

A photograph of two orangutans on a tree trunk. One orangutan is on the left, partially obscured, with its hand near its face. The other is on the right, looking towards the camera. The background is a dense forest with green leaves.

ANNUAL REPORT 2018





Contents

- 1** Message from the Chairman
- 2** Jantho Reintroduction: Uncovered Threats but also a Huge Success
- 4** Orangutan Haven: Construction Progress and Capacity Building of The Management Team
- 6** Quarantine and Rehabilitation Station: 15 New Ex-captive Orangutan Intakes
- 8** Biodiversity Monitoring Unit: Long-term data analysis for orangutan habitat protection in Sumatra
- 10** Batang Toru Project: Long-term protection for the Batang Toru Ecosystem
- 12** PPLH Bohorok: ICS Training for Organic Farmers
- 14** Board of Management
- 15** Supporters 2018

Message from the Chairman

Over the last years we have experienced a number of challenges in conducting our various conservation initiatives, however we've also had a number of great successes, which in achieving great results for the people and wildlife of Sumatra, inspires us at YEL to keep pushing forward.

In 2018 YEL was more active than ever with community empowerment, through Orang Utan Coffee, Ecolodge Bukit Lawang, and one of our most innovative and ambitious projects to date, the Orangutan Haven. These all work not only to support biodiversity conservation but also to provide economic development for local people to be able to thrive, providing an elegant solution in a creating a sustainable future for our shared planet.

YEL is fully committed to seeking solutions to the problems affecting our global environment, and this past year we have been very engaged in evaluating our own internal management structure and working to sharpen strategies to achieve greater and greater impacts. This is because we feel it is important to reassess even our own long-tested ways of thinking, to make sure our methods remain in line with the ever-changing world that is becoming even more connected and subject to development pressures. Of course, we are happy to say that this also means there are more opportunities for further conservation achievements!

As a global community, transforming our habits of unsustainable development and the conservation of nature is the basis for maintaining a stable future. Thankfully more of us are coming to this realization, including amongst the private sector, philanthropists and civil society. Therefore, YEL is very proud and excited to play our part in the modern environmental movement - because, together we can!



Sustainable Ecosystem Foundation
Dr. Sofyan Tan
Chairman

JANTHO REINTRODUCTION CENTRE

Creating new wild populations

Uncovered Threats but also a Huge Success



Ayu Ting Ting, who was first released at Jantho in 2012. The monitoring staff were very happy to see her doing very well. (Ivan)

After 2017's great news of the first recorded wild births in the new and growing orangutan population at Jantho, in 2018 in addition to routine post-release monitoring of the population we carried out a distribution survey across the entire Jantho Nature Reserve. This was done to assess how far the orangutans had dispersed across the expansive forest area, and measure how the new population was growing.

The distribution survey was carried out by two biodiversity monitoring teams, camping out in the forest each night as they were tasked with traversing the entirety of the massive nature reserve. The teams trekked across a total 1,108 kilometers of the densely forest rolling hills

of Jantho, encountering not just reintroduced orangutans from our programme (for instance, Ayu Ting Ting, who was first released at Jantho in 2012, who everyone was very happy to see doing very well, living far from the staff base camp) but also many other species. The team encountered groups of elephants, gibbons, langurs, and even tiger footprints, as well as flora, such as the majestic rafflesia and many species of orchids.

Unfortunately, in addition to wildlife, the surveys also uncovered threats to the animals and habitat, with encounters with illegal hunters, snares and instances of burning the landscape. All such cases were reported to the authorities, but again this is further evidence



SOCP - Jantho Staff conducting post-release monitoring of the population (Tabuna)

of the need for increased protection measures and conservation action.

All told the 2018 surveys show that the new orangutan population, with 113 individuals released from the programme's inception in 2011 until now, is dispersing across the entirety of the Jantho landscape. The results indicate that the reintroduced orangutans from our Quarantine and Rehabilitation Station are flourishing

in their new forest home. Although there is still much to be done towards the long-term conservation of the Sumatran orangutan, we are extremely satisfied with the progress seen at Jantho, very proud of our staff for all their hard, tireless work, and lastly, continually amazed at the resilience of orangutans - who if only given the chance, are always ready to seize the opportunity to thrive in the wild.

