



"Suara Orang Utan"

The Official Newsletter of the

Orang Utan Republik Education Initiative
saving a species through education



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Indonesian Government Officially Declares Orangutan Caring Week

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Upcoming in 2006

- Earthday (April 22, 2006)
- Pekan Peduli Orang Utan (Nov 12-18, 2006)
- Sumatran Orangutan Education Workshop & Summit (Nov 16-18, 2006)
- Check OUREI website for other events

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

While a group of reporters from the television and print media listened among a throng of orangutan and primate support groups, Minister of Forestry, MS Kaban read a declaration officially recognizing "Pekan Peduli Orang Utan" or Orangutan Caring Week, 13-19 November 2005.

The declaration, presented at a press conference announcing the special week, was the culmination of an effort among supporters of the Orang Utan Republik Education Initiative (OUREI) to have International Orangutan Awareness Week given government recognition during the month of November. Thousands of signatures were collected throughout year and those signatures were presented to OUREI Ambassador Angelina Sondakh last July and this November. Efforts by her office to gain ministerial support were ultimately successful. Pekan Peduli Orang Utan (PPOU) was chosen as the Indonesian equivalent for Orangutan Awareness Week which occurred the week before (Nov 6-12).

During the press conference that was held in the Operations Room of the Indonesian Parliament Building, I publicly presented a certificate of appointment to Angelina

Sondakh as OUREI Ambassador and a certificate of appreciation to Minister Kaban for making the official declaration. Brief presentations about orangutans and PPOU were made by Ambassador Sondakh while Dr. Ian Singleton (Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme) and Togu Simorangkir (Yayasan Orangutan Indonesia) gave illustrated briefings on the status of orangutans in Sumatra and an education initiative in Kalimantan, respectively. Writer and conservationist Fachruddin "Rudi" Mangunjaya also used the opportunity to launch his new children's book, "Orangutan Pesta Buah Durian" or "Orangutan Durian Party"

The declaration of PPOU led to increased interest about



From left to right: Dr. Ian Singleton, OUREI Ambassador Angelina Sondakh, Minister of Forestry MS Kaban, Dr. Gary Shapiro, and Mr. Togu Simorangkir. Image © OUREI

the plight of orangutans by the media. Numerous newspaper articles about orangutans appeared during the week, and Ambassador Sondakh and I appeared on several radio and television programs to discuss PPOU and orangutan issues. OUREI facilitated a 3-day fair in the lobby of the Parliament Building featuring a dozen primate and conservation organizations (NGOs) that were invited to participate.

Indeed, the mission of OUREI is to enroll the combined efforts of government, NGOs, media, and the people of Indonesia to save the orangutan. In that regard, PPOU was a successful inaugural event for OUREI in Indonesia and one that will be expanded in the coming years.



OUREI Ambassador Angelina Sondakh, member of Parliament, was crowned Miss Indonesia 2001 and has been a champion of environment and wildlife for many years. Image © ferondi.tripod.com

Indonesia News Channel

(INC) (indonewschannel.com) has been a partner with OUREI since our inception. INC is the only Indonesian news channel broadcasting in the USA. During their Jakarta launching (Nov. 16, 2005), Ambassador Angelina addressed the invited guests including several cabinet ministers about OUREI's mission. Thank you INC!



Durian logs being transported along a road from Medan to Bukit Lawang. Image © OUREI

OUREI Ambassador Spreads Message of Orang Utan Survival

She is beautiful, intelligent and powerful. Plus, she has a deep concern for orangutans, wildlife, and the environment. This makes Angelina Sondakh the perfect choice for being Ambassador for the Orang Utan Republik Education Initiative (OUREI) in Indonesia. Indonesia is home to the largest population of remaining wild orangutans. Indonesia is also Angelina's home and base of operations as one of the newest members of Parliament (the People's Representative Assembly). Angelina represents the people of central Java though her family comes from the island of Sulawesi (Celebes).

