COLLABORATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR ORANGUTAN CONSERVATION IN DANAU SENTARUM NATIONAL PARK.

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The Danau Sentarum National Park is a wetland of interconnected lakes surrounded by peat swamp forest in the upper Kapuas river basin, which is the most critical habitat remaining for Pongo pygmaeus pygmaeus in West Kalimantan, Indonesia. The park and surrounding forest area is threatened, primarily by rapid conversion to oil palm plantation followed by poaching, forest fires and illegal logging. It is predicted that at the current rate of habitat loss, the Bornean orangutan will be extinct by 2050 (Meijaard and Wich, 2007). FFI, Yayasan Titian and Yayasan Riak Bumi in cooperation with Park Management units have agreed to develop an orangutan conservation program in this area. The purpose of this program is to build orangutan conservation activities in collaboration and with full participation of customary communities living in the Danau Sentarum area. One of the main objectives of the program was to reduce poaching and illegal logging, which threatens the orangutan population in the area. Two units of the orangutan protection and monitoring unit called Satuan Pengamanan Intensif/SPI (Intensive Protection Unit), were established to patrol and monitor the park. Each SPI consists of one park ranger and 3 local community members who spend 15-20 days per month on regular patrol. We present results of this collaborative law enforcement effort and the challenges faced by the orangutan conservation movement in the Danau Sentarum Area.

Keywords: Orangutan, Danau Sentarum, Conservation, Law Enforcement