

JungleVine

October 2010

SÖS Sumatran
Orangutan
Society



Welcome

Welcome to *JungleVine* – same contents, new format! We hope you like it. With updates direct from Sumatra, this issue is filled with news on how your support is making a difference to Sumatran orangutans in the wild. We’ve got some great fundraising stories too, including how a very unique elephant raised over £21,000 (page 11).

There’s also a special feature on human-orangutan conflict; as agriculture encroaches on the rainforest, conflict between farmers and orangutans is increasing. Thanks to the help of our supporters, SOS is working hard to turn the situation around – see page 8 to find out how.

As for other projects, it’s been a busy few months – we’ve renovated our information centre in Bukit Lawang with great new displays for visitors and trained another 30 forest guides. More than 4,000 people have used our Conservation Digital Opportunity Centre. Plus we’ve reached a milestone in terms of our ongoing rainforest restoration work, having now planted over half a million trees.

But there’s still much to be done. With less than 6,600 left in the wild, Sumatran orangutans are critically endangered and the threat posed by logging, palm oil production and poaching is greater than ever. So SOS needs your help more than ever, too.

Thank you for your support.

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Cover Photo: Rob Kroenert.
Photo (left): George Fransden.

SOS News

500,000 trees now planted

Habitat restoration is crucial when it comes to protecting orangutans, which is why SOS works hard to replant areas of either lost or degraded rainforest with indigenous trees. This year, we reached a major milestone, having replanted a total of half a million seedlings!

Of course we’re not stopping there; around half of Sumatra’s forests have been lost in the last 25 years with terrible consequences for wildlife. If you’d like to help, please see www.orangutans-sos.org/seethedifference. Thanks to all who have donated.



Photo: Will Lee-Wright.



Bailey rocks Greenwich

When top comedian and musician Bill Bailey headlined at the UK’s Greenwich Comedy Festival in September, he didn’t just have the audience in hysterics, he put a huge smile on our faces too, by donating all ticket sale proceeds to SOS. Bill (above, with Helen Buckland, SOS UK Director) is an SOS Patron and donated £20,000, while SOS volunteers raised over £650 in cash donations on the night. We want to say a huge thank you to Bill for his incredible generosity - the money will go a long way in supporting crucial work in Sumatra.

Infant orangutan rescued

While SOS is not actively involved in the rehabilitation of orangutans, we do help with rescues via our new Human Orangutan Conflict Response Unit (HOCRU) – please see page 8.

In May, for example, we received a report of an orangutan being held on farmland in Meka Makmur in North Sumatra. HOCRU, the Natural Resources Conservation Body (BBKSDA), Gunung Leuser National Park Office (TNGL) and the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme (SOCP) later confiscated a male infant orangutan.

The orangutan was taken to the SOCP Quarantine Centre and has been named Tomat by staff who report that he is now healthy and doing very well.



Photo: Djuna Ivereigh

Breakthrough agreement to save the rainforests

From January 2011, the call of hornbills won't be the only sound echoing around Indonesia's forests, there'll be a sigh of relief too, as the government's two-year moratorium on deforestation begins.

The moratorium was announced in May, thanks to a \$1 billion deal with Norway, and is intended to slash Indonesia's greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the loss of forests and peatlands.

The palm oil and mining industries are opposing the agreement, which could potentially slow the expansion of plantations and mining projects, although companies will be offered compensation and land-swap deals to develop non-forested land.

There are still details to be thrashed out, including agreeing which areas constitute natural forests, questions over permits already granted, and how to enforce the ban. Deforestation is a key threat faced by Sumatran orangutans, so SOS commends both governments on this landmark commitment. But it's vital that it translates into action, so we will be closely monitoring the situation in Sumatra.

Partnership offers a stylish new way to help SOS

Fancy updating your wardrobe and helping Sumatran orangutans too? Thanks to an exciting new partnership between SOS and cool brand Surfer Girl, shoppers in Bali can do both.

As of mid October, visit Surfer Girl stores in Bali or our own Jungle Shop in Ubud and you can buy bags, t-shirts and stickers with 30% of proceeds going direct to SOS.

Surfer Girl is the first surf brand in Bali to officially support SOS. "SOS is doing a great job in helping the orangutans," says owner Steve Palmer. "We're happy to support them so they, in turn, can further support these amazing, intelligent and caring creatures."

