

ANNUAL REPORT

HUMAN ORANGUTAN CONFLICT RESPONSE UNIT (HOCRU)

APRIL 2016 - MARCH 2017



Yayasan Orangutan Sumatera Lestari -
Orangutan Information Centre
YOSL - OIC





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SUMMARY OF PROJECT ACHIEVEMENT

This project supports the conservation of the critically endangered Sumatran orangutan through rescue, education, and the implementation of best practice techniques for mitigating human orangutan conflict (HOC) in agricultural landscapes adjacent to the Leuser Ecosystem. The Human Orangutan Conflict Response Unit (HOCRU) team responds to human orangutan conflict reports, as well as reports of illegally held captive orangutans, and conducts regular field monitoring of translocated and known isolated populations of orangutans. The unit conducts data collection and mapping of forest-adjacent villages to gain understanding of crop-raiding species, and host regular training and workshops on human-wildlife conflict mitigation methods, as well as distributing educational materials. In the April 2016 – March 2017 project period, we have rescued 24 orangutans: 9 females and 15 males, with 13 evacuated from farmlands and 11 confiscated from the illegal pet trade. The 10 orangutans that were evacuated from farmlands were all still exhibiting typical natural behaviour from having still been living in the wild (albeit in a conflict situation), were translocated and released back into protected forest blocks. Due to the severe wound and health condition, 3 orangutans evacuated from the farmlands have to be sent to quarantine centre managed by SOCP (Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Program) for further treatment. After receiving 6 months medical treatment and according to their behavior, 2 orangutans of these 3 orangutans were released to two different locations. Male orangutan evacuated from Dairi was released to Siranggas Nature Reserve in Dairi district, while male orangutan evacuated from Kuta Gajah, Kinangkong, was released to GLNP Section VI, North Sumatra.

The 11 orangutans confiscated from illegal pet trade have entered the rehabilitation process with the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme (SOCP), and some day will be released to protected forests in Sumatra. Unfortunately, 1 female orangutan confiscated from Dairi, North Sumatra was deceased after 2 days being cared in the quarantine centre. Based on necropsy conducted later, the vet found lot of abscess cause by myiasis, lead to sepsis condition as well as several air rifle bullet in the body.

In total, 986 students have participated in education awareness raising activities conducted by HOCRU team from April 2016 to March 2017. In addition to this figure, in any occasions, during rescue operation or monitoring mission, HOCRU team always educate and train local farmers in mitigation techniques that is harmless to both farmer and orangutan, such as using bamboo canon.

The high frequency of orangutan rescue and translocation operations, and confiscations of illegally-held captive orangutans, by the HOCRU team over the last year confirms that human orangutan conflict is an ongoing problem in and around the Leuser Ecosystem, exacerbated by destruction of orangutan habitat mainly for plantation development. Our HOCRU teams are a lifeline to reduce the rate of orangutan mortality as a result of either community intervention or starvation due to being isolated in condemned forests within plantations or farmlands. Many orangutans that is isolated in fragmented forests benefit from the work of HOCRU as the team continues to monitor them, and undertake a translocation when the orangutans are deemed to be under serious threat.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Yayasan Orangutan Sumatera Lestari - Orangutan Information Centre (YOSL - OIC) and its Human Orangutan Conflict Response Unit (HOCRU) programme supports the conservation of the critically endangered Sumatran orangutan (*Pongo abelii*) through rescue, education, and the implementation of best practice techniques for mitigating conflict, through the following objectives:

1. Manage the HOCRU, to investigate, enumerate, and conduct mitigation of conflict incidents in agricultural areas prone to crop-raiding by orangutans;
2. Conduct regular field monitoring of known isolated populations of orangutans, as well as monitoring of orang-utans translocated through the HOCRU programme;
3. Socialise the mitigation methods developed to communities currently experiencing, or that may experience, HOC problems, through education and awareness raising materials and training activities.



Photo 1. HOCRU team assisted GLNP officer to check orangutan condition in GLNP forest in Bukit Lawang

The HOCRU team responds to human-orangutan conflict (HOC) reports, as well as reports of illegally held captive orangutans, and conducts regular field monitoring of translocated and known isolated populations of orangutans. They conduct data collection and mapping of forest adjacent villages to gain understanding of crop-raiding species, and host regular outreach and training workshops on human-wildlife conflict mitigation methods, as well as distributing educational materials. Our HOCRU programme is the only active initiative directly tackling human-orangutan conflict in the field in Sumatra, and the team's vital work and links to forest-adjacent communities has prevented conflict incidents such as the killing and poaching of

orangutans, through communities having a specialist service they can report at-risk animals to, rather than taking matters into their own hands.

The following outcomes are what we expect to accomplish from these activities:

1. Increased number of wild orangutans in viable forest blocks; Reduced rate of wild orangutan mortality as a result of either community intervention or starvation; Reduced rate of wild orangutans entering into captivity as a result of increased contact with humans;
2. Reduced rate of wild orangutan mortality as a result of either community intervention or starvation; Reduced rate of wild orangutans entering into captivity as a result of increased contact with humans;
3. Increased knowledge of HOC issues and locations of orangutan populations in conflict situations;
4. Increased levels of community knowledge on conservation issues and laws protecting wildlife; Increased levels of 'orangutan-friendly' mitigation methods to be employed by local communities; reduced rate of wild orangutan mortality and/or capture as a result of increased contact with humans; reduced levels of encroachment into protected areas.

2. PROJECT ACTIVITIES

2. 1. RESPONDS TO HUMAN ORANGUTAN CONFLICT (HOC) REPORT AND CONDUCT ORANGUTAN RESCUE

April-June 2016

HOCRU team begun the project by confiscating a baby orangutan from Jambo Rambong village, Aceh Tamiang District. This male baby orangutan, estimated to be 2 years old, was found by a local farmer when he chopped down a tree in his farmland. As we ever conducted awareness visit to this village, this farmer, as a result, already knew that keeping orangutan was illegal according to Indonesian Law. Thus he then handed over the orangutan to Mr. Nano, a local villager from neighbouring village who usually assisted HOCRU team in conducting any rescue in this area. Based on field medical examination conducted by our veterinarian, Dr. Ricko, it was found that the baby orangutan, later named as Leo, was suffering from malnutrition, skin infection and was infected by intestinal parasites. Now Leo is being cared in quarantine centre in Sibolangit, managed by SOCP and will be released someday.

