

A woman wearing a dark purple hijab and a teal long-sleeved shirt is looking through black binoculars. She is holding the binoculars with both hands, and her head is tilted upwards. The background is a lush green forest with sunlight filtering through the trees.

2024 Impact Report

# ACTION BUILT ON TRUST



Borneo  
Nature  
Foundation



# CONTENTS

Trust, a conservation secret weapon.....	3
Our new brand strategy, mission and vision.....	4
Where we work.....	6
Connected conservation.....	8
Our team talks.....	9
Achievement, impact, stats, and stories .....	10
We Learn.....	11
We Protect.....	20
We Restore.....	30
We Inspire.....	39
Looking ahead.....	46
Thank you.....	47

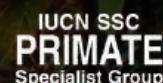
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# TRUST

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## **A conservation secret weapon.**

As we look back on the achievements of 2024, it's clear that the strength of our partnerships has been central to advancing our mission to protect Borneo's rainforests. We can't, and don't, do this alone.

Over the past 25 years, we have forged deep relationships with local communities, government, scientists, and supporters to tackle the urgent challenges that threaten Borneo's irreplaceable ecosystems. These relationships are built on mutual trust, creating an environment where collaboration flourishes and we feel empowered to make the bold decisions needed to learn, protect, restore, and inspire others.

This is how we have been able to help 25 communities protect their customary forests; restore thousands of hectares of drained and burned peatland; train and support dedicated community teams to extinguish forest fires and protect their families' health; provide education opportunities to Indonesia's conservationists of tomorrow; and work to protect thousands of endangered species and the carbon-rich forests they live in.

Our success is not solely measured by the hectares of rainforest we protect or the species we help safeguard, but by the trust we cultivate in every step of the journey. In the communities we serve, trust becomes a powerful catalyst for action, motivating individuals to become champions of conservation in their own right. The trust placed in us by our supporters, volunteers, and partners allows us to continuously innovate and scale our impact. The dedication of local people, the expertise of our field teams, and the commitment of our global supporters form a powerful force for lasting change; action that ensures that these ecosystems thrive for future generations.

Thank you to all that support our work, however that looks.

*Simon Husson, CEO Borneo Nature Foundation International*



# WE HAVE A NEW BRAND STRATEGY

In anticipation of a newly launched website (live May '25), we distilled our mission and vision and developed a new, central brand idea that rings true to our 25 years of conservation experience.

This is the essence of who we are, what we do, and why.



# OUR BELIEF

**We believe that everything - you, us, and tropical rainforest - is interconnected.**

# OUR MISSION

**We collaborate to protect Borneo's rainforest, one of the most important ecosystems on Earth, with science, community-led conservation, and education.**

# OUR VISION

**We do all this to help create a world where people and nature thrive.**



# WHERE WE WORK

Borneo, one of the largest islands on Earth, with one of the largest land stores of carbon. Here, thousands of species of flora and fauna are found (6% of all biodiversity on the planet); thousands of people live here, too, amongst huge swathes of primary tropical rainforest. This is why we chose to work here: an island with huge global impact, real climate relevance, and huge potential to protect and restore.





# SEBANGAU

568,700 ha

Sebangau is a vast tropical peat-swamp forest. Once heavily impacted from illegal logging, the forest is now a protected national park. We partner with the National Park, local communities, and NGOs to help restore this ecosystem and protect it from further damage. Here, you'll find the largest population of protected orangutans in the whole of Borneo - possibly the world.



# RUNGAN

180,000 ha

The Rungan landscape is unprotected. This area of Central Kalimantan in Indonesian Borneo faces many environmental pressures, from mining to river pollution, to monocrop plantations. The pressure is felt by both people and biodiversity. We work with communities here to undo the damage with reforestation, reclaim rights to the forest, and advise on how to manage it sustainably.

# BARITO ULU

16,670 ha

A pristine land of forest, mountains, cliffs, and valleys where every kind of plant, animal, and insect in Borneo can be found. A land where extractive industry is increasing, a land where conservation is growing to meet threats head on, with a network of communities, NGOs and universities all united in action.







# OUR CONNECTED CONSERVATION APPROACH

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We can't just plant trees, fight fires, or study biodiversity.

We do all three, and more, because everything is connected.

We join the dots between complex conservation challenges to create a web of action across many landscapes in Indonesian Borneo.

We call this our “connected conservation” approach.



# THE TEAM TALKS 2024

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*"Rapping for rainforest! Our education group, Sebangau Rangers, collaborated with 30 schools in Denmark to create a rap music video all about peat!"*

- Fuad, Education and Outreach



*"Visiting Borneo was unforgettable; connecting with my incredible colleagues, exploring a new rainforest landscape, and witnessing conservation in action made it a truly inspiring and enriching experience."*

- Lauren Vyvyan, Partnerships and Philanthropy Lead



*"Solid teamwork between the Indonesian and International comms team has made our brand story shine - we connected like never before!"*

- Vita , Communications Manager







# ACHIEVEMENTS, IMPACT & STORIES

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A man with a mustache, wearing a black cap and a high-visibility yellow-green vest over a grey shirt, is in a forest. He is looking up and to the right while adjusting a silver and black camera mounted on a tree trunk. The camera has a label that reads 'Lab of Ornithology for Conservation Research'. The background is a dense forest with green foliage and tree trunks.

