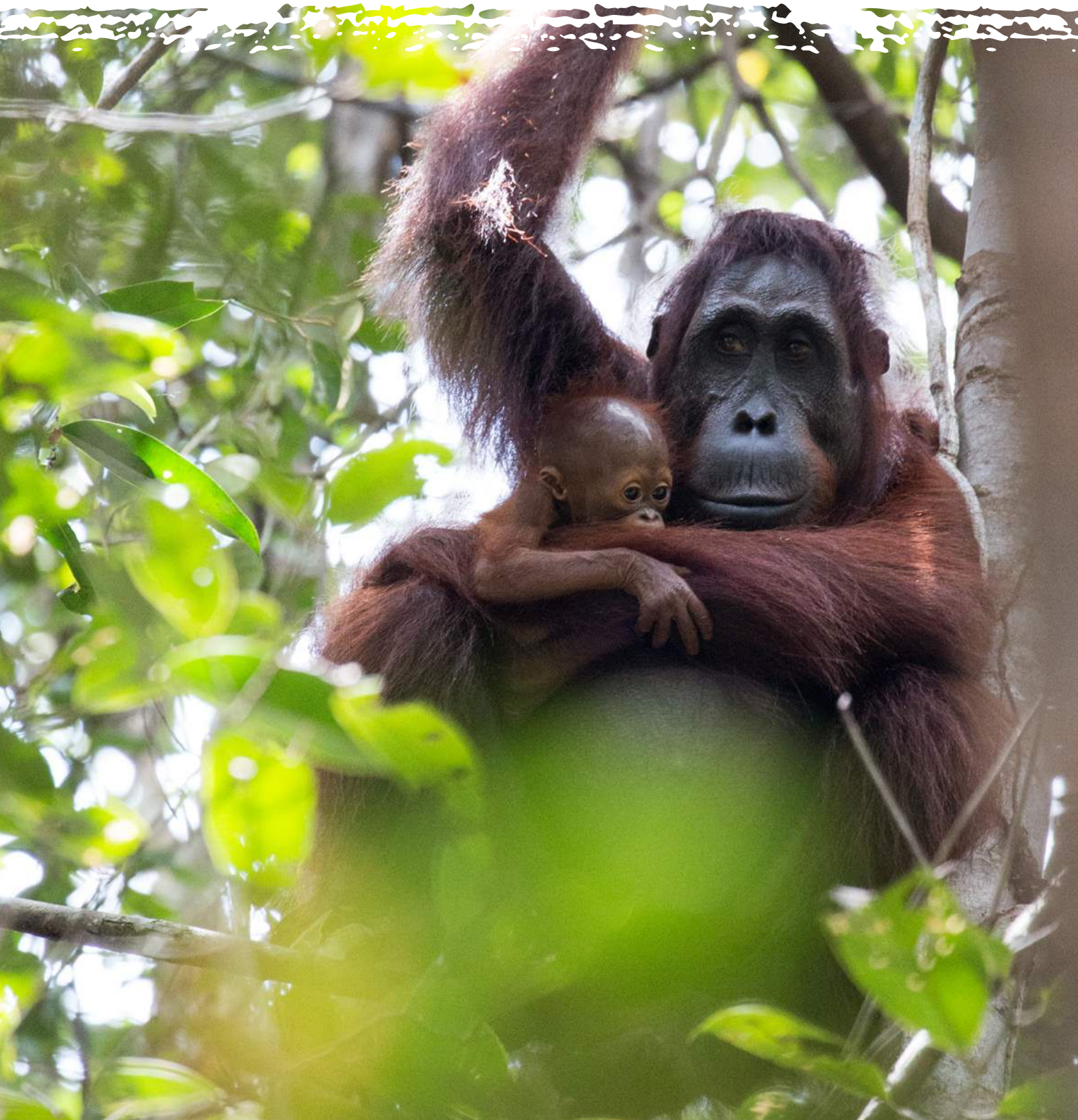


**BORNEO NATURE FOUNDATION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2019**



**MARKING 20 YEARS PROTECTING  
THE FORESTS OF BORNEO**





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## Executive Summary



The year 2019 has been hugely significant for the Borneo Nature Foundation, marking 20 years since we started working to protect the forests and biodiversity of Central Kalimantan in Indonesian Borneo. We began life in 1999 as the Orangutan Tropical Peatland Project (OuTrop), studying the orangutan population in the then-unprotected Sebangau forest. Since then, BNF has evolved into a strong and influential conservation organisation and initiated programmes in three major landscapes across Central Kalimantan. Together with university, community and government partners, we work to protect, maintain and enhance Kalimantan's rainforest habitats, the biodiversity found within and the benefits these provide to people. Our outstanding team of highly skilled and dedicated staff in Kalimantan continued to grow in 2019, increasing our capacity to support and empower community-led projects, replant and restore forest, develop conservation education in local schools and, of course, conduct the rigorous, long-term research that underpins all our work.

