



Annual Report 2009

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Our Vision

To develop a community that is aware and motivated to conserve and protect the orangutan, its habitat and biodiversity within the forest.



Photo by Tim Laman

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1.0 Introduction

Since 2000, the Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Program (GPOCP, known in Indonesia as Yayasan Palung) has worked with and within the communities surrounding Gunung Palung National Park to foster sustainable stewardship of the area's natural resources and build a future where orangutans and other wildlife can thrive alongside the human communities with which they share the land and its resources. From its genesis ten years ago with environmental education activities in the schools and wider community, GPOCP has grown in reach, depth and success, and today, in addition to environmental education, is actively engaged in building conservation awareness among the general population and strengthening local institutions dedicated to animal and habitat protection. These programs work together and in concert with local communities to foster a sustainable future for all living within the National Park and its border areas.

We began 2009 with a focus on strengthening our internal structure and reorganizing our operations to promote greater efficiency in our programs and prepare our organization for a new phase of growth. Building upon a comprehensive two-day organizational assessment carried out in December 2008, our Conservation Awareness team was merged with our Animal and Habitat Protection team, and our Alternative Livelihoods Program work was brought under the direction of our Environmental Education team. We also identified two key strategic goals for 2009: (1) to build a new Environmental Education Center in Pampang Harapan that would work to reverse the destructive activities of the surrounding communities; and (2) to strengthen legal protections for the orangutan and its habitat by working towards sustainable management of forests and building the capacity of local governmental institutions.

The past decade of building relationships with local communities and decision-makers gave us a foundation upon which we are entering the next stage of orangutan conservation, and we continue to build our organization to more adequately address present and future challenges. We ended the year having successfully built strong local partnerships in Kayong Utara, Ketapang and across West Kalimantan. Our Environmental Education Center is now up and running, and quickly becoming a focal point of conservation activities in the region.

Environmental Education



GPOCP instructor helps teachers discover a world of science and wonder in the forest.

2. Environmental Education

Over the years GPOCP has built a solid base of students, teachers and administrators dedicated to environmental education; we constantly work to maintain and further expand this base by refining past practices and trying new approaches to involve local youth in conservation issues.

Our Environmental Education team worked for several months in 2009 short-staffed and without a manager. Other program staff stepped in, however, to ensure our education work remained on track throughout the year. In November 2009, Mariamah Achmed became our new team manager, bringing with her a wealth of experience from working with community development projects in West Kalimantan and having served as the head of education and capacity-building for Walhi, Indonesia's largest environmental organization.

Throughout the year we continued our proven methods of building environmental awareness through both the formal school system and outside of the classroom. We also took the exciting step of expanding our education work to rural adults, particularly through the establishment of the GPOCP Environmental Education Center adjacent to Gunung Palung National Park in the regency of Kayong Utara.

2.1 School Program

For the fifth straight year, our school program continued its slate of lectures, lessons and presentations, with GPOCP visiting schools in rural areas bordering the National Park as well as those in the urban area of Ketapang. We also worked with students outside of the classroom, including field trips to the National Park and other extracurricular activities. Our efforts to build the environmental education capacity of local teachers continued as well, following up our 2008 teacher training with another training for middle school teachers, this time focused on those from the Kayong Utara area.

Conservation-Themed Puppet Show and Presentations

The puppet show is primarily for younger students, and was designed to spark their interest in orangutans and biodiversity conservation. The show presents a series of vignettes on orangutan behavior, tropical forest wildlife and the threats and opportunities associated with forest conservation, such as illegal logging and ecotourism, respectively. In addition, we used coloring activities with some of our kindergarten classes to teach young students about local fauna, and in the last three months of the year we began developing our own coloring book dedicated to local fauna and flora.

Environmental education programming with older students included lectures, short films, Power Point presentations, and interactive games, covering a wide array of local conservation issues. For first-time encounters with a group of students, lectures tended to focus on basic knowledge about the orangutan, its habitat and the importance of conservation. Other lectures were used to prepare students for field trips to Lubuk Baji, describing the particular ecosystems we would be exploring and background for activities that we would conduct in the field, such as identifying differences between primary and secondary forests and testing stream water quality. Other

lectures covered topics such as littering and waste management, and the relationship between conservation and eco-tourism. In 2009 we completed six presentations for 359 elementary school students, six presentations for 218 junior high school students and three presentations for 96 senior high school students.

2.2 Extracurricular Activities

Practical Experience for Aspiring Ecotourism Professionals

We continued to collaborate with the tourism program at the Ketapang vocational high school (SMKN 1 Ketapang), supporting six student interns in the first two months of the year. The interns learned about plant and animal identification, and other ecotourism related activities in the area, and helped GPOCP staff take a group of middle school students to outbound activities and birdwatching at a coastal mangrove habitat.

