

Orangutan Foundation International



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ANNUAL REPORT 2023

ORANGUTAN FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas, **President**



**Los Angeles Administrative/
Outreach Office**
(United States Headquarters)

822 ½ Wellesley Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90049
United States of America

Phone: +1 (310) 820-4906
Fax: +1 (310) 820-4962
Email: ofioffice@orangutan.org

**Jakarta Administrative/ Outreach
Office**
(Indonesian Headquarters)

Jl. Tebet Barat Dalam VI A No. 9
Jakarta 12810
Indonesia

Phone: +62 (2182) 91189

**Orangutan Care Center & Quarantine
(OCCQ)**

Jl. Kumpai Batu Rt 1
Pasir Panjang
Pangkalan Bun
Kalimantan Tengah 74112
Indonesia

Pangkalan Bun Field Logistics Office
(Regional Office)

Jl. Hasanuddin No. 10
Pangkalan Bun
Kalimantan Tengah 74111
Indonesia

Phone: +62 (0532) 24778
Fax: +62 (0532) 27



Working in collaboration with the Directorate General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation (Indonesia) and Tanjung Puting National Park.

Cover: Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) staff carrying wild born ex-captive orangutans undergoing rehabilitation at the Orangutan Care Center & Quarantine (OCCQ) in Borneo.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Letter from the President.....	3
II.	Mission and Vision	10
III.	Field Conservation Programs	12
	a. Animal Rescue, Rehabilitation, Release, and Care	12
	i. Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine	13
	ii. New Arrival Protocol Review	15
	iii. 2023 Orangutan Arrival Summary	16
	iv. Orangutan Release and Re-Release Protocol Review	18
	v. 2023 Orangutan Release and Re-Release Summary	20
	vi. Orangutan Translocation Protocol Review	21
	vii. 2023 Orangutan Translocation Summary	22
	viii. Non-Orangutan Arrivals, Translocations, and Releases	23
	ix. Orangutan and Other Animal Care at the OCCQ	24
	x. Medical Report	29
	b. Education and Outreach	31
	c. Reforestation and Rewilding	34
	d. Land Acquisition and Protection	37
	i. Habitat Preservation	38
	ii. Forest Protection and Firefighting	39
IV.	Financial Report	40
	a. Donations Summary	41
	b. Expense Summary	44
V.	Events, Honors, and Media Features	46
	a. Publications	47
	b. Talks	48
	c. Media Features	49
	d. Other Honors	50
VI.	Communications	51
	a. Website	52
	b. Social Media	53

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Strategies Expand as the Challenges Facing Orangutans Mount

Dear Friends,

The year 2023 was a whirlwind for Orangutan Foundation International (OFI). After three years of intense flooding in Central Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) during a rare “triple dip” La Niña climate event, in 2023 El Niño replaced floodwaters with severe drought just a few months after the floods ended. The drying effects of the El Niño climate event contributed to wildfires that raged throughout OFI’s forested areas (as they did across almost three million acres of Borneo in 2023), causing damage on a scale we have rarely seen. Despite this, we pushed on undeterred. This year we identified promising new strategies to address the ever-changing landscape around orangutan conservation.



Forest burning during the 2023 wildfires that ravaged Borneo

Those of us living in temperate regions of the globe are accustomed to four distinct seasons throughout the year, often accompanied by significant fluctuations in temperature and weather patterns. In tropical Borneo, there are just two seasons: the dry season and the wet season. There is often some rainfall throughout the dry season in tropical rainforests. However, as the global climate changes, today we are seeing longer and warmer dry seasons than in the past. These increasingly intense seasons are contributing to the gradual drying up of the peat swamps and

rainforests where orangutans live, making these habitats more susceptible to wildfires.

While OFI’s Reforestation & Rewilding Team, led by Ibu Cici Viviani, in 2023 managed to plant a record 152,555 native tree seedlings and saplings in previously degraded forests, fires burned an estimated 150,000 of those trees. That is a survival rate of less than 2% for the trees carefully grown by OFI Herbarium staff and painstakingly and methodically planted by Reforestation staff in 2023. Despite the best efforts of OFI’s firefighting teams, hundreds of thousands of additional trees burned in OFI-protected forests.

This was a devastating blow. Newly reforested areas burn faster than old growth forests, and wildfires were exacerbated in 2023 by the drying effects of El Niño. While we anticipated and prepared for the wildfires that might accompany this year’s El Niño, we could not have expected just how catastrophic those fires would be. We are grateful to our sister organizations OFI Australia and OFI Canada for

providing much-needed emergency firefighting funds. This assistance and the grueling, often dangerous work of our firefighting teams allowed us to prevent damage at an even larger scale.

Traditionally, OFI's firefighting team consists of willing field staff members pulled from their primary roles in another one of our research or conservation programs for the period of time in which fires rage. However, in response to the mass destruction brought on by this year's fires, we have moved to hire and permanently staff a team dedicated solely to preventing and fighting wildfires. It is clear that the threat of wildfires is becoming more of a constant than an intermittent concern.



OFI staff members carrying firefighting supplies into burning forest

Despite so much of their efforts being ruined by the fires of 2023, our Reforestation & Rewilding Team is now even more committed to restoring burned and otherwise degraded forests. It is more obvious as time goes on that diminishing access to suitable habitat puts tremendous strain on individual orangutans and orangutan populations. While there has always been aggression among wild-living adult male orangutans, more recently we have observed a rise in female-on-female aggression. While aggression does rarely occur among wild adult female orangutans, it is a relatively new phenomenon among the wild-born ex-captive population that has been rehabilitated and released to the wild under OFI's care. These increases in aggression for ex-captive female orangutans are most likely a result of shrinking habitat and limited access to food, driving up competition between individual female orangutans. In response, we are actively identifying suitable sites to build new orangutan feeding stations. These new feeding sites will not only help relieve the strain of food and space shortages but will also allow OFI field staff more opportunities to identify individuals in need of emergency care.

One such instance of aggression between female orangutans happened in October 2023, when wild born ex-captive Jade, a young mother, was attacked by two other wild born ex-captive females near one of our camps on the border of Tanjung Puting National Park. Jade sustained pronounced bite wounds and was generally in a weak condition when she and her three-year-old daughter Janie were brought into OFI's Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine (OCCQ) for treatment. In addition to Jade and Janie, nine other orangutans were rescued and brought into the OCCQ in 2023 when they were found ill, injured, otherwise weakened, or in potentially dangerous situations after wandering into palm oil plantations or human settlements. This included three additional wild born ex-captive mothers and their offspring, as well as a wild born adult female who is the daughter of an ex-captive mother and was found still carrying her own deceased infant. Four of these individuals were re-released to the forest in 2023 after recovering at the OCCQ. One of the re-released females, however, was returned to the OCCQ later in the year after being observed suffering from illness once again.

Four other orangutans who had arrived at the OCCQ prior to 2023 were re-released this year. One of these orangutans was a wild born female named Indian who was originally brought into the OCCQ when she was found in a malnourished state in 2019. Indian was re-released after regaining strength that same year, but she was brought back to the OCCQ in 2022 after being found with a snare rope digging deeply into the flesh around her wrist. Her wound had become gangrenous and OFI veterinarians were forced to amputate her hand to save her life. After Indian recovered from this horrible injury and from her emaciated, weakened state, we released her on the edge of Tanjung Puting National Park. She is doing well despite her new handicap.

Four wild born ex-captive individuals who had undergone many years of rehabilitation after being brought into the OCCQ as orphaned infants were released back to the wild for the first time in 2023.

OFI's Orangutan Rescue and Release Team, working in conjunction with OFI veterinarians and Indonesian Forestry officials, was able to rescue five wild adult male orangutans found wandering into palm oil plantations, villages, and even an Indonesian Air Force Base throughout 2023. After undergoing medical evaluations by veterinarians in the field, these orangutans were immediately translocated to more remote forest locations, thus avoiding potentially dangerous conflicts with humans.

Unusually, no wild born ex-captive orphaned infant orangutans came to the OCCQ in 2023. However, dozens of orphaned infant and juvenile orangutans who arrived in previous years remained under the care of nursery staff throughout the year.

In 2023, OFI's Education Team, led by Ibu Dora Siburian, reached over 20,000 schoolchildren and community members with our conservation message in the areas of Borneo where we work. We distributed nearly 40,000 tree seedlings that were planted in and around schools and villages as a part of outreach programs. These seedlings planted by schoolchildren and villagers were not monitored extensively as part of OFI's official reforestation program carried out by staff. However, the good news is that these seedlings were not affected by wildfires, so most of them survived the year.



Orphaned juvenile orangutan Holland at OFI's OCCQ facilities

Thanks to significant contributions from The Maltz Family Foundation, we were able to work with Indonesian partners to acquire an additional 155 hectares (about 383 acres) of forested land in 2023. Half of this land helped connect the wildlife corridor between the Pasir Panjang Village Forest and OFI's Rawa Kuno Orangutan Legacy Forest. The other half of the newly acquired land was on the opposite side of the Sekonyer River from Tanjung Puting National Park. This swamp forest near the Sekonyer River constitutes important habitat for orangutans and many other endangered and endemic species in a region where much of the original forest is gone or very degraded.

We are immensely grateful to the government of the Republic of Indonesia, which has proven to be an invaluable partner in our orangutan conservation efforts since I first began my field work in 1971. This year, we had some promising new developments in our government relationships. Of particular note was the hiring of Pak Dudy Kurniawan as Program Manager for OFI's field operations. Pak Dudy is a high-ranking official in the Forestry Department who has years of experience working for the Indonesian government. He is currently working with OFI under a special agreement with the Minister of Forestry. Pak Dudy has been a huge help to us as a consultant and government liaison, representing OFI when I am unable to be present for meetings with government officials. He has helped OFI navigate bureaucratic processes, thus allowing us to function more efficiently and make a greater impact in our field conservation programs.

