

# Annual Report 2017

## The Bornean orangutan needs our help – now more than ever

An estimate of up to 150,000 orangutans have disappeared from Borneo since 1999, and researchers now raise the alarm. A dedicated effort is necessary to prevent the extinction of the Bornean orangutan. It is therefore encouraging that Save the Orangutan raised almost DKK 17 million during 2017 for that very goal. This is a great result that could not have been obtained without all of our many loyal supporters. We'd like to thank each and every one of you.

Save the Orangutan is the biggest donor to the Nyaru Menteng rehabilitation centre managed by our Indonesian partner, Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF). Today, more than 80% of the centre's operation costs are covered by donations from Save the Orangutan. At Nyaru Menteng, 450 orangutans are cared for, 136 of which have completed the rehabilitation process and are now waiting to be reintroduced to the wild.

Save the Orangutan implemented a new strategy in 2017. We are extending our current effort to help displaced and orphaned orangutans. We will focus more on the welfare of the many orangutans at the centre. Save the Orangutan entered into a partnership agreement with BOSF in 2017 in order to strengthen our joint efforts to ensure the best environment possible for all the orangutans at Nyaru Menteng.

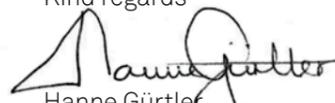
We will also expand our effort to address the root causes of the displacement and orphaning of orangutans. We will focus more on protecting the remaining wild populations of Bornean orangutans. To this end, we will keep supporting Mawas, which is home to one of the biggest populations of wild orangutans on Borneo. We will also keep supporting Rungan River, which is home to nearly 2000 orangutans.

2017 offered several solid results, two of which we would like to highlight. We participated in the joint global #OrangutanFreedom campaign, focusing on giving freedom to all orangutans. The aim of this campaign is reflected well in the result of 2017, as it became the year in which the highest number of rehabilitated orangutans were reintroduced to the wild. To improve the carrying capacity of the Mawas area for its wild orangutans, we supported the replanting of 43 hectares of destroyed forest with approximately 50,000 seedlings and blocked 5 illegal drainage canals in 2017. This was accomplished by collaborating with 5 local village groups.

However, 2017 also posed challenges. By the end of 2017, we concluded that our fundraising in Sweden and Denmark exceeded all expectations. Meanwhile, England and Wales were unable to make ends meet. Consequently, we have decided to discontinue our activities in England and Wales and focus our efforts on Scandinavia. As a result, Lone Dröscher Nielsen, who currently lives in Wales, is no longer employed in the English and Welsh organisation. We have explored the possibilities of employing Lone Dröscher Nielsen as a consultant through the Danish organisation. Unfortunately, we were not able to reach an agreement. We hope that Lone Dröscher Nielsen will continue her pioneering work for the critically endangered orangutan.

The Bornean orangutan and its natural habitats are under extreme pressure. We hope that a focused and joint effort in cooperation with our Indonesian and international partners will contribute to the protection and conservation of the Bornean orangutan and its last habitats. We also hope that our joint efforts will contribute to the mitigation of human-orangutan conflicts due to human development activities. The orangutan needs your help—also in 2018.

Kind regards

  
Hanne Gürtler  
Executive director



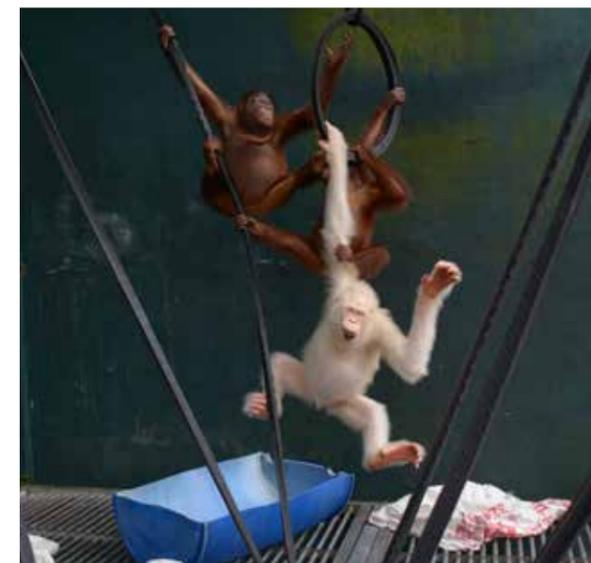
## Awareness raising in 2017

### Illegal trade in orangutans

In 2017, Save the Orangutan raised awareness of illegal trade in orangutans. One of the 2017 initiatives in this regard was a petition to stop using orangutans in Thailand's tourist industry. More than 3000 people signed an appeal that was sent to Thailand's Minister of Natural Resources and Climate. Save the Orangutan was informed that the authorities in Thailand are working to improve the enforcement of the law against illegal wildlife trade, and they are carrying out communicative campaigns to raise awareness of this. In 2017, we also raised awareness of Taymur, who was smuggled out of Indonesia into Kuwait as an orphaned infant. He was successfully brought back by our Indonesian partner BOSF to Borneo and the Nyaru Menteng rehabilitation centre.