We also began developing a relationship with the Sukadana vocational high school, conducting field trips with their students and planning a 2010 internship for some of their ecotourism students at our Environmental Education Center. In addition to building collaborative relationships with the local school system, our internship program has been successful in developing future conservationists; two of our current staff had previously worked as interns at GPOCP, and several others are active volunteers in our programs.

Field Trips

Field trips to the National Park and other local areas of interest are a vital component of our overall extracurricular activity and environmental education programming. Many of the participating students are from towns and villages where local forests have been cut down or significantly degraded. As human populations continue to grow, adults and students alike become increasingly disconnected from the vital forest ecosystems that provide them with essential clean water, food, medicines and household products. Awareness and conservation are critical to cultivating sustainable development and healthy communities, and the field trips educate future environmental stewards on the role healthy forests play in their lives.

We continued to use our Lubuk Baji campsite in Gunung Palung National Park as our chief destination for field trips. Situated in primary rainforest, the location offers students an opportunity to experience the forest's unique biodiversity and learn a variety of basic survival skills and plant identification methods. We were very excited to see some local school groups beginning to make their own trips to Lubuk Baji, no longer requiring our accompaniment. The number of visits to Lubuk Baji by international tourists continues to grow modestly as well, and in 2009 we worked with *Lonely Planet* to improve the information relating to Lubuk Baji, the park, and Ketapang for the next edition of its popular Indonesia and Borneo travel guides.

Activities in Lubuk Baji require at least an overnight stay, and the hike up to the camp is too challenging for younger students. In response, we carried out a series of trips with local students to more easily accessible sites, such as the Ketapang city forest and local coastal mangrove forests. Together with students from Ketapang and Sukadana high schools, we experimented

with a possible trail system in the area of the National Park near our Environmental Education Center, and will continue to develop more accessible nature activities at and around our center in 2010. Throughout 2009, we brought a total of 237 students and their teachers on nine separate field trips.

2.3 Environmental Education Curriculum and Teacher Training

To ensure our environmental education programming reaches all corners of the vast bioregion in which we work (which includes more than 400 schools), GPOCP has implemented a hands-on ‘Teach the Teachers’ program, which builds professional capacity directly within schools. This allows teachers to integrate environmental education into *their* curriculum every day and across a wide variety of educational activities. It is an effective and efficient way to reach many more students.

In December of 2009, GPOCP held a special two-day teacher training for middle school educators from the western and southern buffer zones of Gunung Palung National Park. It was the first training we coordinated directly with the new education department of Kayong Utara, and the very first formal training held at our new Environmental Education Center.

Participating teachers shared the challenges they face in educating their students in rural areas: large classes, limited access to technology, and uncertainty about the availability of even the most basic of supplies, such as electricity. GPOCP staff helped teachers discover, however, a world of science and wonder right at their doorstep—an exceptional rainforest with incredible biodiversity that offers endless educational opportunities.

GPOCP’s staff guided teachers into the National Park for a day of hands-on instruction using the forest habitat as their medium. At our Lubuk Baji campsite, they explored how, with basic supplies, they could teach students about biodiversity and the relationship between the natural habitat and local populations. Plants and animals, soil and water emerged as simple tools for helping students understand the region’s complex ecosystem and their personal role in protecting it. Teachers completed their training with a renewed commitment to integrate environmental education into their daily lessons. And from their collective enthusiasm sprang exciting new ideas for their students and colleagues, and for the department of education staff.

2.4 GPOCP Environmental Education Center/Alternative Livelihoods Project

After the new regency of Kayong Utara was carved out of Ketapang in 2007, the building we had been using in Sukadana for environmental education activities was reassigned as a government office. After an exhaustive search, we decided to purchase a plot of land in Pampang



GPOCP's new Environmental Education Center

Harapan, a village on the outskirts of Sukadana, for our new base in the area. In May 2009, we completed phase one of our new Environmental Education Center on this land. Pampang Harapan borders Gunung Palung National Park, and is often cited as one of the local communities that most heavily threatens the park's integrity. There is no substantial forest remaining in Pampang itself, and its residents are known to engage in slash-and-burn agriculture, rock quarrying, and other destructive activities within the park boundaries. By the middle of the year two of our staff were located at the center full-time, with other staff staying for several days at a time for varying activities.

During the second half of the year, we created a series of working displays to promote environmentally-friendly livelihoods. The soil at our center is not particularly fertile, which is why many neighboring families choose to practice slash and burn farming in the National Park rather than plant vegetable gardens in their own yards. We experimented with a polybag method of organic agriculture, planting a variety of vegetables using organic compost in plastic bags. Instead of using expensive and polluting industrial fertilizer, we used relatively small amounts of rice husks, manure and other locally available organic ingredients, and the plastic bags could easily be moved to different locations to change the amount of sunlight and water they were absorbing. Our initial crops in eggplants and peppers were particularly promising, while we learned that we still have some experimenting to do with tomatoes and leafy green vegetables. Some villagers have already begun buying their own plastic bags and planting at their own houses; we hope to continue to increase our crop success and cultivate new converts in the years ahead.

