



*Orangutan
Appeal UK*

Orangutan Appeal UK

News

Issue 40 - February 2021

A Message from our Chairlady



The dedication of our staff, both our Malaysian and UK, to save critically endangered orangutans and Bornean pygmy elephants and many other species has been highlighted during the difficult time of this pandemic. Our staff have volunteered to give us their support and time which has enabled the

Appeal to continue to care for, not only the orphans at Sepilok, but also those who have been ill or injured.

Without the commitment of the UK staff to raise vital funds we would not have enough money to pay for the work being carried out at Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre or help support the work of the Wildlife Rescue Unit.

I want everyone to understand how important **ALL these dedicated staff are** to the future of our wildlife and ultimately our planet.

I have been lucky enough to see these endangered species born into our world and on occasions experience the dreadful loss of those who didn't survive. It is so important that we do everything we can to care for them and educate our younger generation to do the same.

We are like a jigsaw that needs us all to come together to be successful.

"A huge thank you to everyone"

Sue

Datuk Susan Sheward MBE

Founder/Director - Orangutan Appeal UK

A Message from our Patron - Paul O'Grady



The last year has been an exceedingly difficult time for everyone. As Patron for Orangutan Appeal UK I wanted to express my sincere thanks to you all for your support.

Despite the difficulties faced when Malaysia issued a Movement Control Order, which stopped the government staff going to

work at Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre, and then closing its doors to foreign visitors, which meant a huge reduction in

the charity's income, thankfully the Appeal managed to keep all of its staff working and caring for the orphans. The staff made many personal sacrifices so they could continue providing care and I cannot commend them highly enough for their dedication and compassion.

I want to thank you all for continuing to support Orangutan Appeal UK which enables them to continue this vital conservation project and for helping to make a real difference to the survival of the critically endangered orangutan, not just at Sepilok but across Borneo.

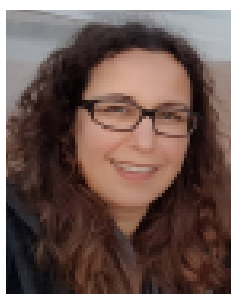
Thank you all!

Paul O'Grady

Our Teams

These are our amazing teams whose hard work and dedication enable us to continue helping to save the critically endangered orangutan from extinction.

UK Team



Adrienne
Manager



John
Finance Manager

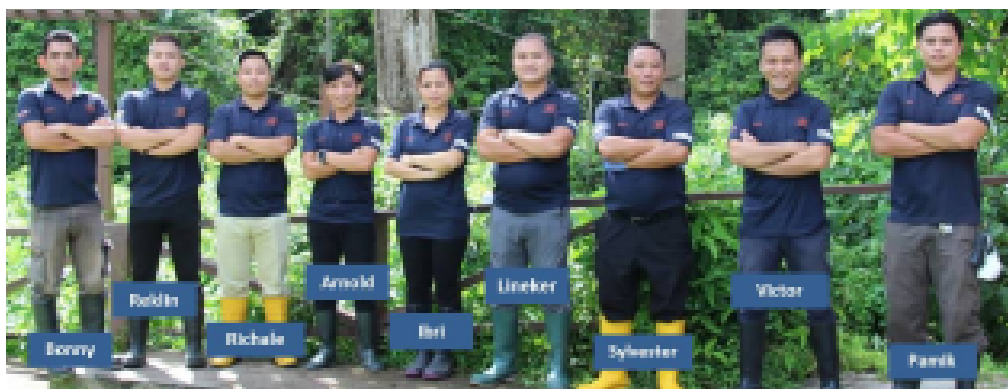


Hannah
Aspiring Zoo Biologist



Sarah
Administrator

Sepilok Team



Sepilok News

Since March 2020 Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre has been largely closed to visitors due to the pandemic. Here is our Supervisor, Lineker's latest report on some of the orangutans at the Centre.

