



# Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Program



November 2014

Issue: 23

## Code RED

An e-newsletter from your friends in Borneo

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Welcome to the latest edition of our Code RED newsletter. This month, our issue includes two very exciting features. From November 9th through 16th was this year's Orangutan Caring Week! During this time every year our staff plans lots of exciting community events, and this year was a real standout. With participation from over 1,000 people, our events were a huge success in West Kalimantan, and we couldn't be prouder!

As an additional treat for Orangutan Caring Week, we are profiling seven of our star orangutans. These are the apes that we share our days with, following them from nest to nest in all weather. We think they're fascinating, and we are sure that our spotlights will convince you too!

We hope that you enjoy the articles below, and as always, we thank you for reading and for your continued support of our work.

Sincerely,

### In This Issue

Orangutan Caring

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Orangutan Pro

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Amazon Smile for  
Friday

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**Cheryl Knott, Executive Director**  
[Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Program \(GPOCP\)](#)

## Orangutan Caring Week

By Cassie Freund

[Orangutan Caring Week](#), or "Pekan Peduli Orangutan" in Indonesian, is an annual seven-day long event to raise worldwide awareness for orangutan conservation. Orangutan Caring Week 2014 was November 9th-15th, and GPOCP celebrated with several activities in communities throughout Ketapang and Kayong Utara, as well as on social media.

On November 9th we kicked off the week with a street demonstration, planned and executed by our Ketapang-based youth volunteer group, TAJAM. Approximately 40 volunteers, students from local after-school clubs, and GPOCP staff rallied in the city center, holding signs and orangutan puppets, reaching out to passers-by with coloring sheets and pins and chanting "Save the orangutans, Kalimantan!" After that, we traveled to a city park where the volunteers put on a play designed to teach the audience about the dangers of poaching and keeping orangutans as pets.



*TAJAM volunteers educated the Ketapang community about the plight of the orangutan and how they can help protect Indonesia's biodiversity. Click [here](#) for [videos](#) of the event.*

On November 16th, our Kayong Utara-based volunteer group, ReBONK, held their own activity to

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"We should not fear for our future. It will be just as important for our descendants to be prosperous in their time as it is to us to be prosperous in our time."

~Theodore Roosevelt



raise awareness about the importance of protecting the forest around Gunung Palung National Park, which is a critical orangutan habitat. Approximately 46 volunteers and local high-school students participated, setting off from the town of Sidok en masse in one long motorcade, chanting and holding "Pekan Peduli Orangutan" signs. They traveled about 45 minutes through many villages on the way to Sukadana city, where they held their own street demonstration. Finally, the group held a trash clean-up on the city streets at a popular nearby beach to demonstrate their commitment to environmental stewardship.



*REBONK volunteers helped raise conservation awareness around Gunung Palung National Park and did their part for by cleaning up trash.*

GPOCP's main event this year was a bit different than in years past, as we had the opportunity to travel to a more remote area on the southern border of Gunung Palung National Park called Nangka Tayap. Since this area is quite far, approximately 5 hours away, we have not been able to hold many events here in the past. However, this is a critical area for orangutan and forest conservation. The local community lives very close to the National Park buffer zone, and we have received many reports of poached orangutans from this area lately. This year we partnered with International Animal Rescue (IAR) and a local high school to plan a massive two-day conservation awareness and educational event in the Tayap district in honor of Orangutan Caring Week. Together we held a drawing contest, puppet shows to teach elementary school children about orangutans and their habitat, and a 5K walk that attracted 440 participants. On Saturday night we also sponsored a concert of traditional Indonesian music that attracted an audience of over one thousand people! Over the course of the evening we shared information about orangutan conservation and the Indonesian wildlife laws and gave away t-shirts and other prizes. All of the participants were very enthusiastic and had a great time.



*A Tayap citizen entertains the crowd with his best proboscis monkey dance after winning an Orangutan Caring Week t-shirt at the concert put on by GPOCP and IAR.*

We were also very active on our social media (Facebook and Twitter) accounts during the week, introducing our followers to some of the researchers' favorite orangutans with daily posts and photos. These profiles were hugely popular, reaching almost 9,000 people over the course of the week and exposing GPOCP's conservation and research work to a wider audience. Orangutan Caring Week was a great opportunity to communicate with our supporters both near and far, and thanks go out to our hard-working staff and volunteers, friends at IAR, and Orangutan Outreach who provided the funding. This year's activities were a huge success!

## Orangutan Profiles

By The Research Team at Cabang Panti

In this article, we'd like to shine the spotlight on some of the orangutans from our field site, Cabang Panti. This time it's all about the apes.

### Codet

Codet is our poster boy, and he is featured on the banner of this newsletter. He is one of the most impressive resident flanged males at Cabang Panti. Codet is passionate about his food and also his females! He's currently the longest- and most-followed adult male orangutan in the study area, frequently turning up to crash the party even when the team isn't following him.