The other displays at the center included using bamboo for a chicken and duck coop and a cage for fish farming. Rather than building a pond to raise fish in, we designed small cages to insert in the stream that runs along the back of our plot of land in Pampang Harapan. We also built an earthen oven, which requires less fuel for heat-intensive activities, like processing palm sugar, than traditional open fire methods. At the end of the year we had installed the first components of a biogas stove, which we plan to have fully operable in early 2010.



Furniture-making workshop teaches villagers about alternative livelihoods that conserve the forest.

Throughout the year we continued to build relationships with the local community and the village leadership. We also held a series of community events at our Center, including film showings of nature documentaries, and participated in the village's Independence Day activities in August. We coordinated a public meeting with the village head and National Park staff to discuss forest fire dangers and park borders. Our staff regularly met with the village head to discuss conservation and local issues, and we featured an interview with him in our print bulletin.

Table 1 – Environmental Education Activities in 2009 by Month

Activities	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	2009	
1. Lectures for SMA	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
<i>Number of Students</i>	0	0	34	0	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	96
2. Lectures for SMP	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	6
<i>Number Students</i>	0	42	30	0	0	0	33	0	0	40	73	0	218
3. Lectures for SD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Number of Students</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4. Puppet Show Kindergarten	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Number of Kids/Students</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	130	0	0	0	0	0	130
5. Puppet Show SD	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	5
<i>Number of Students</i>	0	0	30	88	0	0	0	0	0	0	111	0	229
6. Field Trip for SD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Number of Students</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7. Field Trip for SMP	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
<i>Number of Students</i>	0	0	34	0	0	24	0	0	0	30	0	0	88
8. Field Trip for SMA	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
<i>Number of Students</i>	22	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	61
9. Extra curricular	0	1	2	2	5	2	0	1	1	1	3	1	19
<i>Number of Students</i>	0	0	28	130	125	52	0	33	40	25	30	15	478
10. Others activities	12	21	9	10	23	78	11	23	7	6	7	0	207
<i>Numbers of Students</i>	30	15	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
11. Teacher Development Program	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1	8
<i>Number of Teachers</i>	0	0	12	0	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	8	27
Total Activities	13	23	19	48	17	28	13	24	8	10	16	3	222
Total Students	52	57	156	218	182	29	163	33	40	98	229	44	1301
Total Teachers	3	2	25	21	9	13	8	19	3	0	0	0	103
Total Schools	1	1	4	3	3	2	2	1	1	3	9	2	32

Animal and Habitat Protection



Photograph of orangutan in Gunung Palung National Park by Tim Laman.

3. Animal and Habitat Protection

The Animal and Habitat Protection team serves as the wildlife conservation “eyes and ears” of the Ketapang and Kayong Utara regencies, working with local authorities and citizens to tackle the growing local problem of illegal killing, keeping and trading of wildlife. As part of our 2009 staff restructuring, much of our conservation awareness and customary forest work was merged with the investigative and local capacity-building work of this team.

Through field investigations and an extensive network, we gather information on keepers and traders of orangutans and other endangered wildlife, and assist local authorities in confiscating these animals. This work has helped dozens of orangutans, gibbons, monkeys, birds, and other wildlife find their way back to the forest or to better environments such as rehabilitation centers.



Rescuing illegally-held orangutans is a key focus of GPOCP's Animal & Habitat Protection Program.

In 2009, we successfully identified several new cases of orangutans and other protected animals being held illegally in the Ketapang area, and worked with local authorities to facilitate the confiscation of 12 animals. While we continue to enjoy a high level of cooperation from local authorities in confiscating illegally held animals, they have not yet taken the essential next step towards animal protection—that is, using legal mechanisms to prosecute those involved in animal trade. We consulted with partners in the region to determine how we could best help local authorities make progress on the legal enforcement of animal protections. Eventually, we decided to transfer management of our Animal Transit Center, which we had operated for many years, to International Animal Rescue (IAR), and support the establishment of an orangutan rehabilitation center for West Kalimantan. We are pleased to have another non-government organization to help save the orangutan. With IAR now focusing on the welfare of the confiscated individual orangutans, we are able to better focus our resources on investigations, surveys, education, institutional capacity-building, and other activities that protect the endangered wild orangutan species and its threatened forest habitat.

We have already begun to feel the benefits from this development. Working with our partners, we are helping develop new and improved standard operating procedures for animal confiscations in West Kalimantan. In November of 2009 GPOCP was designated as the coordinating organization in a six-party Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on protecting local wildlife and stopping the illegal trade of animals.