We saw a very early onset of the dry season in 2019. The drought continued with almost no rainfall for three months, leading to the worst forest fires since 2015 and some of the most serious of the past three decades, with hundreds of hotspots burning on the border of the Sebangau National Park. The great news is that, due to the magnificent efforts of our Community Fire-fighting and Patrol teams, and the use of innovative thermal drone technology to help tackle the fires most threatening to the forest, none of this precious habitat was lost in our target areas.

BNF's local and international partnerships are fundamental to our success in Central Kalimantan. In 2019, we signed a highly-significant agreement with the Sebangau National Park, mapping out a joint work plan for the next five years. This is a fitting milestone achievement for BNF's 20th year, consolidating our relationship with the National Park and ensuring BNF can support their long-term efforts for preserving the biodiversity of Sebangau and strengthening our joint efforts in the fields of research, conservation, education, capacity building and ecotourism in the area.

Throughout 2019, BNF's Community Development team significantly increased stakeholder engagement to introduce alternative, sustainable livelihoods in four villages in the Rungan landscape. An intensive schedule of workshops bringing together local government and community representatives resulted in a high level of attendance at BNF-led training sessions in permaculture and land use mapping, particularly amongst women. Such training provides communities with the skills and confidence to strengthen their voice in land ownership and use discussions, and to make informed livelihood choices.

Meanwhile, our Education and Outreach teams had a busy year, with over 1,100 children and young people attending BNF's conservation classes in local schools, participating in our *Sebangau Kids* nature club and festival, and joining our new *Sebangau Rangers* group. They organised some great events such as International Gibbon Day, which was attended by 170 enthusiastic local students, and our Borneo Initiatives Youth Camp bringing together young people from across Asia. In sharing the conservation message with this vibrant young community, we are inspiring the researchers, conservationists and forest managers of the future.

We hope you enjoy learning more about where we work, reading about our achievements in 2019 and get as excited as we are about the huge potential we have to make a difference together in 2020.

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**Juliarta Bramansa Ottay**  
Chairman of Yayasan Borneo Nature Foundation Indonesia

## Highlights of 2019



Successful **fire-fighting** campaign in Sebangau with zero forest loss in our target area, despite high threat due to drought conditions.

Ran two high-profile **socialisation events** to present our Sebangau and Rungan Programmes to local government, NGOs, communities and the private sector, resulting in government commitment to working with all stakeholders to support BNF's conservation strategies.



Established the first **community nurseries** to grow seedlings for our forthcoming One Million Trees campaign and create opportunities for a Green Economy in local Sebangau villages

Launched our **Sebangau Rangers** initiative, recruiting teenagers from Kereng Bangkirai to become Ambassadors for the forest and its conservation, role models for their community, and represent the future of locally-led conservation in Sebangau.



Organised two **international field courses** in Sebangau: 'Tropical Ecology and Conservation' in partnership with the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE); and the first ever 'Primate Behavioural Ecology and Conservation' course led by BNF's primate research directors and scientists.





Sponsored, and presented our research at the first **Indonesian Primate Symposium & Congress**, sharing knowledge and exchanging insights with the Indonesian primate conservation community.

Became full members of the **Heart of Borneo Central Kalimantan Working Group** and completed a milestone fact-finding mission to the Heart of Borneo in preparation for future full-scale scientific expeditions with the Working Group.



In partnership with Orang Utan Republik Foundation, we awarded four more University of Palangka Raya students with **Orangutan Caring Scholarships** in 2019, making six recipients to date, with more students to be added every year.

Achieved a landmark multi-stakeholder agreement to implement a **Social Forestry** scheme across the Rungan landscape to give communities the right to manage their lands, and engage industry in the protection of high conservation value forests within their concessions to ensure wildlife can move freely throughout this essential habitat.



Got **solar power** up and running in Sebangau, as part of our major drive to improve research infrastructure and 'green up' the rainforest research stations. This will increase the capacity of BNF and our Indonesian University partners to provide high quality training, education and research facilities in the field, raising the profile of the site as a Centre of Excellence.



## Where we work



BNF works to protect habitat, biodiversity and natural resources throughout Central Kalimantan, wherever globally-significant wildlife populations occur or local communities request support, and does so in partnership with community, government and industry stakeholders. BNF has established long-term programmes in three distinct landscapes, each one representing different forest habitats, ecology and conservation challenges.

