



Dedicated to the Conservation of orangutans and their rainforest home

Dear Friends,

Your partnership with BOS-USA to help the orangutan in these desperate times is greatly appreciated by everyone in our organization. We'd like to share the following update with you as a glimpse into the world of orangutan protection that you are supporting.

Your investment with BOS-USA has helped make it possible for the projects to operate year after year. This long term commitment is the critical element in achieving our goals of saving the wild orangutan and their habitat. It is also one of our biggest challenges—providing daily operational funds for the projects.

The dream of leaving a rich legacy of wild orangutans for future generations can come true with your help.

Thank you!

Michael Sowards,
President, BOS-USA

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Tough Stance on Illegal Logging

James McCaul, Field Director of the Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Project

The Indonesian government recently cracked down on illegal logging activities in one of the largest enforcement efforts ever undertaken in West Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo). In both May and June, concerted efforts by the central government resulted in the arrest of many logging bosses along with the destruction of their illegally obtained lumber, logging implements and vehicles. The government hopes that these actions will cripple the illegal loggers' operations and render the cost of extracting wood too high to be profitable.



On the 13th of May a *Wana Laga*, or Forest Action Force, was sent from Jakarta by the Central Government of Indonesia to combat illegal logging in West Kalimantan. This team consisted of members of a police special forces unit.

The 60 man team arrived in Pontianak, West Kalimantan with 2 helicopters. After coordination with the Governor of the Province, they proceeded to Sambas, an area famous for its illegal logging and associated natural disasters. As a result of the extensive illegal logging Sambas is plagued with floods during the rainy season, causing thousands of refugees every year and drought in the dry season. On arrival the *Wana Laga* arrested a number of illegal loggers and their logging bosses. But after the first day of operation, large demonstrations were arranged by the logging bosses to pressure the local government to expel the *Wana Laga* team.

These demonstrations stimulated similar actions in Ketapang, the district encompassing Gunung Palung National Park. The local government of Ketapang then tried to sanction the Central Government as there had been no coordination with them. However, the Central Government, which is trying to promote its anti-illegal logging stance, allowed the enforcement team to continue its activities.



The Forest Action Force patrolled two priority areas in and around Gunung Palung National Park—Pangkal Tapang and Tanjung Gunung. Located on the southern border of the Park, Pangkal Tapang is currently being developed as a water catchment area to supply the area with water year-round. Here, the Wana Laga found several illegal logging camps, along with sacks of rice and even hot water set for making coffee, but no loggers. Obviously, the loggers had been tipped off the team's arrival and no arrests were made.

From Tanjung Gunung, the enforcement team moved to the research station of Cabang Panti, only to find that the loggers had departed, leaving behind stacks of wood cut from the very core zone of the Park. The police team burned all the stacks of wood along the riverbanks and cut up the timber that was already in the water headed for sawmills downstream. The wood rail systems or “kuda-kuda” used for transporting wood within the forest were also destroyed. In all, 700 cubic meters of lumber were destroyed in this operation. For good measure, the team also piled the loggers' tools on top of the burning woodpiles. By doing this, the cost of extracting the wood may become higher than the selling price, making the activity unfeasible.

[Read more of this story by clicking here](#)

Donate Your Used Cell Phone and Save Endangered Species

Americans discard more than 100 million cell phones each year. That translates to tens of thousands of tons of trash, including toxic metals like lead and mercury. You may not have heard of it, but “Coltan” (columbite-tantalite), which is mined in Congo, Africa, is also present in your cell phone. Growing demand for coltan has led to the increased destruction of gorillas and their habitat in African wildlife reserves where the ore is mined.



Don't let your old cell phones pollute our landfills. Donate them and help save an endangered species at the same time. The Happy Hollow Zoo in San Jose, CA has set up a permanent collection program to recycle your unwanted cell phones—proceeds are donated to BOS-USA. [Read more of this story by clicking here](#)

Symposium in Long Beach, November 22, 2003

The symposium, “Orangutan Crisis in Indonesia & Malaysia”, will be held on November 22, 2003 at Cal State Long Beach to benefit the orangutans. Speakers at the event will include Dr. Willie Smits of BOS Foundation in Jakarta, Dr. Anne Russon of York University in Toronto, Dr. Mark Leighton of Harvard University and Dr. Carel van Shaik of Duke University.

