

2020 Annual Report



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About OC

Dedicated to the conservation of orangutans and their rainforest homes

Our Mission:

The Orangutan Conservancy (OC) is dedicated to the protection of orangutans in their natural habitat through wild research, capacity building, education, and public awareness programs, and by supporting numerous on-the-ground efforts to save Southeast Asia's only great ape.

Our Work:

- Providing funding and logistical support to a variety of orangutan protection programs
- Providing funding to various wildlife research programs in Indonesia that support and coordinate orangutan conservation
- Staging the annual OC/OVAG Veterinary Workshop in Indonesia where orangutan wildlife vets share their knowledge
- Providing emergency funding to help protect critical habitats of the orangutan, including efforts to control forest fires where important populations exist or supporting other emergency activities
- Improving public awareness of the plight of the orangutan and their habitats on Borneo and Sumatra

Our Motivation:

Today it is estimated that 27,000 species are extinguished every year in the world's rainforests - or 74 species a day. Orangutans are found only in the rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra. The population of wild orangutans has declined by more than half in the last 50 years, and approximately 80% of their natural habitat has been lost in the last half century. Current research suggests that there are perhaps only 50,000 - 65,000 left in the wild.

The Orangutan Conservancy works to protect orangutans in their natural environment, and if we can help this great ape to survive for the future, many other native species (including plants and insects) will also be here for generations to come.



The Orangutan Conservancy (OC) is an independent US nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. OC is operated primarily by dedicated volunteers, and it strives to keep administrative costs (10-15%) to a minimum to ensure donations reach the projects in the field.

The Orangutan Conservancy is an Equal Opportunity Employer: It is the policy of OC to provide all persons with equal employment practices and opportunities without regard to race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability, age, veteran or marital status or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local law.

Our Canopy 2020: Program Portfolio

Conservation Projects

Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC)

Funding the Construction of Quarantine Enclosures - Status: Completed

The Orangutan Conservancy is pleased to announce the approval of a substantial grant to Sintang Orangutan Center in West Kalimantan, Indonesia. Sintang Orangutan Center (SOC) is a rehabilitation and care center located in West Kalimantan, an Indonesia province on the island of Borneo. SOC works tirelessly to rescue, rehabilitate, and release wild orangutans in West Kalimantan. They are also dedicated to the education of the local community, in an effort to end deforestation, hunting, and the orangutan pet trade in the area.



This grant will be used for the construction of special quarantine enclosures (pictured above, right) for new and incoming orangutans. The threat of COVID-19 has made it extremely important to ensure the health of each and every orangutan progressing through the rehabilitation program. Currently, the isolation cages are located at SOC's main campus which is located near encroaching human activity and settlements. Their proposal provides a plan to move, rebuild, and enhance the quarantine cages in their sister facility, the Jerora Forest School.

Wildlife Rescue Center (WRC) Jogja

Supporting General Operations - Status: In Progress

The Orangutan Conservancy is happy to announce the funding of the Wildlife Rescue Centre Jogja - Yayasan Konservasi Alam Yogyakarta (WRC Jogja). WRC Jogja is a small, non-profit, and non-government organization that is dedicated to wildlife conservation and rehabilitation in Indonesia. They have been rescuing injured, orphaned, and illegally traded wildlife since 2003.



To date, WRC Jogja has taken in over 1,000 animals, and have successfully released over 800 back into the wild. Currently, the organization cares for 141 various species, including mammals, birds, and reptiles. 29 of the 37 mammals in their care are primates. Seven of these primates are orangutans. With travel restrictions and visitation events being canceled due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, WRC Jogja has been struggling financially as their 2020 plans have been drastically altered by the current pandemic.

With the funding, WRC Jogja will purchase the feed needed for the animals in their care, especially the primates. In addition to this, the organization plans to use the funding to continue to help pay the salaries of primate keepers from September 2020 to February 2021.

Gibbon Conservation Center

General Funding - Status: N/A

The current global state has created a vacuum for nonprofit organizations that rely on critical funding and support from private individuals. As a nonprofit organization ourselves, the Orangutan Conservancy fully understands the dire situation that many conservation organizations are finding themselves in, which is why we have decided to (and we hope you will too!) extend a helping hand to the Gibbon Conservation Center located in Santa Clarita, California.