I am very excited about a new endeavor we are embarking on in collaboration with Indonesian government authorities that I believe will make a significant difference for wild orangutan populations in Borneo. This new project was initiated largely as a result of data regarding wild orangutan prospects that I published along with co-authors in the scientific journal *Biodiversitas* in May 2023. This publication describes the shocking decline in the number of wild adult male orangutans in the Camp Leakey study area in Tanjung Puting National Park over our five decades of wild orangutan research. Strikingly, only two wild adult male orangutans briefly appeared in the study area in 2016, in stark contrast to four decades earlier in 1976, when we encountered 40 wild adult males. Mature male orangutans are largely nomadic until they find areas where they can be dominant for a period of time. Adult male mobility has become severely hindered due to habitat loss and forest fragmentation around the National Park. Without sufficient forested areas connecting larger viable orangutan habitats, individual orangutans and orangutan populations become more isolated from each other. This leaves populations susceptible to inbreeding and a resultant loss of genetic diversity and individual fitness, putting orangutans at even greater risk of extinction.

This study confirmed what we already suspected based on anecdotal observations: while the extensive efforts of OFI, the Indonesian government, and other stakeholders working to acquire, protect, and reforest orangutan habitat thus far have prevented orangutan populations from going locally extinct, those efforts have still not been enough. We must expand our scope dramatically if we are to give orangutan populations across Borneo a chance of long-term survival. Thus, we have initiated a massive undertaking in collaboration with Indonesian authorities to create a wildlife corridor between the forests we protect in Central Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) and a National Park approximately 200 miles away in West Kalimantan. This endeavor will take years to put in place and will require dedicated staff to form key relationships across the area where we hope to establish a wildlife corridor. But it is an absolutely necessary step. Once realized, this corridor will constitute an extensive forest bridge running north to south across Borneo and will put orangutan populations that have been disconnected for decades back into contact with one another. This will bolster genetic diversity and safeguard Bornean orangutan chances of survival in the wild.

I was proud to be able to give a lecture elucidating the findings of our recently published research at Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania in 2023. My work on this most recent publication and on all OFI's research and conservation undertakings was disseminated to the general public through

various media features around the world throughout the year. Details can be found in the body of this report.

In January 2023, Simon Fraser University PhD Candidate Ruth Linsky arrived to begin a groundbreaking long-term Marked Nest Plot survey to estimate orangutan density within the Camp Leakey study area in Tanjung Puting National Park under Dr. Galdikas' supervision. Finally, after unforeseen bureaucratic hurdles were resolved, Candidate Linsky began field work in the National Park on June 3, 2023. Her official partners were Antakusuma University in Pangkalan Bun and Tanjung Puting National Park. Students from the University and rangers from the National Park occasionally participated in the field work. In addition to traveling and writing letters to government offices, Linsky prepared detailed plans while waiting for her permits to be confirmed. Once field work began, 20 one-hectare plots were established in a grid pattern across the study area. Each plot is searched for the presence of orangutan nests repeatedly on a monthly basis. This method which produces monthly nest count data will give us a more precise estimate of orangutan density than was available in the past. It will be compared to the current standard method to improve orangutan population estimate methodology. The superb forest observational skills of our long-term OFI research assistants, most of them indigenous, have been crucial in getting accurate nest counts.

Candidate Linsky launched an additional project in 2023 as part of her PhD research. This project utilizes drones with sensors that can detect infrared radiation given off by living creatures. Linsky aims to verify whether orangutans of known location can be accurately detected with the drone sensors. Our hope is that this can contribute to a novel methodology of estimating orangutan population



Ms. Linsky & OFI research assistants reviewing imagery from drone

densities that will yield much more accurate population estimates than the more traditional method of counting orangutan sleeping nests within a particular area. The drone we use is a DJI M30T, donated by DJI through their local distributor Halo Robotics. Three Halo staff came for four days in July and again in December to teach OFI research assistants and our partners how to use the drone most effectively. The drone was used for monitoring the wildfires that swept across Borneo during August, September, and October 2023.

We were deeply saddened by the passing of two OFI Board Members in 2023: Norman Lear and Patricia Silver. Norman Lear was a revolutionary television and film producer and writer as well as my true friend. I met and worked for Norman almost 60 years ago, before his career took off and before I embarked on my life's work with orangutans in Borneo. I met Patricia Silver some years ago when she visited Camp Leakey. Patricia, or "Patti," as I knew her, had an indomitable spirit and was deeply committed to the welfare and conservation of all animals. Both Norman and Patti played important

roles in OFI's growth and pursuit of its mission over the decades. We extend our deepest sympathies to their families and loved ones. We will greatly miss Norman Lear and Patti Silver.

OFI had many success stories in 2023 for the impact we made on the lives of individual orangutans and on the audiences we were able to reach with our conservation message both locally and globally. We also encountered devastation as wildfires unraveled so much of our critical forest protection and reforestation work. We witnessed orangutans suffering both in hauntingly familiar and in unsettlingly new ways. We uncovered patterns in the behavior of male orangutans that make us fear for the species' future. But our eyes are wide open to the suffering and the setbacks. We are grateful to be on the ground doing this important work and monitoring the daunting situation facing orangutans. It only strengthens our resolve. There is no challenge too great when it comes to saving wild orangutan populations from extinction and preventing the suffering of individual orangutans.



OFI Reforestation Team staff member

I am honored to fight this fight, and to have so many others fighting alongside me. I express my sincere gratitude to the Indonesian government for its support and shared commitment to protecting orangutans, which form such a unique component of the country's national identity. I also wish to thank our sister organizations OFI Australia, OFI Canada, and the Biruté Galdikas Fondas of Lithuania for their dedicated support, without which we would not be able to function at such a high capacity.

We need warriors of all kinds now more than ever. Our strategies are expanding in scope as we struggle to keep up with the snowballing effects of climate change and massive habitat loss. I hope that you, reader and supporter, will find your own way to join us in this righteous fight. Orangutans depend on all of us. They need all the help they can get.

In resolute gratitude,

Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas
President and Founder, Orangutan Foundation International
Full Professor, Simon Fraser University



MISSION AND VISION

DEEP CONSERVATION

OUR VISION

Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) has a strong vision for the future that includes:

- Protecting tropical rainforest habitat and native wildlife, including orangutans, throughout the world
- Rewilding degraded and destroyed rainforest
- Saving Great Ape and Small Ape populations, especially orangutans who are critically endangered, from extinction in the wild
- Educating the public in Indonesia and throughout the world about orangutans and the biodiversity crisis
- Saving individual wildlife, particularly orangutans, from captivity by rehabilitation and release back to the wild
- Continuing long-term studies of wildlife, particularly orangutans, so we gain a better understanding of the biological processes of evolution and extinction

OUR MISSION

Orangutan Foundation International's core mission is the conservation of orangutans and the tropical rainforest which is their only habitat.

OFI takes a holistic and comprehensive approach using multiple complementary strategies to combat the complex challenges facing orangutans and the rainforest. These strategies include:

- Creating and promoting awareness campaigns that disseminate knowledge and understanding of orangutans as a critically endangered species and as one of humankind's closest living relatives in the animal kingdom
- Spreading awareness for wildlife, ecosystem, and biodiversity conservation throughout the world, particularly in Indonesia
- Acquiring forested and forest-adjacent land (orangutan habitat) in collaboration with Indonesian partners
- Actively planting native trees to rewild degraded and deforested orangutan habitat
- Actively protecting wild orangutans and their native habitat on the ground through patrol teams which consist of OFI rangers, mobile brigades of national police, and forestry rangers, as well as building local and international support coalitions
- Rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing wild born ex-captive and orphaned Bornean orangutans into safe and secure sites in the wild
- Conducting research on orangutan ecology, genetics, and behavior

FIELD CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Animal Rescue, Rehabilitation, Release, & Care

ORANGUTAN CARE CENTER AND QUARANTINE



Front of veterinary clinic at OFI's OCCQ

OVERVIEW

The Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine (OCCQ) is crucial to OFI's efforts to rescue and rehabilitate native wildlife in Indonesian Borneo. The OCCQ is situated in over 200 acres of forested land on the edge of the village of Pasir Panjang. The central hub of the OCCQ has top notch veterinary facilities, housing for orangutans requiring close veterinary monitoring or specialized care, diet and enrichment preparation areas, and administrative offices. Scattered throughout the remaining forest are multiple camps with their own staff facilities and housing for orangutans of particular age/sex/developmental classes. One of these camps is for the isolated quarantine facilities.

The OCCQ provides long-term care for orangutans and other wildlife undergoing extensive rehabilitation for eventual return to the wild and for those individuals whose health and other issues may delay their return to the wild. The OCCQ also provides short-term care for displaced wild orangutans and other animals who can be returned to the wild after undergoing health checks and, if necessary, treatment.



Wild born ex-captive orangutan Ryan in the OCCQ "Learning Forest"

The long-term care of orangutans and other wildlife includes daily enrichment, medical and behavioral monitoring, and helping wildlife build survival skills. It is through these efforts that the OCCQ prepares wild born ex-captive orangutans and other native wildlife for release back to the wild.

There were 272 orangutans living at the OCCQ at the beginning of 2023. After taking into account arrivals to the OCCQ and one birth at the OCCQ, releases and re-releases from the OCCQ back to the wild, as well as deaths at the OCCQ (all

of which is detailed in the sections below), there were 270 orangutans living at the OCCQ by the end of 2023.

OCCQ STAFF

Well over 100 employees work at the OCCQ, which is situated on the edge of the village of Pasir Panjang. This includes management and administrative personnel, security guards, veterinary staff, animal caregivers, enrichment team members, and general facilities maintenance staff. OFI is a significant employer in the village of Pasir Panjang and the surrounding areas. The majority of OCCQ employees are of indigenous (Dayak) background.