Our work over the years has led to noticeable growth in local awareness about conservation issues. However, maintaining and expanding that awareness throughout the region requires

a sustained, strategic effort. In 2009 we expanded our mass media outreach by initiating new radio programs on two commercial stations and resumed publishing our MIAS bulletin.

3.1 Investigations and Monitoring

During 2009 GPOCP conducted 80 days of investigations in the field, covering the ten districts of Delta Pawan, Benua Kayong, Muara Pawan, Matan Hilir Selatan, Matan Hilir Utara, Sukadana, Singkup, Tumbang Titi, Sungai Melayu Rayak and Kendawangan. This led to the identification of 6 orangutans and 3 gibbons being held illegally. Over the past six years we have facilitated the confiscation of 57 orangutans and 26 other animals (Table 2)

Table 2 – Illegally Held Animals in Ketapang/Kayong Utara (source: GPOCP)

Year	Orangutans Identified	Orangutans Confiscated	Gibbons Identified	Gibbons Confiscated	Other* Identified	Other* Confiscated	Total Identified	Total Confiscated
2004	42	17	43	2	11	6	96	25
2005	5	7	11	11	7	1	23	19
2006	7	0	11	0	5	1	23	1
2007	6	11	13	1	5	1	24	13
2008	13	8	5	0	0	0	18	8
2009	6	11	2	2	0	1	8	17
TOTAL	79	55	85	16	28	10	192	83

* Other includes Proboscis Monkey, Malay Sun Bear, Hornbill and other protected wildlife

GPOCP participated in the confiscation of nine orangutans, two gibbons and one eagle during 2009. Two additional wild orangutans were rescued from a palm oil plantation during the year as a result of GPOCP's field investigation work (see Table 3).

Table 3 – Orangutan and other protected species confiscations, 2009

Date	Animal	Quantity	Location
20 January 2009	Orangutan	1	Delta Pawan
25 March 2009	Orangutan	1	Kendawangan
25 March 2009	Eagle	1	Delta Pawan
5 May 2009	Orangutan	1	Delta Pawan
16 May 2009	Orangutan	2	Melano
4 June 2009	Orangutan	1	Matan Hilir Selatan
15 Aug 2009	Gibbon	2	Delta Pawan
14 Sept 2009	Orangutan	1	Sungai Melayu Rayak
Unknown	Orangutan	2	Matan Hilir Selatan
30 Nov 2009	Orangutan	1	Matan Hilir Utara
4 Dec 2009	Orangutan	1	Matan Hilir Selatan

3.2 Increasing Local Capacity for Wildlife Law Enforcement

Throughout the year, our collaboration with local authorities continued. In addition to working with the local conservation department to help facilitate the confiscation of 57 orangutans in the last six years, we have worked with the media and local authorities to expose illegal logging and mining activities that threaten orangutan habitat.

We are now halfway through a five-year, wildlife protection MOU between the West Kalimantan Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (BKSDA), GPOCP, the Ketapang government, Gunung Palung National Park, the Ketapang Police Department, and Fauna & Flora International. In August, we helped organize a Focus Group Discussion on enforcement of wildlife regulations in Ketapang that brought together BKSDA with the other members of the Memorandum of Understanding. This was followed by a meeting of MOU members in November 2009, in which all parties agreed to designate GPOCP as the coordinating body for the MOU. There was also agreement to intensify the impact of the MOU through quarterly meetings among all the members, starting in January 2010.

3.3 Wildlife Transit Center

The GPOCP Wildlife Transit Center was built in 2002 in order to temporarily hold orangutans and other protected species for up to two weeks while they were medically treated and processed and then released back into the wild or sent to rehabilitation centers in Central and East Kalimantan. Over the years, these rehabilitation centers have become increasingly overcrowded and, by necessity, increasingly selective about which animals they will accept. In 2008 some animals ended up staying at GPOCP's Wildlife Transit Center for as long as six months before space became available for them at a rehabilitation center; today we are faced with indefinite waiting periods. With a few exceptions for very young or

still wild animals, we no longer had ready access to any rehabilitation center or other suitable location for our confiscated orangutans.

There are currently no orangutan rehabilitation centers operating in West Kalimantan, and all the centers elsewhere in Kalimantan are well above their intended capacities. In early 2009 we began discussing with other organizations the possibility of establishing an orangutan rehabilitation center in West Kalimantan. This led to an agreement with the Indonesian branch of International Animal Rescue (IAR) to have a rehabilitation center built in the Ketapang area. IAR currently runs a macaque and slow loris rehabilitation center in Java, and has veterinarians and other staff who have specialized experience working with orangutans. In anticipation of the future rehabilitation center, we assigned management of our Ketapang Transit Center to IAR in October 2009. The Center has since been expanded, and we continue to identify animals at risk through our investigations and work with IAR and the local authorities on animal confiscations. With IAR focusing on the actual welfare of our confiscated orangutans, we are able to focus on investigations, surveys, capacity-building for local institutions, and other activities that are a more effective use of our resources to protect the wild orangutan and its habitat in West Kalimantan.