These primate experts will share their knowledge and experiences while working with orangutans in Indonesia. A reception will follow with a key note address by BOS-USA adviser, Dr. Amory Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute. For more information, please contact smallar@orangutan.com.

Tasya “Fishes” for Treats with Hand-Fashioned Tool

As told to Dr. Anne Russon by Rajuli, technician at Wanariset

One of the amazing characteristics of primates is their ability to make and use tools. They have even been observed using two or more different tools sequentially to complete a task. Recently, a clever orangutan at the Wanariset Orangutan Reintroduction Project (WORP) in Indonesian Borneo displayed this skill in her pursuit of tasty treats.

Tasya, a five-year-old female, is a juvenile orangutan at WORP’s rehabilitation center. Prior to release back into the forest, the orangutans at WORP undergo extensive rehabilitation and socialization. Following a period of quarantine, the orangutans are moved into a socialization enclosure to allow them ample time to adapt to each other and be slowly weaned from human care and feeding.



Recently, Tasya and her companions were joined in the socialization enclosure by Horman, a five-year-old male. Initially, Horman received the same special care given to all new arrivals that helps ease their transition to eventual independence. But despite all the attention, Horman stopped eating. The staff placed Horman in a special cage off the main enclosure. There, he was plied with rambutan, a delicious, bright red fruit with spikes on the outside resembling a wild head of hair.

Seeing all that rambutan heaped on Horman’s plate day after day—with not a one tossed their way—made the other orangutans kick up a great fuss! Some tried reaching through the bars to steal from Horman’s stash, while others used branches to try and rake some of his fruit into their reach. But Tasya had another thought. She had already observed the failed efforts of her companions. After a while she strolled over and retrieved an empty rice sack that the staff had left in the enclosure for the orangutans to play with. The sacks are loosely woven from broad strands of sturdy plastic thread.

Patience, Tasya unraveled a length of thread about a yard long from the sack. She then found a large piece of discarded orange peel and poked a hole through the center of the peel. She threaded the plastic string through the hole, looped it around, and held both ends of the string, sling-shot fashion, in her hand. With her new tool in hand, Tasya approached Horman’s cage. She cast off with the device, and after several attempts, succeeded in dragging a rambutan into her reach. Voila! A tasty treat was enjoyed. Over and over again, Tasya cast her sling into Horman’s cage, holding tightly to her tool while eating the rambutan.

Read more of this story by [clicking here](#)

New Arrivals Keep Clinic Hopping

Imagine: The forest awakes to the sound of the Gibbons call through the trees. The wild orangutan slowly wakes up, stretches and begins looking for breakfast--fruit or bark and termites. A baby orangutan clings to its mother as the search for food begins. The mother takes a little time in gentle affectionate grooming. The mother is alert to strange sounds coming from a clearing in the forest - a chain saw starts up nearby. She flees away from this sound but it is too late, a shot rings out and the mother falls from the tree top, over 200 feet to the ground. She is dying but she clings to her infant. A poacher pulls the baby from its mother and shoves it into a tiny, dirty cage. In a day or two the tiny cage is put aboard a boat that takes it down the river to a city where there is a pet market. The sick and wounded baby will be put up for sale. Selling of an orangutan is illegal in Indonesia but the pet trade continues. Fortunately for this baby, a confiscation team is touring the market this morning and the baby is taken into custody. Later the baby will be turned over to Nyaru Menteng where it will be given love, food and medical attention. This is just one typical story of what is taking place every day in the forests of Borneo .

By Jo-lan van Leeuwen, BOSF PR Coordinator



While we hope that one day the steady arrival of tiny infants to Nyaru Menteng will end, for now, the reality is quite the opposite. The baby school of Nyaru Menteng has now reached a total of 58 infants. In just the past few weeks, we have received 10 small infants not much older than two years old.

The smallest is a little female orangutan, Zakia. By examining her teeth, we estimated that she was just six or seven months old. When we picked her up, Zakia weighed less than four pounds. She was so dehydrated that we had to put her on IV. Earlier this month, another female, Marchello, arrived from the same area as Zakia, weighing just four and a half pounds.

[Read more of this story by clicking here](#)

ALL OF US AT BOS-USA THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS FOR YOUR SUPPORT. YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO FIGHT ILLEGAL LOGGING, TO FEED ALL THE NEW ARRIVALS AT THE CENTERS, AND TO EDUCATE OTHERS ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF THE WILD ORANGUTAN.

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