Bidu Bidu – Male - 8 years old

Bidu-Bidu is a regular visitor to the Indoor nursery. If the babies are training in the nursery he likes to play with them. Recently, there was CCTV being installed and he spent a long time watching the workers setting it up as he is always curious about other orangutans and humans' activity.



Bidu Bidu

Alagu – Female - 6 years old

Alagu has been spending lots of time with Beryl. She likes to play with the babies at indoor nursery and she loves it when we give them coconuts for enrichment. She will be the first to try and get one and run off with it before someone steals it from her!.



Alagu

Sepilok – Male - 6 years old

Sepilok enjoys hanging around with Ospie, Koko and Archie. Sometimes he will follow the older orangutans like Kolapis and Bidu Bidu further into the forest. We are trying to encourage him to stay outside more and not let him come back in at lunchtime.

Ospie & Koko – Females - 6 years old

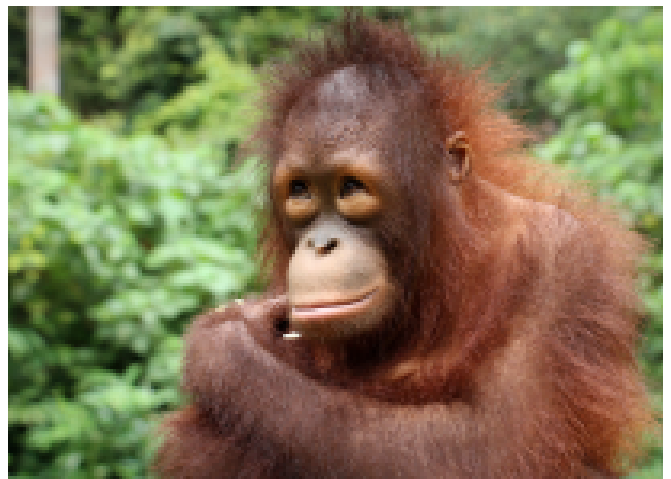
Ospie and Koko are always together. If they see any of the older female orangutans they will run away. But if Malim is around they feel safe as he is like a father figure to the younger ones. They both have a good appetite and will always want to return inside after training.



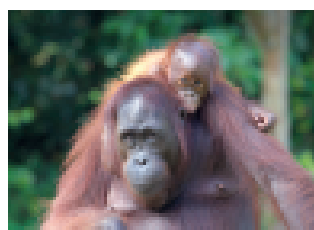
Ospie & Koko

Archie – Male - 6 years old

Archie is doing very well at Outdoor Nursery, he likes to play fight with Sepilok and Myohun. He is playing more aggressively with them but it is good practice for him and he is developing his skills. He is always the first to want to come back inside; he did this in Indoor nursery too. He is still a little immature but is definitely progressing well.



Archie



Front Cover Picture

Mimi - 27 yr old Semi-Wild Female with her 2 year old son

Wildlife Rescue Unit Report

Female Orangutan Rescue from Sukau

On 5th October 2020 the WRU received a report regarding a sick and injured orangutan in Sukau. The East coast WRU team lead by Dr Roopan and assisted by Hasmo and Sylvester rushed to the location.

Upon arrival, the orangutan appeared weak and unable to stand or walk. She was severely emaciated, and had multiple maggot wounds on her body, notably on her arm and back. The team managed to gently put her into the transportation cage, as she put up little fight, and they took her to Sepilok for treatment.

Upon arrival the veterinary team gave her a thorough examination, and confirmed that she was an adult female, approximately 15-20 years old, weighing 20.15kg who was severely emaciated and very, very weak.

The vet cleaned the wounds on her arm and body and removed several maggots before treating and dressing them. Blood samples were collected and she was put on IV fluids, antibiotics and anti-inflammatory medication. Finally she was de-wormed and given a tetanus vaccine but the vets believed that her chance of survival was poor so decided to stay with her and give 24 hour care.

