

# SINTANG ORANGUTAN CENTER PROJECT REPORT Q3

July - September 2024



## The 14th Release JOCHEM & KINGKONG



The celebration of International  
Orangutan Day



Sintang Orangutan Center  
[www.soc.or.id](http://www.soc.or.id)

THE 14TH RELEASE

# JOCHEM & KINGKONG



On the 28th of July 2024, Jochem (male, 9 years old) and Kingkong (female, 8 years old) were released back into the wild at Betung Kerihun National Park, specifically in the forest area near the Jepala Lala River. Both orangutans had received intensive care since their arrival at Sintang Orangutan Center, ensuring their behaviour and health were well-prepared so that when they began living independently in their natural habitat, they would not struggle to adapt.



## JOCHEM'S RELEASE

Jochem, also known as Bombom, was the first to be released at 10:40 AM. Initially, he appeared confused by the unfamiliar surroundings. When the door of the transport cage was opened, Jochem carefully climbed a tree but soon descended back to the forest floor. His hesitation seemed to stem from curiosity about the monitoring team, who were observing from a boat on the river. For several minutes, Jochem stayed near the release site, cautiously examining his surroundings and even approaching the monitoring team. After about five minutes, he finally started exploring the forest floor but appeared reluctant to climb back into the trees.



Jochem explore his new home



Later in the day, Jochem attempted to build his first nest on the forest floor. However, while in the process of building, he was distracted by distant noises, including the sound of passing speedboats. Jochem quickly reacted by moving towards the sound, clearly intrigued. This behaviour continued over the next few days, as Jochem displayed a strong fascination with the sound of boats, frequently attempting to approach them.

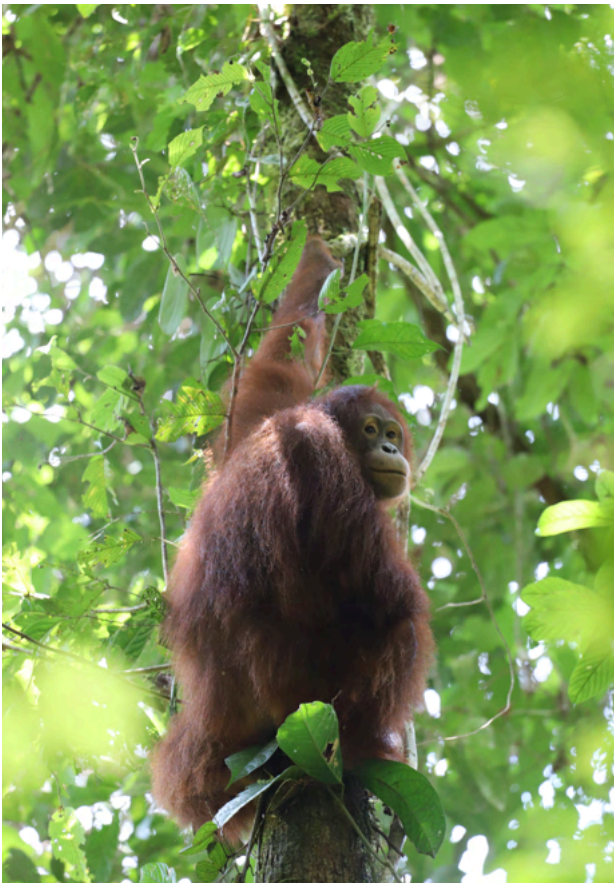
Throughout the day, Jochem alternated between moving across the forest floor and resting in the lower canopy. By the afternoon, he returned to the forest floor and headed towards the riverbank, using trees as pathways. His exploration was relatively relaxed, with frequent stops to rest and eat young leaves. In the evening, he climbed to a height of about 20 metres, where he built a temporary nest and continued to rest while eating sporadically. By 5:00 PM, Jochem had finished his exploration for the day, constructing a nest at a height of 10 metres in the middle canopy.

On his first day of freedom, Jochem did not consume any forest fruits or shoots, nor did he defecate. His exploration seemed cautious but determined. In the following days, Jochem's activity increased as he ventured further into the forest, sometimes climbing higher into the canopy. Over time, he grew more confident, exploring both the forest floor and the canopy while discovering new food sources. In fact, Jochem adapted well to his new environment, consuming 32 new types of food, ranging from young leaves and fruits to tree bark and plant shoots. His diet included various fruits like liana, *jamak*, and *latung*, as well as edible cambium from local trees.

However, Jochem's curiosity wasn't limited to his natural surroundings. He developed a strong interest in the monitoring team's activities, especially their boat. Every time Jochem heard the sound of an approaching boat, he instinctively moved towards it. This behaviour became a pattern, with Jochem frequently seen heading towards the river, as though trying to investigate the boat more closely.

