



Join the **Wisdom Circle**

SÖS Sumatran
Orangutan
Society

What is the Wisdom Circle?

The Wisdom Circle is a group of like-minded people who pledge to make a long-term difference to orangutans by leaving a gift in their will. These gifts will help ensure the future of orangutans and their rainforests.

Who was Lucy Wisdom?

Lucy Wisdom, who died in December 2009, brought colour and passion to everything she did, above all to the Sumatran Orangutan Society (SOS), the charity she founded and which became her life's work. She fostered SOS's growth from a one-woman campaign to a small but vital international conservation organisation, whose projects and campaigns allow wild orangutans to thrive in the forests of Sumatra.

In the 1980s Lucy was training as a flying trapeze artist in Paris. Seven years later, after surgery for breast cancer, she found herself swinging off forest vines in Sumatra, teaching young orangutans to hone their skills in their natural environment.

Lucy soon realised that saving individual apes could not prevent the extinction of the species, and set up SOS in order to realise her vision of a safe future for wild orangutans. In 2001 Lucy co-founded the Orangutan Information Centre with Indonesian conservationists to protect orangutans as a keystone species in the rainforest ecosystem; OIC remains our close partner and ally to this day. Lucy was a champion for enabling local solutions to conservation challenges, and we are proud that this principle remains at the heart of our work.



"In between courses of chemo,
Lucy swung from jungle trees to show young
apes how to do it. If the orangutans, tigers and rhinos
survive against all odds it will be due to Lucy, SOS,
the staff on the ground and supporters like you"

Dr Charlotte Jones, Lucy's mother

What would you give to see orangutans living in the wild for generations to come?

Can you remember how much you loved animals as a child? The softness of their fur, the love in their eyes? A favourite cuddly toy perhaps? Do you remember the first time you ever saw an orangutan? What first inspired you to love them? Was it watching that hand, so similar and yet so different to yours, curl in protective love around her child, that tiny scrap of life?

Our Founder, Lucy, was once asked "What's so special about orangutans?" Her reply: "On a human level, what first captivated me was how you could descend into their eyes and experience a very deep connection. They are our cousins, part of our evolutionary tree and in some ways part of us."



Would you like to pass on your love of animals to the next generation?

If so, please join our circle of like-minded givers who have pledged to leave a gift in their will.

Join the Wisdom Circle

If you pledge to leave a gift in your will to ensure a future for orangutans, we would be delighted to welcome you as a member of the Wisdom Circle.

The Circle is a way of honouring Lucy's memory as well as celebrating her foresight. It is useful for us to know if people are planning to help orangutans in their will, so if you are happy to do so, please get in touch to tell us at wisdomcircle@orangutans-sos.org. We would love to hear what inspired your love for orangutans, and we can offer support and guidance about leaving a legacy gift to SOS.

Benefits of joining the Wisdom Circle

As a member of the Wisdom Circle, you will be given:

- The inside track on developments on the ground in Sumatra.
- Information on exactly how we are working to save orangutans and their habitat.
- Special briefings and regular updates.
- Invitations to events to keep you in the loop.
- Opportunities to meet with like-minded people who share your values.



Like you, we believe that these incredible animals should be given the respect they deserve. This is not just about emotion. Of course you look into their eyes and see a human look of love or of suffering. But this is about so much more than that. These are our cousins. They share 96.4 % of our DNA. It is our duty to be the voice for those who cannot speak for themselves.

You can be confident that our work is making a lasting difference to orangutans:

- We rescue individual orangutans in danger – when a species is critically endangered every life matters.
- We plant trees to restore lost orangutan habitat– in the last few years we have helped to plant nearly 2 million seedlings.
- We built the Lucy Wisdom School for rural children living next to the forest
- We help villages and local farmers access a viable income without encroaching into the forest.
- We actively campaign in Sumatra and internationally against practices which threaten the survival of orangutans.
- All our initiatives are backed by evidence and based on sound conservation science.
- We work with local people in Sumatra to offer them a future living in harmony with the forest.



Together, these actions are helping to secure a brighter future for Sumatra's orangutans, forests and people.

We are their voice.

Will you join us?



“Ever since I encountered Orangutans in the jungles of North Sumatra in the 1990s, I have had a love for these wonderful intelligent primates. I am appalled at the loss of their jungle habitat. We need organisations like SOS to be there, on the ground, to rescue and fight for these animals, who do no harm other than live in forests that mankind has deemed must be torn down. The work that SOS does makes a huge difference, and I feel that every penny they spend is carefully considered and spent wisely. Therefore, when it came to making my will, I knew I wanted to leave them a legacy so they can continue to do their fantastic work. I urge you to do the same.”

Helen Bowen, Wisdom Circle member

Give the gift of life

Your will is the ultimate reflection of your values. It gives you the opportunity to provide for your loved ones and to create a forest legacy for future generations. When you make a gift to SOS, you are allowing us to join your family, and you become a part of ours.

As a member of your family, we make these commitments to you:

Good Stewards We will be good stewards of the funds you have entrusted to us. You (and the orangutans) deserve nothing less.

Respectful We will honour your wishes if you prefer to remain anonymous or want to designate your donation for a particular programme.

Forever Grateful We will never forget how much we are indebted to you and the commitment you have shown to helping protect orangutans and forests for future generations.

There are three types of bequest you may want to consider for making a gift to protect orangutans and their rainforest home forever:

1

To leave a particular amount to support orangutans, name Sumatran Orangutan Society as the beneficiary of a specific amount or percentage of your estate.

2

To leave Sumatran Orangutan Society what's left after loved ones are provided for, use a residuary bequest.

3

To leave specific assets, for example all your shares or your house, you will need to specify this in your will.

Hope for the future

We are making great strides towards realising our goal of wild orangutans thriving in safe forests. Together we have achieved a great deal. Deforestation rates are dropping, and we are reclaiming and restoring land previously lost to the palm oil industry – turning back the clock on forest loss. We are seeing more prosecutions for wildlife crimes, and damaging infrastructure projects being cancelled due to their impact on the natural world.

There is so much worth fighting to save. SOS will continue protecting the forest and the orangutans for as long as we are needed, but we need your help. Can you give them a future? Leaving a gift in your will is a way of leaving a lasting legacy to ensure that orangutans are living safe in the wild for generations to come.

Thank you

Important Details:

The Sumatran Orangutan Society (SOS) is a registered Charity in England & Wales. You should quote our registered Charity No. 1158711 in your will.

Any gift you leave to secure the future of orangutans will be in safe hands. We are a well-established charity with stable finances and solid governance. Our experienced board of independent trustees oversee our work and ensure that we remain true to our mission and deliver the greatest impact we possibly can. Our projects represent excellent value for money. If you wish to examine our latest accounts, you can do so by visiting The UK Charity Commission website and searching for SOS by charity number 1158711.

Please do let us know if you are planning to leave a gift in your will to SOS. This information will be treated as confidential, but we always love hearing from you and what first inspired you to love orangutans - wisdomcircle@orangutans-sos.org



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Registered Charity Number 1158711

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