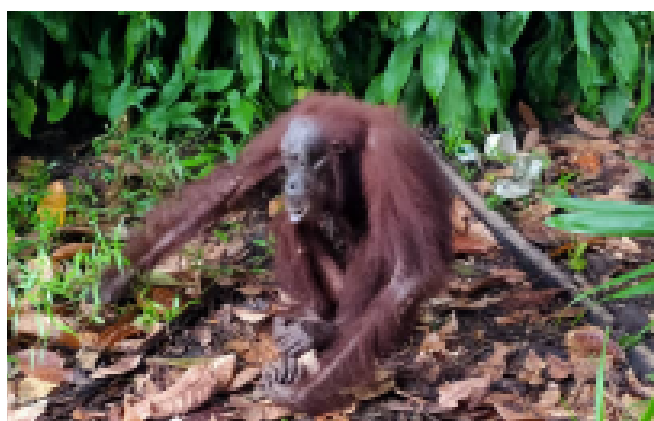
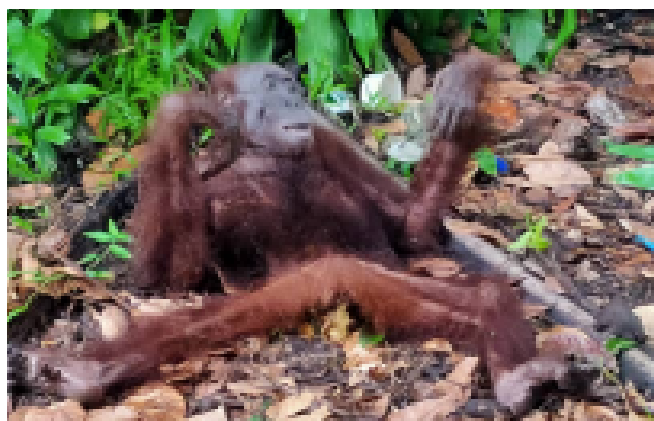
Two days later the orangutan showed signs of improvement and she gradually started to eat the food she was being offered and she managed to sit up, with some assistance from her carer, but she was still very weak.



Fruits such as papaya and watermelon were hand fed to the poorly female and she managed to drink some water. That night the team continued to stay with her and she was fed with Ensure, Nestum and honey and it was decided to keep her under close observation by the veterinarian

The following day she made further improvement and managed to sit and stand without assistance and she was bright and alert. Two weeks later she was finally able to get up and start eating on her own and her appetite increased by the day and we then knew she was on the road to recovery!

WELL DONE WRU AND SEPILOK CARE TEAM!!!



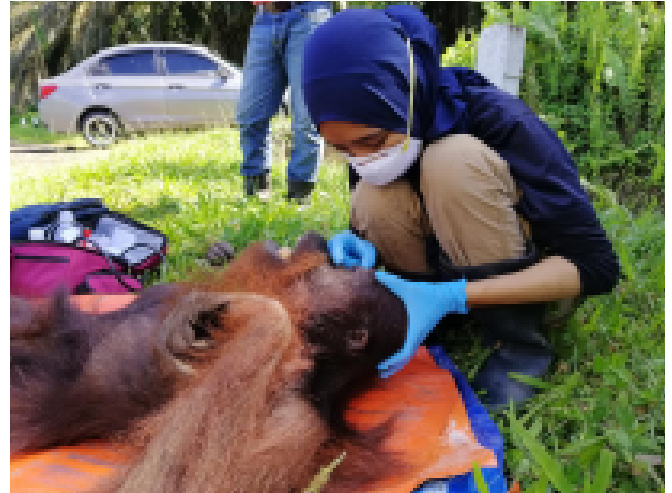
Male Orangutan Rescued from Tawau

In August 2020 Sepilok received a call regarding an injured wild orangutan at Tawau Hills Park. Dr Nabila, accompanied by Bonny and Arnold were dispatched to investigate and try to locate the orangutan.

They searched the area of the last reported sighting but were unable to locate him. However, two hours later they received a second call from a plantation reporting an orangutan lying weak and injured by the roadside. The team quickly located the orangutan and were able to sedate him and transport him to Sepilok for treatment.



