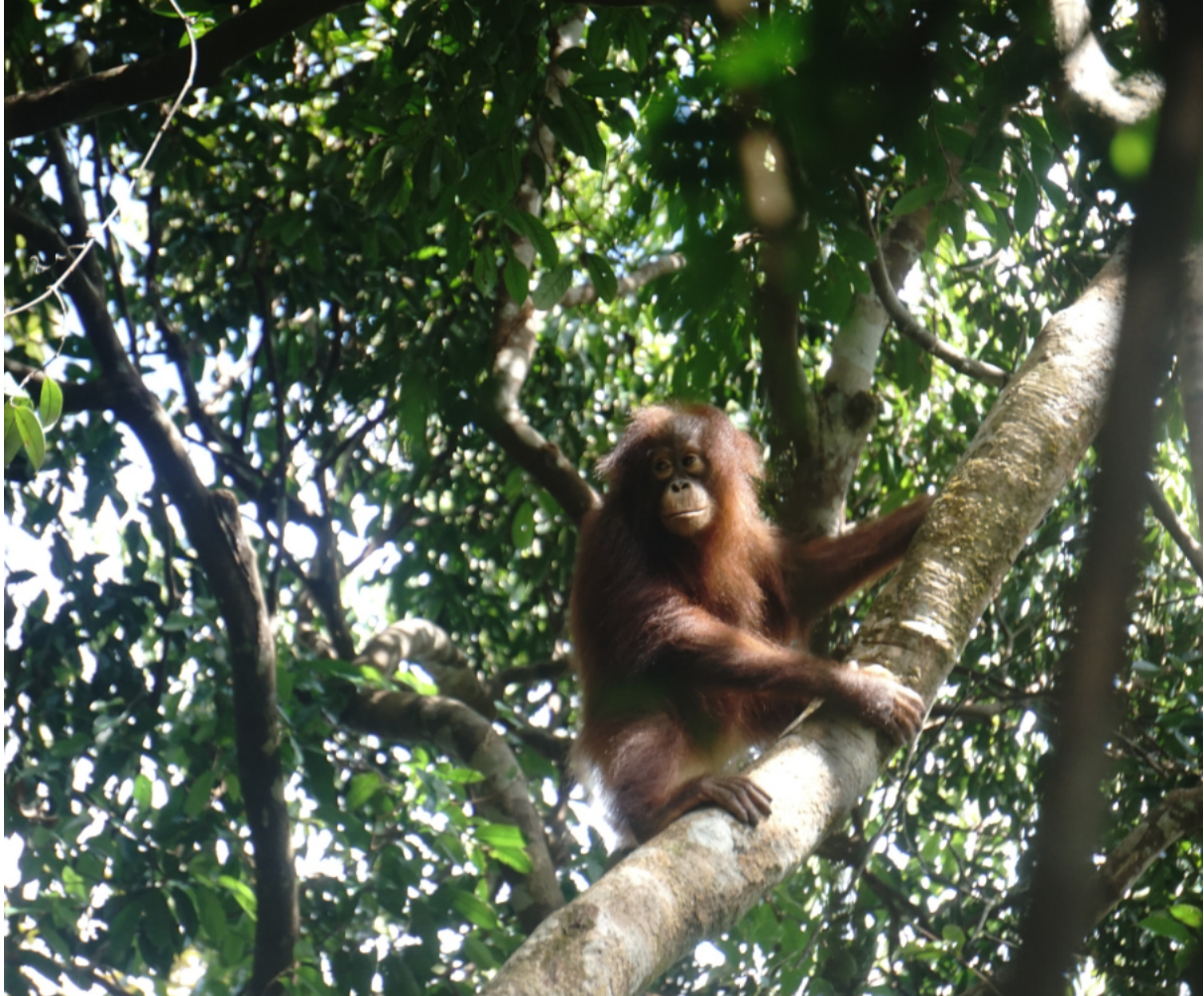
April - June 2024



HOT NEWS!

