

YOUR GENEROSITY MATTERS

MARCH 2024

WITH GRATITUDE

Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to our recent Hunger Crisis appeal. Your overwhelming support raised a remarkable \$320,000 which will aid in the critical rescue and rehabilitation of orangutans displaced by the ongoing deforestation in Borneo.

You might remember the distressing images of Mauliyan and her infant Ariandi, who were discovered in a dire state of starvation. This situation was among the most severe we have encountered. We are delighted to share that Mauliyan and Ariandi are now thriving at our BORA Rescue & Rehabilitation Centre. Mauliyan has gained almost nine kilograms, and her hair is growing back. Each day brings more strength to both mother and child, and we are optimistic about their release soon.

Over the past four months, our teams at the Bornean Orangutan Rescue Alliance (BORA) have rescued nine orangutans from an area of unprotected forest in East Kalimantan that has been severely affected by deforestation. Due to the loss of their habitat and food sources, orangutans in this area have become extremely malnourished and are venturing into human settlements, leading to a rise in human-orangutan conflicts.

Thanks to the response to our appeal we have constructed temporary accommodation to house incoming orangutans, providing respite so they can recover and be released back into protected forest areas.

While we were able to rescue Mauliyan and Ariandi, there are however more orangutans in urgent need of rescue. With your ongoing support, we can equip our BORA rescue teams to continuously patrol the forest to locate and rescue these vulnerable animals.





COMPASSIONATE ACT: The Caddy's life saving donation

A donation of veterinary supplies from long-time supporters of The Orangutan Project, Robyn and David Caddy, has been enthusiastically received by staff at the Sumatran Orangutan Release Centre (SORC) in the heart of the Bukit Tigapuluh Ecosystem.

Driven by a deep passion for animal welfare, Robyn and David wanted to bolster the resources of the Centre, managed by our partner the Frankfurt Zoological Society (FZS), and offered to bring with them essential veterinary supplies when joining Leif on a tour of the Centre last November.

"When we went on the 2017 Orangutan Odyssey's trip to Borneo with Leif, it was suggested that people could bring veterinary supplies for their visit to the International Animal Rescue (IAR) Centre in West Kalimantan. We did that, along with another couple. With that in mind, we wanted to do the same thing on our trip to Sumatra, and after liaising with FZS's Senior Veterinarian Andhani as to what was needed, we contacted local suppliers here in Australia," said Robyn.

"We were able to fill two suitcases with supplies, some donated by our local vet Brandon Park Veterinary Hospital, most surgical items bought from Sound Veterinary Equipment, and a microchip reader from Microchips Australia – both companies gave us very generous discounts."

WITH THANKS: The Lemmon Foundation

Our sincere thanks to The Lemmon Foundation for their recent gift to support our Wildlife Protection Units in Bukit Tigapuluh. Established by legendary Hollywood actor Jack Lemmon, and managed by his daughter Courtney, The Lemmon Foundation has been a supporter of the International Elephant Project and The Orangutan Project since 2019, contributing over \$70,000 to support our conservation programs.

"In establishing The Lemmon Foundation, my father wanted to make a difference for the planet, our home which he loved," says Courtney. "He had the passion to protect the precious and endangered on our planet, and the courage to stand up for the most controversial issues of his time."

"As a small foundation, we look for efficacy. We look for projects where a smaller grant can go a long way towards having an

impact, whether that is policy, program goals, or for individual wildlife. Finding a project that is locally based, and has goals that are impactful and also feasible made the International Elephant Project ideal for us to support. We are thrilled to be able to partner with an organisation that can actually help save the Sumatran elephant population."



ALL HEART:

Dr Kushwin Rajamani's pledge for change

Dr Kushwin Rajamani is a man driven by a singular purpose: to make a positive impact on the world. His commitment to his patients and his involvement in meaningful causes reflect his deeply rooted desire to bring about change.

Born into humble beginnings in Sri Lanka, Kushwin pursued his medical education in Ireland, eventually relocating to Australia in 2004. He honed his skills in cardiology at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney and furthered his expertise with a fellowship at the prestigious Cleveland Clinic, renowned as the top-ranked cardiology hospital in the USA, before eventually settling in Perth, Western Australia.

Driven by his concern for the world future generations will inherit, Kushwin has embarked on various philanthropic endeavours. He has established schools across Asia, supported projects for clean water and sanitation in Sri Lanka, and provided aid for emergency relief operations in Bangladesh and Africa. His commitment to humanitarian efforts earned him recognition from Rotary International, receiving the Paul Harris Fellowship in 2019.



Among his current priorities is addressing climate change, prompting his collaboration with The Orangutan Project. Driven by his passion to protect the Leuser ecosystem in Indonesia, the last place on Earth where *Critically Endangered* orangutans, elephants, rhinos, and tigers coexist in the wild, he has spearheaded a campaign to raise \$1 million towards safeguarding 100,000 hectares.

With an ambition to lead by example and encourage collective action, Kushwin has pledged to match donations up to \$500,000. So far, he has raised \$558,832 AUD, matching contributions from many generous donors from around the world who share in his vision to protect this fragile ecosystem.

2 X THE IMPACT



Join Kushwin in safeguarding the Leuser Ecosystem. Scan the QR code and your donation will be matched, doubling your impact!



BRANCHING OUT: Supporting elephant conservation in Sri Lanka

The International Elephant Project (IEP) has taken a significant step in expanding its conservation work for Asian elephants by partnering with Sri Lankan organisation EFECT (The Elephant Forest and Environment Conservation Trust).

