

Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Program



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Code RED

An e-newsletter from your friends in West Kalimantan

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Greetings! As I settle back into my fall semester of teaching at Boston University, I'm excited to share with you some of our activities this month in West Kalimantan.

In this issue of *Code Red*, Haning, our Environmental Education Assistant Field Officer, reports on a large, two day teacher training event that we just held. GPOCP collaborated with 2 local government organizations to help teachers learn how they can bring environmental education into their classrooms! Our second article is by one of my PhD graduate students, Amy Scott. She recently made her way back to the Cabang Panti Research Station and shares with us the questions that she will be addressing with her dissertation work over the next year. Check out her video clip of a rare case of tolerated food theft in

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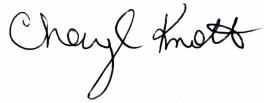
Bornean Orangutan Caring Scholars

Bringing Kalimantan Conservation to

orangutans!

Our sidebar tells about our recent trip to Papua (on the island of New Guinea) to lead a workshop on our sustainable livelihood work. We also share a short video by our partners at the Orang Utan Republik Foundation about some of our Bornean Orangutan Caring Scholarship recipients.

Sincerely,



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

Teachers Making an Impact

By Haning Pertiwi, GPOCP Environmental Education Assitant Field Officer

With the theme, "Love the Earth through Education," GPOCP coordinated with the Ketapang Education Department and the Ketapang Office of Environment to host a two-day workshop for more than 60 teachers from 30 different schools throughout the regency. The head of the Education Department, Dr. Jahilin, opened the workshop stating, that "We must all have a love of the earth and animals, especially orangutans. We just celebrated the 2018 Asian Games here in Indonesia and all of our mascots are animals. We need a community that is aware of how to protect animals so our future generations are able to appreciate them."

The Program Director of GPOCP, Terri Breeden, also gave an opening statement saying, "Teachers are the role models for our youth. With this workshop we want to empower teachers to integrate more education and environmental conservation activities into their classrooms. We want students to understand this extraordinary environment that surrounds them and inspire them so that they are able to appreciate and protect it for future generations."

Papua

Recently, our head artisan, Ibu Ida, and Wendy, our Sustainable Livelihoods manager, were invited to host a Non-Timber Forest Product workshop in Papua (on the island of New Guinea)! Our conservation model is being used throughout the Indonesian archipelago!



Bornean Orangutan Caring Scholars

Our partners at the Orang Utan Republik Foundation made a video featuring some of our scholarship recipients and the impacts of this amazing program! Check it out below:



Donate



GPOCP Program Director, Terri Breeden, with head of the Environmental Department, Pak Sukirno, the head of the Education Department, Dr. Jahilin, and the assistant head of the Environmental Department, Pak Sauni, opening the teacher training event.

One of the programs headed by the Office of Environment strives to create 'Green Schools' known as *Adiwayata* in Indonesian. This program supports activities such as tree planting, organic gardens, and environmental youth groups. During the workshop, the head of the Office of Environment stressed the importance of schools becoming 'Green Schools' and the benefits it has for the teachers, students, and community. The workshop opened with an awards ceremony for 'Green School' winners. Each participating school was evaluated based on indicators such as the implementation of environmental policy in classrooms, environmental education curriculum, student participation, and school infrastructure to implement green activities.



The 'Green School' winners from the Ketapang regency.

The workshop then discussed some of the problems and issues the teachers have while trying to introduce environmental education into their schools and



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"There's nothing wrong with having a tree as a friend"

-Bob Ross-

classrooms. The primary complaint related to lack of funds. With all stakeholders in one room, everyone was able to discuss ways to fund these activities. The schools can coordinate with the Environmental Department to start 'green projects' or even coordinate with local NGOs such as GPOCP!

Over the two days, the teachers worked together in groups to learn about the environment and animals throughout Indonesia. They then learned how to use this material in exciting and educational games in their classrooms, how to become a 'Green School,' and how to make action plans for implementing what they learned.



Teachers throughout the Ketapang regency gathered together for a 2-day workshop to learn how to implement environmental education into their classrooms.

Overall, this workshop was a great success! While GPOCP often visits schools to give lectures and field trips, we do not have the capacity to visit every school every month. By collaborating with these local government agencies, we were able to make a bigger impact in regards to education, environmental awareness, and creating green schools and communities. To drive home our 'green' message, each teacher received a reusable shopping bag, reusable drinking water bottle, and a seedling to plant at their schools!



