



Forest Chatter



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BOS Australia | + 61 2 9011 5455 | PO Box 3916 Mosman NSW 2088

From the President ...

Welcome to our first Forest Chatter of 2022! I hope your year is going as planned, and you are following your goals and dreams.

For me, a dream came true this year. With the help of the BOS Foundation and BOS Switzerland, we completed our first clean energy project at our Samboja Lestari rehabilitation centre, which now runs entirely on solar power. Switching to solar energy is one of many ambitious goals we like to accomplish to reduce our carbon footprint, and you can read all about this major milestone on pages 2 and 3 of this issue.

Also, I am delighted to report that we could release another eight orangutans back into the wild. Amongst them was Miko, a longtime member of our BOS Australia adoption family.

If you would like to know more about our adoption program, don't miss the interview with Lalita Tri Adila. She is coordinating the program at the BOS Foundation's headquarters in Indonesia. Find out who of our rescued orangutan orphans gets selected as a candidate and why a symbolic adoption is so important for our work on page 4.

As always, enjoy and spread the word!

With much gratitude,
Tony Gilding
President



Miko is back home

We are thrilled to announce that Miko and seven other rehabilitated orangutans are now roaming free in the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park in Central Kalimantan.

The 38th release from our Nyaru Menteng rehabilitation centre in late December 2021 included Ating, Lido, Moni, Petto, Pickle, Sembara, Suci – and our beloved Miko, a longtime member of our adoption family.

Twelve years ago, he arrived at our Nyaru Menteng rehabilitation centre. When the rescue team confiscated Miko from a nearby village, he was in a deplorable condition; a tiny, dehydrated infant in a cage with wounds on his hands and fingers.

Over the years at forest school, Miko developed into a kind and cheeky character, much loved by our staff and the other orphans alike. Now his story has come full circle, thanks to wonderful supporters like you.

But many more orangutans in our care still need help. For example, Jeni and Monyo. The two infants are new to our **adoption** program, and while you can't change their traumatic past, you can brighten their future.

By adopting them, you help Jeni and Monyo through forest school to a pre-release island and one day back home to the Bornean rainforest, where they can follow Miko's footsteps to a free and wild life.

orangutans.com.au/meet-our-family





Let the sunshine in!

Saving orangutans also means protecting their rainforest homes and fighting climate change. To reduce our carbon footprint, we partnered up with our parent organisation, the BOS Foundation, and our colleagues at BOS Switzerland and built a new solar system at our Samboja Lestari rehabilitation centre – our first big step towards renewable energy.

At Borneo Orangutan Survival, we have an ambitious goal: to make all our facilities in Indonesia carbon-neutral, solar-powered, water independent, and self-sufficient in waste-water treatment by 2025. Therefore, we are thrilled to announce that we have completed the first project towards this goal at our Samboja Lestari orangutan reintroduction centre in East Kalimantan. The new system produces solar energy that will power the centre for decades to come.

Samboja Lestari is home to over 100 orangutans, an eco-lodge, guest education facilities and the head offices for all BOS Foundation rescue, release, and restoration activities in East Kalimantan. However, the centre is remote and therefore not connected to the power grid. That's why every year, we had to pump over 100,000 litres of diesel into generators to maintain Samboja Lestari's vital infrastructure.

As a nature conservation organisation, our goal has always been to move to renewable energy one day. In 2018, the time had come. Together with the BOS Foundation and BOS Switzerland, with the help of the Swiss Foundation, we started to build the new solar system.

Now, four years later, the about 850,000 US-Dollar plant is up and running. An over 600-panel solar array alongside the access road to the Samboja Lodge, next to the veterinary clinic, converts sunlight directly into electricity, producing around 272 kWh of energy a month. With this much solar power, we can drastically reduce our carbon footprint and needed energy expenditures.

The numbers speak for themselves: Moving forward, we will save more than 100,000 litres of diesel and avoid 150,000 kilograms of carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent emissions per year.

