



**SOS** Sumatran  
Orangutan  
Society

**Want to help steer an effective, ambitious  
conservation charity?**

**We're looking for Board members.**





## ***Our Purpose***

We exist to protect Sumatran orangutans, their forests and their future.

## ***Our Approach***

Sumatran orangutans are critically endangered. As their rainforest habitat is cleared for farmlands, infrastructure and roads, these gentle apes, one of our closest relatives in the animal kingdom, are being pushed to the edge of extinction. SOS is dedicated to turning this situation around.

We deliver impact through frontline projects and partnerships which tackle the causes of deforestation as well as the symptoms, and strategic, impactful campaigns, bringing people together to work towards our vision of a safe future for orangutans in the wild.

Our work encompasses three main areas of focus:

### **1. Protecting orangutans**

With fewer than 14,000 surviving in the wild in Sumatra, every life is precious. We fund and support teams on the ground who rescue orangutans in danger and return them to safe forests, where they belong. The rapid expansion of agriculture where there used to be forest can cause conflict between people and orangutans, so we also support training for farmers to help them protect their crops without harming wildlife.

### **2. Saving forests**

The greatest threat facing orangutans is the loss of their habitat, so it's vital that we do everything we can to protect Sumatra's forests. We do this by lobbying government and companies to develop forest-friendly policies, actively reclaim and restore lost habitat, and we tackle forest loss on the ground by combining forest patrol teams and satellite monitoring, meaning deforestation can be stopped in its tracks.

### **3. Supporting People**

Local communities are vital stakeholders in the protection, restoration and safeguarding of rainforest ecosystems. We work together with local people to develop ways of protecting the forest which have their livelihood and wellbeing at heart. This approach, building a network of rainforest guardians, reduces pressure on the forest and helps to prevent future conservation challenges.

**We're thinking long-term, big-picture, and striving to bring about fundamental changes to the way that Sumatra's forests and wildlife are valued, managed and protected.**

## ***The role of the board***

The board of trustees have oversight of the organisation, make key decisions to help steer the strategic direction and are responsible for supporting staff on operational matters.

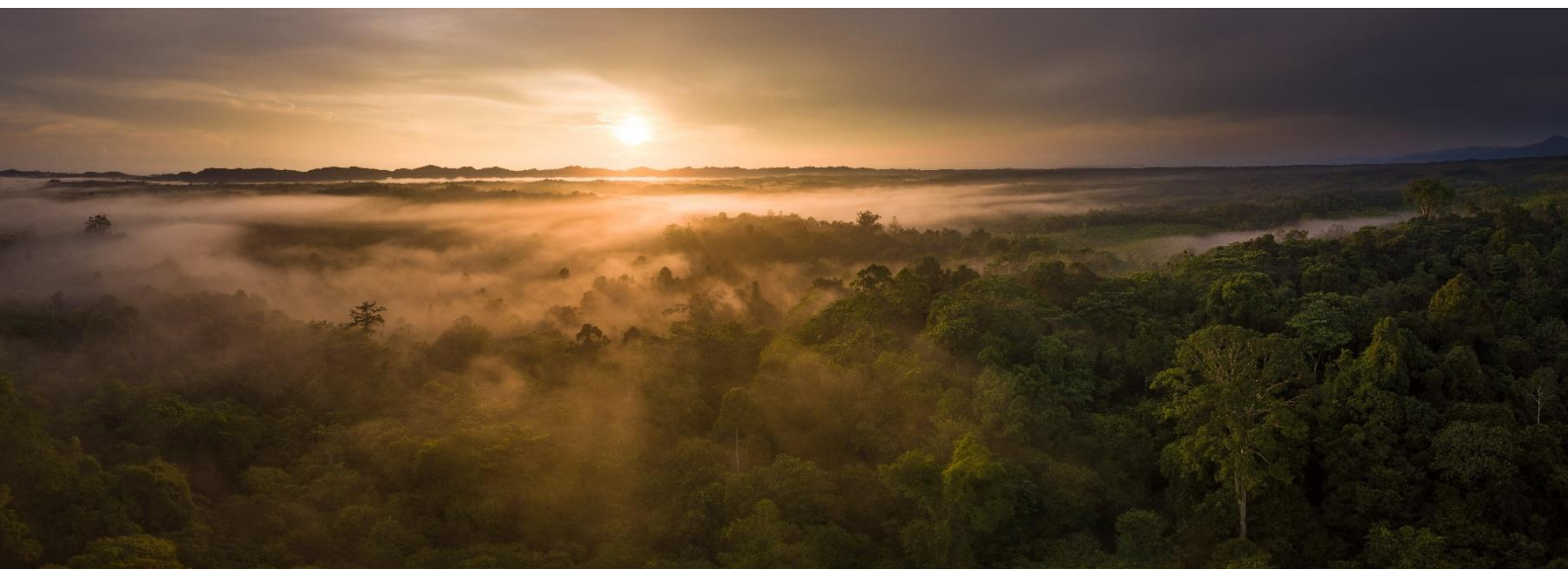
The board meets quarterly at the SOS office in Abingdon near Oxford, and trustees are expected to be available for regular consultation and input on a range of issues between meetings.