OCCQ Enrichment Team staff members after installing upgraded environmental enrichment in orangutan sleeping enclosure

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

When the COVID-19 pandemic emerged in 2020, OFI immediately implemented extensive precautionary measures to ensure the safety of the orangutans under our care at the OCCQ, orangutans living near research, release, and patrol sites in the forest, as well as OFI staff and the local community. Throughout 2022, the government started to ease pandemic-related restrictions and Indonesia re-opened its borders to foreign tourists. While COVID-19 had much less of an impact on our field operations in 2023 than it had in preceding years, strict health and safety precautions remained in place at the OCCQ and all OFI facilities.

NEW ARRIVAL PROTOCOL REVIEW

TRIAGE

Upon arrival at the Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine (OCCQ), all orangutans and other wildlife receive a complete medical examination, or triage, that includes:

- Physical measurements and documentation of physical features
- Sampling blood, hair, urine, and feces
- Typhoid, hepatitis, COVID-19, and tuberculosis screenings
- Administration of anti-parasitic medications
- Microchip implantation

QUARANTINE

All new arrivals at the OCCQ undergo a minimum 30-day quarantine before being allowed to join the general OCCQ population. Dedicated employees who do not participate in general OCCQ activities work at the isolated quarantine facilities. The quarantine period involves regular health monitoring to ensure no transmissible diseases pass from newly arrived individuals to other orangutans undergoing care at the OCCQ.

Additional quarantine procedures were implemented starting in 2020 with COVID-19 testing administered to orangutans upon arrival and then again at the end of quarantine prior to their joining the general OCCQ orangutan population.

2023 ORANGUTAN ARRIVAL SUMMARY

The Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine (OCCQ) took in 11 additional orangutans for care during 2023.

NEW ARRIVALS – FROM CAPTIVITY

Surprisingly, there were no wild born infant orangutan orphans brought to the OCCQ by local Police or Forestry Department officers in 2023. Most years, we take in at least several orphaned infant orangutans who have been confiscated or relinquished from private owners. While we did not have any orphaned infants arrive at the OCCQ in 2023, we continued to provide care to many orphaned infants and juveniles who arrived in previous years and still require a tremendous amount of nurturing as part of their rehabilitation journey.

Orphaned infant orangutans typically arrive at the OCCQ after their mothers were killed by humans who either intended on keeping/selling the infants as pets or felt threatened by the mothers as they



Orphaned infant orangutan Crystal in OCCQ “Learning Forest”

wandered into human areas. A very large proportion of the orphans brought into the OCCQ lost their mothers in palm oil plantations or other agricultural operations. Because an orangutan infant is extremely dependent on his/her mother and clings to her body almost constantly, including after she has been shot and killed, these orphans are often quite traumatized before arriving at the OCCQ. Police or Forestry Department officers confiscate infant orangutans being kept illegally as pets or facilitate voluntary relinquishment of infant orangutans before bringing the orphans to the OCCQ for rehabilitation.

REPEAT AND REHABILITANT ARRIVALS

Eleven orangutans who were either previously rehabilitated and released or who are wild born descendants of rehabilitated females were brought into the OCCQ in 2023 when found wounded, sick, weak, or in potentially dangerous situations involving conflict with humans. This included four wild born ex-captive mother orangutans and their offspring. Adult female Brunei and her juvenile son BomBom were brought into the OCCQ in January when Brunei was observed with symptoms of air sacculitis, a bacterial infection that can become quite serious if left untreated. After treatment and recovery, Brunei and BomBom were released back to the forest just a few weeks later. However, Brunei was brought in once again in July after being found in a very weak condition and suffering from a chronic cough. She remained at the OCCQ until the end of 2023. BomBom was not brought back to the OCCQ for a second time with Brunei because he was deemed to be at a sufficient age and

skill/independence level to survive in the forest on his own. By all indications, BomBom is thriving without Brunei. Please remember that it is not unusual for young orangutans to stick close to their mothers' sides until they are even 10 years old, but many individuals are ready much sooner. It is the eventual fate of all wild-living orangutans to live a mostly solitary lifestyle.

Another ex-captive mother, Tammy, was brought into the OCCQ in March along with her infant son Teddy and juvenile daughter Toby. We had received reports of this trio wandering into palm oil plantations and ransacking a villager's home just outside of Tanjung Puting National Park. This behavior could potentially lead to dangerous conflict with humans and is an indication that the trio needs to be relocated to a more remote location. As of the end of 2023, Tammy, Teddy, and Toby had not yet been re-released.

Female ex-captive Linda and her juvenile daughter Loretta were brought in to the OCCQ mid-year after Linda was observed severely underweight. Linda had regained almost 15lbs (almost 7kg) by the end of 2023 but the pair had not yet been re-released.

The final mother-infant pairing that arrived to the OCCQ in 2023 was Jade and her infant daughter Janie. Jade had been attacked by two other ex-captive females and sustained bite wounds that required treatment. Jade and Janie were not re-released this year.

Mandolin, a female orangutan in her 40s who is the wild born daughter of an ex-captive mother, was observed carrying her own deceased infant and suffering from a skin problem. She was brought in to the OCCQ in June and re-released after treatment and monitoring in July.

In late February, wild born ex-captive female Septi was brought into the OCCQ after being observed frequently holding her left hand up in such a way that made field staff suspect she had a fracture. However, x-rays conducted by veterinarians at the OCCQ indicated that everything was normal and Septi was re-released a few months later.

Five additional wild-living orangutans were found in potentially dangerous human-wildlife conflict situations in 2023 and were immediately translocated to safer areas without being admitted to the OCCQ for care. Please see the "2023 Translocation Summary" section below for details.

ORANGUTAN RELEASE AND RE-RELEASE PROTOCOL REVIEW

CANDIDATE SELECTION

Orangutans are selected for release back to the wild by Dr. Galdikas, OFI's veterinary team, and Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine (OCCQ) staff members. Release criteria focus on an individual orangutan's chance of forest survival. If an orangutan is suggested for release but does not meet all release criteria, his/her release will be delayed until OFI's team is confident that the orangutan has the skills necessary to survive in the wild.

RELEASE CRITERIA:

- Medical Assessment: OFI screens all orangutans for communicable diseases and other health conditions. Additionally, the screening process ensures orangutans meet standards for size and weight based on age.
- Life Skills Proficiency: Orangutans must demonstrate knowledge of essential survival skills, such as forest foraging and night nest construction.
- Disinterest in Human Interaction: Orangutans must demonstrate a large degree of disinterest in human interaction in order to help prevent human-wildlife conflict situations once released.

QUARANTINE & MEDICAL ASSESSMENT

To minimize possible disease transmission, orangutan release candidates are put in pre-release quarantine for a minimum of 30 days. This allows OFI to restrict contact with orangutan release candidates to a few select caregivers and veterinary staff during quarantine.

OFI's pre-release medical tests include, but are not limited to:

- Malaria
- Hepatitis
- COVID-19
- Glucose & protein abnormalities
- Tuberculosis
- General health review

If the medical assessments reveal abnormalities in the orangutan's general health, OFI refers the orangutan for additional treatment and the orangutan's release will be delayed.

RELEASE SITE

Release sites are determined and established well in advance of a release. All sites are chosen with the permission of BKSDA (the natural resources agency of Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry) and the National Park authority, if the orangutan is released within Tanjung Puting National Park or near its boundary. Release sites are usually on or near the border of the National Park or in other protected and patrolled areas. Release sites are prepared in advance with feeding platforms and camps built for/by OFI staff. OFI releases rehabilitated orangutans only to sites with permanent OFI staff.

DAY OF RELEASE

Dr. Galdikas and OFI management oversee orangutan releases with members of Tanjung Puting National Park management and BKSDA. Also present are OCCQ veterinary staff members and the orangutans' primary caregivers. The release team and primary caregivers move the orangutan candidates into transport cages, often the night before the release, and then the orangutans and team travel to the selected release camp before dawn. Usually in the early morning, release team members open the cages, and the orangutans exit when ready (usually right away!).



OFI Release Team members & Indonesian Forestry officials preparing to load transport cages holding orangutans onto boats to reach release sites

POST RELEASE

OFI assigns two staff members to monitor each orangutan's transition to the wild for at least 10 days. These staff members include someone familiar with the terrain and someone with whom the orangutan is familiar. The monitoring process includes recording of feeding behaviors, interactions with other orangutans, nest building, and range and direction of travel. Focal follow monitoring is meant to continue for a minimum of 10 days, but sometimes the newly released orangutans are so eager to return to the wild that within a few days they elude the staff members who are monitoring them, especially in the deep swamps.

RE-RELEASE

OFI provides lifelong support to orangutans previously cared for/rehabilitated at the OCCQ and released to the wild. While some released individuals stray far from release sites and are rarely or never seen by OFI field staff, others remain in proximity to OFI release sites, patrol stations, or research camps. When any individual orangutan is observed to be injured or in poor health, OFI field staff alert OCCQ veterinarians to assess the situation.

If the responding OFI field veterinarians are unable to treat an ill or injured orangutan on site, the orangutan will be brought back to the OCCQ for more intensive care. In the case of released wild born ex-captives, these may be individuals who are not adjusting to life in the wild, or those who wander into contact with humans some distance from release sites. These may also be adult males seriously wounded in combat with other males. Sometimes these are wild males because adult males have little tolerance for each other's presence. Once the orangutans have recovered and attained good health, they are re-released back into the wild.

2023 ORANGUTAN RELEASE AND RE-RELEASE SUMMARY

On July 22nd, OFI released four wild born ex-captive orangutans who had arrived at the Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine (OCCQ) as orphaned infants between 2002-2007 back to the wild for the first time. This included females Bella (aged about 26) and Anna (aged about 18) as well as males Jay (aged about 19) and Sydney (aged about 19).

