

Foto : Saipul Siagian

Location : PT Suka Jaya Makmur Concession

# Conserving Orangutans in Bornean Forest Concession

Today, Bornean Orangutans are threatened by extinction. The World Conservation Union (IUCN, 2002) classifies the Bornean Orangutan, including sub species of *Pongo pygmaeus wurmbii* as an endangered species. The biggest threat to orangutan is destruction of their natural habitat by forest conversion for agriculture, plantations, mining sites and housing areas and logging. PT Suka Jaya Makmur (SJM), a natural forest concession company located in West Kalimantan, a member of Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN) Indonesia with a total area cover of 171,340 ha. Based on survey conducted by WWF Indonesia in 2010, PT SJM has an estimated of orangutan population between 619 – 672 individuals. GFTN-Indonesia together with the WWF Indonesia Species program is working with the PT SJM to develop the orangutan management plan to ensure that the company and the orangutans population can coexist in harmony indefinitely in to the future. On January 2010, GFTN-Indonesia and team of experts consisted of botanical expert, orangutan expert, and WWF-Indonesia GIS staffs were conducted survey on orangutan population and distribution in southern and northern parts of PT SJM concession. The field research was supported by documentation activity where the end result would be a documenter film and orangutan management plan to complete HCVF (High Conservation Value Forest) action toward company's effort to achieve FSC forest certification. This is the first time in Indonesia that we are aware of, that a company will incorporate conservation activity within their management plan ensuring that the conservation activity is integrated with production activity of the company. Among the actions within the management plan is the incorporation of protecting trees that are the food source of the orangutan, ensuring not to log in the area with high population of orangutan and collaboration with the company to enforce no poaching within the concession area. With this successful pilot it will pave the way for more conservation actions outside of protected area's as it is interesting that more orangutan population are living outside the protected areas.

Hundreds of orangutan nests, both old and new home, were found inside the concession during the research as well as direct observation to some orangutan individuals. GFTN-Indonesia and the research team are very optimistic about the result of this exploration. By understanding the population, distribution and ecology of orangutans and their habitat suitability, it is easier for WWF and Alas Kusuma to preserve their existence while supporting sustainable forest management without damaging the company's business. Therefore, the intended harmony between company and orangutan will arise. In the near future, GFTN-Indonesia will engage with two more companies who have similar potential values, PT Wanasokan and PT Sari Bumi Kusuma (in West Kalimantan) which also under Alas Kusuma Group. With this group we will continue this collaboration to conduct similar approaches in this Rongga Perai area to establish the "Alas Kusuma Orangutan Corridor"

## About *Pongo pygmaeus wurmbii*

*P.p.wurmbii* is the most numerous orangutan sub species in Borneo compared other two sub species, *P.p.pygmaeus* and *P.p.morio* with estimate total population of 34,975 individuals (Wich, et. al., 2008). Most of these population spread in Central Kalimantan and represented by the largest populations such as those in Sebangau National Park, Tanjung Puting National Park and Arut Belantikan areas which all support 6000 individuals. In West Kalimantan the population occur in Gunung Palung National Park, Bukit Baka, and Rongga-Perai areas. Perai protected forest is located within P.T Suka Jaya Makmur concession. Together with Rongga areas, Bukit Rongga-Perai areas estimated has 1000 individuals orangutan.

## About PT Suka Jaya Makmur



PT Suka Jaya Makmur (SJM) is a forest concession located in Ketapang, West Kalimantan with the total area of 171,340 Ha. SJM is part of Jakarta based Alas Kusuma Group, an independent family owned group which manages forest concessions in West, Central and East Kalimantan. Established in the early 1980,

SJM implementing a combination of TPTI Silviculture system and the intensive silviculture system (commonly referred to as the TPTII or "Silint" system). Due to numbers of abandoned concessions in West Kalimantan, SJM is now became home for more than 600 Bornean Orangutans (WWF Indonesia, 2010)

## About GFTN-Indonesia



The Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN) is WWF's initiative to eliminate illegal logging and drive improvements in forest management. By facilitating trade links between companies committed to achieving and supporting responsible forestry, the GFTN creates market conditions that help conserve the world's

