


THE LONG CALL

2025 EDITION

SÖS Sumatran
Orangutan
Society

An orangutan with long, reddish-brown fur is hanging from a thin tree branch. The orangutan's body is suspended, with its arms and legs gripping the branch. The background is a dense, vibrant green forest with many leaves visible. A semi-transparent orange speech bubble is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image, containing text.

An orangutan's long call is a series of loud, extended shouts that orangutans use to communicate with each other. We haven't perfected the art of the long call at SOS however we thought it was the perfect name for our communication with you.

What do you think?

Let us know at info@orangutans-sos.org

Photos: Zac Mills, Juang Solala Laiya,
Suzi Eszterhas, TaHuKah and
PETA

Design: Georgie Wishart Creative

If you would like to update your communication preferences with us, please email info@orangutans-sos.org or call 01235 530825.

DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,



At the Sumatran Orangutan Society, protecting wild orangutans, their forests, and their future is at the heart of everything we do.

This year, that mission has come to life in extraordinary ways — and as you read the following pages, I hope you feel proud of what we've achieved together.

With only around 14,000 Sumatran orangutans and fewer than 800 Tapanuli orangutans left in the wild, these Critically Endangered great apes face persistent pressure from habitat loss and fragmentation. Lasting solutions involve working hand in hand with the people who live alongside these forests, supporting locally led conservation that balances the needs of nature and communities.

Our work focuses on places where conservation and community meet. In West Toba, home to over 750 Sumatran orangutans, and in Batang Toru, the only habitat of the rare Tapanuli orangutan, we're helping protect and connect forests alive with incredible wildlife — from tigers and gibbons to hornbills and sun bears.

These landscapes are globally important: rich in biodiversity, vital for climate stability, and interwoven with the lives of local people. This year, our restoration footprint expanded through a new rewilding initiative in Tenggulun, a degraded area within Gunung Leuser National Park. With our partners, we're laying the groundwork for the return of

life to this forest, creating space once again for orangutans and other wildlife to roam.

For over two decades, SOS has been community-centred, backing and learning from extraordinary frontline partners in Indonesia who build trust, strengthen local leadership, and create lasting conservation solutions. Their work shows that protecting orangutans and supporting communities are not competing goals, but two sides of the same story.

None of this progress would be possible without you. Your countless acts of generosity and encouragement help keep forests standing and orangutans safe.

Looking ahead, I feel an immense sense of hope. Together, we're proving that conservation rooted in collaboration, curiosity, and compassion can truly change the future — for a wilder, healthier world.

With heartfelt thanks,



Helen Buckland
Chief Executive
Sumatran Orangutan Society

Our mission is to protect wild orangutans, their forests, and their futures.

We work alongside our frontline partner Tangguh Hutan Khatulistiwa / Equatorial Forest Resilience Foundation (TaHuKah) in Sumatra, Indonesia – the world's sixth-largest island. Sumatra is a place of extraordinary natural beauty, with tropical rainforests, active volcanoes, crater lakes, and rugged mountain ranges.

It is also the only place on Earth where both the Sumatran and Tapanuli orangutans are found in the wild. Both species are classified as critically endangered, making the protection of their remaining habitat more urgent than ever.

Our work focuses on two key landscapes in North Sumatra: West Toba and Batang Toru – areas that are vital for the survival of these great apes and the incredible biodiversity they live alongside.

WEST TOBA

The West Toba landscape is made of over 110,000 hectares of lush rainforest. The area is home to around 750 Sumatran orangutans and so much more incredible biodiversity. The northernmost part of West Toba is designated as a Key Biodiversity Area, a globally recognised site of significant biodiversity importance.

Both the pace and the pattern of forest loss in West Toba could lead to connectivity in the landscape being severed, trapping orangutans and other rare species in shrinking islands of forest too small to sustain them.

We must keep West Toba's forests connected so that orangutans and other primates can move across the whole landscape.

BATANG TORU

In late 2017, the Tapanuli orangutan (*Pongo tapanuliensis*) was described as a new species by scientists. With fewer than 800 individuals remaining in several sub-populations, it is not only the least numerous of all great ape species, but probably the most threatened as well.

Tapanuli orangutans are mostly found in the Batang Toru ecosystem in the Tapanuli highlands of North Sumatra. They make the protection of this landscape a global conservation priority.