3.4 Customary Forest Initiative

We continued in 2009 to work with leaders of Riam Berasap Jaya, a village on the southwestern border of the National Park, to obtain legal protection for their customary forest. Riam Berasap Jaya has repeatedly rejected offers to sell their forest to oil palm plantations. Our goal is to enable the community to sustainably manage their own forest and promote non-timber economic activity that does not damage its biological integrity.

The draft customary forest decree that had been developed in 2008 needed to be reworked following a new process from the Ministry of Forestry, and GPOCP staff worked with the community throughout the year to create the new decree and establish a community management system for the local forest. We provided assistance in a series of meetings to gain agreement with neighboring villages on the forest's boundaries, and in December of 2009 we supported work carried out by National Park staff to officially identify and confirm the border between the customary forest and the Park. Border delineations were finalized in January 2010.

Our work in Riam Berasap Jaya has inspired other villages to consider similar protections for their own customary forests. In the second half of 2009 other NGOs began investigating the possibility of establishing customary forest protections in other communities in Ketapang and Kayong Utara. The village of Pematang Gadung, whose leaders have been closely following the process in Riam Berasap Jaya and have collaborated with GPOCP on conservation efforts through the years, informed the local government of their plans to protect their remaining forest in December 2009, and have approached us to help them establish a customary forest in 2010. We also renewed discussions with leaders of Lamon Satong, a village on the southern border of the park near Riam Berasap Jaya, to strengthen protections for their traditional forest in 2010.

3.5 Forest and Species Surveys

In late 2008, a coalition of non-government organizations, led by the Indonesian Association of Primatologists and The Nature Conservancy, began preparing for an updated survey of the remaining population of wild orangutans in all of Kalimantan, the Indonesian side of Borneo island.

GPOCP participated in the planning sessions for West Kalimantan, and in 2009 we conducted surveys of almost two dozen sites in Ketapang and Kayong Utara regencies. While previous population surveys have concentrated on nest counts, this joint effort was based on interviews with local villagers to assess not only the remaining population but also the relationship between wild orangutans and human communities. The final results of the survey, which should be published in 2010, will be a valuable tool for GPOCP and other conservationists to better understand where our efforts can be most effective.

In the final months of 2009, we conducted a small orangutan population survey in an area of forest near the village of Pematang Gadung that is threatened by palm oil plantations, illegal logging and illegal mining. Scientists from the Cabang Panti research station in the National Park provided technical expertise, and the preliminary results suggested that there is indeed a significant orangutan population in the area. Although poor weather conditions and police operations prevented us from fully completing the survey as planned, the information gathered will be useful in promoting better management of the remaining forest in the area.

3.6 Conservation Awareness-raising Through Mass Media

Radio

For several years, we have produced our “Bincang Hijau” radio program on RSPD, the local government AM station with a large listener audience in rural communities. We continued to produce this program in 2009, with two hour-long shows per week, while increasing the number of people we reach through radio by forming new partnerships with two of the major FM commercial radio stations in Ketapang, Renita and Vinka (Table 4). Rather than producing separate shows for these stations, we prepared information relating to conservation issues and instructed the stations’ presenters in how to incorporate the information into their broadcasts. Our conservation themes are now being incorporated by the two stations’ DJs twice weekly on each station. Combined with the programs we produce on the government station, a total of six conservation radio programs are now broadcast each week on regional stations, doubling our estimated audience from 200,000 to 400,000 listeners.

