

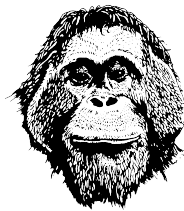


ORANGUTAN FOUNDATION  
INTERNATIONAL

*2011 Annual Report*

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## *Reflections*

A letter from Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas

Dear Friends,

With generous support from people all around the globe, 2011 was a year filled with deeply satisfying accomplishments for Orangutan Foundation International (OFI), including the launching of four bold, new orangutan conservation initiatives, which are profiled in the pages of this annual report.

These include our *Camp Rendell Project*, *Zero Tolerance/No Kill Training Program*, *Rawa Kuno Legacy Forest Campaign*, and our *Project Homeward Bound*. Through these initiatives we took groundbreaking steps in 2011 to prevent the loss of at-risk orangutan forest habitat, stem the illegal killing and poaching of orangutans, and ensure the safe and successful return of ex-captive, wild-born orangutans back to the forest where they rightfully belong.

This past year was filled with celebration too, including OFI's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and my own personal milestone—40 years of orangutan conservation work, which was chronicled in the 2011 award-winning IMAX 3D film, *Born to be Wild*. I knew, back in 1971, when I first ventured into the remote jungle to document the ecology and behavior of orangutans, that I would dedicate my life to these amazing red apes. It has truly been a remarkable journey for which I feel blessed.

Amidst the good news in 2011, there were many deeply troubling incidents of orangutan cruelty and habitat destruction, of human ignorance and greed, and of the unrelenting threats faced by Borneo's orangutans who struggle daily for survival in the wild and in captivity, as individuals and as a species.

To address these challenges and counteract their effects on orangutans, OFI continued in 2011 to carry out its core conservation work. We sheltered, fed and cared for 330 orphaned and displaced orangutans at our Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine (OCCQ) in Pasir Panjang. We patrolled more than one-million forested acres to safeguard 6,000 wild orangutans living in and around Tanjung Puting National Park, and we purchased more than 2,000 acres of orangutan habitat—now forever wild. Moreover, we continued our 40-year-long orangutan research study at Camp Leakey, essential to informing and supporting today's broad orangutan conservation programming.

We built a new jungle gym, which serves 29 rambunctious orangutans, created a new “soft release facility” for 26 juveniles, and constructed more than 2,350 feet of boardwalk to provide easy access to the forest for our orangutans and their caregivers.

Among our many ‘everyday’ accomplishments, we purchased, transported, and distributed more than 143,000 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables, prepared 36,000 bottles of milk, changed 3,600 diapers, built eight new enclosures, and extinguished countless forest fires that threatened orangutan habitat.

During 2011 we also saw many orangutans come and go from our Care Center and Quarantine. Fourteen captive orangutans entered the OCCQ, including tiny infants. Many orangutans – the latest victims of habitat loss and orangutan poaching – required emergency rescue by our caring veterinary staff and skilled Orangutan Rescue Team.

In happier news, 40 rehabilitated orangutans will be going home, *back to the forest*, over the next two years under a new agreement we negotiated in 2011 with government officials; eight made the journey in 2011, joining nearly 450 who have done the same over the years. In addition, in a concerted effort to stem the flow of orangutans coming into our Care Center – and to keep more orangutans safe in the wild – 1,000 workers from the palm oil and paper/pulp industries will receive training from OFI staff over the next two years under a precedent-setting agreement signed in 2011. These trainings will reduce human-orangutan conflicts and inspire the humane treatment of orangutans and other wildlife – an essential paradigm shift within an industry that has historically treated orangutans as “agricultural pests.”

Finally, in 2011, I traveled far and wide to raise awareness about the plight of orangutans. I gave presentations, lectures, and interviews to audiences in California, Colorado, Nevada, Hawaii, New York, British Columbia, and Singapore around the themes of "Pongo in Peril: Orangutans and Rainforests in Borneo," and "Orangutans, Rainforest, Palm Oil, and Sustainability." Connecting to people who care is both uplifting and inspiring; it is the much-needed fuel that has helped to sustain my work over the past four decades.

Of course, none of our work would have been possible without the kind support provided by our loyal members and donors, our business and funding partners, our board, staff, volunteers – *and you*. We understand that your support reflects an abiding confidence in our work and our mission. We promise to once again earn your confidence in 2012 and beyond – *saving the rainforest, saving orangutans...and making a difference*.

With deep appreciation,



Biruté Mary Galdikas  
OFI President



# Camp Rendell

## Helping orangutans return to the wild!

Orangutan Foundation International's new 'soft release' facility officially came to life in 2011. Named in honor of donors Geoff and Sharon Rendell, who provided the initial funding to build it, Camp Rendell is a modern, state-of-the-art facility for the care and daily release of orangutans in preparation for their return to the wild.