# WE LEARN

**Science is at the core of all we do.**

It's how we started 25 years ago, fuelled by curiosity and passion for learning. We're internationally recognised for our science in many fields, from primate behaviour to peat science. What we're really proud of is the network we're building between universities, students, scientists, and indigenous communities. Together we're creating new approaches to protect nature and the climate as a whole. Knowledge is power and we're using it to drive our connected conservation approach each and every day.



# SCIENCE IMPACTS

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## 12 LIVE SCIENCE PROJECTS

from gibbon behaviour to phenology study, to the tracking of 5 wild cat species all form the foundation of our conservation.

## 9 LIVE UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

with renowned Indonesian and international institutions that strengthen and enhance our research capacity.

## 1 NEW ORANGUTAN HEALTH LAB

in peat swamp rainforest to help us truly understand local populations and translocated orangutans through parasite analysis and visual health checks.

## 1,903 HOURS OF PRIMATE DATA

to understand how key iconic species live in a climate-impacted peat swamp rainforest.

## 68 ACTIVE CAMERA TRAPS

monitoring the huge range of biodiversity found in the varying rainforest ecosystems we work in, to further cement the importance and impact of our work.



# THE HALF A MILLION HECTARE ORANGUTAN SURVEY

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## **There are many reasons why we work in Borneo.**

Each of our 100+ team has different drivers for dedicating their lives to conservation. For many of our supporters, however, it is indisputable; orangutans move them to act more than anything else. When most people think Borneo - they think orangutans. The fact that these incredible animals are critically endangered and need help is well known; this is something our connected conservation approach seeks to remedy.

There's a large number of orangutans living in the areas where we work. We've seen them, followed them, and studied them for 25 years. Having this proven in black and white, backed with accurate scientific data, further solidifies Borneo as the global home for orangutans. If we want to keep this species alive, which we must for rainforest and climate, we have to protect Borneo as a matter of urgency.

In 2024 we undertook a mammoth task, collaborating with Sebangau National Park to conduct a population survey spanning the 500,000ha. We supported the National Park teams with five "nest spotting experts" (orangutans make nests daily), encountering over 3,000 nests. This was over a distance of 92km of rainforest transects. Consolidating all the data from other project partners is ongoing and results are soon to be released. This project will help us to accurately estimate just how many orangutans are living in Sebangau National Park; 6,080 individuals is the previous estimate, a figure we believe is now too low. Proving this will give our efforts, and those of our partners, even more credibility and urgency.

**SPOILER ALERT: We think it could be the largest population of protected orangutans on the planet.**

A knock-on effect of this kind of study, a study that utilises ground-truthing, remote sensing, and satellite data, is that we have a fresh take on the forest makeup. New maps are being created to show a range of habitats and, reassuringly, over 70% of the national park is categorised as "good quality forest".

Healthy forest means healthy orangutans; and healthy orangutans have babies.

Note that our conservation strategy doesn't discriminate; all species are impacted by our approach but, it has to be said, we love orangutans. Their plight is ours too, their lives entangled with ours. Their DNA? Near identical. A love for orangutans is where this organisation started, 25 years ago, with a student research trip in Sebangau. We're now on the verge of completing one of the biggest orangutan population studies to date, where hard, irrefutable data will reinforce our work to protect these animals in any way we can. Simply put, the more orangutans found, the greater the need to protect their habitat.





***A juvenile orangutan climbing in  
search of food.***



# FACILITATING RESEARCH TO FIGHT THE MOST IMPORTANT FIRES ON EARTH

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**Peat fires impact our climate like no other, and as these globally impactful events increase in the world, the world of conservation acts.**

KaLi, a UKRI funded research initiative started in 2020, spearheaded a multi-faceted, rigorous research project to truly understand how and why these climate-critical fires take place and, more importantly, how they can be prevented.

A collaboration between multiple universities from Indonesia and the UK brought together natural and social sciences to gain a 360 degree understanding of drought and fires in Borneo. The legacy of this in-depth research will live on in climate action everywhere: in Borneo and beyond.

Central Kalimantan, where most of our conservation takes place, was the focal point of the research. This is where we were able to support Indonesian and international scientists with our experienced field teams and local insight. We helped coordinate stakeholder meetings in the area with communities and businesses; this ensures that the data gathered considered the right and relevant parties, looked at many angles, and that the local and cultural norms were respected and embraced.

Gathering data, on the surface, can seem clinical, but it requires real human, interpersonal skills to ensure the data is authentic and the best it can be. Our 25 years' experience working with local people made us a significant partner in supporting this project, reinforcing the data's value. This, as well as the all-important housing, transport, and catering, to fuel researchers and get them into the field.

*"Working with Borneo Nature Foundation on the KaLi project, I saw firsthand how pairing local knowledge with the right tools can unlock lasting conservation impact"*

Sorcha Hayden-Guppy, Key Researcher, University of Exeter

*"BNF have been invaluable – they have been our go-to, facilitating access to groups. They're interested in sustainability in this area, and they have an ear to the ground."*

Dr Rory Padfield, Associate Professor in Sustainability and Business, University of Leeds

The impact of this collaboration is huge. It creates an indisputable body of evidence, not only about the cause of these fires and their effects, but the steps needed to prevent these fires from ever starting. When we collaborate with world leading universities and promote science-based action, we strengthen the credibility of our conservation work globally. This reinforces global acceptance that what we do does work and, as you'll witness in this report, it does.





