

# PRIMATE ETHNO- ZOOLOGY:

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**REGIONAL ORANGUTAN  
CONSERVATION MEETINGS**

Orangutan Conservation Regional Meetings are part of the process of updating information on the progress of the orangutan conservation program, consolidating members of regional forums, and developing orangutan conservation strategies at the metapopulation with better prepared organizational structures.

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**FOREST & ORANGUTANS  
CONSERVATION CAMPAIGN**

"Edu Camp" activities are a series of activities, Sustainable Forest, Orangutan, and Biodiversity Campaigns that YAYORIN offers annually. Edu Camp is one of the methods of nature conservation invites the younger generation to explore the potential of their area through a package of educational recreational field activities.

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**THE ORANGUTAN  
HAVEN**

Orangutan Haven, will be a unique place for conservation, education, sustainable development, recreation, and a major asset for the city of Medan and other areas.

# THANK YOU, TO ALL CONTRIBUTORS

Greetings on behalf of the editorial team!

The FORINA Secretariat would like to thank all contributors who have offered ideas and concepts, and who offered their time and energy to contribute to writing this first edition of the FORINA Newsletter. We hope our newsletter will be published and enjoyed by all our members and by the general public, as an avenue for sharing information. We hope the existence of FORINA news will unite our spirit in our efforts to save and preserve the survival of orangutans and their ecosystems, and offer fun and interesting stories for us to read and appreciate together.

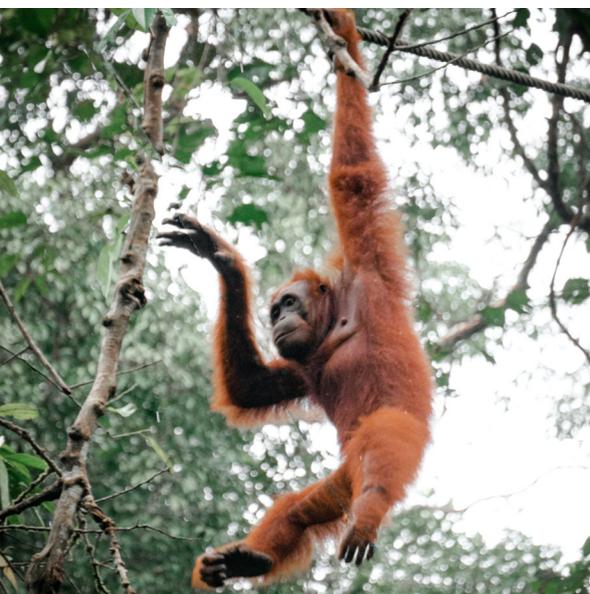
As we build this newsletter, we're always looking to improve and feature content that you find interesting and helpful. The best way for us to make this newsletter better is to hear from you. We'd love to get any feedback or post suggestions you think should be included. Simply send you email to: [support@forina.org](mailto:support@forina.org)

Best Regards,

The FORINA Editorial team.



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# FIRST EDITION

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

News and Stories of Orangutan Conservation



**Aldrianto Priadjati**  
Chair of FORINA

We are delighted to present our first edition of Warta FORINA (FORINA News). This newsletter features various activities from the site level, including the orangutan regional forum meeting.

Communication between orangutan conservation activists is essential to support one another and learn from experiences at the site level.

This first edition of Warta FORINA includes contributions of fellow orangutan conservation activists in the field. Hopefully, Warta FORINA can continue to voice all efforts of conservation activists for orangutans and their habitats in Indonesia.

We hope everybody are willing to contribute. We hope that Warta FORINA can contribute to orangutan conservation in Indonesia.



# REGIONAL ORANGUTAN CONSERVATION MEETING

Author: FORINA Secretariat



Sumatra Regional Meeting



Mapping of Stakeholders in the Sumatra Region as a Strategy for Strengthening the Orangutan Conservation Network



Opening of the Orangutan Conservation Regional Meeting in Central Kalimantan

Orangutan Conservation Regional Meetings are part of the process of updating the progress of orangutan conservation activities, consolidating members of regional forums, and formulating orangutan conservation strategies at the metapopulation level with better prepared organizational structures.

