



*Orangutan  
Appeal UK*

# Orangutan Appeal UK



## News

Issue 36 - February 2019

# Lucky Archie



*Paul with Archie*

A striking wild female orangutan in her twenties who lived in the Kabili rainforest reserve which surrounds Sepilok gave birth in 2014 to a beautiful baby boy. The mother was so proud of her new son she would often bring him to Sepilok's feeding platform to show him off to the rehabilitated orangutans there.

The rangers keep a very close eye on orangutans at the platform to make

sure they are well and it was during one of these visits that they noticed this baby was very lethargic and appeared jaundiced, which can be fatal! Sepilok's vet made the difficult decision to bring both mother and baby into the clinic. On examination it was found that the baby, who they decided to name Archie, was indeed very sick and would need extensive treatment, so sadly he had to be separated from his mum and she was returned to the wild.

Through the diligent care of the vets at Sepilok Archie gradually began to recover. During this time there was a very special guest at Sepilok, actor and comedian Paul O'Grady, who was filming a documentary with our

Chairlady, Sue. Instantly, Paul and Archie fell in love. Whenever Archie saw Paul he would reach out to him and start to whimper so Paul was allowed to take care of Archie during his climbing lessons. Paul was totally besotted and took Archie on as his adopted baby.



*Archie with his special milk*

A few months later Archie again fell ill and this time they found out that it was because he was allergic to the cow's milk formula that is fed to the orphan orangutans. It was obvious that an alternative had to be found for him so they tried him on goat's milk, which Archie loved, the only problem that then existed was the high cost of this special milk!

But Archie's luck was in when Sue let Paul O'Grady, who is also our Patron, know that he was ill again and without hesitation his adoptive dad came to the rescue and each year contributes to keeping Archie and his friends well! Now you can see just how well Archie is doing!! **THANK YOU PAUL!**

## Wildlife Rescue Unit Pledge

The Sabah Wildlife Rescue Unit was set up and launched in May 2010 by Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD) with partial funding from the Malaysian Palm Oil Wildlife Conservation Fund (MPOWCF). The Unit is managed by SWD's Chief Veterinarian and Assistant Director Dr Sen Nathan.

The Sabah Wildlife Department's Wildlife Rescue Unit (WRU) was born out of an urgent need to address pertinent wildlife conservation issues that the Sabah Wildlife Department is facing today. Their tasks are to rescue and/or translocate distressed wildlife found within Sabah. This is a necessity to ensure as many animals as possible are rescued and saved, and to guarantee the survival of wild populations.

Currently there are 19 local Sabahans employed as wildlife rescue rangers, one senior supervisor, two senior rangers/SWD assistant and one wildlife veterinarian.

Most of the cases attended by the WRU involve the Bornean pygmy elephant, orangutans, proboscis monkeys and sun bears. These animals often face greater human-wildlife conflicts when they stray into plantations and villages.

Over the last year OAUk have started working closely with the WRU and two of our rangers are on secondment to the Unit, to help care for orphaned elephants and accompany WRU rangers on rescue and relocation missions.

OAUk have recognised that the WRU are performing a vital role in Sabah's conservation but are now being

hampered by their ageing rescue vehicles which often have to take on the toughest terrains and are starting to let them down.

OAUk have now **pledged RM1,000,000 (approx. £200,000)** to provide 3 new, fully modified Rescue Vehicles for the Wildlife Rescue Unit. These vehicles have been ordered and are scheduled to arrive in the coming months, and will be delivered to Kota Kinabalu where Sue will present them to the Chief Minister of Sabah.

**NOW WE NEED TO WORK HARD TO FIND SUFFICIENT FUNDS TO ENSURE THIS PLEDGE CAN BE MET!! IF YOU OR YOUR BUSINESS CAN HELP PLEASE CONTACT OUR CHAIRLADY SUE SHEWARD DIRECTLY – via [manager@orangutan-appeal.org.uk](mailto:manager@orangutan-appeal.org.uk).**



*WRU rescue vehicle*

# Sepilok News

## Mimi and her baby

Mimi's baby boy is growing up fast. He is always keen to try the different fruit and vegetables on offer at the feeding platform, reaching out to try to grab mum's food while she is eating, despite not yet having all his teeth. He tried to copy Mimi by shoving an unpeeled banana into his mouth but with a little help from mum he was able to suck on the delicious fruit inside and taste it for himself. Mimi is also teaching him how to climb and he's very confident hanging from the ropes but she always keeps a hand up to support him as he learns.