NORTHERN SUMATRA, INDONESIA



WORKING IN WEST TOBA



FOREST MONITORING

Remote sensing monitoring continues to play an important role in detecting potential forest loss in North Sumatra. TaHuKah analyses recent satellite imagery for forest loss regularly and follows up with deploying drones and ground checks when necessary to confirm any forest loss or illegal activity. The data is shared with the government's forest management units, ensuring close collaboration and a rapid response to protect the landscape.



DRONE MAPPING

Our frontline partner, TaHuKah, are mapping key areas of the landscapes using drones, helping the team to monitor forest changes quickly and accurately. Using drones is far more efficient than traditional ground surveys, as it allows large areas to be covered in less time and with fewer resources. This technology also provides high-resolution images that make it easier to spot changes in tree cover, identify potential threats such as illegal logging, and plan effective conservation actions.

BIODIVERSITY

To learn more about wildlife populations and how they move through the landscape, the team has installed camera traps south of the Lae Ordi Corridor. These help build a clearer picture of how animals use the area and how well habitats remain connected. Excitingly, a female orangutan with twins was spotted in the Lae Kombi forest corridor - a rare sight. During another site assessment, a tiger's growl was heard, showing that the area continues to support globally threatened species and remains a vital part of the region's ecosystem.





Photo by Suzi Eszterhas

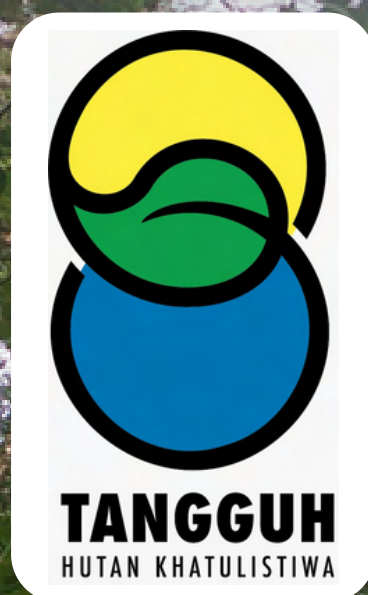
NEW SURVEYS

Fresh biodiversity surveys in potential social forestry areas have revealed footage of several globally threatened species. These include the golden cat and the sun bear (both classed as vulnerable) and the helmeted hornbill which is listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List. The presence of these rare animals underlines the global importance of protecting these forests and the need for continued research and community-led conservation efforts.

SOCIAL FORESTRY

A major milestone has been achieved with the establishment of the Sibagindar Village Forest, covering 600 hectares. The boundaries of this area have been clearly marked, and a sustainable management plan has been developed with the local community.

Social forestry gives local people the legal right to manage and benefit from their forests responsibly, ensuring that conservation goes hand-in-hand with community wellbeing. By involving residents directly, it strengthens local stewardship and long-term forest protection.



BATANG TORU

LAND TENURE AND MAPPING

TaHuKah is conducting participatory mapping in areas critical for orangutan conservation. This work is helping to clarify land ownership, reduce disputes, and strengthen community rights over ancestral forest resources.

The process is complex: steep terrain makes it difficult to identify exact boundaries, and some claims do not fully align with mapping results, meaning further negotiation with neighbouring communities is needed. Steps in securing land tenure include gathering historical and anthropological data, mapping land boundaries, monitoring forest cover, and tracking changes over time using satellite data.

TaHuKah's work also involves neighbouring communities to discuss overlapping claims and resolve conflicts before confirming boundaries through ground-truthing. Ground-truthing means checking information gathered from maps, drones, or satellites by visiting the site with community representatives. It's a way to make sure that what appears on a map matches the real-world conditions on the ground.

Although this process is time-consuming, this careful approach ensures fairness and long-term security for both people and wildlife.

COMMUNITY PATROLS

After having been mapped, local communities are taking an active role in protecting their ancestral forests from illegal logging and encroachment by participating in community patrols.

In addition, local communities are also installing boundary markers on their land, strengthening local ownership and forest protection. Community members work alongside TaHuKah staff members in patrolling and protecting their forests, demonstrating strong collaboration and shared responsibility. Building on this success, more local people will be trained and equipped to join future patrols, ensuring community-led conservation continues to grow.

On the Frontlines of Orangutan Protection:

MEET KRISNA KETAPEL

Krisna has been on the frontline of orangutan conservation for over 15 years, responding to urgent calls from communities bordering orangutan habitat as part of the Orangutan Information Centre (OIC) team – our frontline partners.

Krisna and the Human Orangutan Conflict Response Unit (HOCRU) team tackle the fundamental drivers of human-orangutan conflict, by equipping local people with the knowledge and skills needed to build a peaceful coexistence.

