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ORANGUTAN CONSERVATION SERVICES PROGRAM

PROGRESS REPORT QUARTER THREE

OCTOBER 1, 2007 – DECEMBER 31, 2007

ORANGUTAN CONSERVATION SERVICES PROGRAM

Progress Report Quarter Three

October 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AusAid	Australian government aid organization
BHS	Basic Human Services office of USAID
BPK	Directorate of Forest Production and Management within the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry
BPKH	Balai Pemantapan Kawasan Hutan or Forest Mapping Office
BTNTP	Tanjung Puting National Park Office
CoP	Chief of Party
COP 13	13 th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CTO	USAID Cognizant Technical Officers
DAI	Development Alternatives, Inc.
DCOP	Deputy Chief of Party
Gol	Government of Indonesia
ISP	Integrated Spatial Planning
HCVF	High Conservation Value Forest
ICITAP	International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program
IUCN	The World Conservation Union
KSDA	Natural Resource Conservation Agency within the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
OCSP	Orangutan Conservation Services Program
OFI	Orangutan Foundation International
OFUK	Orangutan Foundation United Kingdom
PHKA	Directorate of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation within the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry
PHVA	Orangutan Population and Habitat Viability Assessment
RFA	Requests for Application
RSPO	Round Table for Sustainable Palm Oil
TAMIS	Technical and Administrative Management Information System
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USD	U.S. Dollar
USFS	United States Forest Service
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement with EU countries
WBTFB	West Batang Toru Forest Block
WE	World Education

CHAPTER I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report serves as the Third Quarterly Progress Report for the Orangutan Conservation Services Project (OCSP). This report covers the period October 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007

The Report provides over-arching achievements, descriptions of progress in each program component and details of upcoming significant events.

Progress Highlights

- To support and enhance policy related to the conservation of wild orangutan populations and their habitat, OCSP took an active role in the core team that worked to develop the National Strategy and Action Plan for Conservation Orangutan in Indonesia, 2007-2017. The plan, signed off on by the Ministry of Forestry on 3 December, lists OCSP staff, Jamartin Sihite and Arifien Sutrisno, as two of the lead authors, with Darrel Kitchener and Erik Meijaard of OCSP as contributors.
- Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono launched the the *Strategy and Action Plan for National Conservation of Orangutans* at a UNFCCC COP 13 side event in Bali on December 10th. Through the official announcement of the Strategy and Action Plan for National Conservation of Orangutans by the President of Indonesia, the Indonesian government proved to the world its commitment to tackle climate change by protecting orangutan as the icon of tropical rainforests.
- In its efforts to develop a national level Orangutan Conservation Forum, OCSP engaged Larry Fisher to serve as Forum Development Advisor. Mr. Fisher arrived in Indonesia in quarter three, conducted surveys, both electronic and through one on one interviews, presented his initial findings to the Orangutan Action Plan core team, and prepared a draft report.
- Within North Sumatra, OCSP is developing a conservation action plan with wide stakeholder support to conserve the forests of West Batang Toru Forest Block (WBTFB). This will assist three districts manage approximately 76,000 hectares of protected and commercial forests containing an estimated 380 individual orangutan, along with Sumatran Tiger and a variety of other endangered animals. Two of the four large companies working in the area, the Agincourt Gold mine and the Teluk Nauli logging company, are participating in the process and have indicated that they will respect the results of the process. A group of 60 stakeholders, involved in the conservation of WBTFB met in Parapet, North Sumatra between December 10-11, 2007 to initiate development the plan.

- OCSP assisted in arranging a trip for the delegation to Tanjung Putting National Park from November 10-11. The high level delegation from AusAid visited peatland projects in Central Kalimantan in November 2007 to begin the process of identifying potential pilot projects to demonstrate the effectiveness of reducing deforestation; improve local forestry governance; and prevent, monitor and suppress peatland fires, including by training Indonesia's fire fighters and fire management.
- On the 6th – 10th of November 2007, OCSP supported the Third Orangutan Caring Week Program in Medan, North Sumatra. The event aimed at raising awareness, educating and gaining broad support from young people and university students to safe guard the Sumatran orangutan as the icon of Indonesia's forests.

Upcoming events

- February, Grants Program to be initiated.
- February, DAI President, James Boomgard, to visit Indonesia.
- February, Completion of initial draft of WBTFB conservation action plan.
- February, Survey of APP Plantation in East Kalimantan.
- February, Accompany USFS Visit to West Kalimantan.
- Mid-February, MOU signing between Bapedalda North Sumatra and OCSP.
- Feb-March, Report of Larry Fisher on options for National Orangutan Forum finalized.
- March completion of initial draft of unitary strategic conservation plan for north Sumatra and Aceh.
- March OCSP internal coordination and management retreat.
- March-April, Grant Launch Meeting.
- April, Regional Coordination Workshops on Action Plan.

CHAPTER 2: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The two species of orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus* in Borneo and *P. abelli* in Sumatra) are classified as “endangered” and “critically endangered” respectively. Some 7,000–7,500 Sumatran orangutan survive in a much fragmented forest landscape. In Borneo 40,000–50,000 of the animals remain, but are distributed over almost 50 geographically isolated populations. Orangutan populations have been decimated over the past few decades and this decline has accelerated significantly since 1998.

The loss of forests in Kalimantan and Sumatra is principally responsible for the reduction in orangutan numbers. Orangutans are relatively adaptive species. They survived several million years of climate change, disease, and predations in their South-East Asian habitat. However, if orangutan habitat is destroyed, they will die. This forest loss eliminates or damages their habitat, impairs general ecosystem functions and erodes human social and economic assets. These latter impacts further impoverish local communities which increase hunting pressure on the orangutan.

During the Suharto era, forest was lost through large-scale conversion, fire, and unsustainable timber harvesting. Following decentralization in 1998, when some forestry and plantation licensing came under district and provincial authority, the situation deteriorated further. The large-scale political, social and economic changes lead to rapid conversion of forests and increased degradation of the natural resource base. Opportunistic business interests take advantage of political power struggles between the municipalities for financial gain with little recognition being placed on the future impacts of these actions on the economy, environment, or quality of life of local community members.

Local authorities have been driven by an economic motive to overexploit their resources to meet constituents’ demands for rapid development. In many regions, forests and other natural resources are being mined to finance short-term economic growth at the expense of longer-term sustainable development. This has all led to very high rates of forest loss. For example, between 1990 and 2004 some 3,122 km² of habitat disappeared from Borneo. If these rates continue, orangutans will be extinct in the wild before 2050.

Orangutans and their forest habitat are genuine assets, and their conservation should create many environmental and economic benefits for the Indonesian people. Moreover, orangutans are flagship species that should symbolize conservation efforts throughout Indonesia. Their continued presence in the wild requires the commitment and support of multiple actors working at national, regional, and local levels. The lessons learned from local efforts must inform national policy, just as better policies must spur implementation activities in and around the remaining habitats. In this regard, saving the orangutans is about conserving its forest habitat and reducing the main threats to their numbers in those forests. Sustainability of conservation efforts can only be accomplished through sound management, effective law enforcement, creative partnerships, successful public outreach and communications and sustained financing.

CHAPTER 3: ORANGUTAN CONSERVATION SERVICES PROGRAM (OCSP) OVERVIEW

The Orangutan Conservation Services Project (OCSP), contract No. 497-C-00-07-00016-00, is a USAID sponsored program that runs through September 30, 2009. OCSP is the key biodiversity conservation program of USAID/Indonesia and directly contributes to USAID's environmental and biodiversity objectives. The program is administered under the Basic Human Services (BHS) Office of USAID, which includes an interlinking set of health, environment, food security/nutrition and avian influenza programs. OCSP is a consortium lead by DAI with subcontracts to Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Its offices are located in Jakarta, Medan and Balikpapan.

OCSP is a crisis response program that aims to maximize protection and long-term survival of viable orangutan populations in the wild. The program works to arrest, reduce or possibly eliminate threats to orangutans as well as address the major drivers behind those threats. Main drivers of orangutan habitat loss and population decline include forest conversion, unsustainable logging and wildlife trafficking.

The program is implemented by DAI, together with key partners, subcontractors and sub grantees to achieve the following five major components (a fifth 'Finance' component has been broken out from the original four contract components):

- i) management and conservation of strategic wild orangutan populations and their habitats;
- ii) enforcement of laws and regulations that combat habitat destruction and other threats to wild orangutan populations;
- iii) partnership development;
- iv) communications and outreach; and,
- v) sustainable financing.

OCSP focuses on selected sites with orangutan populations in Sumatra and Kalimantan to address threats at the site level, strengthen conservation practices, enforcement and spatial planning. At the same time as engaging local communities in conservation activities, the program also operates at a broader scale to improve enforcement of existing laws that protect habitat and orangutans; create mechanisms for long term conservation financing; strengthen partnerships and coordination of conservation organizations, private sector, community groups, and Government of Indonesia agencies at all levels; and, broaden awareness of issues in orangutan conservation through national and international media and public education campaigns.

CHAPTER 4: PROGRESS TOWARDS MAIN OCSP COMPONENT OUTCOMES

Program Mobilization

In the third quarter, 2 Indonesian staff were hired in Medan and 1 in Jakarta, This completes mobilization of staff under the contract. A listing of all OCSP staff is below:

Position	Name	Location
Chief of Party	Paul Hartman	Jakarta
Deputy Chief of Party	Jamartin Sihite	Jakarta
Partnership Development Expert	Arifien Sutrisno	Jakarta
Communication Outreach Specialist	Vira Riyandari	Jakarta
Sub-Contract/Grants Manager	Nurhayati	Jakarta
Forest Policy Specialist	Darmawan Liswanto	Jakarta
Office Manager	Mieke Yuniarti	Jakarta
Accountant	Natalis Ratuain	Jakarta
Driver	Hariyadi	Jakarta
North Sumatra (Medan) Coordinator	Darrell Kitchener	Medan
Partnership Coordinator	Erwin Siregar	Medan
Communication Outreach Specialist	Slamet Rachmadi	Medan
Enforcement Specialist	Syafredo	Medan
Spatial Planning Specialist	Eka Rianta	Medan
Field Coordinator	Pahrian Siregar	Medan
Office Manager	Lieviana Ketaren	Medan
Accountant	Samsiar Ginting	Medan
Driver	TBD	Medan
East Kalimantan (Balikpapan) Coordinator	Erik Meijaard	Balikpapan
Partnership Development Expert	Sophialena	Balikpapan
Communication Outreach Specialist	Edy Sudiono	Balikpapan
Forest Policy Specialist	Neil Makinudin	Balikpapan
Enforcement Specialist	Nardiyono	Balikpapan
Office Manager	Runiar Andini	Balikpapan
Accountant	Blandly Rembangan	Balikpapan
Driver	Hendra	Balikpapan

Grants Management

OCSP is charged with implementing a Grants Program totaling \$2,225,000 over the life of the project. The grants will be provided to non-governmental organization (NGOs) which may include international, national or indigenous organizations.