Artemis & Penai Debut at Forest School





ARTEMIS' FIRST FOREST SCHOOL

Artemis, one of the orangutans born and raised at the Sintang Orangutan Center facility by her mother Bablu, is now 5 years old. Throughout this time, she has spent her days at the Sintang Quarantine Centre with her mother in their cage. After a long wait, she has finally been moved to the Jerora Forest School to participate in forest school activities with other orangutans. There, she is grouped with Mongki and Joss.

On 1 May 2024, Artemis's waiting period finally came to an end. As soon as the tunnel to the forest school enclosure opened, she did not immediately head out. Instead, she waited for Mongki and Joss to leave the enclosure first. After they exited, she cautiously tried to leave the enclosure but soon appeared confused and suddenly ran towards the forest school's electric wire fence.

As a result, her first day at forest school did not go smoothly. She attempted to get pass the electric wire, forcing the staff to remove her from the forest school. Meanwhile, Mongki and Joss continued with their forest school activities. Artemis had to be taken back to her cage and will need to continue learning about the wire fence.

After waiting nearly a month since Artemis' previous forest school trial, Artemis finally returned to her forest school on 30 May 2024. On this occasion, Artemis was accompanied by two other orangutans from her group, Bondan and Joss. When Artemis' tunnel door was opened, she did not come out immediately but waited for Bondan and Joss to exit first. After seeing Bondan and Joss exit and feeling safe, Artemis slowly walked out while looking around and began to enter the tunnel that connects to the forest school enclosure.

Upon exiting the tunnel and entering the forest school, Bondan and Joss had already ventured far into the forest school. Seeing that Bondan and Joss were already far away, Artemis quickly walked towards a tree near her tunnel. This tree was also directly in front of her mother's cage, Bablu. Artemis stayed in the same tree for an hour and only moved when Joss came to approach her and invite her to play. However, Artemis appeared frightened when Joss approached her and tried to avoid Joss by moving from one tree branch to another, even though the distance was only one or two trees from the first tree she climbed upon entering the forest school. While in the middle canopy, Artemis ate many young leaves, flowers, and bark from the tree she climbed.



Artemis also did not want to get too close to the observers. When the observers tried to approach the tree she climbed, Artemis would climb to the upper canopy and continue to move away until the observers were at a distance she deemed safe. Until lunch time, Artemis was still observed in the middle canopy and did not move far from her initial spot. After the lunch time ended and the observers resumed their activities, Artemis was found to have moved slightly deeper into the forest school and was still in the middle canopy, occasionally moving to the lower canopy. Artemis was observed alone, while Joss and Bondan were far from her. Artemis did not explore much and tended to move occasionally over short distances. While in the middle canopy, she was also observed eating only leaves and bark that she found from the tree she climbed. Artemis never touched the forest floor during her time in the forest school; she always stayed in the middle and lower canopy or occasionally climbed to the upper canopy if someone approached her.

This second forest school trial for Artemis can be considered a success because she managed to control her fear and chose to stay in the tree during the forest school. Artemis' behaviour of not being interested in and avoiding the observers is also a good sign because one of the criteria for an orangutan to be released into the wild is its lack of interest in humans. Although this second forest school trial for Artemis can be considered successful, the animal keepers' staff still continuously monitor her behaviour and do not leave her unsupervised in the forest school, remembering that during her first trial, she tried to escape.

This narrative above shows significant progress of Artemis' behavior. In the previous trial, her fear and discomfort triggered an extreme reaction to exit the forest school. However, with this second trial, Artemis showed better adaptability, although she still tended to be cautious of her surroundings. Interaction with Bondan and Joss, although limited, shows that she is beginning to understand group dynamics and the importance of trees as a safe place. Artemis' tendency to avoid the observers is a positive indication that she is not overly interested in humans, which is an important criterion for orangutans ready for release. However, close monitoring is still necessary to ensure that this positive behaviour continues to develop and that no incidents like the previous trial occur.