While gasoline generators will remain onsite as an emergency backup, we have calculated the energy produced by the solar array to be more than sufficient to provide for all of Samboja Lestari's energy needs through both the rainy and dry seasons. And soon, we hope to power electric carts with the solar system, used for most of our daily operations.

To give the project educational value, we will add murals to the facility buildings so that visitors learn about solar energy and its economic and



environmental benefits. We didn't leave the design to chance: A jury picked the best idea by running a Mural Art Call amongst Indonesian artists, and the winner, Kune Studio Collective, is now working on perfecting it. The result will be unveiled during the inauguration ceremony in April.

The murals address the connection between protecting climate and species, show how the solar system works, and celebrate the rainforest and its inhabitants. We hope that they will inspire all who see them take their own steps towards renewable energy and greener living.

"The solar project is a dream come true", says Tony Gilding, president of Borneo Orangutan Survival Australia and one of the forerunners at BOS towards renewable energies. "But we are still far from where we want to be."

That's why BOS Australia was and is expediting other sustainable projects, like converting the former swimming pool at Samboja Lestari's eco-lodge into a rainwater tank. The 33 metres long, 12 metres wide and



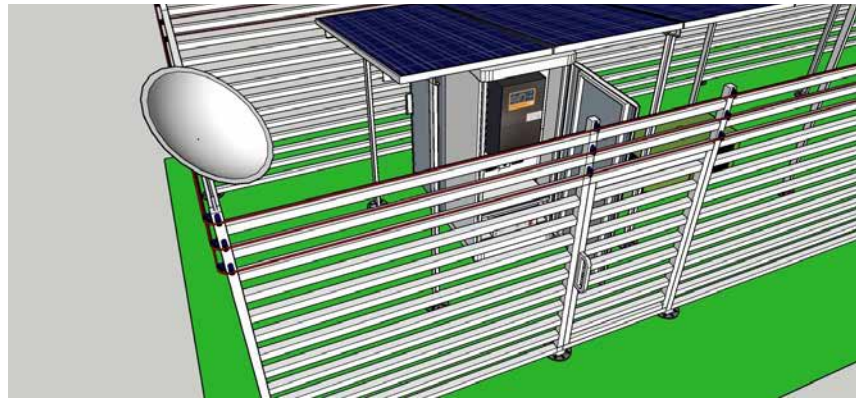
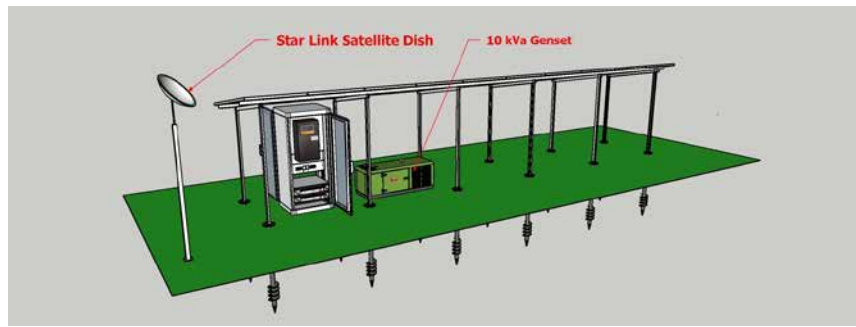
two metres deep pool can store up to 1.4 million litres of rainwater. This amount will cover about 20 per cent of the needed 50,000 litres per day, used for drinking, washing and food preparation. The rest comes from dams and bore water. The idea is to keep the pool always filled, so there will be plenty of water for fighting forest fires during the dry season – a significant threat to the orangutan population.

But our vision of a carbon-neutral future doesn't stop at the rehabilitation centres. It continues deep into the Bornean rainforest – with standalone solar power stations.

To be able to monitor the orangutans we reintroduce into the wild, we operate camps close to our remote release sites. Currently, the energy supply for the camps comes from diesel generators. But diesel is not just harmful to the environment; transporting the barrels through rough terrain with roads often undeserving of that term can be a nightmare for our team.