*Mimi and her baby*



*Mimi's baby*

## Clenan and Awantang

Awantang, who is now five years old, is becoming much more independent, although mum Clenan still follows her wherever she goes. Clenan uses branches to make bridges between the trees but on one occasion the branches snapped which left Awantang stranded in a tree. Clenan watched for a little while to see if her youngster could get back by herself but sadly she couldn't and started to cry. Clenan, being the excellent mum that she is, quickly came to her rescue by forming a bridge between the trees with a rope which was a relief for both mum and daughter.



*Awantang*

## Yokmal and Malim

These two wild males regularly visit the Kabili reserve which surrounds Sepilok in search of females to breed with. Recently it seems that Malim, who is the younger male, has been venturing into Yokmal's territory which he is not too pleased about and brief clashes have been seen between the males as they fight for supremacy. The younger orangutans are usually nervous when the large



*Yokmal resting*

dominant males are about, which was very obvious when Yokmal decided to bite Kolapis. Fortunately, the rangers were on hand and there were no serious injuries. Yokmal then went to the nursery area and turned his attention onto a young female but Chikita bravely came to the rescue and pulled her away from him.

## Bellaluna and Luna-Mai

Bellaluna has been taking her baby Luna-Mai, who is now 2 years old, to the outdoor nursery area so that she can interact with the other youngsters there, and in particular her favourite friend baby Sepilok who is very gentle with her. They are often seen having fun together.

## Boogie Boy

Boogie Boy is now 8 years old and has started showing the very early signs of developing cheek flanges. Boogie no longer relies on going to the centre for food and is happy to forage in the forest and also builds in his own nest to sleep in every night. Being happy with his own company, he tends to stay away from people, which is a sure sign of his increasing independence.

## Rosa

Rosa is becoming quite independent and spends much of her time searching out and eating termites which she loves to do.



*Rosa*

Following a big storm in November, several trees around the centre fell down, exposing lots of termite nests. Rosa was in her element as she enjoyed a tasty termite feast!

## Enrichment activities

Our staff members are great at devising enrichment activities for the orphans, which help to teach them about the types of food they can find in the forest and give them the foraging skills they need. These include balls made from vine liana which have different fruits hidden in the middle. The vines are edible and the orangutans enjoy pulling the balls apart to find the fruit inside. The rangers also look out for termite nests around the fringes of the centre for the orangutans to comb through and snack on.

# Another Chance for Tiger

Our Chairlady Sue Sheward headed out to Sabah, Borneo in November to undertake a very special mission. Many of our long term supporters will remember orphan Tiger and his very sad story and will be delighted to hear that, with Sue's help, he has been given another chance at finding his forever home.

Originally Tiger was rescued from the banks of the Kinabatangan River where he had become separated from his mother during a skirmish with plantation workers who were trying to stop them eating the palms. The plantation manager realised that such a young infant would die unless he was cared for so he took him to Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre (SORC) which was a two hour drive away.

After a couple of years at the centre Tiger was transferred to a local reserve which had a small sanctuary so he could practice his climbing skills in the surrounding forest. Unfortunately his luck was about to let him down again when a band of unknown men broke into the reserve one night and stabbed him and his two friends, injuring him badly. The alarm was immediately raised by the guards and Tiger was rushed back to the vets at Sepilok to be treated.

Tiger had been traumatised by this experience and his recovery was very slow. Eventually he began making good progress, so it was very sad when he then became ill and had to be admitted to the Clinic. It took nearly two years for him to recover from this illness and return to full health.

Tiger was now approaching his teenage years when he was released into the Kabili forest reserve which surrounds SORC. He settled in well but after several months he had a fight with a dominant male who was visiting the reserve looking for a girlfriend. Tiger was no match for the wild male and sustained some painful injuries and again returned to the clinic where he stayed for over a year being closely monitored and cared for.

