

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

AUGUST 2023

YOUR IMPACT INSIDE

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PLUS our latest rescues and releases,
thanks to you!



Welcome to the first edition of
YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS,
a new quarterly newsletter
dedicated exclusively to
our esteemed supporters
and advocates for
wildlife conservation.

As a supporter who shares in our values of *Compassion, Protection and Freedom*, it is both a privilege and a pleasure to connect with you and provide you with a first-hand account of your incredible generosity in action.

At Wildlife Conservation International we firmly believe that the well-being of our planet is a shared responsibility, one that requires concerted efforts from individuals, organisations, and communities alike. Through your commitment and generous contributions, you have demonstrated your dedication to making a tangible difference to *Critically Endangered* orangutans, elephants and tigers and indigenous forest communities.

Through this newsletter, I want to share and celebrate the impact we are making together.



I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for your belief in our vision and dedication to ensuring that all orangutans, elephants and tigers will live in their natural habitat in secure and viable populations.

Your generosity matters immensely for the conservation and protection of Asia's precious rainforests and those that depend upon them for survival. This newsletter will serve as a conduit to strengthen our partnership and celebrate our shared successes.

Yours in conservation

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Leif".

Leif Cocks OAM

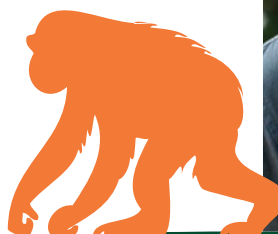
Founder, Wildlife Conservation International

JOIN ME ON AN EXCLUSIVE PRIVATE TOUR OF SUMATRA OR BORNEO

See the impact of your generosity first-hand.
Tours limited to four individuals, departing
March and November.



FOR MORE INFO EMAIL:
tours@orangutan.org.au





Giving dignity to unreleasable orangutans

The Orangutan Project

While our primary goal is to ensure that every orangutan under our care can one day experience freedom outside of a cage, the sad reality is that some orangutans can never be released back to the wild. This may be due to physical disabilities, insufficient survival skills, or advanced age.

In line with our commitment to providing the best possible quality of life for every orangutan, we are thrilled to announce the initiation of two permanent orangutan sanctuaries at our Sumatran Rescue Alliance (SRA) and Bornean Orangutan Rescue Alliance (BORA) Centres. These sanctuaries will serve as lifelong rainforest homes for unreleasable orangutans. Orangutans like Ambon and Robert, who, after spending many years in captivity, were too old to develop the necessary skills to survive in the wild on their own.

Thanks to the overwhelming response to our recent appeal, we can now proceed to purchase the land and begin construction on the BORA sanctuary in East Kalimantan. Additionally, thanks to a generous gift from Tom and Beverly Magnanti, made in loving memory of their late son Robert, we can also commence on the sanctuary at our SRA Centre in North Sumatra which will be named "The Robert 'Randy' Magnanti Orangutan Sanctuary" in his honour.

Thank you, one and all, for your generosity which has made these sanctuaries possible, providing a quality of life for unreleasable orangutans.

Giving hope to sick and orphaned orangutans

The Orangutan Project

You may have seen on our socials recently the newest addition to our BORA Rescue Centre. Ten-month-old Harapi (which means 'hope') was rescued on 13 June thanks to a joint effort of the BKSDA Kaltim/Ministry of Environment and Forestry and our BORA Rescue Alliance.

Like most orphaned orangutans that arrive at our centres, Harapi's mother had been killed. Despite his traumatic ordeal, Harapi is in good health and has settled in well at our BORA Rescue Centre, joining the other orphaned orangutans who are receiving loving care and support.

In March, the BORA team was also involved in a rescue of a wild orangutan mum and her baby. Named Jasmine and Syair, the pair were taken to our BORA Rescue Centre for urgent veterinary care with the mother considerably underweight. After three months of care, the pair were released back into a safe location.

Your support is essential in sustaining our rescue and rehabilitation efforts. By contributing to our care centres, you directly contribute to the well-being and conservation of orangutans, giving hope that we can re-establish sustainable populations in the wild. Thank you!



Preserving orangutans in Rawa Singkil

The Orangutan Project

This year we have launched an ambitious new campaign, in partnership with Forum Konservasi Leuser (FKL), to secure 4,643 hectares of critical orangutan habitat in the Rawa Singkil Protected Area (Singkil Swamp), home to the third largest, and the densest, population of *Critically Endangered* Sumatran orangutans.