***The fires in 2015 were a catalyst for action  
to protect peat-swamp rainforest.***



# AN ORANGUTAN LAB IN THE HEART OF PEAT-SWAMP FOREST

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**Borneo is home to one of the world's largest protected populations of Orangutans... simply knowing their numbers is one thing, but what about their health?**

Right now, one of the biggest threats to orangutans beyond habitat loss is the lack of information we have about them. We don't know much about their age, health, origins, diseases or any parasites present - but we will and we must.

*Enter the Orangutan Health Project...*

The Orangutan Health Project will help us better understand the health of orangutans, enabling us to safeguard their future in the rainforests of Borneo. With a long-term health monitoring programme, we'll investigate the impact that a continually changing environment has on their lives. We'll use this data to create new approaches to protecting a species so integral to both forest health and, of course, planet health.

We have set up a laboratory in the peat-swamp rainforest of Sebangau National Park to support this study, complete with solar fridge, centrifuge, microscopes and digital scales to bolster our science and assist with our analysis of samples.

This project will become a central aspect of our orangutan-focussed activity over the next few years, reach out to protect their future with us.

## TOP SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS IN 2024

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[Tropical field stations yield high conservation return on investment.](#)

[Gastrointestinal parasites of wild Bornean orang-utans \(\*Pongo pygmaeus\*\) in a habitat affected by wildfire smoke.](#)

[Impacts of fire and prospects for recovery in a tropical peat forest ecosystem.](#)

[Communicating conservation: Evidence of knowledge gains through a children's conservation club in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia.](#)

[Wind dispersed tree species have greater maximum height.](#)

[The power of gibbon songs: Going beyond the research to inform conservation](#)



# HAVE YOU SEEN THESE CATS?

**Rungan is the only place where all five of Borneo's native wild cat species have been recorded; with that said, nobody really knows all that much about them.**

These felines are elusive, understudied and endangered - the latter being something we want to remedy.

Through our ongoing camera trapping projects and social studies with communities, we're building a better picture of the lives of these animals, including:

- Bay Cat
- Sunda Leopard Cat
- Sunda Clouded Leopard
- Marbled Cat
- Flat-Headed Cat

The 68 camera traps we have in place right now are spread around an area of 4,134ha. Trips to gather camera trap data happen roughly every 3 months; what we find on them is always a surprise.

This collected data fits into our wider study on forest health:

- We know that mining pollution is impacting river fish stock and the animals (and people) that rely on them.
- We know that wildfires restrict roaming areas and the availability of prey.
- We know that community engagement is key in creating understanding of how important these creatures are, to limit fear of wildcats.

And we know that if we're able to protect these animals, there will be a positive knock-on effect for all species everywhere - including humans.