The new range isn't the only way Surfer Girl supports SOS – they also send excess stock for sale via our Jungle Shop and donate 10% of proceeds from Jungle Juice sold in their cafes. "The partnership shows that we share the same values and beliefs in terms of environmental protection," says Poli, SOS Bali Manager. "We really hope it will inspire other businesses - and people in general - to support our cause."

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Surfer Girl team. For your nearest store see www.surfer-girl.com, for the Jungle Shop www.orangutans-sos.org/about/jungleshop. Happy shopping.



Photo: HUTAN

Orangutans bridge the gap

Orangutans have been photographed using rope bridges in Kinabatangan, Sabah, on the island of Borneo for the very first time. Other than Sumatra, Borneo is the only other place where orangutans are still found in the wild.

The photos, taken by local Ajirun Osman, are good news as the bridge is part of the Kinabatangan Orangutan Conservation Project (KOCP), a project designed to connect isolated orangutan populations. "This is the first time we have received photographic evidence which clearly shows a young male orangutan using the first rope bridge we constructed in 2003," says primatologist Dr Isabelle Lackman, Co Director of KOCP, which was established by the Sabah Wildlife Department and French Non Governmental Organisation HUTAN. Like all non-human great ape species, orangutans don't usually swim and, says Dr Lackman, would have used forest as 'natural bridges' in the past but this is no longer possible due to logging.

KOCP have built a total of six rope bridges to help address such issues, but stress that these are a 'quick fix' only. The most ideal solution would be to reconnect the forest, which KOCP are working on.

Major drop in illegal logging

New research by Chatham House has revealed that global levels of illegal logging have fallen by nearly a quarter since 2002. The report estimates that in Indonesia there has been a drop of 75% in the last ten years. This is obviously a big improvement, but the situation is not completely under control and 40% of all timber harvesting in the country is still illegal. "Whilst we do commend the Indonesian government on these improvements, legal conversion of rainforests to oil palm plantations is still wiping out orangutan habitat," says Helen Buckland, SOS UK Director. "We urge them to tackle all causes of forest loss."



Photo: Djuna Ivereigh

Palm oil giant ditched

Sinar Mas, one of Indonesia's largest companies, has been the target of a hard-hitting campaign by Greenpeace in recent months. The campaigning group revealed evidence that despite commitments to the contrary, the company continues to be involved in the destruction of forests and peatlands for oil palm plantations and pulp and paper production.

Some of Sinar Mas' major customers, including Nestle, Tesco and Cargill, were targeted with spoof adverts and tens of thousands of emails sent by supporters, demanding they stop sourcing palm oil and paper from the company – with great success. The bank HSBC has dropped its shares in Sinar Mas and Burger King has announced it will no longer source palm oil from the company. Thanks to all the SOS supporters who backed the campaign.

Attenborough talks apes!

Based in the UK? Then don't miss Hope 4 Apes, an exciting event being held in London on December 6th. The evening will see conservation greats including Sir David Attenborough and Dr Jane Goodall DBE discussing the status of apes and means of securing their future. Proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to SOS and other charities taking part. We look forward to seeing you there. Vist www.4apes.com/hope



Photo: Helen Buckland

New project targets conflict

As agricultural expansion encroaches on orangutan habitat, conflict between farmers and the apes continues to rise.

That's why, earlier this year, SOS launched an exciting new project aimed at tackling and preventing such conflict. The Human Orangutan Conflict Response Unit (HOCRU) will work with government, farmers and local communities to find lasting solutions – see page 8 to find out more.



Photo: Gail Campbell-Smith

UK palm oil use revealed?

Nobody knows exactly how much palm oil is used by the UK, but we're set to find out thanks to research being carried out by the government. It's hoped the project will lead to recommendations on how to lessen the environmental footprint of the UK's market for the oil. "Consumers and industry have the power to save rainforests and wildlife in areas like south-east Asia," said the Environment Secretary Caroline Spelman. "But in the case of palm oil, we need to know more about our consumption in order to find solutions." SOS welcomes the move. "This research will hopefully lead to a commitment from government and businesses to support change in the palm oil industry, by purchasing only certified sustainable palm oil," says SOS UK Director Helen Buckland. For more information on the impact of palm oil production please see www.orangutans-sos.org/campaigns



Your chance to create the new look for the official SOS t-shirts... or vote online for your favourites.

Fancy seeing your designs featured on t-shirts worn all over the world? Then you will want to know about our exciting new design competition. Launched on October 15th, it offers all graphic designers – student or professional – the chance to create a design for the official SOS t-shirts. The deadline for submissions is November 26th 2010 so there's still time to enter.

