



FOR THE FUTURE OF BORNEO

2025 Impact Report & 25 year anniversary celebration



Borneo
Nature
Foundation

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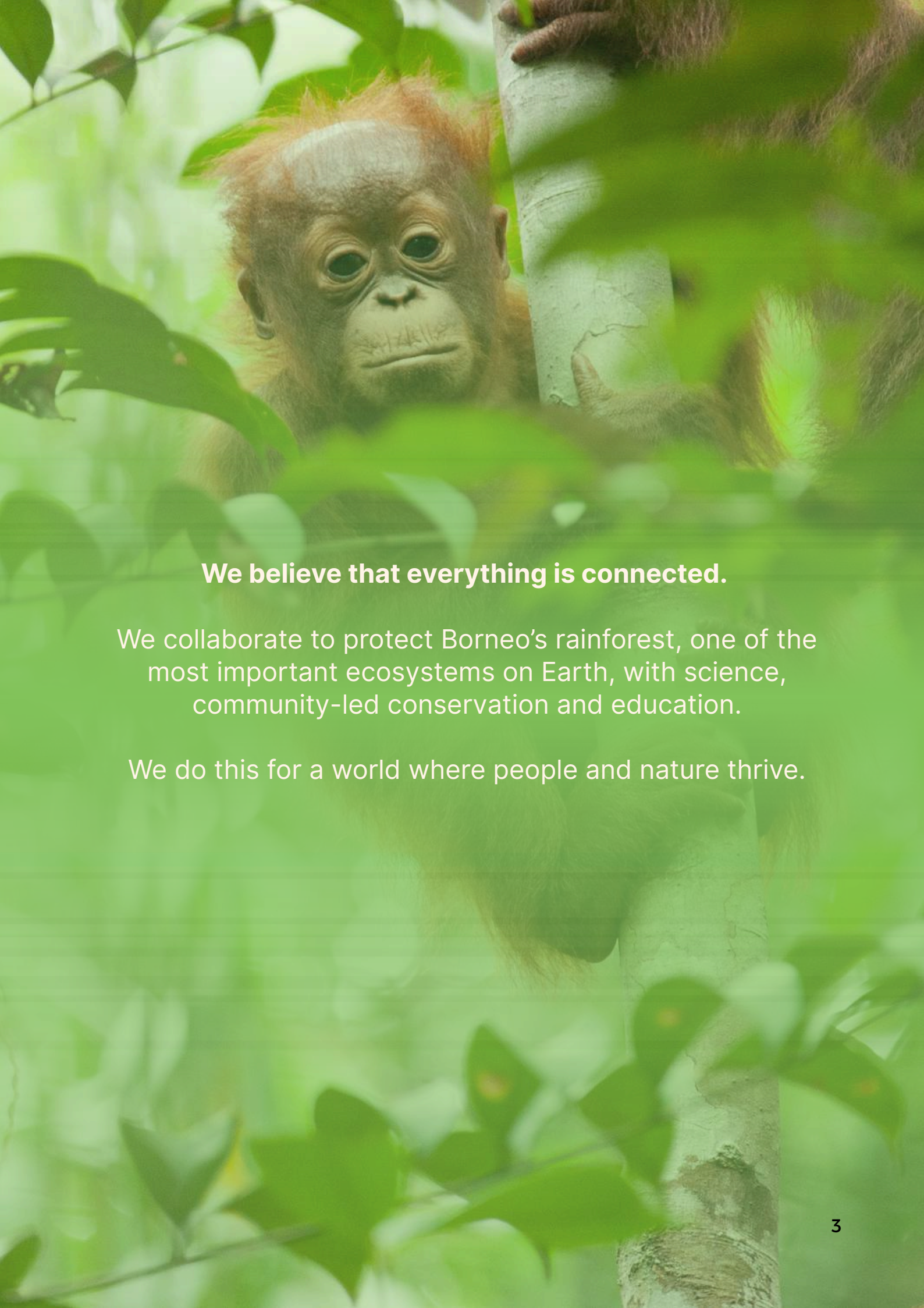
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We believe that everything is connected.

We collaborate to protect Borneo's rainforest, one of the most important ecosystems on Earth, with science, community-led conservation and education.

We do this for a world where people and nature thrive.

FIRST YOU DREAM

In 2025, we celebrated 25 years of collaborative conservation impact in the critically important, critically under threat Bornean rainforests. A celebration that took us back to our sometimes naive but always passionate student origins of what is now a multi-landscape, community-centred, connected conservation mission.

Our team hasn't always been made up of experts and globally recognised figures in the worlds of orangutan health, peatland restoration and community-centred conservation. We haven't always been a team of 100+ and we haven't always been backed by people like you - now we are.

When I think about my first trip into the forest as a fresh-faced student, I had no idea what to expect, where it might lead me - I certainly had no idea I would still be coming here thirty years later! I did know one thing: I was there to do *something*, to commit to meaningful action, important, long-term work. I went from stacking shelves in supermarkets to founding a conservation organisation with Helen, my wife and lifetime conservation companion, in just a few short years. My experience in that forest over 25 years ago would set a course for truly transformative projects for people, nature, and climate. Projects you believe in, too. This work gives me, and so many more people globally, a true purpose.

And this report, a bumper edition touching on 25 years, is full of real, future-shaping impact stats and qualitative data, too. It could never truly reflect the people I have met, worked with, learned with and laughed with; it is that impact which means the most. Connectedness isn't just an organisational belief, it captures the shared spirit that has fuelled us to get us this far. I know it will propel us forward to the next 25 years of Borneo Nature Foundation, too - the most important years yet.

If there was just one piece of advice I would give to anyone like me who believes they can be a part of transforming the future of nature, it is this: dream. Dream a dream so potent, so powerful that bringing it to life, overcoming countless barriers, becomes second nature. This is the single most important thing you can do.



*Simon Husson,
CEO Borneo Nature Foundation International*



WHAT IS CONNECTED CONSERVATION?