In the quarter, USAID formally approved six Requests for Application (RFAs) to support OCSP in achieving program outcomes. On October 6, 2007, OCSP advertised the availability of the six RFAs in two national daily newspapers, Kompas and the Jakarta Post, and via multiple electronic and web-based mailing lists. The RFAs were also directly emailed to more than 70 individuals representing organizations with links to various components of the RFAs. Immediately following the announcement, “Grant Program Roll-Out” workshops were then held in Medan on October 8 and Jakarta on October 9. Around 75 people representing thirty different organizations attended these meetings. Many questions were raised during the discussions on both technical and administrative issues. These questions were compiled by OCSP and shared with all the attendees as well as those on the invitation list, as were follow-up questions received by OCSP’s Grants Manager, Nurhayati.

Applications were due to OCSP offices in Jakarta on November 16, 2007. On this date OCSP received 33 applications. A summary of applications, per RFA, is as follows:

- RFA 1 – Sumatra spatial planning: 2 applications.
- RFA 2 – Sumatra model conservation villages: 7 applications.
- RFA 3 – national and regional information campaigns: 12 applications.
- RFA 4 – Kalimantan Tanjung Puting National Park habitat: 2 applications.
- RFA 5 – Kalimantan large landscape habitat: 5 applications.
- RFA 6 – National and regional policy and enforcement: 5 applications.

Upon receipt of the applications, the Grants Manager ensured complete submission and then forwarded them to the individual members of six review panels. Review panels convened over the days of November 27-30 at OCSP’s office. Nurhayati and DAI Project Management Specialist Daniel Rothberg – DAI home office STTA assigned to provide expert advice – summarized technical and cost questions for those applicants in the competitive range and sent them questions by Friday, November 30, with responses requested within one week, on December 7.

OCSP senior personnel and the outside review panel members considered, where relevant, that there could be more than one recipient per RFA. Thus, there were twelve total applicants deemed to fall into the competitive range.

The list below provides a summary of prime and partner organizations which submitted applications on or prior to November 16, 2007 in response to one of six RFAs. The eleven proposals recommended to USAID for award are highlighted.

No.	RFA Count	Prime	Partners
RFA 001: Conservation of orangutan habitats mainstreamed into spatial plans in northern Sumatra			
1	1	Yayasan Ekosistem Lestari	Yayasan Pusaka Indonesia Flora & Fauna International (FFI) Yayasan Ekowisata Sumatra Yayasan Samoedra
2	2	Winrock International	World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF)
RFA 002 – Model conservation villages in northern Sumatra to assist conserve orangutan and their habitat			
3	1	Yayasan Pusaka Indonesia	Walhi Sumatera Utara Yayasan Ekowisata Sumatera Yayasan Ekosistem Lestari
4	2	FIELD Indonesia	Pemberdayaan Ikonomi Lingkungan Rakyat (PEKAT) Penguatan Rakyat Pedesaan (PARAS) Foundation
5	3	Conservation International	
6	4	Leuser International Foundation	
7	5	Akasia Indonesia Foundation	Sumatra Rainforest Institute Gerakan Menuju Masyarakat Madani (GEMMA) Pesona Alam Tropis Indonesia (PETAI)
8	6	Palapa	Perkumpulan LARISPA F Perkumpulan Relawan Lingkungan Hidup (ReLiP)
9	7	Yayasan Leuser Lestari	GENNEO-SANGKALA RAKOM DAS DELI KSKA K-IPPS Staf Pengajar F. MIPA USU
RFA 003 – Campaigns and media outreach to support conservation of orangutan and their habitat			
10	1	ProMedia	
11	2	Yayasan Ekosistem Lestari	RARE
12	3	RARE	Yayasan Orangutan Indonesia (YAYORIN)
13	4	Orangutan Crisis Coalition	Orangutan Conservancy Association of Zoos and Aquariums Disney's Animal Kingdom Orang Utan Republik Sumatra Orangutan Conservation Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Program Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Project
14	5	Yayasan Kelompok Kerja Visi Anak Bangsa (YKKVAB)	
15	6	Leuser International Foundation	
16	7	RMI, the Indonesian Institute for Forest and Environment	PENA Indonesia LATIPAH. H

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No.	RFA Count	Prime	Partners
17	8	Sumatra Orangutan Society – Orangutan Information Centre (SOS-OIC)	Sources of Indonesia
18	9	Centre for Orangutan Protection (COP)	Nature Alert Orangutan Conservancy Monkey Business Rain Forest Information Centre Australian Orangutan Project Rettet den Ragenwald
19	10	Konsorsium Pendukung Sistem Hutan Kerakyatan (KpSHK)	
20	11	Orangutan Foundation International	Yayasan Orangutan International Kalimantan (YOIK)
21	12	Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOS)	
RFA 004 – Orangutan habitat protection in Tanjung Puting National Park			
22	1	World Education	Orangutan Foundation International
23	2	Relief International	
RFA 005 – Orangutan conservation in a large multifunctional landscape in Kalimantan			
24	1	Flora & Fauna International (FFI)	Orangutan Foundation – UK Yayasan Orangutan Indonesia (YAYORIN) Sekala Global Environment Centre
25	2	World Education	The Nature Conservancy*
26	3	Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) Foundation	Shell Canada Limited
27	4	Yayasan WWF (World Wildlife Fund)	NA-FTN/WWF US WWF International
28	5	Friends of the National Park Foundation	Rettet Den Regenwald ILembaga Ilmu Pengetahuan Indonesia (LIPI) Man and Biosphere (MAB) UNESCO – Indonesia Tanjung Puting National Park Authorities Directorate General for Biodiversity Conservation Pangkalan Bun Forestry Agency Pangkalan Bun Education Agency Pangkalan Bun Bapedalda 2 Way Development (UK) Physic Technic Laboratory, Universitas Nasional Biology Faculty, Universitas Nasional, Jakarta Biology Department, Indonesian University, Jakarta
RFA 006 – Enforcement of laws and regulations that prohibit habitat destruction and other threats to wild orangutan populations			
29	1	Wildlife Conservation Society	Association of Journalists of Indonesia (AJI)
30	2	Titian Foundation	
31	3	Yayasan WWF	TRAFFIC WWF Germany WWF Sweden Wetland International

No.	RFA Count	Prime	Partners
32	4	Centre for Orangutan Protection	LASA
33	5	Yayasan Leuser Lestari	GENNEO-SANGKALA KMPS KSKA Bitra Media Syndication

*Note: It was not recommended that The Nature Conservancy receive funding via OCSP but serve as an in-kind partner funded through other means.

Selections were based on a set of criteria including quantitative ranking scores. Negotiations proceeded with the short-listed candidates. These negotiations were carried out by the Grants Officer, assisted by Paul Hartman, Dan Rothberg and other senior OCSP staff. In several cases, negotiations took place which formed a broad consortium of several groups of applicants, such as with the Sumatra Model Conservation Village RFA (#2) involving seven local NGOs. Note is made of these negotiations because such consortiums will offer particular advantages in forging collaboration between the orangutan conservation actors in Sumatra.

Component I. Improved management and conservation of strategic wild orangutan populations and their habitats.

Overall Indicator: Number of additional hectares of priority orangutan habitat that are protected or sustainably managed

Activity Indicators:

- Number of local authorities adopting new spatial planning
- Number of collaborative management agreements
- Number of hectares of orangutan habitat loss in Berau East Kutai
- Number of hectares of orangutan habitat loss in Tanjung Puting
- Number of hectares of orangutan habitat loss in a large multifunctional landscape

1.1. Build capacity for regional and local authorities to engage in spatial planning that conserves forests harboring orangutan populations

SUMATRA

On October 31, 2007, the spatial planning working group in Medan conducted a workshop organized by OCSP with the support of Bapedalda, North Sumatra. This workshop was attended by forty three people from 7 NGOs, Bappeda, Bapedalda, BKSDA, TNGL, Dinas Kehutanan and Medan Zoo. Six speakers presented on topics related to spatial planning regulations and associated issues, particularly those concerning new laws on community participation and transparency in preparation of spatial plans. Other topics presented were spatial planning in Batang Toru and Leuser National Park. Bappeda also explained the process for the revision of the Rencana Tata

Ruang Wilayah (RTRW) for North Sumatra Province. OCSP's Spatial Planning Consultant, Martin Hardiono, presented OCSP's approach to the development of a unitary strategic conservation spatial plan. The majority of the GIS themes for the final draft of this strategic plan have now been completed.

KALIMANTAN

The data compilation for a borneo-wide ecoregional plan has been finalized. The next step is to analyze conservation priority sites using Marxan software. The Marxan analysis is being conducted by and ecoregional planning team consisting of experts from TNC and WWF. A final report will be produced in March or April 2008.

The East Kalimantan Province-wide spatial planning (2005-2025¹) is now in its final draft stage. The province plan is a compilation of all district-level plans. The East Kalimantan provincial government has proposed the plan to the national government through the Ministry of Forestry's Planning Department. However, as the plan proposes the conversion of 2,102,339.64 Ha and 1,366,395.91 Ha of forest to have its status changed to non-forest, the Ministry of Forestry has yet to approve of the plan.

As the OCSP orangutan sites in the Kelay and Wehea are both protected by local decree, they are protected under both the district and provincial spatial plans. The OCSP team in Kalimantan has, however, worked to ensure that forests surrounding them in the Muara Wahau and Kelay Sub-Districts are proposed as protected areas or retain a status as "forest." This would mean that they cannot legally be converted. The proposed landuse status in the provincial spatial plan is as follows:

Status	Wahau (Ha)	Percentage	Kelay (Ha)	Percentage
Protection Forest (Hutan Lindung/HL)	159,357.70	32.70	324,102.67	49.92
Protection Forest* (Hutan Lindung*/HL Bintang)	54,081.89	11.10	4,776.89	0.74
Forest (Kawasan Budidaya Kehutanan/KBK)	156,086.37	32.03	218,775.49	33.70
Non Forest (Kawasan Budidaya Non Kehutanan/KBNK)	117,827.91	24.18	57,135.87	8.80
Non Forest* (Kawasan Budidaya Non Kehutanan*/KBNK Bintang)	0	0	44,466.61	6.85

¹ The years the plan will be in force are still tentative and depend on when the spatial plan proposal approved by national government.