That's why we have started to build the first standalone solar power station for Camp Lesik in the Kehje Sewen Forest in East Kalimantan. With solar energy, we can power all the devices our post-release monitoring teams need with almost zero CO₂ emissions. We will only have to use generators when consecutive days of rain or low light reduce the photovoltaic output or to operate occasional large loads, like heavy power tools, welders, and pumps.

However, moving to solar in remote areas is easier said than done. First, we had to come up with a solution that was efficient for our staff and safe from inquisitive intruders such as orangutans and macaques. Curious



Standalone solar stations will power all the devices our post-release monitoring teams need. They are screwed into the ground to transport them to other locations easily, and fences protect them from curious intruders.

as these primates are, they can easily destroy the valuable equipment. So, we need to protect it with fences they can't access.

"To our knowledge, there is no system like ours that can withstand the rigours of forest life", explains Tony Gilding. The design incorporates solar panels, inverters, batteries, a backup generator and a solar internet connection. This set-up will give the camp staff hi-speed internet access with no diesel cost or maintenance. It will also allow them to add a fridge to their kitchen. And the extra benefit: By securing the stations with ground screws instead of concrete, we can easily disassemble and transport them to other locations.

With the pandemic leading to major delivery bottlenecks, the construction

of our new solar system started much later than expected, and we could only carry it out under strict safety protocols. Therefore, we are all the more delighted that we now plan its inauguration.

For BOS Australia, the project also has a very personal significance, as the BOS Foundation and its international partners have elected to name the plaza in front of the generator room after our president, Tony Gilding. It is a token of appreciation in honour of his amazing contribution to orangutan and rainforest conservation and his lead role at BOS in making this move to renewable energy possible.

We like to thank all who have contributed to this project so that the orangutans can benefit from the clean green power of the sun.



HELLO, I AM LALITA



Lalita Tri Adila coordinates the orangutan adoption program at the BOS Foundation's headquarters in Indonesia.

Jeni and Monyo are the latest babies added to our adoption program. Can you tell our readers how you select the orangutans for the program?

Usually, we will select new adoption candidates when the previous ones graduate from forest school. It is then that our teams, both in the head office and at the programs of Nyaru Menteng and Samboja Lestari, start by reviewing a list of forest school students and their background stories.

Before we decide, we discuss in-depth with the veterinarians about their health histories and if there are any current concerns. We also consult with the surrogate mothers about their personalities and the progress the students have been making at Forest School.

We don't only look for a strong background story that illustrates the severe threats that orangutans face,

but we also consider their behavioural attributes such as their intelligence, their distinct personalities, and their consistent development of skills.

For example, Jeni was traumatised when she first came to the Nyaru Menteng Rehabilitation Centre, but she was able to break free of her trauma and become a young, cheerful, and energetic female. Monyo was chosen because he quickly gets along with other orangutans and is extraordinarily curious.

When our supporters adopt an orangutan, they not only help this specific orangutan. What else do they support?

Our goal is for the adoption program to be one way for supporters to learn about orangutan conservation and ease the financial burden we face running the entire rehabilitation process. Therefore, as an adopter, you not only support the specific orangutans who are up for adoption but all the orangutans under our care.

The rehabilitation process is long and very complex, requiring a lot

of money. We currently have over 400 orangutans who need daily care, including food, vet care, transportation when moving to pre-release islands and release sites, and permanent sanctuary care for all of our unreleasable orangutans.

What makes the adoption program so unique for supporters?

Through the adoption program, you get to follow the orangutans' stories and learn about our work along the way. We will send you updates regularly and help create a connection between you and the orangutan you adopt. You will feel like a parent who is always curious about your child's progress at school!

Furthermore, the orangutan adoption program is also the perfect way for you to be responsible for the care and survival of orangutans and their habitat long-term. This program is more impactful and more exciting than a one-time donation, as it represents your continued commitment to both the particular orangutan you adopted and the species as a whole.



BOS Australia
primates helping primates

Borneo Orangutan Survival Australia

+ 61 2 9011 5455
PO Box 3916
Mosman NSW 2088

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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 +61 2 9011 5455. We also accept **Paypal** donations. See the link on the homepage of our website.

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