Science, common sense and many aspects of spirituality teach that life, everything, everywhere, is connected. That nothing happens in isolation, and that every action has a reaction.

We believe true, long-lasting impact comes from addressing the big picture, and so we connect all the moving parts of the conservation challenges we face to achieve the long-term changes we need to see in Borneo's rainforests. Because of this principle, we don't just plant trees, or just fight fires, or just support sustainable livelihoods; we do it all, and more, with 25 years of experience behind us.

This is our "connected conservation" approach.



WHERE WE WORK

Borneo, one of the largest islands on Earth with one of the largest land stores of carbon. It's home to 6% of all biodiversity on the planet, and rare endemic species. The island is much more than beautiful - it is intrinsic to the future of our planet's health and all life on it. This is why we work here, collaborating with people all over the world, to ensure Borneo continues to balance all life on Earth.



SEBANGAU

568,700 ha of forest

The Sebangau landscape is home to the largest protected orangutan population on Earth, a vast and unique tropical peat-swamp forest impacted by illegal logging which has dried out the peat and increased fire risk. Now protected as a national park, our work here supports government, universities and local communities to restore the ecosystem through reforestation and long-term science projects that inform conservation practice locally and globally. We strengthen landscape protection with a community-centred approach across sixteen villages, with an integrated peatland fire prevention strategy at its heart.



RUNGAN

180,000 ha of forest

The Rungan forest is a biodiversity-rich, multi-stakeholder-managed landscape akin to the Wild West. Here development coexists with exceptional natural beauty. Threats grow from mining, river pollution, and monocrop plantations. Seventeen communities stand at the forefront of conservation in this landscape, supported by our work to develop sustainable forest management plans. Our aim is to protect 100,000 ha, a critical wildlife corridor, by restoring degraded ecosystems, strengthening forest governance, securing community rights, and building nature-positive livelihoods to safeguard the landscape's future.



OUR CONNECTED COMMUNITY COMMENTS

"In 2025 we continued to build trust with communities; once we form that bond the community naturally becomes the leading actor in preserving their environment. They know we share the same passion: to protect nature."

- Yuliana Nona, Community Development Manager



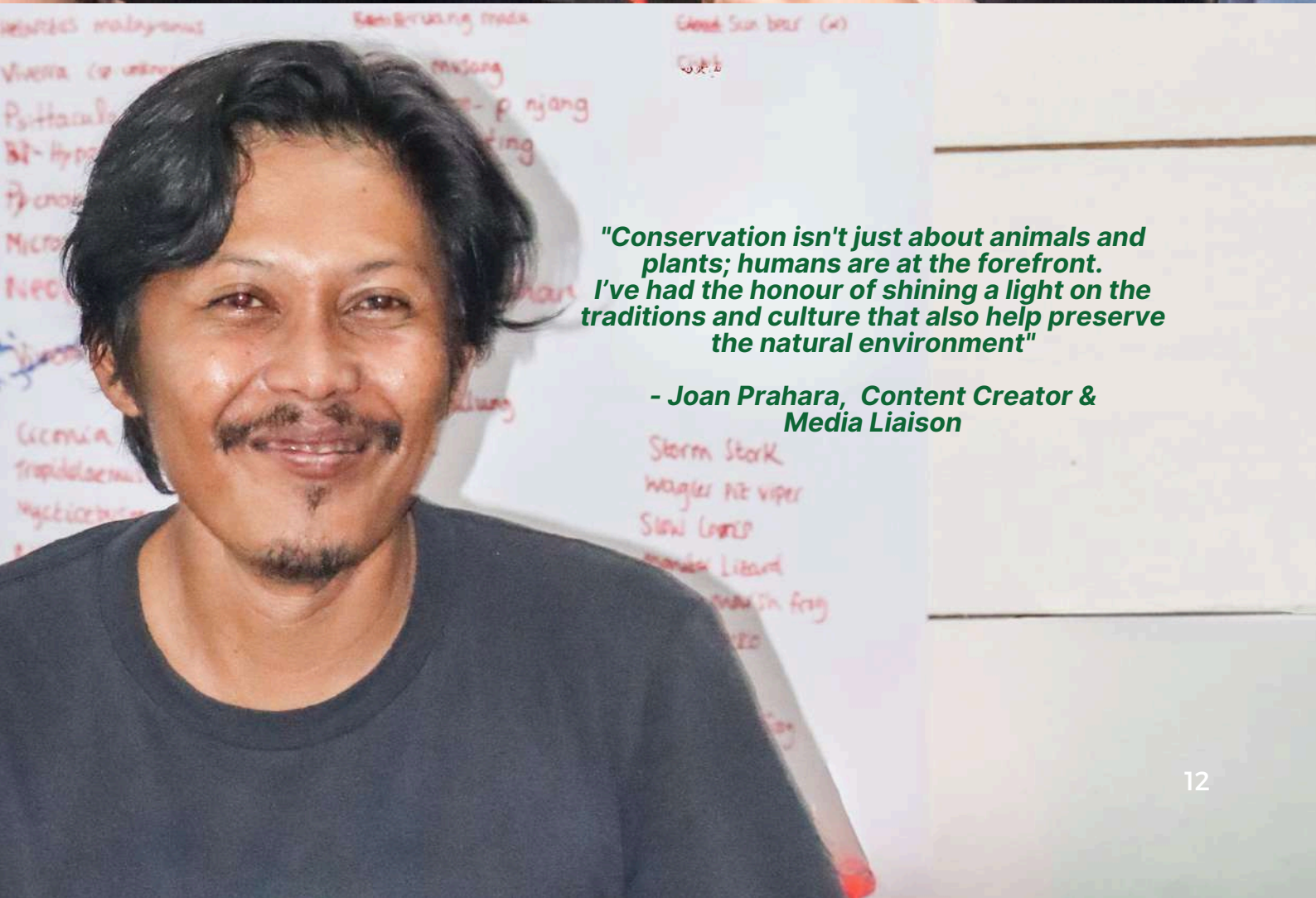
"Our fulfilment goes far beyond paper targets. Hearing local communities share how they are becoming more independent makes every bit of our hard work feel completely worth it."