These programmes extend BNF's activities from the carbon-rich coastal peat-swamps inland to a mosaic of unprotected but biodiverse dry forest habitats on sandy soils and up into the remote Heart of Borneo with towering dipterocarp forests and many traditional communities who rely on the natural environment for their livelihoods.



Each landscape is unique, but they all represent areas where forest is under threat of destruction and degradation caused by unsustainable development or unregulated exploitation. To make sure we understand the aspirations, concerns and cultural heritage of all stakeholders, BNF prioritises listening to the communities living in these areas, meeting with village heads and government representatives, and promoting sustainable development by companies, to identify how we can work together to find solutions that benefit the forest, wildlife and people alike. Only by adopting a landscape approach to conservation can these mutual aspirations be brought together for long-term plans.



A large Bornean orangutan is the central focus, hanging from a thick tree branch. Its reddish-brown fur is thick and textured. The background is a soft-focus forest with green leaves and tree trunks. The overall tone is warm and natural.

## Sebangau Programme

The 600,000 hectare Sebangau peat-swamp forest in southern Central Kalimantan is Borneo's most extensive remaining lowland forest and is of immense conservation importance, being home to the largest protected populations of the Critically Endangered Bornean orangutan and the Endangered Bornean white-bearded gibbon.

The instigation of community patrols in 2003 and the designation of Sebangau as a National Park in 2004 were major milestones to protect this area, but the forest and its wildlife remain at risk from the annual dry-season fires that, if left alone, will devour the peat and cause the forest to fall.

Working in partnership with the Centre for International Cooperation in Sustainable Management of Tropical Peatlands (CIMTROP) in the Natural Laboratory of Peat

Swamp Forest (NLPSF) in Sebangau, BNF conducts ecological research and monitoring, and trains students and young scientists from Indonesia and around the world at this internationally-renowned research site.

To protect the forest we block drainage channels to re-wet the peat, replant forest to restore areas destroyed by fire, support community-led patrol and fire-fighting teams, lead field trips for local schools, and run international field courses to increase awareness of the conservation challenges – and successes – in protecting peat-swamp forest. Together with the Sebangau National Park, we are embarking on projects to help them use technology and research data to better manage the park, build local capacity, and improve economic sustainability for communities by developing ecotourism opportunities.





## Rungan Programme

The Rungan forest is one of Borneo's forgotten landscapes: a mosaic of dryland and swamp habitat on sandy soils, collectively known as 'kerangas', or heath forest. It has long been a conservation afterthought and virtually none of this habitat type is currently protected in Central Kalimantan – it is all seriously threatened. Yet deep inside this habitat can be found large peat-carbon stocks, and huge trees, forming a biodiversity-rich, culturally-important, huge expanse of tropical rainforest—around 150,000 hectares of critical orangutan habitat that must be preserved.

In 2016, BNF launched a habitat protection programme in the Rungan landscape. Working in partnership with the University Muhammadiyah Palangka Raya (UMP), and with the support of local government and communities, we have established a basic forest research camp, where our scientists are discovering the wonderful secrets of Rungan. We have concluded the first orangutan population surveys across the Rungan landscape,

identifying a population of 2,220 to 3,275 orangutans. This is significantly higher than previous estimates and is potentially one of the largest unprotected populations in the world, demonstrating the urgent need to protect this habitat.

We are working with the regional government to develop landscape-level planning that ensures the protection of a large, ecologically-significant area of rainforest to protect biodiversity, cultural and socio-economic values. We are presenting the case for conservation through a process of mapping, field and socio-economic surveys, community engagement and participatory rural appraisals, and identifying areas where forest can be protected for biodiversity. We are working to expand the regional social forestry programme so that communities can manage their traditional lands, and engaging with industry stakeholders to protect areas of high conservation value forest within their concessions.



A large, moss-covered tree trunk dominates the foreground, rising from the bottom left towards the top center. The background is a dense, sun-dappled rainforest with various green leaves and smaller trees. A person is partially visible in the lower right background, looking up at the forest canopy.

## Barito Ulu Programme

The upper stretches of the great Barito River, known as the 'Barito Ulu', is the southern gateway to one of the greatest remaining rainforests on the planet, the 'Heart of Borneo'. Covering mountains, cliffs and valleys, these forests are some of the most pristine and spectacular in the world, home to a huge diversity of flora and fauna, including 10 species of primate, more than 350 birds, 150 reptiles and amphibians and over 10,000 plants. As many of Borneo's major rivers originate in the region, protecting these forests is critical to reduce the impact of droughts and fires and support ecological and economic stability in the lowlands.