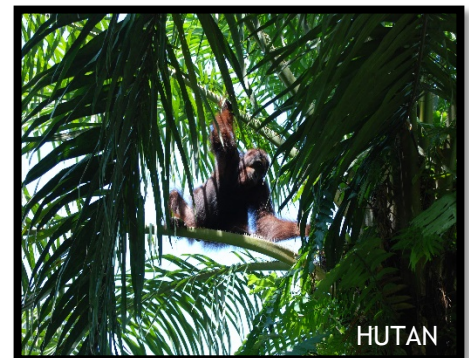


The Gibbon Conservation Center is a unique conservation, research, and educational establishment. Residing just south of the Angeles National Forest sits a 10-acre property that over 40 gibbons call home. The center is the only institution in the entire globe to house and breed all four genera of gibbon (Hoolock, Hylobates [Dwarf], Symphalangus [Siamang], Nomascus [Crested]). More specifically the center has successfully created and maintained breeding programs for 7 gibbon species and provides observational and non-invasive research opportunities for students and researchers across the globe. In addition, the center's expert staff provides consulting services to other institutions (zoos, museums, governments agencies, and individual scientists) on identification of species and gibbon care in captivity. They also dedicate a portion of their time to assisting with gibbon rescue programs in Thailand, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Indonesia.

HUTAN

Advancing Research on Palm Oil Sustainability and Orangutan Conservation - Status: In Progress

The Orangutan Conservancy is proud to announce the funding of HUTAN. Over the last 20 years, the HUTAN research teams have been working with wild orangutans throughout the Kinabatangan landscapes. There are an estimated 10,000 wild orangutans that live in and around the oil palm dominated agricultural landscapes in Borneo. In situ (or in the original place) management of these orangutans is imperative, as rescuing and relocating these orangutans is an impractical approach.



With the funding that we have provided, HUTAN plans to expand its research and investigations to the oil palm plantations that border the forest of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary. The field activities proposed will aid in the designing of new strategies that will help sustain viable metapopulations over vast landscapes. These landscapes include the abundant oil palm plantations.



With all of the collected information, HUTAN can then develop two sets of documents. The first document will be Specific Orangutan Management Plans for the oil palm estates bordering the study area. The second document will be the Best Management Practices (BMP) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for Orangutan Conservation within oil palm plantations. HUTAN also plans to allocate funding into organizing training and capacity building sessions to explain the BMPs and SOPs, raise awareness about orangutans, and explain how oil palm workers can live peacefully with these great apes.

Orangutan Conservancy's Veterinary Advisory Group Workshop (OC/OVAG)

Status: Completed

Collectively, the veterinarians and healthcare staff at rehabilitation centers in Borneo and Sumatra care for the largest captive population of orangutans in the world. Yet they face nearly impossible odds, and often find themselves short of medicine, equipment, money, space, support staff and time.

But those same dedicated men and women do not lack for skill or commitment. And therefore, the Orangutan Conservancy created the OC/OVAG Veterinary Workshop - an annual seminar that gathers the veterinary teams that work on front lines of the orangutan conservation crisis. It is a rare and much-needed opportunity for them to join to hone skills, share the latest orangutan data, discuss issues and ideas, and to meet colleagues that could someday mean the difference between life and death for endangered apes.

The focus of the OC/OVAG Veterinary Workshops remain the practical sessions (1), presentations (2), round tables, and break-out groups (3) that make the experience so valuable. At the workshops, OVAG veterinarians who often work alone under extreme duress discover a place to pose questions and tackle hypothetical scenarios that might otherwise get overlooked. They also establish long-lasting friendships and alliances that strengthen the orangutan conservation community.

President's Note on the 12th Annual OVAG Workshop:

Due to the pandemic currently raging, it should come as no surprise that this year's OVAG was virtual. Thanks to a grant and an invitation from University of Michigan, we were able to build a meeting site with materials on the Canvas platform. Since we were virtual, we sent invitations to everyone who had ever attended an OVAG workshop (since 2009) to participate. Everyone was given access to the online materials - and those materials were extensive!!!! We also held a weeklong "Live Session" that ran from July 6 - 10.



97 people attended the weeklong Zoom sessions - lasting 5 to 6 hours per day (though not everyone was able to attend every day as many work at centers or in the forest). On day 1 we had 64 people, Day 2 we had 76, Day 3 we had 78, Day 4 we had 84 and on Day 5 we had 72. We had 51 people attend all 5 days. The following countries were 'logged in': Indonesia (61 people), Malaysia (8 people), the United States (11 people), United Kingdom (9 people), Africa (1 person), Korea (2 people), India (2 people), Thailand (2 people), Australia (1 person). It was an amazing turnout.

Topics we covered were of course an extensive session on the Corona virus as well as other emerging and/or reemerging infectious diseases and was to mitigate responses. We, as OVAG, came up with our own helpful guidelines and steps to manage any outbreak that might occur and how to prevent it if possible. We went over some anesthetics, nutrition, TB, field projects, Exhibit Design Tool (from University of Birmingham, UK), the orangutan microbiome, molecular diagnostics (parasites), a much requested dentistry session, clinical husbandry issues and we even managed to squeeze in a day for case studies.