*- Daniel Refly Katopo,
Habitat Restoration Manager*



"I loved waking up field course students at 6am to witness an incredible, completely unexpected moment - a young orangutan, Icarus, had come into camp and allowed us to follow and observe him for hours, all whilst in our night clothes".

- Nam Anirudh, Associate Researcher




"Conservation isn't just about animals and plants; humans are at the forefront. I've had the honour of shining a light on the traditions and culture that also help preserve the natural environment"

- Joan Prahara, Content Creator & Media Liaison



"My field course experience was life-changing. Wandering through the peat swamp, being visited in camp by an orangutan, waking up to the call of gibbons and even spotting a clouded leopard at night, I learned more in those 3 weeks than I ever expected."

- Carolina Coutinho Oliveira da Roch, University of Porto

A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, is sitting outdoors. She is gesturing with her hands as if in conversation. The background shows lush green trees and a wooden fence. A green striped umbrella is visible on the left. A yellow and green patterned bag is on her lap.

“Visiting Borneo Nature Foundation and the communities they work with is one of the most valuable ways of learning; every visit brings new insights.”

***- Arafa Khatib, Head of Programmes,
Save The Orangutan***



ACHIEVEMENTS, IMPACT & STORIES



WE LEARN

Science, the foundation of our conservation approach.

With 25 years of experience, we should surely know all we need to by now, right? No! One discovery always leads to new questions, that's the beauty of science. We live in a world that is constantly changing; so our research needs to change too. We have some of the longest-running programmes on the planet, from orangutans to wild cats to gibbons to peat. Knowledge is power, power to shape the future. This is just a slice of what we learned in 2025.

SCIENCE IMPACT

17 LIVE SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS

Our field teams and local and international researchers are leading some of the most important, longest-running studies in Borneo, which influence our activity.

129,492 HOURS OF RAINFOREST LIFE

Captured via a network of camera traps across 74 locations.

1 NEW UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP

We now have 6 university partnerships in total including the National University based in Jakarta, Indonesia.

7 SCIENCE PUBLICATIONS

We collaboratively authored 7 papers and reports that distilled our research. This research bolsters our conservation efforts, making it accessible to the wider community.

LIVE SCIENCE PROJECTS

Butterfly indicators

Long-term biodiversity monitoring

Reforestation impact

Fish ecology

Forest productivity

Orangutan health

Orangutan population assessment

Vegetation surveys

Forest structure survey

Mammal distribution & space use

Gibbon behaviour

Landscape forest and land-use change

Orangutan behaviour

Gibbon population assessment

Forest biomass

Hydrology restoration monitoring

Dragonfly indicators



A CALL FOR CATS & GIBBONS AT THE IUCN WORLD CONGRESS

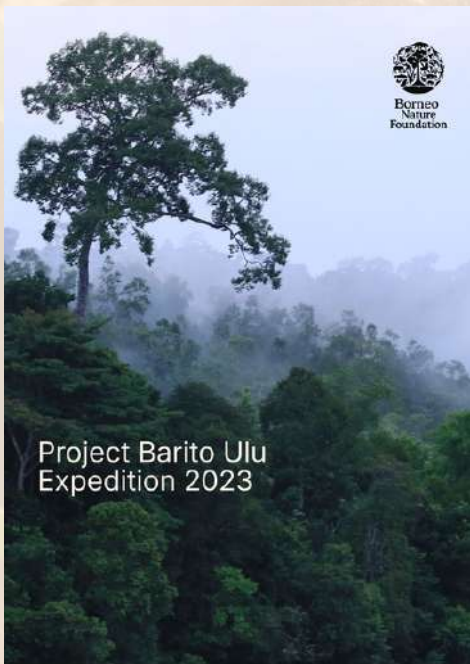
Two new conservation resolutions were passed at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi, with crucial input from our scientists.

“The resolutions passed are the very first time these species have received specific attention and clear calls to action. They set the scene for the current state of these species and give a clear set of actions to promote cooperation for conservation at a global level.” - Dr. Susan Cheyne

The resolutions? ‘*Strengthening gibbon conservation through collaboration and synergy*’, which was co-written by our Scientific Director, Dr Susan Cheyne, who also serves as Vice Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Primate Specialist Group Section on Small Apes. The ‘*Conservation of clouded leopards*’ was the second resolution.

This result is testament to the impact of our science and monitoring programmes which are having a tangible effect on international policy and management. They also represent a watershed moment for two key species found in Borneo, gibbons and clouded leopards, which have long been overlooked as a conservation priority.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS FROM 2025



FAECAL MATTERS

The Sebangau landscape supports the largest protected population of Bornean orangutans in the world.

However, as people and orangutans are forced closer and closer together due to the twin pressures of fire and forest loss, there is an increased risk of disease transmission between human and non-human primates. Through the orangutan health project, we aim to incorporate health assessments into our ongoing monitoring programme, which has been active for over two decades. **Over 1,323 hours of orangutan follows took place in 2025 alone.**

We use gastrointestinal parasitic load as the main indicator of orangutan health, by analysing faecal and urine samples to determine which species of parasite are present. This has established a baseline 'norm' for the Sebangau population, allowing us to gauge the health status of each orangutan we monitor and to identify any translocated (i.e., previously non-resident, displaced as a result of fire or forest loss) individuals. With this baseline, we can pinpoint which individuals pose a significant health risk and consider the best ways to mitigate it going forward. This work ensures a level of safety for Sebangau's orangutans and people living nearby.

To date, around 100 faecal samples have been collected from wild orangutans of all age and sex classes. Analyses so far have identified eight parasite species. Our baseline serves as a reference point for future comparisons, enabling trends to be tracked over time, helping us respond to emerging health challenges.

We've succeeded in building a functioning health monitoring system that is already producing valuable data; this is a significant step towards our vision of healthier, more resilient orangutan populations supported by our wider ecosystem protection and restoration efforts. This is evidence to fuel our conservation decisions. Alongside this, our scientists are trialling a new non-invasive storage method to improve data quality in remote sites, reducing sample loss and improving the reliability of our analysis.