### Alba, the worldwide sensation

Save the Orangutan and BOSF presented the world's first albino orangutan, Alba, to the public in May of 2017. Our Indonesian partner rescued her from a village in which she was kept as a pet. In September of 2017, Save the Orangutan participated in a global fundraising campaign with the aim of establishing a protected rainforest island for Alba and her three new orangutan friends from Nyaru Menteng.



### #OrangutanFreedom

In the autumn of 2017, Save the Orangutan participated in the global campaign #OrangutanFreedom with our international and Indonesian partners to give all orangutans freedom. Among other things, the campaign included a competition for the public to win a trip to Borneo to release a rehabilitated orangutan. The campaign reached far and wide, and people from 78 countries participated in it.



### Palm oil and its consequences for the orangutan

In the autumn of 2017, Save the Orangutan raised awareness of the increased demand for palm oil and its consequences for the orangutan and its rainforest home. Among other initiatives, a petition against the use of palm oil in biodiesel within the EU was launched. Nearly 10,000 Danes and Swedes signed a request to protect the orangutan and its habitats, which was sent to several Danish politicians, members of the European Parliament, and the EU commissioner for Climate and Energy. We were informed by the EU commissioner's secretariat that they are working to gradually minimise the use of palm oil in biodiesel oil until 2030.

### Protection of the wild orangutans

In 2017, Save the Orangutan highlighted the need for protection of the wild orangutans through several media. The Danish TV programme 'Kurs mod Fjerne Kyster' broadcast two episodes from Borneo presenting the projects to protect Borneo's orangutan, which Save the Orangutan supports. Moreover, Save the Orangutan and the Danish TV channel DK4 made a special episode on the living rainforest, which was broadcast in June.

# The largest number of orangutans released in 2017

BOSF, Save the Orangutan's Indonesian partner, gave 170 orangutans their freedom in 2017. This is one of the many results that have been obtained through the support from Save the Orangutan and other partners. BOSF operates two rehabilitation centres on Borneo: Nyaru Menteng and Samboja Lestari. In 2017, Save the Orangutan financed more than 80% of the activities at the Nyaru Menteng centre.

The rescue of 37 orphaned or displaced orangutans, the rehabilitation and care of 422 orangutans, and 50 releases into the wild. These are some of the significant results Save the Orangutan and BOSF obtained in 2017.

## Intake of 37 orangutans at the centre - one of which became a worldwide sensation.

In collaboration with the Indonesian authorities, BOSF rescued 37 orphaned orangutans in 2017. They had lost their mothers to forest fires or had been kept illegally as pets after their mothers had been killed. All the orangutans have their own individual and often tragic history. One of these rescued orangutans stood out: Alba the albino orangutan. So far, Alba is the only albino orangutan that we know of. She was rescued by BOSF and undergoes her rehabilitation at Nyaru Menteng.

## New Baby House at Nyaru Menteng

In the late summer of 2017, Nyaru Menteng opened a new Baby House for the youngest orangutans. The Baby House has room for 25-30 orangutans aged 0-3 years, and it has an indoor playground and several other activities. A nearby forest area has been equipped with feeding platforms and various enrichment items so that even the youngest orangutans can spend time in the rainforest during the day.

## More orangutans on the islands

The last phase of the rehabilitation process at Nyaru Menteng takes place on pre-release rainforest islands. This is where the orangutans' acquired skills necessary to survive in the wild are tested and evaluated. The orangutans usually live on these islands for about a year until they are finally reintroduced to the rainforest. In 2017, BOSF pre-released a total of 95 orangutans onto rainforest islands. Several of those were pre-released from Nyaru Menteng to

Salat Island. Salat Island covers 3,419 hectares, and BOSF obtained access rights to the island in 2016.

## A record number of reintroductions to the rainforest

A total of 50 rehabilitated orangutans from Nyaru Menteng were released in 2017. This brings the total number of released orangutans from Nyaru Menteng up to 229 since 2012.

The rehabilitated orangutans from Nyaru Menteng are primarily released to the Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park (TNBBBR). TNBBBR is an area of special status, almost the size of Luxembourg.