Finally, it was decided by the vets that Tiger should be given the chance of freedom once more and a joint effort was made by Sabah Wildlife Department and Orangutan Appeal UK to release him into the Tabin reserve some 4.5 hours' drive from Sepilok.

Sepilok's vets carried out meticulous health checks, including x-rays of his chest and lungs to ensure he was fit enough to face the task ahead of him. The green light was given and plans were made for his transportation to Tabin. Tiger was sedated the evening before his release



*Sue and Dr Sen at the release site*

and laid on a thick bed of leaves in his travelling compartment. At 5.30 am the next morning he was loaded on to the vehicle for his journey to Tabin. Some of the orangutans had been watching what was going on and in particular Kalabatu was fascinated by the activity and insisted on staying until we drove out of the gates with Tiger on his way to freedom.

On our arrival at Tabin the Appeal's team of research assistants were waiting for us to help with his release. All went smoothly and the team prepared to track Tiger for the next few weeks to ensure he was able to find his own food, make his own nest and travel freely through the canopy. Tiger lived happily in Tabin Reserve for several months and reported sightings confirmed that he had found a lady friend!

Then, much to Sepilok's amazement, a plantation owner contacted the Centre asking the rangers to come and remove a large male who he had caught trying to steal a worker's motorbike! When the team saw the picture that accompanied the report they recognised the male as



*Sue and Dr Sen*



*Tiger and the motorbike*

Tiger! The rangers immediately set off to collect him and return him to Sepilok where he was given a health check. When the vets x-rayed Tiger he was found to have a severe chest infection which needed urgent treatment. So once again Tiger was a resident at Sepilok for some months until he fully recovered.

By now Tiger had matured into a fully fledged adult male so it was important to find a home for him far from civilisation where he could breed and contribute to this critically endangered species.

Dr Sen Nathan, Sabah Wildlife Department's Chief Vet and Assistant Director discussed the situation with Sue Sheward (Founder/Director of Orangutan Appeal UK) and finally a plan was hatched for Tiger's future. It was decided to repeat the successful relocations which Dr Sen and Sue had performed by helicopter back in 2004 and fly Tiger to the most remote area of Tabin by the mud volcano. There are no roads to this area so we knew he was unlikely to have any human contact and this area has a good wild orangutan population and plenty of fruit for him to eat.

So in November 2018, Tiger was once again prepared for his journey by road to Tabin where he was to be transferred by helicopter into the core area for his release. All went well and on landing at the mud volcano the Wildlife Rescue Unit who were assisting with his release carried him to the edge of the forest. The team stood back to give Tiger as much space as possible and the door to his travelling compartment was opened. Tiger didn't hesitate. He climbed a nearby tree and started to

move deeper into the forest only pausing for a quick look over his shoulder as if to say "thank you"!

After a shaky start, Tiger's confidence began to grow and soon he could be seen moving freely through the forest. He began to make "long calls" which could be heard across the forest for several miles telling interested females that he had arrived.

Now we can only pray that Tiger settles into this beautiful tranquil forest and makes it his forever home – he definitely deserves it.



*Free in Tabin*

## Sepilok's Pygmy Elephant Orphans

As well as being home to orphaned and injured orangutans on varying stages of rehabilitation, the Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre is also a safe haven for all kinds of wildlife.

The largest of these, although still only babies, are six Bornean pygmy elephants. There are believed to be less than 2,000 of these elephants left in the wild and conflict with humans is pushing this rare species closer to the edge of extinction. Even though the Bornean pygmy elephant is smaller than its mainland cousin the Asian elephant, they unsurprisingly still require vast areas of territory to feed and roam in. With the human population expanding and development causing greater expanses of rainforest to be felled, elephants are being pushed out of the jungle and are increasingly found on agricultural or residential land where they risk being shot at or caught in illegal snares.



