

POPULATION, DISTRIBUTION AND CONSERVATION STATUS OF ORANGUTAN (*Pongo pygmaeus wurmbii*) IN KETAPANG, WEST KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA

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Forest in Ketapang district, West Kalimantan, Borneo Indonesia is one of the important areas for the orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) conservation. Their existence is threatened by habitat loss due to the rapid deforestation for plantation (i.e. oil palm), forest degradation due to the rampant activities of illegal loggers as well as hunting for pets and local consumption of its meat. Unfortunately, the current protection and conservation efforts of orangutan in Ketapang are lacking so that the population continues to be reduced. This project aims to identify and protect the remaining orangutan habitat in Ketapang as well as to assess and review the population size and distribution across the Ketapang landscape. A total of nine sites were subjected to detailed orangutan surveys, namely Bukit Perai forest block, Pematang Gadung forest block, Hulu Jelai forest block (including ISK oilpalm), Riam Berasap Jaya customary forest, Kuala Satong peat forest, Kuala Tolak peat forest, Sungai Puteri peat forest block, Gunung Tarak Protection forest, and the Suka Jaya Makmur (SJM) logging concession. The preliminary result shows that the orangutan population at the nine surveyed locations is relatively high. Based on our survey, a total number of 1,975 individual is estimated for eight sites, with an average density of 1.57 individuals/km². Using these survey results, priority areas for orangutan protection and conservation have been identified for submission to the local government of Ketapang.

Keywords: Conversion, Landscape, Restoration, Corridor