Following a thorough medical examination the vet confirmed the orangutan was around 15 years old and weighed 20kg. He was severely emaciated, dehydrated and was running a high fever and it was suspected that he had lost his sight in his left eye. Dr Nabila



immediately administered antibiotics, multi-vitamins and IV fluids.

We were pleased to hear in October that the orangutan is now doing well and has a good appetite and is putting on weight. Sadly he is completely blind in both eyes and is still being cared for at Sepilok.

Borneo Nature Foundation Update (BNF)

Here is the latest update from our conservation partner, BNF

In common with the rest of the world, we have to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the current situation is not preventing our conservation work as the degraded forest still needs to be restored and other landscapes need to be protected. In order to do this we have had to take a number of steps to safeguard our staff, their families, the communities we work with and of course the wildlife that we study.

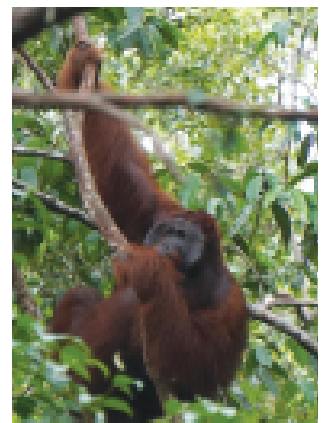
Our field monitoring research in Sebangau is continuing at present but we are no longer following orangutans. This is to avoid any close contact and unnecessary risk to the primates we have protected and studied for many years.



We are still carrying on our vital conservation activities in the Sebangau Forest to detect and monitor threats, such as fire, to orangutans and other wildlife. Our teams then tackle these threats through actions including reforestation and canal-blocking, anti-logging and anti-hunting patrols.

We are also maintaining the community fire-fighting teams in a state of readiness. Peat fires burn every year but we are helping to reduce that risk and improve capacity of local community teams to fight these fire thanks to support from OAUk.

Thank you to Orangutan Appeal UK and your supporters for your ongoing collaboration and your latest grant of £5000 to help us continue with both our firefighting and tree planting.