Our goal, over the next five years, is to raise \$3 million to purchase vital land along the edge of the Singkil River which is not included in the protected area. In places, the distance from the river to the boundary is 100-300 metres which makes it extremely difficult to protect this forest. The result has been a steady degradation of this critical peat swamp through encroachment, logging and road building.

Stage 1 of our project is to raise \$500,000 by December 2023 to secure the first 768 hectares. Thanks to the incredible generosity of donors we have raised \$246,848 so far! And we have successfully negotiated the purchase of 50.47 hectares from eight individual landowners over the last three months.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed so far to this important campaign.



TO SUPPORT THIS CAMPAIGN EMAIL:
giving@wildlifeconservationinternational.org



Safeguarding tigers and forest communities

International Tiger Project

As habitat loss and fragmentation continue to escalate, conflicts between humans and wildlife are becoming more frequent. Both humans and wildlife depend on forest resources for their survival, leading to increased competition for limited space and available resources. Tigers, as one of the apex predators in these ecosystems, are particularly affected by these conflicts.

Since 2021, the International Tiger Project has supported grassroots organisation Sumatera Hijau Lestari (SHL) to implement human-wildlife conflict mitigation strategies with communities living on the forest edge. The focus over the past year has been in the Langkat Regency area of the Gunung Leuser National Park Buffer Zone. This area experiences frequent conflicts with both tigers and elephants as it lies adjacent to several villages and scattered farms.

By engaging with and developing trust among local farmers, SHL are taking a proactive approach to mitigating conflicts through establishing joint night patrols to monitor and deter wildlife from entering farmlands. Additionally, they have constructed several tiger-proof livestock corrals to protect livestock from tiger attacks. Education and awareness programs have also been implemented to teach the local community about methods to minimise conflicts with tigers and elephants.

Thanks to your generous support SHL is creating a harmonious existence between humans and wildlife. Thank you!



Combating wildlife crime in North Sumatra

The Orangutan Project

In July 2021, supported by our WCI Canada Foundation, our project partner COP Sumatra established the APE Sentinel team to combat the ongoing impact of poaching and wildlife crimes in North Sumatra, with the region a major gateway for illegal wildlife trade to other parts of Indonesia and abroad.

The team currently comprises four dedicated members who investigate and report illegal wildlife trading, support rescue operations, conduct welfare checks on wildlife facilities, and engage with the local community through media and education programs. Their work is demanding, risky, and time-consuming, involving extensive hours of investigation, surveillance, and engagement with authorities and communities.

In December last year, the team conducted a two-month covert operation leading to the arrest of a leopard skin seller via Facebook and the confiscation of numerous animal parts. And in March, the team assisted our



The APE Sentinel Team is completely funded by our affiliate organisation the WCI Canada Foundation and donations are tax-deductible for residents of Canada.



FOR MORE INFO VISIT:
wcicanadafoundation.ca

SRA Rescue Team in the rescue of a *Critically Endangered* Tapanuli Orangutan. Over the last quarter the team also visited five schools, giving a presentation to over 488 students on the importance of protecting *Critically Endangered* wildlife and their habitats.

Protecting the elephants of Nam Pouy

International Elephant Project

The International Elephant Project is dedicated to the preservation of *Critically Endangered* Asian elephants in key ecosystems across Southeast Asia, including the Nam Pouy Protected Area (NPNPA) in Laos.

Over the past four years, our project has provided invaluable support to the Elephant Conservation Center in Laos, aimed at protecting the second largest population of wild elephants in NPNPA. This delicate ecosystem is home to an estimated 60 wild elephants. Donations help fund two dedicated patrol teams to investigate and deter illegal activity, work with local communities to mitigate human-elephant conflict, and monitor elephant populations through camera trapping and GPS tracking.