We are thrilled to support Krisna in the next steps of his career, by funding a scholarship for the Durrell Endangered Species Management Graduate Certificate (DESMAN).



Hi Krisna! Can you tell us about yourself and your pathway into conservation?

I started my career at the Orangutan Information Centre in 2008, during a OIC restoration project in my village, Halaban. I started as a volunteer and then joined the HOCRU when it formed in 2010.

In 2022, I was entrusted with managing the HOCRU programme, covering Leuser and Batang Toru, helping the government and communities to minimise the negative impacts of human-orangutan conflict.

I started my career from the bottom and learned from people and experiences. It's been challenging spending so much time in the field; I've had little time with my wife and children. But thankfully, I receive full support from my loved ones. I am proud as a local community member to contribute to saving orangutans.

What were your hopes and ambitions for the DESMAN course? Do you have any memorable moments?

I took the DESMAN course to learn the theory and practice of endangered species recovery, and to be trained in management, facilitation and leadership. I hope to use the course to enhance my conservation management skills, and therefore the impact we can have in safeguarding orangutans and their ecosystems.

During the course we covered everything from wildlife translocation, breeding programmes, measuring and analysing conservation success, to a practical field

experience at the orangutan enclosure at Jersey Zoo.

Did the course change your perspective on any specific conservation issues or approaches? If so, how?

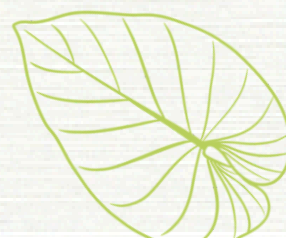
Yes, the course significantly changed my perspective on the wildlife translocation of wild animals, especially orangutans. I've used the teaching to draft a new project proposal, which has the potential to become a model for orangutan rescue and translocation.

What can people do to support orangutan conservation?

Orangutans need urgent attention from all corners of the world. Currently, the biggest challenges faced by orangutans is human-orangutan conflict and the conversion of forest into agricultural land. We need alternative conservation approaches – like those adopted by SOS and OIC – to build a harmonious existence between people and wildlife.

What does the future hold for you and the orangutan rescue team?

I will adapt what I've learned to advance the HOCRU team. We will conduct extensive education within communities and schools, to help build conflict-independent villages and continue to monitor orangutans in conflict-prone villages. Thank you Sumatran Orangutan Society for supporting HOCRU for the past 15 years.



NEW REWILDING PARTNERSHIP TO RESTORE RAINFORESTS IN NORTH SUMATRA

We're thrilled to announce a brand-new strategic rewilding partnership with Yayasan Pesona Tropis Alam Indonesia (PETAI), a local NGO based in Medan, North Sumatra. This collaboration marks a significant step forward in our mission to protect and rewild the vital rainforests of North Sumatra.

Why the Leuser Ecosystem is So Crucial

The rainforests of North Sumatra are a vital habitat for orangutans and an incredible reservoir of biodiversity. Sumatra is the only place on Earth where wild orangutans, tigers, rhinos, and elephants coexist. Beyond these iconic species, Sumatra's rainforests are home to thousands of plant species, including the world's tallest and largest flowers, and a rich array of other mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians.

One crucial area in North Sumatra is Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP) – a UNESCO World Heritage site and protected area. However, over 990 hectares of forest have been lost in the North-East area of GLNP to small-scale oil palm plantations. This land is barren and uninhabitable by wildlife.

OUR REWILDING JOURNEY BEGINS!

The good news is that PETAI has been granted permission from the Indonesian authorities to develop and manage the long-term rewilding of this degraded area. Funded by SOS, PETAI will initially focus on 100 hectares of land – rewilding and restoring connectivity in the region for wild orangutans and countless other species. The new partnership will use a multi-faceted approach to rewilding, including:

Habitat restoration:

Rewilding of degraded areas using a range of native tree species to re-establish forest corridors and increase food sources for orangutans. The programme will use a combination of natural regeneration and active planting.

Community engagement:

Through a community-centred approach to conservation, PETAI will train local communities in tree nursery management, rewilding, and monitoring to help ensure the long-term success of this restoration project.

Aerial view of the restoration area in Tenggulun



Research and monitoring:

Using drones and satellite mapping to develop a precise picture of the degraded zones and define which areas are suited to different restoration techniques.

Ethnographic research:

Anthropologists are involved from the outset of the programme to understand the social and cultural context of the area and help develop solutions that benefit both people and nature.