Water Body	0	0	0.64	0.00
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* These areas still contain timber concessionaires granted by the national government

While the majority of area in these two subdistricts is slated for protection or to remain forest, the OCSP Kalimantan team is working with both the provincial and national government's to ensure that the final plan approved limits to the fullest extent possible the amount of forest classified as KBNK or non-forest that can be for converted.

1.2. Support local conservation efforts through coordinated multistakeholder approach to orangutan habitat protection and management

West Batang Toru Forest Block (WBTFB) Conservation Management Action Plan

Within North Sumatra, OCSP is developing a conservation action plan with wide stakeholder support to conserve the forests of West Batang Toru Forest Block (WBTFB). This will assist three districts manage approximately 76,0000 hectares of protected and commercial forests containing an estimated 380 individual orangutan, along with Sumatran Tiger and a variety of other endangered animals. Two of the four large companies working in the area, the Agincourt Gold mine and the Teluk Nauli logging company, are participating in the process and have indicated that they will respect the results of the process. The plan will also guide initiatives of OCSP in WBTFB as it seeks to garner support for the conservation of the area and catalyze others to implement conservation activities

The OCSP Medan team focused much of their activity this quarter on the development of the conservation action plan. Background research was compiled on the area and a series of GIS themes produced that documented vegetation, habitat, soil, and geology variation in all sub-watersheds in WBTFB. A total of forty three potential conservation targets were developed and a range of the threats associated with these targets identified.

This initial background research was then followed up between with multi-stakeholder meetings in Medan, Tapanuli Tengah and Tapanuli Utara to help organize a workshop, inform participants of the process to adopt a target driven conservation action plan, and identify a draft vision and mission for the workshop hold at Parapat, Tapanuli Utara.



Parapat, Tapanuli Utara, site of conservation action plan workshop in West Bantang Toru Forest Block

The WBTFB stakeholder conservation action planning workshop was held between December 11-12. Sixty participants attended representing 20 local, provincial, national and international NGOs working in conservation and local custom, the three Tapanuli District Governments, two of the four major companies working in WBTFB (Agincourt Gold mining company, HPH Teluk Nauli), two Universities, the Batak Church, and several farmer groups.

The Workshop resulted in the selection of 7 conservation targets. These included aerial based targets that were proxies for biodiversity (the sub watersheds with greatest complexity of river systems, habitat, and corridor linkages); orangutan; Sumatran Tiger; and a group of five species of hornbill bird. Global direct and indirect threats were identified for each target, as well as possible conservation interventions to abate the impact of these threats.

Next steps to completion of this Plan will be in the fourth quarter when field visits to WBTFB will be held to select specific sub-watersheds as targets and to document threats that occur in these selections. A tailored conservation approach will be identified for each target and formed into an adaptive management scenario.

1.3. Implement orangutan habitat conservation program in the Berau and East Kutai Districts (East Kalimantan)

Engagement of Oil Palm Sector

OCSP has focused on engagement of the oil palm sector to discuss micro-level planning of their oil palm plantations. As demonstrated in activity 1.1 above, spatial planning alone cannot stop the advance of oil palm development. Companies need to be engaged to mitigate the impacts of conversion on habitat. OCSP is now exploring opportunities with two oil palm plantations, PT Anugrah and PT Yudha Wana Abadi, to determine their interest in collaboration and assistance in moving towards RSPO endorsed management.

Orangutan Surveys of PT Essam Timber Concession and Plantations Surrounding Kutai National Park

A survey of the abandoned timber concession, PT Essam, was conducted between November 20 and December 2, 2007. The survey team, led by OCSP's Nardiyono, managed to reach the remote area which had not been surveyed since the 1930s. They conducted 4 transect surveys, 2 on the border between PT Essam and PT Muggitriman and the other 2 inside the PT Essam area. From those four transects the team didn't find any evidence of orangutan populations. Besides the field survey, the team also held discussions with the local communities living around the area, who stated they had never see any orangutan around their village or around the Metun and Kayan river. Some primates were recorded during the survey including white fronted langur, Pig tail macaque, long tail macaque. Slow loris, sun bear, sambar deer, barking deer and others mammals were also encountered.

OCSP is also working to assist the Kutai National Park Authority and two timber plantations surrounding the park, Sinar Mas and Sumalindo, devise a plan to protect both the park's forest habitat and the orangutan found both inside the park and the plantations. A survey was recently conducted in the Sumalindo Acacia plantation area through which a substantial orangutan population was discovered. Further surveys are being planned in quarter four with paper and pulp company APP, who also see cases in their plantation of orangutan damaging Acacia. OCSP staff also held meetings with the Kutai National Park and the Sinar Mas and Sumalindo plantations to discuss the Kutai National Park orangutan action plan. A working group was created to be led by the head of Kutai National Park. This working group will undertake further orangutan surveys and devise a plan to protect forest habitat and the orangutan found both inside the park and the plantations.

1.4. Implement orangutan habitat conservation program in Tanjung Puting National Park (Central Kalimantan)

World Education and OFI have fulfilled their obligations for the bridging grant in Tanjung Puting NP. Specific activities included patrolling and the prevention of illegal extraction of natural resources, capacity building work with the Park authorities, fire suppression and prevention, and the application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to help in monitoring and management.

1.5. Implement orangutan habitat conservation program in a large, multifunctional forest area (Kalimantan)

OCSP has recommended the FFI/OF-UK/Yayorin proposal for award to USAID in response to RFA5. Erik Meijaard has initiated discussions with Frank Momberg of FFI. One of the first steps in that program will be to conduct a landscape level HCVF assessment together with Cargill (the major palm oil developer in the area), Sari Bumi Kusuma and several other timber concessions, and local governments. A general approach was discussed and it was agreed that if the subgrant was awarded, Erik Meijaard would visit the Ketapang area and help develop more detailed plans for the HCVF assessment.

A conservation action plan will also be developed for the area outlining how different economic and conservation activities will contribute to the sustainable management of orangutan habitats. This will be done through the development of models for different land use scenarios and related macro-economics (as is being done for two districts in East Kalimantan) for various districts within the multifunctional landscape in West and Central Kalimantan.

Component 2. Improved enforcement of laws and regulations that combat habitat destruction and other threats to wild orangutan populations

Overall Indicator: Number of hunting and logging violations in and around priority conservation sites that are prosecuted under Indonesian law; Number of relevant policies that are strengthened

Activity Indicators:

- Number of relevant laws that are reviewed, redrafted and presented to government
- Number of local jurisdictions trained in law enforcement
- Number of rural communities that are practicing community policing of orangutan habitat through agreements with local authorities
- Information obtained used in advocacy campaign on the destruction of orangutan by oil palm

2.1. Reinforce national policies that support the conservation of wild orangutan populations and their habitats

Of the proposals submitted by for policy work under OCSP WCS, Titian Foundation and WWF Indonesia were recommended to USAID for grant award.

Review of National Legislation

A review of legislation and policies was initiated during the quarter. The review focused on regulations with the potential to significantly impact OCSP objective and program of work both in Sumatra and Kalimantan, gauged the opportunity for legislation to support OCSP objectives and outputs, and identified weaknesses and gaps in legislation. These regulations viewed as most relevant to OCSP are those related to spatial planning, forest, community and protected areas management:

1. PP no 68 / 1998 on Kawasan Suaka Alam dan Kawasan Pelestarian Alam which regulates management of conservation and protected area systems and their function;
2. PP no 44 / 2004 on Forestry Planning, which regulates forest designation procedures ;
3. PP no 45 / 2004 on Forest Protection, which regulates management protection schemes and lays out forest management responsibilities;
4. PP no 6 / 2007 on Tata Hutan Dan Penyusunan Rencana Pengelolaan Hutan, Serta Pemanfaatan Hutan, which regulates forest management options and permitting of forest utilization plans.
5. PP 72 / 2005 on Pemerintah Desa, which regulates the authority and lays out roles and responsibilities of village governing bodies. Review on this legislation is particularly important to OCSP Model Conservation Village (MCV) development in North Sumatra. The MCV approach looks to delegate authority to village government on forest management.

This review will continue and in cooperation with WCS, as part of their proposed grant program to OCSP, and the National Forestry Council (Dewan Kehutanan Nasional) who are implementing a three year project on national forest legislation review.

OCSP had also identified that in appendix of PP No. 7/1999, which details Indonesia's endangered species, the Sumatran orangutan is not yet listed (the Kalimantan orangutan is listed). OCSP is working with the Ministry of Forestry to correct this oversight.

National Strategy and Action Plan for Conservation Orangutan in Indonesia, 2007-2017

To support and enhance policy related to the conservation of wild orangutan populations and their habitat, OCSP took an active role in the core team that worked to develop the National Strategy and Action Plan for Conservation Orangutan in Indonesia, 2007-2017. OCSP staff, Jamartin Sihite and Arifien Sutrisno, were listed as

two of the lead authors, with Darrel Kitchener and Erik Meijaard of OCSP as contributors. (More details see in activity 3.1).

Through OCSP input the plan follows a similar approach to that of the OCSP. Objectives and goals of the plan will be achieved through five major strategies and programs for:

1. Orangutan Conservation Management
2. Policy and Regulation
3. Partnership Development and Collaborative Management
4. Communications and Awareness
5. Sustainable Financing



2.2. Facilitate technical support for implementation of national laws and district ordinances that combat habitat and species destruction

Legality and CoC

In anticipating Voluntary Partnership agreement (VPA) with EU countries on the implementation of a legality and COC system, OCSP has begun working closely with the West Kalimantan NGOs coalition for legal timber procurement. The coalition seeks implementation of the national legality standard and CoC systems for timber procurement as a means to prevent or curb illegal logging activities in west Kalimantan. This is particularly relevant to OCSP as a fair amount of illegal timber in West Kalimantan comes from orangutan areas (see illegal logging hot spots listing prepared for US Department of Justice ICITAP and reported on in Quarter One and Two report).