The 'live' participants not only spend so many hours on line with us, but they also had a lot of 'homework' to complete. While not the face to face OVAG we have all become used to - we were still able to conduct a fruitful, educational and communal experience.

Next year - fingers crossed we will be back in Southeast Asia for OVAG 2021 (our lucky 13th!!!)

Kids' Canopy

Supporting a new generation of conservationists

During the course of 2020, the team at OC realized its need to fortify its online presence and virtual programming efforts. Due to the pandemic, we were afforded an opportunity to reevaluate our current educational resources and what audiences we appealed to most. Through this process we decided to open up our very own youth-focused website focused on educating the next generation on orangutans, conservation, and what makes biological diversity so important.



Kids' Canopy is an inclusive website and enrichment tool for the education of the next generation of researchers and conservationists! The website includes educational pages on conservation efforts, the rainforests, and (of course) orangutans! Along with these informational pages, we have created a multitude of educational and recreational activities for kids to do at home! We believe that these activities are especially important and useful for kids, given that many will be starting their 2020-2021 school year remotely. We believe that these supplemental resources will provide a deeper understanding of conservation that they may not have been exposed to otherwise! Additionally, the site includes fun, interesting stories about orangutans around the world so that kids can get a glimpse into the lives of wildlife, both in the wild and in captivity.

We plan to keep updating Kids Canopy with exciting new information, activities, and even games for years to come, and will continue to keep you all informed as we go! Our goal is to become a resource not only for kids as they learn but also for educators as they search for reliable and interesting information about conservation and wildlife.

Virtual Adoption

Supporting conservation through virtual adoption

Wild Adoption Program - Orangutan Kutai Project

The Orangutan Conservancy is emphasizing its commitment to wild orangutan conservation by offering for virtual adoption* of orangutans currently living in the Kutai National Park in East Kalimantan, Indonesia. By partnering with the Orangutan Kutai Project and the Kutai National Park authority, OC believes it can spur support and awareness of the wild orangutans in this fragile region.



OC's Wild Adoption program received a face-lift in 2020 with an entirely new website and a new physical adoption packet. The new additions streamlined the virtual adoption experience while also focusing on the purpose of the program. We are pleased to report that the new program has already regained its initial investment and is projected to provide a substantial fund to the Orangutan Kutai Project in 2021. Each virtual adoption includes a newly designed packet with an official OC adoption certificate, a story of the orangutan, a high quality photo, an official OC enamel pin, and an OC vinyl sticker. Adoptions are offered in both a physical and virtual format. Physical adoption packets are offered anywhere in the United States and the virtual (emailed) packets are offered globally.

The funds donated through our virtual adoption program will be directly applied to the Orangutan Conservancy and the Orangutan Kutai Project's fund. The project (led by OC's very own board member, Dr. Anne Russon) monitors a field site that runs about 4 km along the south side of the Sangata River, Kutai National Park's northern boundary, an area that was chosen because censuses showed strong orangutan presence and the need for additional protection there.

Adopt an Orphaned Orangutan - The Orangutan Project

We are proud to support the important work of The Orangutan Project (TOP), an Australian based conservation organization focused on rescuing and rehabilitating injured and orphaned orangutans in their care centers. OC is proud to participate in this collaborative partnership with TOP. Their support of our annual Orangutan Veterinary Advisory Group Workshop is vital to the future conservation of Southeast Asia's only great ape. You can find out more about how to adopt an orphan orangutan with The Orangutan Project on our website or at www.orangutan.org.au/adopt.



Adopt a Newly Released Orangutan - Sintang Orangutan Center

The Orangutan Conservancy is proud to announce a new partnership with Sintang Orangutan Center, located in West Kalimantan, Indonesia. This new program will emphasize our commitment to rehabilitation programs focusing on saving and fortifying the wild population of orangutans in Borneo. The program (to be released in early 2021) will feature newly released orangutans that have gone through SOC's rehabilitation program. In recent years (2017-2019) SOC has released 5 individual orangutans to the Betung Kerihun National Park Forest in Putusibau, Kapuas Hulu. Stay tuned for more updates on this program.

