

# Annual Report 2021



save the  
orangutan



## The orangutan should not be critically endangered

All three orangutan species continue to be critically endangered. Unfortunately, they are not alone, as global biodiversity loss is one of the world's biggest crisis. Our work is part of the solution, and we work relentlessly for a future in which orangutans do not appear on the IUCN red list, and where humans and animals can coexist in the remaining forests of Borneo.

Local communities have an important role to play in such a future – as well as in our projects. They can ensure the long-term conservation of nature, just as we wish to remedy the poverty and loss of identity, that forests loss can cause for forest dependent communities. Development work goes hand in hand with conservation.

Unfortunately, 2021 was another year in the shadow of the Covid-19 pandemic. Indonesia was severely impacted – especially during the summer as the delta variant caused high numbers of infections as well as fatalities. Therefore, we supported our partners and the local authorities in getting information and vaccines out to distant areas.

In the last months of the year, large parts of Indonesian Borneo – Kalimantan – were flooded. It impacted several of our work areas, but luckily they made it through unharmed. But extreme weather only becomes more extreme and the challenges the climate crisis entails is something we must be constantly watchful of.

We are also facing other big changes in the future. In 2021, it was confirmed that the capital of Indonesia is moving to Borneo – a development we are monitoring very closely. We will do what we can to ensure, that it does not have a negative impact on the rainforest and the orangutan population.

Nevertheless, 2021 became a year where we accomplished many great results. For example, we could celebrate that many of the orangutans that our loyal supporters have been following for years, were either reintroduced in the forest or pre-released to islands, to enter the last phase of their rehabilitation.

The work in the rainforest was also succesful. The local people in the village Timpah came one step closer to obtaining the rights to their forest areas. Trees were planted on a larger area than ever. And we have worked to ensure that the rebuilding of Indonesia after Covid-19 happens in a way, which takes both people and nature into account.

These results were only possible because of our collaboration with local and international partners and the generous support from businesses, foundations and thousands of individual people. For this we would like to extend a profound thank you – together we can make a difference for the orangutan, the rainforest and the local communities.

Kind regards,

  
Hanne Gürtler  
Executive Director

Photo frontpage: ©BPI



## We engage the public

Save the Orangutan informs and engages the public in many ways: It can be updates for our supporters and followers regarding our work on Borneo, or it can be big public events. In 2021 we increased our efforts.

### I Am the Forest

Leading up to the first part of UN's Biodiversity Conference we celebrated the rich biodiversity of Borneo with the photo-exhibition 'I Am the Forest.' The exhibition is a tribute to the rainforest of Borneo, and the unique life found within it, and the photos are taken by a series of international photographers who are truly passionate about conservation. 'I Am the Forest' could be seen in September in Højbro Plads in Copenhagen and had a great many visitors.



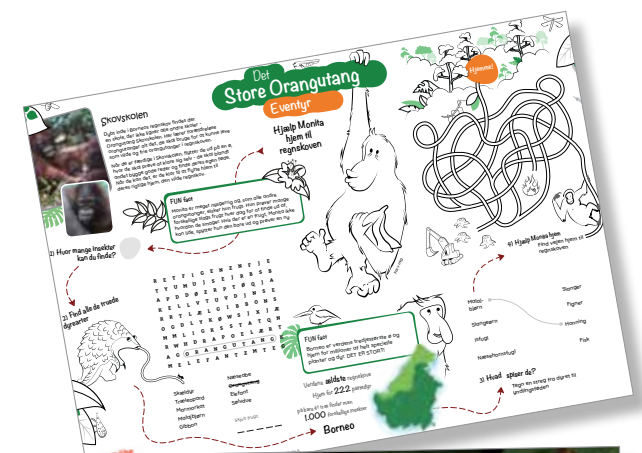
### Young people to engage the youth

The connection between climate, biodiversity and development is complex, but also extremely important. Because of this, we and our partner Fremtidsfabrik want to engage young people in exactly these connections. We do this through a project supported by 'Engagementspuljen' from Civil Society in Development, where a group of young people are taught to develop creative methods to engage other young people in nature-conserving development work. They will get to present their result in festivals during the summer of 2022.



### Orangutan-knowledge for children

The children are our future, and at Save the Orangutan we want to provide them with a better understanding of the orangutan and the rainforest on Borneo. Therefore, in 2021, we made a childrens-page on our homepage, which includes rainforest fact sheets and fun assignments with the orangutan and its neighbours. The assignment-sheet can also be found in several libraries and zoos.



### Online events

Again this year, we could invite our supporters and followers to an online event on the international orangutan-day in collaboration with our European partner-organizations. Supporters and followers all over Europe could, among other things, watch our feature about the effects Covid-19 have had on the rehabilitation centre Nyaru Menteng. Working together with our international partners, we also arranged an online screening of the documentary 'Eyes of the Orangutan,' regarding the horrendous conditions for orangutans in the tourist industry.