Barito Ulu is coming under increasing threat, however, from the expansion of coal mining,

logging and plantation agriculture. BNF has launched our Barito Ulu Programme to help guide sustainable development in this region and contribute to preservation of its globally-important forest ecosystems.

In July 2019, we visited the region together with the Bupati, or Head, of Murung Raya District, gaining his support for BNF's proposed activities. This, and our successful reconnaissance expedition to the area in November represent significant achievements. We made substantial progress in establishing partnerships and collaborations with local communities, NGO's, government, industry and academic institutions that will be essential to realising our goal to reinvigorate research and conservation in the Heart of Borneo







## Our Orangutan Families

In September 2003, my assistant Amat and I went on our first orangutan follow. We were following a big flanged male we called Beethoven when we discovered that he, in turn, was following a female, Cleopatra, who became the first female we ever studied in Sebangau.

During the follow I thought I could hear crying, but I wasn't sure if it was a baby as we could not get close enough to Cleo to see. She was very wild and kept running away and throwing things at us. That night, Amat and I talked things over. I thought Cleo was carrying a tiny baby which was crying; Amat had not heard crying, but had seen a 'lump' on her side.

The next morning, all our focus was on checking out this 'lump'. Sure enough, we both heard crying and saw that Cleo had a very new baby we later named Chivers. We were extremely excited as we had never seen a female in the forest while we were doing orangutan population surveys, but had often encountered flanged males. This marked the start of what has become a significant long-term study of the behaviour and ecology of wild orangutans. Little did we know that 17 years later we would still be following Cleo, her children and grandchildren.

Since our project began, the BNF research team have followed and identified 96 individuals, with most of our core individuals being females. From our genetic research, we have discovered that female offspring stay close, establishing home ranges which overlap with their mother's, whereas males disperse into the forest.

We have identified three orangutan families in our research grid. Cleo is the daughter of Indah who has had many offspring and became a great-great grandmother in 2017 when Feb, Cleo's daughter, gave birth to her second baby, Fay.

Born to an unknown mother, Teresia and Gracia are sisters. Both became grandmothers in 2019, and both have adult daughters with home ranges close to their mothers.

There are fascinating times ahead, as we watch generations of females mature, thrive and have families of their own, and their male offspring gain independence and move away. We hope you will join us as we continue to discover the secrets of the orangutans living in their wonderful Sebangau home.

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**Dr Helen Morrogh-Bernard**  
Founder and Director of Orangutan Research, BNF International

# Celebrating Four Generations of Orangutans in Sebangau







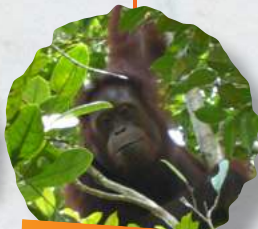
INDAH



CLEOPATRA



INDY 1999



ISABELLA 2005



BABY DIED 2012



IMA 2016



FEB 1996



CHIVERS  
2003



ICARUS 2012



IRIS 2019



FIO 2012



FAY 2017





## Research: Paving the Way for Conservation



© BNF/Chris Owen

High quality, long-term research is the bedrock of all effective and sustainable conservation strategies. We need to understand how the forest ecosystem works, and how wildlife behaves within it, so that we can protect and restore it, and we must assess the impact of human threats upon the environment so we can reduce and repair the negative impacts of these activities. BNF data provides unique insight into how primates co-exist in peat-swamp forest and the impacts of fire and other disturbances on the forest's wildlife.

The importance of our ecological monitoring work is being increasingly recognised by other local and international conservation

organisations working in Kalimantan. Our renowned expertise in orangutan population surveys has led to BNF being invited to join government-level strategic planning discussions to identify and prioritise key orangutan habitat for protection, such as the Rungan landscape.

Research is only as good as the people collecting the data. BNF is committed to developing staff skills, and the success of our Staff Development Programme shines out in the amazing results our Indonesian field team achieves year on year. We are proud to present some of our research highlights in our 2019 Annual Report; to learn more go to the [Borneo Nature Foundation](https://www.borneonaturefoundation.org/) website.