Table 4 – GPOCP Radio Programs, 2009

Month	Programs	Station	Topics	Guest Speakers
Jan	1	RSPDK	Introduction to 2009	RSPD DJs
	1	RENITA	Introduction to 2009	Renita DJs
Feb	4	RSPDK	The city forest	
	7	RENITA	Conservation and the city forest	Renita DJs
March	6	RSPDK	Protected wildlife, the relationship between forests and water	Ketapang police department
	8	RENITA	Protected wildlife, the relationship between forests and water	Renita DJs
April	7	RSPDK	Earth Day	Natural Resources and Conservation Department (BKSDA)
	13	RENITA	Earth Day	Renita staff
May	9	RSPDK	Environmental Education and Protecting the Earth	Sri and Yunita (RSPD)
	13	RENITA	Environmental Education and Protecting the Earth	Renita staff
June	7	RSPDK	World Environment Day and the spirit of nationalism in Indonesian leaders to protect the environment	Sri (RSPD)
	6	RENITA	Village Forests and World Environment Day	Renita staff
July	6	RSPDK	Women and Ecology	Desy and Hartati PKBI. Sri RSPD Staff
	15	RENITA	Protected wildlife	Renita staff
August	9	RSPDK	National Independence and the Environment	Desy and Yunita RSPD staff
	15	RENITA	Global Warming	Renita staff
Sept	8	RSPDK	Global Warming	Desy and Yunita RSPD staff
	6	RENITA	Water	Renita staff
October	9	RSPDK	Youth commitment to habitat protection	Yulius DP, Ketapang Regency Leader of Indonesian National Youth Committee (KNPI)
	15	RENITA	Info briefs on drought-related sickness, global warming, customary forests and protecting endangered animals in Kalimantan	Renita staff
November	7	RSPDK	Protecting our environment in the spirit of our national heroes	RSPDK DJs Sri and Yunita
	27	RENITA	Info briefs on environmental issues, including saving energy, peat swamp forests, global warming and orangutans	Renita DJs
	27	VINKA	Info briefs on environmental issues, including saving energy, peat swamp forests, global warming and orangutans	Vinka DJs
December	7	RSPDK	Flooding and peat swamps	RSPDK DJs Sri and Yunita
	18	RENITA	Info briefs on biodiversity and human rights	Renita DJs
	36	VINKA	Info briefs on biodiversity and human rights	Vinka DJs

Bulletin and printed media

Shortages in staffing had stopped us from publishing our organizational bulletin, MIA S, in 2008. In 2009 we published one issue, with a second issue sent to the printers at the end of the year. We distributed the bulletin, featuring articles on gibbons, local conservationists and GPOCP activities, across Ketapang and Kayong Utara. We also worked to have local print media regularly cover conservation issues, with articles throughout the year being featured in the *Pontianak Post*, *Equator* and *Borneo Tribune*. When a palm oil plantation expanded into important orangutan habitat, we organized a journalist delegation to expose the pressing matter through news coverage in Kalimantan newspapers and radio stations, as well as *Kompas*, arguably the most influential national paper. The palm oil company soon agreed to involve outside groups to survey the proposed palm oil concession area and identify a conservation strategy for the plantation.

Mobile cinema

We continue to use a 'mobile cinema' to raise conservation awareness in rural areas, running free public showings of nature documentaries and contemporary films accompanied by discussion with audience members. Our films are an effective way to disseminate information on the importance of maintaining healthy forests and protecting natural resources, while serving as social gatherings for communities with few other events or media sources. The cinema is often set up in a large soccer field or at a fairground. In 2009, we also continued to provide film showings at cafes in the urban Ketapang area, which we have found to be a highly effective way to reach local youth. Throughout the year we conducted six film showings, with an estimated total audience of 780 residents.

World Wide Web

Internet use has risen sharply in the urban Ketapang area in the past year, and many cafes frequented by area youth now have Wi-Fi access. During the year we launched a blog (<http://yayasanpalung.blogspot.com>) and began training staff in Web 2.0 technology so that we will be able to have an active presence in social networking groups in the coming future.

Orangutan Research



Dr. Cheryl Knott and GPOCP field research assistants (and son Russell) observe orangutans in canopy above.

4. Orangutan Research

Scientific research plays a critical role in the conservation of Gunung Palung's orangutans because it is essential to monitor the population's size, health, and habitat use. GPOCP therefore works closely with the Gunung Palung Orangutan Project. In fact, GPOCP was founded in 1994 by Dr. Cheryl Knott, who directs this long-term research project.

4.1 Gunung Palung Orangutan Project

The Gunung Palung Orangutan Project is a large multi-faceted research initiative, which has been investigating orangutan reproduction, behavior, social organization and physiology within an ecological context. Detailed behavioral data are collected in addition to urine samples from which hormones are measured. All orangutan foods are collected and processed to analyze the caloric and nutrient composition of the orangutan diet. The project is also investigating broader issues related to great ape and human evolution. It has relevance for understanding the limits on the reproductive potential of orangutan populations and is important for conserving this endangered species.

Since 1994, the project has collected almost 50,000 hours of direct observation of wild orangutans, one of the most extensive data sets on a wild great ape ever collected. To date, over 140 food samples have been analyzed for their nutritional content and over 2,500 urine samples have been collected for hormonal and health analysis.

In 2009, the scientific research team included Project Director and GPOCP Executive Director, Dr. Cheryl Knott; Post-doctoral Research Associate and Research Field Director, Dr. Meredith Bastian; Fulbright Researcher, Josephine Beck; Research Assistant Margaret Gavin; Indonesian Master's student, Wahyu Susanto.; and many field staff.