“By combining our expertise with the invaluable local knowledge and dedication of PETAI, we are confident that we can make a lasting impact for both wild orangutans and forest-edge communities.”

HELEN BUCKLAND

CEO, SUMATRAN ORANGUTAN SOCIETY



The restoration cabin



Preparing the nursery



The completed nursery

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

“We are incredibly excited to embark on this rewilding journey with our new partners in Sumatra,” said our CEO, Helen Buckland “The current rewilding programmes pioneered by SOS and our frontline partners have proven how barren land can be transformed into a thriving ecosystem in just a few short years. We are thrilled to take this knowledge and apply it to such a critical area in the Leuser Ecosystem.”

She also highlighted the incredible importance of this work:

“The biodiversity in this region is unparalleled and, as a keystone species, the protection of orangutans is a global conservation priority. This reclaimed land will give wild orangutans more space to roam, feed, breed and ultimately to thrive. By combining our expertise with the invaluable local knowledge and dedication of PETAI, we are confident that we can make a lasting impact for both wild orangutans and forest-edge communities.”



MEET OUR NEW PARTNERS

Masrizal Saraan, Executive Director of PETAI, explains: “Forest restoration is not just about planting trees. This is a story about how people and nature can reconnect. We make sure the local community is at the heart of our rewilding programme. Before carrying out restoration, we hosted an outreach session with local villages, which

was warmly received by community leaders and residents. Now, our aim is to create meaningful livelihoods in the community while ensuring that the forest is restored using locally-sourced species.”

“Forest restoration is not just about planting trees. This is a story about how people and nature can reconnect.”

MASRIZAL SARAAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PETAI



Masrizal emphasized their commitment to science: “In addition to our community-centred approach, our rewilding programme is based on data and scientific research. From vegetation analysis to land cover mapping with drones, this data helps us understand forest conditions in more detail. Our initial biodiversity surveys have documented 46 species in this area, including siamangs, gibbons, leopard cats, sun bears, and wreathed hornbills.”

“This confirms the critical ecological value of the site and reaffirms our commitment to its long-term recovery. Through the collaboration of social and scientific approaches, the support from SOS, and the genuine enthusiasm of local people to protect the forest, we believe that this restoration effort will improve the ecosystem and strengthen the relationship between humans and nature.”

FIRST STEPS


With approval to begin restoration, it was important to establish restoration facilities which would provide crucial infrastructure for field activities. PETAI soon completed the construction of a fully equipped restoration cabin, providing a central hub of operations.

It is self-sufficient, powered by solar panels and a generator.

Next was the development of the tree nursery. The nursery successfully produced 50,000 seedlings by August, achieving over half of the initial 90,000 seedling target and establishing a robust supply for future restoration. Seedling production prioritised native, ecologically valuable tree species collected directly from the surrounding forest, ensuring the planting stock is suitable for local ecosystem restoration. The nursery is equipped with shaded beds to regulate light intensity and a sprinkler system to ensure consistent watering both of which help to ensure high-quality planting stock.

PETAI reaffirmed its commitment to communities by directly involving local men and women in planting activities. Villagers were trained to prepare polybags and plant naturally sourced seedlings collected from the local forest, which increases restoration success and supports local biodiversity.

We are excited to see such great progress in our first year working together and look forward to sharing the impact PETAI are making.



BUSINESSES FOR THE WILD

FAITH IN NATURE SHOWS WHAT'S POSSIBLE

When it comes to protecting the planet, few brands live and breathe their values quite like Faith in Nature. Famous for their sustainable, cruelty-free hair and body care, the company made headlines when they appointed 'Nature' to their Board of Directors, giving the natural world a literal voice in their decision-making. Now, they've taken that commitment one step further by joining the SOS Rewild Fund, helping us protect and restore the rainforests that Sumatran orangutans call home.

Faith in Nature's partnership is part of a growing movement of businesses that want to do more than just offset their impact. They want to regenerate the world we all depend on. Through the Rewild Fund, their support is helping us plant and care for trees, restore degraded land, and reconnect vital wildlife habitats in northern Sumatra.

But this partnership isn't just about trees.

It's about people and planet working together. The Rewild Fund supports long-term rewilding that benefits local communities, from providing sustainable livelihoods to restoring the ecosystems that support clean air, fresh water, and biodiversity.