We also re-released six orangutans who had previously been rehabilitated/treated at the OCCQ and released back to the wild but were brought back to the OCCQ in 2023 or years prior due to illness, injury, or potentially dangerous situations involving conflict with humans. We also released a wild adult male who had been brought to the OCCQ in 2020 for treatment and an adult female orangutan who is the wild born daughter of an ex-captive mother. This female was brought to the OCCQ earlier in 2023 for treatment and monitoring (see “2023 Orangutan Arrival Summary” above). The re-releases of these eight orangutans are detailed below:



Adult male Jay shortly before his release

January 7

- Bondai (adult daughter of Brunei) and son Buddy (male)

January 31

- Brunei (female) and son BomBom (male)

May 17

- Septi (female)

May 19

- Tanjung (male) – WILD

July 15

- Indian (female) – WILD
- Mandolin (female) – WILD BORN DAUGHTER OF EX-CAPTIVE FEMALE



Adult female Indian being re-released back to the wild

ORANGUTAN TRANSLOCATION PROTOCOL REVIEW

The relocation or “translocation” of wild orangutans occurs when OFI transports orangutans directly from one wild location to another. If a visit to the Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine (OCCQ) is required, it is usually a very short visit, often overnight. Wild orangutans being translocated are microchipped and moved to safe protected forests as far away from human settlements and plantations as possible to give them the best chance of survival.

OFI, in collaboration with BKSDA (the natural resources agency of Indonesia’s Ministry of Forestry), translocates wild orangutans observed or found in areas that may pose a danger to the orangutans themselves or to humans in the vicinity, such as near agricultural operations or human settlements. Locals or agricultural workers often contact OFI or BKSDA staff either by phone or in person to alert OFI/BKSDA personnel to an orangutan needing translocation.

After receiving information about an orangutan in danger and his/her location, OFI/BKSDA dispatches a rescue team with a veterinarian to conduct a field health assessment to determine if the orangutan is a good candidate for translocation. If the orangutan is an orphaned youngster, OFI/BKSDA immediately transports him or her to the OCCQ because these young orangutans lack the physical development and necessary life-skills required for survival without their mothers.

2023 ORANGUTAN TRANSLOCATION SUMMARY

Five wild orangutans were found in compromising situations of potential human-wildlife conflict and were immediately translocated without needing admittance to the Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine (OCCQ) in 2023. All five of these individuals were adult males found wandering into human areas.



OFI Rescue Team member on boat with orangutan transport cage

NON-ORANGUTAN ARRIVALS, TRANSLOCATIONS, AND RELEASES

The Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine (OCCQ) occasionally takes in non-orangutan wild Bornean animals who require care. We also help with translocating healthy wildlife found in compromising situations of potential human-wildlife conflict and we collaborate with other nonprofits in Borneo that specialize in the care and rehabilitation of particular species.

In 2023, the OCCQ continued to provide care for one cassowary, one binturong, and 18 Malayan sun bears who cannot be released to the wild.

Malayan sun bears are particularly vulnerable, not only because of habitat loss and fragmentation. Adult bears are killed so that their body parts can be sold for purported medicinal benefits or for meat, and orphaned cubs are sometimes kept or sold as pets. These cubs are often confiscated by or surrendered to Police or Forestry Department officials. However, once sun bears are habituated to humans it is impossible to rehabilitate them for life in the forest. Sun bears over the age of two who have spent any time in captivity are almost never candidates for rehabilitation.

While OFI has pursued rehabilitation efforts with sun bears in the past, we are no longer accepting sun bear cubs at the OCCQ. We defer these efforts to organizations more specialized in sun bears in order to focus our efforts and resources on what we specialize in: orangutans. That said, OFI is committed to providing quality lifelong care to the 18 sun bears at the OCCQ who cannot be rehabilitated and released back to the wild.

ORANGUTAN AND OTHER ANIMAL CARE AT THE OCCQ

FOOD AND DIET

Wild orangutans are primarily frugivorous but also consume vegetation, insects, and fungi. Although we cannot exactly duplicate wild orangutan diet for the orangutans undergoing rehabilitation at the Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine (OCCQ), we do our best in providing them with fresh ripe fruit and some vegetables. In addition, we collect wild foods from the forest when they are available: termite nests, fungi, ripe fruits, and young leaves and ferns.



Fresh produce delivery being processed by OCCQ staff

In 2023 upwards of 955,000 pounds (upwards of 433,000kg or 477.5 US tons) of fruit and vegetables were purchased and distributed as food for orangutans and other wildlife under OFI's care. This translates to an average of about 40 US tons of fresh produce received at the OCCQ each month. This produce is also distributed to the various field camp and release locations.

We receive a wide variety of produce to distribute to the orangutans and other animals at the OCCQ, including banana, watermelon, gembili (a tuber), corn, papaya, mango,

pineapple, rambutan, yam, coconut, jackfruit, orange, cultivated and wild durian, cempedak, dragon fruit, tomato, water spinach, cucumber, carrot, cabbage, katuk leaves, and more.

OFI requires sufficient funding for the OCCQ to ensure that all the orangutans and other wildlife receive the nutrition they need during rehabilitation.

OFI strives to provide orangutans and other wildlife under our care with a varied diet year-round as much as possible and uses in-season local fruit as a staple. Fruits and vegetables are sourced locally as much as possible, which seems to have a positive impact on how the local community values and perceives OFI's conservation efforts. Since most local indigenous people who are not working as laborers on plantations consist of small-scale farmers, they very much welcome OFI buying produce locally. We buy bananas from a women's farm cooperative in one of the coastal villages adjacent to Tanjung Puting National Park, where OFI conducts research, patrols forest, and releases rehabilitated orangutans. We get a regular supply of coconuts from a local woman. We buy as much of the fruit and vegetables for the orangutans as we can from the local market. Produce not locally available requires import from Java, South Borneo, or West Borneo.

Milk, both regular dairy and soy, is given several times a day to infants and juveniles. Milk is also given twice weekly to adolescents and adults. Our experience is that milk is very beneficial for the health and development of the wild born ex-captive orangutans at the OCCQ.

FEEDING SCHEDULES

At the OCCQ, orangutan feedings are scheduled five times per day. In addition to the feedings, orangutans receive a variety of fluids consisting of milk, electrolytes, weak sugarless tea, and fresh water as well as occasional fresh fruit juice. Recently released orangutans are also offered a similar diet and fluids at feeding stations. At the release sites, feedings usually occur once or twice a day.

REHABILITATION

THE REHABILITATION PROCESS

For wild born ex-captive orangutans, rehabilitation and release protocols are complex and based on the individual needs of the orangutan. Those orangutans who were held illegally as pets for long periods of time prior to rescue and/or who arrived as infants or young juveniles at the OCCQ may require a long rehabilitation period. Rehabilitation plans are designed to address various needs resulting from individuals being orphaned at a young age. These issues often arise from orphans being fed a poor diet or being held in a small cage while held captive over many years.

The rehabilitation process is meant to prepare orangutans for eventual release. While the process may vary by individual, the standard for rehabilitation is to prepare orangutans for the following:

- How to engage appropriately with other orangutans
- How to navigate through the forest canopy
- How to forage for food
- How to construct a sleeping nest

BEHAVIOR

Males

Rehabilitation may be an especially difficult process for male orangutans. Released ex-captive males must exhibit proper behavior in order to share the forest with wild adult male orangutans. This is especially important when encountering dominant adult males and/or aggressive sub-adult males. Ex-captive males must be prepared to be vigilant since male-male competition is standard among wild orangutans. This competition may include aggression and combat.



Male orangutan Ryan in OCCQ "Learning Forest"

Females

Although more social in nature compared to males, released ex-captive orangutan females face challenges as well. Wild adult females could injure released females, seeing them as competitors for food in the same range. Released females must learn to avoid unnecessary interactions with their wild counterparts and/or to be submissive. Learning appropriate behavior in preparation for possible interactions in the wild helps ex-captive female orangutans avoid aggression from wild females and lessens the stress on themselves and their offspring.



Female orangutan Bobble in OCCQ “Learning Forest”

LEARNING FOREST

Orangutans undergoing rehabilitation at the OCCQ are regularly taken out by caregivers to explore in the *Learning Forest*. The *Learning Forest* envelopes the OCCQ’s veterinary and orangutan housing facilities. It is a “teaching” forest essential to orangutan rehabilitation. The *Learning Forest* sits on approximately 100 hectares (about 250 acres) of land and consists of primary peat swamp forest, mixed/dry lowland secondary forest, and relic dry ground primary rainforest. This forest combination closely mirrors local orangutan habitat at release sites.

Within the *Learning Forest*, there are over 200 species of trees and vines as well as various insects and fungi which wild orangutans are known to eat. This provides orangutans in rehabilitation at the OCCQ the opportunity to develop familiarity with natural food resources. In addition to helping young orangutans develop essential skills, the *Learning Forest*, by its very existence, also benefits the numerous other native wildlife species who inhabit the area. A local population of crab-eating macaques sometimes enjoys the leftover food dropped by the orangutans while bearcats, civets, and even the occasional Malayan sun bear and barking deer make an appearance.

Infant, juvenile, or otherwise immature orangutans at the OCCQ are released from their sleeping enclosures to develop essential survival skills and learn proper orangutan “etiquette.” We emphasize that adolescent orangutans are released into the *Learning Forest* on alternating schedules. Males and females visit on alternative days to prevent possible mating that may lead to unplanned pregnancies. We do not, in any way, shape, or form, want the OCCQ to become a breeding facility. On the days adolescent orangutans don’t visit the *Learning Forest*, they are provided with intense enrichment activities by specialist OFI staff members of the Enrichment Team.

ENRICHMENT

ENRICHMENT CRITERIA

Orangutans are highly intelligent primates who need daily stimulation. Enrichment is key for the maintenance of orangutan mental and physical health during rehabilitation, it further provides the opportunity to exhibit and practice natural specie-specific behaviors and helps reinforce important survival skills. OFI has designated a number of staff members as an Enrichment Team. Their sole responsibility is to provide daily enrichment to the orangutans in rehabilitation at the OCCQ and surrounding camps. The team develops and designs enrichment that is appropriate and specific to differing age ranges and skill levels as the orangutans grow older.