From 14-17 April 2016, the team was in Bandar Pusaka sub-village, Aceh Tamiang district to respond to a conflict report in a community farmland. However, after four days of searching, HOCRU team was not able to find any orangutans, but 10 old orangutan nests (more than 2 weeks old) were found in the area. They also found out that the remaining orangutan habitat in this area was still relatively big and still has a connection to a protected forest. However, the team has listed this population as isolated orangutan population and will be monitored regularly.

On the next day, HOCRU team travelled to another village in Aceh Tamiang District - Rimba Sawang, to respond to a report from PT Sisirau staff about orangutan seen in the plantation. However, after conducting intensive search together with BKSDA staff and PT Sisirau staff for two days, team could not find any orangutans. Yet, we

maintain an intensive communication with PT Sisirau staff and will be back to the site for necessary monitoring. Until the time of writing this report, we had received no news about the orangutan.

From 20 – 21 April 2016, HOCRU team was in Peunaron Lama village, Aceh Timur, to confiscate a baby orangutan being kept illegally by local villager. The male orangutan, estimated to be 3 years old was kept in a chicken cage. Upon a thorough medical examination by our veterinarian, the baby orangutan was found to be in healthy condition and was still showing wild behavior. He was then transported to the SOCP quarantine centre in Batu Mbelin, Sibolangit for rehabilitation process until he is ready to be released into the forest.



Photo 2. An infant male orangutan, Leo, was rescued by HOCRU team after being kept for 2 weeks in chicken coop

On the beginning of May, HOCRU team received a report from Ujung Padang village, Bakongan, Aceh Selatan District, about male orangutan which is isolated in community farmland. Upon arrival on the site, the team soon attempted a rescue operation. On 3 May 2016, HOCRU team managed to evacuate an adult male orangutan, estimated to be 30 years old. The orangutan was found in healthy condition and was translocated into GLNP forest in Ranto Sialang, Aceh Selatan. This rescue operation was also attended by Kumaran Seshe, Great Apes Head Keeper of Singapore Zoo.

Thereafter, the team travelled to Wonosari sub village in Aceh Tamiang District to respond to community report on orangutan conflict. Here, the team encountered an adult male orangutan that was estimated to be 35 years old. Upon an intensive medical examination, we found out the male orangutan was so thin with body weight was only 32 kg. He also had some open wounds which maybe as a result of fighting with other male orangutan. One big open wound on the orangutan shoulders has to be

sewed closed, and after ensuring that the male orangutan would be able to survive in the wild, the team released him into protected forest in Aceh Tamiang.

On 16 – 26 May 2016, HOCRU team conducted monitoring mission in isolated orangutan habitat near PT Prima, Langkat District. In this mission, the team was accompanied by 3 students sent by Ocean Park Conservation Fund Hongkong (OPCF HK). After few days of monitoring, the team found a pair of mother and baby as well as a juvenile orangutan. Unfortunately, when the team was going to conduct a rescue operation with a staff of BBKSDA North Sumatra, they could not find the juvenile orangutan. The team finally managed to tranquilize the pair of mother and baby orangutan (estimated to be 20 years old and 2 years old). After a thorough health check with no injuries found, these orangutan was translocated into the GLNP forest, in Cinta Raja Resort, Langkat District.

On 30 May 2016, HOCRU team led by YOSL-OIC Director, Panut Hadisiswoyo, and staff of BBKSDA North Sumatra, managed to confiscate an adult male orangutan owned by a military official in Kabanjahe, Karo District. According to the ‘owner’, they have kept the orangutan since he was two years old. This male orangutan, estimated to be 20 years old, was then transported to SOCP quarantine for rehabilitation process. Now, this orangutan has been through a rehabilitation process for almost a year. However, due to long traumatic experiences, this orangutan will not be released back to the forest. SOCP planned to place this orangutan on their new facility Orangutan Haven, which is a facility for unreleased orangutan to ensure their animal welfare for their entire life.



Photo 3. Adult male orangutan, named Krismon, that has been kept in the tiny cage since 1998.

After safely transporting the orangutan from Kabanjahe to SOCP quarantine in Batu Mbelin, Sibolangit, North Sumatra, the HOCRU team soon travelled to Aceh Tamiang District to confiscate another orangutan in Alur Jambu village, Bandar Pusaka subdistrict, Aceh Tamiang. The information about this orangutan was coming

from staff of BKSDA Aceh, Resort Aceh Timur, Mr. Azaruddin. According to the 'owner', he found the baby orangutan (estimated to be 1 year old) on his way going home from his workplace in another village. As he felt pity for the baby orangutan, he then took her to his home and took care of her for about a week. Upon a medical examination, it was found that she was malnourished, thus she was soon transported to the orangutan quarantine centre in Batu Mbelin, Sibolangit, North Sumatra for further treatment.

On 13 June 2016, HOCRU team received a report from GLNP staff about orangutan conflict in Bukit Mas region, Langkat North Sumatra. The team soon travelled to the site, yet upon arriving on the site, they did not find any orangutans. As Bukit Mas region is located on the boundary of the national park, team predicted that the orangutan has returned to GLNP forest.

On 25 June 2016, HOCRU team received a report on orangutan being isolated in community farmland in Pamah Semelir village, sub district Kutalimbaru, Langkat District, North Sumatra. However, upon arrival on the location, HOCRU team did not find any orangutan. As there was an arresting operation for illegal loggers in this area, the HOCRU team have to leave the site for security reason.



Photo 4. Baby orangutan confiscated from military member in Simpang Jernih, East Aceh on July 2016

July-September 2016

9 July 2016, HOCRU team travelled to Simpang Jernih, East Aceh District to confiscate a female baby orangutan from military member in Simpang Jernih, East Aceh. According to this military member, the baby orangutan was handed over by a local community member to him who then informed this to staff of BKSDA Aceh. The baby orangutan was suffering from mild dehydration and was malnourished. Now she is being cared in rehabilitation centre managed by Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Program (SOCP) and will be released someday.