These meetings have been held in two regions: Sumatra, which involves three provinces (Aceh, North Sumatra, and Jambi), from March 31-April 01, 2021, in Medan, and Central Kalimantan, on April 22, 2021, in Palangkaraya. The two meetings were organized by the respective Regional Forums: Sumatra Orangutan Forum (FOKUS) and Central Kalimantan Regional Forum (FORKAH). Both meetings were supported by the stakeholders involved, i.e., Governments, NGOs, private sectors and orangutan experts, and facilitated by FORINA. The meetings succeeded in unifying the forum as well as encouraging synergy among orangutan conservation parties. Central Kalimantan Conservation Regional Meeting



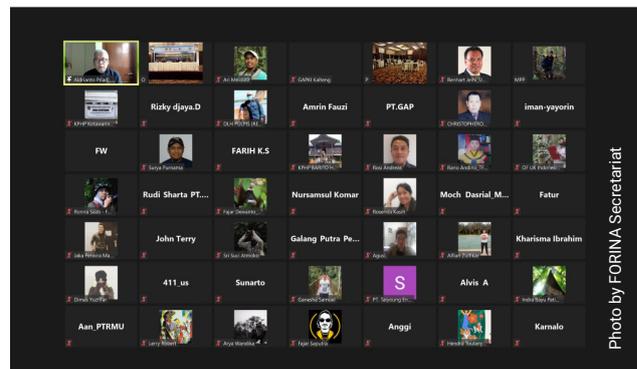
Central Kalimantan Conservation Regional Meeting

The Sumatra Regional Meeting was attended by 63 participants, 43 in person and the other 20 virtually. The Palangkaraya meeting was attended by 83 participants, both in person and virtually. Orangutan conservation activists took this opportunity to build support for orangutan conservation efforts in these two areas and to communicate directly, which facilitates communication and reduces various barriers to orangutan conservation.

This meeting has also mapped out orangutan conservation stakeholders at national, metapopulation, and site levels. It resulted in recommending strengthening the roles of provincial and district governments, through the Provincial Forestry Service and Forest Management Units (KPH) working in areas that include orangutan habitat - considering that some orangutan populations and habitats are outside conservation areas (i.e., protected forests, production forests, and other use areas "APPL"). Furthermore, the regional meeting in Sumatra was also an opportunity for FOKUS to elect their new daily governing body. Indra Kurnia was chosen as FOKUS chairperson for the 2021-2024 period.



Opening of the Central Kalimantan Orangutan Conservation Regional Meeting



Some Participants Join Online Meetings



Talkshow on the Caring Week orangutan activity

## SUSTAINABLE FORESTS, ORANUTANS, AND BIODIVERSITY CAMPAIGN

Author: Gusti Wicaksono (YAYORIN)



“Edu Camp” offers a series of activities for the Sustainable Forest, Orangutans, and Biodiversity Campaign that YAYORIN (Indonesian Orangutan Foundation) holds annually. It is one of the environmental conservation education methods that encourages and invites the younger generation to explore an area’s potential through a set of recreational and educational activities. Materials are delivered in the form of presentations, field training, and games to make the activities more enjoyable.

In addition, Edu Camp activities offer many benefits such as practicing cohesiveness and increasing participants’ independence. It is located in YAYORIN’s Conservation Village and the Jurang Tiga Nature Park. Participants are taught about environmental issues in Kalimantan through short film screenings about the forest. Discussions after the film was shown were the most interesting component, based on participants’ enthusiasm in discussing the film after watching it.

Providing material on techniques for popular scientific writing and for photographing in the wild became the main part of this activity. After being provided these materials, participants were invited to explore and carry out animal observation activities in Jurang Tiga Nature Park for two days. In that park numerous animal species can be encountered and documented, such as various mammals, birds such as the Asian Black Hornbill (“kangkareng hitam”) and kingfishers (“raja udang”), and various kinds of insects.



Photo by YAYORIN

Animal Tracking and Observation during Orangutan Caring Week

They are also given the opportunity to write and talk about the journey they experienced through these materials and activities by writing popular articles. This activity is designed with the aims of enabling participants to better understand the importance of protecting the environment, as well as helping them to more easily understand the importance of protecting the environment, to be able to identify recognize some animal species, and to increase their awareness of their environment.



