



"Suara Orang Utan"

The Official Newsletter of the



Volume 1
Summer 2005

Welcome to Suara Orang Utan— Voice of the Orangutan

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By Gary Shapiro, Ph.D. Chairman & Co-Founder

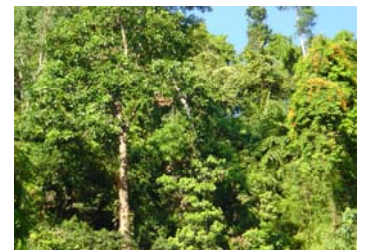
Welcome to the inaugural issue of *Suara Orang Utan* or Voice of the Orangutan, the official newsletter of the Orang Utan Republik Education Initiative (OUREI). We will publish *Suara Orang Utan* at least twice a year to provide our readership with information that will keep them informed about OUR activities. The newsletter complements the online website for OUREI. We will keep the newsletter brief and to the point.

As most of our readership knows, OUREI was created in November 2004 by my Indonesian wife, Inggriani, and I after realizing that her cause-related business, Orang Utan Republik® could not, for the foreseeable future, raise the level of funding we envisioned would be necessary to adequately help education programs that support orangutan survival. We decided to create a non-profit organization to be able to solicit funds from foundations, corporations, individuals and government. We are, for the time being, a project under the Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE), a 501(c)(3) corporation who also manages over 100 other projects like OUREI. This

enables OUREI to claim tax-exempt status under SEE with donors receiving tax-deductions for their contributions; however, we plan to spin-off as our own tax-exempt organization in the near future as we grow our capacity. To do that, we need your help as volunteers and as donors. We believe the stakes are so high and our opportunities so great that we must and will succeed in building OUREI into a significant organization in Indonesia, home to the largest populations of surviving orangutans.

Orangutans are in desperate trouble. Their numbers are diminishing due to habitat destruction and the illegal pet trade. The key to saving the orangutan is not merely putting a Bandaid™ on the symptoms but curing the patient. We believe that the cure is sustained education.

Recently Indonesian Minister of Forestry, Malam Sambat Kaban, made an apt analogy regarding the forests of Indonesia during a tour of an automobile factory in Java. He said Indonesia's rain forests, from Papua to Aceh, were like a late-stage cancer patient due to the high level of illegal logging in Indonesia which is damaging the "world's lungs" and robbing the nation of lost



Sumatran Rain Forest at Bukit Lawang. © Gary Shapiro

revenue. He gave the "patient" 15 more years at the current rate of illegal logging. I would add that the transformation of biologically rich forests into cash-crop plantations, is adding to the cancer woes. While mitigating loss of revenue, such conversion of forest has a profound effect on the populations of remaining orangutans as well as other wildlife that share and compete for life in the forest. It also reduces the level of ecological services the intact forest provides, including climate moderation, water quality, and flood control.

Enforcing the laws is one way towards curing the patient though it would be like treating the patient with a risky drug. Such a harsh remedy doesn't guarantee the patient will not get sick again. The best way is to inoculate the patient with a vaccine. Vaccines create antibodies that prevent the disease, and they are long lasting. Education is that vaccine.

Upcoming this Fall

- International Orangutan Awareness Week (Nov 6-12, 2005)
- Orangutan Awareness Week in Indonesia (Nov 13-19, 2005)
- Check OUREI website for other events
- November is Great Ape Awareness Month

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Angelina Sondakh on the campaign trail that put her into the Parliament.

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“This grant will enable Indonesians to develop and deliver important information to educate people who may be killing orangutans now.”

OUREI Announces Appointment of Orang Utan Republik Ambassador

The Orang Utan Republik Education Initiative (OUREI) is proud to announce that Ms. Angelina Sondakh, former Miss Indonesia 2001 and current member of Parliament (DPR), has agreed to serve as OUR Ambassador for orangutans in Indonesia. Ms. Sondakh has long been an advocate for environmental issues in Indonesia including rain forest and wildlife protection. She recently received a prestigious

Environmental award by the Minister of Environment, Rachmat Witoelar, at the Arts Center in Jakarta (July 12) and frequently discusses her concern for the orangutan’s future in the Indonesian media. In addition, Ms. Sondakh currently serves as the Ambassador for Indonesia eco-tourism preservation following her appointment by the former Minister of Culture and Tourism, Bpk. I Gde Ardike.

