

Annual Report 2019



save the
orangutan

Deforestation threatens the orangutan and the climate

Working with saving the critically endangered orangutan and Borneo's rainforest is more relevant than ever. The orangutans' habitat is threatened by the industrial development that does not adequately take nature and Borneo's rich wildlife into account.

This is not only a problem for Indonesia. Palm oil, which is mostly produced in areas where there used to be rainforest, is found in a large number of products used daily in our part of the world. Deforestation and the orangutan being critically endangered is a global issue that needs to be solved together. Just as the extensive hunting and illegal trade in orangutans should be stopped through a joint effort.

For this reason, we work in close partnership with organizations in Borneo and internationally to restore and replant the rainforest, rescue and rehabilitate orphaned orangutans and help indigenous people so that they can obtain rights to manage the rainforest sustainably. These partnerships are key when working to save the orangutans.

In 2019, the forest fire season in Borneo was longer and more destructive than for many years. As a result, larger areas of orangutan habitat were destroyed and both animals and humans were affected by the hazardous smoke.

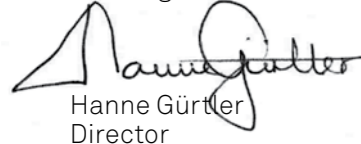
Forest fires and deforestation are major climate culprits - logging accounts for up to 20% of human CO2 emissions. Especially the peatland forest areas emit large amounts of CO2 when destroyed. On the other hand, large amounts of CO2 are stored in peatland forests when left untouched. Facing the great crises of our time - the climate crisis and the biodiversity crisis - the rainforest in Borneo and the critically endangered orangutan clearly illustrate how these two crises come together. Our work with preserving and restoring the rainforest and protecting the remaining orangutan populations is, therefore, more relevant than ever.

Despite the major challenges we face, we fortunately see the impact of our work every day. This year, we reached a milestone when BOS Foundation, together with the Indonesian authorities, released orangutan number 400 since 2012. In 2019, as many as 76 orangutans were returned to the wild and many more are currently in the final phase of their rehabilitation at the Rehabilitation Centres. In 2019, 34 hectares of new orangutan habitat was replanted. We are pleased to recently have initiated two new projects funded by the Danish Civil Society Fund (CISU), working with the rights of indigenous people and local climate efforts for the benefit of the rainforest.

During 2019, the aim has been to gain new knowledge about the wild orangutans as well as the rehabilitated orangutans that have been released into the wild. The gained knowledge can be used to better protect the remaining wild populations and improve the rehabilitation efforts of orphaned orangutans. For this reason, we support a project in the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park (TNBBBR) with the aim of improving the monitoring efforts of released orangutans. In 2019, we also partnered with the Tuanan Research Station, where behaviour of wild orangutans is researched.

The positive results can only be achieved thanks to the support of individuals, companies, and foundations. We are deeply grateful and with your support we will continue in 2020 to work for our passion - saving the orangutan.

Kind regards,



Hanne Gürtler
Director



Awareness raising in 2019

Awareness raising activities in Denmark, Sweden, and the UK is an important part of Save the Orangutan's work to save the critically endangered orangutan and its last habitat in Borneo. With the current state of the biodiversity and climate crisis, it is important that world leaders and people become aware of the severity of the situation for the orangutan and the rainforest.

Save the Orangutan and BOS Foundation travelled around Denmark

In the spring of 2019, the CEO of our Indonesian partner organization BOS Foundation, Dr. Jamartin Sihite, visited Denmark. In connection to this, Save the Orangutan arranged events in Billund, Aalborg and Copenhagen where Jamartin Sihite held presentations about the work conducted in Borneo, saving the critically endangered orangutan. More than 200 people attended the events.

Collaboration with Aalborg Zoo

Save the Orangutan collaborates with Aalborg Zoo with awareness raising activities in their orangutan facilities. While BOS Foundation's CEO Jamartin Sihite visited Aalborg Zoo, he gave a presentation to the staff and discussions were held regarding an increased cooperation.

Solve the climate crisis - save my rainforest

In 2019, Save the Orangutan organized a campaign focused on the importance of the rainforest in the fight against climate change. The campaign ran on our social media channels in both Denmark, Sweden, and England. The campaign material was distributed at various events and meetings as well as printed in newspapers and magazines in Denmark and Sweden. The campaign message was also displayed on several buses in Copenhagen and a video of the campaign was shown on screens in buses in Copenhagen and Roskilde.



These two brochures were produced in 2019 and introduce our work, saving and rehabilitating orphaned orangutans and protecting and restoring the orangutans' rainforest. You can find the brochures on our website.

#OrangutanFreedom

In the spring of 2019, a global #OrangutanFreedom campaign was launched, focusing on the caged orangutans at the Rehabilitation Centres that cannot be released into the wild due to illness or injury. The campaign resulted in seven winners from different countries going on a unique trip to Borneo. As ambassadors for our many supporters, the winners participated in the release of four orangutans on one of the prerelease island. Save the Orangutan documented the trip behind the scenes and shared it on our communication channels.