The research project continued to collect data in 2009 to support a wide variety of ongoing projects, including:

- Orangutan interbirth intervals and female hormonal functioning
- Hormonal, behavioral and energetic differences between males: bi-maturism and intra-sexual dimorphism in males
- Juvenile development, dependency and learning
- Sex differences in feeding behavior, nutritional intake and foraging
- Inter-population comparison of cultural behaviors and tool use
- Ranging patterns, habitat use and energetics
- Socio-sexual behavior and hormonal correlates
- Orangutan social organization
- Genetic studies of paternity and relatedness

- Skeletal evidence of male-male competition
- Digestion and fecal analysis of juveniles vs. adults
- Infection, parasite load and medicinal plant use
- Habitat quality and orangutan densities
- Canopy locomotion and positional behavior
- Maternal behavior and energetics.

Scientific research on orangutans at Gunung Palung provides critical information to assist in the conservation of this population as well as orangutans in general. The project is filling in considerable gaps in our knowledge of orangutans, critical for the efficacy of existing protective measures and species survival plans.

The rain forests where orangutans live contain over 4000 species of trees and lianas. It is crucial for orangutan habitat protection that we know both which species are the preferred foods of orangutans and which species are used as fallback resources when other foods are scarce. Thus, we are collecting data to establish the nutritional quality of habitats used by orangutans and determining how habitat quality effects ranging behavior. This information is critical for our understanding of how big of an area orangutans need to survive. This will allow us to provide more precise information on the size and habitat requirements of protected reserves, and thus help prioritize areas of orangutan habitat for protection.

The major threat to orangutan population viability is the loss of adult females. Orangutans have the longest intervals between births—eight years—of any primate. This slow rate of reproduction indicates that orangutan populations are unable to withstand significant levels of removal through poaching. Orangutan population viability modeling has shown that the removal of even 5 adult females from a population of 1000 leads to a serious decline in the population. This project addresses the critical determinants of orangutan reproduction by directly studying orangutan reproductive hormones and how changes in energetics influence reproductive functioning. The Gunung Palung Orangutan Project is the only wild orangutan project studying this interaction between hormonal levels and environmental conditions.

Finally, our on-site research presence has a substantial positive impact on the protection of this orangutan population and their rain forest home. Researchers serve to deter the rate of illegal logging by their presence, hire local people who may otherwise be involved in illegal logging as research assistants and staff, and assist park guards with their work – ensuring larger and more stable protection.

4.2 Research Project Support

This was the first full year of orangutan research at Cabang Panti Research Station in Gunung Palung National Park since illegal logging forced its closure in 2003. Located in

the heart of the park, the research area covered by scientists at Cabang Panti includes six of the seven separate habitats in the park.

GPOCP grew out of Cabang Panti-based research in 1999, and we continue to provide support and be the 'outreach voice' of the orangutan and other scientific research in the park. As a member of the multi-party consortium that manages the research site, we played a critical role in providing logistical support for the research team in 2009, consisting of: Project Director and GPOCP Executive Director, Dr. Cheryl Knott; Post-doctoral Research Associate and Research Field Director, Dr. Meredith Bastian; Fulbright Researcher, Josephine Beck; Research Assistant Margaret Gavin and Indonesian Master's student, Wahyu Susanto.

GPOCP assists the researchers with contacting Indonesian sponsors, providing transportation and housing, overseeing data entry, purchasing equipment and supplies, communicating between the research camp and the Project Director in the US, representing the field researchers within the research consortium, and communicating with the Head of the National Park on their behalf. These are essential support services without which ongoing orangutan research would be impossible.

In return, researchers provide GPOCP with up-to-date expert knowledge about orangutans and their habitat. In April GPOCP staff spent time at Cabang Panti in order to gain first-hand experience in research techniques being used in the park. For many, this was their first opportunity to observe orangutans in the wild. Throughout the year researchers also provided essential technical assistance to GPOCP, including informal trainings in population survey methodology and the history of primatology.

GPOCP arranged for researchers to conduct presentations in Ketapang and Kayong Utara in April of 2009. Teachers and student representatives from the local high schools heard about daily life in Cabang Panti, and current research regarding orangutans, gibbons and leaf monkeys, and had an opportunity to use basic research equipment. There was much enthusiasm from teachers and students alike, and schools agreed to conduct future field trips into the park so their students can learn more about field biology.

Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening



Orangutan nest training in Pontianak.

5. Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening

In 2009, we strategically changed our internal structure to promote better coordination and greater efficiency in our programs. As part of this initiative, our Conservation Awareness team was merged with our Animal and Habitat Protection team, with our Alternative Livelihoods Program operating out of our new Environmental Education Center. This has greatly enhanced GPOCP's programmatic and operational efficiency, coordination, and effectiveness.