Trustees operate in a voluntary capacity, but SOS will cover all reasonable expenses incurred while exercising your responsibilities. Details of trustee responsibilities can be found on the UK Charity Commission website.

We hope that board members will gain valuable experience through their role with SOS, as well as the satisfaction of contributing to an effective, ambitious conservation organisation.

### Main responsibilities:

- With the rest of the board, to have oversight of the strategy, including its development and implementation.
- Financial oversight.
- Oversight of key organisational policies and procedures.
- Supporting the Director with staff recruitment.
- Monitor key risks to the organisation and ensure appropriate risk mitigation where possible.
- Supporting the personal development and well-being of the staff team.
- Support with fundraising/partnership efforts, and building/maintaining relationships with current or potential funders/partners.
- Represent SOS as a spokesperson at appropriate events, meetings and functions.



## ***Who are we looking for?***

***Could you help us grow the reach and impact of our work, build partnerships, and amplify our efforts and our voices to ensure a future for orangutans and their precious forests?***

We are currently seeking individuals with specific expertise in the following areas:

- Financial (we are seeking a new Treasurer)
- Legal
- Fundraising
- Technical expertise relevant to the charity's mission

We would also welcome expressions of interest from others with well-established skills and experience, or who are well networked with strategic partners, funders or institutions, who feel they would be able to contribute to and guide the strategic development of the charity.

## **Ideal person specification**

- Committed to the mission and values of SOS.
- Good interpersonal skills.
- Willing to speak your mind in a board setting, to listen to others' views and be flexible, constructive and open to challenge.
- Understanding and accepting of the legal duties and responsibilities of being a member of the board.
- See Annexe for specifics related to the Treasurer role.

## **Commitment**

- A term of 3 years, with a review after the first 12 months.
- Attendance at quarterly board meetings in person or online.
- Being in email communication with the staff team and other board members about any urgent matters arising between board meetings.
- If appropriate, to take responsibility for particular issues or areas of work.



### *How to apply*

If you are interested in becoming a trustee to support conservation in Indonesia and, importantly, are able to contribute time to this role, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact Helen Buckland, Director, for an informal discussion, and send CVs and expressions of interest by email, by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Email: [helen@orangutans-sos.org](mailto:helen@orangutans-sos.org)

Telephone: 01235 530825





## ***Annexe: Treasurer role specifics***

The overall role of the Treasurer is to maintain an overview of the organisation's affairs, ensure its financial viability and ensure that proper financial records and procedures are maintained.

In addition to the general responsibilities of a Trustee, the duties of the Treasurer include the following:

- Overseeing, approving and presenting budgets, accounts and financial statements.
- Being assured that the financial resources of the organisation meet its present and future needs.
- Ensuring that the charity has an appropriate reserves policy.
- Preparing and presenting financial reports to the board.
- Ensuring that appropriate accounting procedures and controls are in place.
- Liaising with staff about financial matters.
- Advising on the financial implications of the organisation's strategic plans.
- Ensuring that the charity has an appropriate investment policy.
- Ensuring that there is no conflict between any investment held and the aims and objects of the charity.
- Ensuring that the accounts are prepared and disclosed in the form required by funders and the relevant statutory bodies, including the Charity Commission.
- Ensuring that the accounts are scrutinised in the manner required (independent examination or audit) and any recommendations are implemented.
- Keeping the board informed about its financial duties and responsibilities.
- Contributing to the fundraising strategy of the organisation.
- Making a formal presentation of the accounts to the Board and drawing attention to important points in a coherent and easily understandable way.
- Sitting on appraisal, recruitment and disciplinary panels as required.

## **Person specification**

In addition to the qualities for a Trustee, the Treasurer should have the following qualities:

- Financial qualifications and experience.
- Some experience of charity finance (desirable).
- VAT and tax expertise (desirable).
- The skills to analyse proposals and examine their financial consequences.
- Being prepared to make recommendations to the board.
- A willingness to be available to staff for advice and enquiries on an ad hoc basis.