ENRICHMENT CATEGORIES

Enrichment at OFI falls under the following well recognized enrichment categories: Physical/Habitat, Cognitive, Sensory, Food, and Social. It is important to recognize these categories are not mutually exclusive and one form of enrichment might very well fall under multiple categories.



Members of OCCQ Enrichment Team making improvements to physical enrichment “playground” for young orangutans

Physical/Habitat

This form of enrichment is excellent for providing opportunities for physical exercise, building dexterity and strength, improving cardiovascular health, and exhibiting and practicing critical skills (like climbing and swinging) for survival in the wild. The OFI Enrichment Team staff can be found regularly developing, building, and installing numerous forms of physical/habitat enrichment – both within orangutan enclosures as well as at daily forest school playgrounds near their *Learning Forest* release sites. Examples can include hammocks, wood ladders, ropes, balls, barrels, raised sleeping platforms off the ground, bedding/nesting materials, etc.

Cognitive

This form of enrichment is critical for providing psychological stimulation and opportunities for exhibiting and practicing problem solving behavior, a critical skill for survival in the wild. This particular form of enrichment becomes even more important, by providing adequate stimulation in the rehabilitation environment, as the orangutans age

and see an increase in their cognitive capabilities and skill levels. OFI Enrichment Team staff provide cognitive enrichment through distributing novel items, and puzzle-type feeders, activities, and toys made from natural materials with difficulty levels tailored to their specific age group and individual needs and restrictions.

Food

Food enrichment can encompass any enrichment that includes food items, whether novel or infrequently received types of foods and special treats, or in how food items are presented and accessed. Studies have shown animals to engage in behavior known as ‘contra-free-loading’, essentially the phenomenon that when an animal is presented with the choice between food that is offered/freely available and the same exact food that is presented in a way that requires effort to obtain, the animal chooses the option requiring effort/problem solving. With this in mind, it can be beneficial to present daily diet in a way that requires effort, thought process, and problem solving. An example of food enrichment the orangutans at the OCCQ enjoy are novel and highly desired food items presented in leaf and vine parcels, puzzle feeders, and other devices made from natural materials.

Sensory

Sensory enrichment is very broad and is essentially any enrichment that stimulates the senses. This can be as simple as having housing that allows for access to normal environmental stimulation whether fresh air and wind, natural forest sounds, visual stimulation from natural surroundings, nature smells, etc. The enclosures at OFI are designed in a way where orangutans are not removed/cut off from these normal environmental stimuli. Additionally, many forms of enrichment provided by OFI Enrichment Team staff stimulate the senses through items that provide novel tastes, smells, textures, etc.

Social

Though orangutans are not known to be considered highly social primates, immature orangutans seem to be much more social than fully mature orangutans. For young orangutans, having shared housing and shared *Learning Forest* release sessions provides individuals with opportunities to learn from one another through play and social interaction. The stimulation that comes from being around conspecifics is beneficial to mental health for young orangutans.



Infant orangutan Sugar enjoying “puzzle feeder” enrichment

MEDICAL REPORT

OVERVIEW

The medical staff at the Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine (OCCQ) consists of three full time veterinarians who are among the most experienced orangutan medical professionals in Indonesia. The OCCQ medical facility includes a full operating room, an x-ray, a laboratory, and refrigerated medical storage rooms. The facility is equipped with many sophisticated medical tools, such as a defibrillator, ultra-sound machine, and an anesthesia machine.

ROUTINE MEDICAL ACTIVITIES

Routine medical activities include general examinations and weight monitoring of all orangutans conducted on the first of each month. Weighing the largest orangutans can be an intensive and time-consuming process because large orangutans are not easily handled.

De-worming or anti-parasitic medication is given to all orangutans on arrival to the OCCQ, every three months during their rehabilitation, and before they are released into the wild. In addition, OFI staff are given similar medications every six months. To avoid the development of resistance over time, alternating types of anti-parasitic medications are administered in different sessions.

COMMON HEALTH ISSUES

Orangutans with identified health issues, like poor nutrition or other underlying conditions, are kept under close observation. Poor nutrition is a major problem for captive orangutans. In the worst scenarios, captive orangutans are severely malnourished to the point of near starvation. Captive orangutans are often given food which is inappropriate or inadequate. When confiscated or surrendered, orangutans are brought to OFI and health problems are immediately treated. Treatment for more complex conditions caused by malnourishment, such as protein deficiencies or stunted growth, require extensive ongoing care and can affect individual orangutans over their lifetime.

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

In addition to physical health conditions, many ex-captive orangutans who have been kept as pets may develop negative associations with specific foods related to trauma in captivity. It can be difficult to have ex-captives re-learn to eat healthy foods. Additionally, these orangutans have difficulty maintaining and/or gaining weight. These individuals will be monitored more intensively than other orangutans. Treatment protocols can vary but generally involve food supplements.

Unfortunately, many captive orangutans are kept in abusive or neglected conditions by unaware owners who don't comprehend the intelligence, sensibilities, and fragility of primate "pets" such as orangutans. These conditions may affect behavior and physiology over captive orangutans' lifetimes.

PROCEDURES

Sometimes it is necessary to anesthetize orangutans to perform surgery or conduct other critical procedures.

In 2023 the use of anesthetics was used in the following cases:

- Facilitate orangutan rescue or translocation
- Wound treatment, x-ray, or surgery
- Implantation of telemetry devices
- Pre-release medical examinations and testing

In addition, when necessary, orangutans may be anesthetized so that caregivers can safely make repairs to their sleeping enclosures or to ensure safe transport.

OCCQ ORANGUTAN BIRTHS

OFI goes to great lengths to keep sexually mature male and female orangutans separate at the OCCQ facilities to avoid breeding and overpopulation issues. Male and female adolescents and older juveniles are released into the *Learning Forest* on alternating days as the young males in particular show great interest in the young females and sometimes harass them trying to copulate. However, on very rare occasions the will to procreate cannot be denied. In January 2023, infant male Onix was born to blind, wild born female Oska.

ORANGUTAN MORTALITIES

OFI always does its utmost to save the life of each orangutan, as every loss is one too many. Despite our best efforts, in 2023 we lost a total of three orangutans under our care.

Date of Death	Name	Sex	Estimated Age	Cause of Death
January 22	Jill	Male	19.5 years old	Septic shock caused by pneumonia
March 1	Riesner	Male	20 years old	Pulmonary edema
May 1	Jessica	Female	13 years old	Pneumonia

FIELD CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Education and Outreach

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Education and outreach have been central to the field operations of Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) for decades. Sharing knowledge about orangutans and conservation issues with Indonesian schoolchildren, community members, corporate groups, police/government officials, and others influences how people directly interact with orangutans and their rainforest habitat. As their habitat shrinks, orangutans are more likely to wander into human settlements or plantations. Local people who are informed about orangutan behavior and conservation are less likely to respond to these situations with fear or malice, resulting in fewer orangutans severely injured, dead, or orphaned at human hands. Beyond this very direct impact, field education efforts help foster a sense of pride in the unique natural treasures that Borneo and Indonesia hold. Indonesia governs all of Sumatra and most of Borneo, the two islands on which orangutans exclusively live. OFI's education and outreach efforts have helped embed concern for orangutans into Indonesia's national identity. This work has also helped us strengthen our relationships with the local communities in the areas where we work. Understanding their needs and attitudes has allowed us to form key partnerships to work towards common goals of forest protection and sustainable economic development.

In August 2018, OFI hired a former local government official and regional “influencer,” Ibu Dora Siburian, as our Education Outreach Coordinator. Ibu Dora has brought great energy and organization to OFI's outreach program, which had previously been done on a more opportunistic basis. She immediately launched the “Campaign Orangutan” program in local schools and villages in Central Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo). Campaign Orangutan goes beyond simply sharing information about orangutans and the rainforest. While Ibu Dora and the education team give presentations and lead engaging activities in individual classrooms, their visits also include school-wide rallies. Oftentimes these exciting rallies include performances from local indigenous dancers or speeches given by local officials. Integrating OFI's conservation message into these kinds of cultural events goes a long way towards increasing pride in orangutans and Indonesia's rich biodiversity as key parts of individual, local, and national identities.

Ibu Dora and her team also conduct outreach programs with local community groups. For both school and community programs, the education team engages participants in active conservation efforts by distributing native tree seedlings from OFI's nursery and planting seedlings at the end of programs. These trees are planted on school grounds, along roads, and in locations in and around villages in need of better shade coverage. Participants, especially school children, greatly enjoy this hands-on engagement with nature that functions to benefit their schools and communities.



Still image of Ibu Dora and schoolchildren from a 2023 local television news segment on OFI's “Campaign Orangutan”

OFI's education team pulled in some truly impressive statistics in 2023. They reached over 20,000 schoolchildren and locals across 282 different schools and community groups in Kalimantan this year. The excitement surrounding Campaign Orangutan garnered attention from the local television news station, which featured Ibu Dora's outreach program multiple times in the year.

Ibu Dora's education team distributed and facilitated the planting of 39,245 tree seedlings and saplings with the participants of the outreach programs. These tree plantings are separate from tree planting efforts of OFI's Reforestation and Rewilding team, and the survival of trees planted during education programs is not monitored as diligently.