2020 Financial Breakdown

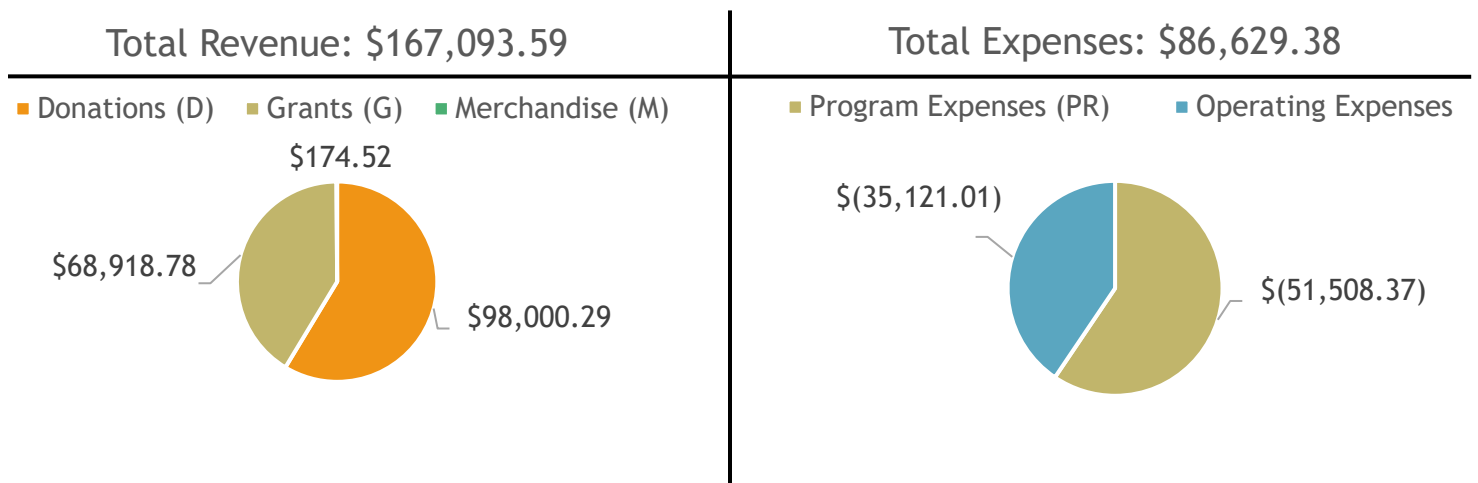
The Orangutan Conservancy is dedicated to the protection of orangutans and their rainforest homes through the funding and logistical support of various on-the-ground projects located in Southeast Asia. We strive to keep operating costs to a minimum so funding can make it to the field. Please find below a summary of our 2020 operating budget.

The 2020 fiscal year was especially challenging for OC as the pandemic caused a lot of uncertainty. In March, when businesses began shutting down and various countries began to limit travel, OC decided to halt all unnecessary spending (advertising, social media, etc.) in order to prepare for possible decreases in the rest of the year's projected revenue. All sources of revenue were then redirected to essential expenses, such as daily operations and conservation program budgets.

In an effort to combat struggling animal care centers who were negatively affected by COVID-19, OC started the "COVID-19 Orangutan Care Center Relief Fund". This fund alone brought in over \$10,000 and helped us fund 3 different relief projects directly related to COVID-19 conservation issues. Sintang Orangutan Center, the Gibbon Conservation Center, and Wildlife Rescue Center Jogja were all among the centers that received COVID-19 related funding.

Funding for WRC Jogja and the Gibbon Conservation Center were directly related to COVID-19 financial hardships experienced due to a decrease in visitors to their center. Funding for Sintang Orangutan Center was used to build special quarantine enclosures at the site of their forest school in order to adequately isolate new and/or sick orangutans. This would help keep disease from spreading through the center's population of orangutans. This was especially important as COVID-19's reach began to grow exponentially throughout the region, possibly endangering the great ape population there.

Our total expenses for the 2020 fiscal year accounted for 51.84% of our total revenue. Additionally, our operating expense (total expense minus any expenses attributed to conservation programs) accounted for 21.02% of our total revenue. As a nonprofit run by a very small staff, and dedicated group of board members and volunteers we aim to keep our operating/administrative costs to 10-15% of our yearly revenue. We are reevaluating our budget for 2021 to ensure our operating budget is created and followed in the most efficient way possible, prioritizing funding for our projects in Southeast Asia. Our operating costs go towards essential expenses such as website hosting, contractor fees, bank fees, tax filings, etc. We are looking forward to improving our budget efficiency in 2021 so we can continue to increase our conservational impact for orangutans and the Southeast Asian Rainforest.