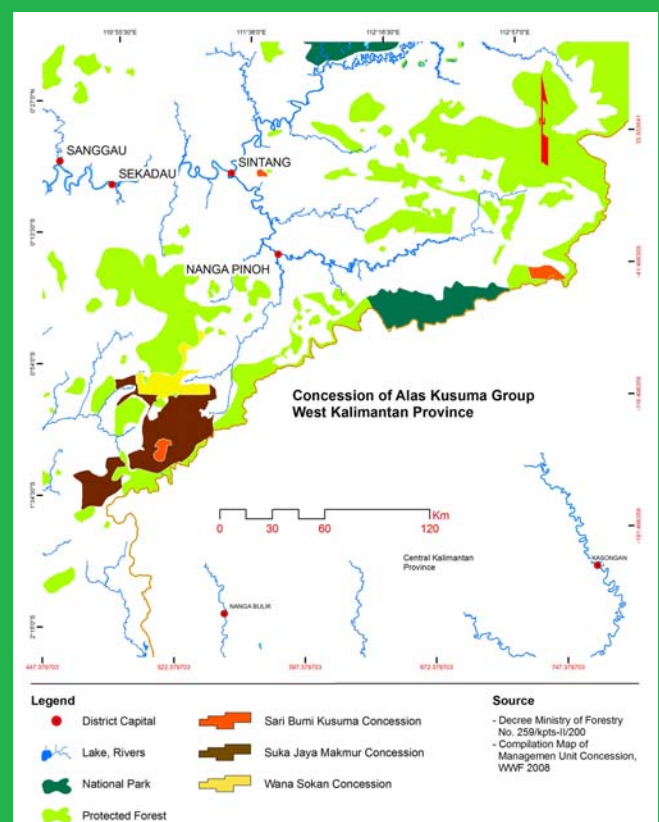
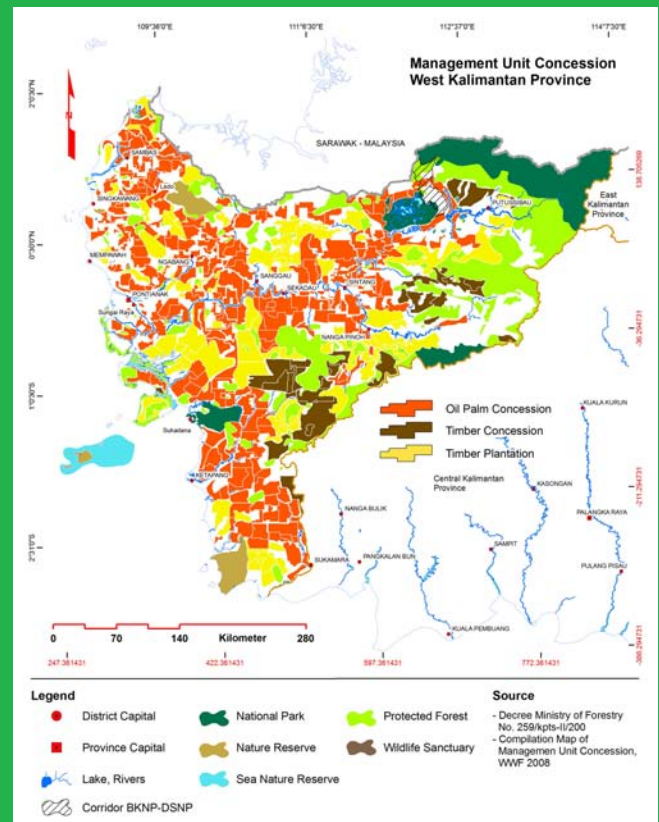
valuable and threatened forests while providing economic and social benefits for the businesses and people that depend on them. The GFTN considers independent, multi-stakeholder-based forest certification a vital tool in driving responsible forest management and responsible trade of wood products throughout the supply chain.

GFTN has 20 local Forest and Trade Networks (FTN) in more than 30 countries with 800 members, mostly in Europe and North America. In Indonesia, GFTN was launched on October 16, 2003 under local name "Nusa Hijau".

GFTN Indonesia program objectives are:

- To promote sustainable forest management
- To meet the demands of Indonesian sustainable timber
- To mediate partnership opportunities between high committed producer and buyer in achieving and supporting responsible forestry activities in global network
- To facilitate the accomplishment of more certified producer and manufacture in Indonesia

GFTN Indonesia has 39 members/participants (28 trade participants and 11 forest participants). GFTN membership is open to forest managers, producers, community forest owners/managers that have the high commitment in restoring and developing forest area management. Members' qualifications are based on GFTN requirements and officiated through Participation Agreement (PA) between the company and WWF Indonesia.



For more information, please visit [www.wwf.or.id/gftn](http://www.wwf.or.id/gftn)

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### Reference:

Wich, S. A. et. al. 2008 : Distribution and Conservation Status of the Orangutan (*Pongo* spp) on Borneo and Sumatra : How Many Remain. Fauna and Flora International, *Oryx* 42 (3), 329 – 339.