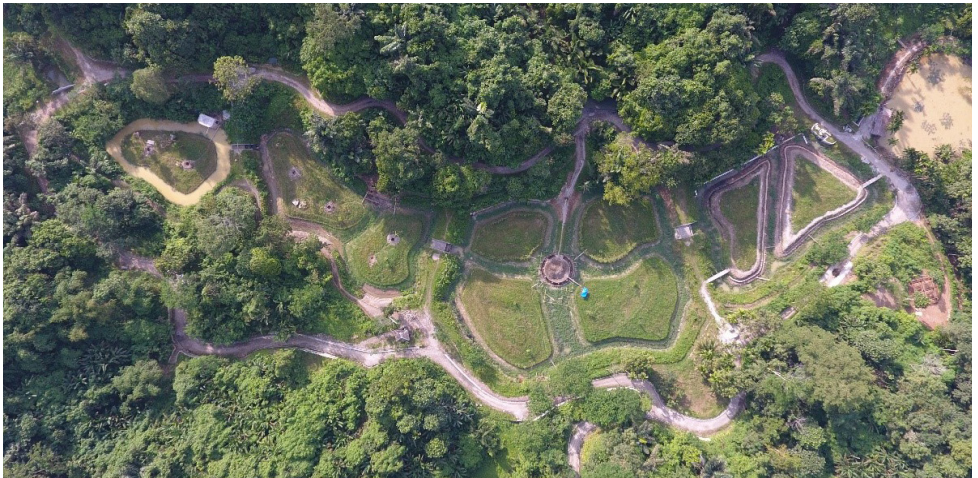


Ully who has just been released from the cage (middle), approaches Bulan (top left) and Lucky (bottom right) while looking for food (SOCP - Jantho Staff)

ORANGUTAN HAVEN

The 2018 Update

Construction Progress and Capacity Building of The Management Team



Aerial (UAV) image of the islands in December 2018 (Gilbert Murrey)

Throughout 2018, YEL has been focused on the formation of the nine islands that are to become the home of the six un-releaseable ex-captive orangutans under our care. For various reasons (e.g. blindness, chronic arthritis), these orangutans cannot be reintroduced to the wild, so the Haven is to become their new forever home to live out their days on peaceful, naturalistic islands situated at the bottom of a beautiful forested valley.

The orangutans at the Haven will serve as ambassadors for the plight of their Critically Endangered species, helping to tell the story of how they and so many others like them become displaced from the forests of Sumatra. Each island will be outfitted with shelters, enrichment devices to keep the orangutans

busy mentally and physically, and also all with access to separate, enclosed areas off of the islands, should they ever wish to have a private area of their own to relax in. As such we were very pleased this year when the construction team asked to become more involved in the design work for the islands, which we welcomed as it meant they could add their own creative processes to the mix. So, we can all now look forward to seeing some more 'local flair' infused in all the developments across the Orangutan Haven!

Apart from the islands we have also started work on other necessary, such as visitor walkways, fruit and vegetable storage, keeper depot, and the on-site veterinary clinic – all scheduled for completion by 2019. All facilities



The dam for the Micro Hydro Power Plant (Gilbert Murrer)

in the Orangutan Haven are being built in such a way that in addition to their function for operational support, the buildings themselves will also be an exhibit, in regard to their design and materials (predominantly sustainably sourced bamboo).

Already functional at the Haven, but planned for expansion, are the organic farming demonstration plots strewn across the site. Here visitors will be able to observe and learn from local farmers on how to tend to growing crops and the land, so this year we conducted a number of additional training sessions to prepare everyone. A good portion of these crops will ultimately be for the orangutan residents,

so we're hoping everyone will enjoy lending a bit of a hand and working on their own green thumbs!

We have also focused much on capacity building of our management team, including long-term YEL staff Mukhlisin and Ariesta, who attended the Animal and Management training at Jersey Zoo in the UK. This training provided for a better understanding of wildlife sanctuary management, so that we can provide each of the orangutans the best possible life, whilst also offering the visiting public a highly educational, informative experience for the good of biodiversity conservation in Sumatra and beyond.