On 13 July 2016, HOCRU team went to Babahrot village, Aceh Barat Daya district to confiscate a female orangutan being kept illegally by local community. A month before, HOCRU team together with BKSDA staff from Aceh Barat Daya had tried to confiscate this orangutan. Yet, the 'owner' refused to hand over the orangutan and request another month for keeping the orangutan before giving the orangutan to BKSDA staf. She then signed a letter of agreement stating that she would hand over the orangutan to BKSDA one month later. Unfortunately, when HOCRU team and BKSDA staff assisted by local police tried to confiscate this orangutan on 13 July (a month later), she still refused to give away the orangutan and even tried to hide the orangutan. Since she did not want to hand over the orangutan and even tried to assault the local police who joined the operation, BKSDA Aceh decided to bring the case for legal process. Thus on 14 July, BKSDA Aceh represented by his staff in Aceh Barat Daya, made a crime report to local police. Following this, on 20 July 2016, BKSDA Aceh along with local police and HOCRU team forced to confiscate the female orangutan (estimated to be 7 years old). HOCRU team then brought her to the quarantine centre in Batu Mbelin Sibolangit, managed by SOCP. On the same day, a staff from BKSDA Aceh gave her testimony as the witness of the crime. Our HOCRU coordinator (Krisna) also gave his testimony about the crime on 25 July 2016 to local police. At the beginning, we expected that the case can be brought forward to the court to give a deterrent effect to the 'owner'. Unfortunately, after few months, we heard that the case was dropped by local police and the 'owner' still live freely and even did not get any charge.



Photo 5. Orangutan from Babahrot village that was finally confiscated after the owner earlier refused to hand it over to BKSDA staff

On 19 July 2016, HOCRU team assisted a staff of BKSDA North Sumatra and OIC patrol team in confiscating a Lar Gibbon from ex- District Secretary of Langkat government, Mr. Surya Jaisa. Mr. Jaisa kept the gibbon in his mini amusement park facilities in Pertumbukan village, sub district Wampu, Langkat District. BKSDA North Sumatra then decided to rehabilitate the gibbon at Barumon Wildlife Sanctuary in Padang Lawas sub district, before releasing him someday in Barumon Wildlife Reserve.



Photo 6. Lar gibbon kept by ex-District Secretary of Langkat government inside his amusement park

On 20 July, we received a report of orangutan conflict in Dame village, Sidikalang, Dairi district, North Sumatra from our NGO partner – PETAI. Local community claimed that they have tried to drive away the orangutan back to the forest, but he always come back to the village. After few days searching for the orangutan, the team only found the remains of his food, even no sign of his nest. The team then left the site and coordinated with local community to inform the team whenever they found the orangutan. On 27 July, HOCRU team returned to the site, yet they still could not find the orangutan. On 5 August 2016, HOCRU team received another report from this site. On 6 August 2016, HOCRU team was finally able to locate the orangutan and soon set up a rescue for him. After three hours, the male orangutan, estimated to be 30 years old, was safely brought down. Upon a thorough medical examination, we found out that the male orangutan was suffering from dehydration and was malnourished. We also found a big open wound on his back. His left eye was also injured. Considering his condition, the male orangutan was shortly transported to SOCP's rehabilitation centre for further medical treatment. After being cared in the centre for 8 months, this male orangutan has recovered and still showing wild behavior. Thus, SOCP give a recommendation to release the orangutan back to the wild population. Government authority (BKSDA North Sumatra province) then suggested to release the orangutan in Siranggas Nature Reserve. To ensure that the proposed site is suitable for translocation site, we conducted vegetation analysis and population survey in the site. According to the result of the survey, Siranggas Nature Reserve is suitable as one of translocation site for orangutan. Thus on 3 March 2017, the male orangutan was released back to Siranggas Nature Reserve.

In the beginning of August, a BKSDA staff from Aceh Tamiang informed us about baby orangutan illegally kept by local community in Kuala Simpang, Aceh Tamiang. On 9 August 2016, HOCRU team together with BKSDA staff from Aceh Tamiang confiscated the baby orangutan. Local farmer who kept the baby orangutan (which is estimated to be 2 years old), claimed that he found the orangutan in his farmland. The mother and baby orangutan was going down to the ground and was chased by a dog. The mother orangutan then left her baby and run away. Thereafter, the farmer took the orangutan and he has kept the baby orangutan for about a week before BKSDA staff and HOCRU team came. The male baby orangutan is now in rehabilitation centre in Batu Mbelin, Sibolangit until he is ready to be released to the forest.

On 1 August, our veterinarian, was requested by GLNP to check and give medical treatment to a baby orangutan in Bukit Lawang, sub district Bahorok, Langkat. The baby orangutan was diagnosed to be malnourished and starving since he was often left alone by his mother. We have given the baby orangutan vitamins to help him recover.



Photo 7. A sedated male orangutan from community farmland in Siperkas, Subulussalam, Aceh

On 22 August 2016, HOCRU team received a report about male orangutan being isolated in community farmland in Siperkas village, Rundeng sub district, Subulussalam, Aceh. On the next day, HOCRU team along with staffs of BKSDA Aceh set up the rescue operation and within one hour, the orangutan has been tranquilized and safely brought down. Upon a thorough medical examination, the orangutan was found to be healthy and was released to GLNP forest in Aceh Selatan on the same day.

A week later, HOCRU team received another report about orangutan conflict in Aceh, located in Lawe Cimanuk village, sub district Kluet Timur, South Aceh. Upon arrival on the location, team found out that the orangutan was already walking on the ground since the only trees left on this open area were banana trees. The team soon set up rescue attempt to evacuate the orangutan. Few hours later, the male orangutan has been tranquilized by using a blowpipe and based on medical check conducted by our veterinarian, we found out that his left eye was already blind and suffering from atrophy, while his right eye was suffering from a trauma. We also found some air rifle bullets on his face. Considering his critical condition, the HOCRU team soon transported the orangutan to SOCP's rehabilitation centre in Batu Mbelin, Sibolangit for further medical treatment. The orangutan now is recovering. The veterinarian team in quarantine still provide medical treatment for his right eye. It is hoped that his right eye can fully recover and fully function again so that he can be released back to the forest someday. Apart from the eyes, current health condition of orangutan shows a good progress. Though, it still needs lot of consideration and discussion particularly with the ophthalmologist regarding his eyes.



Photo 8. HOCRU vet delivered tranquilizer drug by blowpipe to sedate the male orangutan that is going to be rescued from community farmland in Siperkas.

On 6 – 7 September 2016, HOCRU team was in Kinangkong village, Marike sub district, Langkat district, North Sumatra to respond to a report from Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP) about an injured orangutan found in community farmland. Upon arrival on the site, team found an adult male orangutan, estimated to be 25 years old. Based on medical examination conducted by our veterinarian after the orangutan being sedated, the male orangutan was malnourished and had a tumor on the rectum area. Considering his critical condition, the HOCRU team soon transported the orangutan to rehabilitation centre in Batu Mbelin, Sibolangit for further medical treatment. After surgery to remove the tumor in his anus, the orangutan showed a good progress with speedy recovery from surgery. Thus on 1 February 2017, the orangutan was released into GLNP forest involving GLNP and BKSDA authorities.