On the 11th of August 2024, the monitoring team lost track of Jochem. Thick fog and bad weather created a challenging environment for the team, and at around 2:30 PM, Jochem was last seen climbing to a height of around 600 metres above sea level. Unfortunately, due to poor visibility and difficult terrain, the team was unable to relocate Jochem, and his whereabouts have remained unknown since that day.

## KINGKONG'S RELEASE



Kingkong was released shortly after Jochem, at 11:45 AM. Unlike Jochem, who showed hesitation, Kingkong demonstrated a bolder attitude. After leaving the transport cage, she headed straight for the nearest tree, climbing into the lower canopy where she sat quietly, observing her surroundings. She seemed less interested in immediate exploration, likely still recovering from the sedatives administered during her transfer to the transport cage from the habituation enclosure.

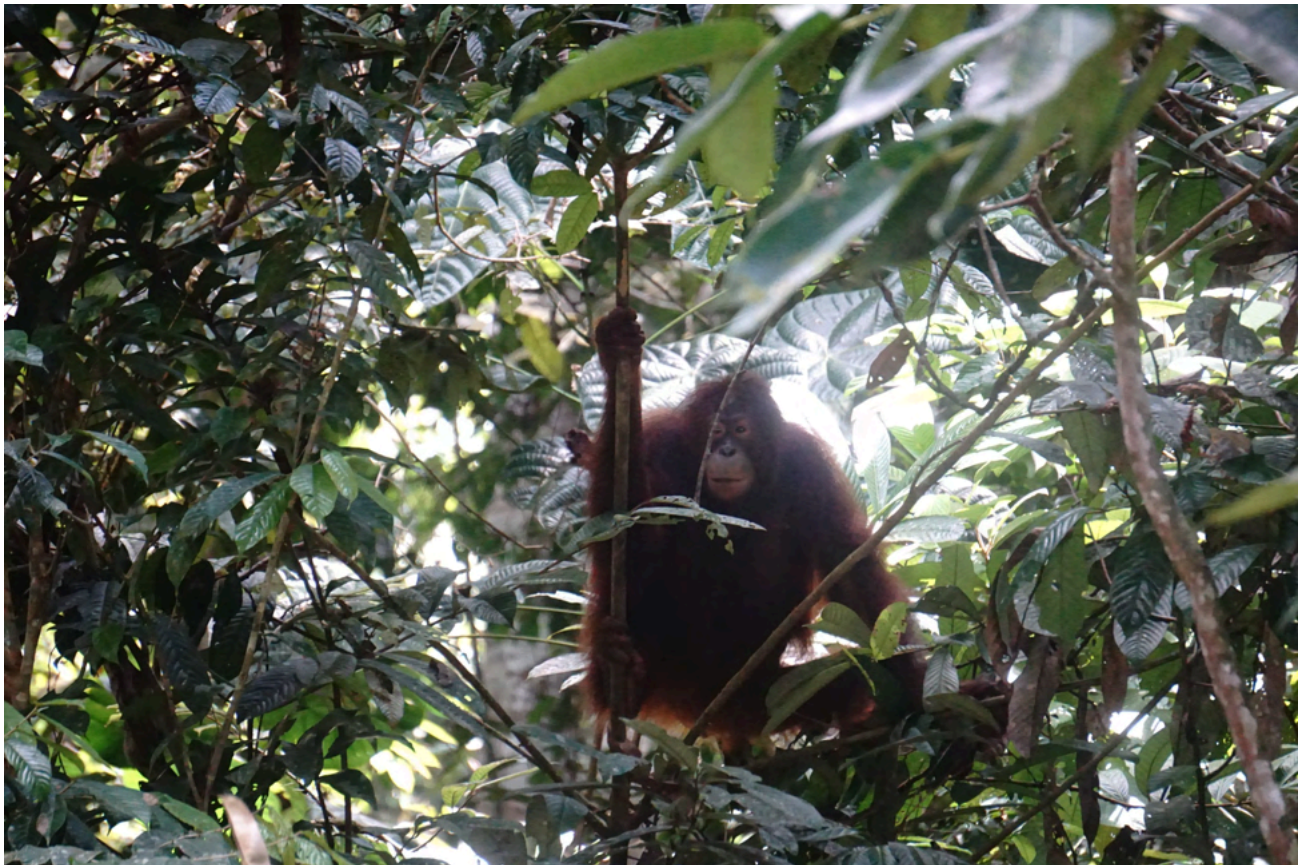
For much of her first day, Kingkong remained in the trees, only moving short distances. After a period of relaxation, she began exploring uphill through the trees, reaching a height of about 110 metres above sea level, where she rested once again. After a brief pause, Kingkong continued exploring the middle and upper canopy, searching for young leaves to eat. Around midday, she descended to the lower canopy, where she found and ate fruits from liana plants.

