



Forest Chatter



Issue 20 | June 2017

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From the President...

Dear Supporters,

So much news this month that the editor has restricted me to just a few words. That is of course the way it should be. Let's have the orangutans tell their stories. And there are so many stories to tell in this edition. We witnessed history this month with the arrival of Alba the albino orangutan; the first ever documented case of an albino orangutan. I was lucky enough to catch a glimpse of her through glass on a recent trip.

She is so sweet and so vulnerable. As more information comes to hand we will share Alba's future with you. It's a complicated situation but we know that BOS Indonesia will make that decision with Alba's welfare as their first priority.

In the meantime we are sure Alba won't mind being a spokesperson for her entire species in our tax time appeal. If she could talk she would most likely tell a very sad story of how she was separated from her

mum and how her habitat was lost. She would probably ask you to help so this doesn't happen to others. So please give what you can. Every dollar helps us continue to protect the rainforest and the orangutans that depend on it for their survival.

Please enjoy our stories and thanks for your support. It is your donations that make all this possible.

Tony Gilding
President



SEND YOUR GIFT BY JUNE 30 AND HELP ORANGUTANS LIKE ALBA HAVE THE BEST CHANCE AT SURVIVAL. VISIT ORANGUTANS.COM.AU

It's tax time; make your donation count for more

Your support means we can quickly respond when we get rescue alerts for orangutans like Alba, the albino orangutan.

Send your tax-deductible donation by 30 June and help orangutans like Alba have the best chance of survival. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

In April the BOS Foundation (BOSF), in cooperation with Central Kalimantan BKSDA, successfully rescued a five-year-old female orangutan from Tanggirang village, Central Kalimantan.

Local residents held the orangutan captive for two days before she was rescued. A preliminary physical examination conducted by our medical team determined she is an albino orangutan: her hair, eye, and skin colour is paler than normal, and she is also sensitive to light.

When rescued, the orangutan was dehydrated, weak and suffering from a parasitic infection. After days of special care, her appetite has improved and her weight has increased. She is now eating a variety of fruits and has put on 4.5kg in 10 days.

Fortunately she is displaying wild behaviours, which means there is a good chance she could soon be released back to a natural habitat.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

In May, BOSF appealed to the public to help name this special orangutan. Overwhelmingly, thousands of suggestions were received from all over the world. We are delighted to announce that the little girl has now been officially named Alba; her name means 'white' in Latin and 'dawn' in Spanish.



Baby rescued in Kuwait and returned home

After months of coordination and planning, and cooperation from many stakeholders, on 17 April 2017 the Government of Indonesia, through its Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK), and Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Kemlu), together with the BOS Foundation, repatriated a baby male orangutan from Kuwait to Indonesia.

The baby orangutan was illegally smuggled into Kuwait. Local authorities in Kuwait discovered the two-year-old male orangutan, named Taymur, when he was spotted being driven around in a car by a Kuwait national. The Indonesian Embassy in Kuwait quickly responded to reports by coordinating with the Kemlu and the KLHK, which then contacted the BOS Foundation to assist with repatriating little Taymur to Indonesia. As an organisation focused on the rescue, rehabilitation and release of orangutans, BOS Foundation has the experience and expertise to help repatriate smuggled orangutans like Taymur.

To ensure Taymur's safety and welfare during the trip, BOS Foundation flew one of its most experienced veterinarians to Kuwait to accompany Taymur. The 30-hour trip to bring Taymur home left Kuwait for Jakarta, with a stopover in Amsterdam. An examination by our accompanying vet, Maryos Tandang, determined

that Taymur was in good health after his long journey from Kuwait.

Taymur was then transported to Taman Safari Indonesia's (TSI) quarantine facility in Cisarua Bogor, West Java, escorted by a joint team from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and BOS Foundation. At TSI, Taymur will undergo a quarantine period, complete with thorough health and DNA testing to determine where he will undergo rehabilitation once he has completed quarantine.

BOS Foundation CEO Dr. Ir. Jamartin Sihite voicing his concerns regarding the repatriation, said "This has happened before, in the same country. We should be able to detect and thwart attempts to smuggle baby orangutans, which are similar in size to a human baby. We fight against the illegal drug trade; why are we not fighting as hard against the illegal animal trade? We want to push for tighter surveillance of goods leaving the country. We are more than happy to help the government in its effort to return smuggled orangutans, but we must work harder to stop the continued and cruel illegal animal trade. We cannot underestimate the degree of damage this trade causes to nature. Nor can we ignore the financial costs involved in repatriation."

The illegal wildlife trade is a serious threat to orangutan survival.

BOS Foundation is committed to take real action to help protect orangutans. The orangutan is an icon of Indonesia's wildlife and plays an instrumental role in forest regeneration. Protecting the forests not only helps save orangutans from extinction, but also protects the vitally important ecosystems that provide us all with a better quality of life.

It is hoped that someday Taymur will be released back into the forest. In 2015, BOS Foundation was actively involved in repatriating two other orangutans, Puspa and Moza, from Kuwait. These two orangutans, and other orangutans repatriated from Thailand were also victims of the illegal pet trade.

BOS Foundation has declared 2017 the year of #OrangutanFreedom and is honoured to help Taymur gain his freedom. Orangutans are not meant to live in cages, nor endure a life in captivity: Orangutans should be living wild and free in their natural habitat, the forest.

You can help report illegal animal trade. Simply download the *Wildlife Witness* app. It allows tourists and locals to easily report wildlife trade by taking a photo, pinning the exact location of an incident and sending these important details to TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network.