On the next day, the second HOCRU team who were based in South Aceh, assisted BKSDA Aceh in confiscating a baby orangutan being kept illegally by a local parliament member in Meulaboh, West Aceh District. The owner claimed that he received the orangutan from local farmer who found the baby orangutan while he was clearing his farmland. The baby orangutan was only three months old when he was given to this parliament member, and since then the parliament member has kept him for 1.5 years in his home by providing special room and bed for the orangutan.

On 15 September 2016, HOCRU team was requested by BKSDA North Sumatra to assist in evacuating 6 slow loris (consisting of 2 males and 4 females) which were previously being rehabilitated by ISCP (Indonesian Species Conservation Programme.) to SOCP rehabilitation centre in Sibolangit.



Photo 9. The baby orangutan confiscated from a member of District Parliament in West Aceh District.

On 21 – 24 September 2016, HOCRU team once more was requested by BBKSDA North Sumatra to assist in releasing 1 male and 1 female siamangs as well as one lar gibbon to forest area in Sipirok, South Tapanuli District, North Sumatra. These siamang and gibbon were previously rehabilitated in wildlife rescue centre in Penyabungan, managed by Sumatran Rainforest Institute (SRI). The SRI was unable to continue the rehabilitation due to mismanagement issues and thus the authority requested a quick action for the animals in their premise.

In the beginning of September 2016, HOCRU team based in South Aceh District along with staff of BKSDA Aceh travelled to West Aceh District to confiscate a baby orangutan handed over by a member of District Parliament in West Aceh District. According to the ‘owner’, the baby male orangutan was given to him since the orangutan was 3 months old. HOCRU team then transported the baby orangutan to orangutan rehabilitation centre in Batu Mbelin, Sibolangit, managed by SOCP and will be released back to the forest someday.

On September 27, HOCRU team received a report from local community in Bukit Dinding subvillage in Halaban, about orangutan being isolated in community farmland. However, upon arrival on the site, the team found out that what villager said as orangutan is actually a gibbon. The team then drives away the gibbon back to the forest.

October-December 2016

On October 11, the HOCRU team received a report about an orangutan being isolated in a community farmland in Ujung Padang village, Bakongan sub district, South Aceh District, Aceh province. The orangutan was stranded in less than 1 ha of forest patch, a situation that requires immediate intervention. The young male (12 years old approximately) was showing good physical condition during the examination in the field, so the team decided to proceed with translocation on the same day to a safe area in the Gunung Leuser National Park. According to information from the local community, a female orangutan was also roaming in the same location. We began to monitor the area, and on October 17, the team found the female orangutan (around 25 years old) and conducted a rescue operation . Based on territory analysis, most likely these two orangutans would have been living together before so the team decided to release the female in the same area that the male had been previously released.

On October 19, we received information about an orangutan being illegally kept by local community members in Babahrot, Aceh Barat Daya, Aceh province, a few kilometers away from the site where we had confiscated another orangutan in July 2016. Along with a police officer and BKSDA members, the team forced the owner to handover the 3 year old female orangutan who was then transferred to SOCP quarantine for further medical check up and rehabilitation process.

On October 29, the Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP) authority informed the HOCRU team about the presence of a sick/injured orangutan staying near community farmland in Batu Katak village, Bahorok subdistrict, Langkat, North Sumatra province. Even though the area is close to GLNP, with little risk of conflict, the medical condition required an emergency response. After easily finding the 15 year old male orangutan, the team observed his health condition using binoculars. Our veterinarian observed severe damage around the anal part of the animal and decided to conduct the rescue. Due to the severity of the medical condition, the orangutan was directly transported to SOCP quarantine where their team recently performed surgery. The orangutan is now under intensive treatment and will be released once his medical condition has improved.



Photo 10. Team carried out the sedated orangutan to transport crate during rescue operation in Batu Katak village

On November 2, the HOCRU team based in Aceh Selatan received a report of orangutan being isolated in community farmland in Bakongan sub district. Since the farmland is still connected to the forest, the HOCRU team decided to drive away the orangutan back to the forest using bamboo canon.

On November 3, Head of Kilang Alay village in Langkat District contacted HOCRU team and informing about orangutan encountered by local community in their farmland. Yet, upon arrival on the site, the team only found remains of orangutan food. After searching surrounding area and did not found any orangutan, the team left the site and asked Head of village to re-contact the team if they see a sign of orangutan presence.

On November 28, HOCRU team received a report of orangutan being isolated in Bukit Rongring, Langkat District. According to local community, there was one orangutan roaming in their farmland. However, the team could not find the orangutan. After coordinating with local community and ask them to contact HOCRU team whenever they see the orangutan presence, HOCRU team left the site.

January –March 2017

On January 20, local community from Ujung Padang village, Bakongan sub district, South Aceh District, Aceh province, contacted HOCRU team and informed a presence of orangutan in their farmland. Upon arrival on the site, the team found a female orangutan, estimated 35 year old with a male baby 1 year old stranded in community plantation. Thus, team arranged the evacuation for the orangutans. As both mother and baby orangutans were in a good health condition, they were released directly to the GLNP forest at the same day.

On 1 February 2017 while the team released the orangutan rescued from Kinangkong village on 7 September 2016 to GLNP forest in Sei Lepad, HOCRU team received a call from BKSDA resort in Dairi, North Sumatra, to confiscate an orangutan. The HOCRU team assigned another team to be able to cope with the task. Upon arrival on the site, the team found the Orangutan in a very weak condition with severe wound and serious malnutrition issues. The SOCP vet along with OIC team manage to pick the orangutan and transfer to the quarantine. Unfortunately, after 2 days at quarantine, the orangutan was dead due severe wound infection. From necropsy result, the vet found lot of abscess caused by myiasis, lead to sepsis condition as well as several air rifle bullet in the body.