There are two categories - adult t-shirt and kid's t-shirt, with a maximum of three entries per category, per designer. Once the competition closes a shortlist will be selected by SOS. The public will then pick their favourites via an online vote. Sold through our web shop, Bali Jungle Shop

and events, the t-shirts will raise money for SOS. As well as seeing their designs used in a professional context, winners will receive five t-shirts and be featured in *JungleVine* and on the SOS website. We'll be shouting about the competition via Facebook, Twitter and external media, too.

TO ENTER THE COMPETITION

Visit www.orangutans-sos.org/competition for the design brief, entry details and Terms and Conditions. We will also be posting information about the voting process on our home page. Good luck!

The hidden battle

As agricultural expansion continues to wipe out the rainforest, conflict between farmers and orangutans is increasing. Here's how, with your help, SOS plans to turn the situation around.

While many people care deeply about wildlife, there are times when humans and animals clash. Whether it's trampled crops or unwanted visitors raiding the kitchen cupboards, human-wildlife conflict occurs all over the world involving all kinds of species, from big cats to small rodents. But primates, renowned for their intelligence, are considered a particular problem. Historically humans and other great apes have happily co-existed for thousands of years, but today, such conflict is a growing issue.

Large areas of orangutan habitat have been lost or degraded due to agriculture and logging. As a result, the apes are pushed into the areas where forest and farmlands meet. With natural food hard to find, crop raiding - a key cause of conflict - becomes increasingly likely.

Human-orangutan conflict (HOC) is bad news for both sides. For the farmers, raided or damaged crops - things like durian and jackfruit - can have a real impact on income. But for orangutans, the outcome can be catastrophic. These charismatic animals, which need to roam to find food, are exposed to higher levels of hunting and poaching. As a critically endangered species, these are risks the Sumatran orangutan could well do without.

While little is known about HOC in terms of hard data, there are several sites within northern Sumatra where orangutans are known or suspected to be raiding crops. It's likely that there are many more too. The Orangutan Information Centre (OIC), our

partner in Sumatra, has received reports of conflict due to crop raiding from communities right across North Sumatra.

Gail Campbell-Smith is completing her PhD at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) and working with the OIC. She has been conducting research in Batang Serangan, North Sumatra, for four years and confirms HOC is taking place.

"Orangutans are raiding solely due to the isolated nature of the area," she explains. "There are 16 orangutans which have become completely isolated from more extensive natural forests for over 25 years."

The frequency of crop raiding does vary depending on location. "It depends on the position of the farms and how much wild fruit is available in the forests," says Gail. "If natural supplies are low, orangutans can be forced to find alternative food supplies. Farms closer to a forest block run a higher risk of raiding by orangutans than farms further away - it really is that simple."

So what can we do about it? Dedicated to protecting Sumatran orangutans, SOS is striving to find a solution. In fact, the OIC has worked with farmers and plantation workers on the issue since 2008.

Such work has included testing various methods of HOC prevention. In order to be successful, such methods need to be simple, affordable and safe - for orangutans and for people. "They also need to be tailored to suit the location and farmer in question," stresses Gail. "You need to figure out exactly what the problem is - i.e. sporadic or daily raiding - and understand how the farm is

Photo: Djuna Ivereigh



“Orangutans are raiding solely due to the isolated nature of the area”



Photos: Gail Campbell-Smith, Helen Buckland.

made possible thanks to funding by Borneo Orangutan Society Canada, the People's Trust for Endangered Species, UNESCO and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

HOCRU is responsible for responding to conflict in areas around the Gunung Leuser National Park. As well as monitoring areas prone to crop raiding, the team maps key conflict sites and mitigates HOC in the field. In July, an SMS reporting service was launched; if human-wildlife conflict is reported, a team is sent out to investigate. So far, 15 reports have been received, 13 of these requesting help with orangutans on farmlands.

HOCRU also runs regular educational activities and farmer workshops and has conducted surveys to investigate local knowledge regarding human-wildlife conflict. Earlier this year, a total of 681 farmers in North Sumatra were interviewed and 95% said they'd experienced crop damage by wildlife. Primates including orangutans, as well as long-tailed macaques, wild boar and elephants were among the species considered the most problematic crop pests. Those who took action to tackle crop-raiding used a range of methods including noise, traps and spotlights.