*Budak in the sun*

The orphaned elephants at Sepilok have similar stories to tell. Three year old Budak was found alone on plantation land when he was just two months old. Without his herd to guide and care for him, Budak began to follow the plantation workers on their motorbikes, causing a danger to himself and others. Similarly, male orphan



*Budak*

Adun was found at just two weeks old, having fallen into a pond on the site of a saw mill. His herd were nowhere to be found and this little elephant needed urgent rescue if he was to survive.

Luckily, Sepilok is on hand to help elephants like Budak, Adun and the four other babies in their care. Like human infants, these elephants need round the clock care and regular feeds of milk and vegetation. We are dedicated to helping these individuals and two of our members of permanent staff, Rico and Sylvester, are assisting the Wildlife Rescue Unit to ensure the elephants are given the attention they need.

At the end of 2018 the Sabah government created a task force to tackle the problems facing the elephants in Sabah with the aim to create a wildlife area as a safe haven. Positive steps are being made to ensure a future for this species and we will be working closely with the WRU to care for the elephants who are most in need of help.

# Borneo Nature Foundation Update

Borneo Nature Foundation's (BNF) Sebangau conservation efforts were boosted in 2018 through extra funding support from Zoos Victoria, Australia, in collaboration with OAUk. This has provided extra support for our long-term fire-fighting efforts, in addition to peat-swamp rewetting and reforestation activities.

Dam construction is vitally important because these canals (dug by past illegal loggers to float logged wood out of the forest) drain the peat and make it highly susceptible to dry season fires. This is the most serious threat that Sebangau's forest orangutan population currently faces.

After reaching our target to build 150 dams in northern Sebangau our team switched their focus towards fire patrols as we entered the dry season. The 2018 dry season experienced very little rainfall and consequently fire risk and patrol intensity was elevated. During this high-risk period, the Community Patrol Team undertook patrols along the Sebangau river and forest edge. In addition to detecting fire, these patrols also increase

protection against illegal logging and damaging illegal fishing activities.

Numerous fires occurred in neighbouring parts of Central Kalimantan during this period, leading to a prolonged period of toxic haze pollution, which is hazardous to the health of both local people and orangutans. We are delighted to report that no fires occurred in our Sebangau forest (although our fire-fighting



*Mother and infant*



*Boat Patrol*

teams working the areas adjacent to Sebangau extinguished 37 fires in August and September 2018!). Our regular patrols played an important role in ensuring protection of the Sebangau forest and its resident orangutans from fire this year.

Our team was also busy conducting hydrological monitoring which is an important activity when evaluating our dam building impact in terms of keeping the swamp wet – and in preventing forest fire.

In recognition of our expertise, BNF's Conservation Team has been invited to join a newly developed Central Kalimantan focus group on dam building. This group includes representatives of government agencies, NGOs and university departments and aims to share methods and strategies across the province. BNF is proud to be taking a role in this forum and sharing the results of our scientific approach and experience with other parties to improve peat forest conservation efforts throughout Central Kalimantan, to better protect the important orangutan populations that live in these forests.

## Supporters News

### Fundraisers

In September our **Great North Run** team raised nearly £3200 and **Royal Parks Half** runners made £675. **Kevin Cutler** ran the **British 10k** in Westminster and raised £160 and **Stuart Morris** took part in the **Great South Run** raising £330. **Bournemouth Marathon** runners **Cathryn Spiller** and **Naomi Townsend** raised £657 while **Giles White** ran the **Athens Marathon** raising £135. **Karen Crudgington** ran the **Salisbury Half Marathon** and raised an incredible £1,260!

Long-term supporter **Carly Stairs** climbed Mount Snowdon and also tackled a tough 2 day climb in the Peruvian mountains and raised £168. **Rob Slater** took on the challenge of a lifetime and climbed **Mount Kinabalu** in Borneo, the highest peak in South East Asia, and raised £405 for the orangutans.

**Christina Sell** from Surrey raised £200 by holding an **orangutan bonanza dinner** and **Shalini Srinivasan** raised £615 from the donation box she minds at the **British Council Singapore**. Many more supporters have set up fundraising pages on **Facebook** as birthday gifts or to raise awareness and raised over £3000 since August 2018.