This work is already building capacity in Central Kalimantan: the training of two local laboratory assistants and the involvement of five students, including two undergraduate theses, ensures that the skills and knowledge needed to carry this work forward are embedded locally.

The expected outcome is a growing body of data and expertise in detecting pathogenic and zoonotic parasites, contributing to strengthened protection against disease risks for orangutans, wider species and, of course, people.

A photograph of an orangutan in a lush green forest, clinging to two vertical tree trunks with its arms. The orangutan has reddish-brown fur and a dark face. The background is filled with dense green foliage and more tree trunks.

100 SAMPLES COLLECTED

1,323 FOLLOW HOURS

8 PARASITE SPECIES

GAMERA TRAP SNAPS 2025

We deploy camera traps throughout the Sebangau National Park and Rungan Landscape to monitor and assess biodiversity trends.

In 2025, we collected evidence of 29 mammal species, 20 birds, and 3 reptiles through 68 camera traps spread around an area of approximately 4,000ha.

Among these, we saw four out of Borneo's five wild cat species, endemic Bornean white-bearded gibbons and maroon langur monkeys, an Endangered otter civet, and Critically Endangered Sunda pangolins.

Through our ongoing camera trapping projects and conversations with local communities, we're building a better picture of the lives of these animals and the threats they face, and even distinguishing individuals based on markings.

Trips to gather camera trap data happen roughly every 3 months; what we find on them is always a surprise.

The images and video we gather fits into our wider study on forest health, helping to shape our conservation efforts.

We know that if we're able to protect these animals, there will be a positive knock-on effect for all species everywhere - including us humans.



Sun Bear



Pig Tailed Macaque



Storm's Stork




Sambar Deer

A person wearing dark clothing and sandals is walking on a wooden boardwalk. The boardwalk is made of wooden planks and is situated in a swampy forest with water and fallen leaves visible. The background is slightly blurred, focusing on the person and the boardwalk.

1,000m OF NEW BOARDWALK INSTALLED

A new 1km long boardwalk has been constructed, bringing the total network at the Sebangau National Park Peat Swamp Laboratory to 1.8km, a significant expansion from the original 0.8km.

Improved access to the forest makes our scientific activities more productive and easier, especially during the rainy season.

A man with dark hair, wearing a camouflage headband and a blue long-sleeved shirt, is sitting in a forest. He has a large black backpack on his back. The background is a dense forest with sunlight filtering through the trees. The man is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. His hands are clasped in front of him, and he is wearing a watch on his left wrist. The text is overlaid on the lower part of the image.

“The new boardwalks make it easier, faster and safer to navigate the swampy forest when following orangutans and conducting other research surveys”

Twenti, Sebangau Field Team



15,000
FOLLOW HOURS

71

PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS,
CHAPTERS & PUBLICATIONS

54

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

20 YEARS OF GIBBON RESEARCH

We celebrated 20 years of gibbon research, one of the world's longest-running continuous studies of wild gibbons in the world, in 2025.

Incredible dedication has resulted in an incredible understanding of these primates. In 2025 alone, our teams spent around 800 hours in the field following gibbons.

10

UNIVERSITY
COLLABORATIONS

RESEARCH FUELS FIRE ACTION

Our collaboration with Kalimantan Lestari (KaLi) was a multidisciplinary research effort involving eight UK and Indonesian universities, facilitated by us.

With funding from the Global Challenges Research Fund and the International Climate Fund, this project came to an end in 2025, but its impact will guide our efforts and work, globally, into the future.

A total of 48 researchers, the majority Indonesian, united to publish 11 papers, deliver 11 conference presentations and produce four rigorous datasets on conservation challenges that affect life in Borneo and beyond.


The goal of the project was to increase our understanding of the causes of peatland fires, and the impacts of these on air and water quality and the well-being of people in Central Kalimantan. We want both people and nature to thrive, and fully understanding what stops this from happening is key, especially as temperatures and fires increase.

KaLi brought a wide range of expertise to tackle these questions, encompassing natural and social sciences. With our strong community relationships, we were able to play a key role in uniting researchers with local people.

The research revealed the factors influencing the likelihood of fires and their impact on people, while also highlighting opportunities to reverse this trend through peatland restoration.

Key findings are detailed on the following page.

KEY FINDINGS



STAYING INDOORS DOES NOT PROVIDE PROTECTION FROM SMOKE DUE TO OPEN HOUSE DESIGN



1.6 MILLION PEOPLE IN CENTRAL KALIMANTAN WERE EXPOSED TO DANGEROUS AIR QUALITY IN 2023



DEFORESTATION INCREASES FIRE RISK



WE PROTECT

People aren't just the cause of habitat breakdown; we are also the solution.

Fires, land grabs and poverty are fixed in our conservation crosshairs as we collaborate to combat issues and protect one of the most important tropical rainforest ecosystems on Earth: important for people, biodiversity and climate the world over.

HABITAT PROTECTION IMPACT

9 FIREFIGHTING TEAMS SUPPORTED

Including one new team based in Pilang who have been trained and equipped to fight fires and protect their rainforest home.

31,000 HA UNDER LOCAL PROTECTION

And we've helped guide a new community group, Lawang Uru, to protect a further 746ha through Indonesia's social forestry scheme.

988 FOREST PATROLS

A new record: the most community-led patrols we've ever had.

NEW DISASTER RISK FORUM

Uniting firefighting efforts, sharing insights and resources and strengthening the frontline.

27 SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS GROUPS

Supported including our community nurseries that help reduce pressure on the rainforest and provide income for 870 people.



PILANG PROTECTS

Fires are the biggest driver of forest loss, and a major cause of human health issues and poverty.

How we tackle fires has always been holistic, part of our “connected conservation” approach, but no matter how much prevention we do, we’ll always need a brave frontline of firefighters.