Photo 11. Female orangutan rescued from Bakongan, South Aceh

The last rescue on this project period was on March 2, 2017. HOCRU team got a call from a villager that they encounter a male orangutan roaming several days on their plantation in Mekar Makmur Village, Sei Lepad, North Sumatra. From pinpoint location, this orangutan was 7 km from GLNP and was stranded in rubber and palm oil plantation. The team coordinated with BKSDA to conduct translocation immediately. From physical examination on field, the vet found the orangutan left eye was blind due to infection by air rifle bullet. HOCRU vet also found more than 10 air rifle bullet on the head and body, but our vet chose not to extract the bullet because they have been penetrated deep in the skin. However, overall condition of orangutan quite well to perform release. The male orangutan estimated 30 year old was released back into GLNP forest on the same day.

2.2. CONDUCT REGULAR FIELD MONITORING OF KNOWN ISOLATED POPULATIONS OF ORANGUTANS, AS WELL AS MONITORING OF ORANGUTANS TRANSLOCATED THROUGH THE HOCRU PROGRAM MEMONITORING OF ISOLATED POPULATION

Monitoring of isolated orangutan population

On 14 – 17 April 2016, HOCRU team conducted monitoring mission in Bandar Pusaka, sub district Aceh Tamiang. During 4 days of monitoring, the team found 10 orangutan nests estimated to be more than 2 weeks old. They also observed that the size of remaining forest habitat is still relatively large and still has a connection to the protected forest.

After conducting monitoring mission in Aceh Tamiang, HOCRU team travelled to PT Prima plantation in Langkat District North Sumatra, to monitor the isolated orangutan population near the plantation. During 3 days of monitoring, the team found 12 old orangutan nests (more than 2 weeks old) and one new nest (less than 3 days). Until now, we have rescued 5 orangutans from the isolated habitat near the plantation.

On 25 – 29 April 2016, the team conducted monitoring mission in isolated population near PT Prima plantation, Tangkahan sub district, Langkat District and in Wonosari village, Aceh Tamiang District. From two days monitoring mission in Wonosari village, the HOCRU team found 10 old orangutan nests (more than two weeks old). Local community reported that they still see orangutan in that area. The remaining forest patch in this area is estimated to be around 50 ha. HOCRU team then maintain regular communication with local community representative, so that they will inform the team whenever they see the orangutan. In the remaining forest habitat near PT Prima plantation, the HOCRU team found 4 new orangutan nest (around 3 days old) and food remains. Local community reported that they saw a pair of mother and baby orangutan in the area, yet the team did not encountered any orangutan during this mission.



Photo 12. Orangutan's nest found during monitoring mission in Bandar Pusaka, Aceh Tamiang

The next monitoring mission was conducted on 11 – 12 May 2016 in Sei Litur village, Sawit Seberang sub district, Langkat District. During two days of monitoring mission, the HOCRU team only found 2 orangutan nests estimated to be more than two weeks old. Local community claimed that they have never seen any orangutan for last few months, yet our team believes that there are still orangutans in that area. Thus, HOCRU team will keep monitor this population regularly.

On 16 – 26 May 2016, HOCRU team returned to isolated orangutan population near PT Prima plantation, to observe the current situation. After few days of monitoring the team found 3 orangutans (a pair of mother and baby and a juvenile orangutan) in this area. As it has been mentioned in the previous section, on 22 May, the team was able to rescue and translocated a pair of mother and baby orangutan to a safer place. As the juvenile run away when the team set up the operation, the team will keep monitor the site regularly.

On 31 May – 4 June 2016, the HOCRU team returned to Sei Litur village in Langkat District to conduct another monitoring mission. During this mission, the team, again, only found 10 old orangutan nests estimated to be more than two weeks old. However, the team will keep monitor the site as the team still find nests as an evidence of orangutan presence in that area.

The next monitoring mission was conducted on 8 – 16 June 2016 in area near PT Prima plantation, Langkat District and in Kampung Bukit village, sub district Tamiang Hulu, Aceh Tamiang District. In the forest habitat near PT Prima plantation, the HOCRU team found 1 nest estimated to be 1 – 3 days old and more than 10 orangutan nests estimated to be more than 2 weeks old. Yet the team did not encountered any orangutan. Meanwhile, during monitoring mission in Kampung Bukit, the HOCRU team only found 1 orangutan nest estimated to be more than 2

weeks old. The team also observed that the size of remaining forest habitat in Kampung Bukit is still relatively large.



Photo 13. Orangutan nest found in PT. Prima plantation during monitoring mission

In June, the monitoring mission for isolated orangutan population was conducted on 28 June 2016, in Pucuk Lembang village, sub district East Kluet, South Aceh. In this mission, HOCRU team did not encounter any orangutan and only found several nests (class 3 and 4) in community farmland. Based on GPS coordinate, the farmland in fact is located within Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP).

On 14 – 23 July 2016, HOCRU team monitored isolated orangutan population in two villages – Batu Jonjong and Kuta Gajah in Bahorok sub district, Langkat district. During a monitoring mission in Batu Gajah, team did not find any orangutan nor any evidence of their presence such as nest or food trace. Local community claimed that they often encounter one orangutan roaming near their village, but the orangutan never eat fruit or crop raiding their farmland. In Kuta Gajah village, the team found 1 orangutan nest (class 3) and 2 orangutan nest (class 2). Local villagers stated that they often find orangutan during durian fruiting season. Our team also observed that Kuta Gajah village is still connected to the Gunung Leuser National Park forests. During this mission, HOCRU team together with BBKSDA staff from Langkat region also visited Namo Sialang village to discuss human orangutan conflict incident recently happened in this village. Local community claimed that orangutan has eaten their durian and cause economic loss for them. The conclusion of the meeting is that community and Lembaga Pariwisata Tangkahan (Tangkahan Ecotourism Venture) will send an official letter to BBKSDA North Sumatra and YOSL-OIC, asking for assistance in tackling human orangutan conflict in this village.

At the same time, HOCRU team in South Aceh also conducted monitoring mission in Seunebok Kranji village, Kota Bahagia, South Aceh from 15 to 18 July 2016. The mission aimed to check orangutan reported by local community during Idul Fitri

holiday. During monitoring mission, team only found orangutan nest on durian tree. As community farmland where orangutan was reported is only about 800 m from GLNP, the team predicted that the orangutan came to the farmland in search of food (durian fruits) and has returned to the GLNP forest.

On 21 – 22 July and 26 – 28 July 2016, HOCRU team returned to forest habitat near PT Prima to conduct monitoring mission in this area. Based on information from local community, there is still one orangutan roaming in this forest habitat. This information is in align with the result of last monitoring mission, in which HOCRU team found 1 new nest (Class 1) and food traces. Considering that PT Prima has started to clear this last and remaining forest within their concession, HOCRU team will conduct monitoring more often to find the remaining orangutan and translocated them to safer habitat.