# Timeline of BNF Research in Sebangau

Compiled species presence records for Sebangau since 1993. This represents the most complete inventory of tropical peat-swamp forest biodiversity ever published, and demonstrates the exceptional biodiversity and conservation importance of this rich and unique habitat. [Click here.](#)

## Butterflies

- The most comprehensive and longest-running study of fruit-feeding butterflies in peat-swamp forest
- Revealing the impacts that forest fire and haze pollution have on these forest invertebrates, with almost no butterflies found in burned areas that were healthy forest until the 2015 fires

## Red Langur Behaviour and Ecology

- Discovering the secrets of this understudied species' behaviour
- Published research indicating red langurs in Sebangau come to the ground far more frequently than previously thought

## Forest Restoration

- Experimental plots established to identify the most robust local tree species for replanting burned areas
- Now achieving an average 80% survival rate for seedlings planted at our reforestation sites

## Gibbon Behaviour and Ecology

- What is now the most comprehensive data collected for Bornean white-bearded gibbons and the second longest running gibbon research project in the world
- Recorded rarely seen "predator mobbing" behaviour, with red langurs cooperating with gibbons to deter a predatory clouded leopard

## Forestry Research

- Started long-term study of forest dynamics - tree growth, mortality, and fruiting and flowering phenology in six fixed long-term

2018

## Forest Bioacoustics

- Innovative new project to assess what acoustic monitoring can tell us about biodiversity in peat-swamp forest; looking forward to sharing some exciting results in 2020

2017

## Dragonflies & Damselflies

- Collected data on 20 species never before recorded in Sebangau
- First study of dragonfly nymphs with individuals reared that have not yet been described in scientific literature

2012

## Dam-building & Hydrology Monitoring

- Having conducted research to identify the most effective design and spacing, we built the first dams to block canals in NLPF
- Monthly hydrology monitoring began

2010

2009

## Camera Traps

- Longest running continuous camera trapping project in Central Kalimantan
- Identified 14 individual clouded leopards supporting the first analysis of ranging behaviour in Sebangau
- Data demonstrating globally important populations of wild cat species

2008

2005

## Orangutan Behaviour and Ecology

- A leading orangutan research project in Borneo, with data collected on 96 identified individuals across up to four generations
- Self-medication in the form of fur-rubbing recorded for the first time ever in wild orangutans
- Conducting groundbreaking research into the long-term effects of fire on orangutan health and behaviour

2003

2002

## Orangutan Population Surveys

- Began what are now the longest running continuous surveys of orangutan nests in Borneo
- Results show that orangutan populations are impacted by illegal logging but can slowly recover when disturbance is stopped

2001

1995

- BNF founders conducted the first ever orangutan population surveys in Sebangau





## Research in Rungan

The Rungan landscape is a priority area for conservation in Central Kalimantan. A mosaic forest incorporates several unique and distinct habitat types, the area is of huge ecological importance but, despite this, has been the focus of very little formal scientific research.

Working with our partners at University Muhammadiyah Palangka Raya (UMP), and recognising the urgent need for intensive ecological monitoring and assessment of the forest, in 2016 BNF established a research camp in Rungan from where we have conducted annual expeditions for students in partnership with UMP and the University of Exeter.

Having provided evidence of a globally important orangutan population in Rungan, in 2019, BNF has made significant progress with our research agenda. As well as building on our existing research activities, BNF launched several new projects in collaboration with both local and international students. This research will strengthen our understanding, and elucidate the conservation value of this complex ecosystem.

Although in its early days, we have already collected data that reveals the astounding diversity of flora and fauna living in the forest. BNF will use this data to strengthen the case for protecting the Rungan Forest.



### BIODIVERSITY

Developed the most comprehensive database of flora and fauna in kerangas habitat including 33 mammals, 118 birds, 17 reptiles and amphibians, and 28 fish species.

### GIBBONS

Preliminary surveys of Bornean white-bearded gibbon in Rungan indicate a significant population in the area.

### CAMERA TRAPS

Continued to expand our understanding of the fascinating biodiversity of Rungan's mosaic forest.

Conducted first ever orangutan surveys during 2017-2019 estimating a total population in the landscape of 2220-3275 individuals, one of the largest unprotected populations remaining in Borneo.

### HABITAT ASSESSMENT

Completed comparative survey of four habitats classified by soil profile, watershed and surface topography; identified 108 tree species.

### STUDENT RESEARCH

Three undergraduates, three master's and one PhD student conducted research in Rungan including the first butterfly, dragonfly/damselfly and small mammal surveys across four habitats

### STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Local field assistants trained in nest surveys, phenology, camera traps, gibbon population surveys, bioacoustic and biodiversity monitoring, and data entry.



## On the Front Line: Fighting Fires



© BNF/Suzanne Turnock

Between July and November 2019, savage fires once more burned through the forests and peatlands of Borneo, with 16,465 hotspots detected in Central Kalimantan, 298 of which were in Sebangau National Park. Caused by a combination of swamp drainage and human fire use, these fires smoulder deep within the peat producing vast clouds of toxic smoke, posing a grave threat to wildlife and to the health and livelihoods of local communities.