Work with USFS

OCSP hosted a meeting lead by USFS's Cynthia Makie to provide input into plans for a visit of USFS mission delegation to Jakarta, and West Kalimantan scheduled for 11 – 22

February 2008. OCSP Policy Coordinator, Darmawan Listwanto, will represent OCSP as part of the delegation to West Kalimantan while CoP, Paul Hartman, will meet with them in Jakarta.

2.3. Support strengthening of techniques in local level enforcement to combat encroachment and hunting

While several NGOs have been proactive in northern Sumatra in the rescue of captive orangutan, but there has been no NGO group focused as such on law enforcement. To help fill this gap, OCSP Medan established a working group to focus on specific enforcement issues related to conservation of orangutan and other protected fauna. This group met a number of times in this quarter facilitated by OCSP. It now contains participants representing seven organizations: YLL, FFI, TRAFIC, YEL/SOCP/OREI, PROFAUNA, and a student group. The group's main interest is in data-base development, information sharing and tracking of court cases (it is currently tracking a case of a captive orangutan in Sibolga). The group is also trying to establish a sustainable support system and has established connections with the forest protection Unit of the Department of Forestry. OCSP Jakarta, is assisting with this linkage.

2.4. Develop and implement research project that clearly demonstrates the impact that forest clearing and oil palm development has on orangutan populations

Research on Oil Palm

During the COP-13 meetings, Erik Meijaard presented initial results of economic analysis of potential revenues from oil palm development presently scheduled within Kalimantan's orangutan habitats versus the potential revenues that could be created if forest are protected. The latter scenario assumes that payments for avoided deforestation will become an official mechanism in the clean development mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol and subsequent international agreements. The Bali roadmap developed and agreed in December 2007 is an important step in that direction. The research was conducted together with colleagues from the University of Queensland and TNC-Australia.

Preliminary findings suggest that at a carbon price of US\$ 5.75/ton forest conservation can financially outcompete oil palm development on peat swamps. On mineral soils, however, a price of US\$ 16/ton would be required. Much lower prices would make forest conservation an economically competitive land use option if environmental service values are incorporated into the equation.

The next step in this research is to write up the results and get them published in a high-profile journal. Following that we will use part of the AusAID funding commitment of AUS\$ 500,000 to TNC to continue the research collaboration and develop tools that will allow decision makers at the district level to see the economic impact of different

land use scenarios, both in the short as well as long term. This research and tool development will occur during the course of 2008

International Conference on Oil Palm and Environment

Erik Meijaard also attended the International Conference on Oil Palm and Environment (ICOPE) in Bali, 15 and 16 November 2007 and presented the preliminary data on the economic analysis detailed above in an ad-hoc session. The goal of the conference was to bring together practitioners from the palm oil sector with NGOs, trying to find common ground which could provide further support for the Round Table for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).

Jan Kees Vis, the RSPO chairman gave an overview of the progress that has been made with the roundtable. About 40% of all oil palm is now claimed as being produced under RSPO guidelines. However, the guidelines and certification criteria are not yet officially recognized. In the week of 19-23 November, during the 5th RSPO annual meeting in Kuala Lumpur, a decision will be made on which guidelines to use and whether certification criteria will apply to the palm oil industry in Indonesia.

The meeting left the impression that in general the palm oil industry remains highly critical of the NGOs and vice versa. The palm oil sector repeatedly stated that the NGOs accused them of things that were simply untrue. A representative from a Malaysian oil palm company presented paper claiming that CO₂ emissions from peat were lower from oil palm areas than in forested peat areas. There is clearly a long way to go towards defining common goals and shared views between the environmental NGO sector and the palm oil industry.

Component 3. Partnerships that improve coordination and liaison among stakeholders engaged in conservation of wild orangutan populations

Overall Indicator: Improved coordination and collaboration between existing and new partners

Activity Indicators:

- National Orangutan Stakeholder Forum created and operational
- Regional, local and community working groups operational and meeting regularly to discuss implementation activities
- Private sector partnerships established with an MOU or equivalent agreement in place

3.1. Facilitate improved cooperation and collaboration among local authorities, NGOs, and the private sector

Development of National Orangutan Forum

In its efforts to develop a national level Orangutan Conservation Forum, OCSP engaged Larry Fisher to serve as Forum Development Advisor. Mr. Fisher arrived in Indonesia in quarter three, conducted surveys, both electronic and through one on one interviews, presented his initial findings to the Orangutan Action Plan core team, and prepared a draft report.

The report assessed the opportunities for OCSP to assist in the development of a national level Orangutan Conservation Forum. While the initial Scope of Work focused on securing recommendations on the structure and function of the forum (including a “blueprint” for the establishment of a formal institution), given concerns raised during initial interviews and discussions in Indonesia, the assignment evolved to address the following questions viewed as more fundamental to program development:

1. What are the needs and opportunities for networking that can help address threats to orangutan conservation?
2. How can OCSP assist in encouraging, incentivizing, and facilitating improved coordination and collaboration among the many organizations, programs, and individuals involved in orangutan conservation?

Methods

To pursue the answers to these questions, more than 25 individual and small group interviews were conducted in Jakarta and Bogor with key leaders in orangutan conservation. In addition, 31 individuals from OCSP’s network of contacts completed an electronic survey developed for the assignment. The interviews and the survey responses, while neither comprehensive nor statistically rigorous, informed the preliminary findings and the recommendations of the report.

General findings

The interviews and survey responses clearly reinforce a sense of the rich and varied experience with networks and forums in Indonesia, both for conservation and for related social and political action. However, this experience yields a palpable skepticism and suspicion about the prospect of establishing yet another conservation forum. Many suggested alternative means for meeting the goals of networking, without necessarily creating a new, formal structure (for example, strengthening existing organizational structures), and stressed the need for a strong service orientation – a network that adds value rather than drains resources and energy from ongoing programs. Nevertheless, there is strong support for the general idea of improved collaboration and coordination among people and organizations working for orangutan conservation in Indonesia.

Recommendations

Several structures for an orangutan conservation forum were presented for consideration and discussion during the assignment. Interviews and survey results suggest strong support for a “service first, evolutionary” approach to networking and forum development. This approach stops short of front-ending the establishment of a formal structure, suggesting instead a continued focus on ongoing collaboration focused on implementation of the recently approved national Strategy and Action Plan for Orangutan Conservation.

There was high, and generally universal praise for the effective, low-profile role that OCSPP has played to date in convening the national orangutan strategy and action plan core team and shepherding this important planning process through to formal government approval (see further description of this process below). This effort provided a solid foundation – and some important future milestone events – for continued networking and the transition to a more formal structure that will ultimately be needed to ensure implementation of the Plan, as well as continuity of effort beyond the duration of OCSPP’s period of project support. Over time, a coordinating function will become increasingly necessary, and it will be important to work with key participants to identify and develop the appropriate structure – whether a separate entity, a sponsored program within an existing organization, or a less formal association of constituents – that can sustain the momentum and provide the necessary level of services over the long term.

Develop Action Plans on Issues Important to Orangutan Conservation Nationally



Special Staff to the Minister of Forestry, Sunaryo and Hery Djoko of PHKA open the Orangutan Action Plan Finalization Workshop, Hotel Cipura November 11-15

In response to the critical condition of orangutan and its habitat in Sumatra and Kalimantan a multi-stakeholder process involving scientists, conservation practitioners, local government and other stakeholders worked under the supervision of the Ministry

of Forestry to develop solutions and a plan to ensure a long-term survival of the species. The result was the Strategy and Action Plan for National Conservation of Orangutans.

The process commenced with an expert scientists workshop on Population Habitat and Viability Analysis (PHVA) in Jakarta on 2004. It was furthered through multistakeholder meetings in Berastagi, North Sumatra on September 2005, Pontianak, West Kalimantan on October 2005, and Samarinda, East Kalimantan on June 2006. The regional meetings involved representatives of local governments, timber and oil palm industry, community representatives, and other conservation practitioners. A series of meetings in Jakarta and Bogor in 2007, facilitated by the Ministry of Forestry's Directorate of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHKA), the Association of Concerned Indonesian Primate Specialists (APAPI) and the USAID-supported Orangutan Conservation Service Program (OCSP), finalized the plan, which was signed off on by the Minister of Forestry on 3 December (Peraturan Menteri Kehutan Nomor P.53/Menhut-IV/2007).

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono launched the Action Plan at a UNFCCC COP 13 side event in Bali on December 10th. Through the official announcement of the Strategy and Action Plan for National Conservation of Orangutans by the President of Indonesia, the Indonesian government proved to the world its commitment to tackle climate change by protecting orangutan as the icon of tropical rainforests (See text box below for more on the launch).

The primary components of the action plan are as follows:

VISION

Ensure the sustainability of orangutan populations and habitat through multistakeholder partnership

PURPOSE

The Strategy and Action Plan for National Conservation of Orangutans engages stakeholders to define and implement actions that will ensure sustainability of orangutan populations, in line with economic, social, and cultural development.

OBJECTIVES and GOALS

The Strategy and Action Plan for National Conservation of Orangutans guides stakeholders to determine conservation priorities for in-situ (wild) and ex-situ (captive) orangutans and to design programs that enhance viability of the orangutan population over the next ten years.

Goals:

1. By 2017, populations and natural habitats for Sumatran and Kalimantan orangutans remain stable
2. By 2015, captive orangutans are rehabilitated and reintroduced to the wild
3. By 2017, public support for conservation of Sumatran and Kalimantan orangutans and habitats is increased

4. By 2017, local government and business sectors implement good governance that ensures sustainability of orangutan populations and natural resources
5. By 2017, awareness and recognition of wild orangutans is increased amongst all stakeholders.

OCSP activities in support of the plans development included:

- Organized a meeting on September 6, 2007 to select a core team or “tim kecil” to developed National Action Plan on Orangutan Conservation;
- Arranged pre-workshop and focused group discussion attended by 17 persons on 30 – 31 October 2007 in Hotel Pangrango 2, Bogor;
- Assisted in compiling inputs into the draft of the National Action Plan;
- Organized a workshop to obtain final inputs into the plan on 15-16 November 2007. The workshop was attended by the Ministry of Forestry, Scientists, NGOs, and private sector representatives from forestry and oil palm;
- Along with core team incorporated final inputs into the final draft version at Crawford Lodge – Bogor on 20 – 21 November, 2007
- Once approved by the Ministry of Forestry, laid out and printed National Action Plan and disseminated it at UNFCCC COP-13 in Bali.