Prevention efforts have been strengthened with a new firefighting team established in Pilang Village to the southeast of Sebangau National Park. This opened up a whole new patrol area to the east, as most of the other teams are situated at the northern edge of the National Park, closer to the provincial capital of Palangka Raya City. It is the more remote areas that especially need these teams to be ready, trained and equipped to tackle fires.

By the peak of the dry season, we were supporting nine teams with 145 trained firefighters who were out patrolling every other day, at least. This enhanced patrol coverage, combined with additional training in software for fire reporting, gives communities like Pilang a real foundation for protecting people and forests.

UNITED AGAINST FIRES

Working closely with local authorities and community groups, we've strengthened fire-risk preparedness and coordination.

The formal establishment of a Disaster Risk Reduction Forum for Palangka Raya City in collaboration with the city's Disaster Management Agency took place in 2025. Involving community representatives, people from government, civil society, and academia, the forum aims to serve as a multi-stakeholder coordination platform for regional disaster planning, knowledge sharing, and fire response. Exactly what we need in an age where fires are more frequent than ever.

This forum functions as a platform for local groups and other organisations to work together on the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction strategies, in order to increase regional resilience to threats.

The objectives are:

- **Increase Public Awareness:** providing education to communities on the importance of preparedness and steps that can be taken to reduce disaster risk.
- **Build Collaboration and Synergy:** fostering cooperation between the government, organisations, and communities in disaster risk reduction efforts.
- **Establish a Strong and Responsive Forum:** this forum will be a space for sharing information, coordinating mitigation efforts, and developing comprehensive contingency plans.

Progress has been made to integrate these fire management strategies at the village level. This includes a review of current capacities, gaps, and potential opportunities for enhancing their effectiveness through training, equipment, and institutional support. This integration is seen as key to aligning local-level fire response with district-level disaster preparedness and mitigation strategies, leading to more consistent and timely support. This includes personnel, logistics and funding based on real-time needs during the fire season. **And with a confirmed El Niño year in 2026, a united effort against disasters like this one is needed more than ever.**



LAND RIGHTS RIGHT WRONGS

An additional 2,377 ha of rainforest is now under community management

4

FORESTRY DECREES
IN PROGRESS

190

ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY
MEMBERS ENGAGED

We have begun to expand our Social Forestry support to communities bordering Sebangau National Park.

Community-centred conservation is at the heart of everything we do. Through Indonesia's Social Forestry scheme, we support communities in securing legal rights to manage and protect their ancestral forests. In 2025, four new Social Forestry decrees were granted, bringing 2,377 hectares of forest under community management and involving 190 new community members in long-term stewardship. These new protections strengthen local control over forest resources while safeguarding ecosystems and all they offer - locally and globally. We also expanded our Social Forestry support in the Sebangau landscape, initiating new collaborations with communities and exploring potential applications covering up to 6,500 additional hectares.

Having hosted an introductory meeting and signed a non-binding cooperation agreement, we've now conducted an initial potential survey in the village of Hiyang Bana. With the results of this initial survey, community members can begin to map out designated areas for biodiversity conservation or for controlled use. We are also helping to identify sustainable livelihood possibilities in Hiyang Bana, initiatives that could support the long-term management of their village forest.

We've begun working with the community of Talingke to define the boundary area for a new Social Forestry application; 6,500 ha are under consideration. Further support for the villages of Garung, Jabiren and Sebangau Jaya is also underway. Workshops have enhanced our institutional capacity, specifically for supporting village spatial planning processes, sustainable land use, ecosystem protection, and community development.

Community development, in particular land rights through the social forestry process, will continue to be a key area of our work. Whilst not as on the nose as firefighting or planting, helping people navigate the often bureaucratic nature of applications is a long-term approach to protecting the forest. Facilitating land rights respects the autonomy of local people, centres them and ensures their lives are made better, not worse, by conservation. We know that when local people have control over the land they live in, everyone wins.

Here's to more land rights for communities in Sebangau, Rungan and beyond.

Witness the sustainable income-generating and
conservation-benefitting might that is

PURUN POWER



COLLECT PURUN



Purun grows in abundance along the rivers and waterways of Central Kalimantan and has been used for thousands of years. Locally sourced, this is a highly sustainable forest material.

Waterways are roads in Central Kalimantan. A quick soapy wash removes any oil or pollutants and gives craftspeople a chance to inspect the harvest.



WASH PURUN

SQUASH PURUN



Once dry, a hefty piece of timber is used to squash the Purun flat, ready for weaving.

Patience required by the bucket load here, as the processed purun is painstakingly woven into all kinds of products.



WEAVE PURUN

SELL PURUN



Hats, bags, and purses. And, shown here, one of thousands of biodegradable plant pots ready to be used in our reforestation efforts.

This process eases pressure on the forest, is an alternative to logging and mining, and reduces fuel for forest fires. It keeps Dayak crafts alive and creates sustainable income for local people.



PLANT WITH PURUN



WE RESTORE

We're putting things right, undoing the damage done in some of the most important ecosystems on the planet.

Our work aims to balance forest health and benefit biodiversity, it returns people back as guardians of nature, as it has been for thousands of years - a relationship we all depend on. These projects are long term; they need to be. Some, like damming, change ecosystems instantly. Reforestation takes time. Together, with the right backing and support, we can turn the forests into healthier places, healthy for all species everywhere, including humans.

RESTORATION IMPACT

THREE NEW REFORESTATION SITES

Expanding our mission to restore key ecosystems from fire damage

80 FIREPROOFING DAMS BUILT

over 1000 dams built to date

202,319 SEEDLINGS PLANTED

exceeding 2024's planting total, bringing us closer to our one million trees target

210 ha RESTORED

helping transform severely burnt areas of rainforest back into healthy ecosystems

3,040 ha REFLOODED

increasing the capacity for growing seedlings by 25%



GOING THE DISTANCE

12

DAY JOURNEY

15

**REFORESTATION
STAFF**

19

**LOCAL TREE
PLANTERS**

Our reforestation team took on their toughest challenge yet.