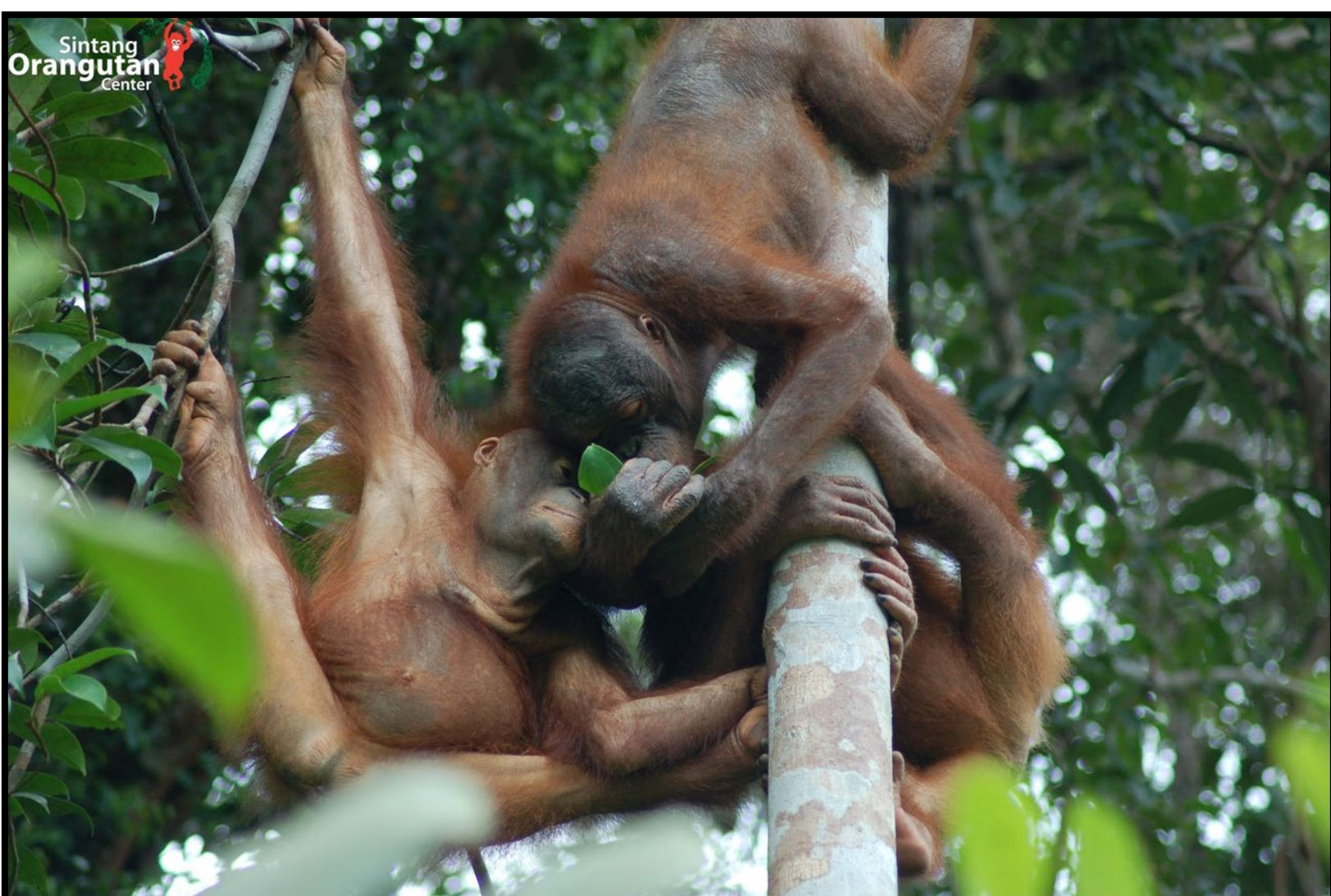
Thank You

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our wonderful supporters and conservation partners who took crucial steps last year to save the orangutan. The fight to save this unique species is not up to just one organization, nor is it up to one project. We all have an enormous responsibility resting on our shoulders, and unfortunately the orangutan as a species depends on it. Orangutan conservation organizations across the world have taken a lot of loss throughout the past twelve months, but there is light at the end of the tunnel. We must stay strong and stay focused as we enter into this new year. The Orangutan Conservancy is already in the planning stages of two brand new programs aimed at restoring Southeast Asian biodiversity and providing more educational resources for the public at large.

We are immensely grateful for the support of our donors. 2020 has not been an easy year, but we recognize the commitment and tenacity our base has dedicated to our cause. We also want to highlight our partner projects as they have made our mission possible by creating and managing critical projects in Southeast Asia for the purpose of saving our fellow red-haired apes. We are proud of the work completed in 2020 but we are ready to achieve even more in the new year. We hope that you are ready for the journey ahead.

Sincerely,

The Team at OC





Special Thanks:



Photo & Content Credits



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