bay cat



Sunda leopard cat



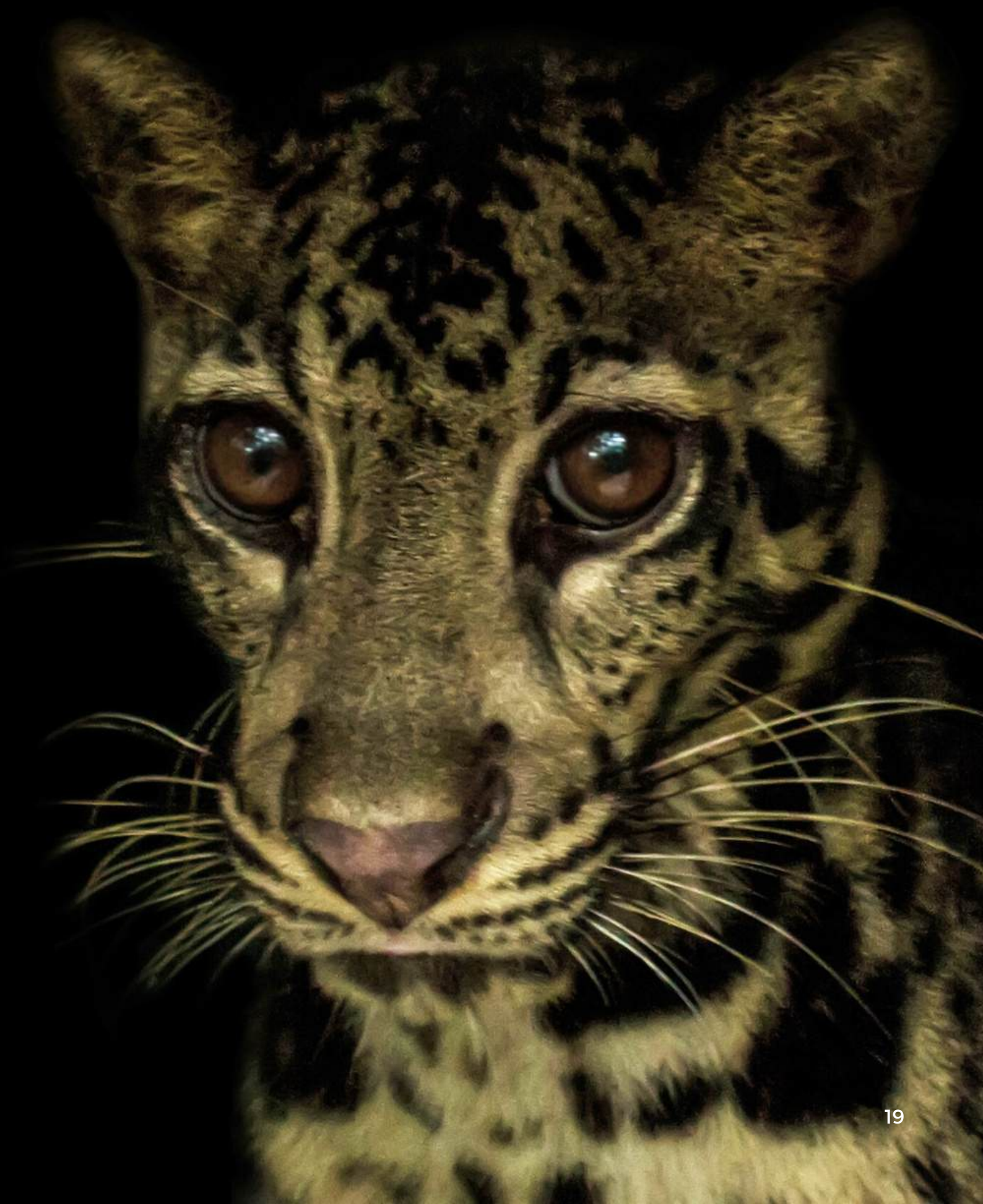
marbled cat



flat headed cat



*a rare image of the sunda clouded leopard cat captured on camera*





An aerial photograph of a vast tropical rainforest. In the center, there is a large, irregularly shaped cleared area, possibly a logging site or a reservoir, with a light brown, sandy or silty surface. The surrounding forest is dense and green, stretching towards the horizon under a sky filled with large, white, fluffy clouds. The text 'WE PROTECT' is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on the left side of the image.

# WE PROTECT

## **We need nature.**

With decades of exploitation and industrial activity impacting our climate, our lives, we must all help undo what has been done.

We help protect rainforest in clear, direct ways, from firefighting and forest patrols to sustainable livelihood programmes that ease pressure on the forest. We support communities to secure land and protect it legally. These communities are embedded in our organisation; they make up our field teams, drivers, technicians, and directors. They are people on the frontline of the climate crisis, bearing the brunt of fires, smoke, river pollution, land grabs, and food insecurity. These people, our best hope in undoing the damage, are protecting the future of Earth each and every day.



# HABITAT PROTECTION IMPACTS

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## ZERO FOREST LOSS

preparation, habitat conservation and cooler weather systems have minimised fire risks in 2024, resulting in no significant fire damage in the areas where we work.

## 520 FOREST PATROLS

have increased our awareness of activity in the forest and opportunities to engage communities about conservation action in and around their home.

## 1 NEW FIREFIGHTING TEAM

equipped, trained and ready to respond - part of a network of 139 rainforest firefighters.

## 3 VILLAGES SECURE LAND RIGHTS

creating an additional 1,631ha of legally protected rainforest.

## 15 BUSINESSES BACKED WITH SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

to ease pressure on the forest, creating a green economy and financial security. 21





# ZERO FIRES



# STRONG COMMUNITIES WEAKEN FIRE RISKS

**We are delighted to report that there was no significant fire damage across any of our working areas throughout 2024.**

If you're familiar with our work, you know that firefighting is a core activity that involves training, preparation, patrolling, and fighting flames in difficult to access, remote peat-swamp rainforest. These aren't your regular wildfires; we battle peat-fires that burn deep underground, releasing huge amounts of toxic smoke. Pure peat carbon burns, impacting life not just in Borneo but globally, with hundreds of millions of tonnes of planet-impacting carbon being emitted.

Increasingly hot dry seasons, exacerbated by changing weather systems, can fuel these fires, but in 2024 these systems weren't active. This neutral, low-risk year meant no damage, alongside our habitat restoration efforts that have helped fireproof the once wet peat-swamp rainforest.

There are now 9 community firefighting teams with 139 active firefighters constantly training, preparing, and patrolling in the forest or in the villages close by, with only 46 very minor calls outs logged. 520 patrols took place, around 90 per month in the dry season. A new community firefighting team was trained and equipped, stationed in the village of Sabaru - having a team like this increases the resilience of a community's resistance against fires.



*Peat fires burn underground; even when you think they have been put out they can soon ignite again. Our firefighting teams nickname them "zombie fires".*



A firefighting team's presence alone in villages creates fire safety awareness; firefighters act as a safe point of contact, a port of call for unfolding threats or observations by the wider community. This kind of visibility creates its own kind of fire-proofing and is not to be underestimated. Firefighters globally are figureheads in the community, sharing advice and support to help mitigate fires, preventing them from starting at all.