They transported 130,000 young trees from community-managed seedling nurseries to a new planting site, Mendawai, over 100km away, deep within the peat swamp rainforest of Sebangau National Park by road, by river, and by foot.

These seedlings were grown in community nurseries managed by local families; the nurseries provide a sustainable source of income while supplying native tree species for reforestation projects like this. Most nurseries are located in villages bordering Sebangau National Park. Despite this, to transport seedlings to restoration sites is rarely straightforward; but this challenge was beyond anything we had done before.

Sebangau National Park encompasses a whopping 5,780km² of peat swamp forest, most of it not at all accessible by road. With careful, military-like planning, our teams were able to transport this landscape-shaping bounty without issue.

Once the 130,000 seedlings had made it to the planting site, the work was far from over.

The seedlings were given a week to acclimatise to their new environment, improving their chances of survival. During this time, our team of hardcore horticulturalists remained on site to care for them, sleeping in a makeshift hut, a *pondoks*, until planting could begin.

It took about two months to plant all 130,000 seedlings, even with 23 people pitching in and getting their hands dirty. To put that into perspective, assuming all of those people were planting on a full-time basis for the entire two-month period, that's roughly 125 trees per person per day.

And that's only the beginning.

As a science-led organisation, our responsibility doesn't end once the seedlings are in the ground. We conduct regular monitoring to assess survival rates and refine our reforestation strategies. We will continue to check in on the seedlings for a full 10 years, replanting if needed, to ensure the long-term viability of this patch of forest-in-waiting.

Given time, any one of these 130,000 seedlings might one day house a family of gibbons, or produce fruit for a hungry orangutan, or act as a fire barrier, protecting the huge peat carbon stores here that keep Earth balanced.

THE ROUTE



MENDAWAI

"130,000 seedlings travelled across 100km of peatland landscape surrounding Sebangau National Park to Mendawai, our most remote planting site."



REFORESTING RUNGAN

AKA. The land that cannot grow

The full local name given to the type of ecosystem found in Rungan is Kerangas, “the land that cannot grow rice”.

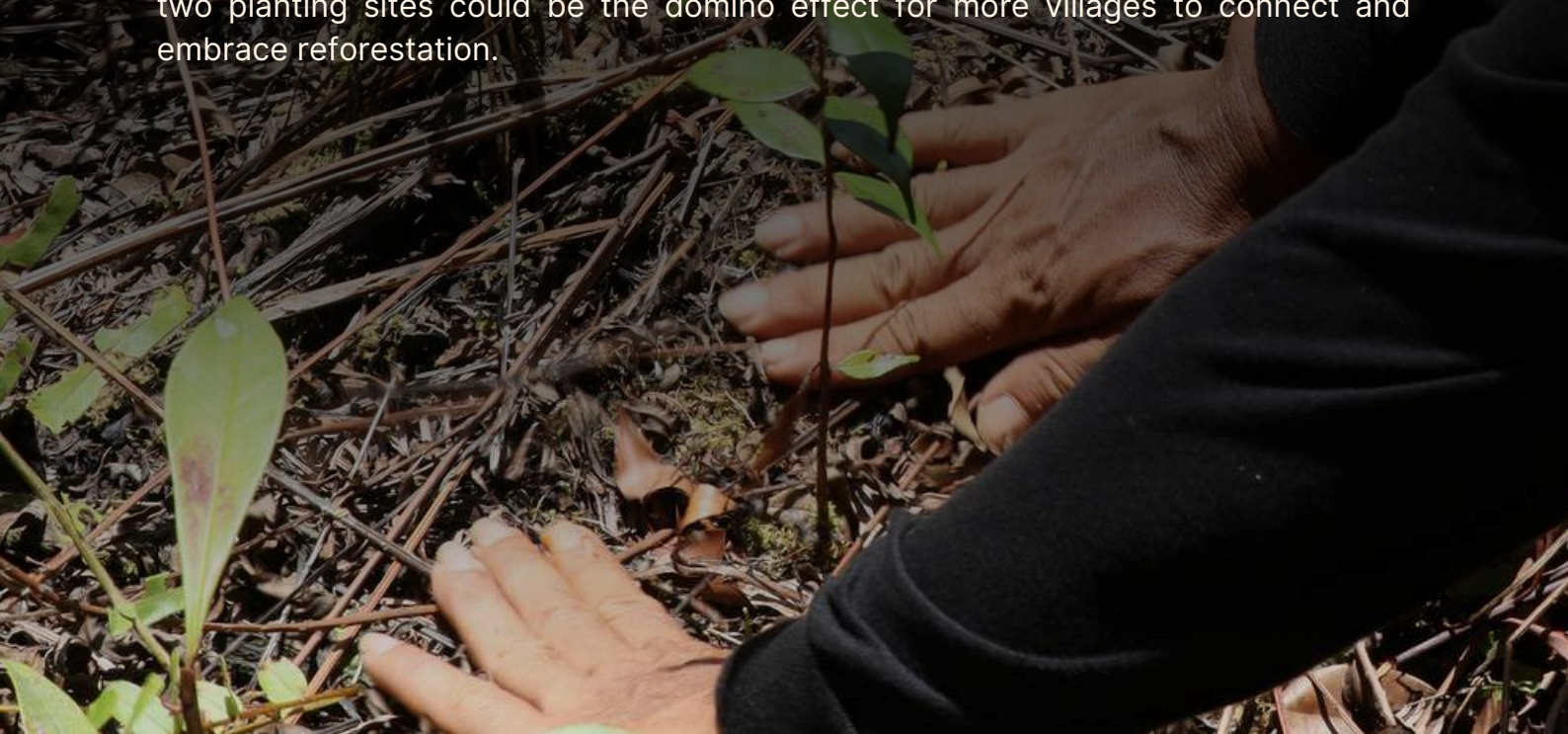
Luckily for people and nature, trees can be grown here, but not without challenge. In 2025, we completed our first reforestation initiatives in the Rungan Landscape, notorious for nutrient-poor soils, often a result of illegal mining and, sadly, brutal forest fires.


