POLICY AND BUSINESS BRIEF

SETTING THE AGENDA FOR ORANGUTAN CONSERVATION
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 to support biodiversity and climate change in Indonesia, including activities for 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.

Cameron R. Hume
U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia
Once dispersed throughout Indochina and south to Java, the declining population of the orangutan is now restricted to the islands of Borneo and Sumatra, thanks largely to forest degradation caused by illegal logging, forest fires, and poaching. Survey data shows that 6,650 Sumatran and perhaps 55,000 Bornean orangutans remain in the wild, and of these 70 – 75% occur outside of protected areas in forest earmarked for production. Consequently, decisions made by policy makers and business leaders on the utilization of these forests play a critical role in determining the fate of the orangutan. Maintenance of this habitat is feasible, but commitment of government and industry to implementing protection and management strategies is necessary to do so.

OCSP believes that engaging government and the private sector is key to ensuring the future of the orangutan. Contained in this brief OCSP lays out its approach to these key sectors and provides an update on key milestones reached so far.
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.
On December 10, 2007, at the Bali Climate Change Conference, a packed international crowd of dignitaries, government officials, and media representatives saw Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono unveil a bold plan that unambiguously links the fate of the orangutan with the fate of the global climate.

Produced with the assistance of USAID’s Orangutan Conservation Services Program (OCSP), Indonesia’s Strategy and Action Plan for National Conservation of Orangutans presents the first detailed and enforceable agenda for protecting the nation’s disappearing orangutans.

Through its December 10 announcement, Indonesia’s government declared to the world its commitment to simultaneously tackle climate change and protect the orangutan. With more than 10,000 delegates from 189 countries gathered to seek ways to tackle global warming, President Yudhoyono linked the plight of the orangutan - the icon of tropical rainforests - 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.”

One million hectares of Indonesia’s planned forest conversion projects are in orangutan habitat. But if the Action Plan is implemented and these forests are instead sustainably managed, some 9,800 orangutans could be saved. Sustainable management would also put the brakes on global warming by preventing the release of 700 million tons of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, a point driven home by Indonesia’s President: “To save the orangutan we have to save the forest,” he said. “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.”

Drawn up through a multistakeholder process involving scientists, conservation practitioners, local and national governments, and other stakeholders, the Action Plan is designed to ensure the long-term survival of the species and its habitat in Sumatra and Kalimantan (the Indonesian part of the island of Borneo). The plan guides stakeholders in determining conservation priorities for in-situ (wild) and ex-situ (captive) orangutans, and in designing programs that enhance the viability of the orangutan population over the next 10 years. The plan aims to stabilize orangutan populations and habitat by 2017.

Peter Garret, Australia’s Minister for the Environment, applauded the Indonesian government’s efforts and emphasized how the protection of globally important biodiversity can follow from efforts to save forests and reduce carbon emissions: “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,” he said. “This event reminds us also of the impacts on biodiversity.” U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia Cameron Hume and eco-personality Terry Irwin, wife of the late “crocodile hunter” Steve Irwin, joined the chorus of support for the Action Plan.

The Announcement of the National Action Plan for Orangutan Conservation drew much international recognition. But while publishing the plan is an important first step, much of the real work in implementing what is written in the plan remains to be done. This cannot be achieved without substantial funding and in this both individuals and business have a part to play. OCSP is developing a forum to implement the recommendations of the National Action Plan. Businesses and individuals can play a key role through financial support of this forum and by serving as members of a business working group to execute the recommendations of the action plan.
FOREST CONSERVATION IN INDONESIA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity to commend Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono for his statements on December 10, 2007, at the Bali Climate Conference, concerning the Ministry of Forestry’s “Strategy and Action Plan for National Conservation of Orangutans.”

The President said “the survival of the orangutan is inextricably linked to the survival of its natural habitat: the rainforests... 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.”

President Yudhoyono’s eloquent words represent an important recognition by the Indonesian Government that preserving orangutan habitat is an environmental imperative, not only to protect this magnificent species from extinction but to help reduce carbon emissions resulting from the destruction of Indonesia’s forests.

A decade ago I included funds in the Foreign Operations Act to support programs administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development to protect the orangutan. Those initial funds have evolved into an ongoing program implemented through grants to non-governmental organizations and for training Indonesian police, and has begun to show encouraging results. Not only are the entities involved in this project working more cooperatively together, the Indonesian Government is taking steps to curb illegal logging which poses the greatest threat to the orangutan’s survival.

The orangutan’s fate is far from certain. Far more needs to be done to protect the forests of Borneo and Sumatra where these great apes live. But by recognizing the opportunities this challenge presents for Indonesia and the world, President Yudhoyono has done a great service to this effort and gives us hope that the orangutan can be saved.

I ask unanimously to have an article in the Telegraph about President Yudhoyono’s announcement of Indonesia’s new Strategy and Action Plan printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the record, as follows:

[From the Daily Telegraph, Dec. 28, 2007]

INDONESIA PLANTS TREES TO SAVE ORANGUTANS
(By Ian Wood)

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.
In today’s business world, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is a part of many organizations’ strategic operations. While corporations are fundamentally responsible for earning profits and satisfying shareholders, they are ultimately comprised of people who appreciate that a deteriorating environment is incapable of sustaining life, let alone a business.

With nearly 70% of the current population of orangutans found outside of formally protected areas and within commercial forests, it is clear that the private sector has an important role to play in saving this globally important species. Companies can demonstrate their commitment to environmental stewardship by ensuring that management of orangutan habitat is done in a way that reduces impact on the forest and wildlife, thus improving the prospects for orangutans and numerous other animals.