The local farmer team during the organic certification process by LESOS at October 2018 (Gilbert Murrer)

QUARANTINE AND REHABILITATION STATION

Fresh new crowd in 2018

15 New Ex-captive Orangutan Intakes



Molika One of the new arrivals in 2018 (Arista)

Our Quarantine and Rehabilitation Station was also very busy in 2018, with in total 15 new ex-captive orangutan intakes, nine of which were estimated to be less than four years of age. This has made for increasingly crowded conditions, with more orangutans to house and also more for our keeper staff to have to look after, but as ever YEL and the SOCP are up to the task.

The process of caring for and rehabilitating

infants requires more resources than for older orangutans, as these individuals will all have been taken away from their mothers sooner, and therein also taken from the forests, their natural classrooms, that much earlier as well. Various additional facilities and human resources are needed then to support their needs, so that they too can grow and eventually become independent enough to be returned to a life in the wild, where they all belong.

The increasing number of orangutan infant intakes is alarming, not only because they require more time and energy, but very sadly because for each of them to come in, this equates to one orangutan mother having been killed. Orangutan mothers have an incredibly strong relationship with their babies, staying close together in the forest until they are 6 or 7 years old, so that offspring can how best to live in the forest, looking for food, moving across the tree canopy, and building nests. Since this is common knowledge and we know how close mothers are to their babies, we know that in order for these infants to be brought to our station, unfortunately this also means each one of their mothers was slaughtered, as they would never give them up.

Because they were orphaned, these infants have to learn all of the forest skills from the other orangutans at our station – with a little help too from the dedicated keeper staff. After



SOCP Vets drh. Yenny and drh. Meuthya doing pre-quarantine medical check up on a new arrival named **Laini** (Arista)

years of active and passive rehabilitation, and after an individual is deemed independent and adept at a life in the wild, the orangutan will be sent to one of two orangutan reintroduction centres we have across Sumatra.

at Jantho Nature Reserve. These orangutans are forming the basis of two new genetically viable populations, safeguarding the future of this Critically Endangered species. However, that we received 15 orangutans as new



Loading orangutans to transfer to Jantho (Suryadi)

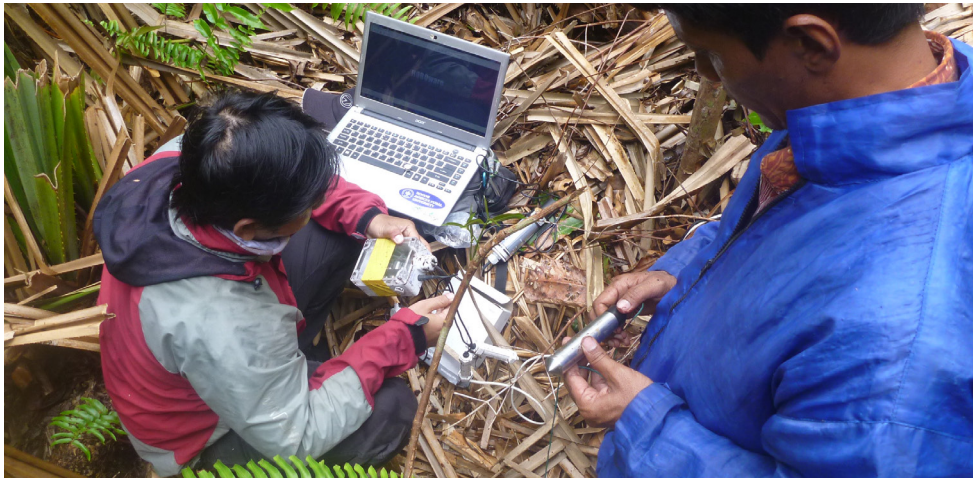
We are happy to report that in 2018, we reintroduced 15 orangutans from our station to these sites, six released at the orangutan reintroduction centre at Bukit Tigapuluh Jambi National Park and nine individuals released

intakes equates to the process starting anew, signaling the need for increased law enforcement and habitat protection to ensure that no orangutans are taken from their forest homes to begin with.

BIODIVERSITY MONITORING UNIT

Data to determine conservation strategies

Long-term data analysis for orangutan habitat protection in Sumatra



Climate data collection in the Tripa peat swamp area, Nagan Raya (Iwan Ikhtiar)

In 2018 our biodiversity monitoring activities were expanded to include forest cover activities, conducted both through remote sensing via global satellite imagery as well as site-specific drone flights. These data provide information about forest cover and perhaps more importantly, forest loss at both the large- and small- scale, enabling us to respond and develop bespoke conservation action plans specific to each region.