SOC X HARPA:

Socialization Event at SMAS Panca Setya Sintang & SMP 2 Kelam Permai



On Saturday, 20 April 2024, SOC, in collaboration with HARPA, conducted socialisation activity for students. This time, the school that visited was SMAS Panca Setya. The socialisation activity commenced at 8:00 AM with a presentation to 40 students. From the outset, the students were very curious about the material presented, which was also interspersed with videos of orangutans in the forest school and several videos of conservation activities conducted by SOC. The students were introduced to this rare animal, beginning with an introduction to great apes and the various types of great apes in the world. We also presented on orangutan's diet and distribution, along with the species and subspecies of orangutans. The session then continued with the identification of orangutan's physical characteristics and the threats they're faced. Then we were also presented about SOC its activities, which concluded with information on the role of students in helping to protect orangutans and the environment.

After the presentation, the participants were treated to snacks that had been provided, accompanied by a quiz with prizes about orangutans. The activity concluded with tree planting around the forest school as part of environmental conservation efforts. The event finished with a photo session with the students.



A week later, on 26 April 2024, another socialisation activity was carried out to SMP Negeri 2 Kelam Permai located in Desa Kebong, Kecamatan Kelam Permai.



A total of 84 students participated in this activity, which began at 9:00 AM. Similar to the previous activities, the students were introduced to this rare animal, beginning with an introduction to great apes and the various types of great apes in the world, orangutan diet and distribution, along with the species and subspecies of orangutans, physical characteristics of orangutans, and the threats they faced. Next, there was a presentation on SOC its activities, which concluded with information on the role of students in helping to protect orangutans and the environment.

After the presentation, the participants were treated to snacks that had been provided, accompanied by a quiz with prizes about orangutans. The event finished with a photo session with the students.



Penai's First Experience at Forest School



Penai is one of the orangutans who has been residing at SOC for quite some time. Penai was rescued from her owner on 21 May 2012 from Silat Hilir Subdistrict, Kapuas Hulu Regency. At the time of her rescue, Penai was estimated to be around 8 years old. Her condition upon arrival was not good; she was ill, malnourished, and dehydrated, which further worsened her state. Therefore, upon her arrival at SOC, Penai immediately underwent medical treatment to improve her condition.

Now, after 12 years at SOC, Penai has finally been able to attend forest school in Jerora at the age of 20 on 23 April 2024. When she first entered the forest school, she appeared a bit confused for the first few minutes., she soon began actively exploring her surroundings before deciding to venture further into the forest school and start foraging there. After about 10 minutes of exploring, she found a tree bearing forest fruit. Penai then relaxed in that tree for quite a while, observing her surroundings while consuming forest fruit and occasionally eating young leaves nearby. Throughout the morning until noon, Penai seemed to thoroughly enjoy her time at the forest school.



In the afternoon, after the lunch break, the observation team had some difficulty locating Penai as she did not move much in the tree. It turned out that Penai was relaxing in the middle canopy of the tree, spending her time enjoying the environment. When she got bored, she moved around the same tree and eat the young leaves she found. These activities were often repeated by Penai throughout the afternoon until evening approached.

In the evening, Penai started to go down to the forest floor, exploring the lower canopy while searching for food she could find on the forest floor. When she began to feel too lazy to explore further, Penai returned to relax in the tree canopy. Penai's interactions with the staff were also very good, she did not seem interested in the staff who was observing her.





NEW NIGHT ENCLOSURE CONSTRUCTION

As of now, Jerora Forest School has a total of five cages for orangutans. Four of these cages are used as overnight cages, and one is used as an isolation cage. Currently, a new cage is under construction to accommodate additional orangutans that can be moved from the Sintang Quarantine Centre to Jerora Forest School. The construction process is now in the final stages of completing the foundation and installing the concrete pillars. We are now awaiting the completion of welding parts of the enclosure, such as the floor, walls, and partitions.

At present, SOC is taking care of 27 orangutans, with 7 individuals at the Sintang Quarantine Centre, consisting of 3 adults and 4 infants, and 20 individuals at Jerora Forest School, consisting of 7 adults, 6 juveniles, and 7 infants.



With the addition of the new cage, it is hoped that more orangutans can be accommodated at Jerora Forest School, thereby accelerating the forest school process, which will, in turn, speed up the release process for the orangutans at SOC.