With generous donations of both capital and sweat equity, Camp Rendell was swiftly transformed in 2011 from an empty field to a fully operational rehabilitation site and a new home for both orphaned orangutans and OFI staff.

The location of Camp Rendell within the Pasir Panjang Village Forest Reserve was chosen for its relatively dry ground environment located amongst the more typical swampy habitat, which is perfect for the rehabilitative daily release of orangutans. It sits within what was once a cultivated rice field recognized by some staff as the playgrounds of their childhood. The new camp facilities center around the much talked about new Indonesian-style camp house. Its bright facade is the first thing you see when entering the camp clearing. Spacious and comfortable, the new structure has quickly become the heart and soul of daily life at Camp Rendell.



Beautiful pitcher plants are plentiful in the swampy forests surrounding OFI's new Camp Rendell facility.

The green exterior of the house fits well amongst the verdant shades of the forest that surround it, and thanks to the help of staff and OFI volunteers, the house has truly become a home. With a customary local-style kitchen addition in the rear, it offers modern convenience and comfort to its inhabitants, including state-of-the-art toilet facilities. Currently the house provides living quarters for up to six local staff members. Throughout the Summer of 2011, it was also home to OFI's two teams of short-term international construction volunteers 22 in all who donated their time and energy to OFI for three weeks each.



Camp Rendell's new Indonesian-style camp house, completed in 2011.

Within sight of the house, at the edge of the forest, proudly stand five newly designed and built orangutan enclosures. These spacious enclosures were completed in early July of 2011 and soon after became the new home for 26 very happy juvenile orangutans. The orangutans now living at Camp Rendell were

chosen to occupy these larger and more open enclosures because of their size and relative readiness to return to the wild. These orangutans are close to being self-sufficient in the forest and can be released daily into the new camp's forested area with confidence they will flourish. For part of each day, they are free to explore, forage, and play while completing the most critical aspect of their rehabilitation process—learning how to survive in the wild. They climb through the canopy and understory, sampling different wild foods, and building small day nests under the watchful eye of OFI's caregivers who monitor their behavior and interactions, and measure their progress towards independence and eventual release.



Spacious new enclosures provide extra room for 26 growing orangutans.

In addition to the house and enclosures, the newest addition to the permanent structures at Camp Rendell is the orangutan release boardwalk that runs from the camp clearing through the swamp forest to a river at the Village Forest boundary. This impressive ironwood bridge/boardwalk—1,532 feet in length—was built from start to finish by two enthusiastic volunteer teams working more than 3,300 hours collectively over a six-week period in 2011, and was crowned with a wooden dock at the river's edge. The gargantuan efforts of our volunteer teams have provided this boardwalk for both the orangutan and human inhabitants of Camp Rendell. As a daily release camp, the number one objective is to provide quality forest for our orangutans, and this new wooden causeway provides ample opportunity for such access. Not only does the boardwalk make the release of orangutans easier for the staff by providing a non-swampy trail, but it also gives them swift access to the river for personal bathing and washing.



Volunteer-built boardwalk through the forest and to the river.

Camp Rendell quickly became a favorite place for OFI orangutans, staff, volunteers, and director, Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas. With frequent visits to the camp whenever possible, Dr. Galdikas can often be found passing out fruit and overseeing the many facets of camp operations. To date, there are both fruit and vegetable gardens sprouting up on site, and future plans are being laid for the development of a tree nursery, which will support OFI's regional reforestation efforts. It is these plans for the future of Camp Rendell that are truly exciting. The humble beginnings of this site have now swiftly opened the door to a wealth of conservation possibilities.



# Zero Tolerance-No Kill Policy Training Program

Ensuring the proper management and humane treatment of orangutans in the wild

Most of the 330 orangutans at OFI's Care Center and Quarantine facility in Pasir Panjang are direct victims of the rampant deforestation that's rapidly devouring Borneo's forests. From small family farms to massive monoculture palm oil plantations (some bigger than many small countries), an area of forest the size of 300 football fields is cleared every hour of every day in Indonesia to make room for palm oil.

While many people are well aware of the obvious perils to wildlife of unabated forest clearing (including the loss of habitat cover and food), there is another, hidden threat: According to OFI founder and president Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas, *"Orangutan killing is the dirty big secret of the palm oil and pulp and paper concession world."*

Considered agricultural pests, some palm oil and pulp/paper managers are today offering bounties on orangutan heads to their workers. The beating, burning, shooting, and killing of orangutans—out of fear, or to steal and domesticate or sell infants—is notoriously commonplace. Thousands of orangutans lose their lives or their freedom every year. Other animals (sun bears, gibbons, and clouded leopards) are killed for similar reasons, or for bush meat or black market organ-harvesting.