While eating, Kingkong appeared to playfully observe the monitoring team below, cheekily tossing leftover fruit in their direction, although none of it reached them.

By the afternoon, Kingkong built a temporary nest in the upper canopy at a height of 122 metres above sea level. She remained there for a while before continuing her exploration, moving between trees and feeding on various forest foods. Over the following days, Kingkong became more active. She continued to explore the treetops, eating a variety of fruits, leaves, and shoots. In total, Kingkong was recorded consuming 62 different types of food, including leaves from plants like cempedak and liana, as well as various wild fruits such as *latung*, *lapei*, and *karamunting*.

On the 8th of August, the monitoring team had to relocate Kingkong due to her extended range. She had ventured too far downstream, approaching the Mentibat Basecamp, prompting the team to move her to a safer, more upstream location near the Hotung River. Like Jochem, Kingkong regularly built nests, both for day and night use, indicating that she was adapting well to her new environment.

However, on the 10th of August 2024, the team lost track of Kingkong as she attempted to climb a hill. A combination of bad weather, difficult terrain, and Kingkong's preference for moving on the forest floor made it impossible for the team to follow her. Since that day, Kingkong's whereabouts have also remained unknown.



Monitoring lasted for 14 days for Kingkong and 13 days for Jochem, with both eventually disappearing into the dense rainforest. Although the monitoring period ended earlier than anticipated, both orangutans showed promising signs of adapting to their new environment. The monitoring team will continue to search for them for up to three months post-release.



**AUGUST 19TH**

# **INTERNATIONAL ORANGUTAN DAY**

On Saturday, 24 August 2024, the Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC) successfully organised the celebration of International Orangutan Day at the Jerora Camping Ground. The event commenced at 4:00 PM with great enthusiasm from the participants, despite the less-than-favourable weather that afternoon.



*Happy International Orangutan Day*

SINTANG ORANGUTAN CENTER

After the registration session, the event opened with a presentation by a representative from the West Kalimantan Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA), discussing regulations related to the protection of endangered species, particularly orangutans. However, due to heavy rain, the activities were moved to the SOC Education House, where the participants continued to listen to the presentation on SOC's mission and work in protecting orangutans, as well as the conservation challenges in Kalimantan.

Following the presentation, the event continued with a film screening from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. The participants were served a variety of snacks and drinks to enjoy during the screening. Once the film concluded, an interactive discussion took place, exploring the connections between the film and real-life issues, including the conservation challenges we face today. The participants actively engaged in the discussion, sharing their views and ideas on environmental matters.

The event concluded with a quiz session and the distribution of prizes to the winners. A total of 20 participants, representing various nature and environmental communities, attended, creating an education spirited atmosphere of camaraderie.





With the success of this celebration, SOC hopes to continue raising public awareness of the importance of protecting orangutans and their habitats in the future.



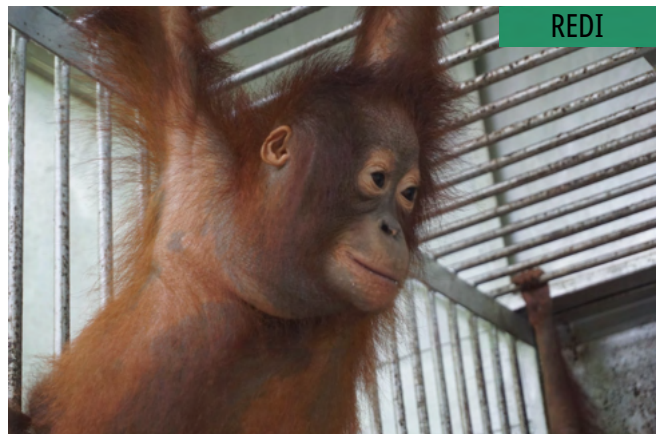
## NEW ORANGUTAN

# SEKO & REDI RESCUED AT SOC

Seko (male, 2 years old) and Redi (male, 3 years old) are two infant orangutans who were successfully rescued from an illegal trading attempt. This incident occurred in the Nanga Pinoh area, where the animals were known to have come from the Manjol region and its surroundings, including the PT. Erna Kalteng area. According to reports, the order for these two baby orangutans was made on 7 August 2024 by an unknown prospective buyer.



The sale transaction was thwarted by the authorities before the animals could be handed over. The individual who temporarily kept the orangutans was unsure of how they had been obtained, but it is strongly suspected that the two babies were discovered by sawmill workers in Central Kalimantan. The orangutans were then transported by motorcycle, placed inside plastic bags and sacks.