Strategy and Action Plan for National Conservation of Orangutans Launch Event at UNFCCC COP-13 in Bali, December 10, 2007



(Center) US Ambassador to Indonesia, Cameron Hume, pledging US support for the Orangutan Action Plan Launch. (Right) Australian Minister for Environment, Peter Garret, awaits the opportunity to speak.



(L-R) Governor of Bali, Minister of Forestry, President and First Lady arrive and are seated at the launch event.



AP Photo: Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono announcing the orangutan action plan

On December 10th at the Bali Climate Conference, in front of a packed crowd of dignitaries, government officials and the media, Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono announced a new plan aimed at protecting the country's orangutan population. The *Strategy and Action Plan for National Conservation of Orangutans*, authored by the Ministry of Forestry Directorate of Forest Conservation and Nature Protection, presents the first specific, enforceable agenda to protect the nation's disappearing orangutans. It commits to maintaining orangutan populations above critical thresholds at which their populations may fail to recover. A core target of the plan is to stabilize orangutan populations and habitat by 2017.

The Indonesian president said at the launch of the plan: "The fate of the orangutan is a subject that goes to the heart of sustainable forests... to save the orangutan we have to save the forest." With more than 10,000 delegates from 189 countries gathered to seek ways to tackle global warming, he linked the plight of the orangutan to the primary focus of the conference: "The Orangutan and its fate brings us closer to the reality of the effects of global warming, and the opportunities that forests provide to mitigate it." Referring to the potential to capture payments on the international carbon market for reducing emissions from tropical forests he went on to say "Certainly the critical habitat of our orangutan forests deserve such an investment."

At the event, U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia Cameron R. Hume committed \$2.8 million in additional U.S. support to Indonesia's environmental conservation and climate change activities. Administered by the US Agency for International Development's Orangutan Conservation Services Program, these funds will be used to enhance Indonesian efforts to protect biodiversity and combat climate change in Indonesia.

The Australian Environment Minister, Peter Garret, and The Nature Conservancy committed \$500,000 and \$1 million USD, respectively, of further funding to help implement the plan.

3.2. Develop working groups at regional level to deal with a range of issues relevant to OCSP outcomes on orangutan conservation

Working groups for orangutan conservation in the areas of enforcement, conservation spatial planning and communication, continue to forge links between orangutan conservation stakeholders in northern Sumatra and develop conservation plans and implement conservation activities.

3.3. *Facilitate agreements with the private sector to implement conservation*

APRIL: While some momentum was lost in development of a partnership, discussions continued with APRIL at the COP 13 meeting in Bali. New talks are being arranged for the fourth quarter.

Sinar Mas: See update in activity 1.3

BHP: OCSP continued discussions with BHP Billiton Indonesia about their conservation planning in Central Kalimantan related to the large planned coal mine developments. These discussions focus on the details of conservation planning and management in the contracts of works area in Central Kalimantan. Further details were discussed during a workshop in Jakarta from 5th to 7th November organized by BHP Billiton. Erik Meijaard, OCSP Kalimantan Regional Coordinator participated in this workshop, the focus of which was to explore the implications for sustainable development of Kalimantan, including the potential role of coal in the region. This workshop formed part of an overall process by which BHP Billiton is seeking effective external stakeholder input into the consideration of its future approach to its Indonesian coal assets.

Component 4. Improved outreach and communication that builds commitment and support for orangutan conservation

Overall Indicator: Percent of Indonesian stakeholders demonstrating support for orangutan conservation efforts and implementation of threat reduction measures

Activity Indicators:

- >50% increase in air time and articles devoted to orangutan conservation in media
- 90 percent of conservation organizations and relevant government offices in Kalimantan and Sumatra aware of OCSP
- Number of “hits” and “visits” on OCSP web-site and affiliate sites increases each month
- >25% increase in awareness of campaign issues among target audiences
- Number of participants in exchange programs

4.1. Build local, national & international media support for orangutan conservation across the program

UNFCCC COP-13

OCSP prepared a great deal of communications material in preparation for UNFCCC COP-13 event, in Nusa Dua, Bali. OCSP disseminated 1,200 of “The World is Watching” brochures; 200 copies of the Action Plan launch press release, factsheets, and namecards; 200 copies of the National Action Plan; and produced 10 banners, 6 posters displayed and 1 film screened at the event.

Total media coverage of the event included 104 newspapers and websites. Two national radio broadcast reported the event, Internews and Prambors. Erik Meijaard was interviewed by two Indonesian radio stations and Paul Hartman by Radio UN Russia, which reaches 45 million homes (See Annex Two for a complete listing).

In parallel with UNFCCC COP-13, OCSP also participated in “Forest Day,” an event organized by CIFOR, on the 8th of December 2007 in the Ayodya Hotel, Nusa Dua, Bali. Erik Meijaard deliver his presentation on “Can Carbon Market Save the Orangutan?” at the event, which also included a poster display on Erik’s presentation (see activity 2.4 for more information on the presentation).

4.2. Develop Program Identity and communications strategy and materials across the program

The North Sumatra orangutan communication working group, formed and facilitated by OCSP, continues to meet regularly. The group consists of 11 NGOs: TPPK-YLL/Sangkala, KALI, SOS_OIC, PETRA, WALHI Sumut, KSKA, PEKAT Indonesia, CI Indonesia, FFI, as well as ESP-USAID. Its main focus is data-base development, data analysis, education and advocacy campaigns

4.3. Development and management of program website

In preparation for COP 13, OCSP also developed website www.theworldiswatching.info as a reference and resource for those who are in need to get electronic copies of all communications materials. Information continues to be uploaded on the website and its hoped that it will become a resource for the proposed National Orangutan Forum.

4.4. National campaigns to support conservation of orangutan

Orangutan Caring Week



Child receives orangutan awareness material from the great ape himself in Sun Plaza Shopping Mall, Medan, Sumatra

On the 6th – 10th of November 2007, OCSP supported the Third Orangutan Caring Week Program in Medan, North Sumatra. The event aimed at raising awareness, educating and gaining broad support from young people and university students to safeguard the Sumatran orangutan as the icon of Indonesia's forests. Activities held included: roadshow to Universitas Islam Sumatra Utara, Universitas Sumatra Utara, Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatra Utara, and Universitas Negeri Medan; photo Exhibition; film screening; radio talk show; and dissemination of awareness materials in Sun Plaza Shopping Mall.

OCSP supported the production of posters, stickers, leaflets, and operational costs of the event. Around 700 posters, stickers, and leaflets were distributed to university students and visitors of Sun Plaza Shopping Center. This event was covered by Waspada regional daily newspaper of North Sumatra.

OCSP staff, Slamet Rachmadi, was invited to deliver presentation to university students on "Stopping the Crimes toward Orangutan and Forest Habitat" (Menghentikan Kejahatan terhadap Orangutan dan Habitat Hutan) on the 7th of November 2007, in the Universitas Sumatra Utara. The lecture was attended by 135 university students. The lecture was meant to catalyze the students into action for orangutan conservation.

Given a successful implementation of the Third Orangutan Caring Week Program, it is recommended that this activity will be continued next year with some improvements on preparation prior to the event as well as develop more synergy amongst organizations under the consortium to avoid conflict of agenda.

4.5. *Implement exchanges and program visits to conservation sites for regional, national and international stakeholders*



Dr. Birute Mary Galdikas providing a briefing to the Australian government delegation at Tanjung Puting OCSP assisted in arranging a trip for the delegation to Tanjung Puting National Park from November 10-11. The high level delegation from AusAid visited peatland projects in Central Kalimantan in November 2007 to begin the process of identifying potential pilot projects to demonstrate the effectiveness of reducing deforestation; improve local forestry governance; and prevent, monitor and suppress peatland fires, including by training Indonesia's fire fighters and fire management.

The trip focused on demonstrating the range of threats to forests and possible solutions including the impacts of irrigation canals and fire damage to Tanjung Puting's fragile peat ecosystem. OCSP partners OFI and WE also demonstrated how agricultural and reforestation approaches can be used help mitigate the impacts of these threats.

The delegation was made up of the following individuals and was undertaken at the request of the Australian government:

- Mr. Jean-Bernard Carrasco, Director, Global Forests and Climate, Department of the Environment and Water Resources
- Mr. Bernard Lynch, Economic Counsellor, Australian Embassy Jakarta
- Mr. Grahame Applegate, Climate Change Consultant, AusAid
- Ms. Melissa Tipping, AusAid Global Initiative on Forests and Climate (GIFC)
- Ms. Rina Amalia, AusAid Program Officer, Environment
- Ir. Wiratno (PHKA)
- Ms. Suzanne Billharz, USAID Environment Specialist/Water & Environment
- Mr. Paul Hartman, Chief of Party, OCSP
- Dr. Erik Meijaard, Kalimantan Coordinator, OCSP
- Emily Meijaard
- Mr. Fajar Dewanto, Field Supervisor, Orangutan Foundation International
- Dr. Birute Galdikas, Founder, Orangutan Foundation International
- Handoko Widagdo, Action Country Representative, World Education
- Mr. Stephen Brend, Senior Conservationist, Orangutan Foundation UK
- Tanjung Puting National Park management & patrol personnel

The Australian Government committed AU\$100 million to support efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and promote sustainable forest management in Indonesia. Peat lands are made up of undecomposed plant materials and store large quantities of carbon. As a result, fires in peat lands release large amounts of greenhouse gases. The funding is part of the Australian Government's \$200 million Global Initiative on Forests and Climate.

Component 5. Sustainable Financing

Overall Indicator: Sustainable financing mechanism for orangutan conservation determined and funds raised efforts and implementation of threat reduction measures

Activity Indicators:

- Development of financing mechanism for national orangutan conservation forum that will create sustainability and serve as a clearing house for donor funds

5.1. Establish a framework for collaboration on sustainable financing for orangutan conservation

The U.S. government committed additional funding for the National Orangutan Conservation Action Plan. On December 10, 2007 at the event announcing the approval and adoption of the Action Plan, U.S. Ambassador Cameron Hume stated: "The second way the U.S. Government will support the Action Plan is through a new commitment. Today the U.S. is pledging \$2.8 million of additional funding to support biodiversity and climate change in Indonesia, for activities including orangutan habitat conservation. USAID will work closely with the Ministry of

Forestry to support its objectives through programs that help bring the Action Plan from a plan to an operational reality. We look forward to working together to safeguard orangutans, forest and biodiversity, and by doing so we will make an important contribution to combating climate change as well...”