"Faith in Nature shows that when businesses lead with purpose, forests flourish and communities thrive. Their support through the Rewild Fund is helping us restore vital orangutan habitat and strengthen the connection between people and the natural world. It's a partnership rooted in shared values, and that caring for nature isn't just good for the planet, it's good for all of us." Emma Cowley, Partnerships Manager, Sumatran Orangutan Society



As one of our first Pioneer members, Faith in Nature is helping to shape what the Rewild Fund stands for: a future where every business can be a force for good. Together, we're showing that when we give nature a seat at the table, everyone wins.

We're now looking for more businesses to join the Rewild Fund and grow this impact even further. Each company that joins helps us expand our rewilding sites, create wildlife corridors, and protect orangutan habitats, all while showing what responsible leadership looks like in action.



So, we'd love your help.

- 🌿 Does your workplace have a sustainability programme or charitable giving scheme?
- 🌿 Do you know a business that shares our values and could help us rewild Sumatra?

You can find out more about the Rewild Fund and how your business can get involved at orangutans-sos.org/rewild

Together, we can make sure orangutans have a wild future, and that nature always has a voice.

HIGH ABOVE THE RAINFOREST CANOPY

Sawpod's trip to Sumatra



High in the rainforest canopy of northern Sumatra, a small team of conservationists now move with ease. They are checking camera traps, maintaining canopy bridges, and ensuring safe passage for orangutans between fragmented forest patches. This newfound confidence is thanks in no small part to Sawpod, whose support has been truly transformative.

Earlier this year, our partners TaHuKah took part in an intensive canopy training programme delivered by Sawpod's expert instructors. The training focused on safe climbing techniques, rope systems, and practical skills for working high above the ground. These skills are essential for installing and maintaining canopy bridges that reconnect isolated orangutan populations.



For many of the TaHuKah team, this was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Before the training, much of the specialist work needed external support. Now, these local conservationists are fully equipped to handle canopy work themselves, making our conservation efforts more sustainable and self-sufficient in the long term.

The results have been immediate. Since the training, the team has installed new canopy

bridges in key areas and carried out regular maintenance on existing ones, ensuring orangutans can move safely across the forest. They've also been able to access and manage camera traps more efficiently, gathering crucial data on wildlife activity, including sightings of orangutans and gibbons.

This progress wouldn't have been possible without Sawpod's support.

Their partnership has empowered the TaHuKah team, built vital local capacity, and strengthened our ability to protect Sumatra's forests from within.

We're incredibly grateful to Sawpod for sharing their expertise and passion for conservation, and for helping us take this huge leap forward – quite literally – in our canopy work.

Because of their training, the forests of Sumatra are now being monitored and maintained by the people who know them best. And that means more connected forests, safer wildlife, and a stronger future for the orangutans we're all working to protect.



FALLING IN LOVE WITH ORANGUTANS ALL OVER AGAIN

**A blog from Zac Mills, wildlife
photographer and SOS Ambassador**



I've just returned home from Sumatra, and already, I find myself missing the rainforest. Each time I go back, I fall even more in love with orangutans. There's something profoundly humbling - almost spiritual - about spending time with these incredible great apes in the wild. The more I learn about them, the more I'm struck by how much we share.

It's not just their familiar hands, their thoughtful expressions, or the quiet intelligence in their eyes - it's the way they move through the forest with calm intention, the tenderness between a mother and her baby, the unspoken stories in their solitude, and the occasional flashes of drama. Being in their presence isn't just a wildlife sighting - it's an experience that stirs something deep inside you.

This most recent journey was full of unforgettable moments. We had the immense privilege of seeing a dominant male orangutan almost every other day. He hadn't been spotted in four or five months before

our arrival, so to cross paths with him again and again felt like the forest offering us a gift. We also encountered several orangutan mothers and babies, each at different stages of life - including one very tiny baby.

Seeing a baby orangutan in the wild, knowing she'll spend the next eight years learning from her mother, fills me with awe and hope. It's a reminder of just how crucial long-term protection of these forests is - for mothers to teach, for babies to grow, and for generations of orangutans to thrive.

And it wasn't just orangutans. The forest shared so many of its wonders - encounters with other primates, the deafening chorus of cicadas pulsing through the trees, and even the rare thrill of finding fresh sun bear claw marks climbing up a tree. Each day felt like peeling back another layer of the rainforest's mystery, as if it was slowly letting us in.



I also had the privilege of spending time with the incredible team behind TaHuKah, the Sumatran Orangutan Society's frontline partners. Their dedication and impact are nothing short of inspiring. They are the quiet heroes working every day to protect orangutans and restore the rainforest they call home. Your support helps make their work possible.