Zero fire damage is worth celebrating. We know that through the web of connected conservation that we are creating, rainforest and the people that rely on it, all people, benefit. 2024 bucks the trend: fires are increasing globally and this will continue as temperatures rise. This means that now, more than ever, resilience and preparedness is key in combatting fires, especially in these climate-critical, carbon rich landscapes.

Firefighting is truly heroic work. Our teams fight fires to protect their villages, their way of life, and their culture but, of course, their actions benefit the wider global climate. These fires are undoubtedly some of the most significant on the planet. We will increase the number and capacity of our firefighting teams into the future, making sure they are ready to defend rainforest and ready to face the flames head on.



***Fires impact everyday life everywhere, in Borneo and beyond.***





# SUPPORTING THE LARGEST CUSTOMARY FOREST IN INDONESIA

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# SMALL MEETINGS, BIG LAND RIGHTS WINS

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**Conservation doesn't always look like firefighting and reforestation, sometimes conservation looks like a meeting of minds, acts of listening, sharing and supporting.**

Social forestry is a prime example of our collaborative mission in action. The Indonesian government's Social Forestry scheme grants communities the legal right to manage their forests how they see fit, without relying on extractive industries. We work with villages to establish community-managed forests across the Rungan landscape by focussing on providing legal and technical support. In short, we help people secure land rights and advise on sustainable forest management practices as alternatives to selling up to mining companies or industrial agriculture.

We've continued to support the Rungan Customary Forest Indigenous Group after it made history in 2023 by securing the future of the biggest customary forest (one of five social forestry certification types) ever made. The full ownership of 5,416ha of forest belongs to indigenous communities spanning three villages. Meetings matter and open communication has led to this conservation impact.

We kickstarted four more villages with the process of applying for protected area rights. These four proposals have been successfully submitted to the Social Forestry and Environmental Partnerships Agency and will hopefully result in nearly 2,500ha more forest being legally protected. This would bring the total number of groups supported by Borneo Nature Foundation to 33 villages protecting around 35,000ha of land throughout the Rungan area.

Once these permits are issued, we provide further support for communities to create Social Forestry Management Plans, supporting sustainable businesses and helping to create new ones such as ecotourism, honey production, or Kratom and Moringa farms.

These initiatives are crucial for creating real economic resilience in vulnerable communities. They give power to communities: the opportunity to grow and develop, and to keep the forest that they live in and rely on intact and healthy. All with a view to creating a recognised conservation area that benefits both people and nature in Borneo and beyond.



A large, semi-transparent green image of an adult orangutan and a baby orangutan sitting on a thick tree branch. The background is a blurred forest scene with green foliage and a blue sky. The text 'THE RUNGAN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR' is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font on the left side of the image.

# THE RUNGAN WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

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Land rights initiatives in Rungan will help create protected, connected areas of rainforest that act as a wildlife corridor. By linking this mosaic of land we create opportunities for biodiversity to thrive particularly that of wide ranging wildlife like orangutans and wild cats; and of course protected rainforest directly benefits the people that call this area home and the wider global climate.



**THIS IS WHAT CONSERVATION  
LOOKS LIKE**

Social forestry community meeting.

**AND THIS**

Ecotourism adventure sports.

**AND THIS.**

Honey bee cultivation.



# AWARD WINNING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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**We support rural, indigenous communities to develop new streams of sustainable income, a green economy alternative beyond extractive timber or industrial agriculture. These are businesses that celebrate the forest, easing pressure on it for future generations.**

We have been focussing on connecting 478 entrepreneurial community members to create a union that lifts all parties up, increasing selling power and building support across 13 villages. We're not here to hold hands but to empower people to make their own decisions and control their own destiny, however that looks, with the health of the forest front of mind.

These businesses include:

- Ecotourism
- Agrotourism
- Fish farming
- Growing moringa
- Food forests
- Growing kratom
- Growing lemongrass
- Honey production
- Rattan weaving

We don't just do this work, we win awards for it. In August 2024 the Ministry of Forestry recognised our work for community development, awarding us a certificate presented to us by the Minister of Environment in Boyolali, Central Java.







# WE RESTORE

**Habitat restoration is our chance to put things right.**

Our work aims to balance forest health and benefit biodiversity by undoing the damage done. This work reunites people as guardians of nature; a reciprocal relationship that we all depend on. These projects are longterm; they need to be. Some, like damming, change ecosystems instantly. Reforestation takes time. Together, with the right backing and support, we can turn the forests into healthier places, healthy for all species everywhere, including humans.



# RESTORATION IMPACT

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## WORK AREA GREW BY 322,294ha

more than doubled; double the opportunities to restore.

## 96 FIREPROOFING DAMS BUILT

bringing the total to 991 across a huge network of illegal ex-logging transport canals.

## 176,746 SEEDLINGS PLANTED

exceeding 2023's planting total, bringing us closer to our one million trees target.

## 252ha REFORESTED

helping transform severely burnt areas of rainforest back into healthy ecosystems.

## 5 NEW COMMUNITY NURSERIES

increasing the capacity for growing seedlings by 25%.



An aerial photograph of a dense, lush green forest with many trees, serving as the background for the text.

# MONEY CAN'T BUY TRUST

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Trust can't be outsourced, AI'd, or gleaned from a computer and yet it is essential for long-term relationships and ethical conservation impact.



