

PROTECTING THE ENDANGERED ORANGUTAN



DECEMBER 2007



Photo: USAID/ William M. Frej

THE CHALLENGE

The remaining 7,000 orangutans on the island of Sumatra are considered "critically endangered," meaning there is an extremely high risk of extinction in the immediate future

Orangutans on the island of Kalimantan (Borneo), while greater in number (est. 43,000), are also at risk because they are becoming more and more isolated in smaller groups

THE GOAL

Identify and reduce the threats to select orangutan populations

Establish networks to improve law enforcement and conservation management and improve information sharing

Develop sustainable financing schemes for long-term conservation

OVERVIEW

Habitat conservation projects are working in the world's last remaining areas with significant orangutan populations in the wild: the provinces of East Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, and North Sumatra. The main drivers of habitat loss and population decline include the conversion of forest to palm oil plantations, logging for export to regional and global markets, mining and illicit trade in animals and animal parts. These threats to orangutan habitat and populations increased in the aftermath of the Indonesian government's transfer of many authorities and responsibilities from the national to local levels.

PROGRAMS

EAST KALIMANTAN'S LAST LARGE ORANGUTAN HABITAT

The Nature Conservancy and World Education are working not only to protect critical habitat, but also to improve livelihoods in East Kalimantan. The Nature Conservancy is helping to secure about 50,000 hectares from timber production, setting aside the area as an orangutan refuge and promoting good forest management practices in the buffer zone. A collaborative approach is encouraging local governments to take action while creating and strengthening community organizations to protect and wisely manage valuable forests. These efforts have effectively stopped illegal logging in the project areas.

The Nature Conservancy and World Education have helped indigenous Dayak communities to improve livelihoods and secure land rights. For example, in one area previously zoned as a forest concession the community successfully pressed authorities to give the land protected status to support traditional uses. The rugged forest landscape is largely intact and serves as home to a diverse blend of orangutans, leopard, sunbear, deer, hornbills, and other endangered species. Now the community and local government cooperatively fund and conduct park patrols, forest management and surveys of ecological and biological resources.

TANJUNG PUTING NATIONAL PARK, CENTRAL KALIMANTAN

World Education and the Orangutan Foundation International are working with Tanjung Puting National Park management to provide patrols, training, border demarcation and enforcement, and to monitor water quality. The project is improving stakeholder-based decision processes related to conservation and development inside the park, together with community learning in agricultural development and natural resources management. Farmer food security and income generation are improving through the project's agricultural development research on various crops and livestock.

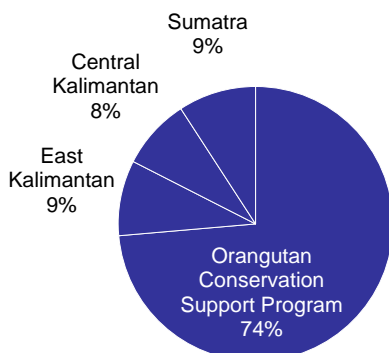
[CONTINUE >](#)

PROTECTING THE ENDANGERED ORANGUTAN



Photo: USAID/ William M. Freij

FY 2004-2008 Budget for Orangutan Protection



Total for Orangutan Protection: \$11,500,000

CONTACT INFORMATION

jakarta-info@usaid.gov

PRESS AND OUTREACH

Leslie Rose

Outreach and Communication Officer

USAID/Indonesia Program Office

Tel: (021) 3435-9424

lrose@usaid.gov

<http://indonesia.usaid.gov>

ORANGUTAN HABITAT PROTECTION, NORTH SUMATRA

Conservation International and the World Agroforestry Center are working in Batang Toru, North Sumatra to support communities and partners to protect this important watershed and orangutan habitat while improving livelihoods. The program is building strong local support for conservation by developing conservation-based income alternatives and supporting other initiatives of local entrepreneurs.

ORANGUTAN CONSERVATION SERVICES PROGRAM (OCSP)

USAID recently launched a new \$8 million, 3-year program targeting select wild orangutan populations in Kalimantan and Sumatra. The USAID program will: 1) reduce the level of threat to select orangutan populations, 2) develop strategies that garner support by a multi-stakeholder constituency, 3) establish networks to support improved law enforcement and conservation management, and 4) set up sustainable financing schemes for long-term conservation at the sites. This project will not support orangutan rehabilitation, re-introductions, or translocation efforts. This approach is consistent with the scientific consensus that the first priority in orangutan conservation must be the protection of habitat and populations in the wild.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Signed agreements between The Nature Conservancy and six timber concessions – representing 600,000 hectares of orangutan habitat – in Kalimantan will improve forest management to ensure compatibility of managed timber harvest with orangutan conservation.

Provincial and District governments have endorsed the work of The Nature Conservancy and World Education by increasing the public sector budget for management of Lesan and Wehea for three consecutive years – about \$150,000 annually.

World Education agricultural development programs in Lesan and Wehea have led to increased household incomes in 15 key villages by \$20-200 per month. These agricultural programs have also significantly reduced the average amount of time villagers spend in the forest, reducing hunting pressures on orangutan.

Conservation International established four orangutan model conservation villages near important orangutan habitat areas, in conjunction with the introduction of alternative agroforestry projects. Villagers have committed to protecting orangutan habitat and have formed community participatory monitoring teams to protect surrounding forests.

Conservation International has successfully promoted North Sumatra's West Batang Toru as critical orangutan habitat, attracting national and international media attention and support for orangutan conservation. This interest and support has, in turn, improved the perception of orangutans locally and fostered interest in eco-tourism and other conservation – based activities.