More orangutans return to the rainforest

In 2019, a total of 76 orangutans completed their rehabilitation and were returned to the wild. Thus, BOS Foundation, with the support from Save the Orangutan and in collaboration with the Indonesian authorities, have released a total of 462 orangutans since 2012. In 2019, previously rehabilitated and released orangutans gave birth to four orangutan babies. This is a clear sign of a successful rehabilitation.

Save the Orangutan was also the largest contributor to the operational work of the Nyaru Menteng Rehabilitation Centre in 2019 and supported the centre with DKK 7,3 million. The support enables BOS Foundation to continue their work, caring for a large number of orphaned orangutans at the centre and helping them return to a life in freedom. In addition, Save the Orangutan also contributed to moving grown-up orangutans, that cannot be released due to injuries or illness, from cages at the centre to the sanctuary island of Badak Kecil.

Several adoption orangutans reach the final phase

It was a very special moment in the fall of 2019, when the two orangutans Ben and Miko were moved to a prerelease island. Many have supported Ben and Miko through our adoption program and watched them grow up and prepare for life in the wild. The wild-like prerelease island is the final phase of their rehabilitation. These prerelease islands will become even more important in 2020 as more of our adoption orangutans join Ben and Miko on the islands.

Improved monitoring in TNBBBR

At the end of 2019, a total of 161 rehabilitated orangutans had been released from Nyaru Menteng to Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park (TNBBBR). With the support of Save the Orangutan, a new release site and camp were inaugurated in the National Park in 2019. The amount of staff was increased at the two monitoring camps, Bemban and Hiran, and the camps were equipped with additional and improved equipment. This included camera traps, which will be used to gather additional data about the orangutans and the biodiversity in the area. During the year, the monitoring team conducted more than 3,000 hours of observation of 86 of the released orangutans.

Conflict mitigation in and around TNBBBR

In 2019, Save the Orangutan, together with BOS Foundation, initiated a new project with support from the Danish Civil Society Fund (CISU). The project aims to improve livelihoods for local communities in and around the national park and to mitigate conflicts between the local communities, the National Park, and the released orangutans. In 2019, BOS Foundation conducted training in three villages in the Bemban area and three in the Hiran area, all in close cooperation with the local authorities, the National Park, and the the local communities.

Orangutans were protected from fire and smoke

In 2019, Borneo experienced an unusual dry season, which led to many forest fires and dried-up rivers. The smoke from the forest fires caused health issues for the orangutans at the Nyaru Menteng Rehabilitation Centre.



The dried-up rivers resulted in having to move the orangutans at the the prerelease islands back to the Rehabilitation Centres. With the help of the supporters of Save the Orangutan, we were able to treat the affected orangutans and ensure that the orangutans in the last phase of their rehabilitation were able to return to the the prerelease islands.

#ORANGUTANFREEDOM

462 ORANGUTANS RELEASED SINCE 2012

76 in 2019
 48 in TNBBBR
 7 in Batikap
 21 in Kehje Seven

ORANGUTANS AT NYARU MENTENG
 251 in rehabilitation
 65 in lifelong care
 13 new arrivals in 2019

ORANGUTANS AT SAMBOJA LESTARI
 30 in rehabilitation
 93 in lifelong care
 4 new arrivals in 2019

A close cooperation with indigenous people protects orangutan habitat

The rainforest is being destroyed due to plantations and mining. Meanwhile, in Borneo in 2019 we also experienced one of the most devastating forest fire seasons of modern time. The fires threaten the habitat of the wild orangutan and have a major impact on the climate. Therefore, Save the Orangutan works in close cooperation with the indigenous people to ensure that the forest is used sustainably and not exploited.

The indigenous people have managed the forest sustainably for generations. By securing their rights, their lifestyle is preserved while also protecting the forest from being utilized for oil palm plantations and mining. Save the Orangutan is working on several projects together with the indigenous people to secure their rights. These projects, together with our work to protect and restore the rainforest, will provide more space for the wild orangutans and the biodiversity of the forest.

New projects benefitting people, animals, and the climate

Save the Orangutan and BOS Foundation are working on two new projects supported by the Danish Civil Society Fund (CISU), to provide a better basis for the indigenous people advocating for their rights to manage forest areas.

The project in East Kalimantan will also aim to strengthen the community of the Dayak Wehea tribe and their unique cultural heritage in order to provide a better basis for advocating for their recognition as indigenous people. The project in Mawas include minimizing the climate impact of deforestation: replanting, monitoring

forest fires, cooperating with authorities and organizing the local communities in case of fire.

Small-scale cultivation leads to self-sufficient households

In 2019, Save the Orangutan completed a major CISU-funded project in the Rungan area, where over 3,000 wild orangutans live outside of protected areas. Together with Borneo Nature Foundation (BNF), we worked to improve the rights of the local communities and to help them create sustainable livelihoods as alternatives to working at plantations or mining sites. The project has among other things been very successful with the establishment of small-scale cultivation activities, which has resulted in several households becoming self-sufficient with vegetables.