Long before she ran for office, Angelina expressed her interest in tarsiers, orangutans, and environmental issues. She has also championed for youth and beauty in Indonesia and won the title of Miss Indonesia 2001. One can see the depth of her interest, knowledge and commitment

with these issues by visiting her website, www.angelinasondakh.com.

Since her appointment as Ambassador, Angelina has been busy with affairs of the nation and her region of Java. Yet, with the successful celebration of Orangutan Caring Week or Pekan Perduli Orang Utan (PPOU) which served as OUREI's launching in Indonesia, Angelina and her able staff have been working to hard raise the profile of orangutans in Indonesia.

Angelina has been doing radio and television interviews frequently accompanied by Putri, the orangutan hand puppet. She is encouraging people to purchase such dolls or puppets rather than a real baby orangutan. Thus she is using her star power to help put an end to the illegal trade in orangutans. Orangutans are protected under Indonesian (UU No. 5 Tahun 1990, PP No. 7 Tahun 1999, and PP

No. 8 Tahun 1999) and international law. But sadly, wealthy businesspeople, celebrities, and high officials illegally purchase these endangered animals that as babies are cute and engaging. The illegal trade is extremely destructive to the species. Why? First the mother is shot to obtain the infant. Then the baby is poorly cared for as it animal dealers move and ship the orphans to market. Most die due to dehydration, injury, disease, malnutrition, and stress. For every baby that is sold in the underground marketplace, six to eight orangutans are estimated to die.

Angelina believes that as people come to understand this relationship, they will be disinclined to own orangutans as pets. Through television, public service announcements, radio and newspaper, Angelina is making a compelling argument for the elimination of the illegal pet trade in orangutans and other species.

OUREI to Hold Workshop/ Summit in 2006

On November 15, 2005, OUREI Chairman, Dr. Gary Shapiro, held an initial coordination meeting of the Sumatran Orangutan Education Workshop/Summit committee in a meeting room of the Parliament Building in Jakarta. The purpose of the meeting was to begin the in-country planning for the federally funded project (U.S. Fish & Wildlife) that will develop, approve and deliver appropriate education curricula to targeted sectors that are in conflict with

orangutans for the purpose of reducing or eliminating the unnecessary killing of the species in its Sumatran range.

Among those in attendance was Dr. Ian Singleton of the Sumatran Orangutan Conservation Programme and in-country coordinator for the workshop/summit. Of significance was the decision to hold the event as part of Pekan Perduli Orangutan in November 2006. Additionally, venues on Sumatra and participant composition were

discussed, and follow up meetings will be held in early 2006 to continue the planning.

Under the arrangement for the federal funds, OUREI must raise matching monies to fund the Workshop and Summit and use the federal funds to train educators and deliver the curricula to the targeted communities.

For more information and opportunities to participate in the Workshop/Summit, contact OUREI.

OUREI's Indonesian Orangutan Caring Club

One of the more encouraging developments to emerge from our November visit to Indonesia and the success of Pekan Peduli Orang Utan (Orangutan Caring Week) has been the creation of an organization called Klub Peduli Orang Utan Indonesia (Indonesian Orangutan Caring Club-IOCC). While OUREI originally had proposed a club for Indonesian youth, this modified concept was suggested by staff of OUREI Ambassador Angelina Sondakh who felt broader participation would be more effective in developing an Indonesia-based program to encourage and enroll Indonesians to care about orangutans so that they might be saved from extinction.

One of the functions of this social organization will be to help prepare volunteers to participate in upcoming events, such as the next Pekan Peduli

Orang Utan in November 2006. Additionally, the IOCC will help in organizing and participating in primate and environmental fairs, visits by OUREI's Ambassador, and educational presentations at schools and universities, as well as campaigns designed to further the mission of OUREI in Indonesia.

Mr. Ridhwan Effendi and Mr. Marison Guciano are the key staff of the IOCC. Both are experienced in organizational and environmental issues and have been in meetings with other Indonesians developing the structure of the organization as well as the specific agenda for 2006.

The club has formed committees and appointed committee chairs to develop ideas for fundraising, building membership, education and advocacy, as well as

communication and information.

The IOCC plans to work with other organizations and companies for networking and support as the group carries out the mission of OUREI in Indonesia.