# TRUST: THE REASON WHY WE NOW WORK IN ALL THREE ZONES OF SEBANGAU NATIONAL PARK

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**Gaining trust is a holistic, slow process that is crucial in any successful collaboration, be it conservation or otherwise. We continue to earn the trust of communities, partners, and the Indonesian government to do what we do best: protect and restore rainforest.**

In 2024 we were granted permission to run conservation projects in the largest zone of Sebangau National Park, zone 3. Even more opportunity to protect, replant, restore and to study. Naturally, we're rising to the challenge and will put into motion conservation action that benefits peat swamp rainforest, biodiversity, local people and the global climate as a whole.

The new agreement is a sign of the deepening relationships we have built between local and regional government agencies, something that comes from proving time and time again that our work does good, is done ethically, and is of a high standard.

We know that with great trust comes great responsibility; new partners will need to step forward, current partners will need to step up. We have projects on the table, ready for backing, projects that build on our 25 years' experience working in these landscapes.





A photograph of two men building a wooden dam in a forest stream. One man, wearing a red cap and a blue t-shirt with 'faDi' and 'Jarida - soDina' on the back, is crouched on a log, working on the dam structure. The other man, wearing a grey t-shirt, is crouched in the water, also working on the dam. The dam is made of large wooden logs and planks. The background is a lush green forest with many trees and plants.

# GIVE A DAM ABOUT RAINFOREST

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**We build dams, good dams, dams that restore peat swamp rainforest.**

Illegal logging redefines entire landscapes and not just through the extraction of trees; logging in the peat swamp forests of Sebangau resulted in a huge network of canals cut into the peat to float logs out. This has changed the hydrology of the forest, draining it, drying it out, making it highly susceptible to fires. We dam these canals to reflood the forest, protecting massive amounts of peat carbon by reducing risk of fires.

We gave a dam(n) about rainforest in 2024, building 96 dams along channels on several key rivers, bringing the total constructed to 991. Damming begins to flood the forest instantly, undoing the damage and protecting the peat. 775 football pitches' worth of climate balancing peat has been rewetted by dams, 7,500ha to date.

We've set ourselves up nicely for 2025 with our successful Big Give campaign, *Give a dam about rainforest*, bringing in an additional £20,000 for dam building.

See the campaign film [here](#).





*A still from shooting our 'Give A Dam' campaign film.*



# HOW TO REFLOOD A RAINFOREST

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**STEP ONE: CONSULT COMMUNITIES AND  
THE NATIONAL PARK, CLEAR CANALS.**



**STEP TWO: TRANSPORT MATERIALS  
TO SITE.**



**STEP THREE: DAM WITH SUSTAINABLE  
MATERIALS AND NATIVE TREES THEN  
WATCH THE FOREST FLOOD.**



**STEP FOUR: MONITOR  
RESULTS, REPEAT.**







2024 UPDATE

# ONE MILLION TREES



# UNDOING WILDFIRE DAMAGE WITH 176,000 COMMUNITY-GROWN, NATIVE, FOREST-HEALING SEEDLINGS

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**Our one million trees project aims to do just that, plant one million trees in severely burnt areas of peat swamp rainforest to undo decades of illegal deforestation and rampant wildfires - and we're well over halfway there.**

As you know, not all tree planting is created equal. This project, with 615,977 trees in the ground to date, spanning 743ha, really is like no other. Think hardcore conditions in remote areas requiring military precision, close collaboration and planning; this isn't tree planting but *extreme planting*.

Extreme effort reaps extreme rewards; from seed to sapling, planting to monitoring, we're seeing great results from reforestation in the face of many challenges. Extreme El Niño-induced droughts followed by followed by heavy rainy seasons add pressure on planting during an already short window of time each year, but our teams are rising to the challenge, ensuring quality planting is valued over quantity alone.

Sourcing the saplings, locally grown and native species only of course, has not been an issue. In 2024 we established another five new community nurseries, bringing the total to 20, a 33% capacity increase. This means a maximum planting stock of well over 200,000 seedlings per year, whilst creating sustainable income for 52 families and invaluable community engagement opportunities. As always, communities living in rainforest are at the centre of our conservation approach; their dedication continues to inspire us.

The work doesn't stop after planting of course; we'll monitor a sample of the 252ha of reforested land in 2024 to help us improve our approach for five years. This strategy has already helped us increase the survival rates across different ecosystems. As well as this, we conduct field research to find new suitable sites to reforest, and there are plenty of them.

**As we approach the one million tree milestone, rest assured - we won't stop planting trees.**





# WE INSPIRE

We connect people to rainforest to inspire the next generation of conservation leaders, leaders that nature needs more than ever. From field trips to after-school clubs, to rainforest festivals, right up to university scholarships. We support young people aged 5 to 25 to transform a love for nature into long-term action.

This intersection of education and action is crucial; by doing this we lay the foundations for conservation to continue into the future. We bring new people into the fold, local and indigenous people especially. We fill the eco-education gaps in schools, community centres, at events and online through social media. We want to ensure the wave of care for our planet and all those that share it grows bigger and bigger every year.



# OUTREACH IMPACT

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## 542 FUTURE ECO LEADERS ENGAGED

through field trips, guest workshops at schools, talks, games and more.