- The Australian Government committed AU\$500,000 in support of the implementation of the National Orangutan Conservation Action Plan
- The Nature Conservancy committed USD \$1,000,00 for implementation of the National Orangutan Conservation Action Plan

Annex One: Speeches From the Orangutan Action Plan Launch Event

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS
DR. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA**

AT THE

**LAUNCH OF THE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR NATIONAL CONSERVATION
OF ORANGUTANS**

**AYODYA HOTEL, BALI
10 DECEMBER 2007**

*Bismillahirrahmanirrahim
Ass Wr Wb*

*Excellencies,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am delighted to be here today, and even more delighted that such a large and vibrant crowd has also gathered here today. I feel heartened by the fact that there is such strong support for our efforts to save one of the most charismatic yet endangered wildlife, the Orangutan.

It is no coincidence that this event is being launched on the sideline of a critical UN Conference on Climate Change. The fate of the orangutans is a subject that goes straight to the heart of sustainable forestry. And sustainable forestry, as we all know, goes straight into the heart of carbon sinks, which is the only way we can reabsorb the carbon dioxides in the our atmosphere that is causing global warming.

I am sure the Orangutan needs no further introduction. These great red apes are intelligent, friendly, and beloved by many. They are the headline stars of the wildlife world. They have become a world renowned icon of healthy rainforests, and in fact they have become as identical to rainforests. They have also become a symbol for Indonesia and our lush biodiversity.

Sadly, today the Orangutan is endangered, and this is largely because their homes, the forests, are shrinking. An estimated 1000 orangutan were killed in 2006 because of fires and habitat loss. And in the last 35 years as many as 50,000 orangutans are estimated to have been lost as their habitat shrunk. If this continues, these majestic creatures will likely face extinction by 2050.

The survival of the orangutan is inextricably linked to the survival of its natural habitat : the rainforests.

That is why I am pleased to be here among you today, to announce the adoption of Indonesia's **Strategy and Action Plan for National Conservation of Orangutans** and three additional policy documents, that will serve as a blueprint for our efforts to save some of our most exotic but endangered wildlife: the Orangutan, the Sumatran Rhino, the Sumatran Tiger, and the Asian Elephant. The Orangutan action plan formally endorses Indonesia's commitment to Orangutan conservation as expressed in 2005 when Indonesia signed the Kinshasa Declaration on the Protection of Great Apes in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

This Action Plan is the first time that clear actionable measures are formulated, with defined roles and responsibilities for the government, NGOs, and corporate sectors. So the implementation of this Plan will involve all stakeholders, creating a robust coalition in the fight to protect Orangutans and other

endangered species. A core target of this plan is to stabilize Orangutan population and habitat from now until 2017.

A key understanding that stems from this Action Plan is that to save Orangutans, we must save the forests. And by saving, regenerating, and sustainably managing forests, we are also doing our part in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, while contributing to sustainable economic development of Indonesia. Successful orangutan conservation is the symbol of responsible management of the earth's resources.

I can think of no reason to ignore such compelling evidence on the importance of saving our forests, and supporting countries who want to protect their forests. We now know that forest loss worldwide not only kills the rich biodiversity within, but also becomes the source of 20% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions. It also has devastating impacts on indigenous communities whose livelihood have been dependant on forests in a sustainable way for centuries.

This is why Indonesia has been actively seeking and implementing ways to ensure our forest preservation.

Indonesia, together with the government of Malaysia and the government of Brunei Darussalam, have initiated the Heart of Borneo, a joint conservation program to preserve a vast forest area of 2 million hectares on the island of Borneo. We have also initiated a high level meeting of Tropical Rainforest Countries in the sidelines of the UN High Level Event on Climate Change last September, where 11 tropical rainforest nations came together to discuss ways to ensure that forest preservation gains support and incentive from the international community.

Meanwhile, here at home, major Indonesian Women's Organizations launched a "Plant 10 Million Trees" Initiative, to be implemented throughout all 33 provinces of Indonesia, with seedlings provided for free from the government. The Ministry of Forestry has launched the Indonesia Forest Climate Alliance, helping us prepare for and pilot forest carbon projects and implement Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) in Indonesia. And of course, there is the Orangutan Conservation Action Plan.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to invite everyone in this audience to think of ways to preserve and expand the forests of the world. Whether you are from the government sector, non-government organizations, corporate entities, or even none of the above, there is always a way to promote forest preservation for the orangutans, and for the world.

I wish to thank the United States Government, the Government of Australia, and The Nature Conservancy for your active cooperation and support for our efforts to protect orangutans. We look forward to working with you on the implementation of the Action Plan and on other forest management issues.

For this is a time where all these initiatives have new hope for success. Payments for avoided deforestation, within the carbon market, can for the first time provide an economically competitive alternative to forest conversion. The carbon market value of intact forests can outweigh the most profitable agro-industrial forest developments. The Orangutan Conservation Action Plan itself points the way to locking 700 million tons of carbon dioxide in our forests and soils. This measure of climate protection may be worth billions of dollars on the international carbon market. Certainly the great world heritage of our Orangutan forests deserves such an investment. And such incentives are precisely what Indonesia is pushing for at the UNFCCC conference as we speak.

It is perhaps no coincidence that the name "Orangutan" literally means "Man of the Forest". The Orangutan is the leading man and icon of what is at stake in the way we care for our forests. The Orangutan and its fate brings us closer to the reality of the effects of global warming, and the opportunities that forests provide to mitigate it.

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If I may draw an analogy, the polar bear represents the problem of melting ice-caps, where there is little we can directly do to help. The Orangutan represents a solution, an interlinked process in which we stop deforestation, save endangered forest wildlife, store greenhouse gas emissions. If we do all this right, we will ultimately save polar bears and the entire earth.

I thank you.

DR. SUSILO BAMBANG YUDHOYONO

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

Ambassador Hume Talking Points

for

Announcement of national Strategy and Action Plan for Orangutan Conservation
by the President of Indonesia
UNFCCC COP 13, Bali, Dec. 3-15, 2007

December 10, 2007, 4-5pm

- Congratulations to President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and the Ministry of Forestry for launching this important Strategy and Action Plan for Orangutan Habitat Conservation. The Action Plan reflects the President's firm commitment to preserve Indonesia's valuable forest and biodiversity resources, biodiversity which ranks among the richest in the world. This Action Plan builds upon successes the Government of Indonesia has already achieved in the forestry sector, in particular the President's interagency Task Force to Combat Illegal Logging. To protect the orangutan and forest resources is to protect Indonesian people, since the forest loss that has made the orangutan an endangered species is but a precursor of losses incurred by people, particularly the millions dependent on the forest for livelihood. The Action Plan, therefore, contributes to management of timber resources in a sustainable way for the benefit of all Indonesian people.
- The President's Action Plan also demonstrates Indonesia's commitment to concrete action on climate change. Not only do forests sequester large amounts of carbon, but the lowland peat forests – which are the prime, ideal orangutan habitat – store enormous stocks of carbon underground. In this way Indonesia's Action Plan for Orangutan Habitat Conservation is a “triple win,” since it preserves an endangered species of great ape, protects forest biodiversity, and sequesters large amounts of carbon to combat climate change.
- The U.S. Government will support the President's new Action Plan in two ways. The first way is through the Orangutan Conservation Services Program (OCSP) funded by USAID, which is already operational in Kalimantan and Sumatra. This 2.5-year program aims to assist Indonesia to safeguard orangutans and forest habitat through collaboration with Indonesian government bodies, NGOs and the private sector. The program works to reduce the main threats to habitat by focusing on conservation management in selected sites while at the same time working on a broader level to address conservation finance, land use planning, public information, and many of the issues prioritized in Indonesia's new Action Plan.

The second way the U.S. Government will support the Action Plan is through a new commitment. Today the U.S. is pledging \$2.8 million of additional funding to support biodiversity and climate change in Indonesia, for activities including orangutan habitat conservation. USAID will work closely with the Ministry of Forestry to support its objectives through programs that help bring the Action Plan from a plan to an operational reality.

We look forward to working together to safeguard orangutans, forest and biodiversity, and by doing so we will make an important contribution to combating climate change as well.

Speech by Peter Garrett

*Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts
10 December 2007*

**Launch of Indonesia's Orangutan Conservation Strategy and Action Plan
hosted by President Yudhoyono**

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for inviting the Australian Government to participate in this important event.

I am confident that Indonesia's strategy and action plan will set a new standard for the alignment of development and conservation efforts in our region and across the globe.

There is a great deal of discussion here in Bali about the impacts of deforestation, forest degradation and the need for forest management on the global climate. This event reminds us also of the impacts on biodiversity and highlights the challenge of stabilising orangutan populations. I know that halting the dramatic decline in the orangutan populations of Sumatra and Kalimantan by 2017 will require action that is both urgent and comprehensive.

New programmes aimed at reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation are likely to have important biodiversity cobenefits - but a range of more targeted measures will also be required. In fact they are critical.

I note the elements of Indonesia's strategy and action plan. First, it is based on good scientific information on the 'critical survival thresholds' of orangutans and it establishes medium-term targets based on this science.

Second, it reflects the fact that Indonesia's Directorate of Forest Conservation and Nature Protection has spent three years consulting extensively with forest users to ensure they will have a voice in the development and implementation of the plan. Third, the strategy highlights the importance of sustainable financing mechanisms - critical to the success of any long-term conservation efforts.

Finally, and above all, it has the high level support necessary to see it through - from the nation's president himself. So, I congratulate the Government of Indonesia and its partners on the development and launch of this initiative.

I am pleased to say that Australia will play a part in supporting Indonesia to implement its Orangutan Strategy and Action Plan.

Australia has made a \$500,000 commitment to work with a partner well-experienced in orangutan conservation in Indonesia - The Nature Conservancy, in East Kalimantan.

Central to this partnership is the recognition that efforts to protect orangutan habitats also need to protect the people whose livelihoods depend on the forests.

An approach that doesn't recognise the important and complex relationship between the Indonesian people and their forests will only aggravate poverty and increase illegal activity. Consequently, the

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activities that Australia will support - across 50,000 hectares of critical orangutan habitat in Berau and East Kutai - will include the protection of the livelihoods of around 8,600 men and women of 15 villages across the target areas.

Success in this initiative will also depend on constructive engagement with Indonesian government agencies and, importantly, other commercial operations active in the region. Under this initiative, commercial operators active in high conservation value areas will have improved access to key habitat information and build skills to better conserve these habitats.