OUREI is very hopeful that the IOCC will become the in-country facilitator for transforming attitudes and values of Indonesian people such that they insist that government and the people insure the long-term survival of the remaining populations of wild orangutans. That is OUREI's major objective.

OUREI will provide the new club with modest financial assistance as well as oversight as they proceed in developing their organization and program.

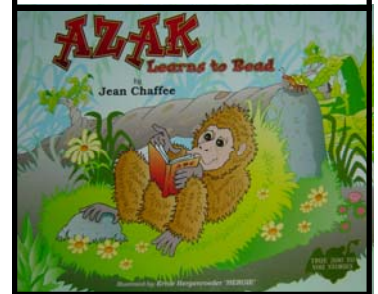
Contact OUREI for more information about IOCC and how you can help.



Founding members of the Indonesian Orangutan Caring Club meet at the OUREI Jakarta office to discuss their 2006 goals (January 3, 2006).

NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK

Jean Chaffee's book, "Azak Learns to Read" is a true story about how Azak learned symbolic communications skills during Gary Shapiro's Master's thesis project (1973-1975). The book is available through the Orang Utan Republik Trading Post for only \$16. (Ages 5-7)



OUREI's New Campaign— End the Illegal Orangutan Trade: From an Indonesian Perspective

By Asyraf Bustanir

The "Orangutan" was not my favorite animal. In fact, the Orangutan meant nothing to me until I met Gary Shapiro, the person who has spent his time and dedicated his life for this creature. The name, Orangutan, means "People of the Forest" in Indonesian. I knew nothing about this creature. I had no special interest in their life. I treated this creature no more than any other animal. What made me change and be willing to work

as a volunteer to save the orangutan, is a magnificent idea that came to me after I found out that the orangutan's habitat has been threatened by irresponsible and uneducated people with little knowledge about this species.

Orangutans are one of the most intelligence species on the planet; they share 97 % of human being's genes. They are smart like us, some times they also think and show compassion like normal people. They share a lot of similarities with humans.

Though the orangutan is strong and intelligent, they cannot protect themselves from irresponsible humans who capture this species for the pet trade or kill them for pleasure or out of fear. To get the baby orangutan, a person has to kill the mother; because the mother will never let their baby be taken from them willingly. Orangutans do not give birth every year. They only have a baby once every eight years. So what happens when people kill this species?

Continued on back page



Asyraf Bustanir is an OUREI volunteer originally from Padang, Sumatra now living in the Los Angeles area with her husband, Stewart (another OUREI volunteer) and daughter, Katherine. Image © Stewart James Bimmerle

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

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Inggriani Shapiro— Co-Founder & Cultural Advisor



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

"Saving a Species through Education"

An Indonesian Perspective

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The fact is their life is in danger. Every year 5,000 orangutans get killed. Based on the news there are about 50,000 or less of this species on Borneo and about seven thousand left in North Sumatra, Indonesia.

Now the question is, who are the people with the responsibility to protect this species? The Indonesian government? Zoologists? Indonesian people? Dr. Gary Shapiro, the person who cares and has spent a lot of effort to save this species? Or we the people, who should care and realize how important it is to protect the balance of life for all the species in the world?

The only effective long-term action to stop the illegal trade in orangutans is education. If people understand the truth and the long-term effect of the illegal pet trade on baby orangutans, the trade would stop as no educated man, woman, or child would want them to be taken from the forest. Help us educate the people. Please sign our petition by going to www.orangutanrepublik.org and telling others about it.

Action Items & What You Can Do:

- Thank the Minister of Forestry for Officially Declaring Orangutan Caring Week
- Purchase Gifts and Items from OUR Trading Post
- Make a Contribution to OUREI
- Sign our latest on-line petition
- Volunteer to help OUREI Save Orangutans through Education
- Get involved with an Education project
- Help Us Raise Awareness
- Hold a Fundraiser or a mini-Fundraiser at your home
- Attend OUR next Fundraiser

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- inside *Merchant Mart*—Between Ocean Park & Hollister
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