After more than 12 years of photographing wild orangutans, I find myself more excited to return each time. In 2026, I'll be spending a full month in Sumatra, fully immersed in the world of wild orangutans. I can't wait to share the magic with you.

If seeing wild orangutans has ever been a dream of yours, I can say with absolute conviction: this is one of the most powerful and transformative wildlife experiences on Earth. Sumatra will change you in ways you don't expect. It certainly changed me - and continues to, every single time.

Thank you—to everyone who supports this rainforest, its people, and the remarkable creatures who live there.

Your contributions are helping keep this magic alive for generations to come.



RUNNING FOR THE RAINFOREST

We are always blown away when someone wants to take on a challenge to support us and 2025 was no different.

More supporters than ever chose to take on a running event to protect wild orangutans and their rainforest homes.

Collectively, they raised almost £26,000 to support our work.

This is an incredible achievement – thank you so much!

**WE CAN'T WAIT TO
SEE WHAT YOU GET
UP TO IN 2026!**





CAMPFIRE TALES



Meet the Young People Protecting Sumatra's Orangutans

Written by Juang Solala Laiya

The fire burned in the backyard of the TaHuKah basecamp in the small town of Salak, North Sumatra. This wasn't the deep forest; it was a scattering of houses and quiet roads whose sounds we could still faintly hear in the distance.

The smoke of damp wood mingled with the scent of wet soil left by the afternoon rain, filling the air around the fire. In the glow of the flames, young faces - tired yet alight with energy gathered: the biodiversity team, young anthropologists, village facilitators, and local residents.

As the flame burned on, we began sharing stories, ranging from lighthearted campfire tales to the deeply personal commitments that drive each member of TaHuKah. It was there that I began chatting to Dhandi and Dimas, old friends who pioneered the biodiversity team.





MEET DHANDI

Dhandi was born and raised in Jakarta, a city teenager who spent his high school years swept up in the usual mischief - hanging out, picking small fights, and coming home with a throbbing head and an empty heart.

“I didn’t know what I wanted to be,” he said, half-laughing, as if mocking his younger self. He never had a clear dream, let alone imagined being involved in conservation.

That changed the day he overheard schoolmates talking about the National University’s Faculty of Biology. The picture they painted—a life intertwined with the forest and filled with outdoor adventure - ignited a deep passion in Dhandi.

From then on, his direction shifted. Dhandi enrolled in the course and, after many years of hard work, majored in conservation. It was during his time at university that he met Dimas. They didn’t know it yet, but together, they would become the backbone of TaHuKah’s biodiversity team.



MEET DIMAS

Dimas’s path was more gradual. Since high school, he’d always enjoyed science. “But not math,” he added with a small smile, prompting laughter from the group. That was why he chose Biology at the National University.

For Dimas, conservation didn’t arrive as a grand passion, but something that grew slowly: from curiosity, to habit, to a way of life.

After graduation, both Dhandi and Dimas were drawn to the Primate Research Center, and it was there that they found a new professional home. Over time, the pair came to know the forest intimately.

They trekked across Kalimantan and Sumatra, with mud clinging to their shoes and the chorus of primate calls as their morning alarm. These early days were long and difficult, and although their bodies were drained, their spirit was lifted.



THE REALITY OF THE FIELD

From the outside, conservation often looks heroic: young people in helmets, glossy reports, posters full of slogans. Up close, however, it is far more fragile and human. It is weary bodies, damp sleeping bags, quarrels over dish duty, and the longing for home where the signal doesn't always reach.

For the TaHuKah biodiversity team, most of their time is spent in the field: patrolling for hours under the canopy, checking camera traps, tracking faint footprints, and listening for primates calling across valleys.



On these patrols, Dhandi and Dimas work alongside government rangers, recording fallen trees, landslides, and rivers that change course or run dry. They work in remote locations with extremely challenging terrain. Sometimes, supplies run out too quickly, forcing them to endure days on empty stomachs. This work is inherently dangerous; a bear's claw marks can reveal how close danger had come, and tiger rumours can make the nights tense.

Yet the greatest threat they face comes not from wildlife, but from people. Given the complicated history between conservation groups and forest-edge communities, many villagers eye TaHuKah with suspicion. Rumours spread that they released crop-raiding monkeys, or even venomous cobras. Baseless tales, but enough to make their steps in the village heavy.



