

HABITAT RESTORATION IN A LOGGED AREA FOR ORANGUTAN CONSERVATION

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The orangutan is the only great ape living in Asia, on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo, classified as Endangered (*Pongo pygmaeus*) and Critically Endangered (*Pongo Abellii*) in the IUCN Red List. To date, orangutan populations have been in severe decline, as almost 90% of orangutan habitat has now disappeared and, if there is no dramatic effort to protect orangutans by reducing forest fragmentation, deforestation and poaching, then the species may be extinct in the wild by the year 2020. PT RHOI (Indonesian Orangutan Habitat Restoration) established in 2009 by the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation, aims to restore 86,450 ha of logged forest areas in East Kalimantan, Indonesia. This is to provide a home for the ex-captive orangutans from Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (Wanariset Orangutan Reintroduction Project), which has more than 200 orangutans that are waiting to be released in suitable and secure habitat. The released animals are expected to be able to establish a self-sustaining population. Moreover, it will also to achieve the commitment of the Indonesian government, in the Strategic and Action Plan of Indonesia Orangutan Conservation 2007-2017, which aimed also to implement successfully the rehabilitation and reintroduction of orangutans. Habitat restoration activities will be highlighted in this paper, emphasizing the activities and roles of participants for restoring the forest for the reintroduction of orangutans.

Keywords: Habitat, Restoration, Orangutan, Conservation