The OIC has also helped set up the Human Wildlife Conflict Task Force Group. The Group brings government together with a range of NGOs specialising in individual species – namely orangutans, tigers and elephants. "It's about bringing the experts together to lend their experience to the government, to more effectively deal with the problem," explains David Dellatore, SOS Scientific Director.

It's hoped that together, these actions will help reduce conflict and enable humans and orangutans to co-exist – as we have done for so long in the past. Of course none of this work would be possible without our supporters, so thank you.

To find out the many ways you can support these and other SOS projects, please visit www.orangutans-sos.org/help

run. Only then can you start testing ways to prevent conflict."

Gail has been trialling various techniques for the last 18 months including the use of noise to scare the orangutans off (above) and barrier nets to prevent access to fruits and crops. These have proved successful, so the OIC has been busy spreading the word.

"Ultimately though, the best defence is to stop crop raiding before it starts," says Gail. "This can only be achieved by preventing further encroachment into forests."

This year also saw the launch of the Human Orangutan Conflict Response Unit (HOCRU). The project, undertaken in partnership with the Governor of North Sumatra and the Indonesian Forestry Department's Natural Resource Conservation Office, has been supported by a partnership of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) led by the OIC. This work has been



Photos: Becky Sutherland (left and top right), Jake Yeung (bottom right)

Elephant raises £21,000!

How a very special elephant is helping Sumatran orangutans.

As fundraising events go, it was pretty impressive. Elephant Parade 2010 was the biggest public art exhibition ever staged in London and saw over 250 fibreglass life-size baby elephants displayed across the city during May and June.

The event was organised by Elephant Family (www.elephantfamily.org), a UK charity working to save the Asian elephant from extinction in the wild, with SOS as a conservation partner. We were delighted to be involved, particularly as orangutans and elephants face the same threat; destruction of rainforest. Funds and awareness raised by the event will help secure a safer future for both animals, plus countless other species sharing their habitat.

As well as supporting the event, SOS was lucky enough to have our own elephant in the parade. Harapan, meaning 'hope' in Indonesian, was painted by UK-based Becky Sutherland, the brilliant artist behind our activity book *The Orangutan Book* (on sale via our online shop). "I wanted to make the elephant as bright as possible, to really stand out," says Becky of her approach.

"I decided to make the design rainforest-based, as well as including the orangutan, to reflect all of the creatures involved and the environment under threat."

Becky worked on the design over a period of six weeks. "I had the elephant in an unheated conservatory in mid-winter, so it took a lot of nerve to go out there and do a bit of painting! Also, I had not painted anything on that scale before. But I was very pleased with the result."

So were we; having wowed the crowds at Green Park near Buckingham Palace, Harapan was then selected as one of 30 elephants featured in a live auction in Chelsea, raising an amazing £21,250. "We were absolutely delighted with the public's response," says Helen Buckland, SOS UK Director. "The funds raised will make a huge difference."

Thanks to all who placed bids or entered our Harapan photo competition. Well done again to winner Jake Yeung (see above).

Find more of Becky's work on page 14 and www.cargocollective.com/rebeccasutherland

Fundraising News

Just some of the ways you've been supporting the cause.

Singapore swim-a-thon

Students at The Singapore American School have supported SOS for four years now and are becoming real experts when it comes to fundraising. Earlier this year, more than 260 students from the fourth grade raised over £4,500 by taking part in a sponsored swim-a-thon. This fantastic contribution will support our educational programmes with schools in Sumatra. A huge thank you to everyone who took part. We can't wait to see what fundraising fun you come up with next year!



6 MORE GREAT IDEAS

1 Shake a bucket. Pete Collins, Clayton Lavallin and Emma Elms were among the volunteers helping raise money at Bill Bailey's gig in Greenwich (page 3).

2 Get creative. Maria Fountain found a clever use for old calendars; using them to create cards to sell at SOS events.

3 Bake! Jo Goodyear turned cooking into cash by organising a cake sale.

Big night for SOS Bali

SOS Bali held another fantastic bi-annual fundraiser in July, raising over US\$1,000 to support SOS projects.

In addition to a buffet and raffle, there was a silent auction which saw lucky winners walk away with prizes including a trip to Komodo Island and luxury hotel stays – all generously donated by local businesses (see back page).

SOS also screened a film about projects run by the Orangutan Information Centre, our partner in Sumatra, along with a presentation by Dave Dellatore, SOS Scientific Director.

"It really was a fantastic event," says Poli, SOS Bali Manager. "We extend our deep and sincere thanks to everyone whose contribution and assistance made it possible."