### Dewi and Dolia

Dewi is a large female orangutan whom we have followed since 2009. She has two known offspring: Dinda and Dolia. Dolia is a playful infant female, who loves to throw things at the assistants when they are following her and has quickly learned from her mother how to kiss-





squeak (a type of warning call specific to orangutans). Despite Dolia's small size she is pretty feisty and the assistants are regularly seen running from her branch missiles!

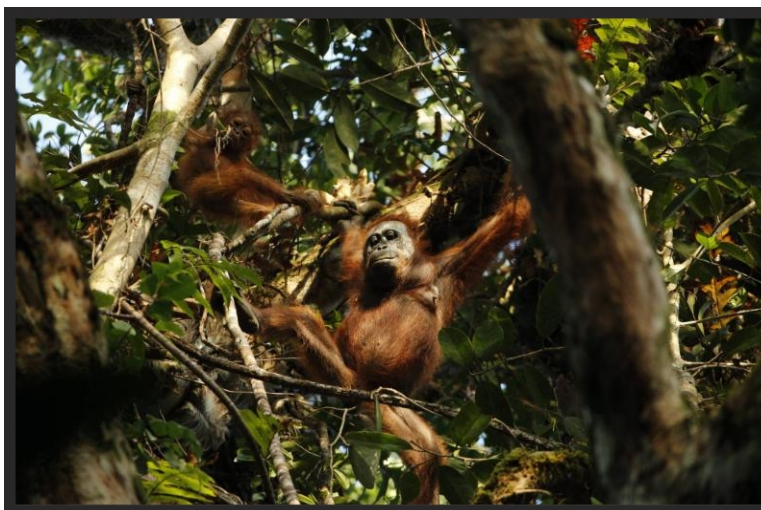
### Yoda

Did you know that not all male orangutans grow flanges (cheek pads)? Although the big flanged males are generally dominant, unflanged males can still hold their own! Yoda

here is one of just a handful of unflanged males that frequent our study area. He has large teeth and very little fur. At first he was pretty aggressive, but after a few follows he got used to the assistants. Yoda likes to play with other orangutans, especially Walimah and Dagul.

### Benny

Benny is one of the youngest orangutans we are following at the



moment and one of the only male infants we have found recently. He is easily recognizable and very playful. Benny spends his time playing in the trees and learning from his mother, Beth. Benny has an older sister, Betsy, but they aren't seen together much anymore, as with the birth of an infant his or her older sibling gradually starts to move off on their own.

### Kan

Kan is a newly adolescent male and is still learning on the job - he has been seen copying our flanged male Codet, mimicking his movements and body positions. He is the only orangutan of his age-size class that we are currently following. Kan is the son of another of our orangutans, Kabar, who also has a new infant. Due to Kan's transition into adolescence, we are not sure how much longer we will be able to follow him, as he will eventually move off in search of a new home range. However, we will continue to enjoy watching him, as he becomes more and more independent, for



as long as we can!

### **Dagul**

Dagul is a young adolescent who has been followed by our team since 2009 when she was still dependent on her mother, Delly. Although she has since dispersed, she still likes to party (associate) with Delly and



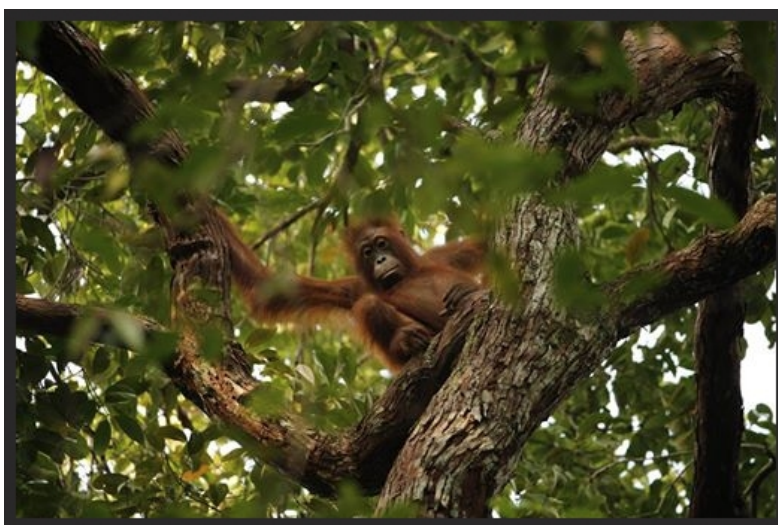
Walimah. However, once when Walimah tried to take food from Dagul, she was totally uninterested in sharing! Dagul now has a younger sister named Duwyk who she enjoys playing with as she starts learning about the forest.

### **Walimah**

Walimah, who we have been following since she was born, likes to play and is one of our most intelligent and sociable animals. She has been seen to drink from trees and is constantly finding new fruit for us to study. At the moment, she is very obviously pregnant and doesn't want to move much! She is due in the Spring and we can hardly wait to follow her and her new baby next year, just as she herself was followed when she was a newborn.



Thank you for taking the time to get to know our orangutans and by supporting us, ensuring their continued existence!





Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Program  
(GPOCP)



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