Six more orangutans freed

In cooperation with PT. RHOI and the East Kalimantan BKSDA, the BOS Foundation has released another six orangutans to the Kehje Sewen Forest.

All six orangutans had completed several years' rehabilitation at BOS Foundation's Forest School in Samboja Lestari and are considered ready to live independently in the wild. They were released in the southern part of Kehje Sewen at a location where 24 other rehabilitated orangutans were previously released; all of whom have since dispersed throughout the forest.

On 25 April Reckie, Justin, Ung, Robert, Heli and Tree, four female and two male orangutans, were sedated, placed into transport cages, and then loaded onto vehicles ready for the journey to the Kehje Sewen Forest. Our team followed strict protocols throughout the 20-hour road trip, stopping every two hours to check on the orangutans and provide them with food and water.

The team reached Muara Wahau the following day and from there continued on for another four hours until reaching a point 200 metres from the banks of the Telen River – the last point accessible by vehicle. The team then carried the transport cages down to the riverbank and moved them across to the other side of the river using a ces (small boat). Once they reached the other side, the cages were loaded onto two waiting utility vehicles that would carry them to the release points deep in the southern part of the Kehje Sewen Forest.

On April 26, the six orangutans were finally given their freedom.

The release of these six brings the total number of orangutans released by the BOS Foundation to the Kehje Sewen Forest since 2012 to 68.

The long road to freedom

JUSTIN

Justin was rescued from a villager in East Kalimantan in October 2010. He was three years old and in good health, but feared humans. After completing quarantine, Justin began his rehabilitation where he gradually became more independent. With a good set of survival skills, 10-year-old Justin is ready to live in the wild habitat of the Kehje Sewen Forest.

UNG

Ung was rescued in April 2010 when she was five years old. In Forest School she became a skilled forager and nest builder. After seven years' of rehabilitation at Samboja Lestari, 12-year-old Ung is now free in Kehje Sewen Forest.

ROBERT

Robert was confiscated from a villager in East Kalimantan, who was keeping him illegally as a pet. He was brought to Samboja Lestari in July 2010 when he was two years old. Robert was moved to Island 4 in Samboja Lestari and has since grown into a dominant male who likes to spend time alone. Nine-year-old Robert is a good forager and spends a great amount of time in the trees.

RECKIE

Reckie was rescued from a local tourism location in East Kalimantan, in April 2010. Little 1-year-old Reckie started her rehabilitation in the Nursery Group and gradually moved through the Forest School levels. Now an independent eight-year-old with good foraging and nest-building skills, she loves to spend most of her time in the trees.

TREE

A mining company in Bengalon, East Kalimantan, handed over an eight-month-old female named Tree in August 2006. Thanks to the loving care from our dedicated babysitters, 11-year-old Tree is now an ideal release candidate. She spends most of her time alone in the trees and avoids interaction with humans.

HELI

Heli was confiscated from a villager in Sangatta in November 2008 when she was about one year old. During her time in Forest School, Heli became known for her sound social skills and liked to teach younger orangutans how to do things. Heli, now 10 years old, is good friends with Reckie, and the two spend much of their time together.





Baby houses finished

As reported in our previous edition, due to the overwhelming generosity of our supporters, late last year we began construction of our new baby houses at both Samboja Lestari and Nyaru Menteng centres.

The work has moved very fast and we are happy to report that construction of both projects was finished in April 2017.

The new baby house at Samboja Lestari is designed for up to 14 babies. The two baby houses at Nyaru Menteng will accommodate 28 babies.

There are currently four babies at Samboja Lestari ready to move in. There are enough babies at NM to fill the new homes.

We are all very proud of the cooperation between BOSF, BOS Switzerland and BOS Australia in completing the baby houses. They are wonderful buildings with rainwater collection systems and waste disposal wetland systems. We can't wait to our babies playing together and sleeping soundly in their new baby homes.

Once again, thank you to everyone who contributed to make this happen.

Get your hands dirty and make a difference

Do you have two weeks spare to make a difference to the lives of orangutans? Leave your comfort zone and come with us to Borneo on our Volunteer Enrichment Program.

Join us in beautiful Samboja Lestari, a 2000-hectare reserve, home to over 200 orangutans and 50 sun bears.

These volunteer programs involve working on the ongoing behavioural enrichment project for the non-releasable orangutans in our care. You will get the rare opportunity to make enrichment items that the keepers will feed out to the orangutans. This may also involve making larger items like hammocks. You will also get to spend a day with

the sun bears. There are local activities and trips included in the itinerary, e.g. local markets, river cruise.

Please be advised that there is no actual hands-on contact with the orangutans.

BOSA will be running four 14-night programs between November 2017 and February 2018.

- November: 6–19 November 2017
- December: 4–17 December 2017
- January: 8–21 January 2018
- February: 5–18 February 2018

Full details regarding costs and booking are available on the BOSA website at: <http://bit.ly/2pLUouW>



BOS Australia
primates helping primates

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Thank you for your continued support.



We love hearing from you

We know you've been spreading the orangutan word, so why not tell us about what you're up to? Email contact@orangutans.com.au or post your photos online at [facebook.com/bosaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/bosaustralia) or [instagram/bosaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/bosaustralia)

Can you help us?

Your donations provide food, shelter, protection, medicine and companionship for orangutans in our care. Visit www.orangutans.com.au to help us help them.

Donations by cheque are payable to Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) Australia at PO Box 3916, Mosman NSW 2088.

Make a one-off or regular payment via direct debit or by credit card either online or by calling us on (02) 9011 5455. We now accept **pay pal** donations too! See the link on the homepage of our website.

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