

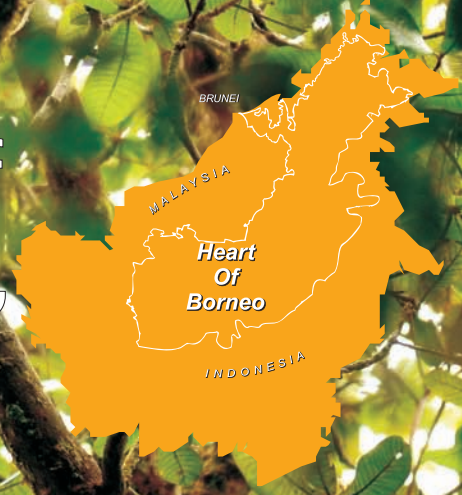


FACTSHEET

HoB

2012

Community Conservation of Orang-utan in Kapuas Hulu, West Kalimantan



FACTSHEET 10

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The island of Borneo is home to three subspecies of Orang-utans distinguishable from each other by distinct differences in their genetic makeup. *Pongo pygmaeus pygmaeus* is the most threatened and least studied of the subspecies with an estimated population of 3,000-4,500 individuals in West Kalimantan and Sarawak. Despite low population numbers (only eight percent of the Bornean Orang-utan population), *P. p. pygmaeus* provides important insight into Orang-utan behavior and ecology.



As Orang-utans continue to depend on common ground with mankind for their habitat and source of survival, it is imperative that, in order to ensure their survival, local communities understand the predicament faced by the Orang-utan and the benefits of their survival. Community conservation not only aims at saving this threatened species, but empowers local communities in managing their resources.

Conserving Orang-utan outside protected areas

Since 2004, WWF has initiated Orang-utan conservation programmes specifically targeted at *P. p. pygmaeus*, in the upriver district of Kapuas Hulu, West Kalimantan in the Betung Kerihun National Park (BKNP) and Danau Sentarum National Park (DSNP). Building on the work of the Heart of Borneo initiative, Orang-utan conservation benefits extend past the parks' boundaries into the conservation corridor between parks and the neighboring country of Sarawak through trans-boundary Orang-utan conservation cooperation.

Key activities in the Orang-utan conservation programme, a key component of WWF-Indonesia's West Kalimantan Programme, include:

- Community-based long-term monitoring of Orang-utans;
- Conservation education and awareness campaigns;
- Orang-utan population and habitat surveys;
- Community-based ecotourism with a focus on Orang-utans; and
- Sharing of findings through community workshops and local and national media.



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Key Achievements so far

Monitoring

Community-based monitoring has saved time and provided more cost-efficient results than 'expert' monitoring and leads to equally reliable information. A robust Orang-utan monitoring scheme provides data to assess the performance of conservation measures for the species and over time will create ownership of the project with local stakeholders.

Outreach

Outreach is aimed primarily at local villages, government agencies, non-profit organizations and the private sector (such as oil palm and paper producers), to better inform these groups of management decisions and protect the *P. p. pygmaeus* species.

Interestingly, research findings point to a significant number of Orang-utans living outside protected areas resulting in a heavy focus on local community conservation education and awareness building. One exciting community-based communications approach led to the development of Panda CLICK!, an online community photography project in Kapuas Hulu district. Successful conservation outreach efforts with village communities have changed the attitudes and behaviors of the villagers in a way that directly impacts Orang-utan conservation.



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Future Plans

Informed by local communities, solutions need to be developed for avoiding human-Orang-utan conflicts, hunting and trapping, and habitat destruction. One strong example of this is the use of conservation contracts:

- Conservation 'contracts' are one of WWF's strategic steps towards community commitment to helping preserve the forest;
- They aim to encourage the community to use the forest and its products to support their livelihoods in an alternative sustainable and creative way;
- WWF facilitates community empowerment programs such as livestock/flora cultivation methods that ensure less forest destruction; and
- The most important point in the conservation contract is that the community is required to take responsibility for protecting the forest. If this is violated, the contract between WWF and the community ends.



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Towards a Greener HoB

Collaborative management systems support the Green Economy strategy of the Heart of Borneo Programme by increasing economic value and protecting the biodiversity of Betung Kerihun and Danau Sentarum National Park