RETURNING TO BASECAMP

When it's time to return from the forest, back to basecamp in Salak, they settle into a co-living space. This is an environment of shared meals, shared sleeping quarters with little privacy, shared bathrooms, and shared jokes. For some, this constant proximity felt suffocating. Yet beneath it all, a family grew.

Dhandi called it “a home I never expected.” Dimas nodded, adding that basecamp had taught him patience, because everything, from washing dishes to lighting the stove, had to be managed together.

THE ULTIMATE DREAM

In conservation, ambitions often sound grand: saving species, protecting ecosystems, fighting climate change. But when I asked Dimas what he imagined for himself five years from now, he answered without hesitation: “I want a family.”

The group chuckled, but the laughter was warm, not mocking. Dimas had spoken with a sincerity rarely heard in young people's conversations about the future. In that moment, he reminded each of us of a profound truth: a



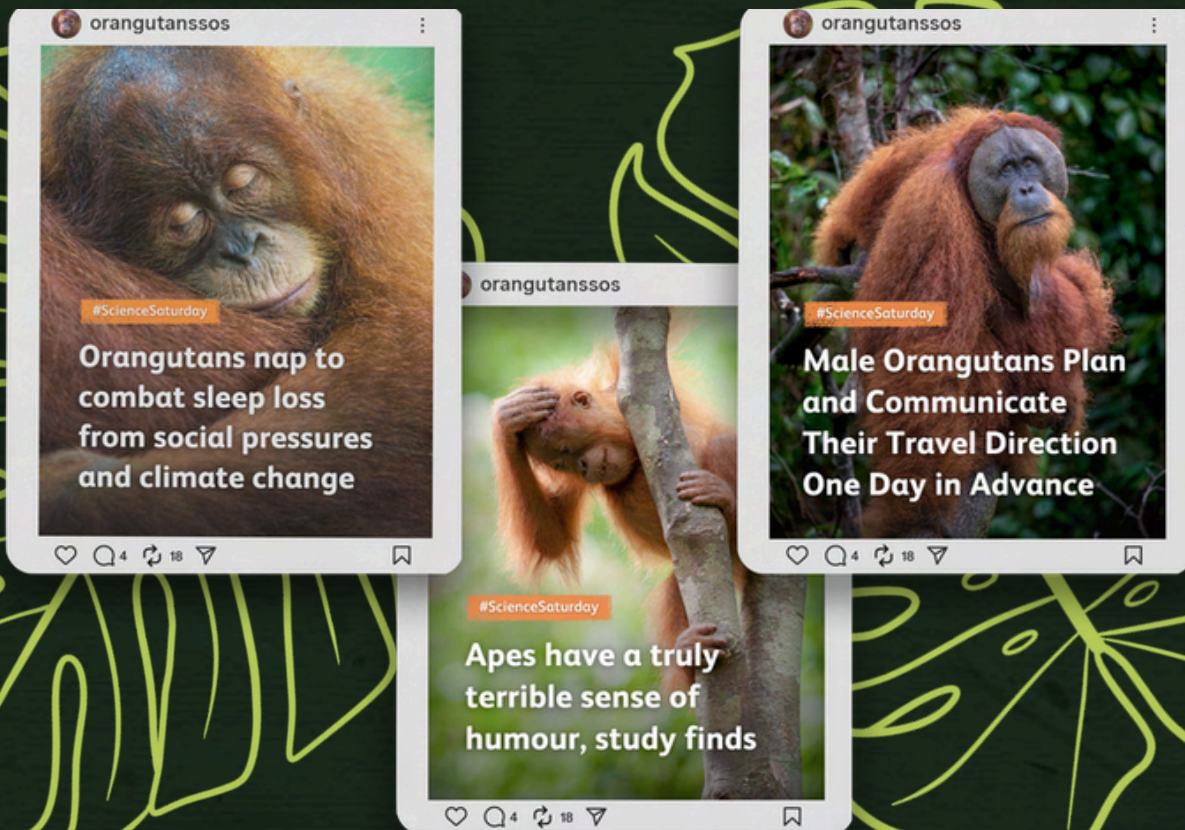
universal desire to belong and have a place to call home.

And that is the crux of it: these young people sacrifice closeness to family, familiarity, and comfort for a challenging life in the forest. They do this because they recognise that just like us, orangutans need a place to call home. And if we do not protect their forest home, we will cease to have one too.

That night, the campfire circle felt like a knot tying a long journey together. Dhandi with his honest uncertainty, Dimas with his simple dream. Young anthropologists with their still-dusty field notes. And in amongst it all lies hope – young bodies, weary yet willing to stay, to work, and to dream on the forest's edge in West Toba.