Rungan is a tropical heath forest habitat with sandy, acidic, low-nitrogen soils, which impact plant growth and photosynthesis, resulting in low plant diversity relative to other rainforest habitats in Borneo. Despite this, the Rungan Landscape is home to the largest unprotected population of wild orangutans anywhere on Earth, as well as Endangered white-bearded gibbons, Borneo bay cats, and many other rare and threatened species.

Because of this huge biodiversity value, we’ve worked with communities since 2015 to support them in sustainably managing their village forests, so that conservation works for them and for nature. Through improved landscape connectivity, green livelihood opportunities and now reforestation, this area of depleted forest is on its way to being revitalised.

In 2025, we completed two small-scale reforestation projects in Rungan requiring 5,000 and 20,000 seedlings, respectively. These seedlings were purchased and obtained from nearby community nurseries and are continuing to be monitored and cared for by local groups.

Grown, sown, and community-managed reforestation projects are our gold standard, not just because these people know the forest better than anyone else, and it is ethically sound, but because it is regular people, fishermen, farmers, accountants, doing the work, showing they care and standing up for nature. This spirit of collective action is contagious; people talk and good news spreads. These two planting sites could be the domino effect for more villages to connect and embrace reforestation.





“We will replant fruit trees in the forest areas that have been extensively burnt; we hope to harvest the yields together in the future”.

SEPRIANDI

*Secretary of the Petuk Barunai community
forestry group*

KENALI KELOLA LESTARI



Even in the harshest conditions

**LIFE WANTS
TO LIVE**



GIVING A DAM: THE PRE-BUILD

We build dams, good dams. Dams that restore peat swamp rainforest, protecting it from some of the most devastating wildfires on the planet.

Illegal logging redefines entire landscapes, not just through the extraction of trees but also through the infrastructure carved into the forest floor to aid their transportation. Illegal logging in the once-unprotected peat swamp forests of Sebangau resulted in a huge network of canals cut into the peat to float logs out. This has changed the hydrology of the forest, draining what was once a swamp, drying it and making it highly susceptible to fires. We dam these canals to reflood the forest, reducing the risk of fires and protecting massive amounts of peat carbon.

Peatland re-wetting hit a landmark year in 2025. We built 80 new dams, fully blocking five key drainage canals, pushing this long-term programme past 1,000 dams in total. With a huge network of logging canals to tackle and each site having various different build challenges, we wanted to share a little on the steps we take before we, and you, our donors, give a dam for real. A process we've refined over 1,000 times.

STEP ONE: COORDINATE

We collaborate with the National Park to identify a key canal to dam.

STEP TWO: SURVEY

We gather information on the site, measuring up, checking access and clearing the route of debris.

STEP THREE: CONSULT

Some canals are useful for local communities, so we consult with them to ensure that our conservation work won't obstruct their way of life.

STEP FOUR: MONITOR

We set up monitoring stations to create a benchmark for water outflow and depth around the site of the proposed dam.

STEP FIVE: MATERIALS

We source high quality materials to construct these dams; our "living dam" design is intended to become part of the ecosystem.

STEP SIX: MOBILISE

We assemble a team of dam-building professionals and local community members who can aid the construction - and then we build a dam for real.



WE INSPIRE

We don't just learn about nature in Borneo, we don't just protect it or restore it. We also inspire the world with its importance and wonder to ensure future generations act.

INSPIRE IMPACT

1 IMMERSIVE FIELD COURSE

The first since COVID-19, with 11 participants from Indonesia and around the world.

621 NATURE LOVERS ENGAGED

Through clubs and field trips where we educate around wildlife, conservation and climate.

12 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Ensuring the most passionate and talented individuals can kickstart their careers.

2,041% INCREASE IN REACH

Across our social channels because of new collaborations, content and investment.

2 NEW EDUCATION PUBLICATIONS

Books full of emotive storytelling that connect young people (and their parents) to nature



EDUCATION IS EVERYTHING

We believe understanding nature - what's at stake and what can be done to protect it - is the foundation of a thriving planet for all.

We're tackling the gap between awareness of issues and the understanding we need to tackle them.

Without the masses fully understanding what our planet faces, how can we expect the system change we need? Our education projects, running now for over 10 years, bridge this gap, transforming awareness to action.

Education connects the dots between science and action. It receives relatively little attention and funding but we are lucky to have donors back this vital work. Our education team sparks curiosity that can transform into lifelong commitment to conservation. These often intangible outcomes are among the most transformative. Without informed and engaged people, even the most scientifically sound conservation strategies are doomed to fail.

We are building the new conservation generation, nurturing children's innate fascination with the natural world to connect them to their local environments through science and culture. This includes field trips, education sessions, and teaching materials for our 10 school partners, and even university scholarships.

By investing in environmental education, we shape a "conservation generation" that is not only aware of the problems we face but is empowered to solve them. Our Big Give campaign in December raised £25,000+ to futureproof this vital work which includes:

- **Youth clubs and after-school programmes: engaging young people through conservation activities to foster a personal connection to the rainforest**
- **Conservation classes for local schools: covering topics such as peat swamp ecology and environmental threats and solutions, reinforced by hands-on experience**
- **Scholarships: helping ambitious students access further education to kickstart their careers in conservation.**



“I felt that I've been growing in self-development since joining the educational activities”

Nia, Scholarship Student

“I dream of a lush and healthier rainforest with growing wildlife populations”

Geysa, Anak Sabangau Member



“Conservation education allows us all to protect forest which are so vital to our lives”

Fuad, Education Team

ANAK SABANGAU FESTIVAL

The 2025 Anak Sabangau Festival centred around fires, marking 10 years since one of the worst peatland fires to date, to create an awareness-raising event.

Borneo Nature Foundation CEO Anton Nurcahyo brought this to life with his introductory speech,

"This event acts as our reminder of just how vulnerable forest ecosystems are and the importance of raising public awareness in an educational and inspiring way".

The event featured various performances by young people, including traditional Dayak dances, a photo exhibition, a talk show with leading environmental activists, craft/souvenir making, and a drama performance.