Previously, local residents had circulated

rumours suggesting that only one breeding-age male resided in the vast 200,000 hectare NPNPA. However, earlier this year, a camera trap survey revealed exciting news. The survey identified the presence of three breeding-age males in two separate herds, along with three sub-adult males. This discovery is a significant milestone for our efforts and underscores the vital role that camera traps play in comprehending the size and demographics of elephant populations. **Thank you for making this work possible.**





Cultivating the next generation of conservationists

Forests for People

At WCI we believe that the key to securing a sustainable future for Indonesia's wildlife and precious ecosystems lies in nurturing the next generation of Indonesian conservationists. With this vision in mind, we have been actively supporting the Orangutan Caring Scholarships Program, an initiative led by the Orang-utan Republik Foundation, since 2006.

In this time, a total of 244 scholarships have been awarded to students pursuing degrees in biology, forestry, and veterinary science. The scholarships not only enable students to attend university but also empower them to make a significant impact for orangutan (and other species) conservation when they enter the private, nonprofit, or government workforce.

The number of scholarships made available is dependent on the amount of funds pledged to the program, with the cost of administering one four-year scholarship approximately US\$1,500.

We are committed to funding 16 scholarships this financial year. We invite you to consider sponsoring a scholarship and becoming a catalyst for change.



FOR MORE INFO EMAIL:
giving@wildlifeconservationinternational.org

Empowering indigenous forest communities

Forests for People

In June we launched Forests for People, a new project under the umbrella of Wildlife Conservation International (WCI). As a sister project to The Orangutan Project, International Elephant Project, and International Tiger Project, Forests for People aims to address the humanitarian aspects of our conservation work.

Over the past twenty-five years, WCI has been dedicated to supporting a diverse range of humanitarian projects. With the establishment of Forests for People, we can now provide individuals and organisations with a unique opportunity to directly contribute to the humanitarian aspects of our mission.

The projects supported by Forests for People align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set forth by the United Nations in 2015. These goals encompass ending poverty, improving health and education, reducing inequality, spurring economic growth, combating climate change, and preserving the invaluable biodiversity of rainforests.



FOR MORE INFO VISIT:
forests4people.org

Donations to Forests for People are tax-deductible in Australia, New Zealand, European Union and the United States.



Giving freedom to rehabilitated orangutans

The Orangutan Project

Thanks to your support, more orangutans have been released into the Bukit Tigapuluh (BTP) Ecosystem in Sumatra. The Orangutan Project has been supporting a release program into BTP since 2008 in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and Frankfurt Zoological Society.

Over 180 orangutans have been released in this area so far in a bid to establish a sustainable population of *Critically Endangered* Sumatran orangutans. Most of these orangutans have been orphaned and have undergone years of rehabilitation before their release.

The program consists of two primary sites. The Open Orangutan Sanctuary (OOS) serves as the entry point for orangutans, where they undergo training at Jungle School to acquire essential forest survival skills. These skills include foraging, climbing and nest building. The second site is known as the Sumatran Orangutan

Reintroduction Centre (SORC), a release site located in Sungai Pengian.

We are delighted to report that in the last quarter, four orangutans were successfully released into the SORC. Marike, a five-year-old male, who spent nearly two years at OOS, arriving in May 2021. Feng and Ipin, both seven-year-old males, who spent 15-months at OOS, and Duma, a five-year-old female, who joined the OOS less than eight months ago. All released orangutans are monitored after release to ensure they are adapting well and they are protected by Wildlife Protection Units which we also fund.

Thanks to your incredible support these orangutans, and the many who have come before, and will come after them, can live their lives wild and free.



FENG



MARIKE



IPIIN



DUMA

YOUR LEGACY. THEIR FUTURE.



A gift in your Will can make a lasting difference for *Critically Endangered* orangutans, tigers and elephants, and indigenous forest communities.

Email bequests@wildlifeconservationinternational.org for your Gifts in Will Guide today.

YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES IT POSSIBLE

THANK YOU for sharing in our vision that all orangutans, elephants and tigers will live in their natural habitat in secure and viable populations.

If you would like further information on any of the projects featured in this newsletter, or would like to learn more about our conservation priorities and how you can be of support, please email giving@wildlifeconservationinternational.org

FOLLOW US ON



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CANADA: **WCI Canada Foundation** | Reg. Charity No. 7799635537 RR 0001

EUROPE: **Stichting Wildlife Conservation International** | RSIN: 862663313

NEW ZEALAND: **Forests for People** | Reg. Charity No. CC52147

UNITED KINGDOM: **Borneo Nature Trust** | Reg. Charity No. 1142870

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