On 3 – 16 August 2016, the Medan based HOCRU team conducted monitoring mission near PT Prima plantation in Tangkahan sub district, Langkat. In this mission, team found 4 new orangutan nests and food traces. Local community claimed that there is one orangutan often found in this area.

Meanwhile, from 14 to 18 August 2016, HOCRU team also monitored some isolated orangutan population in Siperkas village, Subulussalam and Pinto Rimba village. In Siperkas village, the HOCRU team did not encounter any orangutan, except old nest and food traces. Based on interview with local community and staff of BKSDA Aceh in Subulussalam, forest habitats near Rawa Singkil Wildlife Reserve in Siperkas village were being cleared using heavy equipment that did not only clear the area but also built deep drainage. This activity may have scared orangutan and force them to move out from the wildlife reserve and enter community farmland. In Pinto Rimba, HOCRU team tried to check orangutan population in the area where orangutan ever reported. Yet, they did not find any orangutan, and there is no agriculture activities found in the area. Ground cover vegetation also already regrew in the area.

As mentioned earlier, that during monitoring mission in PT Prima on last July, HOCRU team found out that the company has started to clear up again some forest patch left over in their plantation. Such activity may harm the orangutan population inside it. Thus on 8 – 11 September 2016, HOCRU team returned to the site to conduct another monitoring mission. However, during this mission, again, the team did not find any orangutan except one new nest (class 1). A monitoring mission were also conducted by HOCRU team in Aceh Selatan in sub district Bakongan and sub district Kluet Tengah. Yet, during the monitoring mission there was no orangutan encountered.

On 16 – 19 September, HOCRU team conducted monitoring on isolated orangutan population in Sei Litu, Batang Serangan sub district, Langkat. In this mission, HOCRU team found a pair of mother and baby orangutan and 3 new nest classified as Class 1.

Meanwhile the second HOCRU team based in Aceh Selatan also conducted monitoring mission in Bakongan subdistrict, Kluet Timur sub district and Trumon Timur subdistrict in South Aceh District, and Blang Pidie subdistrict in Aceh Barat Daya District. In Bakongan, monitoring activity was focused in Ujung Padang village.

During this mission, a HOCRU team encountered one orangutan. Unfortunately, the orangutan ran away to a denser forest patch. As this forest patch is still connected to national park, the HOCRU team did not conduct any rescue effort.

At the beginning of November, the HOCRU team that is based in Medan conducted regular monitoring in Langkat District, North Sumatra province, mostly around Batu Katak and Batu Rongring in Bahorok subdistrict and Dusun Pancasila, Kilang Alay in Batang Serangan subdistrict. The team found 26 old and new nests especially in Bahorok subdistrict, a popular touristic area. Here, HOCRU team has to deal with 2 community groups with different interest and perception on orangutan. Farmer group consider orangutan as pest that raid their durian plantation and cause income loss. Meanwhile, the tourist guide group prefer the orangutan keep roaming near community farmland as it is easier to show the orangutan to their guests. Thus, HOCRU team will closely monitor the orangutan population in this area to avoid future case of human orangutan conflict.

Meanwhile, in Kluet Timur sub district, the HOCRU team conducted a monitoring in Durian Kawan village. According to local community, there was one orangutan that often roamed in community farmland. Yet, the orangutan was seen a month before the HOCRU team came to the site, and there was no more orangutan found during this monitoring. Based on ground check conducted by HOCRU team, this community farmland is adjacent to Limited Production Forest, thus the orangutan may have returned to the forest. After visiting Durian Kawan village, the HOCRU team conducted another monitoring mission in Seunebok Pusaka village in Trumon Timur sub district. Unfortunately in this mission, HOCRU team did not find any orangutan nor the evidence of its presence.

Based on an another community report, in December the first HOCRU team conducted monitoring activities in Kilang Alay, Langkat District where they found 5 old nests but did not manage to encounter any orangutans. Back in 2015, the team already rescued 5 orangutan from the same area but most probably the conversion of rubber to oil palm plantations pushed the orangutans to move away. This consideration confirmed that monitoring land use change is key to understand orangutan population habitat and repartition.



Photo 14. Team HOCRU observing orangutan nest after received report from villager about the presence of orangutan close to their farmland

In the same month, HOCRU team in South Aceh conducted monitoring mission in Setia village, Blang Pidie subdistrict. The mission was conducted upon request from BKSDA Aceh as they received a report of orangutan presence in the area. However, after searching carefully, the team did not found any orangutan or its nest. According to local villager, they found the orangutan last week on durian tree and since then never saw him anymore. The community farmland where the orangutan was reported is next to Limited Production Forest, thus the orangutan may have returned to the forest.

On the beginning of 2017, team conducted monitoring at Babo, Aceh Tamiang, Aceh province. According to the villagers, this area has at least 2 individu orangutan. Yet, during the mission, the team only found several nest indicating that the orangutan still roaming on this place. This area also started to be cleared for plantation and only around 100 ha of forest patch left.

After few days of monitoring, the teams then got another call about the presence of orangutan in Kilang Alay, Langkat. Apparently, the team just found fresh trace from orangutan food and did not encounter the orangutan within 5 days monitoring.

Team also conduct monitoring at Sei Canang, Aceh Timur, Aceh province as the part of target isolated area. According to the farmers, they encounter orangutan during durian fruiting season. As the durian fruiting season on this area is around July, the farmers claimed they did not see the orangutan since few months ago.

At Pucuk Lembang and Bakongan, the team also conducted the monitoring to update recent information as well as to outreach the villager for education program. During the monitoring team only found the nest and location of the nest actually close to the Protected Forest, so the team decided to keep communicate with the head of village regarding the orangutan presence.

On February 2017, the HOCRU team received a call regarding orangutan presence inside community farmland. After conducting a ground check, the team found out that the farmland is actually located inside protected forest and is only 700 meter from the boundary of national park. Thus the team decided to drive the orangutan back to the forest. HOCRU team also as well as educated the farmer to not have a plantation close to National park or inside Protected Forest. Whilst in the east coast, team conducted monitoring at Tanjung Putri, Langkat, North Sumatra. The team did not encounter orangutan on the rubber plantation. According to the farmer, currently was shed season for rubber tree which orangutan not easy to encounter.