OUREI founders Gary and Inggriani Shapiro met with Ms. Sondakh in her Parliament office on July 11 to discuss OUREI’s programs and to invite her participation in helping save the species through outreach and education.

OUREI plans to work with Ms. Sondakh over the coming months to raise awareness about the plight of the orangutan throughout the archipelago.

OUREI Recipient of Federal Grant to Educate Indonesians in Conflict Areas of Sumatra

The Orang Utan Republik Education Initiative (OUREI) recently received notification of an award of \$48,500 from the United States Fish & Wildlife Service, the federal agency administering the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000. The award will be granted to OUREI for its approved proposal entitled, “Sumatran Orangutan Workshop/ Summit/Program” which will generate educational curricula

specific to those sectors where human/orangutan conflict currently exists. The funds will be given for the purpose of delivering the curricula by Indonesian educators. OUREI must raise \$51,000 as a match to the federal grant. Raised funds will be used to conduct the workshop and summit of key government leaders. The workshop and summit will be scheduled in the near future.

OUREI Chairman Dr. Gary Shapiro stated, “This grant will enable Indonesians to develop and deliver important information to educate people who may be killing orangutans now. We anticipate this program will have tremendous conservation value.”

Contact OUREI if you would like more information or would to participate in the event.

Orangutan Awareness Week Petition Update

The first element of OUREI’s 8-point action plan in Indonesia is obtaining official recognition for Orangutan Awareness Week in that country. With such status, the media, government, and education institutions will participate and by doing so significantly increase local and national awareness about

orangutans. OUREI began a petition campaign to promote this initiative several months ago and has collected over 1,100 signatures from an online campaign and at outreach venues in Southern California. Names were presented to officials in Jakarta but to be more persuasive, more names are needed.

If you haven’t signed the petition, please do so. If you have signed it, find one or two more people and ask them to sign it after explaining what we are trying to accomplish. The online petition can be found at: www.petitionthem.com/default.asp?sect=detail&pet=1652



Petition being signed at Farmer’s Market in Santa Monica by a young supporter.

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OUREI in Indonesia— OUR 2005 Mission of Introduction and Capacity Building

By Gary Shapiro, Ph.D.

July 2005 was a month of discovery and opportunity for OUREI. Inggriani and I conducted our initial site visit of the orangutan field programs in Sumatra and met with key personnel to discuss challenges and possible ways to coordinate with them to further outreach and education programs. We first met with the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme, recipients of OUREI's first grant to enhance their education program. Thanks to the generosity of SOCP's Dr. Ian Singleton, we were able to move quickly and visit the SOCP quarantine facility in a remote area outside Medan. We were joined by OUREI advisor and photographer, Sharon Gekoski-Kimmel and her husband Marty Kimmel. The following day we were able to meet with SOCP staff and later with Conservation International, the Leuser Foundation, Fauna & Flora International and the Sumatra Orangutan Society, all located in various parts of Medan. Each organization has

education programs in the field that seek to raise awareness in the schools and in the general population about orangutans, other species and the environment. We were graciously received by all organizations and came to better understand the challenges they face in conducting field operations in northern Sumatra. Towards the end of our stay, Sharon, Marty, Inggriani and I paid a visit to Bukit Lawang (aka Bohorok), the only eco-tourist area in Sumatra where one can view excaptive orangutans being returned to the wild. We also witnessed how the floods of 2003 devastated the local riverside community and discussed the rebuilding efforts and ecotourist challenges with the heads of the park and the guide association.

We left Sumatra with numerous examples of education materials already being used in nearby schools and a sense that cooperation between organizations would better serve the goals of effective conservation education and orangutan

survival.