### Schools and Colleges

**Aranda Primary School** in Canberra, Australia held a 'wear something orange or furry' day and pupils and teachers alike got involved raising a fantastic £1,846.

Children at **Maskrosen Pre-School** in Sweden cultivated plants from seed to sell and raised £400 for the orangutans.

Following their fundraising success last year, **Okehampton School** in Devon raised a further £135.50 from a stamp collection and tombola.

**THANK YOU to all our fantastic fundraisers!**



*Aranda Primary School*

# Centre For Orangutan Protection (COP)

Orangutan Appeal UK (OAUk) has been supporting the Centre for Orangutan Protection (COP) an Indonesian Borneo NGO since 2007. COP works on the frontline rescuing orangutans who have been displaced, injured or are being kept illegally as pets. COP are in the final stages of setting up a rescue centre, which is currently home to 19 rescued orangutans in the Labanan Forest in East Kalimantan.



*Rescued baby*

COP's founder, Hardi Baktiantoro, recently asked OAUk for help when he received a report that urgent funding was required to rescue two baby orangutans who were being kept illegally in local villages. OAUk were more than happy to help and a rescue team was dispatched immediately.

When the team arrived at the first village they found a very stressed baby orangutan, who was not only dehydrated but was also suffering from malnutrition. The Team immediately confiscated her and took her to their centre. When they x-rayed the infant they found two bullets embedded in her body. It is likely that her mother was shot and killed, and her poor baby left orphaned and wounded.

The next day the team travelled on to the next location that had been reported and found a baby at one of the houses who was being held in a tiny wooden box with no space to move. His body was just skin and bones

and he had obviously not been properly fed or cared for. No one knew what had happened to his mother but other villagers told the team that it was understood that the man had kept the young orangutan



*Lineker (centre) with the COP Team*

imprisoned for approximately 4 years!!

Both of these orangutans are now safe and in COP's care. Hardi is hopeful they will make a full physical recovery and they will be able to give them a second chance at a life in the wild.



*Rescued baby*

Earlier this year, OAUk sent Lineker, who had been the supervisor of OAUk's Malaysian Post Release team for 8 years, to share his expertise on orangutan monitoring with COP's staff. Lineker is very experienced in tracking and monitoring orangutans in the wild and was able to teach the COP team the best practices for orangutan rehabilitation and release, as well as being able to advise on identifying suitable release sites. A couple of months later COP released two male orangutans and were very grateful for Lineker's help and guidance. They are very pleased to report that Leci and Novi are now living and surviving independently in the forest under the discreet watchful eyes of COP's "Ape Guardian" team.

**In November COP received an Award from the Indonesian government for their work in "Rescuing, Rehabilitating and Releasing Indonesian orangutans" which was presented by the Minister of Home Affairs.**



*Hardi with his Award*

**"THE BEST  
INDONESIAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
COMMUNITY  
ORGANISATION IN  
2018".**

This is a fantastic accolade for COP and we hope that all our supporters will agree that Hardi and his team truly deserved OAUk's support!

## Grants Received

We have received grants from the following organisations in the last six months; in support of the veterinary nurse and care staff projects we have received £2000 from the **Richard Frankland Charitable Trust**, £3,500 from the Animal Defence Trust, £1000 from the **Marjorie Coote Trust** and £500 from the **Percey Headly 1990 Charitable Trust**. These donations have contributed towards the salaries of our locally employed staff who care for the orphaned baby orangutans at Sepilok. They provide the physical, emotional and medical care that the babies need in order to progress through their rehabilitation working towards their eventual release into the wild.

The **Maxwell Morrison Family Charitable Foundation** has donated £500 towards the purchase of

new rescue vehicles for the Wildlife Rescue Unit. These vehicles, when delivered early this year, will replace the old and unreliable trucks that are used by the Wildlife Rescue Unit based at Sepilok to rescue not just orangutans but all manner of wildlife that need their help.

The **Jane Law Trust** has given £500 and the **Alongside Wildlife Foundation** £362 both to fund the vital work being carried out by the Borneo Nature Foundation (BNF) to prevent fires in orangutan habitat. OAUk provide funds to BNF to help their firefighting and forest re-wetting projects in the Kalimantan region of Indonesian Borneo.