Continuing to link our work to outside experts and similar projects is vital to our staff's learning process. The information and education we garner from events and meetings we attend is used to improve our monitoring and investigation techniques, as well as promote closer cooperation with relevant authorities. Our staff come primarily from West Kalimantan, and investing in their professional capacity is also investing in the larger long-term conservation movement in the region.

Throughout the year staff participated in several activities to build a variety of skills used in our multi-faceted approach to orangutan conservation. In February, Yunita Kusuma Dewi and Ranti Naruri attended a training on using media and technology to promote eco-tourism. In April, Tri Nugroho and Desi Kurniawati went to Pontianak for a two-day training on the legal process used to combat illegal logging. We also sent our animal keeper, Toriin, and local veterinarian Dr. Edi to a week-long gathering of orangutan veterinarians from around the world held in East Kalimantan, Indonesia, sponsored by the Orangutan Conservancy. Participants shared experiences dealing with various diseases affecting captive orangutans in zoos and rehabilitation centers, and drafted common standards on dealing with one of the most prevalent diseases, tuberculosis.

We were inspired to learn that several NGOs had successfully used the World Bank internal review process to end assistance to a problematic palm oil plantation in the north of West Kalimantan. In November, Tri Nugroho spent several weeks working alongside Lembaga Gemawan, WALHI Kalbar and other organizations in Pontianak involved in this effort to learn about the tactics they used in their successful campaign work.

As part of our participation in an orangutan population survey, GPOCP investigator Edi Rahman and Program Manager Tito Indrawan attended a regional training on GPS, data entry and related empirical skills to be used during the survey. Staff also attended trainings in Kalimantan and Java on topics such as Reduced Emission in Deforestation and Degradation (REDD), organic farming, women in leadership and participatory rural assessments.

6. Key Achievements and Challenges

Throughout 2009 we consolidated our organization, enhancing staff capacity, communication and program efficiency in order to strengthen and expand our future activities. We also achieved several additional short-term goals despite a number of challenges.

6.1 Achievements

- Our Environmental Education Center is up and running in Pampang Harapan, providing a new base of conservation activities for the Kayong Utara Regency.
- In our first large-scale collaboration with the Kayong Utara education department, we completed a two-day Environmental Education Teacher Training.
- We led 200 students on nine field trips, and worked with hundreds more in classroom presentations and extracurricular activities.
- We expanded our radio audience through the addition of programs on two commercial stations, to reach an estimated weekly audience of 400,000.
- We confiscated nine illegally held orangutans and began a new relationship with International Animal Rescue to manage the welfare of rescued orangutans, freeing our resources for more intense work on our primary goal of wild orangutan and habitat conservation.
- We continued to build staff capacity through a series of trainings.

6.2 Challenges

- The manager of our Environmental Education Program, Hudi DW, left after several years with GPOCP. For several months, the team operated without a manager until Mariamah Achmed joined the organization in October.
- Various bureaucratic and political hurdles prevented us from fully demarcating the official boundaries of the customary forest in Riam Berasap Jaya. However, the persistence of the community has acted as an inspiration to many other villages to begin protecting their own customary forests.

7. Summary and a Look Ahead

The Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Program has now been operating in the region for a full decade, and has grown from field trips to the study site and educational presentations in local schools to a multi-faceted organization that engages not only schools but communities and local government bodies as well. We have established a strong base in Ketapang and are one of the better-known conservation organizations in West Kalimantan.

Throughout 2009, we made great progress in consolidating our internal operations, reinforcing our local networks, and building a new Environmental Education Center in Kayong Utara. By strengthening our organizational infrastructure, we are now prepared for our next phase of growth.

In 2010 we will expand our Environmental Education Program to more fully utilize our new Environmental Education Center and further our Alternative Livelihoods Program work in organizing local communities to produce and sell sustainably-harvested, non-timber forest products. At the same time, we will increase the participation of local youth in our programs by revitalizing our youth volunteer clubs. Our Customary Forest Initiative work will not only see Riam Berasap Jaya gain legal protection for its forest in 2010, but significant steps will be made to assist other communities in developing sustainable management of their own forests. We will continue to build local government institutions to protect the orangutan and other wildlife, and will cooperate with other NGOs to move officials from merely confiscating illegally held orangutans to pressing legal charges against those involved in the wildlife trade.

We have witnessed the success of our decade-long work. And while the orangutan and its habitat continue to be threatened by increasing encroachment of palm oil agriculture, illegal logging, and other destructive activities, it is our hope that our ongoing work will create an enduring forest and wildlife conservation ethic among the region's population that ensures a permanent home for one of Borneo's most magnificent species—the orangutan.

Our 2009 Supporters

Thank you!

Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Program thanks its many supporters for their incredible generosity in 2009. Our work would not be possible without them.

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Photo by Tim Laman.

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