This targeted programme will complement broader initiatives such as the Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership agreed between the Governments of Australia and Indonesia, with the aim of reducing carbon emissions from the drying and burning of peatlands in Kalimantan. This initiative will help to protect and restore peatland forests and thus enhance the extent and quality of orangutan habitat.

So, importantly, I say that Australia will not merely support Indonesia's strategy - we will also watch and learn from it, so that we can continue to improve the impact of our domestic and regional conservation efforts, and we look forward to seeing the orangutan well served by your actions.. Thank you.

Annex Two: List of News Coverage from Orangutan Action Plan Launch Event

The Announcement of National Action Plan for Orangutan Conservation Nusa Dua, 10 December 2007

National Media

1. Kompas (printed edition and online edition)
2. The Jakarta Post (2 articles)
3. Koran Tempo
4. Bisnis Indonesia
5. Gatra
6. Suara Merdeka
7. Kantor Berita Antara
8. Bali Post
9. Banjarmasin Post
10. Detik.com
11. Internews (Radio)
12. Prambors Network

International Media

Australia

1. World News Australia
2. CBS Australia
3. ABC News
4. The Age
5. ABC Radio Australia
6. Sydney Morning Herald
7. Australia Associated Press (AAP) – News Agency
8. Australian Orangutan Project
9. SBS Channel

US

1. Washington Post
2. Newsweek
3. Forbes
4. Newser (Online News Services)
5. Fox News.com
6. The International Herald Tribune
7. San Diego Union Tribune
8. Star Tribune (St Paul, Minnesota)
9. WTOP News.com (Washington Federal News Radio)
10. AZ Central (Arizona)
11. The Mercury News (San Jose)
12. KSL.com (Utah News)
13. Topix (News Services – California)
14. El Paso Time (Texas)
15. New York Post
16. US News.com
17. Philly.com (Philadelphia)
18. Syracuse.com (New York)

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19. Birmingham News (Alabama)
20. WRAL.com
21. The Herald
22. The Boston Globe
23. SunHerald.com (Mississippi)
24. Houston Chronicle
25. Ledger-enquirer.com (Online partner Ledger-Enquirer Newspaper, Alabama)
26. Seattle Post
27. Auburn Citizen (New York)
28. Central Florida News
29. Pennlive.com (Pennsylvania)
30. Press of Atlantic City (Atlantic)
31. Journal Sentinel Online (Online Version of Milwaukee daily newspaper)

UK

1. Reuters
2. Guardian Unlimited
3. Telegraph UK
4. BOS UK website

India

1. The Hindu

China

1. People's Daily Online
2. Sina English
3. Xinhuanet

Japan

1. Japan Today
2. Kyodo News

Singapore

1. Yahoo News Singapore
2. The Straits Times Singapore

France

1. AFP

Germany

1. DPA News Agency

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

1. Khaleej Times

Iran

1. Iran Daily

Russia

1. Pravda

Others

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1. AOL News International
2. The National Geographic
3. Asian Reporter (www.asianreporter.com)
4. AHN (Global News Agency)
5. Breibart.com (News Portal)
6. Planet Ark
7. Monkey day news
8. Physorg.com (Science – Physics – Tech – Nano – News)
9. Examiner.com (News Portal)
10. Comcast News
11. WWF
12. Indonesia Circle
13. International Animal Rescue
14. Science Daily
15. PR-inside
16. Plenty Magazine
17. Netscape News
18. News and Observer
19. The Journal Gazette
20. Center Daily Times
21. Newsday
22. Charleston Daily Mail
23. BLNZ
24. Merced Sun-star
25. Rockford Register Star
26. BOS International Website
27. Mlive.com
28. Star-telegram.com
29. Southern Ledger
30. Anchorage Daily News
31. 2 News.tv
32. Wilson Times (www.wilsontimes.com)
33. Mysinchew.com
34. WildlifeWatch.com
35. NLBIF (Biodiversity Portal Data)

Total Coverage : 104

Annex Three: Selected Articles from Orangutan Action Plan Launch Event

AFP

Agence France-Presse - 12/10/2007 3:26 PM

Indonesia goes ape for orangutans

Indonesia has launched plans to protect iconic orangutans from extinction by saving their habitat and returning captive primates to the wild, the world climate conference heard here Monday.

Orangutans are "the stars of the forest", President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said at an event showcasing a new ape-saving scheme called the Orangutan Action Plan.

Looking after the orangutans' habitat would not only save the charismatic animals but also battle global warming by preventing the release of 700 million tonnes of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, said the United States' development arm USAID, which is providing assistance and funding.

Under new legislation, Indonesia will stabilise orangutan populations and habitat by 2017, return orangutans in captivity to the wild by 2015 and promote sustainable management of the forests, USAID said.

They said a 2004 survey found that deforestation had led to the deaths of 3,000 orangutans per year since the 1970s. Indonesia is currently home to nearly 62,000 of the popular primates.

"Polar bears represent a problem of global warming," said Erik Meijaard, regional coordinator for the Orangutan Conservation Services Programme.

"But orangutans stand for forest protection and climate change mitigation."

By sustainably managing the forests under the Orangutan Action Plan, as many as 9,800 orangutans, or one in five of the species of this ape that live on Borneo, the island that is shared by Indonesia and Malaysia, he said.

"The only thing we need to do now is implement (the plan)," Meijaard told AFP.

Indonesia is one of the world's biggest emitters of greenhouse gases because of chronic deforestation.

The country has already lost 72 percent of its 123 million hectares (304 million acres) of ancient rain forest, due to frenzied logging and burning of peatland for agriculture, Greenpeace estimated in May.

Orangutans are listed as endangered by the Swiss-based World Conservation Union (IUCN), the paramount scientific authority on imperilled species. It says numbers of the ape have fallen by "well over" 50 percent in the past 60 years as a result of lost habitat but also poaching and the pet trade.

Deutsche Presse-Agenture GmbH (dpa)

Indonesia announces national conservation programme for orangutans

Dec 10, 2007 08:04 EST

Bali Island, Indonesia (dpa) - Indonesia is preparing a conservation programme to protect orangutans and their habitats in Borneo and Sumatra, Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said Monday at the World Climate Conference on Bali.

"The key understanding is to save the orangutans. For that we must save the forest and by that we are doing our part to reduce greenhouse gas emissions," Yudhoyono said.

Orangutan habitat is decreasing as a result of deforestation. The great apes are then often shot by farmers as the animals seek nourishment in the large palm oil plantations that are encroaching deeper into the forest.

According to Yudhoyono, at least 50,000 orangutans have been killed in the last years. On Borneo there are still around 54,000 orangutans, but "without protection they will die out by 2050," said the president.

Together with environmental organizations, Indonesia plans to create sustainable conservation of orangutan habitat by placing more forests under nature preserve status.

US Ambassador to Indonesia Cameron R Hume, announced 2.8 million dollars in US support to Indonesia's Orangutan Habitat Conservation Action Plan and complements the Orangutan Conservation Services Programme, already operational in Kalimantan and Sumatra, the US embassy in Jakarta said.

Administered by the US Agency for International Development, the funds will be used to enhance Indonesian efforts to protect biodiversity and combat climate change in the country, it said.

Speaking at the launch of the Orangutan Habitat Conservation Strategy and Action Plan with Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Hume praised the Indonesian government's stated commitment to preserve Indonesia's valuable forest and biodiversity.

"To protect the forest resources is to protect the Indonesian people," Hume said. "Indonesia's Action Plan for Orangutan Habitat Conservation is a 'triple win', since it preserves an endangered species of great ape, protects forest biodiversity, and sequesters large amounts of carbon to combat climate change."

Wood, paper and palm oil plantations in the future will have to apply for deforesting licenses which will be contingent on forest conservation.

The Indonesian government also hopes to be able to sell carbon dioxide emission certificates to greenhouse gas producers in order to lower the overall emissions.



Action plan launched to stabilize population of orangutans

Dec 10 09:46 AM US/Eastern

BALI, Indonesia, Dec. 10 (AP) - (Kyodo)—An action plan to stabilize the population of orangutans, which are on the brink of extinction, was launched Monday on the sidelines of a U.N. climate change conference.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono launched the Strategy and Action Plan for National Conservation of Orangutans, the first of its kind, as more than 10,000 delegates from 189 countries gathered to seek ways to tackle global warming.

Once ranging throughout Indochina and south to Java, the population of the great apes is currently declining and is restricted only to the islands of Borneo and Sumatra due to the degradation of forests caused by illegal logging, forest fires and poaching.

"In the last 35 years about 50,000 orangutans are estimated to have been lost as their habitats shrank. If it continues, this majestic creature will likely face extinction by 2050," Yudhoyono said during the launch of the action plan.

Under the plan, Indonesia is committed to stabilizing the orangutan population and their habitat from now until 2017 and to return them to the wild by 2015.

A 2004 survey data showed that 6,650 Sumatran orangutans and 55,000 Bornean orangutans remain in the wild. But deforestation has led to the death of 3,000 orangutans yearly since the 1970s.

"One million hectares of planned forest conversion projects are in orangutan habitat. Sustainably managing these forests, in accordance with the orangutan action plan, can save 9,800 orangutans," Erik Meijaard, a scientist for the Jakarta-based Orangutan Conservation Services Program, said.

According to Meijaard, protecting the forests where orangutans live will also keep 700 million tons of carbon locked up in trees.

Orangutan conservation has largely failed in Indonesia. Previous commitments since the administration of former President Suharto were never backed with concrete actions and supporting legislation.

Supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development, the idea for the action plan came from a forum of scientists in 2004 when they were reviewing data on the viability of the orangutan population and their habitats.

"Polar bears represent a problem of global warming, but orangutans stand for forest protection and climate change mitigation," Meijaard said.

Indonesia has 120 million hectares of forest -- the world's third largest after Brazil and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Deforestation, which releases a significant amount of carbon dioxide, has made Indonesia the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases after the United States and China, a World Bank report released early this year said.

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Rising carbon dioxide levels have been identified as the primary cause of global warming since 1950 and tropical deforestation already contributes between 10 and 30 percent of global warming emissions, experts say.

Australia Associated Press

Monday December 10, 09:12 PM

Indonesia treasures rainforest, says SBY

Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono says preserving the nation's rich rainforests is now potentially worth more economically than cutting down the trees for profit.

He says Indonesia stands to gain potentially billions of dollars on an international carbon market by avoiding deforestation.