**WE WOULD LIKE TO SAY A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GRANT GIVERS FOR THEIR VALUABLE SUPPORT.**

# Ambassadors and Business Partners

## Banana Tree Pan-Asian Restaurant



Owners of successful pan-Asian restaurant chain Banana Tree, Anne and William Chow, have been dedicated supporters of Orangutan Appeal UK (OAUUK)

for over 6 years. In January this year, to coincide with Vegan January, they launched their vegan menu at a prestigious event at their Soho restaurant. The event also highlighted the essential work being done by OAUUK and our Chairlady Sue Sheward was invited to give a presentation on our work and to highlight the need to recognise “sustainable palm oil with zero deforestation” as an infinitely better option than non-sustainable palm oil.

The event was well-attended with a spokesperson from Veganuary giving a well-supported address. Orangutan Appeal's UK office staff made the trip into London to celebrate the launch and Appeal Chairlady and Founder Susan Sheward MBE announced that Banana Tree had donated a magnificent £60,000 to our work over the last 6 years and thanked owners William and Anne Chow for all their support.

**Banana Tree Soho is conveniently located near Shaftesbury Ave and Covent Garden which, along with the excellent food makes it the perfect place to visit when spending a night out in London!**



*Sue and John with William and Anne from Banana Tree*

## Jacha Potgieter

Wildlife photographer and artist Jacha Potgieter, who is based in North Wales, has dedicated his time to great ape conservation for several years and promotes his love of apes in his Alpine Coffee Shop and Galeri on Betws-y-Coed train Station. Jacha has been an Ambassador for the Appeal since 2015 and regularly funds our work. Following on from the success of his 'Ape Beers', which are sold at his Alpine Coffee Shop and Pizzeria, Jacha has relaunched his 'Orangutan Lager' with a newly designed label. A donation from the sale of each bottle is made to Orangutan Appeal UK and this alone raised a brilliant £573 in 2018.



*Jacha 'Remembering Great Apes'*

Jacha has recently received news that one of his orangutan photos is to be featured in a new book, 'Remembering Great Apes', and Jacha attended the book's launch in London. This is the third book in the 'Remembering Wildlife' series which aims to raise awareness of the plight of

endangered great apes.

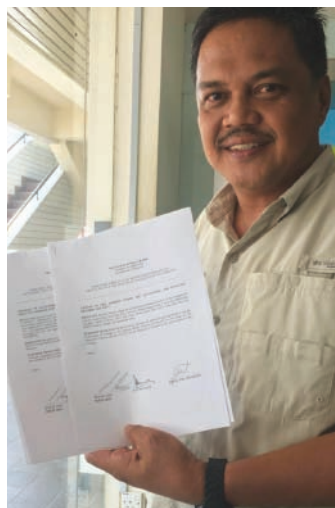
Towards the end of last year Jacha was asked to give a presentation on the Appeal's work to a school in Turkey whilst he was on holiday and he was delighted to find that the youngsters were very enthusiastic about wildlife conservation. The talk was very well received and Jacha adopted baby orangutan Tombi as a gift for the school.

For the second year running, Orangutan Appeal took part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge, to raise funds to enable us to provide orangutan nursery carers at Sepilok. Jacha kindly agreed to be the Appeal's 'pledge champion' which was essential in helping us to reach the £6000 target needed!

With the sales from the beer, merchandise and pizzas, as well as his fantastic fundraising efforts elsewhere, Jacha and his team have managed to raise an outstanding £11,203 for the orangutans!

Thank you so much to Jacha and everyone at the Alpine Coffee Shop and Galeri and Hangin' Pizzeria!

## Cede Prudente



*Cede Prudente*

Malaysian photographer and conservationist, Cede Prudente, has been an Ambassador of the Appeal since 2014. At the end of last year while Sue was visiting Sabah, Cede also agreed to become the Appeal's director of the Malaysian based organisation Orangutan Appeal UK Bhd. Cede has been a friend to the charity for many years and we are delighted to have him on board for this ongoing role.