Photo by YAYORIN

Orangutan Art Contest during Orangutan Caring Week



Photo by YAYORIN

Photo Contest at Mini Gallery

In addition to Edu Camp, every year YAYORIN is also involved in Orangutan Caring Week activities. Orangutan Caring Week is an annual event held in November. It aims to serve as a reminder that the existence of orangutans in the wild must be protected. Protecting their forests, preserving orangutans, and ensuring their future are the themes raised in commemorating the Orangutan Caring Week held by YAYORIN.

This campaign about orangutans is one of YAYORIN's main activities for the younger generation and local communities, which play an important role in saving orangutans and their habitat. If current generations don't care about orangutans and their habitat, both will most likely become extinct in future generations.

In addition to campaigns starting from kindergarten and continuing through elementary, middle and high school, YAYORIN carries out equally interesting educational activities, such as photo contests, story-telling, mini galleries, and orangutan art contests. Through these activities, we hope that the younger generation and the general public will understand how important it is to protect orangutans, and can express their emotions, concerns, and thoughts through the work they do.

# COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT OF ORANGUTAN HABITAT IN WEHEA-KELAY

Author: Moh. Arif Rifqi  
(Wehea-Kelay EEA Working Group Forum)



Partnerships built on the common goal  
of protecting and managing orangutan  
populations and habitats collaboratively.

Various sources state that the majority of Bornean orangutans' habitat is spread outside of conservation areas. Data from the Orangutan Population and Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) in 2016 show that 83% of the approximately 13.5 million hectares of orangutan habitat within Indonesian Borneo lies outside conservation areas. These habitats are generally in forest areas managed by local governments and forestry concessions, and some of them intersect with community management, mining, and plantation areas.

Wehea-Kelay is one area of orangutan habitat that lies outside of conservation areas. In general, this area spans 532,143 hectares, 88% of which is forested.

Looking at the trend of orangutan conservation problems occurring in this vicinity, and within Kalimantan in general, as of 2015, 10 parties consisting of elements of the central government, regional governments, communities, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations have created collaborative management partnerships on a landscape scale of 264,000 hectares. These partnerships later became the first Essential Ecosystem Area (EEA) Forum in Indonesia. Currently, 23 parties are members of the Forum, which effectively covers a joint management area of 470,000 hectares



Photo by Pokja Forum KEE Wehea-Kelay

Wehea-Kelay EAA Forum Annual Meeting Participants

Orangutan population data published in 2020 indicates that about 1,200 orangutans are scattered in an effective habitat of 420,000 hectares. These data update the information reported in the 2016 Orangutan PHVA.

Initially, orangutan habitat management was focused on the 29,000 hectare Wehea Protection Forest area, which has been protected by the Wehea Dayak community and the East Kutai Regency Government since 2003.

The partnership is built based on the common goal of protecting and collaboratively managing orangutan populations and their habitats by implementing best management practices. Several efforts are being made, such as implementing low-emission logging, mitigating human-wildlife conflicts, increasing human resource capacity, ecotourism, and other related efforts listed in the Action Plan of Wehea-Kelay EEA Management.

# ORANGUTAN PROTECTION AT PT. REA KALTIM PLANTATIONS & GROUP

Author: Suimah

(Conservations Department of PT REA Kaltim Plantations & Group



Orangutans are protected by laws, both nationally and internationally. Therefore, orangutans at PT. REA Kaltim Plantations & Group have been actively protected since the establishment of the Department of Conservation in 2008. Orangutans of the *Pongo pygmaeus morio* species have been found in almost the entire of Conservation Reserve/HCV area of PT. REA Kaltim Plantations & Group, which constitutes 22% of the total concession area.

PT. REA Kaltim Plantations & Group's management commitments to orangutan conservation are reflected in scientifically based policies on the protection of orangutans, as threatened species, and SOPs for handling conflicts between humans and orangutans and to promote cooperation with the public. Research related to the distribution and abundance of orangutans in the Conservation Reserve/HCV Area of the PT. REA Kaltim Plantation & Group has been conducted by staff of the Department of Conservation together with Lecturers and Students of the Universitas Nasional in 2010 and 2018.



Further, in 2019, orangutans were recorded 18 times by camera traps and five times by direct observation. In 2020, orangutans were seen 24 times by camera traps and two times by direct observation.

Every encounter was recorded and documented in detail by the staff of the Biodiversity Management division of the Department of Conservation of PT. REA Kaltim Plantations & Group, and differentiates the sex and age of the orangutan(s), the health status/condition of each individual based on the location of each finding

This approach has become the core of the orangutan protection program of the PT. REA Kaltim Plantations & Group for cooperation with BKSDA East Kalimantan.