Sustainable rubber as an alternative source of income

In the buffer zone of Mawas, Save the Orangutan and BOS Foundation work with the local communities to grow high-quality rubber trees in a forest farming system. The aim is to, eventually, be able to generate orangutan-friendly rubber. This is currently a pilot project collecting knowledge about sustainable rubber production. The project has already resulted in a local nursery and in May 2019 a workshop was organized with FSC Indonesia, providing information for the local producers about the requirements of becoming FSC certified.

Another 34 hectares of orangutan habitat replanted

Save the Orangutan works in close collaboration with BOS Foundation to replant trees in the 309,000-acre large peatland forest, Mawas. The peatland forest areas are the preferred habitat of wild oran-



gutans. In addition, the peatland stores large amounts of CO2, thus, not released into the atmosphere. Since 2015, a total of 162,323 trees have been replanted - primarily fruit trees and trees that orangutans can build nests in.

The fire season was unusually challenging

In 2019, the dry season was longer than usual, resulting in prolonged fires that destroyed wildlife habitat and displaced people. The fires also severely

affect the climate as the rainforest - especially the peatland forest - cause large CO2 emissions when destroyed. With the support of individuals, companies and foundations, Save the Orangutan raised almost DKK 150,000 to Borneo, which was used for firefighting equipment, a satellite telephone, and a drone to locate fires.

Thanks to the efforts of our partner organizations, the voluntary firefighting groups, and the authorities, the damage to the orangutan habitat and the replanting areas in Mawas turned out to be less than originally feared.

Collaboration with the Tuanan Research Station

In 2019, Save the Orangutan entered into a collaboration with the Tuanan Research Station located in Mawas. Here, daily research is conducted of the behaviour and physiology of wild orangutans. This knowledge is important when protecting wild orangutans and their habitat as well as when developing the best possible rehabilitation process of orphaned orangutans. In connection with the collaboration, a new opportunity was launched in 2019 where supporters are able to follow wild orangutans and life at the research station.



Distribution of funds in 2019

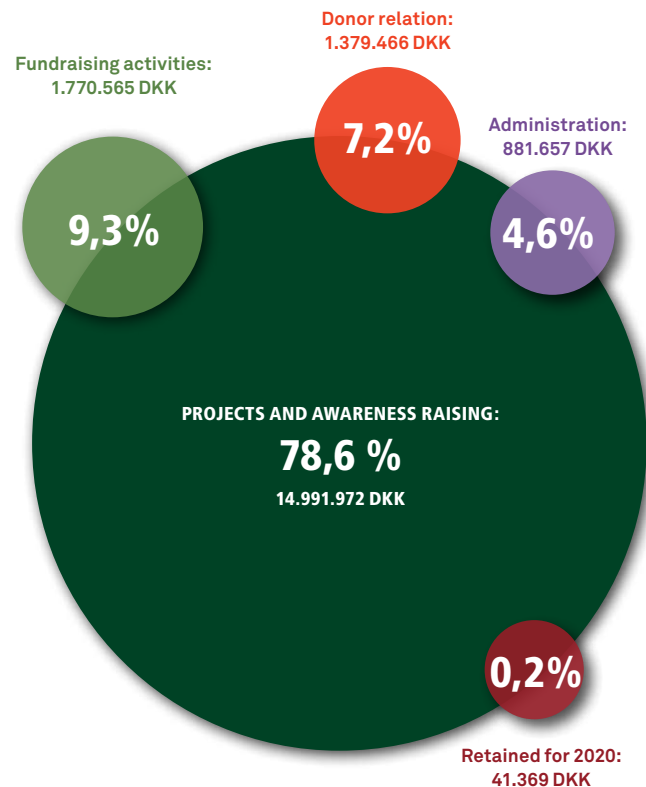
Funds raised

Save the Orangutan raised DKK 19,1 million in 2019 from private donors, foundations, and businesses, DKK 17,6 million of which were raised in Denmark, DKK 1,3 million in Sweden and 0,2 million in England and Wales.

Distribution of funds

In 2019, Save the Orangutan distributed DKK 15,0 million to purposeful activities, corresponding to 78.6% of funds raised. DKK 11.2 million were transferred to our partners in Borneo.

Save the Orangutan spent a total of DKK 4,0 million, corresponding to 21 % of funds raised, on donor relation, administration, and fundraising activities in 2019. The administrative expenses were 4.6% in 2019. 0.2% of funds raised were retained for new efforts in 2020.



Thanks to

Cooperative partners



Donations

- Beckett Fonden
- Slots- og Kulturstyrelsen
- ØK's Almennyttige Fond
- Toyota Fonden
- Fru Ellen Bremerdals fond til hjælp for hjemløse katte og andre vildtlevende dyr
- Torben og Alice Frimodts Fond
- Knud og Rigmor Wiedemanns Fond
- Inge & Skjold Burnes Fond
- Lund Fonden

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SavetheOrangutan_org



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