

# RESCUE AND RELEASE



BOS Australia  
primates helping primates

## Borneo Orangutans under threat

### The beautiful Borneo Orangutan

Orangutans are found on two islands in Asia, Borneo and Sumatra, where they live in both lowland and hilly tropical rainforests. Indigenous peoples of Indonesia and Malaysia call this ape "Orang Hutan", literally translating into English as "people of the forest".

There are two separate species of orangutan – the Sumatran orangutan (*Pongo abelii*) and the Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*).

*It is estimated that there are fewer than 50,000 Bornean orangutans living in the wild today. The Bornean orangutan is listed as endangered.*

Orangutans are highly intelligent with an ability to reason and think. This large, gentle red ape is one of our closest relatives, sharing 97 per cent of our DNA.

Its arboreal tree-swinging journeys help to spread tree seeds – in fact some trees can only germinate when they have passed through its gut. The orangutan is pivotal in creating the necessary environment for the thousands of fauna and flora that make up the biodiversity of the South East Asian rainforest.



Orangutans are captured for the pet trade

### Orangutans under threat

Only 33 groups of orangutans of a viable size remain in Borneo. Just one third of these groups are in protected areas.

The rest are found in areas where they are under threat from hunting and the destruction of their habitat.

- Loss of their habitat is often because the rainforest has been cleared for oil-palm plantations.
- An additional threat is that infant or orphaned orangutans are captured and sold as pets.



Rainforests are set on fire to clear land for the oil palm, leaving many orangutans homeless and orphaned

# Nyaru Menteng Centre

## Sanctuary and refuge

The Nyaru Menteng sanctuary in Central Kalimantan rescues and rehabilitates homeless and orphaned orangutans. Many of the orphaned orangutans have been confiscated because they were held illegally for the pet trade.

This sanctuary, run by the remarkable Lone Dröscher-Nielsen, is home to approximately 650 orangutans. Many of them are orphans, and there are new arrivals regularly.



Lone Dröscher-Nielsen, founder of the Nyaru Menteng orangutan rehabilitation sanctuary

## Teaching and rehabilitation

The method of reintroduction at Nyaru Menteng tries to imitate, as closely as possible, the life the orangutans would have if they were still with their mothers in the forest.

**Quarantine:** All new orangutan arrivals at Nyaru Menteng need a medical check-up and a short time in quarantine.



Quarantine facilities at Nyaru Menteng

## Nyaru Menteng prepares the orangutans for their release in different steps:



### BABY-SCHOOL

Baby-school is provided for orangutans that are less than 3 years old. The baby orangutans are not only trained to climb trees but are also looked after with all the care their own mothers would give them in the wild.



### HALFWAY HOUSE/FOREST SCHOOL

The halfway house is a playground forest for orangutans aged between 3 and 6 years old. The young orangutans are usually eager to learn how to explore the higher trees and try to make nests of their own, copying the skills of the older orangutans.

### ORANGUTAN UNIVERSITY



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The Orangutans are then moved to river islands to refine their skills. They mostly go it alone without any intervention but are monitored and assisted only when necessary.

# Release into the wild

Nyaru Menteng is on the verge of becoming a true success story with their first planned release of 75 rescued and rehabilitated orangutans into the wild.

A site of approximately 112,000 hectares, in the north-eastern corner of Central Kalimantan, will be a new home for orangutans. Soon they will be back in the wild, where they belong.

However, there is a lot of work and resources needed before the orangutans can finally be released, including:

- Conducting habitat-suitability surveys to assess the release sites
- Developing a release and health management strategy
- Setting up headquarters, information posts and monitoring stations
- Developing trails and access routes
- Establishing good relations with key stakeholders, including local communities



*The Island of Borneo*



Orangutans will be transported by helicopter to the release site



With your help, orphaned orangutans have a bright future in the wild

## Borneo Orangutan Survival

The Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOS) is a nonprofit foundation, supported by sister organisations around the world. That includes us, BOS Australia.

Dr Willie Smits, a tropical rainforest ecologist, founded BOS in 1991, after he found a sick orangutan in a local market and managed to keep her alive. He was then given another troubled baby orangutan and had to care for the two of them.

Almost twenty years later, BOS has a tremendous track record in helping the orangutans of Borneo to survive. It has purchased thousands of acres that have become permanent nature reserves, assisted in rescuing more than one thousand orangutans, and educated and provided livelihoods for thousands of local people.

*BOS's next, and most important, challenge is to see a large-scale reintroduction of rehabilitated orangutans back into the wild.*



Lone Dröscher-Nielsen of Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation



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# Yes! Here is my donation to help BOS Australia return more orangutans back to the wild.

## Please accept my monthly gift of:

\$10 per month     \$25 per month     \$50 per month     My choice of \$  per month

## Please choose one of the payment methods below:

### Bank Account Payment (Direct Debit request)

I/we request BOS Australia to arrange for funds to be debited from my/our nominated account at the financial institution shown below

Name of financial institution:  Branch:

Account name:

BSB number:  Account number:

By signing this Direct Debit request, you acknowledge that you have read and understood the terms and conditions governing the debit arrangements between you and BOS Australia as set out in this request and our Direct Debit Service Agreement, which can be found at [www.orangutans.com.au/directdebit.pdf](http://www.orangutans.com.au/directdebit.pdf) or by calling (02) 9011 5455

Signature/s:  Date:

*If debiting from a joint account, both signatures are required.*

### Credit Card Payment

I/we authorise BOS Australia to charge the above mentioned amount to my credit card each month.

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*You may cancel your authority at any time by giving us 14 days notice in writing.*

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*Please provide email address to help us save on postage costs*

### Cash Donation

I am unable to make a monthly donation at this time. However, I would like to make a single donation now to help the orangutans of Borneo.

Please accept my gift of:

\$30     \$75     \$150     My choice of \$

I have enclosed a cheque/money order (payable to BOS Australia)

### OR, please debit my:

Credit Card type:  MasterCard     Visa

Card Number:  Expiry date:  /

Name on card:  CCV:  (What is CCV? It is the final three digits of the number printed on the signature strip on the back of your card)

Signature/s:  Date:

## Thank You

**Please mail this form to:**

**BOS Australia**  
PO Box 3916, Mosman NSW 2088

*All donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.*

For details of our adoption and membership programmes visit  
[www.orangutans.com.au](http://www.orangutans.com.au)  
or call 02 9011 5455



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