Save the Orangutan participated in the last release of the year where 6 rehabilitated orangutans were released to TNBBBR. The release was a culmination of a full year's worth of work, and it was a great experience to see the 6 orangutans being released.

## Monitoring and protection of release sites

During the last release of the year to TNBBBR, Save the Orangutan met the team of locals that monitor the released orangutans. They presented a draft for a new and permanent camp in the national park from where the team can monitor the released orangutans.

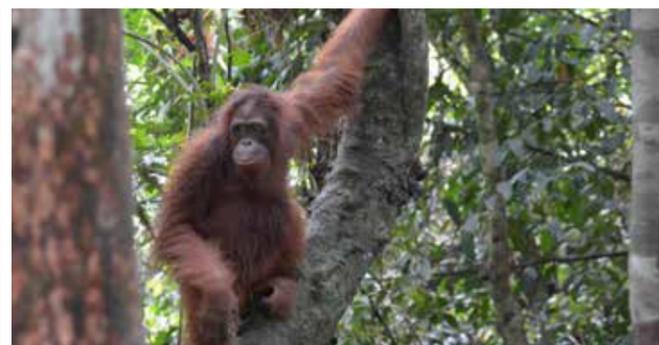


## #ORANGUTANFREEDOM

2017 RESULTS:

### 170 ORANGUTANS WERE GIVEN THEIR FREEDOM IN 2017

- 95 pre-released to rainforest islands (the last phase of the rehabilitation process)
- 75 reintroduced to the wild
  - 50 from Nyaru Menteng
  - 42 released to Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park
  - 8 released to Bukit Batikap National Park
  - 25 from Samboja Lestari to Kehje Sewen



The camp is crucial to the efforts to protect the orangutans, and it will be established as soon as the necessary funds have been raised. Save the Orangutan also met the local village chief. We gained an understanding of the importance of education and involvement of the locals in the protection of the released orangutans.

## Evaluation of animal welfare

Save the Orangutan and our partners in Germany and Switzerland visited the Nyaru Menteng rehabilitation centre and reviewed all the facilities and activities with BOSF. Challenges and opportunities to improve the conditions for the many orangutans at the centre were discussed, and new initiatives for 2018 were identified. Among other initiatives, it was decided to establish an outdoor playground for the youngest orangutans in direct connection with the Baby House, and to obtain access rights to more protected rainforest areas. This will give the magnificent adult male orangutans, who have been in cages for several years, a life in freedom in the rainforest or on protected rainforest islands.

# Efforts to protect the wild orangutan populations intensified in 2017

**More than ever before, it is necessary to take action against the rapid deforestation and destruction of the orangutans' natural habitats as well as the wide-ranging illegal hunt and trade in orangutans.**

Involvement of local communities is crucial to protect the rainforest. In 2017, a long-term project aiming to secure rights, education, and involvement of the indigenous people, the Dayaks, in the management of the forest in Mawas was successfully finalized.

The Mawas area, which is almost twice the size of London, has a unique biodiversity and is home to one of the largest remaining populations of wild orangutans.

Like the orangutans, the Dayaks are very dependent on the rainforest, and deforestation thus worsens their lives significantly. Therefore, Save the Orangutan cooperates with our Indonesian partner BOSF-Mawas and the local Dayak people in different initiatives aimed to protect their rights and the rainforest.

International studies show that this is one of the most effective ways to protect rainforest areas. By mapping out and extensively documenting the Dayaks' lands, traditional customs, and use of the forest, the local community is now able to claim their right to live in the area and make use of the natural resources in a sustainable manner.

Moreover, many locals have received education in democratic processes, rights, preparation of long-term developmental plans, and management of the natural resources.

The project was financed via a grant from the Civil Society in Development pool to Save the Orangutan, and it has already led to crucial results and knowledge. Overall, it has led to solutions that will help protect the 2500+ wild orangutans in the Mawas area. Additionally, it is an example of 'best practice', which can be applied to other areas in the future.

## **Restoration of orangutan habitat through local involvement**

For the last two years, 63 local inhabitants from the village of Mangkatip have participated in the replanting and restoration of an orangutan habitat in Rantau Upak in Mawas. Part of the replanting consists of fruit trees covering 73 hectares.

Rantau Upak is comprised of deforested peat, which has been destroyed as a result of drainage canals, among other factors. As a consequence of the drainage, the ecosystem of the peat is destroyed and large quantities of CO<sub>2</sub> are emitted. Furthermore, the peat becomes flammable and increases the risk of large peat and forest fires.

The collaborative project has resulted in the establishment of seed nurseries within the village, and locals have received education in replanting, fire extinguishing, and monitoring of the forest.