Furthermore, we documented six high density areas of forest loss for the year, consisting of the districts of Bener Meriah, East Aceh, and Central Aceh, the Alas River Valley / Kappi Plateau, Trumon Corridor, and the Tripa Peat Swamps – which unfortunately have often been in the news from around the world for

the amount of forest loss taking place here. These data have become important for NGOs and government offices in determining strategy to employ for conservation intervention across the Sumatran landscape.

Our Research and monitoring activities at the stations in Suaq Balimbing, Sikundur, Jantho and Batang Toru all remain extremely active. In 2018, there were 11 external researchers, hailing from Indonesia and also countries from throughout the world, working in our sites alongside our full-time field staff. Here they studied variety of research themes including: orangutan feeding behavior and nutrition, orangutan mother and offspring behavior and interaction, vegetation analysis and characteristics of orangutan nest trees, as well



Preparing drone flight for taking photos in The Tripa peat swamp (Iwan Iktara)

as looking into the ecology of other species such as the Critically Endangered Sumatran elephant. These long-term data collected by

or contributed to our team have also become an important source of knowledge in developing conservation strategies for the future of the orangutan and their habitat. Furthermore, in addition to routine data collection, our monitoring station have also become important for the protection of the forests from illegal activities. This is because through the daily operations of these stations, our field teams will sometimes come across illegal activities, such as hunters, wildlife snares, and forest encroachment, which will then be reported to the authorities. In total then these results can be used to map and determine the threats and actors responsible for continued forest loss, with this information being key to empowering the authorities to stop it.



Lidar data collecting for plant vegetation at The Suaq Balimbing research station (Iwan Iktara)

One interesting and always exciting finding from our monitoring stations this year was the identification of several more baby orangutans at Suaq Balimbing and Sikundur - one sure indicator of a healthy population living in rich, viable rainforest habitat. Of course, it also builds enthusiasm for the whole team to see this, and inspires hope for the world!

BATANG TORU PROJECT

Protection plan for the ecosystem

Long-term protection for the Batang Toru Ecosystem

After the discovery of a new orangutan species in late 2017, the Tapanuli orangutan, which has since been identified as the most endangered great ape species in the world, the forests of Tapanuli, North Sumatra, their only remaining habitat, has gone quickly become an area of global concern. 2018 has thus been a very busy year in Batang Toru, with many new activities related to ecosystem management in support of species and habitat protection.

With all of the increased attention, long-term data collection, which YEL began in 2006 with its 'Camp Mayang' research and monitoring station, has been ramped up so that even more is known about the species. One such interesting finding was the rare occurrence of twin baby orangutans born in the forests in May 2018, which with the help of the public were given the names Domu (Friendly) and Dame (Peace).



Bittang juvenile Tapanuli Orangutan (Maxime Aliaga)

In addition to orangutan behaviour and habitat monitoring, YEL has also been working to strengthen the management of the Batang Toru Ecosystem, in close collaboration with the Indonesian government's Forest Management Unit (KPH 11), the district Department of Environment and Forestry, and the national

Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Together with these and other stakeholders we have helped develop and refine the Long-Term Forest Management Plan for the Batang Toru Ecosystem (2018-2027). This is a very important document for the government in ensuring sustainable management of the forest that



Aerial views of the Batang Toru Ecosystem, Central Tapanuli, North Sumatra on August, 2018 (Nanang Sujana)

allows for a balance of development and conservation, satisfying both people and nature.

Towards this then YEL continues to be very active with the local communities in Tapanuli, with in addition to fostering sustainable development a number of education and awareness

activities conducted throughout the region. In 2018 we had a large focus on outreach at schools and churches located all around the Ecosystem, as the people living here are most affected by what happens in the forest, and they stand to gain much through its continued conservation!



One of the mid size Waterfall in Batang Toru (Maxime Aliaga)

PPLH BOHOROK

Be organic!

ICS Training for Organic Farmers



Participants are listening to the presentation on organic farming from an organic consultant, Ms. Yenni Lucia (Arif Hasibuan)

Our Bohorok Environmental Education Center (PPLH) was busy conducting various activities throughout the year, through formal and informal education approaches, focusing on organic agriculture and conserva-

tion education with local communities as well as domestic and international visitors.