# The rainforest is restored

Restoring rainforest is vital to the survival of the orangutan. At the same time it is of great importance for the climate and the local communities near the forests. Due to this, we had an increased focus on reforestation and restoring rainforest in 2021.

## #plant\_1\_2\_trees

We started off the year with the digital campaign #plant\_1\_2\_trees, which provided information about reforestation of degraded rainforest, whilst collecting donations for this purpose. Amongst other things, the campaign included creative fundraising-methods, such as the initiative 'click life into the rainforest,' where you could colour a grey picture of rainforest green and lush with donations.

## A record breaking number of planted trees

In 2021 we succeeded in breaking our own records and planted more trees than any previous years! We did so with the support of, companies, private donors and the Civil Society in Development. Together with our local partner BOS Foundation, we replanted more than 77 hectares with new forest in Mawas in Central Kalimantan. As a matter of fact, new trees were prepared to replant an area twice as large, but the last replanting was postponed to 2022, as the Mawas-area was exposed to massive floodings in late 2021. Our international partners also replant forest in Mawas and together we replanted more than 200 hectares in 2021.

## Not only do we plant trees

Besides being replanted, the rainforest is protected as local groups patrol the area to guard against forest fires and illegal logging. The local communities are also blocking human-made drainage-canals in order to heighten the water level in the dried out peat forest. This makes it far more resilient to forest fires and contributes to ecosystem restoration in the area.

## Still an important focus in 2022

In 2021, Save the Orangutan made an examination of satellite-photos of the Mawas-area from 2001 to 2020. The examination very clearly showed, that restoration of degraded rainforest is important to prioritize. The deforestation is most severe in the areas, that have been subject to comprehensive forest fires – and in particular degraded areas with peat are vulnerable, as they burn easily. It has wide-ranging consequences for climate, biodiversity and people. Restoring rainforest is therefore also an important focus of our work in 2022.



Save the Orangutan and BOS Foundation have in total replanted **232.738 trees** since 2015. It is the equivalent to an area of **221 hectares**. Our goal is to replant at least **1000 hectares** in the Mawas-area, which is home to more than **2500 wild orangutans**.



# We protect the forests together with local communities

It is of great importance for the local communities, that the forest is not destroyed or allocated to plantations, mining or infrastructure. The protection of the forest is also one of the most essential ways of protecting the critically endangered orangutan.

## Monitoring the forest

At Save the Orangutan it is a high priority to protect rainforest-areas in close collaboration with forest dependent communities. In several areas the illegal logging has increased during the pandemic. Therefore we have increased our focus in 2021 on environmental education and patrolling in our work areas. The monitoring of the forest is done by locals, who keep an eye on forest fires and illegal logging.

## Consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic

As a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic, many people on Borneo have lost their jobs and therefore their income. The consequences have been addressed in several projects supported by

the Civil Society in Development, with a focus on creating sustainable sources of income for the locals – for example the establishment of fishing ponds, breeding of chicken or growing vegetables.

## Major progress working with rights

Our work with the local communities involves support to indigenous people in the complicated process of obtaining the rights to their forest areas. We have made major progress in 2021. Our most important result is, that the village Timpah in Mawas in Central Kalimantan is one of the few villages in Indonesia that has been recognized as 'customary community.' This means, that they have a legal status, that makes it possible for them to get the full rights over their forest.





# Orangutans are returning to the rainforest once again

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic still being present, 2021 was a year with great progress in relation to our rehabilitation program. Not least for many of the orangutans which are part of Save the Orangutan's adoption program.

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## The last step of the journey

During the year 29 orangutans were pre-released to safe islands to complete the last phase of their rehabilitation. Amongst these were the orangutans Meryl, Cinta and Valentino, who are part of our adoption program. On the isolated islands they can safely try out their skills in natural surroundings, and when they have shown that they can take care of themselves, they are ready to be reintroduced to the rainforest of Borneo.

## Orangutans were once again released

One of the big events of the year was when we released the orangutan Miko. Miko has had many loyal supporters throughout the years, and therefore it was a great joy to see him starting a whole new chapter in the wild. In total, 25 orangutans were released in the rainforest in 2021.

## 15 orangutans were rescued

In 2021, 15 orangutans were rescued from human-orangutan conflicts or from captivity. Some of them were orphans, which have now moved into the rehabilitation centres Nyaru Menteng and Samboja Lestari. Here they have started forest school. The rescued adult orangutans were released in protected forest areas.

## A sanctuary for injured orangutans

In the start of the year, three orangutans were released to their own sanctuary island. These are orangutans, which, for one reason or another, would not be able to take care of themselves in the wild. Therefore, they need lifelong care in the centres. Our mission is, that as many of them as possible, will live in near to nature conditions on safe islands, specifically furnished to suit their needs. This happened



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## #ORANGUTANFREEDOM

493 orangutans have been released from 2012 to 2021

### Orangutans in Nyaru Menteng

266 in rehabilitation  
3 newcomers in 2021  
18 in lifelong care

### Orangutans in Samboja Lestari

47 in rehabilitation  
5 newcomers in 2021  
77 in lifelong care



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this year for the orangutans Dilla, Mawas and Jeliva.