533 people attended, bringing together local officials, our team, children enrolled in our education programmes and the wider local community - those that live across the water from our long-term research site.





FIELD COURSES ARE BACK

In August, we marked the return of our international field course programme, delivered in partnership with the Centre for International Cooperation in Sustainable Management of Tropical Peatland (CIMTROP) and the University of Palangka Raya. Eleven students, five from Indonesia and six from Europe, spent three weeks at our field camp gaining hands-on experience in wildlife research techniques from gibbon triangulation to camera trapping. But, just as importantly, the course served as an opportunity for students from diverse backgrounds to share cross-cultural experiences, all united by a love of nature and the desire to protect it.

EVENTS: BORNEO AND BEYOND

Our teams around the world lead, listen and engage at events to educate, inspire and fund conservation action.

Our international team alone attended, hosted or contributed to over 25 events around the UK and Europe, including:

- Oxford Brookes Science Bazaar, Oxford, UK
- Orangutan Caring Week, Barcelona Zoo, Catalonia
- Blue Earth Summit, London, UK
- Verdant Brewery X Heavy Friends Vinyl Night, Penryn, UK

MEET PEAT

What happens when you let the communications department attend a cornerstone conservation event unsupervised?

They find a creative way to get 1000's of eyes on us, raising awareness with the smallest media spend imaginable. We hacked the Blue Earth Summit and accompanying app, changing our comms manager's name to "Peat Bog" and inviting people to Meet Peat. Posters in the "bogs" ensured everyone with a bladder knew about our organisation and how we protect peat. This resulted in meetings, pro-bono support and thousands of pounds worth of visibility, all thanks to a bit of mischievous creativity.

'SAVAGES' COLLABORATION

We were one of two charity partners attending the release of the French animated film, *Savages*, in collaboration with Picturehouse Cinemas. It centred around orangutans and how their lives are intertwined with humans and logging.



THE SISKA SCHOLARSHIP IS NOW LIVE

In 2025, we launched the Siska Scholarship Programme to support outstanding students with higher education. The first scholarship was awarded to Mahada, a former Anak Sabangau and Sabangau Rangers member who began university in September. This marked an important step toward improving access to higher education for Indigenous youth, particularly young women.

The Siska scholarship is dedicated to Yusiska Ermiasi, our senior manager who sadly passed away in 2020; she believed greatly in conservation education for all.

2025 was our 25th anniversary of conservation action.

25 years is the blink of an eye for the landscapes we protect, restore, learn about and are constantly inspired by. It's a fraction of the lifespan of the trees found in the deepest Bornean forests, even less for the peat found in the soil below, on which they stand. And yet in a short amount of time, 25 years or so, incredible damage was done to these ecosystems; this continues to affect life for people, biodiversity and the planet as a whole.

Undoing this is a calling that you and I have responded to, millions of others too, in big and small ways. And as we celebrate 25 years of conservation, we look to the future, to the next 25 years, undoubtedly the most important yet.

We'll deepen and broaden our conservation impact across Borneo, further strengthening the scientific and institutional foundations for landscape-wide conservation. Making connections between high level governance and our community-centred projects is key, especially if we want to extend our programmes and support outwards across Central Kalimantan - which we do. We'll take all we've learned and contribute to an island-wide conservation strategy for Borneo.

Central to this long-term vision is securing sustainable nature-based financing alongside new, diversified funding partnerships that grow local institutional capacity. This will help ensure that these globally important forests can be protected, not just for the duration of any project or grant, but for future generations who will live in and alongside them. For the current and future generations around the world, too, that will benefit from a stable climate, food, water, medicine and the biodiversity that supports it all.

It is this that drives us, working to restore the balance for future generations, for a thriving future on Earth with nature.

We hope you enjoy our short retrospective on 25 years of Borneo Nature Foundation.

*Anton Nurcahyo, CEO,
Yayasan Borneo Nature Indonesia*



25 YEARS OF

In 2025 we celebrated 25 years of conservation action. 25 years, a sliver of time for nature but half a lifetime of dedication for us. We want to thank you all for continuing to believe in us, for being here and for backing us on this journey for a world where people and nature thrive.

Science
Learning
Impact
Listening
Adventure
Breakthrough
Belief
Passion
Not giving up
Orangutans
Gracia
Gibbons
Failures
Lessons Learned
Students
Experts
Children
Seedlings
Growth
Expansion
Drama
Fires
Threats
Success
Dams
Collaboration
Joy
Despair
Nasi Goreng
Peat
Late nights
Earlier mornings
Data
Progress
Planting
Leopards
Experience
Life
Borneo



1ST

ORANGUTAN SURVEY IN SEBANGAU

Which the largest protected population of orangutans on Earth call home.

27

**SUCCESSFUL SOCIAL
FORESTRY DECREES**

7,124

**COMMUNITY-LED
PATROLS**

32,522 ha

**PROTECTED BY
LOCAL PEOPLE**

1,000+

DAMS BUILT

9

**TRAINED FIREFIGHTING
TEAMS**

364

FIREFIGHTING MISSIONS

75,000 ha

PEAT REWETTED

500+

**CHILDREN ENROLLED
IN CONSERVATION
CLUBS**

1,000+

**SPECIES PROTECTED
BY CONSERVATION**

37

**SCHOLARSHIPS
AWARDED**

40,000

**HOURS OF
PRIMATE FOLLOWS**

7,000+

**SELF-PUBLISHED
BOOKS SHARED**

100+

**SCIENTIFIC STUDIES
SUPPORTED**

200

**SCIENCE
PUBLICATIONS**

1M+

**PEOPLE REACHED
ONLINE**

833,204

SEEDLINGS PLANTED

THANK YOU

to all our supporters, past and present



SUPER EL NIÑO NEEDS SUPER FIREFIGHTING



Reach out to supercharge 2026 preparation, response, and recovery as we face one of the largest El Niño events ever.

We're ready. Help us to become super ready.

Contact Lauren now:
l.vyvyan@borneonature.org