Given how identifiable orangutans are throughout the world, there is increasing pressure from environmentally sensitive markets to insure that wood and agricultural products from Indonesia are ‘orangutan safe.’ This means that companies need to demonstrate that their products have not been produced at the cost of destroying orangutans or their habitat.

Many progressive companies in Asia are already using third-party verification of responsible forest management to demonstrate their commitment to environmental stewardship. This has led to the increasing use of systems such as timber certification, High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) identification and management, legality verification and control, and many others. There has also been a push in Indonesia to develop certification systems that are sensitive to local conditions. Adoption of practices specifically set up to manage orangutan habitat would boost its chances for survival and allow companies to showcase their commitment to environmental leadership.

The Strategy and Action Plan for National Conservation of Orangutans, produced by the Ministry of Forestry Directorate of Forest Conservation and Nature Protection, identifies the important role that the private sector plays in protection of orangutan habitat and lays out the need to develop specific recommendations for industry management of orangutan habitat. The development and implementation by business of these best practices is a necessary and required step in saving the orangutan.

OCSP is eager to work with industry on development and adoption of best management practices for orangutan habitat. Emphasis is placed on working with companies that demonstrate commitment to OCSP’s conservation goals.

Industry can also contribute to environmental sustainability by directing their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs to support orangutan conservation.

The orangutan is a compelling icon for the sound stewardship of Earth’s resources. This was demonstrated by the widespread media coverage at the launch of the Strategy and Action Plan for National Conservation of Orangutans (see back page for full list of news coverage). For businesses, this globally recognizable animal can serve as a symbol of commitment to corporate responsibility. OCSP is ready to work with those companies committed to socially and environmentally responsible practice.
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 could be saved, 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.

Orangutans are a 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 the national, regional, and local levels.

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Saving the orangutan is about conserving its habitat and reducing other main threats to populations in these forests. OCSP approaches this mission by focusing on selected sites while at the same time working on a broader scale to improve enforcement of existing laws that protect habitat and orangutans; creating mechanisms for long term conservation financing; strengthening the partnerships and coordination of conservation organizations with the private sector and Government of Indonesia agencies; and launching a national and international media and public education campaign for orangutan conservation.

OCSP goals include strategies to improve enforcement of laws and regulations that prevent destruction of forest habitat. OCSP works to strengthen implementation of existing legislation and policy on forest management, endangered species management and wildlife trade as well as to assist in the development of new legislation and policy as appropriate. Training is also provided to law enforcement officials and communities in the relevant laws.

One of the primary challenges for OCSP is to unite and integrate the many diverse efforts that are underway to conserve orangutan populations in the wild and to engage with new partners and develop new approaches necessary to develop a model for orangutan conservation. To this end OCSP is facilitating the formation of a national orangutan forum. The forum will become a registered organization with sustained funding so that initiatives can continue after OCSP is completed.

The members of the forum will serve as a guiding coalition for orangutan conservation, improving coordination and communications among key actors and focusing on orangutan habitat management and conservation policy. While the forum is being initiated by OCSP and will be mentored for the remainder of the program, it will rapidly be directed by Indonesian stakeholders and will grow in the direction determined by these stakeholders.

Through the national forum, OCSP is developing a model for sustainability and creating a fund that can serve as a clearinghouse for national donor funding of orangutan conservation. OCSP staff and consultants take the lead in seeking out a range of donors from the private and public sectors that are interested in contributing to sustainable financing efforts.

OCSP is also exploring alternative means of financing for orangutan conservation including carbon credits through avoided deforestation and debt for nature swaps.

OCSP helps fund training for law enforcement officers.

**ENGAGING CARBON MARKETS**

Payments for reducing (CO2) emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD) might contribute to conservation if carbon stocks are maintained and financially compensated—the then conservation of forests on tropical peat could compete with conversion to oil palm. This could save most of Kalimantan’s peat forests, and the 21,000 orang-utans that occur there, or about 45% of all Bornean orang-utans. Protecting threatened forests is a cost effective approach to abating climate change, with associated benefits for the conservation of endangered species such as the orangutan.

OCSP is engaged directly with the World Bank and bilateral donor agencies to develop the enabling conditions and incentives to access the developing market in avoided deforestation carbon credits. Indonesia’s forests and orangutan habitat sequester enormous amounts of carbon. Policies and institutional mechanisms that prevent the release of that carbon, “avoided deforestation” emission reductions hold very significant potential for Indonesia to realize economic benefits from sustainable management of its forests and protecting orangutans.

OCSP is a consortium led by DAI with subcontracts to Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC).
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,” Yudhoyono 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 (the Australian Prime Minister) 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.
### Indonesian 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)
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)
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)
32. Newsday
33. Charleston Daily Mail
34. Center Daily Times
35. The Journal Gazette
36. Rockford Register Star
37. Merced Sun-star
38. Southern Ledger
39. Star-telegram.com
40. Anchorage Daily News (Alaska)
41. Examiner.com (News Portal)
42. News and Observer
43. Wilson Times

#### 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
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
9. Comcast News
10. WWF
11. Indonesia Circle
12. International Animal Rescue
13. Science Daily
14. PR-inside
15. Plenty Magazine
16. Netscape News
17. BLNZ
18. BOS International Website
19. Mlive.com
20. 2 News.tv
21. Mysinchew.com
22. WildlifeWatch.com
23. NLBIF (Biodiversity Portal Data)

**Total Coverage**: 104
www.theworldiswatching.info

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