Plans for building a corridor that will connect HCV areas around the REA Kaltim Plantations & Group concession with HCVs area of the surrounding companies is currently being developed, as an effort to protect orangutans within a broader landscape.

Concerning protecting orangutans in PT. REA Kaltim Plantations and Group, that is the entire area where orangutans are found, is not possible with the human resources available - they cannot cover the entire area. Lessons learned from conservation activities at PT. REA Kaltim Plantations & Group are:

01

There have been seminars and education activities, distributing leaflets and posters to surrounding local communities, employees, and students from elementary, junior high, and high school levels.

02

Orangutan findings are reported to the Department of Conservation for follow-up and reported to the BKSDA, and some orangutans have been rescued

Installing camera trap in the area of PT. REA Kaltim Plantations & Group



# THE ORANGUTAN HAVEN:

## A unique place for conservation, education and sustainable development, and recreation

**Author: drh. Citrakasih Nente**

Head of Ex-situ Conservation Division, Sustainable Ecosystem Foundation – Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Program

To date, the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Program (SOCP) has released more than 180 orangutans on the edge of Bukit Tigapuluh National Park in Jambi, and 130 individuals in The Cagar Alam forest in Aceh.

At both sites, SOCP gradually established two completely new populations of wild individuals that are genetically viable and self-sufficient. Currently, there are 80 individuals under treatment at the SOCP Orangutan Rehabilitation and Quarantine Center in North Sumatra. Most will eventually be released as well, but some individuals cannot be released to the wild for reasons of health or disability.

Orangutans that can not be released are currently located in an iron cage, which, although large, is still less than optimal for supporting their health and welfare in the long term, given the orangutans can live for 50 years or more. Based on these considerations, the Director of SOCP, Dr. Ian Singleton came up with the idea of building an island as natural as possible and large enough to provide long-term sanctuary for orangutans that cannot be released to the wild, so that they can live in a much better environment. The islands are equipped with structures for climbing, ropes, natural vegetation and are separated by wide water moats.

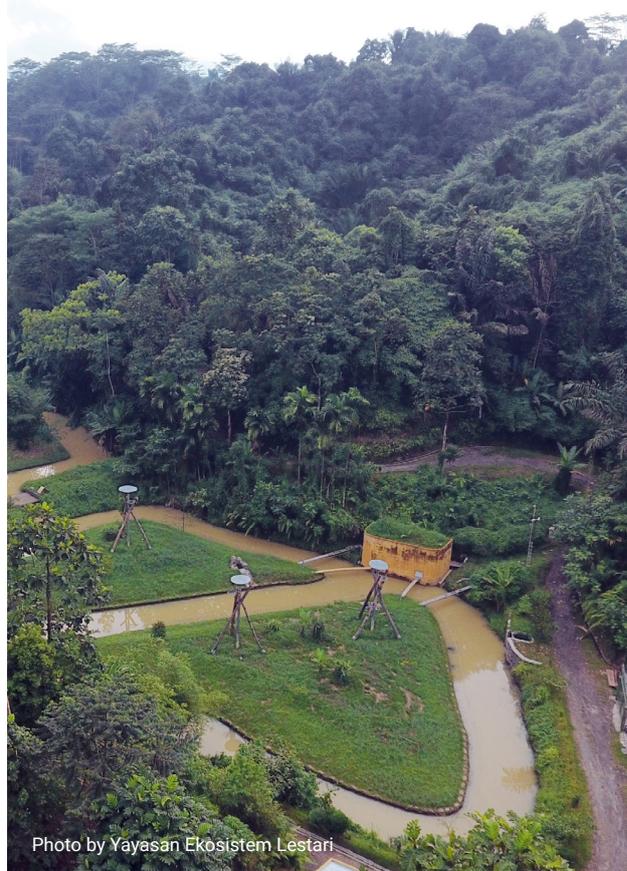


Photo by Yayasan Ekosistem Lestari

An aerial photo shows the house of orangutan 2 at the front. Meanwhile, Island 1–Island 6 is seen at the back. A total of 9 islands and four orangutan homes.



An aerial photo shows the house of orangutan 2 at the front. Meanwhile, Island 1–Island 6 is seen at the back. A total of 9 islands and four orangutan homes.