## 1 DANISH ECO RAP TRACK

yes, you read that right, we united students from Indonesia and Denmark to fuel conservation awareness of peat swamp rainforest with a rap music video.

## 91 PEAT SWAMP FIELD TRIPS

these trips directly connect students with the nature just a short boat ride away and help make their learning engaging and memorable.

## 11 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

making further education a possibility for 31 students to date, and ensuring more local people with key insight and cultural understanding are part of the conservation movement.

## 250,000+ PEOPLE REACHED

a rather conservative figure but a figure we can prove through events, web traffic, email content and social media campaigns.





**THE FUTURE CONSERVATION LEADERS OF THE WORLD  
LIVE IN PALANGKARAYA, BORNEO**



# BRIDGING THE ECO-EDUCATION GAPS IN ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ISLANDS ON EARTH

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## **Nature is right outside our front door.**

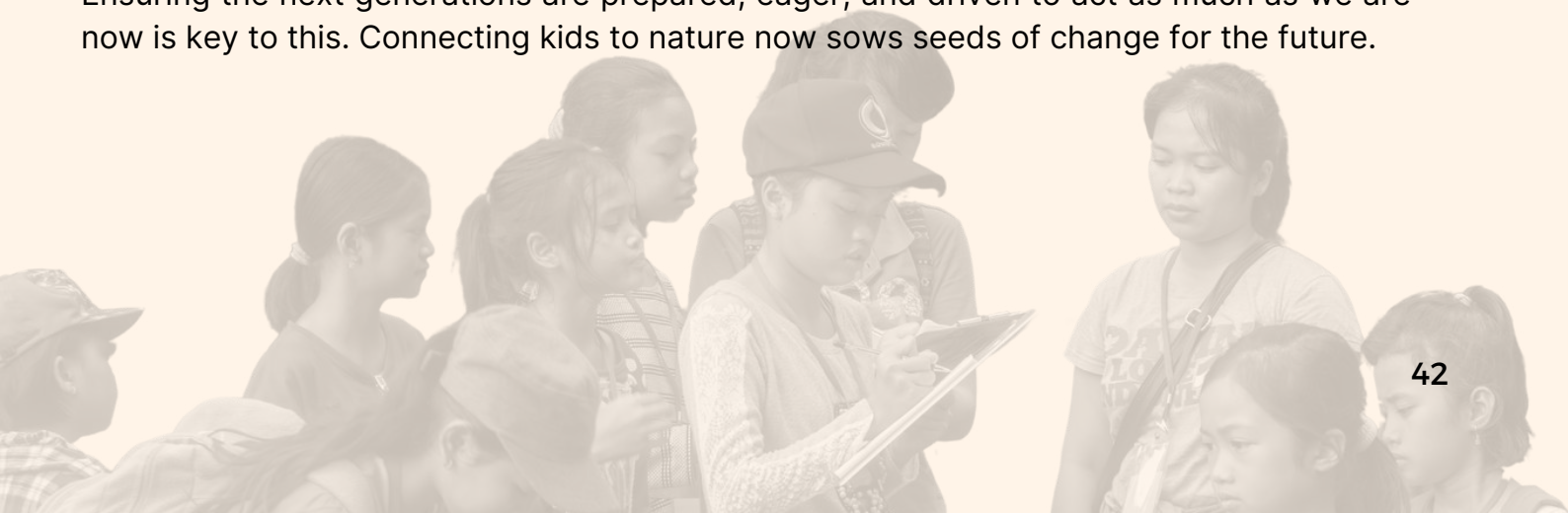
It's not a far away place and yet many of us lack a real connection to it, let alone understand its current state and what it needs. Not the young people of Palangkaraya though; they know more than most about the importance of protecting Earth, through our education and outreach projects.

In 2024 we increased activities to inspire care, commitment and careers in conservation, all to create the next wave of conservation leaders. This included our longstanding Anak Sebangau and Sebangau Rangers after-school clubs where the natural world becomes the crux of learning. From maths to science to art, music and dance, we create spaces for awe-inducing learning and expression. We take these experiences to local schools and religious groups in the area, too, increasing our reach, network, and care for the environment.

*We genuinely believe that everyone has the potential to make a real difference to our planet, and we plan to nurture them to the greatness that the future of Earth needs.*

We don't just hope that this impacts conservation, we know it. We've seen the hundreds of young people participating in after-school clubs grow in confidence, grow their knowledge, and go on to pursue further education in science-based fields at university. There is a distinct eco-education gap globally, not just in Indonesia, and initiatives like ours that connect kids to nature remedy this issue in unique ways - far beyond the classroom.

We're celebrating 25 years of conservation in 2025, an achievement yes, but 25 years is the blink of an eye for nature; undoing the damage to it requires long-term action. Ensuring the next generations are prepared, eager, and driven to act as much as we are now is key to this. Connecting kids to nature now sows seeds of change for the future.





# ANAK SEBANGAU: A FESTIVAL FOR RAINFOREST

The grand finale of our education programme each year is the Anak Sebangau Festival. In 2024 it was a celebration of our students' hard work and creativity expressed through theatre, song and dance.