OFI's education and outreach efforts in Indonesia are not limited to Borneo alone. Support for orangutan and rainforest conservation in Indonesia hinges on many people across the highly populated and diverse country taking an interest. In the capital city of Jakarta, opportunities to reach the children of powerful politicians and businesspeople (or students who may go on to similar careers themselves) are particularly ripe. OFI's part-time Education Coordinator based out of our Jakarta office, Ibu Irma Sutisna, and assistants visited 22 elementary schools and reached 2,566 students throughout the year. Ibu Irma also hosted engaging, live discussions on Instagram with prominent Indonesian researchers and conservationists throughout the year



Ibu Irma with local schoolchildren during outreach event in Jakarta

FIELD CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Reforestation and Rewilding

REFORESTATION AND REWILDING

The Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) reforestation project was launched in 2016 and 2017 after the devastating fires of 2015 destroyed several thousand hectares of rainforest within OFI-protected land, and hundreds of thousands of forested hectares throughout all of Borneo. With so little rainforest remaining in Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo), and more being destroyed every day, it became apparent that along with conserving what forest remained, it was important to replant and restore forests in the areas where they had once been. OFI is assisting in the mitigation of climate change by helping maintain peat swamps, prime orangutan habitat. In these peat swamp forests carbon is stored underground and in the trees. As long as these forests remain intact and are not burned or logged, little carbon is released into the atmosphere. By cultivating and planting native seedlings in areas that have been burned, we are helping Bornean orangutan populations survive, as deforestation is one of the main threats facing orangutans in the wild.

The current OFI Herbarium and Nursery was established in 2016 and initial planting efforts began in April 2017. In 2018 and continuing into 2019, the priority of the reforestation program focused on replanting areas within OFI's Rawa Kuno Orangutan Legacy Forest that had been destroyed by fire in 2015 and by local anthropogenic disturbance, which included considerable amounts of illegal logging. Replanting sites were selected based on the impact caused by illegal logging, forest clearing to establish agricultural land and palm oil plantations, and especially, previously burned forest.

As we fought rampant forest fires in 2019, the urgency of replanting and rewilding burned forest became even more apparent. Once these fires subsided, we renewed our replanting efforts.

OFI's Herbarium Manager and Reforestation Coordinator Ibu Cici Viviani led the herbarium, nursery, and rewilding team staff in planting 152,555 seedlings across multiple different rewilding sites in 2023. Woefully, an estimated 150,000 of these seedlings burned in the wildfires that ravaged Borneo in 2023.



OFI Reforestation Team members after planting native tree seedlings in a previously degraded area



Fires burning across previously degraded forests where OFI has conducted reforestation efforts

Not accounting for the losses, the 2023 year's planting efforts brought OFI's total planting numbers to 747,640 seedlings since the inception of the Reforestation and Rewilding Program. This does not include seedlings planted as part of OFI's education and outreach efforts in schools and villages. Despite the immense setbacks brought on by the fires of 2023, the Reforestation Team remained committed to recouping its losses and continuing its efforts to rewild burned and degraded land so it may once again be viable habitat for orangutans and other wildlife.

FIELD CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Land Acquisition and Protection

HABITAT PRESERVATION

Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) has a multi-dimensional strategy to protect orangutan forest habitat. Protecting habitat is crucial to conservation. The rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra represent orangutans' only home.

OFI works with all levels of the Indonesian government to help establish national parks, reserves, and other protected areas in forests where orangutans live. We work closely with local communities and governments to ensure the land we purchase in collaboration with Indonesian partners is used for wildlife and forest protection. We provide local people with employment on these protected lands as forest guards and rangers.

In recent years with the support of the local indigenous community, OFI's Land Acquisition and Protection program continued in the areas of the Pasir Panjang Village Forest which is near the Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine (OCCQ), several daily release camps, "Ha-Ha" forest island habitats, and the Rawa Kuno Orangutan Legacy Forest. OFI initiated the concept of an "Orangutan Wildlife Corridor" connecting these areas together. Habitat preservation and rewilding/planting efforts in these areas are critical to OFI's goal to ensure that habitat remains intact and connected for the remnant populations of orangutans, gibbons, macaques, Malayan sun bears, and clouded leopards who live in this area. In addition, in recent years Indonesian collaborators of OFI have continued to aggregate forested land along the north side of the Sekonyer River, which acts as a critical buffer for Tanjung Puting National Park. This area is under threat from palm oil plantations and local farmers to the north and still holds a remnant population of orangutans and many other wildlife species.

In 2023, OFI and our Indonesian collaborators were able to acquire 383 acres (155 hectares) of land to expand upon the Orangutan Wildlife Corridor and the buffer zone for Tanjung Puting National Park.



One of OFI's Indonesian partners during a survey of land he sold to OFI in 2023

FOREST PROTECTION AND FIREFIGHTING

OFI field and patrol staff carry out routine monitoring efforts across all OFI-associated land holdings including the Rawa Kuno Orangutan Legacy Forest, in and around Tanjung Puting National Park, and within the forested areas of the Seruyan Regency that act as a buffer for the National Park and OFI's release camps. These monitoring and patrol efforts are often carried out in collaboration with local Forestry officials and Police. OFI's year-round patrol efforts aid in the detection of local encroachment for poaching and illegal logging. Forest monitoring activities also increase the speed with which forest fires are located and extinguished. Patrol efforts span across three distinct regions with a total of eleven OFI release locations.



OFI patrol rangers placing notice forbidding hunting, logging, or other extractive activities on OFI-owned land

Devastating wildfires swept across almost three million acres of Borneo in 2023, and those fires did not spare the forests that OFI patrols and protects. Wildfires burned over 5,000 acres (over 2,000 hectares) of OFI's Rawa Kuno Orangutan Legacy Forest. Field staff estimated that over 430,000 trees burned in Rawa Kuno in 2023, including 150,000 seedlings and saplings that were planted by our Reforestation Team this same year. Portions of Tanjung Puting National Park sustained massive damage as well. The 2023 wildfires were exacerbated by the effects of climate change and the El Niño climate event that began midway through the year.



OFI staff members fighting forest fires in 2023

OFI firefighting teams worked nonstop not only to extinguish active fires but also to establish firebreaks and prevent fires from reaching vulnerable areas. These teams collaborated with professional government firefighters, staff from resorts bordering protected forests, and others to maximize the effectiveness of their labor. We shudder to think how much more damage the forests would have sustained without their heroic efforts.

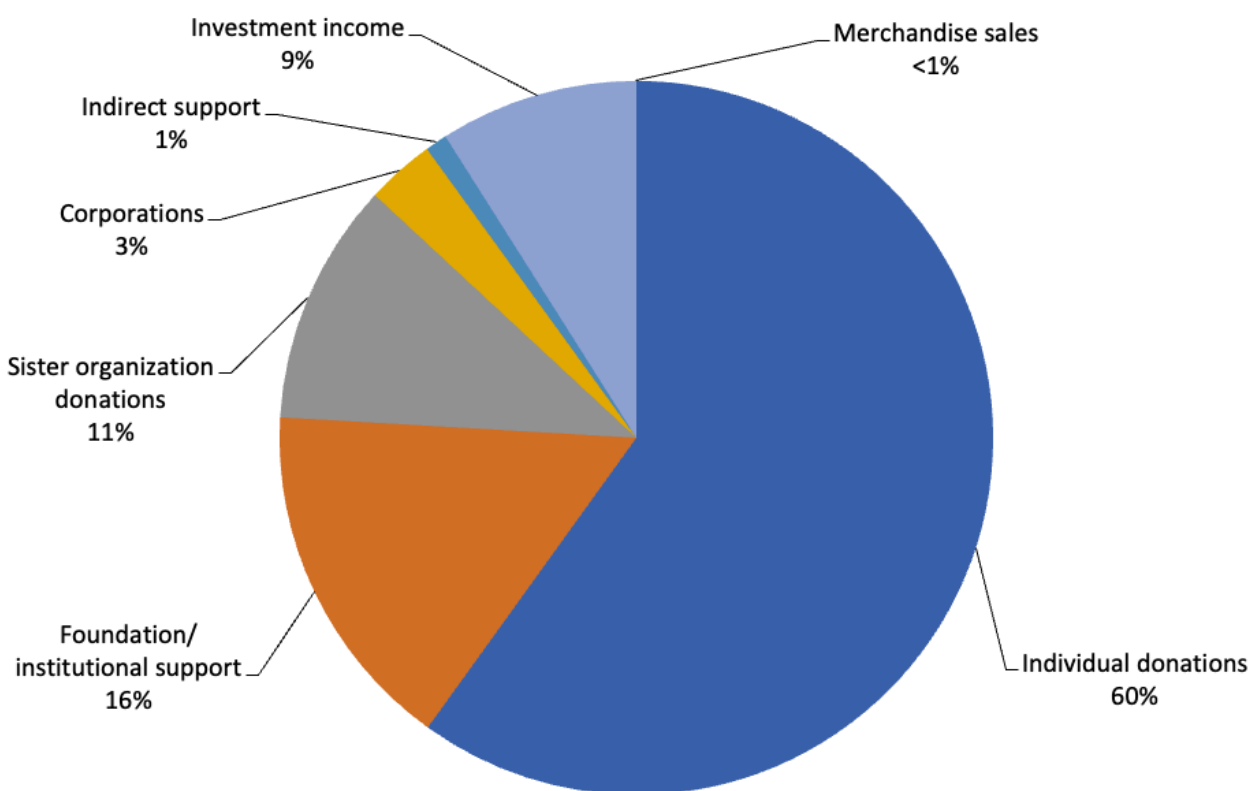
FINANCIAL REPORT

DONATIONS SUMMARY

Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) raised a total of **\$2,385,805** USD in 2023. The donations and revenues OFI brought in throughout 2023 are summarized below:

Support	Individual donations	\$1,422,683
	Foundation/institutional support	\$378,504
	Sister organization donations	\$268,322
	Corporate support	\$67,951
	Indirect support	\$31,655
Revenue	Investment income	\$214,519
	Merchandise sales	\$2,161
Total		\$2,385,805

2023 SUPPORT AND REVENUE



OFI implements a diversified fundraising strategy composed of many channels. Most of our funding comes from the United States and some comes from our sister organization OFI Australia. Our Canadian sister organization, OFI Canada, provides funding separately and not directly through OFI. OFI's funding channels include:

Standard Donations

Standard donations are unrestricted gifts from private individuals and other supporters who contribute online (via credit card or PayPal), mail checks to the LA office, or provide payment information over the phone. Legacy bequests are included in standard donations.