One of the more than 60 teachers collecting her Matoa tree to plant at her school. Photos © GPOCP.

Conflicts, Consortships and Copulations: A Promising Start to my Research Year

*By Amy Scott, PhD Candidate, Boston University, and
GPOCP Graduate Student Researcher*

As a PhD candidate in the Anthropology Department at Boston University, the next phase in my degree is conducting my dissertation research on the orangutans at Cabang Panti Research Station in Gunung Palung National Park (GPNP). This is the second time that I have been to Cabang Panti. My first was in the summer of 2015 when I collected pilot data (Code Red Vol 34) and attended the GP 30 conference. The GP 30 conference celebrated 30 years of research in Gunung Palung National Park, and was attended by many researchers who have studied the rich biodiversity of GPNP. It was fascinating to learn more about this research and the history of the research station, and it is a privilege to be able to work at this field site. My research project is only possible due to the long-term field study of orangutans at Cabang Panti.



Amy Scott following Walimah at Cabang Panti Research Station.

My dissertation research focuses on the reproductive strategies of male and female orangutans. Reproductive strategies are a fundamental aspect of animal behavior because they impact the reproductive success (number of surviving offspring) of an individual, which is the currency of natural selection. The term 'reproductive strategy' is used to describe a suite of adaptive behaviors that are employed by individuals to increase mating and reproductive success. The reproductive strategies of male and female orangutans are often at odds with each other because the costs and benefits of social associations and mating differ for male and female orangutans. This is largely due to differences in parental care. Females invest a minimum of 7 years of time and energy (pregnancy, lactation, and parental care) in one offspring while males, on the other hand, do not provide any parental care. Because females invest so heavily in one offspring, they are selective about when and with whom they mate. Male orangutans, on the other hand, are often less selective, which is another source of conflict.



Bibi forages for ants, while her 3.5 year old son, Bayas, watches.

In order to better understand the conflict between male and female reproductive strategies in orangutans I will examine male-female social interactions, including matings. While following a male-female pair, I record the following measures of the social interaction: which individual leads and stops travel, which individual enters and leaves a fruit tree first, and which individual is responsible for lengthening and shorting the distance between the pair. These measures indicate whether the male or female controls an interaction or if the interaction is mutual. Combining these measures with feeding data and mating data will give us a better understanding of the costs and benefits of associations and reproductive strategies for male and female orangutans.

I also plan to perform genetic paternity analysis of infant orangutans born in the Cabang Panti Research Station. DNA for genetic paternity analysis is obtained non-invasively from fecal samples collected off of leaves and the forest floor after an orangutan defecates. Because orangutans are very slow reproducers (females don't have their first baby until age 15 and only have one baby every 6-8 years), it requires many years of fecal collection to have a large enough sample of offspring, mothers, and candidate fathers to conduct this analysis. Laboratory analysis will be carried out at The Eijkman Institute for Molecular Biology in Jakarta, Indonesia. My laboratory analysis is only possible because researchers at Cabang Panti have been collecting and preserving orangutan feces for a decade. Paternity data will show whether flanged or unflanged males have higher reproductive success and will help us to better understand 'flanging' as a male reproductive strategy and female preference for

certain males.



Berani, an adolescent female, and Bosman, an unflanged male, feeding in the same tree during a 5-day consort, or when a male and female travel together for several days.

Since orangutans are semi-solitary animals, I was not sure how much social data on male and female behavior I would be able to collect, but I have been very lucky. At Cabang Panti, adult female orangutans only spend about 10% of their time in social interactions with other adult orangutans. However, in the first three months of my field research, I have collected data on nine different male-female pairs and nine different matings. While this may not sound like a lot, it often takes a year of data collection to observe this many matings! I also recorded a rare behavior called 'tolerated food theft'. Tolerated food theft is when one orangutan takes a food item from another orangutan, and the victim does not protest.



In this video you see Berani (left) attempt to take a

Nessia fruit from Bosman (right) before successfully stealing the fruit. Photos and video credit Amy Scott.

One of the reasons that I have seen so many male-female interactions is that there are currently two females whose home ranges include the research station area. Berani, an adolescent, and Walimah, a young adult, do not currently have babies and are old enough to get pregnant. This age group of female orangutans is especially social and often has many mating sessions before conceiving, so it is an exciting time to be studying these male-female interactions. I am eager to see how many more interesting social interactions I will have the opportunity to see over the course of the next nine months!

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