The last monitoring in this project period conducted at several company plantations as team still received the report from the farmer and plantation worker. From PT. Prima team found 2 new nests and food trace but did not encounter the orangutan. Team also travelled to Kilang Alay, responded the report from farmer regarding the orangutan presences. After spend few days on the area, the team only found new nest and no orangutan.

2.3. SOCIALISE THE MITIGATION METHODS DEVELOPED TO COMMUNITIES CURRENTLY EXPERIENCING, OR THAT MAY EXPERIENCE, HOC PROBLEMS, THROUGH EDUCATION AND AWARENESS RAISING MATERIALS AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

Outreach and education

HOCRU team had conducted various education and awareness visit in this project period.



Photo 15. HOCRU team member, Abdul gave quiz to the student during school visit in Junior High School in Kluet Utara

On 10 – 12 August 2016, HOCRU team conducted awareness and education visit to three junior schools in Kluet Utara sub district, South Aceh district. In total 180 students attended the event. During the visit, HOCRU team gave a presentation about how forest and orangutan play an important role for the ecosystem. HOCTU team also screened some conservation movies and gave quiz about conservation. HOCRU team also distributed posters (30 copies), books about conservation published by OIC (20 copies) and writing books with conservation message (30 copies).

On 19 August 2016, the HOCRU team conducted awareness and education visit in SDN Sei Kerapuh, Batang Serangan sub district, Langkat District. North Sumatra. The event was attended by 110 students.

The next awareness and education visit was conducted on 5 September 2016 in SD Negeri Bukit Kencur, Tualang Kepang, sub district Bahorok. About 70 students attended the event. In South Aceh, the awareness visit was conducted in MTs Lawe Sawah and SMPN 2 Kluet Timur Pucuk Lembang, attended by about 80 students.



Photo 16. Students from SDN Sei Kerapuh, Batang Serangan, that just attended school visit program conducted by HOCRU team

On September 8, 21 and 22, HOCRU team in South Aceh conducted an awareness and education visit to three junior schools in Kluet Timur subdistrict. There were 225 students attended the event.

On October 6, we conducted an awareness and education visit to three junior schools in Batang Serangan sub district, Langkat district, North Sumatra province. 200 students attended the presentation about the links between forests, orangutans and ecosystems. Our team also screened conservation movies and gave a quiz about conservation while distributing 20 posters to the schools teachers.

On December 3, the HOCRU team conducted another awareness and education visit in MTs Al Furqon, Batang Serangan sub district, Langkat District, North Sumatra. The event was attended by 125 students.

Below is the table showing list of schools visited by HOCRU team from April 2016 to March 2017:

Table 1. List of School visited by HOCRU team for awareness and education program

No	School	Location	Province	Number of students
1	SMPN 4 K.Utara	Kluet Utara	Aceh	62
2	SMPN 6 K.Utara	Gampong Paya Kluet Utara	Aceh	66
3	SMPN 5 K.Utara	Kluet Utara	Aceh	52
4	SMPN 3 K.Timur	Kluet Timur	Aceh	65
5	MTs S Lawe Sawah	Lawe Sawah, Kluet Timur	Aceh	63
6	SMPN 2 K.Timur	Pucuk Lembang, Kluet Timur	Aceh	97
7	SMPN 2 Bakongan	Bukit Gading, Kota Bahagia	Aceh	49
8	MTsS Darrussyuhada	Pasie lembang, Kluet Selatan	Aceh	51
9	SMPN 4 Kluet Timur	Lawe Cimanok, Kluet Timur	Aceh	51
10	SMPN 1 Trumon	Ujung Tanoh, Trumon	Aceh	35
11	SD Negeri Bukit Kencur,	Tualang Kepang Kec. Bahorok	North Sumatra	70
12	SD Namu Unggas	Namu Unggas, Langkat	North Sumatra	200
13	MTsn Al Furqon	Langkat	North Sumatra	125

Survey on Human Orangutan Conflict and Mitigation

To identify an area prone to Human Orangutan Conflict (HOC) and to gain better understanding about (HOC), mitigation method issue and the community perception on it, HOCRU team also conducted questionnaire survey. The survey was focused in Aceh Selatan District, and targeted 10 villages prone to Human Orangutan Conflict in Aceh Selatan District. Until March 2017, we have conducted survey in 9 villages consist of Koto Manggamat, Lawe Melang, Kampung Sawah, Kampung Padang, Simpang Dua, Padang Rimba, Lawe Cimanok, Pucuk Lembang and Pinto Rimba village, with total respondents were 584 respondents, consisting of 58% men and 42% women.

According to this survey, 97% of respondents were able to identify and differentiate orangutan from other primates. Only 18% respondents claimed that they ever suffer from OU crop raiding. The majority of respondents stated that they has a problem with orangutan crop raiding are from Lawe Sawah and Lawe Cimanok villages. This usually occur during durian fruiting season which is from October to December. 56% of respondents who suffered from crop raiding stated that they are fine with the current situation while 37% respondents proposed to translocate the orangutan to other areas. Considering that Lawe Cimanok and Lawe Sawah is prone to orangutan conflict, - especially in Lawe Cimanok where we ever rescued an adult male orangutan from banana plantation, we are going to conduct a village conservation program in these villages. This program is a supported by USAID LESTARI. Through this program, we will work with local community to develop a village regulation that include human orangutan conflict mitigation aspects. In addition, we will also train local farmers in developing farmland that is specially designed to mitigate orangutan crop raiding. Through these approaches, we hope to reduce a possibility of human orangutan conflict in these areas and in turn ensure the sustainability of orangutan population in the region.



Photo 17. HOCRU team member conducted survey to gain better understanding and perception of human orangutan conflict

Wildlife Trade Investigation and Law Enforcement

In October, our HOCRU team based in Aceh received an information about an orangutan being shot by local community in Sawang Mutiara village, sub district Sawang, South Aceh District. Following this, we conducted investigation in the site and found out that the incidents happened eight months ago. According to local community, the orangutan was shot as he was eating durian fruits in community farmland. Local people have tried to scare him away to the forest. As he was reluctant to go away from the durian trees, local people shot the orangutan with air rifle gun to drive him back to the forest. Since then, the orangutan was not seen anymore. The HOCRU team then explained to local community the mitigation method which is safe for both orangutan and human. We also asked them to contact us whenever they found orangutan in their farmland.