OFI President Biruté Mary Galdikas meets with palm oil managers to address the industry's culture of killing and maiming orangutans as "agricultural pests."



The shoulders and back of this adult male orangutan (now in OFI's care) bear the scars of severe beatings by palm oil workers, which also resulted in his blindness.

In November of 2011, OFI signed a precedent-setting *Zero Tolerance-No Kill Policy* towards wildlife with PT Smart (a large palm oil company) and PT Lontar (pulp and paper equivalent). Under this agreement, OFI will provide professional training to palm oil and pulp/paper workers for the proper management and humane treatment of orangutans and other endangered wildlife on and near palm oil plantations and timber estates associated with these two companies. This comprehensive training program, predicted to directly impact 1,000 plantation workers and managers, is scheduled to begin in 2012, and will last for two years.

This agreement is a product of OFI's deep concern for the widespread killing and maiming of wildlife on plantations, and reflects the two companies' increasing efforts to improve the manner in which they treat Borneo's forest and wildlife resources. While the needs and agendas of conservation groups and plantation companies do not often align, Dr. Galdikas is confident this partnership will have a direct positive effect on orangutans and other endangered wildlife in Indonesia. Ensuring the safety of individual animals goes hand-in-hand with protecting their habitat, and neither conservation tactic can work without the other.

Borneo clearly needs a paradigm shift *today* in order to save the endangered orangutan from extinction. Direct, field-based, animal-engaged training under OFI's new *Zero Tolerance-No Kill Policy* training program, is the best chance we have of shifting the current culture of destructive behavior that has defined the palm oil and pulp industries for many years. It is our hope that by helping people value and appreciate each individual animal life we will be an effective catalyst for the change that is so desperately needed in order to help save thousands of orangutans – keeping them safe and free in the wild where they belong.





# *Rawa Kuno*

## LEGACY FOREST

### Protecting 6,400 acres (2,600 hectares) of important orangutan habitat

When current forest owner and local Dayak tribal elder Pak Kukuh announced his intention to sell his family's 6,400-acre forest in late 2010, he piqued the interest of eager developers and palm oil companies and provided OFI with both a unique opportunity and a formidable challenge to purchase and permanently protect it. For OFI, the *Rawa Kuno Legacy Forest* initiative is a race against time in a must-win battle against the powerful forces of wealthy and influential palm oil industry leaders.

Keenly aware that the vast majority of land sold by local landowners is converted to palm oil plantations, OFI made a firm promise to Pak Kukuh in 2011: *We will raise the money to buy you're your family's forest.* In return, Pak Kukuh and his extended family have agreed to be patient. It is their wish, too, that this forest remain forever wild.

#### **A Biological Treasure and an Important Orangutan Refuge**

Vast and biologically diverse, *Rawa Kuno Legacy Forest* includes ancient peat swamp forest, dry ground forest, brush forest, swamps and lakes. Contiguous with other undeveloped rainforest fragments and far from human settlements, it is a perfect home for endangered orangutans and other wildlife.



This beautiful 200 year-old kayu batu tree stands tall in Rawa Kuno Legacy Forest—home to 50-100 wild orangutans and dozens of other species.

From 50 to 100 wild orangutans (already forcibly evicted from much of their historical habitat by forest destruction) have found refuge in the *Rawa Kuno Legacy Forest*. Their presence is readily visible within the peat swamp areas where the verdant forest canopy is festooned with wild orangutan sleeping nests. An exemplary South-East Asian biodiversity hotspot, this forest is also home to sun bears, clouded leopards, wild pigs, mouse deer, rusa deer, long-tailed macaque monkeys, pig-tailed macaque monkeys, proboscis monkeys, red leaf-eating monkeys, and gibbons—many endemic to Borneo.

*Rawa Kuno Legacy Forest* boasts an amazing array of plant species as well. A short walk into the forest reveals an abundance of carnivorous, creeping pitcher plants, towering trees with girths larger than the arm-span of three grown men, and a variety of fruiting plants that sustain a biologically diverse ecosystem. On a larger scale, the forest is an important 'carbon sink,' with carbon (a contributor to global climate change if released) safely sequestered deep below its swampy waters and throughout the root systems of its peat swamp forest trees.

*Rawa Kuno Legacy Forest* is special for other reasons too. It is part of a larger OFI plan to purchase and protect a network of parcels of primary and secondary lowland forest located between Tanjung Puting National Park and the Lamandau Reserve. OFI envisions a province-wide system of contiguous, biologically-intact nature reserves, parks, corridors, and protected areas, which together will provide essential habitat to ensure the long-term conservation of the endangered orangutan.