## When rehabilitated orangutans become wild (again)

The rehabilitated orangutans in Nyaru Menteng or Samboja Lestari are released in the protected rainforest areas Bukit Baka Bukit Raya (TNBBBR) and Bukit Batikap in Central Kalimantan or Kehje Sewen in East Kalimantan. Here they are observed by moni-

toring teams who make sure that they are doing well. Save the Orangutan supports the post-release monitoring in the reintroduction areas and have, among other things, donated equipment to TNBBBR, to make sure that the monitoring in the national park is improved and contributes new knowledge about the orangutans.



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# COVID-19

## Preventing Covid-19

We and our local partners had focus during the year on preventing infection with Covid-19 in villages, which the authorities did not have resources to reach. We provided information on prevention as well as information regarding what to do if you are sick or have symptoms. Many inhabitants in the villages were offered transportation options to vaccination-locations. It has meant, that many people in our work areas were vaccinated, and the number of infected people in the villages targeted, is lower than in the surrounding villages. During 2021 Save the Orangutan also continued supporting the efforts to protect orangutans and staff in the rehabilitation centres against Covid-19.

## The health of nature is connected to the health of humans

Taking care of nature is essential in preventing future pandemics. In collaboration with our partner Borneo Nature Foundation we are working to ensure that the authorities consider conservation in their efforts to get Indonesia back on track post Covid-19. In several areas we have educated the local communities in nature's importance to human health – this has been done with support from Civil Society in Development and in collaboration with, amongst others, BOS Foundation in East Kalimantan and Borneo Nature Foundation in Central Kalimantan.



## Distribution of funds in 2021

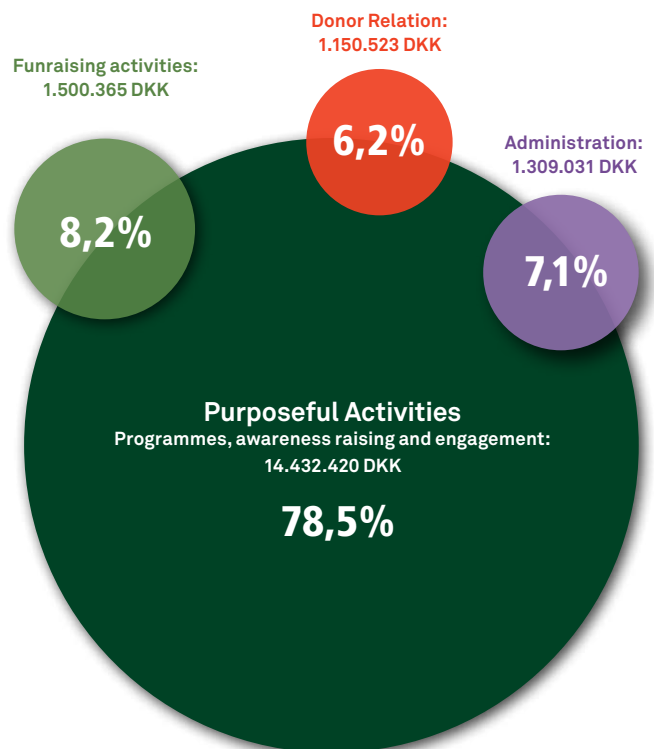
### Funds raised

Save the Orangutan raised DKK 19.8 million in 2021 from private donors, businesses, foundations and institutional donors. Of these, DKK 17.6 million were raised in Denmark, DKK 1.3 million in Sweden and DKK 0.9 million in England and Wales.

### Distribution of funds

In 2021, Save the Orangutan distributed DKK 14.4 million to purposeful activities, corresponding to 78.5% of funds spent. DKK 11.3 million were transferred in direct support to our partners in Borneo.

Save the Orangutan spent a total of DKK 3.9 million, corresponding to 21.5% on donor relation, administration and fundraising activities in 2021. The administration expenses were 7% in 2021. 7% of the funds raised in 2021, corresponding to DKK 1.4 million, will be transferred to 2022. The transferred funds will be used for further purposeful activities.



## Thank you Donors:



- QATO Fonden
- Lund Fonden
- Dansk Tennis Fond
- Fru Ellen Bremerdals fond til hjælp for hjemløse katte og andre vildtlevende dyr
- Brødrene Hartmanns Fond
- William Demant Fonden
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- Kulturministeriets pulje til almennyttige kulturelle projekter
- Kulturministeriets pulje til landsdækkende almene organisationer

A special thanks to the many companies and thousands of private donors supporting our work.



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