Fire risk in Sebangau is high as the peat has been drained through channels dug into the forest for timber extraction by past illegal loggers, and elsewhere to support agriculture and plantations. The best way to tackle this threat is to keep the peat wet. Since our hydrology restoration and monitoring work began in 2010, we have built 766 dams blocking 17 canals in Sebangau, with 81 dams constructed on 6 canals in 2019 alone. Monthly monitoring has shown that our canal blocking

has had significant positive impact, reducing water flow by 40-70% when compared to pre-damming and keeping the water table higher for longer during the dry season.

Working with local communities and other stakeholders, we have progressively strengthened our toolkit for combatting forest fires, culminating in the design and implementation of our Integrated Fire Management Strategy.

In 2019, we trained and equipped two more community fire-fighting teams to work alongside the three teams already in action. Thanks to the commitment and courage of our fire-fighting and patrol teams in Sebangau, and the support of our donors and partners, no forest was lost in our target area in 2019. BNF is committed to supporting communities to strengthen their fire prevention and fire-fighting capabilities in 2020.





## Using Thermal Drones to Combat Fires

For several years, BNF in collaboration with UPT LLG CIMTROP (University of Palangkaraya) and Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) in the UK have been investigating and developing the potential of drones to support conservation.

In September 2019, CIMTROP, BNF and LJMU co-hosted a workshop at the University of Palangka Raya on the use of drone and thermal imaging technology to learn about peat-fire behaviour and battle blazes as new flare-ups arise.

BNF's drone pilots and members of the fire-fighting and patrol teams were trained in the use of the equipment and were able to put their new skills to the test while the fires and toxic haze were at their worst.

Flying over areas of burning peatland to locate hotspots by penetrating through the smoke, drones equipped with thermal cameras are able to pinpoint fires, track their movement and identify priority locations for fire-fighting efforts. In so doing, they are proving a highly effective tool for protecting personnel on the ground and played a vital role in the success of our 2019 fire-fighting campaign. Together with Bapak Petrisly Perkasa from UPR, we are continuing work to test and develop this technology.



## Restoration and Reforestation



Rehabilitating fire-damaged areas and restoring forest are fundamental to BNF's fire recovery strategy.

During ten years of research, our reforestation team grew, planted and monitored over 7,000 seedlings in experimental plots to identify local tree species best suited to renew tropical peatland habitat. Using expertise acquired during this period, in 2019 the team began implementation of our three-year plan to plant 75,000 trees and restore 150 hectares of peat-swamp forest destroyed by fire in 2015.

BNF supported the development of five community nurseries on previously underused land in two villages – Kereng Bangkirai and Sabaru – to cultivate seedlings for the project. We engaged and trained 38 families and members of two women's cooperative groups to grow and monitor

seedlings, which they then sell to BNF for our reforestation work. As well as laying strong foundations for a sustainable green economy in these villages, we have seen increased local engagement with our fire prevention and forest conservation work, upon which we will continue to build in 2020.

In November 2019, BNF with the Rector of the University of Palangka Raya, the Head of CIMTROP and representatives from the Environmental Office of Central Kalimantan symbolically planted 50 seedlings to kick-start full-scale planting. In line with our goals for 2019, we planted 25,666 seedlings provided by the community nurseries on 50 hectares of our reforestation site. A further 19,520 seedlings are ready for planting in 2020, and the nurseries are well on the way to providing a further 10-15,000 seedlings that will take us beyond our target for 2020.





## Empowering Women Through Conservation

© BNF/Rory Moon

As well as working in the seedling nurseries, BNF supported two local women's groups in launching an innovative new project producing organic polybags. These reduce reliance on plastic polybags that are typically used by reforestation projects to grow seedlings. As these organic polybags are biodegradable, seedlings can be transplanted without being removed from them, minimising stress on the plants and maximising seedling survival rates.

In this first year, the women crafted 3,000 organic polybags from locally-sourced material that they sold to BNF for use in the nurseries, so creating additional income for the women. This increased economic independence empowers the women both within their households and in the community.

With 50,000 seedlings to plant over the next two years, this represents a significant opportunity to involve more women and increase revenue, and BNF will support expansion of the project in 2020 and beyond.



## Community Development in the Rungan Landscape



© BNF/Cugus Haringkas

BNF's Community Development work aims to strengthen self-reliance within local forest-linked communities, increase confidence in their ability to maintain and improve local livelihoods, and empower them to influence decisions on land ownership, management and use.