Inggriani and I then flew to Jakarta where we were able to meet with Ms. Angelina Sondakh and her staff at the Parliament Building. After explaining our program and its various proposed projects, we showed her the three public service announcements that we plan to air on Indonesian television later this year. We then presented this newest Parliament member with a set of petitions signed by an international audience who support official recognition of Orangutan Awareness Week in Indonesia. Ms. Sondakh was very positive to the idea as well as agreeable to serving as OUREI Ambassador (*see page 2*). Ms. Sondakh also invited Inggriani and I to the Environmental Awards ceremony at the Arts Building in Jakarta where we met with Minister of Environment Rachmat Witoelar, and enjoyed performances by well-known Indonesian musicians. Many more doors opened up during our visit and we are thankful and hopeful we can continue our important work.

OUREI Education

By Wendy Hoole, Education Chair

While I was growing up in California, I became quite interested in orangutans. At that time, educational programs that focused on orangutans and their habitat were few and far between. Today, as result of wild orangutan research that has been conducted by foreign and

Indonesian scientists, we are now acutely aware of the precarious existence of this magnificent creature. Additionally, a variety of curricula exists to inform and inspire people to take action. I believe the preservation of wild orangutans and their requisite habitat can be achieved through increased formal and

informal education at the local community level. That is why I am so excited to be part of the OUREI. To learn more or to become involved with our education programs, contact us at info@orangutanrepublik.org
Editor's note: Wendy Hoole teaches at LA Harbor College and Santiago Canyon Community College.



OUREI Founders Gary & Inggriani Shapiro meet with members of the Sumatra Orangutan Society (July 8, 2005) at their office in Medan, Sumatra to discuss opportunities in sponsoring local education and outreach projects
 © OUREI



Gary Shapiro discusses OUREI proposal with Minister of Environment Rachmat Witoelar in Jakarta, July 12, 2005.
 © OUREI



Volunteer Allison Saldana with children eager to learn about orangutans at an OUREI outreach booth at Environmental Expo in San Bernardino, California (April 23, 2005). © OUREI

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US Postage

OUREI is a Project of Social & Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE), a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization- www.saveourplanet.org

OUREI Advisors

Mr. & Mrs. Handriyo Kusumo Priyo; Ed Begley Jr., Honorary Advisors
Mr. Soedomo Mergonoto— Founding Patron
Angelina Sondakh, SE, — Ambassador
Wendy Hoole— Chair— Education; Hengki Koentjoro— Chair— Media/PR
Maylene Wong— Chair— Programs; Nicki Coleman— Chair—Volunteers

OUREI Project Directors

Gary Shapiro— Chairman & Co-Founder; Inggriani Shapiro— Co-Founder

Mailing Address Label



We're on the Web!
www.OrangUtanRepublik.org

"Saving a Species through Education"

Welcome to Suara Orang Utan

Continued from front page

In the coming months and years, OUREI will be working with orangutan organizations and influential members of Indonesian society to create an integrated program of outreach and education initiatives and campaigns that will address the cause of the orangutan's current plight: ignorance, misinformation, and fear. We seek to do this without proselytizing but by engaging Indonesians to become aware of the issues and to discuss

amongst themselves their collective future. Of course, the Indonesian government must address the weighty issues of rural and urban poverty as well as conspicuous greed and corruption- other root causes of ecological degradation and social unrest. The challenges are enormous but together we can overcome them and secure the future of the Great Red Ape. Thank you for joining us in this important cause.

Action Items & What You Can Do:

- Help Sign the On-line Petition— Get Others to Sign Too
- Purchase Gifts and Items from OUR Trading Post
- Make a Contribution to OUREI
- Volunteer to help OUREI Save Orangutans through Education
- Get involved with Orangutan Awareness Week
- Help Us Raise Awareness
- Hold a Fundraiser or a mini-Fundraiser at your home
- Attend OUR next Fundraiser

Shop & Support

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Open Mon-Sat 11-6; Sun 11-5 Phone: 310-450-1816

Meet Gary and Inggriani at Farmer's Market
Sun 9-1 at Ocean Park and Main Street, Santa Monica