Yudhoyono made the comments as he unveiled a comprehensive Indonesian action plan that aims to save the endangered orangutan by stabilising the population by 2017.

"To save orangutans we must save the forests," Yuhoyono said at the launch, on the sidelines of the key United Nations climate change conference in Bali.

"By saving, regenerating and sustainably managing forests we are also doing our part in reducing global greenhouse gas emissions, while contributing to sustainable economic development of Indonesia."

Deforestation accounts for a fifth of all global greenhouse gas emissions.

Indonesia's tropical rainforests are disappearing at a rapid rate, sending its greenhouse gas emissions skyrocketing and making it the world's third biggest polluter, behind the United States and China.

But President Yudhoyono said there was new hope for success of initiatives to halt deforestation, adding that the world was watching.

"This is a time when all these initiatives have new hope for success, even for avoided deforestation," he said.

"Because the carbon market can for the first time provide an economic great competitive alternative to forest conversions.

"The carbon market value of intact forest can outweigh the most profitable of industrial forest developments."

Yudhoyono said the orangutan conservation plan could help preserve 700,000 million tonnes of carbon dioxide in Indonesian forests and soils.

"These matters of climate protection may be worth billions of dollars on the international carbon market," he said.

"Certainly the critical habitat of our orangutan forests deserve such an investment."

It came as wildlife conservationist Terri Irwin called on countries to act now on climate change, adding the world was at a critical turning point.

"I think we are at a crossroads now. In another five or ten years the situation of the climate could become so critical that it would be difficult to turn back time," Irwin told reporters.

"Steve (Irwin) took bureaucracy by the throat and strangled it.

"So let's have our meetings, let's join with 187 countries, let's discuss these issues and then let's go home and carry them out.

"We can no longer afford workshops, meetings and group hugs, now we have got to do something."

She indicated Australia should commit to deeper emissions cuts.

"I think that if 25 to 40 per cent is not doable then we look at carbon credits until it can be doable," Irwin said.

"Kevin Rudd is the new kid on the block, I applaud what he has in mind - let's see how he goes in the long term."

Australia's new Environment Minister Peter Garrett attended the orangutan plan event, and pledged Australia's support for helping Indonesia preserve its forests.

Telegraph UK Indonesia plants trees to save orangutans

By Ian Wood

Last Updated: 12:01pm GMT 28/12/2007

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/main.jhtml?xml=/earth/2007/12/30/eaorang128.xml>

At the Bali climate summit, Indonesia announced a new scheme aimed at protecting its orangutan population.

The plight of the orangutan, driven out because of deforestation and degradation of its rainforest home, has become a potent symbol of the battle to save the forests.

The most recent survey of wild orangutans estimates that there are about 7000 remaining in Sumatra, and about 55,000 in Borneo. However the combined pressures of palm oil, logging and forest fires are having a catastrophic effect on many areas.

Indonesian president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said at the launch of the project: "In the last 35 years about 50,000 orangutans are estimated to have been lost as their habitats shrank. If this continues, this majestic creature will likely face extinction by 2050. The fate of the orangutan is a subject that goes to the heart of sustainable forests... to save the orangutan we have to save the forest."

For anyone with an interest in protecting Indonesian rainforests these have to be welcome words.

The action plan has taken nearly three years to develop and has included various NGO's and the Indonesian forestry ministry. The American group The Nature Conservancy has represented the coalition of NGO's and has also pledged \$1 million to support the plan. The bold target of the project is to save huge areas of forest scheduled for conversion to palm oil.

"One million hectares of planned forest conversion projects are in orangutan habitat," said Rili Djohani, director of The Nature Conservancy's Indonesia program.

"Setting aside these forests is an important step for Indonesia to sustainably manage and protect its natural resources. It benefits both local people and wildlife while making a major contribution towards reducing global carbon emissions."

Indonesia has made some progress in enforcing forest laws over the last few years and if this plan can be implemented it would be a landmark in Indonesian forest protection.

Dr. Erik Meijaard, a senior scientist with The Nature Conservancy, said: "It could lead to 9,800 orangutans being saved and prevent 700 million tons of carbon from being released."

Although Indonesia has already destroyed huge swathes of rainforest, it still has over 100 million acres left. Both scientists and Indonesian officials hope that the emerging carbon market could provide funds to protect important areas.

"Forest conservation can provide economic benefits for a very long time," said Dr. Meijaard. "If payments for avoided deforestation become an official mechanism in global climate agreements, then carbon buyers will likely compensate Indonesia for its forest protection. Protecting the orangutan will then lead to increased economic development in the country. Such a triple-win situation is not a dream. With some political will, it can soon be reality."

The other target of the project is to return orangutans housed in rehabilitation centres to the forest by 2015. There are currently over 1000 orangutan housed in care centres with more arriving on a regular basis. The majority are ready to be returned to the wild now but there are simply not enough suitable release sites. If carbon trading could achieve the aims of this plan, then these great apes could return to the forests where they belong.



Indonesia Protecting Endangered Orangutans

Indonesia launched a program to save its dwindling orangutan population, the last of Asia's great apes, from the brink of extinction by protecting its vast tropical rain forests.

Orangutans once ranged the region, but the shaggy brown primate's population in Indonesia has been decreasing rapidly as its habitat in Borneo and Sumatra has been disrupted by illegal logging, forest fires and the illegal pet trade, wrote Reuters.

A recent WWF (World Wide Fund) report said climate change would add to the pressure already caused by human-induced activities such as massive conversion of forests into plantations by reducing the orangutans' food stock.

Thousands will be driven out of forests into villages and plantations to look for food. "In the last 35 years about 50,000 orangutans are estimated to have been lost as their habitats shrank. If this continues, this majestic creature will likely face extinction by 2050," President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said at the launch of an orangutan conservation plan at the climate talks in Bali (Dec. 3-14).

As part of the orangutan conservation plan developed by the forestry ministry and NGOs, Indonesia will aim to stabilize orangutan populations and habitat from now until 2017 and return orangutans housed in rehabilitation centers to the wild by 2015.

A 2004 survey showed there were around 60,000 orangutans left in the jungles of Borneo and Sumatra. Some ecologists say the country has lost 3,000 orangutans a year since the 1970s and the species could eventually become extinct.

Indonesia is one of few countries that still has swathes of rainforests left, and is pushing a proposal to make emission cuts from protecting forests eligible for carbon trading.

Even though it has lost an estimated 70 percent of its original frontier forest, it still has a total forest area of more than 225 million acres, with a host of exotic plants and animals waiting to be discovered. Indonesia's forests are a massive natural store of carbon, but environmentalists say rampant cutting and burning of trees to feed the pulp, timber and palm oil sectors has made the country the world's third-largest emitter of greenhouse gas emissions.



WASHINGTON POST

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wpdyn/content/article/2007/12/10/AR2007121000403.html>

Indonesia Begins Plan to Save Orangutans

The Associated Press

Monday, December 10, 2007; 6:01 PM

BALI, Indonesia -- Indonesia has begun a 10-year program to save endangered orangutans from extinction by protecting tropical jungle habitat from logging, mining and palm oil plantations, its president said Monday.

The plan, revealed on the sidelines of the Bali climate change conference, aims to preserve up to 2.5 million acres of forest on the Indonesian half of Borneo island.

As many as 50,000 orangutans have been lost over the past 35 years due to shrinking habitat, and "if this continues, these majestic creatures will likely face extinction by 2050," Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said.

"To save orangutans, we must save the forests," he said.

Two thirds of Borneo's 74 million acres of primary forest have already been destroyed and environmental groups say the remainder is disappearing at a rate of 300 football fields per hour.

The Nature Conservancy, a coalition of non-governmental groups, pledged \$1 million to the program, which "could lead to 9,800 orangutans being saved," said Erik Meijaard, a senior ecologist for the coalition.

As of January 2004, about 6,650 Sumatran orangutans and 55,000 Borneo orangutans remained in the wild, while rapid deforestation has directly and indirectly led to around 3,000 orangutan deaths every year since 1970, the organization said.

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wildlifewatch

www.wildlifewatch.in

Indonesia launches orangutan plan to curb carbon emissions

By admin

Created Dec 16 2007 - 10:17



In this November 11, 2006 file photo, a young orangutan searches for food in a stand of dead trees completely surrounded by burnt forest cleared for palm plantations near Mantangai, Kalimantan, Indonesia. Fighting illegal logging has for decades mostly been marked by a failure. There was never enough money or political will to overcome the corruption, weak governance and poverty that drove people mostly in the tropics to cut down trees. But with new evidence showing deforestation contributes 20 per cent to global warming, ministers at the UN Climate Change conference in Bali took a fresh look at the problem.

Photo courtesy: AP Photo/Ed Wray

Indonesia's new 10 year action plan for conserving orangutans will have important benefits in mitigating climate change, says WWF .

These benefits were underlined by the launch of The Orangutan Conservation Strategy and Action Plan (2007–2017) during the Bali Climate Change Conference. Deforestation, for timber, pulp and palm oil plantations, have pushed Indonesia into the status of being a major carbon emitter, while threatening globally significant wildlife populations.

"In the last 35 years about 50,000 orangutans are estimated to have been lost as their habitats shrank. If this continues, this majestic creature will likely face extinction by 2050," said Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono at the launch of the plan. "The fate of the orangutan is a subject that goes to the heart of sustainable forests ... To save the orangutan we have to save the forest."

As a mostly fruit eating primate, the orangutan also has a key role in forest regeneration as it disperses seeds which help regenerate more fruit trees, which in turn helps keep the forest healthy. Although the main threat to the orangutans – often called “the red man of the jungle” – comes from forest destruction and habitat conversion, orangutans are also still being hunted, traded and also smuggled out of the country for pets.

“It’s opportune this action plan is finalised this week, as the world gathers in Indonesia to make critical decisions on climate change”, said Dr Susan Lieberman, Director of WWF’s Global Species Programme. “Protecting orangutan habitat, especially in the peat swamp forests which contain significant carbon sinks, means both a secure future for the orangutan, and avoiding carbon emissions.”

As part of the conservation plan developed by the forestry ministry and NGOs, Indonesia will aim to stabilise orangutan populations and habitat from now until 2017 and return orangutans housed in rehabilitation centres to the wild by 2015.

The Indonesian Ministry of Forestry led the finalisation for this blueprint for orangutan conservation and involved key players and a range of experts at both the national and international level. WWF has been actively involved in developing the plan and is part of the small team that finalised the document.