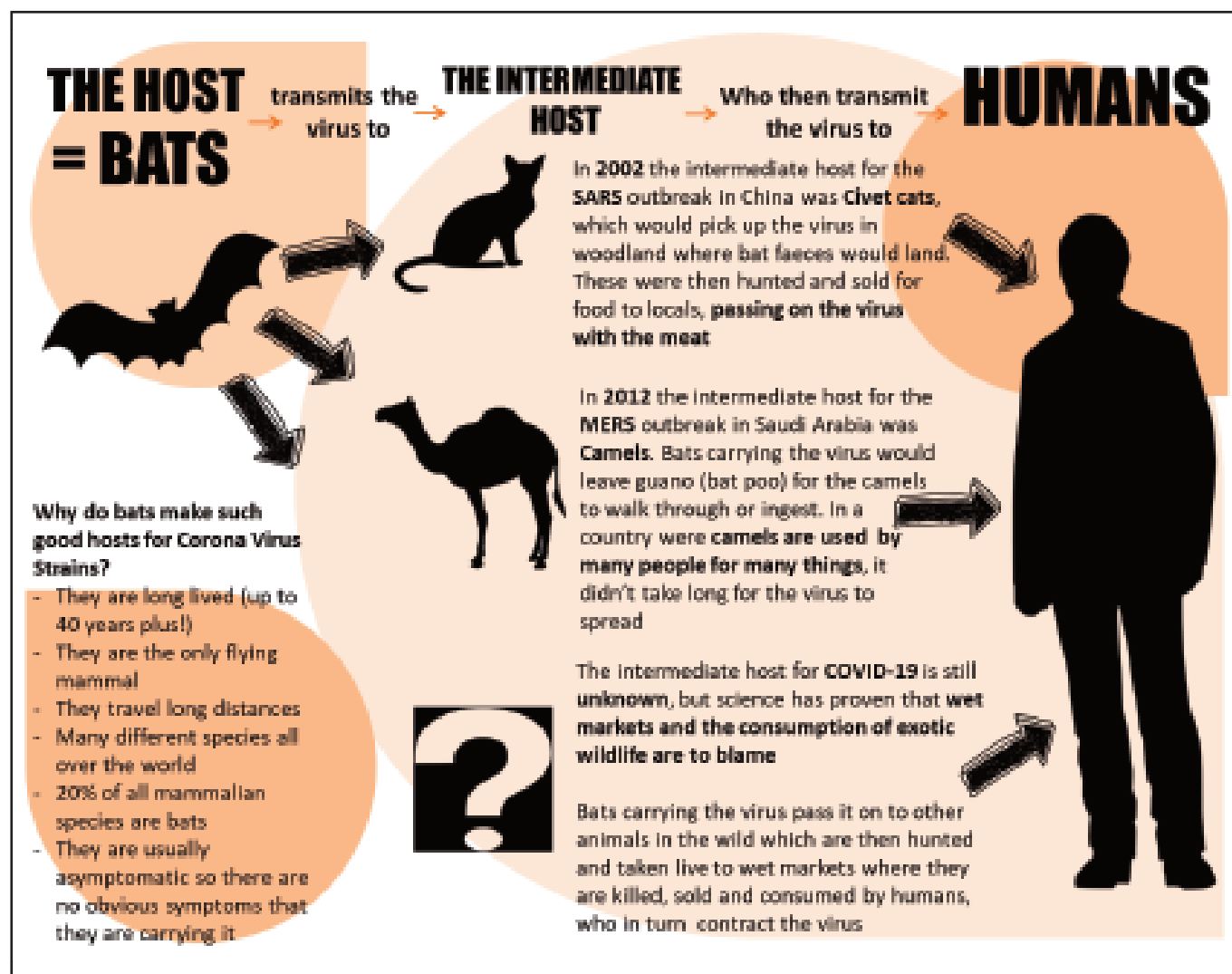
Science of the Pandemic

My name is Hannah and as well as working part-time at Orangutan Appeal UK's Brockenhurst office in the New Forest, I am a full time (mature!) student. Since going back into education I have gained an Access to Higher Education Diploma in Land-Based Studies with distinction and a Foundation degree (FdSc) in Animal Management and Applied Science with merit. Now in my 4th and hopefully final year at university I am working towards my BSc in Zoo Biology with honours.

In November 2020 I received an invitation to join a

webinar hosted by Humane Society International (HSI) titled 'The Science of the Pandemic and Links to Animal Welfare'. It covered a host of subjects relating to the latest Corona Virus outbreak but mainly focussed on the origin of COVID-19.

The following diagram is an attempt to provide our supporters with a basic understanding of COVID-19 and raise awareness of HSI's work globally to help reduce the chance of another devastating pandemic. We hope you will find this interesting!



Scientists are yet to confirm the intermediate host for COVID-19. This could be because there is more than one, or because it is difficult to rule out one species when so many are potential candidates, but one thing is for sure - the outbreak is a result of exotic animal trade and consumption.

The biggest reservoir of COVID-19 and the most likely starting point is the wet markets in China, where **“humans as hunters, traders and consumers of wildlife meat have placed animals in close proximity to each other and to people, giving way to optimal disease-spreading opportunities”** - Dr Telecky of HSI.

In the last forty years the wildlife farming and trade of exotic animals in China has grown into a \$20 billion industry and provides many jobs. This makes the decision to ban all trade and consumption a difficult one for their government. However, in February 2020 China implemented a ban on wild animals as food, but the continued use of wet markets has meant that the unsanitary conditions have not improved.

In April 2020 HSI issued a report on 'Wildlife Markets and COVID-19' using scientific evidence to encourage the ban of wet markets. Based on the report and webinar it is clear to see that the risks of continuing this trade are simply too high to sustain.