These orangutans were found in the area bordering Central Kalimantan, possibly taken through oil palm plantations. At present, the authorities are still investigating the involvement of other parties in Central Kalimantan, considering that there is a possibility that other orangutans may also become victims in this trafficking case.

Seko and Redi are now under the care of the Sintang Orangutan Center, and they will be rehabilitated and receive the necessary care following the trauma caused by their capture and long journey.

## OUTREACH ACTIVITY

# MIS MA'ARIF LABSCHOOL SINTANG



The Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC) recently held an enjoyable and educational outreach event at MIS Ma'arif Labschool Sintang. The event was attended by 23 enthusiastic and eager students to learn about orangutans and the importance of conservation.

During the session, students were introduced to the fascinating world of orangutans, learning about their behaviours, habits, and the crucial role they play within the ecosystem. The session also highlighted the important issue of environmental damage, with a focus on the threats faced by orangutans due to habitat loss and deforestation. The SOC team shared their ongoing conservation efforts, including how the foundation works tirelessly to rescue, rehabilitate, and protect these endangered animals.



Apart from informative presentations, students were encouraged to engage in discussion how they could also take part in protecting the environment. Practical tips such as reducing waste, saving energy, and protecting wildlife were shared, motivating students to make a positive impact in their respective communities.

To add to the excitement, at the end of the event there was a quiz with fun prizes, allowing students to test their knowledge and win attractive prizes. This interactive activity not only made students understand the importance of protecting the environment, but also inspired them to take concrete action in their daily lives to safeguard the environment.

This event was successful, fostering a deeper connection between the students and the nature, and encouraging them to become active conservationists for the future.



# BONDAN AT THE FOREST SCHOOL

It's hard to believe that almost a year has passed since Bondan joined her group at Jerora Forest School. From the very first day, Bondan stood out compared to the other group members, which included Joss, Gieke, Otan, and Julia. At the time, while her companions were still adjusting and showing reluctance to explore, Bondan quickly left the group and began exploring the tree canopies on her own.

While Joss, Gieke, Otan, and Julia remained close together, merely observing their new surroundings without venturing far, Bondan headed straight for the middle and upper canopies, spending most of her time in the treetops from morning until noon, exploring and foraging. From midday until the afternoon, Bondan could often be found in the lower canopy or on the forest floor. Here, she interacted with other orangutans, continued her explorations, and searched for food. Though highly independent, Bondan was frequently seen playing on the forest floor with Joss, who seemed to follow her closely during their explorations.



Bondan's superiority was not only evident in her boldness in exploring but also in her ability to find natural forest foods. While traversing the tree canopies, Bondan often foraged for wild fruits, young leaves, palm shoots, and a variety of other foods he encountered. Despite this, Bondan showed little interest in interacting with humans. Whenever observers or animal keepers were nearby, Bondan tended to ignore them, passing by without any inclination to approach.

Bondan's progress at forest school has been remarkable. In a relatively short time, she has successfully adapted and shown very positive results. Based on observations, Bondan has met several key criteria for release. She has learned to recognise over 25 types of forest food, mastered 11 types of locomotion, and has even been observed building her own nest in the upper canopy. Another of Bondan's strengths is her lack of interest in humans, an important indicator of an orangutan's readiness to live independently in the wild.

With this success, Bondan has now become a very valuable mentor for her new group members for the past month, namely Joss, Artemis, and Mongki. Orangutans are known to learn by imitation, so Bondan's presence in the group is expected to encourage the development of the others, helping them catch up and meet the release criteria. However, it's important to remember that each orangutan has a unique character and learns at their own pace, so the time required for each individual may vary. Nevertheless, Bondan sets an outstanding example for them to follow.



# PELITA KASIH KINDERGARTEN VISIT TO JERORA FOREST SCHOOL

Jerora Forest School recently welcomed a special visit from Pelita Kasih Kindergarten, with 22 students accompanied by their parents and 4 teacher assistants. The event was designed to provide a fun and interactive learning experience for the children while introducing them to Indonesia's wildlife.

The content presented during the visit included an introduction to orangutans, one of Indonesia's iconic and endangered animals, as well as other native Indonesian species. The children were taught about the importance of protecting and preserving these animals, with explanations tailored to their young age to ensure understanding





One of the most exciting parts of the visit was when the children were taken to observe the orangutans undergoing rehabilitation at Jerora Forest School. To ensure a calm atmosphere and avoid disturbing the orangutans, the students were divided into five small groups. This approach allowed the children to get a closer look while keeping noise levels down, creating a peaceful environment for both the animals and the visitors.

This visit was not only a learning experience but also a delightful adventure for the children. They had the opportunity to learn through play, gaining a deeper understanding of the rich wildlife of Indonesia and the importance of environmental conservation 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.

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## SUPPORT US IN PROTECTING ORANGUTAN AND THEIR FOREST

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