Institutional Support

Institutional support refers to foundations, grant makers, and other institutional supporters who grant funding for specific programs or general operations.

Appeals

Appeals are formal letters sent via post and email to OFI's entire fundraising list, as well being promoted on our website and across social media channels.

Campaigns

Campaigns refer to specific conservation programs that donors choose to fund.

Indirect Donations

Indirect donations are gifts of stock, employee matching contributions, vehicle donations, or third-party fundraisers.

EcoTours

EcoTours are exclusive trips to visit Camp Leakey and the Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine (OCCQ), as well as to meet Dr. Galdikas. EcoTours are managed by a third-party travel agency, ProTravel. OFI receives a standard donation for each traveler on the tour as well as additional donations made voluntarily by participants during or after the tours. With the closure of Indonesia's borders and Tanjung Puting National Park, as well as COVID-19 safety measures and protocols implemented at the OCCQ, EcoTours were cancelled in 2020 and have not yet resumed.

Foster Program

With a gift of \$100 supporters can choose to "foster" orangutans at the OCCQ and receive photos and updates on the foster orangutans' progress. This is one of OFI's longest running fundraising and educational outreach programs.

Events

Events include fundraisers such as donor get-togethers, lectures, cultural fairs, and other events in which OFI participates.

Projects

Supporters can give funding towards specific projects that are not associated with current appeals or campaigns.

In-Kind

In-kind gifts are non-monetary donations such as medical equipment, office supplies, etc.

Merchandise

Merchandise sales are generated from OFI's online gift shop. This fundraising channel currently contributes only a small portion to OFI's funds.

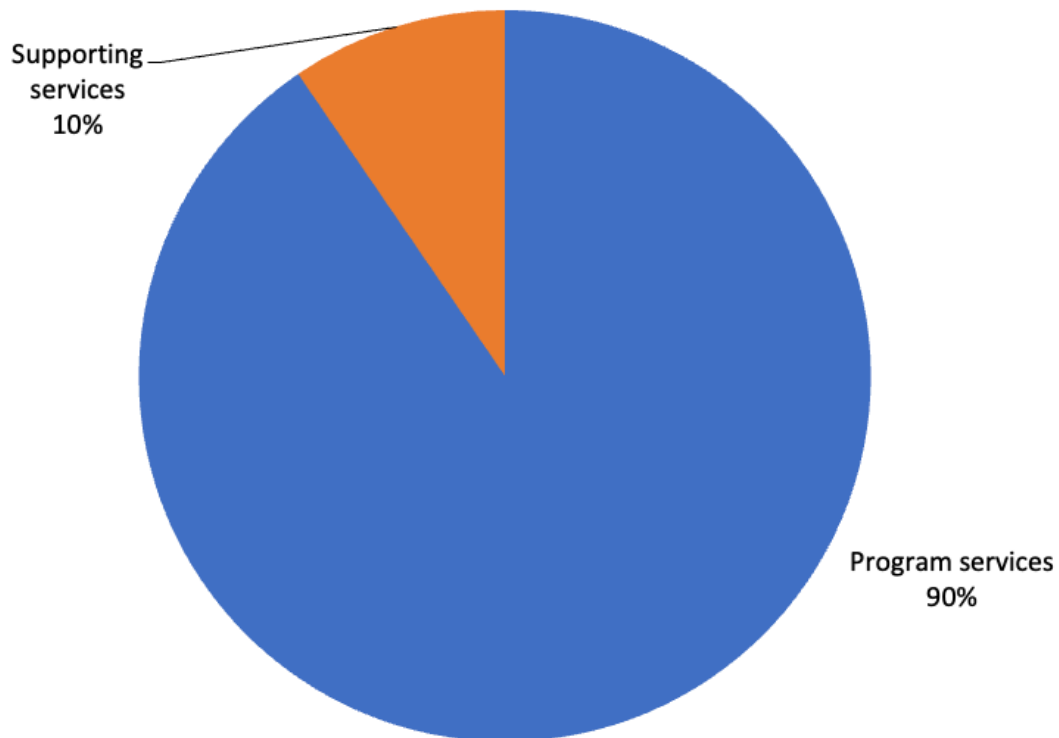
EXPENSE SUMMARY

Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) expended **\$2,405,214 USD** in 2023. We were able to spend more than we brought in during 2023 thanks to assets accrued from previous years.

OFI takes pride in the fact that most of our expenses go directly towards the conservation programs we have in place to support our mission. OFI's expenses throughout 2023 are summarized below:

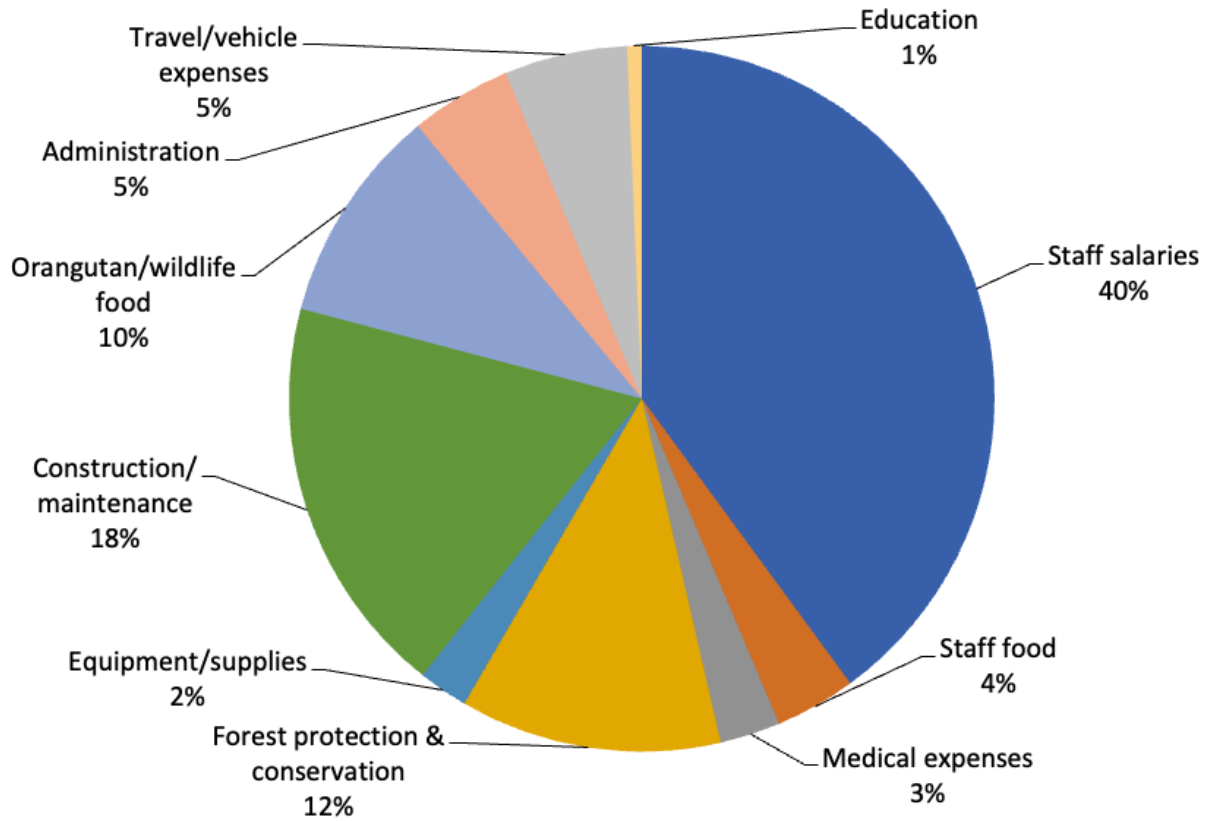
Program services	\$2,175,424
Supporting services (administration & fundraising)	\$229,790
Total	\$2,405,214

2023 EXPENSES



A breakdown of how OFI funds sent to Borneo in support of field conservation activities were used in 2023 is illustrated below:

FIELD EXPENSES IN 2023

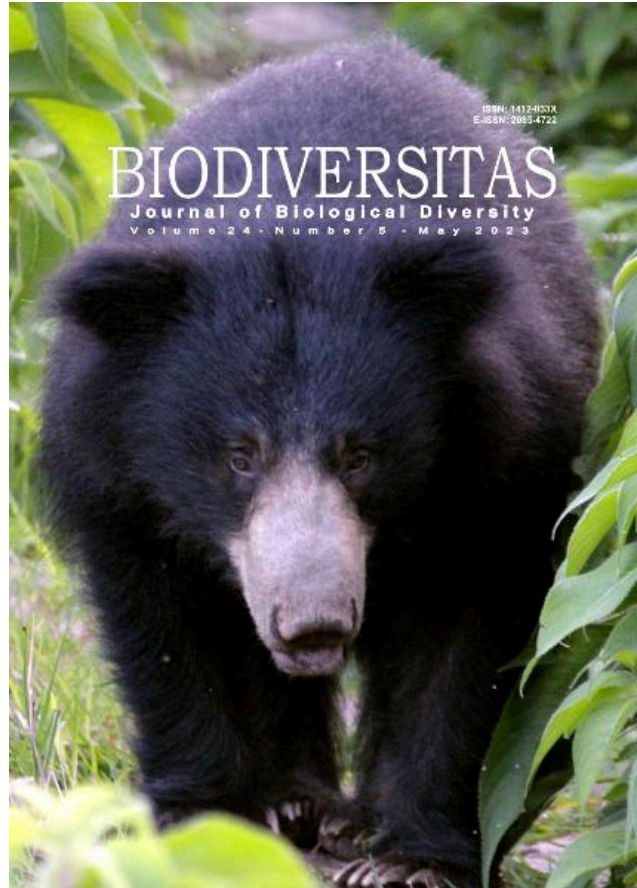


OFI's audited financial statements can be found on our website (orangutan.org).