The next and final SOS Bali fundraiser of 2010 will take place on October 30th. Please contact bali@orangutans-sos.org for more information.

4 Wear orange. Pupils at The Ridgeway CE Primary School brightened up the classrooms by donning orange for a day.

5 Keep your mouth shut! It all went rather quiet at Nottingham Girls High School when Year 11 had a sponsored silence...

6 Run! Like Jane Hampson (right) Tom Inglis, Jenny Post and James Post also ran the Edinburgh Marathon. Jon and Steph Barrett ran the half marathon.

Birthday treats for SOS



We don't know many people who don't enjoy receiving birthday presents, which is why we've been so moved by the approach Coby

Dekker (above), an SOS supporter from Holland, has taken to fundraising. Each year, rather than asking for gifts, she's asked friends and family for money – and donated it all to us. This year, Coby gave 300 euros!

The idea was inspired by a trip to Sumatra in 2008: "I wanted to see the orangutans in the forest and when I did, I just thought: 'That's my project'," she says. "So no more flowers, wine or other presents – just money to help keep the orangutans alive! Orangutans are magnificent and very clever animals. They should not die because of illegal palm oil plantations. So the two small places in the world they still live must be preserved." We couldn't agree more.

SEE THE DIFFERENCE!

If you would like to watch some short films about our work in Sumatra and the difference your support is making, visit the SOS page on www.seethedifference.org



HOW I DID IT!



This issue: Jane Hampson

When Jane Hampson, a long-term supporter of SOS, signed up to run the Edinburgh Marathon, we knew she'd train hard, but we were amazed by her creativity and determination when it came to fundraising.

In addition to the 26-mile slog, Jane organised a range of events including car boot sales, dress-down days, a 'lonely pennies' collection and even a ghost tour. She managed to get matched giving from her company too, smashing her target and raising £3,200.

"I experienced a mixture of emotions, swinging from excitement and optimism to feeling like I'd run out of steam," says Jane. "It is hard to train and fundraise at the same time, but most people were so supportive. The marathon was very exciting, but I was relieved to finish after the immense heat of the day."

Jane feels strongly about the cause. "The work SOS does is vital when it comes to saving the rainforest and all the wildlife and people happily living there until logging and palm oil came along," she says.

Her advice for other fundraisers? Get organised. "Make a plan - decide what you want to do to fundraise and estimate how much you think each activity will raise," she says. "Then factor in a couple of extras just in case. Rope in as many people as possible too!"

In addition to fundraising - and her day job - Jane makes palm oil-free soaps and candles; www.LittleSatsuma.com

Thinking of taking on a challenge to support SOS? Please visit www.orangutans-sos.org/help/fundraise

Photo: Helen Buckland

Puzzles and pictures

Fill the jungle with colour or try our orangutan wordsearch.

Can you find the words?

Harapan, Banana, Trees, Palm Oil, Elephant, Rainforest, Bornean, Great Ape, Endangered, Orangutan, Soil, Plantation.



FACT OR FICTION?

Is it true Sumatran orangutans...

- 1 Sleep in nests in the trees.
- 2 Live to about 45 years.
- 3 Share over 96 % of our DNA.

Answer: The answer is yes to them all!

COLOUR ME IN!