In March 2019, BNF presented our Rungan Programme to 150 representatives from provincial and district level government, NGOs, universities, village heads and the private sector. This event strengthened our partnerships with key stakeholders and led to an all-party approval of our landscape-level, cooperatively-managed conservation strategy for the Rungan landscape.

We have identified 11 villages in the Rungan landscape as the focus of our activities and have so far organised participatory training on permaculture and aquaculture, plus the use of GPS in land mapping, in four of these villages in the Rakumpit district: Mungku Baru, Bukit Sua, Petuk Barunai, Panjehang and Tambak.

BNF engaged local experts to lead workshops demonstrating how to build raised vegetable beds, tackle drought and make compost, and teach methods of environmentally friendly pest control and crop protection. We provided the tools needed to establish gardens and seeds of ten species expected to thrive. After just a few months consuming their own produce and selling surplus crops to their neighbours, participating households saw a reduction in their daily expenditure on vegetables, and the potential long-term economic and ecological benefits of sustainable gardening in their village.

At the request of the communities, BNF hired specialists to lead workshops on setting up and managing fish ponds, and increasing productivity and supply chain efficiency for rubber production that already contributes to the local economy.

Training was enthusiastically received and, as well as monitoring results and developing activities in our four pilot communities, BNF will extend our Community Development programme into more villages in 2020.





## The Sacred Ulin Forest

Establishing land rights, designating land use and clarifying stakeholder roles in forest management are integral to the preservation of indigenous cultural heritage, but rural communities do not always have the skills to present their proposals for community-managed forests in a formal arena.

Rungan forest holds great cultural significance for the local Dayak community. The 500 hectare ancient ulin (ironwood) forest at its heart is sacred to the people of Mungku Baru, and folklore forbidding the use of its products is respected to this day. Despite lengthy campaigning by indigenous groups, winning the legal right to manage the forest has proved complex.

BNF provided training that enabled the indigenous community to submit their application for community forest management to relevant government offices. In 2019, the Traditional Community Council of Mungku Baru made major progress towards getting the ulin forest officially designated 'Traditional Forest', to be jointly managed by a Forest Partnership including the Indigenous Community Organization and a company whose timber concession includes the ulin forest.

The protection of the Traditional Ulin Forest, and the village's role in cooperative management of the forest, are both culturally and ecologically important, and illustrates how communities can be empowered to strengthen their influence on decisions that affect their lives.



## Environmental Education: Inspiring future generations



BNF's Education Team had a great year in 2019, expanding its programme to reach over 1,000 local schoolchildren. We developed new partnerships with Sebangau National Park and the Central Kalimantan Department of Education, and established a group of local Education Volunteers to support BNF's ever-expanding portfolio of innovative and interactive educational activities.





### **Sebangau Kids Nature Club,**

teaching enthusiastic 8 to 12 year olds about wildlife, conservation, protecting the environment, and Dayak culture - with dancing!



### **Gibbon Goes to School,**

raising awareness in a young audience of the causes and effects of forest fires through interactive storytelling.



### **Conservation Class,**

presenting a comprehensive 10-module course in biodiversity, forest restoration, conservation and environmental science in local schools.