EVENTS, HONORS, AND MEDIA FEATURES

PUBLICATIONS

In May 2023, a research article written by Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) Founder and President Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas, OFI Representative and Office Manager in Jakarta Ibu Renie Djoasgoro, OFI Canada Secretary and PhD candidate at Simon Fraser University Ruth Linksy, and co-authors was published in the peer-reviewed, Indonesian *Biodiversitas Journal of Biological Diversity*. Titled “A 50 year decennial survey of male Bornean orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus wurmbii*) with supplemental genetic analysis in Tanjung Puting National Park, Indonesia,” the article elucidates a marked decrease in the number of mature, wild male orangutans observed in the Camp Leakey study area in Tanjung Puting National Park over the five decades that OFI researchers have been monitoring the wild orangutan population there. The authors assert that this disturbing decline is driven largely by habitat loss and fragmentation, which hinders the typical nomadic nature of adult male orangutans. They raise the alarm for the implications of these findings not only for the Tanjung Puting orangutan population, but for wild orangutan populations all across Borneo and Sumatra that are facing similar or worse consequences of deforestation. When adult male orangutans cannot travel to new areas and mate with the resident females in those areas, orangutan populations risk a loss of genetic diversity. This leads to decreased fitness of individual orangutans and, in turn, entire populations.



Cover of the Biodiversitas issue containing research article written by Dr. Galdikas & co-authors

TALKS

Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) Founder and President Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas visited Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas, Lithuania in June 2023. She participated in an award ceremony for an environmental prize for which she served on the selection committee. Dr. Galdikas also gave a public lecture titled “Where have the males gone?” This talk focused on her most recent research article described under the “Publications” section above.

MEDIA FEATURES

Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) Founder and President Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas was interviewed for and featured in multiple articles and television spots throughout 2023. Simon Fraser University, where Dr. Galdikas is a Full Professor, published an article titled “Five-decade study of wild orangutans points to new urgency as ‘pre-extinction’ looms,” which covered findings from the research article written by Dr. Galdikas and co-authors that was published earlier in 2023 (detailed in the “Publications” section above) and offered additional commentary from Dr. Galdikas on the significance of the findings. An interview with *Biodiversity MAG* shed light on the impact of Dr. Galdikas’ Lithuanian heritage and childhood experiences on her connection to and interest in nature. In “Biruté Mary Galdikas, the great forgotten one. A lifetime dedicated to the defense of orangutans and their habitat,” an article from Great Ape Project Spain, Dr. Galdikas gives her input on current issues and legislation related to great apes’ welfare, conservation, and legal rights. A video interview spot with UNCHAINED TV provides insight into how Dr. Galdikas got her start in orangutan research and conservation and gives a strong call to action in support of OFI’s work and mission. Dr. Galdikas’ passion for orangutans and her conservation work was featured on Indianapolis local news station WTHR as part of the media hype surrounding the 2023 Indianapolis Prize (see “Other Honors” below).

OFI’s Education Coordinator in Borneo, Ibu Dora Siburian, and her “Campaign Orangutan” education efforts were featured in local news spots multiple times in 2023. This recognition is evidence of the cultural and educational significance of OFI’s outreach work in the areas where we work. Refer to the “Education and Outreach” section above for more details.



Still image of Ibu Dora from a 2023 local television news segment on OFI’s “Campaign Orangutan”

OTHER HONORS

In March 2023, Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) Founder and President Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas was named as one of six finalists for the highly competitive Indianapolis Prize. This biennial award recognizes conservationists who have achieved significant victories on behalf of an animal species or group of species. Sometimes called “The Nobel Prize of Animal Conservation,” the Indianapolis Prize is widely considered to be the most prestigious award in wildlife conservation. In September 2023, Dr. Galdikas, her co-finalists, and the award winner were celebrated at a gala organized by the Indianapolis Zoo, which administers the Prize. Finalists were recognized in a series of media features.



Dr. Galdikas and fellow finalists for the 2023 Indianapolis Prize. From left to right: Dr. Pablo Borboroglu (winner), Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas, Dr. Karen Eckert, Dr. Gerardo Ceballos, & Dr. Christophe Boesch

In May 2023, the local ecotourism guide association in Central Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) that facilitates tourist excursions into Tanjung Puting National Park created a video greeting in honor of Dr. Galdikas' 77th birthday. Dr. Galdikas' orangutan research and conservation efforts starting in 1971 played a significant role in the redesignation of the one million acres of forest surrounding her study area as a National Park in 1982. In the past, Dr. Galdikas has trained ecotourism guides in the ecology of Tanjung Puting and how to promote safe, ethical behavior for visitors to the National Park. The birthday greeting with contributions from many individual guides is a testament to the impact Dr. Galdikas has made on the local economy and integration of orangutan conservation into the region's identity.

COMMUNICATIONS

WEBSITE

The website for Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) provides the general public with information on orangutans, rainforests, OFI as an organization past and present, our mission and field conservation efforts, as well as how people can take action in support of our cause.

Two new articles were posted to OFI's website in 2023. One of these was our Fall Appeal written by OFI Founder and President Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas, in which she called for donations and support to help OFI care for and rehabilitate young, orphaned orangutans at our Orangutan Care Center and Quarantine (OCCQ) in Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo). The other article posted in 2023 announced OFI's administrative headquarters in Los Angeles becoming the North American home base for the International Committee of the World Biological Corridor, a global initiative that seeks to create a continuous terrestrial and oceanic belt of biodiversity across the tropics.

As in previous years, the largest proportion of visitors to OFI's website in 2023 were from the United States, with visitors from the United Kingdom, Indonesia, Canada, and Australia also making up a significant contingency. Overall, our website received visitors from over 150 countries. While the number of total visitors was quite low for many of those countries, it is encouraging that our conservation message is getting a foothold all around the world.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) maintains a strong following and presence across Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter social media networks. Social media posts include photos, videos, and other interactive content whenever possible. Posts are targeted towards increasing awareness of orangutan biology, behavior, and conservation as well as OFI's direct conservation field work. OFI uses social media to solicit donations in support of our work and to encourage followers to spread the word on orangutan and rainforest conservation issues.

Posts with eye-catching photos of orangutans secured some of the highest levels of engagement across our social media platforms in 2023. This was true regardless of whether the captivating images had educational or more lighthearted messages accompanying them. Images of devastated rainforest and posts about palm oil also garnered high levels of engagement. Posts about OFI Founder and President Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas and her media features in 2023 were also very popular.

Refer to the pages below to see the top posts across our social media platforms in 2023.

TOP SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS IN 2023

FACEBOOK

 **Orangutan Foundation International** 
★ Favorites · March 22, 2023 · 

Witness the incredible conservation efforts of Dr. Mary Galdikas, renowned primatologist, as she strives to save the last remaining orangutans from the brink of extinction. Join her in an amazing interview with Jane Velez-Mitchell and discover how you too, can make a difference in the plight of these magnificent creatures. Don't miss out on this opportunity to be inspired and take action for the survival of orangutans. Visit: <http://ow.ly/CTxX50NotqO>



Orangutan Foundation International
Dedicated to the conservation of orangutans and their tropical rainforest habitat.

    2.8K

30 comments

 **Orangutan Foundation International** 
★ Favorites · May 1, 2023 · 

#Orangutans are often observed using leaves for shade or for cover from the rain. Note this young orangutan is wearing this large leaf hat!... [See more](#)



  1K

25 comments 127 shares

INSTAGRAM



orangutan_foundation_intl Following ...



orangutan_foundation_intl 124w
#Orangutans are often observed using leaves for shade or for cover from the rain. Note this young orangutan is wearing this large leaf hat!

Find out more about orangutans and their habitat on our website, <http://ow.ly/qeh850NvpZg>



1,846 likes
May 1, 2023



orangutan_foundation_intl Following ...



orangutan_foundation_intl 124w
The commercial production of #palmoil clears primary rainforest, endangering the lives of #orangutans and other species that make the #rainforests of #Borneo their home. Palm oil plantations also disproportionately impact #indigenous Dayak women who have been displaced from their #ancestral lands due to unequal access to #resources, land titles, and economic support. Say no to palm oil to protect #orangutans, the #rainforest, and #Indigenous rights!



883 likes
May 2, 2023



On May 17, 2023, OFI posted about a feature on Dr. Galdikas televised by Indianapolis local news station WTHR that received over 1,329 engagements – one of our top three posts on Instagram for the year. However, for unknown reasons this post is no longer available on Instagram at the time of writing this report. We were unable to recover a screen capture of the post. See “Honors, Publications, Talks, and Media Features” section above for more details.

TWITTER

Orangutan Foundation Internatio... @OFIOrangut... · Mar 7, 2023

Palm oil plantations are now the number one reason for tropical rainforest deforestation. The destruction of the forests displaces [#orangutans](#) from their only natural [#habitat](#).

Find out how more information at ow.ly/cRzE50Na8wO. [#TeamPongo](#) [#Deforestation](#)



2 25 37 1.2K

Orangutan Foundation Internatio... @OFIOrangut... · May 19, 2023

[#Orangutans](#)' opposable thumbs and big toes are short to facilitate the hook-like function of hands and feet, particularly in [#brachiation](#) and hanging on to tree branches. Orangutan Vytas is showing off these skills here! [#EndangeredSpeciesDay](#)



1 8 42 531

Orangutan Foundation Internatio... @OFIOrangut... · Jun 27, 2023

[#Orangutan](#) infants spend up to 8 years with their mothers, and that's because there's a lot to learn! Between finding food, learning what is safe to consume, and making/using tools, there's a lot to teach in that timeframe! Learn more orangutan facts at orangutan.org.



12 31 644

Orangutan Foundation International



www.orangutan.org

With support from:



In collaboration with:



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and Ecosystem Conservation (Indonesia)

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