In addition to wildlife trade investigation, in October, OIC team joined an arrest operation against encroachers in Singkil Swamp Reserve, along with FKL (Forum Konservasi Leuser, Leuser Conservation Forum), BKSDA Aceh and local police. In this joint operation, we arrested a bulldozer operator who was clearing the swamp forest. Further investigation revealed that the land cleared belong to a member of South Aceh parliament. The legal process of this case was conducted by FKL. Yet, FKL later informed us that local police was reluctant to further proceed the case.

3. MEDIA COVERAGE ON HOCRU ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

News coverage

- *How human greed is destroying vast swathes of a rainforest dubbed “the earth’s lungs” – pushing the sumatran orangutan one step closer to extinction*
<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3569263/How-human-greed-destroying-vast-swathes-rainforest-dubbed-earth-s-lungs-pushing-Sumatran-orangutan-one-step-closer-extinction.html>
- *When a mother’s arms are no longer enough.*
https://www.virgin.com/virgin-unite/when-mother%E2%80%99s-arms-are-no-longer-enough#.VwfVo3UD_OY.facebook
- *Confiscated sumatran orangutan being rehabilitated*
<http://rimanews.com/komunitas/fotovideo/read/20160530/8811/Penyitaan-Orangutan-Sumatera-Untuk-Jalani-Rehabilitasi>
- *An dying sumatran orangutan was saved*
<http://www.bintang.com/animal/read/2520497/orangutan-diselamatkan-dalam-keadaan-kurus-kering-hampir-mati>
- *Two sumatran orangutan was rescued from being illegally kept as pet*
<http://sumatera.metrotvnews.com/peristiwa/Rb1701eK-dua-orang-utan-sumatera-dievakuasi-dari-warga>
- *These confiscated sumatran orangutan are now being rehabilitated in Quarantine Centre in Batu Mbelin*
<http://www.mongabay.co.id/2016/06/05/orangutan-orangutan-sitaan-ini-kini-mondok-di-batu-mbelin>
- *Confiscation of sumatran orangutan in Aceh Barat Daya was rejected by the owner*

<https://www.ajnn.net/news/penyitaan-orangutan-sumatera-di-abdya-diwarnai-perlawanan/index.html>

- *Chronology of orangutan confiscation in Aceh Barat Daya*
<http://www.infobireuen.com/2016/07/kronologi-penyitaan-orangutan-di-abdya.html>
- *Confiscation of sumatran orangutan*
http://www.medanbisnisdaily.com/news/read/2016/07/30/248474/penyitaan-orangutan-aceh/#.V_HZPcmYJ7Y
- *HOCRU team has rescued 106 sumatran orangutan since 2012*
<http://waspada.co.id/aceh/tim-hocru-oic-selamatkan-106-orangutan-sejak-2012/>
- *Sumatran orangutan is now one step closer to extinction*
<http://nationalgeographic.co.id/berita/2016/07/saat-ini-orangutan-selangkah-menuju-kepunahan>
- *Sumatran orangutan from Tripa Swamp was handed over to OIC*
<http://aceh.tribunnews.com/2016/09/10/orangutan-rawa-tripa-diserahkan-ke-oic>
- *Confiscation of baby sumatran orangutan*
http://www.medanbisnisdaily.com/news/read/2016/07/11/244568/penyerahan-bayi-orangutan-sumatera/#.V_HdpMmYJ7Y
- *Baby Orangutan Was Chained Between Two Buildings — And Left There For A Year*
<https://www.thedodo.com/orangutan-chained-buildings-year-2065214804.html>
- *Palm oil culprits apprehended in the Leuser Ecosystem. Who sent them?*
<https://news.mongabay.com/2016/11/palm-oil-culprits-apprehended-in-the-leuser-ecosystem-who-sent-them/>
- *Captured baby orangutan chained to a wall hugged himself to sleep every night*
<http://metro.co.uk/2016/10/30/heartbreaking-story-of-orangutan-who-hugged-himself-to-sleep-every-night-6223163/#ixzz4TXSMIIEd>
- *À la poursuite de l'orang-outan en rickshaw*
<http://www.nationalgeographic.fr/31373-a-poursuite-de-lorang-outan-rickshaw/>
- *A release of orangutan*
<https://tirto.id/pelepasliaran-orangutan-cihU>
- *After being cared in Orangutan Quarantine and Rehabilitation Centre for 2 months, this 35 year old orangutan is released*
<http://foto.okezone.com/view/2017/02/03/1/32962/2-bulan-jalani-perawatan-karantina-saatnya-orangutan-35-tahun-ini-dilepasliarkan>
- *The release of 35 years old orangutan in Langkat*
<http://www.republika.co.id/berita/inpicture/nasional-inpicture/17/02/03/oks65p283-pelepasliaran-orangutan-berusia-35-tahun-di-langkat>
- *BBKSDA North Sumatra release orangutan in Siranggas Wildlife Reserve*
<http://medanheadlines.com/2017/02/27/bbksda-lepas-liarkan-orangutan-di-kawasan-suaka-margasatwa-sirenggas/>
- *BBKSDA North Sumatra release orangutan in Pakpak Barat*

<http://news.analisadaily.com/read/bbksda-lepaskan-orangutan-ke-papak-bharat/327822/2017/02/27>

- *Fully healed, the orangutan – Sitio, is released back to the forest*
<https://www.merdeka.com/peristiwa/sembuh-orangutan-sitio-dikembalikan-ke-hutan.html>

4. CONCLUSIONS

The HOCRU team has already rescued 24 orangutans in this project period. While these rescues are good news, there are still more orangutans in need of urgent help, and conflict between humans and orangutan is a growing problem. This is because large areas of orangutan habitat have been lost or degraded because of agriculture and logging. As a result, the primates are pushed into areas where forest and farmlands meet. With natural food hard to find, crop raiding – a key cause of conflict – becomes increasingly likely and more orangutans become isolated in tiny forest patches, without enough food to survive.

The Human Orangutan Conflict Response Unit has been addressing this problem since 2012 through rescuing orangutans in need of immediate help otherwise deceased or even poached and trafficked for wildlife trade. As habitat was cleared, orangutans became easy targets for poaching and hunting, the major threats of which as a byproduct of deforestation.

The key to successful conflict mitigation is collaboration with local farmers and plantation workers. It was members of the local community that always alerted the HOCRU to the presence of the orangutans in plantation and patch of forest. Therefore our community engagement programme through various education and awareness activities as well as mitigation training programme and socialisation need to be sustained.