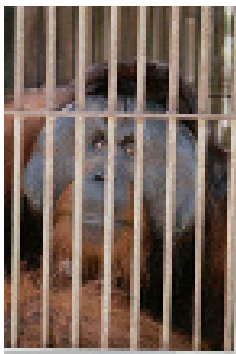
King Ghaz's Return to the Wild 2001

It has been 20 years since our ground-breaking helicopter translocation of an adult male orangutan called King Ghaz. It was one of Orangutan Appeal UK's earliest projects and was a world first in the fact that he was transported inside the helicopter, rather than in a crate suspended underneath.

Here is our account of events from that very special day.

Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre was buzzing with excitement the day we arrived in Sabah, for it meant King Ghaz, a male orangutan in his prime, would at last be returned to the wild.

For a number of months, King had been confined to a holding cage after he began to display territorial behaviour in the reserve surrounding the centre. Orangutans are strong but also gentle creatures, and it is most unusual for them to display any aggressive behaviour other than to another dominant male. On several occasions King was moved to other areas of the forest to reduce contact with the public but he always found his way back to the centre.



King Ghaz in captivity

Concern for King's health was growing among the management at the Centre as everyday he spent in captivity reduced the chance of his successful release back to the wild.

Our arrival meant the start of an unprecedented operation to translocate King Ghaz by helicopter from Sepilok Rehabilitation Centre in Sandakan

to a remote part of the Tabin Reserve on the east side of the state of Sabah, Borneo where he would be released into the wild.

The project required two teams - relocation and reconnaissance. The relocation team, led by Dr Sen Nathan, Sabah's chief wildlife vet, who was responsible for sedating and transporting King safely. The team included a number of Sepilok's rangers, and Orangutan Appeal UK's Chairlady, Susan Sheward.

The reconnaissance team, headed by Melvin, the senior ranger, included our other Appeal members Jane Mullins, who was a qualified veterinary nurse and Chris Yarwood, senior orangutan keeper from Chester Zoo, and two of the centre's most experienced trackers. The team was responsible for trekking through the remote jungle to find and mark a suitable landing site for the helicopter.

After 4 days in the jungle the recce team located the chosen landing spot, a mud volcano. Flare guns at the ready, and co-ordinates confirmed, they waited for the sound of the chopper blades. On the big day, everyone gathered at the centre to watch King's departure.

King's travelling compartment was heavy and took four men to lift - without King inside. It took 10 men to load him onto the pick-up truck and transfer him to the helicopter.

Time was short as the sedative which Dr Sen had given



King Ghaz being carried to helicopter

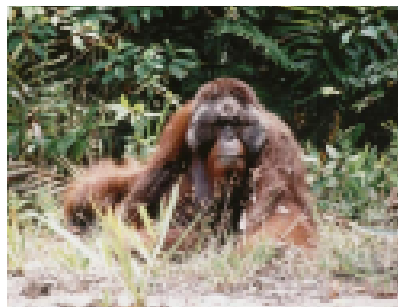
King was only guaranteed to keep him asleep for an hour, so time was of the essence, but disaster was also close at hand – the box was 3" too tall for the helicopter doorway. Sue was terrified King would not be set free.

But Dr Sen and his rangers quickly found that by laying the compartment on its side it fitted. We were all relieved but time was ticking on and we had a 40 minute flight ahead, and King would soon start to wake.



Helicopter

Our expert pilot, Captain Naru, took control and in no time at all we were coming down to land on the mud volcano in Tabin Reserve. King was unloaded from helicopter and lifted to the edge of the jungle, so he could slowly recover in the shade.



King Ghaz in Tabin

The most emotional moment for everyone was when King slowly opened his eyes and gazed in disbelief at the canopy above him. He plucked a leaf, and brought it to his nose just to make sure it was real.

We stayed with King for several hours while he recovered from his sedation, giving him water to drink and shading him with palm branches from the glaring midday sun.

Throughout this period King showed no signs of aggression. Soon he wandered off into the jungle, pausing briefly to glance over his shoulder at us – as if to say "thank you".