We have worked to increase organic agriculture uptake in the region by assisting

farmer groups in Bukit Lawang with various forms of Internal Control System (ICS) training. ICS is a well-known international standard used as a reference in producing organic products, complete with all the procedures on technical aspects, guidelines, and standards that serve as the basis for organic certification. PPLH Bohorok assisted 15 farmer groups across three villages in 2018, namely: Timbang Lawan, Timbang Jaya, and Sampe Raya. All three successfully



Participants receive a certificate of participation in ICS training (Arif Hasibuan)



Participants are being trained to fill in various forms needed to qualify for organic certification (Arif Hasibuan)

received SNI (National Indonesia Standard) organic certification through the Seloliman Organic Certification Body (LeSOS). Apart from this certification process, we also assisted in growing the market demand, through promotion and also directly selling the farmers' produce in North Sumatra's capital city of Medan, the fifth-most populous city in Indonesia.

learn more about our work, technical learning on organic farming takes place at what we call the Ecofarm. Here one of our most popular learning tools are the demplots (demo plots) of organic agriculture, that since 2007 has been visited by thousands of people from all over the world – so, on that note, we look forward to greeting you soon!

At our local Center in Bohorok, where we always welcome visitors to come see us and



Workers at EFC are preparing land and harvesting (Arif Hasibuan)