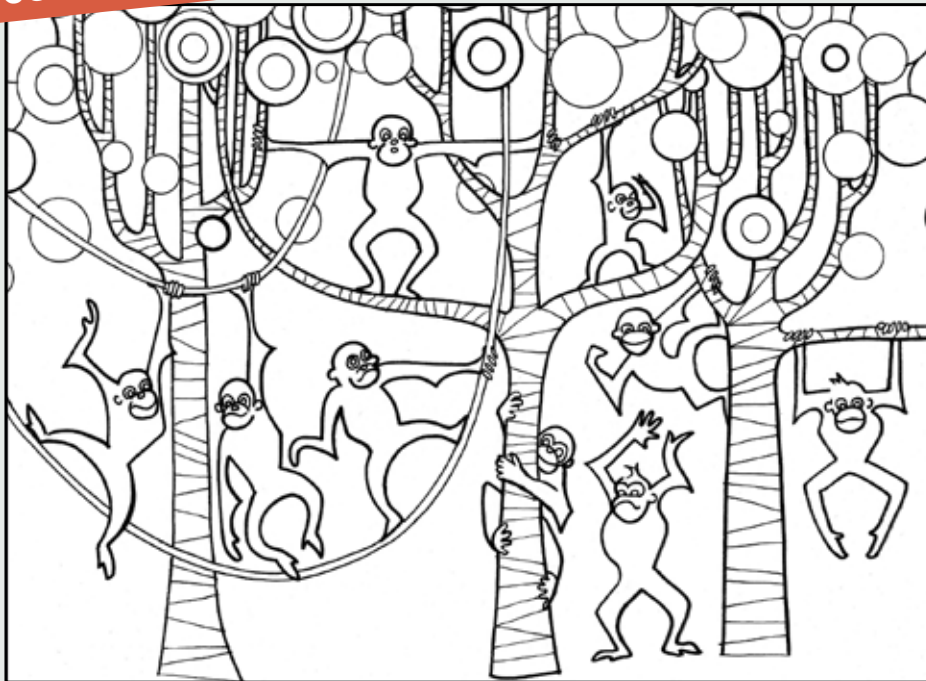


Illustration: Rebecca Sutherland



Photo: Nick Tignonsini

Supporter Showcase

This issue: Bamboo Community University Association.

From spreading the word about key environmental issues to providing an endless source of information, the internet plays a growing role in wildlife conservation. This year, thanks to a project supported by the Bamboo Community University Association (BCUA) in Taiwan, students in Bukit Lawang, Sumatra, learnt just how powerful that role can be.

In July, the Orangutan Information Centre (OIC) teamed up with BCUA, National Chiao Tung University, Bukit Lawang Guide Association and the Gunung Leuser National Park office to run the Information Digital Orangutan (IDO) camp.

During the three-day camp, a total of 12 undergraduates from National Chiao Tung University - a leading technological university in Taiwan - taught 20 Sumatran high school students how to use technology as a conservation tool. The training, overseen by OIC staff, was designed to help local people in this popular tourism destination use the internet to research and promote sustainable tourism practices.

Additional words: Melanie Joe Martin

The classes were held in the Conservation Digital Opportunity Centre, created by the OIC with government funding via BCUA. Equipped with computers, the Centre offers free internet access for local people and is also used in our forest guide training programme. The students learned how to use email, digital cameras, produce a blog, conduct research and use GPS to map Bukit Lawang trails and community landmarks. The training also covered park guidelines and conservation.

"I learnt a lot about computers and about orangutan conservation," said Dara Kartica, a student from SMA 1 Bohorok School. "I'm also very proud of Bukit Lawang, so I hope I can help promote responsible ecotourism."

Sustainable tourism is particularly important in Bukit Lawang because of the Sumatran orangutans that live there.

We would like to thank the BCUA, the volunteers from National Chiao Tung University and the people of Bukit Lawang and surrounding region for making the camp possible.



3 easy ways to help orangutans

- 1 Join SOS.** The more members we have, the louder our voice will become. You can join for just £2 per month. Signed up? Ask a friend! www.orangutans-sos.org/help/membership
- 2 Buy a gift.** Use the SOS web shop and all proceeds will go towards our work. You can choose from bags, books, toys and more. Just visit our website and click on Shop.
- 3 Plant a tree!** For every pound donated to our restore rainforest campaign, we'll plant a tree. Check out www.orangutans-sos.org/seethedifference today.

www.orangutans-sos.org

In addition to everyone mentioned throughout *JungleVine*, SOS would like to thank: Arasia, Atlas Pearl, Australian Orangutan Project, Bali Advertiser, Bali Angels, Bali Dynasty Resort, Bali Tree Top Climbing, Bamboo Community University Association, Benoa Tirta Harum, Bill Bailey, Black Lotus Publishing, Blue Water Express, Anja Bondo, Boo Povey, Will Briggs, Sarah Burgess, Anna Caffrey, Robert Cantley and Borneo Exotics, Mark Chappell, Chester Zoo, Alasdair Clayre, Como Shambala Estate, Mark Constantine, Maya Ubud, Michael Cooper, Mixxi Adams, Greenwich Comedy Festival, Becky Hazell, Jenggala Ceramic, Paul Jennings, Lush Edinburgh, Perama Tours & Travel, Pongo Foundation, Surfer Girl, SusuMama, Rainforest Rescue, Rebecca Sutherland, Sabrina Reinders, Sayan Aesthetic Institute, Renegade Republic Clothing, Katherine Scott, Taksu Spa & Restaurant, Ibah Warwick, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, We-Ar.it Yoga Wear, WeGotTickets, Yoga Barn & KAFE. **JungleVine: Edited and designed by Claire Baylis. Printed on recycled paper.**