Local patrol groups carried out hundreds of patrols in order to monitor and fight forest fires and illegal logging. A total of 92 cases of illegal activities and five cases of fires, which were extinguished by the patrol groups, were uncovered in 2017.

Efforts to maintain the protected status of the area are coordinated on a political level, and countless meetings with the government have been held.

All aspects of the work are extremely important, because even though the area is protected, the orangutans and the forest are under constant pressure from illegal logging, mining, forest fires, and changing political agendas, which for instance threaten to re-open the area to plantations.

## **Protecting orangutans outside of protected areas**

An estimated 80% of Borneo's orangutans live in unprotected areas. This makes them extremely exposed to expanding plantations and other industrial developments.

An example of this is the Rungan area in Central Kalimantan. Here, approximately 2000 wild orangutans have lived side by side with the local Dayak people for generations. Now, the area's diverse rain forest is threatened to be re-opened for palm oil plantations. These plantations are going to carry severe consequences for orangutans and people alike.

Consequently, Save the Orangutan and our local partner Borneo Nature Foundation work together, and we have secured funds from Civil Society in Development to help the indigenous Dayak people having their rights to their customary forest acknowledged. These rights will also help protect the forest against deforestation.

## **Long-term solutions for the release sites**

Long-term solutions are the only effective solutions with regards to the protection of the wild populations of orangutans.

80 rehabilitated orangutans have been released in the release site Kehje Sewen in East Kalimantan, and they can once again live as wild orangutans. The local Dayak Wehea people are proud of their new neighbours, and they believe the orangutan is a reincarnated person. However, the Dayak Wehea people have lost all their farmland to palm oil plantations and mining.

Based on the experiences from Mawas, Save the Orangutan cooperated with BOSF-RHO to secure better rights and to promote better standards of living for the people in 2017. Save the Orangutan will continue to work for this, and we will create sustainable solutions for the benefit of the local peoples as well as the forest and the released orangutans.



## Distribution of funds in 2017

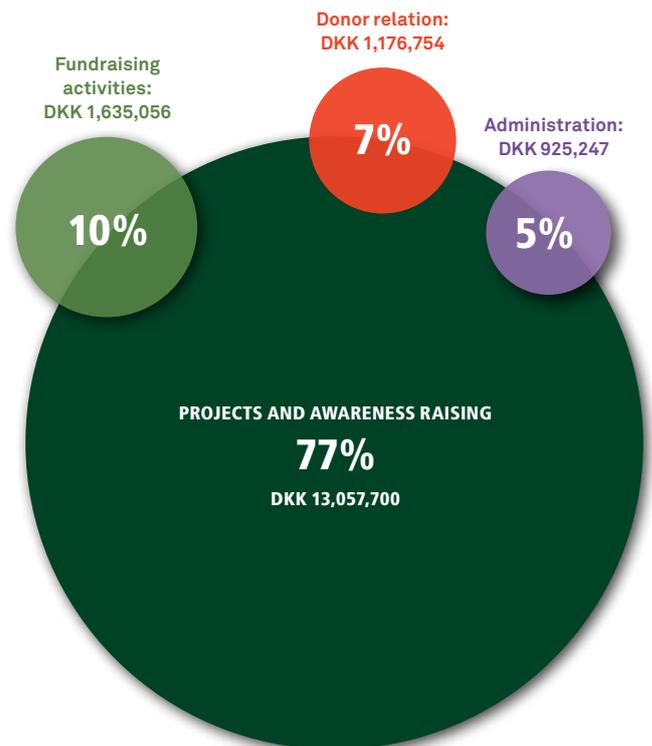
### Funds raised

Save the Orangutan raised DKK 16.9 million in 2017 from private donors, grants, and business partnership, DKK 15.5 million of which were raised in Denmark and DKK 1.4 million were raised in Sweden.

### Distribution of funds

In 2017, Save the Orangutan allocated DKK 13.1 million to projects within its aim, corresponding to 77.4% of funds raised. DKK 9.2 million were allocated to projects on Borneo, DKK 7.2 million of which were allocated to the Nyaru Menteng rehabilitation centre.

Save the Orangutan allocated nearly DKK 3.7 million, corresponding to 22.2% of funds raised, to donor relation, administration, and fundraising activities in 2017. The administrative expenses were 5.4% in 2017. 0.4% of funds raised were retained for 2018.



\*) 1% of funds raised have been retained for 2018

## THANKS TO

### Cooperative partners



### Larger donors

- Naturlif
- Essential Foods
- Spar Nord / Aalborg Zoo
- Torben og Alice Frimodts Fond
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With special thanks to the thousands of private persons who support our work.



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