These islands will allow the orangutans to live a much more natural and enriched life, while still having all the care they need. Thus, the orangutans will not only have a much better environment and quality of life, but they will also educate visitors and become conservation ambassadors for wild orangutans. Even though they are no longer able to live wild in the forest, they will continue to play an important role in the survival of their species and natural rainforest habitats in the future. Orangutan Haven will be a unique place for conservation, education, sustainable development, and recreation and is a major asset for Medan and other areas.





# **PRIMATE ETHNOZOOLOGY: ORANGUTANS, THE CIVILIZATION'S ASSET AT THE BORDER OF NATION**

**Author: Wahyuningyan Arini, S. Si**  
Assistant Researcher of Forest Ecosystem Controller (PEH) of TaNa Bentarum

One of the inhabitants of natural forests in Kalimantan is the Bornean Orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*). Orangutans are referred to as umbrella species since they are bioindicators of forest sustainability. The existence of orangutan habitat is a sign that an area provides the space and sufficient resources for the creatures that live in it, including water, food, and shelter. Orangutans will survive in places that have sufficient amounts of food and water sources. Orangutans are frugivorous animals or fruit eaters. Orangutans are also seed dispersers which are important for plant reproduction. Therefore, it is important to protect orangutans' nest trees and feed trees, as well as clean water sources for the preservation of key species in the Betung Kerihun National Park.

The Bornean Orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) is a Critically Endangered (CR) species according to the 2016 IUCN Red List. This species is also included in the list of protected animals by the Regulations of the Minister of the Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia No. P.106/MENLHK/SETJEN/KUM.1/12/2018 Regarding the Second Amendment to the Regulation of the Minister of the Environment and Forestry Number P.20/MENLHK/SETJEN/KUM.1/6/2018 concerning Protected Plant and Animal Species.

Betung Kerihun National Park (BKNP) is a conservation area on the border of West Kalimantan and Sarawak, Malaysia. This area is inhabited by various species of animals, including 301 species of birds, 112 species of fish, and 48 species of mammals including seven species of primates (RPJP TNBK, 2016-2025). The management of Betung Kerihun National Park protects and ensures that its animal species will survive in various ways, including conducting monitoring activities for orangutans and forest protection and security patrol.

Management cannot work alone, considering the area of this national park reaches 816.693.40 hectares. The management of TNBK works together with communities surrounding the area to preserve the forest and the biodiversity within it. Involving local community members as conservation subjects has been carried out for a long time, through patrolling with the Forest Police Partner Community (MMP), monitoring keystone animal species, and empowering local people. The involvement of local communities in protecting the TNBK forest, especially at the Sebabai and Sadap Resorts, Lanjak National Park Management Section, and the Mataso National Park Management Division, were also triggered by the existence of customary laws that protect animals, which are important for community customs.



### Customs and Traditions as Local Wisdom in Protecting Animals

The buffer villages of the area of Sebabai and Sadap Resort are dominated by the Dayak tribe, one of which is the Dayak Iban. The majority of the Dayak Iban live in Mensiau Village, Batang Lupar Sub-District, and Manua Sadap Village, Embaloh Hulu Sub-District, Kapuas Hulu Regency. The Dayak Iban people believe that certain animals can be a sign of nature, including the orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*). The Dayak Iban have a customary law that prohibits the hunting orangutans. Why do the Dayak Iban fully protect orangutans at the border? In fact, in other areas, such as in Central Kalimantan, some orangutans act as pests and disturb people's crops, so people hunt them a lot (BBC News Indonesia, 2018).

The Dayak Iban people have a belief that has been passed down by their ancestors, to protect orangutans. There are several versions of the historical story of why this tribe heavily protects orangutans. According to the Village Head of Mensiau, Silvester Berasap, orangutans have magical powers. Once upon a time, there was a hunter whose wife was pregnant. The hunter shot an orangutan to death. A few weeks later, the hunter's wife gave birth to a baby with thick hair on his body, similar to an orangutan. Therefore, people are prohibited from hunting orangutans to the current day. Orangutans are believed to be the "openers" and role models of civilization in villages at the edge of the nation's borders in West Kalimantan. Orangutans have human-like behavior that was emulated by the ancestors of the Dayak Iban. One of the stories comes from Mensiau Village. Once upon a time, there was a hunter who killed a female orangutan who was holding her baby. Before she died, the mother orangutan released her milk into a leaf coiled to form a funnel. Then she put her milk near her baby so that the baby orangutan can drink it. The story is an example of mothers who store breast milk in a bottle for their baby's drinking supplies, especially when they are about to leave the baby.

