



MEMO

August 19, 2024

TO: Editors and Journalists

RE: Rainforest Trust Celebrates International Orangutan Day by working to save 179,000 Acres for Orangutans in Indonesia

This year on International Orangutan Day, [Rainforest Trust is working to protect critical habitat in Indonesia](#) for the Critically Endangered Bornean Orangutan.

Orangutans are large, arboreal mammals found in rainforests of Borneo and Sumatra. These primates—Asia’s only great ape—spend nearly all of their life in trees, building nests, sleeping, and swinging amongst the forest canopy.

Indonesia’s disappearing rainforests are the final stand for the Critically Endangered Bornean Orangutan and other struggling species. Asia’s only great ape faces a projected 82% decline in its global population by 2025 as expanding agriculture wipes out prime habitat and illegal hunting further decimates its remaining populations.

Protecting the Bornean Orangutan’s vital habitat in the Labian-Laboyan corridor has been an ongoing priority for years. Surveys from 2023 show steep population declines—with just 202 individuals in the adjacent Danau Sentarum National Park to the south and a further 71 within the southern corridor. This Rainforest Trust project is essential to connecting habitat as populations plunge.

Rainforest Trust and local partner Yayasan Sangga Bumi Lestari are working together to support the designation of 179,000 acres of Customary Forests. This designation by the Indonesian government formally recognizes ownership and rights of Indigenous Peoples to manage and shield ancestral lands against commercial-scale logging, mining, illegal hunting, and other threats endangering vulnerable wildlife like the Bornean Orangutan.

To learn more about Rainforest Trust, visit www.rainforesttrust.org.

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About Rainforest Trust

Since 1988, Rainforest Trust has been working with partners to safeguard imperiled tropical habitats and endangered species by helping to establish protected areas in partnership with Indigenous and local organizations and communities. To date, Rainforest Trust has helped protect more than 52 million acres of vital habitat across Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and the Asia-Pacific region. Rainforest Trust is a nonprofit organization that relies upon the generous support of the public to successfully implement its important conservation action. The organization is proud of earning a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. Learn more about the work of Rainforest Trust by visiting RainforestTrust.org, [X \(Twitter\)](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), or [LinkedIn](#).