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

BOARD OF FOUNDERS



Regina Frey



Ian Singleton



Sofyan Tan



Tracey Yani
Harjatanaya



Samuel Frey



Stefanie Frey

BOARD OF EXECUTIVE



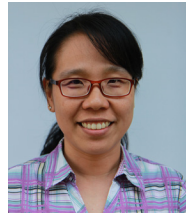
Sofyan Tan
Chairman



Diana Kosmanto
Secretary



Kusnadi
Deputy Secretary



Heli
Finance



Khairudin
PPLH Bohorok Coordinator



Burhanudin
Batang Toru Daily Manager



Citrakasih Nente
Rehabilitation & Re-
introduction Supervisor

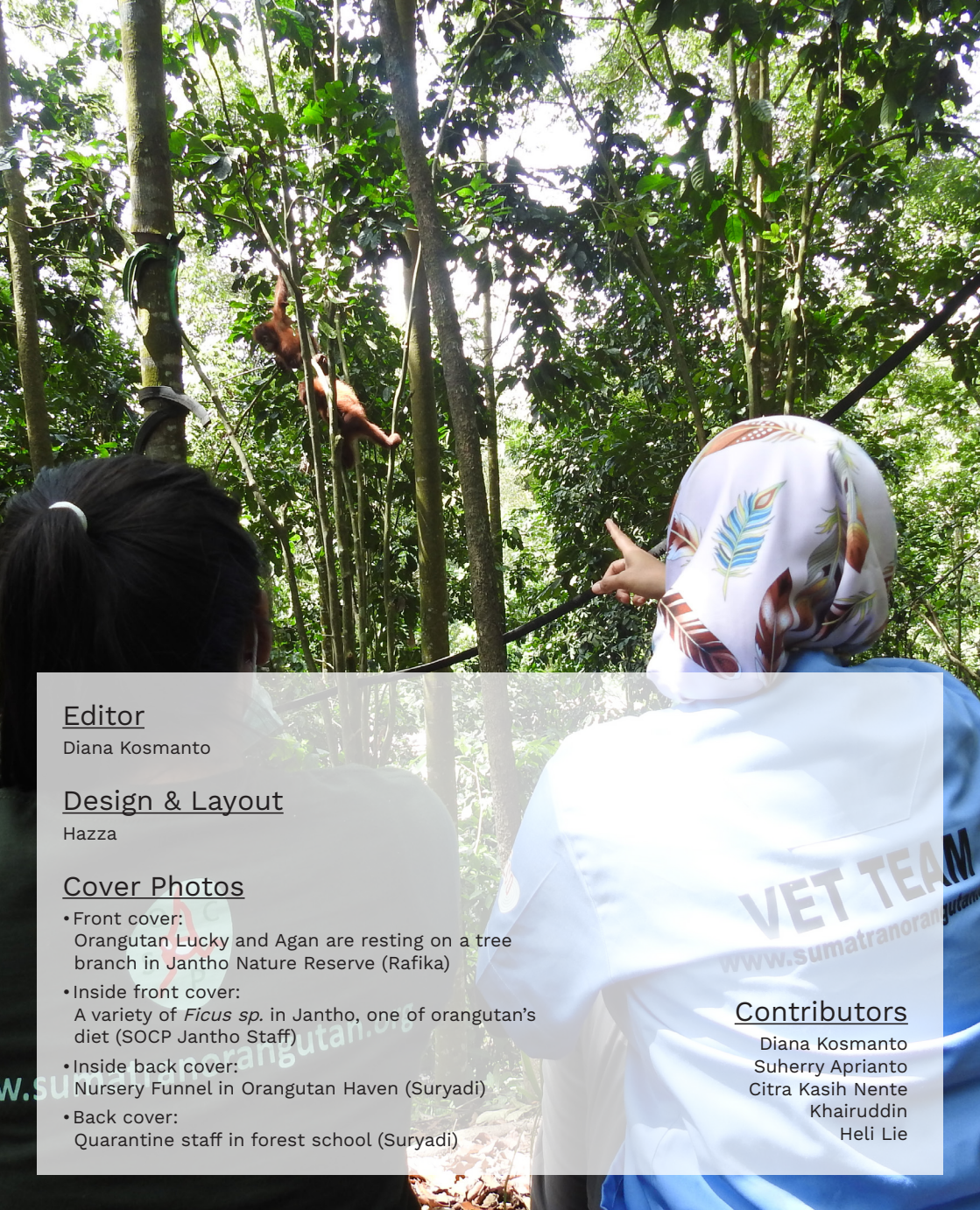


Suherry Aprianto
Orangutan Haven
Coordinator

SUPPORTERS 2018

- Animal Friends Insurance Service
- Abaxis , Inc
- Orangutan Veterinary Advisory Group (OVAG)
- Ape Tag AZA Ape TAG Conservation Initiative
- Arcus Foundation
- Auckland Communities Foundation (Auckland Zoo)
- Chester Zoo
- Darin Family
- Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust
- European Association of Zoos and Aquaria
- Fort Wayne Children's Zoo
- Fort Worth Zoo
- Full Circle Foundation
- Global Conservation
- Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries
- Greenville Zoo
- Indianapolis Zoological Society
- International Primate Protection League
- Jakarta Animal Aid Network (JAAN)
- JMG Foundation
- LUSH
- Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund
- Orangutan Coffee Project
- Orangutan Conservancy
- Orangutan Land Trust
- Orangutan Foundation UK
- Orangutan Outreach
- Orangutan Veterinary Aid (OVAID)
- Orang-Utans in Not e.V.
- PanEco Foundation
- Philadelphia Zoo
- Portland AAZK (Oregon Zoo)
- Prince Bernhard Nature Fund
- ProWildlife e.V.
- Rainforest Trust
- Raw Wildlife Encounters
- SavingSpecies
- Scholl Foundation
- Sumatran Orangutan Society
- The Body Shop
- The Orangutan Project
- The Richard Cann Wildlife Foundation
- Toronto Zoo
- University of Zurich
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- VegVoyages
- Wildlife Asia
- Woodland Park Zoo (PSAAZK)
- Zoo de la Boissière du Doré





Editor

Diana Kosmanto

Design & Layout

Hazza

Cover Photos

- Front cover:
Orangutan Lucky and Agan are resting on a tree branch in Jantho Nature Reserve (Rafika)
- Inside front cover:
A variety of *Ficus sp.* in Jantho, one of orangutan's diet (SOCP Jantho Staff)
- Inside back cover:
Nursery Funnel in Orangutan Haven (Suryadi)
- Back cover:
Quarantine staff in forest school (Suryadi)

Contributors

Diana Kosmanto
Suherry Aprianto
Citra Kasih Nente
Khairuddin
Heli Lie

Yayasan Ekosistem Lestari

Jl. KH Wahid Hasyim No. 51/74 Medan 20154
P: +61 451 43 60 / 451 43 63 | F: +61 451 47 49
E: office@yel.or.id | W: www.yel.or.id