WATCH HIS RELEASE ON OUR WEBSITE - The very special film that we made at the time of his release can be seen on our website - www.orangutan-appeal.org.uk/about-us/news/article/releasing-king-ghaz

Following this successful release, Orangutan Appeal UK has translocated a further three males and two females by helicopter to the Tabin reserve.

Thank You Supporters

THANK YOU very much to all our supporters who have adopted, donated, fundraised and provided grants to us over the last 6 very difficult months. We really do appreciate your support which has helped us to continue our vital work at Sepilok and across Borneo.

Business Partners

Our special thanks to our business partners Banana Tree Restaurants Ltd, Jacha and the team at Alpine Coffee Shop & Galeri and N'eat Healthy for their generous ongoing support. Also thank you to ABN Consultancy and AMC Networks International for their company donations.

For the second year running we have gratefully received a donation of £1,000 from Animal Friends.

Fundraisers

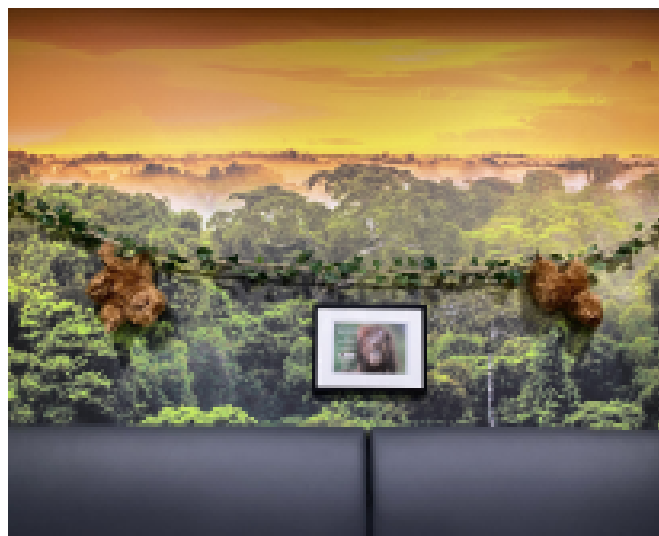
Our 2020 Virtual Great North Runners, Mandy Gisbourne and Sophie Wild raised £550. Maskrosen Pre-School in Sweden donated £400 from their plant sales, Humphry Davy School in Cornwall raised £100 selling fabric bags, and Farnborough Hill School in Hampshire donated £300.

Thank you to all of you who have kindly fundraised and donated through Facebook. In 2020 you raised nearly £6,000 – an incredible amount of money!

We also remember and give thanks to those who kindly left us a legacy in their wills. In 2020 we received over £96,000 to help aid our conservation work.

SYTO International

Our gratitude goes to Ton Veerbeek and his colleagues at SYTO International in the Netherlands. Ton has been promoting our work and raising awareness with his large network of international contacts, as well as donating €4,000. Ton explained why he is supporting our work, "It's our mission to give something back and we hope others will follow. We can no longer close our eyes and think others will take care of it. When we take something, we need to learn to give something back."



Ton's conference room designed to create awareness

Hampton School

Hampton School in Greater London have supported our work and visited Sepilok for many years. They have donated an amazing £2,500, which has been used to purchase a new microscope and x-ray equipment for the Centre.



Supervisor Lineker and the new microscope



Lineker presenting the microscope to Dr Roopan

Ray and Angela Hale

Ray and Angela Hale are long-term supporters and experienced naturalists who have travelled extensively around South East Asia. They first visited Sepilok nearly 30 years ago and since then they have used every opportunity to speak to people about the plight of the orangutan, including lecturing on cruise ships, and have continually fundraised for us. During lockdown, unable to travel, Angela has recently finished this painting of a baby orangutan whilst Ray has continued to write new lectures. She has kindly agreed to donate the profits to us from the sale of the original acrylic painting and has allowed us to use the image on a greetings card.

To find out more about the work Ray and Angela do and to see some of her other amazing artwork please visit www.thenaturallywildcompany.co.uk.

To buy this greetings card please visit our website www.orangutan-appeal.org.uk/shop.



Orangutan Greetings Card



Angela at work