The Dayak Iban tribe in Manua Sadap Village also has a version of the story that underlies the community's protecting and emulating the humanistic behavior of orangutans. The source of the story was obtained from Tuai Rumah Betang, Sadap Hamlet, Menua Sadap Village, Atan. Once upon a time, there was a man who wandered in the forest for weeks. The man met an orangutan and married her. The man lived with the orangutan for months until her baby was born. The man saw the mother orangutan giving birth using a sharp bamboo stick as a delivery tool and drinking ginger juice as medicine.



Photo by Rutpratheep Nilpechr dari Pexels

So after a while, the man wanted to return to his village and leave the mother orangutan with her child. The man passed a small shallow river and left his footprints. The mother orangutan knew this and was angry. So she followed the man's footprints and ended up in a small river. The mother orangutan thought that the man was still in the river. She slid a Tuba root (*Derris elliptica*) into the river to release its poison, in hopes of poisoning the man. However, the man never appeared. From that time, Dayak Iban people drink ginger juice as medicine after giving birth and use Tuba roots as a natural poison for fish in the river. The tuba contains a rotenone compound, which is poisonous to fish and insects. Thus, it is very suitable for use as an insecticide.

Folklore about orangutans is an important historical asset that must be preserved. Apart from being a culture, these stories can also be used as a means of orangutan conservation. People's beliefs grow from an early age or while still a child. Therefore, they can raise awareness from an early age to protect nature. The existence of customary laws that protect wild plants and animals offer opportunities to collaborate with government law for forest sustainability in Indonesia.



**Folk stories that aim to preserve nature need to be collected and recorded so they are not lost by modern civilizations.**



Photo from IDNTimes.com

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# OBSERVING THE TAPANULI ORANGUTAN IS THRILLING

Author: Dr. Wanda Kuswanda, M.Sc  
Principal Researcher of Environment and Forestry Research and Development  
Center Aek Nauli Ministry of Environment and Forestry



Photo by Wanda Kuswanda

Orangutan with her child are eating Durian

The Tapanuli orangutan (*Pongo tapanuliensis*) is the third orangutan species, a relative of *Pongo abelii* and *Pongo pygmaeus*, that is distributed only in The Batangtoru Landscape, with a very small population (between 577-760 individuals), and is spread over an area of 138.000 ha. Research on this species began in the early 2000s, although there are still few institutions that conduct research on them. We, the Aek Nauli Forestry and Environment Research and Development Center, are one of the few institutions studying them.

The research journey that we do every year is so exciting, and it has been going on for more than 17 years. Being able to directly observe Tapanuli orangutans in their habitat is pleasant 'luck.' As researchers, we gain a lot of new knowledge, including morphological characteristics, behavior, their types of food, and even the way they raise their offspring. In plain sight, the Tapanuli orangutan's hair is lighter in color (yellowish, blonde-like) and longer (a little curly at the ends). Unlike their other orangutan relatives, who are very fond of fruits, the Tapanuli orangutan's diet has almost the same proportion of fruits and leaves due to the limited fruit-producing trees in their habitat, most of which are in the forest plateaux over 800 meters above sea level.

It's very exciting to find orangutans in durian trees. Orangutans can consume around 20-30 durians in one day. They can stay a few days in one tree or garden, until the durian are almost gone, if they are expelled by the plantation owner. Unlike we humans, orangutans can eat unripe or half-ripe durian. They take the durian by lifting it, and pressing on the tree trunk until the durian is released. Then, they open the durian by biting it and opening it with both hands. Even more exciting, we can eat the orangutan's leftover durian, which tastes so sweet and soft.



Photo by Wanda Kuswanda

The thrill of eating Durian from the tree

For those who want to know more about the Tapanuli orangutan, you can read our research papers that have been published in scientific journals, proceedings, magazines, newspapers, and other online media. You can also download our book, entitled 'Orangutan Batangtoru, Kritis Diambang Punah', for free. We are so proud because our research can be a source of knowledge for the nation's future generations.





### Further information

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