EFECT is renowned for spearheading the Udawalawe Elephant Research Project (UWERP) since 2005. This project, under the leadership of Dr Shermin De Silva, is the longest-running individual-based research initiative focusing on wild Asian elephants.

Insights gathered from this project have been crucial to understanding elephant ecology and behaviour and for aiding government authorities to enhance their strategies for managing these majestic creatures and the landscapes they inhabit. A significant aspect of this initiative is promoting human-elephant coexistence by exploring alternatives to conflict-inducing food crops, thereby fostering a harmonious relationship between local communities and elephants.

For IEP Manager Dr Alexander Mossbrucker, the expansion into Sri Lanka provides an opportunity to collaborate, sharing insights and findings from our existing work in Sumatra while supporting the ongoing work of Dr De Silva and her team.

"IEP aims at conserving all subspecies of Asian elephants, to include all the variety concerning their habitat and genetics. It was therefore a logical step to include Sri Lanka into our long term conservation investment for this species," says Alex.

"A major challenge for EFECT, and most other conservation projects, is to secure the long term funding needed to maintain their efforts and generate the significant long term results we want to see.

"IEP is therefore committed to a long term partnership with EFECT that will provide a secure and stable basis for them to operate on. In addition, IEP will also provide technical support, and act as a bridge between other IEP supported projects to create synergies."



Dr Alex Mossbrucker, second from right, with the Udawalawe Elephant Research Project team



BREAKING BARRIERS: Meet our first female tiger ranger

In the dense forests of West Sumatra, Susi Oktaviana is making a stand for tiger conservation while also breaking gender barriers in a traditionally male-dominated field. With her background in education and a fearless spirit, Susi has become the first female ranger in the APE Protector (Tiger Patrol) Team. Her transition from an administrative role to active fieldwork marks a significant stride towards gender equality in Indonesia's conservation efforts.

Alongside her fellow rangers, Susi contributes to the critical mission of protecting the *Critically Endangered* Sumatran tiger, engaging in regular patrols and community education. Despite facing physical and social hurdles as the only woman on her team, Susi has found strength in her fellow rangers' support, embracing the challenges and joys of her role.

"Physically as a woman I'm far inferior, however I want to prove that women can actually do more with their lives as long as they have the will and think positively about themselves and their abilities," says Susi. "I have had to learn to communicate with men, having usually only socialised with women, while also increasing my

conservation knowledge. I really enjoy the camaraderie of the team and being out in nature."

Established in February 2022, the APE (Animals, People & Environment) Protector (Tiger Patrol) Team, managed by our partner the Centre for Orangutan Protection (COP), is working to safeguard a population of approximately 40 *Critically Endangered* Sumatran tigers in the Nagari Sontang Forest in West Sumatra.

The team is tasked with routinely patrolling the forest to look for signs of illegal activities, including logging and poaching, installing camera traps to record biodiversity and assess tiger population and movements, educating local school children on tiger conservation and safety, and assisting with local enforcement.

"Physically as a woman I'm far inferior, however I want to prove that women can actually do more with their lives as long as they have the will and think positively about themselves and their abilities."



Susi with her fellow APE Protector team members installing a camera trap in the Nagari Sontang Forest to monitor tiger movements.

OUR FUNDING WISH LIST

Wildlife Conservation International is seeking funding to implement the following conservation initiatives in 2024 which are above our current annual funding commitments. If you are interested in finding out more about these projects, please contact Erryn Stephens at giving@wildlifeconservationinternational.org for a funding proposal.

Orangutan Population Assessment

The Orangutan Project

To undertake an orangutan population and habitat assessment in the Busang-Wehea Ecosystem to support the design of an orangutan reintroduction program.

Funding required: \$130,000 AUD

Project duration: 1 year

Talang Mamak Regenerative Agriculture Project

Forests for People

To implement a pilot regenerative agriculture project in Simerantihan Village, Bukit Tigapuluh, to increase food production and provide for food security.

Funding required: \$143,500 AUD

Project duration: 1 year (pilot)

Talang Mamak Scholarships

Forests for People

To provide financial support to students in Simerantihan Village in Bukit Tigapuluh to undertake further education at junior, senior and tertiary level.

Funding required: \$18,600 p/a AUD

Project duration: ongoing

Sri Lankan Elephant Conservation

International Elephant Project

To support the work of the Elephant Forest and Environment Trust (EFFECT) in protecting the elephants of Udawalawe National Park.

Funding required: \$54,000 p/a AUD

Project duration: ongoing

Talang Mamak Food Store

Forests for People

To construct a cooperative food store in Simerantihan Village, Bukit Tigapuluh, to provide essential supplies to the community.

Funding required Initial construction: \$6,000 AUD

Ongoing: \$4,000 p/a AUD

Project duration: ongoing

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework

WCI

To develop and implement a MEL framework which will streamline data collection and reporting with our project partners to better communicate the impact of our conservation programs.

Funding required: \$42,000 AUD

Project duration: 6-months

CALL: +1 310 634 0900

EMAIL: help@wildlifeconservationinternational.org

MAIL: PO Box 1414, South Perth WA 6951 Australia

www.theorangutanproject.org | www.internationalelephantproject.org

www.internationaltigerproject.org | www.forests4people.org | www.wcicanadafoundation.ca