ORANGUTAN NICKY TRANSLOCATION

On the morning of 14 May 2024, the SOC's Monitoring Team at Mentibat Basecamp received a report from a resident of Hovat Hamlet who was fishing upstream on the Mendalam River that an orangutan had approached the downstream area. Upon receiving this report, the Monitoring Team immediately checking at the location. By midday, the orangutan had moved to the forest across from Mentibat Basecamp. The Monitoring Team subsequently informed the Sintang Team of this finding. In response to the Monitoring Team's report, the Sintang Team immediately prepared for the relocation process by coordinating with the West Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) and the Betung Kerihun National Park Authority (BBTNBKDS) via mobile phone and officially through a notification letter.

The next day, Wednesday, 15 May 2024, the Monitoring Team tracking the orangutan's movements and saw that the orangutan was near a rock pile on the riverbank not far upstream from Mentibat Basecamp. During the observation, the orangutan did not appear disturbed by the presence of humans, so the Monitoring Team moved closer to the orangutan. The Monitoring Team then administered a sedative to the orangutan and took it to Mentibat Basecamp. The monitoring team identified that the orangutan was Nicky. Upon arrival at Mentibat Basecamp, the Monitoring Team placed Nicky, in a habituation cage. While in the habituation cage, Nicky provided with forest fruits and shoots.



On Friday, 17 May 2024, the SOC Relocation Team, along with BKSDA and TNBK, carried out the orangutan's relocation process. The relocation process began with sedation at 07:00 AM, followed by an ID chip check using a chip reader to confirm the orangutan's identity. The ID chip check confirmed that the orangutan was Nicky. For information, Nicky is an orangutan that was released on 9 October 2021. Additionally, a health check was conducted to Nicky.

After the checks were completed and the orangutan's condition had recovered post-sedation, the Relocation Team departed from Mentibat Basecamp at 08:45 AM and arrived at the relocation site at the estuary of the Tujai Lala River at 09:45 AM. The distance between the discovery location and the relocation site is approximately 15.3 km, which is considered a safe distance for relocation. Following the relocation process, the Relocation Team, along with BKSDA and TNBK, returned to Mentibat Basecamp.





VISIT TO TK KADIJAH

After conducting activities across various school levels from primary to secondary, the Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC) has once again organised an outreach event to inspire and educate the younger generation about environmental awareness. This time, the event was held at Rumah Betang Kobus and was attended by pupils from TK Kadijah. With 15 children and 2 accompanying teachers present, SOC introduced the great apes, specifically orangutans. The sessions included orangutan's distinctive physical features, and an overview of their natural habitats. Furthermore, the participants were given a deep understanding of the importance of caring for and preserving the environment for the survival of orangutans and overall biodiversity.



The children were not just passive listeners; they engaged in various games and interactive activities designed to educate and entertain. Additionally, the event featured a colouring activity that boosted the children's enthusiasm and creativity. The excitement was palpable on the cheerful faces of the participants, who eagerly engaged in every activity with high spirits. Thus, this event was more than just a gathering; it was a concrete effort to instill environmental care values and a love for wildlife in the younger generation. SOC hopes that through such activities, a foundation for a more sustainable future can be built from an early age.

About Sintang Orangutan Center

The Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC) is a local environmental NGO that collaborate with the Indonesian government to rescue, rehabilitate and release orangutans back into the wild.

In addition to the orangutan work, SOC also provides awareness and education programs for local people to reduce deforestation by providing sustainable agricultural alternatives, stop illegal poaching and the keeping of illegal pets like orangutans.

SOC is located in Sintang, West Kalimantan, an Indonesian province on the island of Borneo.

SOC's rehabilitation program aim is to rehabilitate orangutans and provide them with the survival skills to prepare them for release back to the wild. After a series of medical health examinations healthy orangutans are transferred to the socialization groups where they can learn together with friends. The final stage before release is a training period in a so-called forest school which is a fenced in intact rainforest.

We work under an official agreement with the Forestry Ministry Department. So far we have rescued and taken care of more than 50 orangutans since 2010.

Orangutans were rescued from illegal wildlife trade, or confiscated from people who kept them as pets.

We also collaborated in rescue orangutan victims of conflict with local people. We release orangutans in a special part of the Betung Kerihun National Park.

SUPPORT US IN PROTECTING ORANGUTAN AND THEIR FOREST

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