Exhibitions, games, workshops, poetry readings and speeches, even a quiz, gave parents opportunities to learn and connect with the rainforest too.

In 2024 we saw 500 people attend including the local mayor, heads of local villages, and press.

This year's theme, *"The forest is my home"* is fitting. The event happens in the village of Kereng, at the doorway to the national park. You can see the forest expand across the horizon as you stand on the river bank, a forest that the kids now know well, thanks to field trips and classes.

*"I hope that this activity will not only introduce the natural wealth of Sebangau to the younger generation, but also instill the responsibility to preserve the environment in their hands as the next generation."*

- Ahmad Husaini, Acting Mayor of Palangkaraya





# SCHOLARSHIPS CLEAR THE SMOKE FOR CAREERS IN SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION

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**It's obvious that the world needs more scientists, more environmentally aware leaders, and more conservation action.**

"In 25 years who will be here to do this job of protecting Borneo?", we asked ourselves as we approach our 25th anniversary. We know that whilst there will always be people fighting to protect Earth, there is a huge opportunity to increase that desire and help young people today leapfrog the barriers to further education.

For many young people in Palangkaraya, university isn't on their radar; the financial implications and cultural barriers stand in the way, but through engagement with science and conservation these barriers can be lifted. When young people see scientists that look like them, from the same backgrounds, and are shown that their love for nature can actually help protect it, change can happen.

We run several scholarships that enable just that. We support special students that show real promise and an interest in conservation, all the way through our education programmes and right through university.

We're proud to report that six new students were backed to study environmental degrees at the University of Palangkaraya and three at University Muhammadiyah. A further two students have been supported to conduct research projects at our sites in the rainforest. We do this to not only level the playing field and improve accessibility, but to improve conservation as a whole. It is crucial to have local, skilled people leading action in rainforest; this creates the local leadership we need for effective, ethical work.

The development of our scholarships, 31 of which have already been awarded to date, is an important part of our approach to tackle the root causes of conservation issues. This ensures that indigenous young people, who may otherwise not be able to afford to study conservation-related subjects, can qualify and enter the sector as the next generation of professional environmentalists.



# EVENTS, BORNEO AND BEYOND

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**We are an Indonesian organisation engaging and participating in events around the world.**

In 2024 we attended 100+ events where we shared stories, research, amplified indigenous voices and entertained, combining culture and conservation; here's just a few key places where we took Borneo Nature Foundation to new audiences:

- Asian Primate Symposium, Sumatra, Indonesia
- International Primate Day, Barcelona Zoo, Spain
- International peat congress Taizhou, China
- Oxford Brooks Science Bazaar, Oxford, UK
- European Federation for Primatology, Lausanne, Switzerland
- Picture for Nature, Cusset, France
- Barcelona High School Lecture, Barcelona, Spain
- EAZA Gibbon Taxon Advisory Group Annual Meeting, Online
- Half-term event, Shaldon Zoo, UK
- Green River Valley Festival, Vains, France
- Lakeside School Online Workshop w/Bumblegreen
- Media Gathering, Palangkaraya, Indonesia
- Sebangau Biodiversity Festival, Palangkaraya, Indonesia
- Le Rêve de l'Aborigène, Lyon, France
- Verdant Brewery X Heavy Friends Vinyl Night, Penryn, UK
- Awesome Islands Workshop, Newquay Zoo, UK





# LOOKING AHEAD

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## Dream with us.

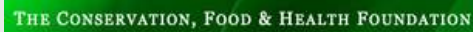
Trust continues to be a foundation for real conservation impact. Science of course is central, too, but the human touch, the eye contact, the quiet understanding and hard won handshakes, far outweigh the value of cold, hard data. Combined it's a true force for change. Trust and science allow us to carry out the growing scope of projects that not only undo the damage to rainforest in Borneo but help create new, sustainable, even hopeful futures for it and the people that call it home - including my team and I.

We work hard, tremendously so, but in 2025 we'll make time to celebrate too. 25 years of action is a true measure of commitment and passion. 25 years, whilst a blink of an eye for nature, is a lifetime of dedication. My colleagues, and myself, rarely think about the duration of time spent in rainforest, in meetings, pitching, planting, fighting to protect and restore rainforest - it is our life's work, our everyday. With that said, I like a party, and sometimes that's just what we need to ignite a new period of determination and drive to do even more incredible things.

So, taking stock of 25 years, rallying - not just around our achievements - but what we can make possible in the future, will be central to our celebration. *What does the future of Borneo's rainforest look like?* Dreaming of a rainforest utopia, ecosystems that benefit people and nature, on the surface can seem futile, out of touch even, but dreaming is step one in anything worthwhile - so dream with us. You know what we are capable of when we connect with communities and partners and people just like you; you've seen it detailed in the pages of this report... so, *what do you think is possible for the rainforests of Borneo if we continue to act together? Let us know.*



# THANK YOU TO OUR CONSERVATION COLLABORATORS







# MORE TREES, PLEASE

**Stop reading about our work, start funding it.**

We want to increase our planting projects in celebration of our 25 years of conservation action, especially with more community nurseries sowing, growing and nurturing around 200,000 saplings a year - get in touch.

[borneonaturefoundation.org](http://borneonaturefoundation.org)