SCIENCE SATURDAY BRINGS YOU CLOSER TO THE HIDDEN WORLD OF ORANGUTANS

Each week, on #ScienceSaturday, we share scientific breakthroughs that challenge our understanding of orangutans, conservation, and human evolution. Below are the top three stories that captivated our followers this year. Join the discussion! Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, or LinkedIn to discover new research every Saturday (@orangutanssos).



Our top story revealed that orangutans nap to combat sleep loss caused by social pressures and climate change. Researchers found that wild orangutans compensate for a poor night's sleep by increasing their naps the following day, by around 10 minutes for every hour of sleep lost.

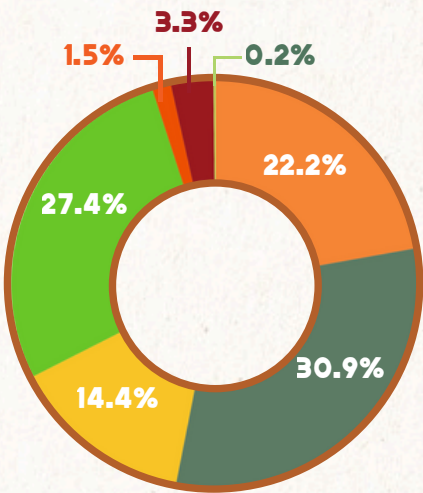
Coming in second were mischievous young apes who love to tease their elders! Great apes – from gorillas to orangutans – engage in playful teasing such as tickling, poking and body-

slamming to test social boundaries. Orangutans were also seen playfully yanking each other's long red locks – ouch!

Finally, rounding out our top three, we learned that male orangutans plan and communicate their travel one day in advance. The direction in which they emit their booming long call indicates their travel direction for the following day. This sophisticated planning and information sharing allows rival males to steer clear and interested females to stick close by.



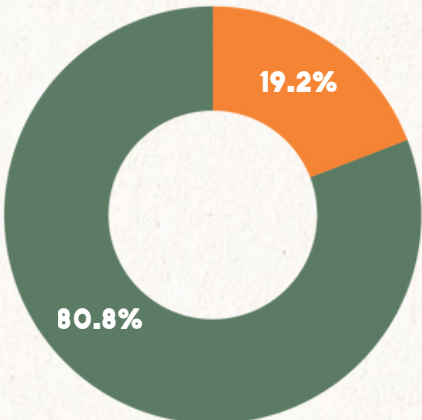
OUR FINANCIALS



TOTAL INCOME

£1,057,822

- Donations from individuals and legacies
£ 234,785
- Grants
£ 327,177
- Corporate
£152,495
- Charitable activities
£290,344
- Trading
£ 15,687
- Gifts in Kind
£ 35,379
- Investments and other income
£1,955



TOTAL EXPENDITURE

£940,883

- Cost of generating funds
£180,197
- Charitable expenditure
£760,686

For every £1 we spent on income generation in 2024-25, we raised £5.87.

THANK YOU

Our work simply wouldn't be possible without the generosity and belief of so many incredible supporters.

We're deeply grateful to our corporate partners, whose commitment helps us protect orangutans and empower local communities. Thank you to Edrington, Whole Earth, LUSH, Faith in Nature, Montzi Mountain Spirits, Bidu Bidu Books, Tentsile, Chococo, Bookwhen, Beautiful Cups, Infinity Wholefoods, Komodo, Sawpod, Super Petit, Discover Sumatra and Sprout Consulting.

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We're profoundly thankful to our major donors and other key supporters, whose extraordinary generosity continues to drive our mission forward. Thank you M. Young, R. Barker, P. Nicholls, C. Chalk, C. Swanson, J. Edge, V. Clarke, S. Walsh, C. MacDonald and T. Mobley.

We also extend our gratitude to our patrons, ambassadors and all-around cheerleaders Brian Blessed, Zac Mills, Suzi Eszterhas, Dominic Monaghan and Ernest Zacharevic.

To everyone who spreads the word, donates, fundraises, buys a t-shirt, or gives their time as a volunteer – thank you. Every action, big or small, makes a difference. Together, we're helping orangutans thrive in the wild once more.

And finally, to Martin Leverton and Kai Watson-Meyers - your spirit will live on in the forests you so dearly loved.





**“ The responsibility we have...
we are guardians of this planet.
That's why I support SOS.
They give me hope.”**

Brian Blessed

SOS Patron

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