### **Gibbon Youth Campaign,**

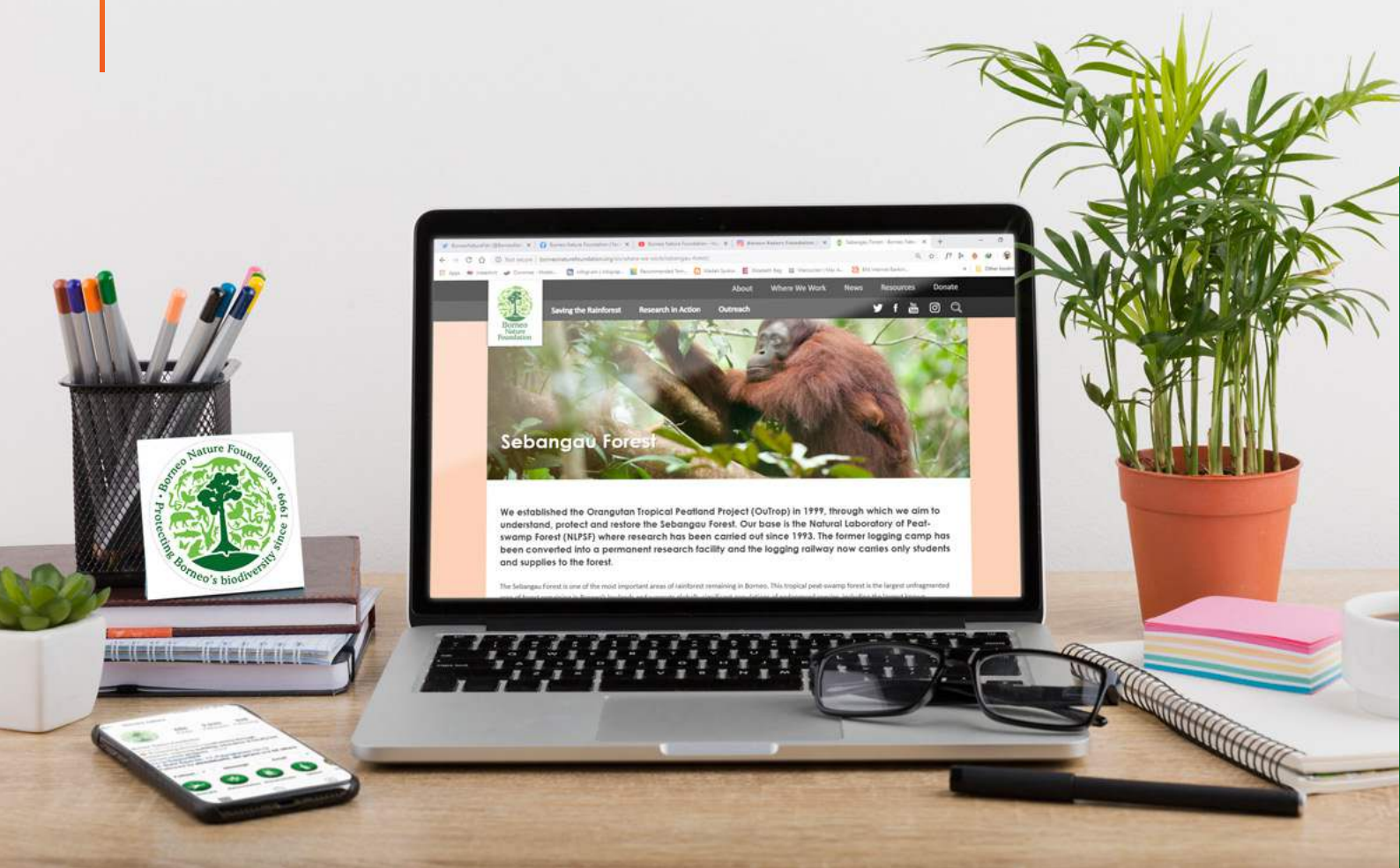
focusing on gibbons and the threats they face in the wild to highlight broader conservation issues and inspire students to take action to protect the forest.



Launched our **Environmental Education Programme** in Mungku Baru village with a major socialisation event attended by students, teachers and parents, and conducted the first 20 teaching sessions in the village.



## Spreading the Word



In 2019, BNF's Communications and Outreach team strengthened our presence across social media platforms [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#). Our website continued to be a vibrant hub of information, breaking news and campaigns reflecting all facets of BNF's work, past and present, and readership of our quarterly e-Newsletter increased throughout the year, building BNF's global audience.

In collaboration with our Indonesian partners, local and international universities and students, we published six scientific papers in 2019. Reflecting the diversity of our research projects, these publications include our study into the use of gestures in communication between mothers and offspring in wild orangutans, evaluating the challenges towards tropical forest and peatland conservation in Indonesia, and home range and site fidelity of Bornean white-bearded gibbons. These and previous publications are all on our [website](#).

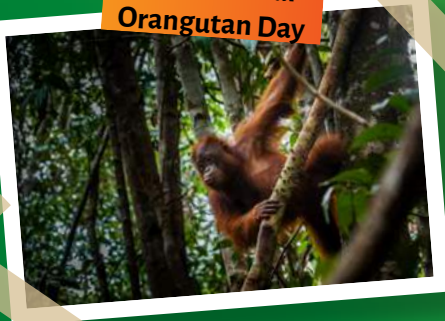


Working alongside our Education staff, the BNF Outreach Team organised a series of events in 2019 to celebrate the wonders of the forest and its wildlife, and raise awareness of the causes and effects of fire and how people can contribute to reducing the threat. Attracting almost 1,000 people from across the community, the engagement and enthusiasm inspired by these events make them a highly effective (and fun!) component of BNF's local conservation communications strategy.

**Kalimantan Indigenous Film Festival**



**International Orangutan Day**



**International Gibbon Day**



**International Day of Women in Science**



**Indonesian Primate Day**



**Earth Day**



**Sebangau Kids Festival**



**World Wetlands Day**





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