### **A Future Home for Rehabilitated Orangutans through Reforestation**

As Borneo's rainforests are cleared for palm oil plantations, orangutans are left homeless and vulnerable to starvation, disease, and predation by humans. Mother orangutans are killed and their infants fall victim to the cruel and illegal pet trade industry. If the infants are lucky, they eventually find their way to an orangutan rehabilitation facility, such as OFI's Care Center.

For the more than 330 orangutans currently being cared for by OFI, the *Rawa Kuno Legacy Forest* truly is 'the promised land.' Each month increasing numbers of orphaned orangutans enter OFI's rehabilitation program. Yet with so little protected forest remaining (and with national parks currently off limits by law to many ex-captive orangutans), it is nearly impossible to find suitable release sites for those ready to return to the wild.

OFI will work hard to change that. Portions of the *Rawa Kuno Legacy Forest*, damaged by devastating fires in 2002, will be reforested through aggressive, long-term tree planting programs carried out by OFI staff and volunteers in the years ahead. This will transform existing open swampy grasslands back into lush tropical rainforests capable of supporting an expanded population of orangutans. A vast, wild, and fully reforested ecosystem, the *Rawa Kuno Legacy Forest* of tomorrow will become home to dozens of orphaned and rehabilitated orangutans – giving them a second chance to grow up and be wild.

### **A Must-Win Battle**

The *Rawa Kuno Legacy Forest* is a treasure worth fighting for. Every day local developers and big business representatives approach the current owners and offer to buy their land immediately, paying up front and in cash. While they have agreed to give OFI time to raise the necessary funds, Pak Kukuh and his extended family will wait forever.

OFI must be successful in keeping the *Rawa Kuno Legacy Forest* out of the hands of short-sighted developers by raising \$640,000 as quickly as possible. By the close of 2011, OFI had successfully raised more than \$200,000 – a great start to an ongoing campaign.

Our success, fueled by your generous support, will contribute to the all-important, must-win battle against orangutan extinction.



# Project Homeward Bound

OFI signs agreement with Minister of Forestry that permits the release of 40 orangutans over the next two years

On November 21, 2011 Samsu, Gendut, Bango, Ujang, Paiton, and Benson (six feisty, adolescent, male orangutans) were released into the lush tropical forest near Tanjung Puting National Park in Indonesian Borneo after being rehabilitated at OFI's Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine. OFI President Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas co-hosted an official release ceremony, held deep within the rainforest and attended by Indonesia's Minister of Forestry, Pak Zulkifli Hasan, numerous officials, and a large contingent of curious journalists. It was a joyous celebration, the first of many that will take place over the next two years as a total of 40 orangutans are given a second chance to roam wild and free again under a special agreement negotiated by OFI with the Indonesian government.

The path to orangutan freedom is long and difficult requiring specialized rehabilitative care that adapts to the changing needs of growing orangutans over time *a very long time*. Our rehabilitation program is based on evidence that orangutans are self-aware and, like us, can experience a full spectrum of emotions: pleasure, pain, contentment, anxiety, and boredom. And because of orangutans' intense mother-infant bond, orphaned babies desperately need our surrogate 'maternal' help until they reach at least nine years of age. This long period of dependency is vital in order for young orangutans to develop the necessary psychological and physical skills to live successfully in the wild.



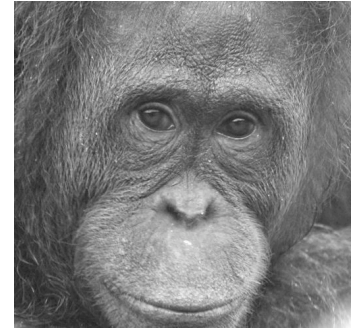
Dr. Galdikas oversees one of many official orangutan release ceremonies—a proud and happy moment for all OFI staff.

From helpless infant, to needy juvenile, to dependent adolescent, to mature adult, OFI is working hard to help orangutans find their way back to the forest, just as Samsu and his buddies did back in November of 2011. Of course, orangutan release is fraught with nervous anticipation and trepidation, and does not always go smoothly or successfully. Some orangutans fail to thrive in the wild, others find their way into plantations and village gardens where they are unwelcome intruders. For these orangutans, OFI offers a safety net and some additional training back at the Care Center—providing them with the extra care and skills they'll need to one day succeed in the wild.





# Orangutan Foundation International



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Plus 130 caregivers, grounds-keepers,  
patrol personnel, guards, drivers, etc.

*\*Many Indonesians only use one name.*