

# Effects of a Riverine Dispersal Barrier on Cultural Similarity in Wild Bornean Orangutans



^ & a little about “YEAR OF THE ORANGUTAN” at the Philadelphia Zoo



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Effects of a Riverine Dispersal Barrier on Cultural Similarity in Wild Bornean Orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus wurmbii*): 2003 - 2007

**SUNGAI LADING**



© N. Zweifel

**TUANAN**



© T. Knott



Bastian, 2008; Bastian et al., 2010 / 2012

Understanding the Role of Ecology in Orangutan Reproduction: A Cross-Site Comparison: 2008 - 2010

In collaboration with **TUANAN, SABANGAU, KETAMBE**



**GUNUNG PALUNG**



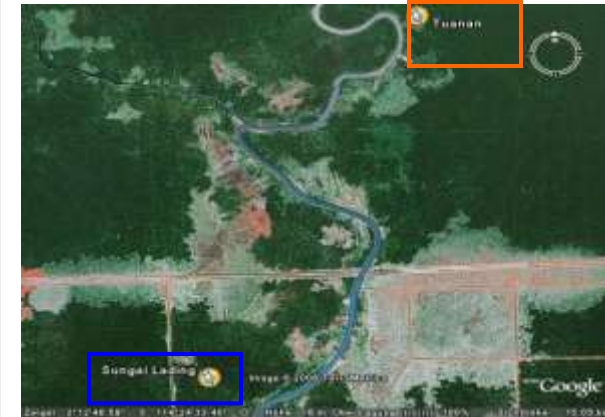
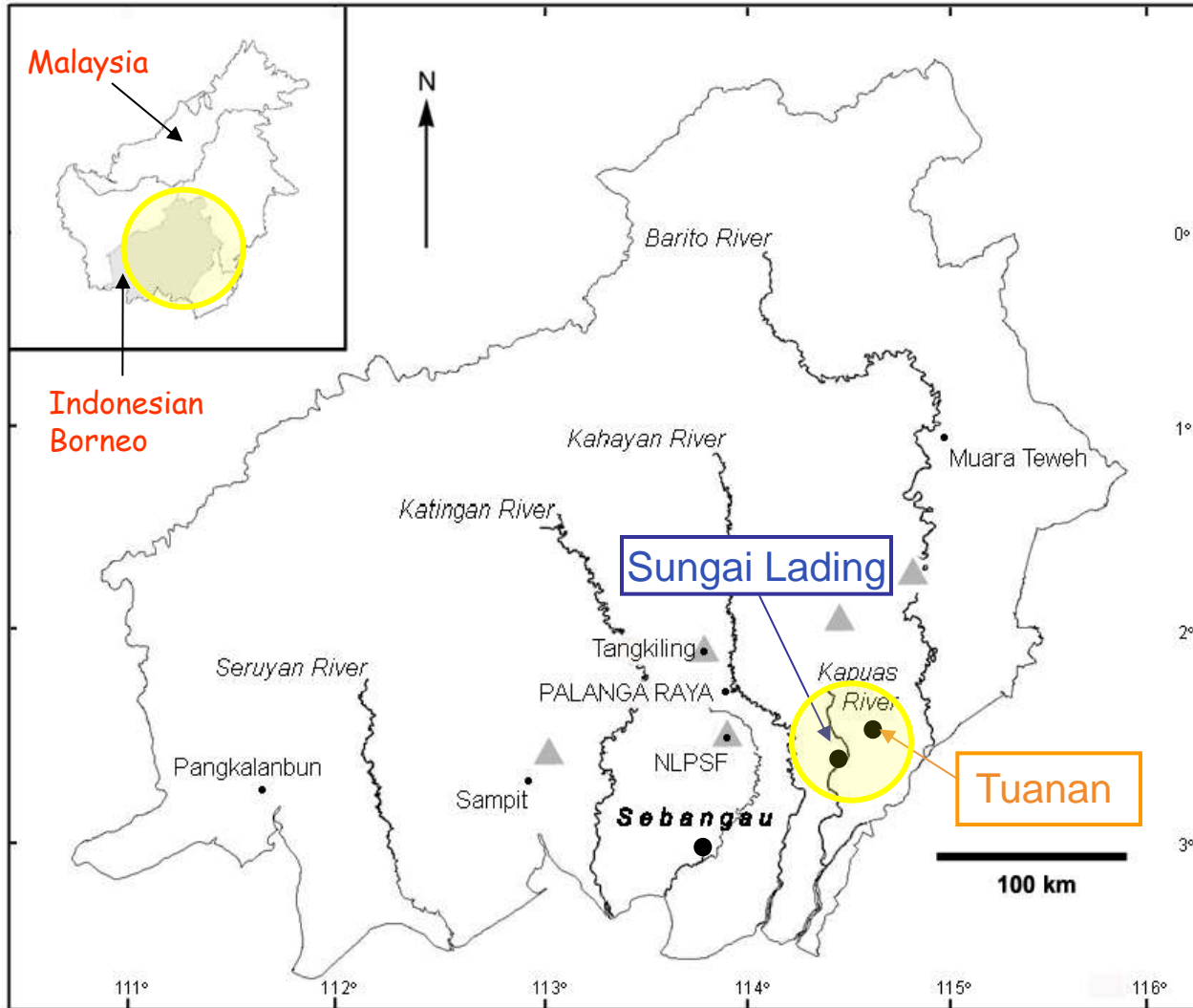
Bastian & Knott, in prep

# Wild Orangutan Field Sites



★ PhD Fieldwork (2003-2007)    ○ Post-doc Fieldwork (2008-2010)

# Field Research 2003-7



Distance  
Sungai Lading -  
Tuanan: 12.6km

adapted from Struebig et al. 2007

# Definitions of Culture

## Hans Kummer (1971) on culture:

“...the behavior of two groups with the same **gene pool** and **same type of habitat** can differ only by **culture**”.

## van Schaik *et al.* (2003) on orangutan culture:

**Culture**: behavioral **innovations** that spread to multiple individuals within a single population and have a **patchy global occurrence** across all orangutan sites

# *Pongo* as a Model Taxon for Investigation of Culture

**Slow life history**, long inter-birth interval

Intimate mother-infant bond



**High social tolerance**

# Variable Sociality



Orangutans are the most solitary of the great apes but they are **HIGHLY SOCIAL** and sometimes form large parties

# Orangutan Intelligence

Capable of advanced cognitive tasks & flexible tool-use

*van Schaik et al., 1999; van Schaik & Knott, 2001; Schumaker et al., 2011*



© Perry van Duijnhoven



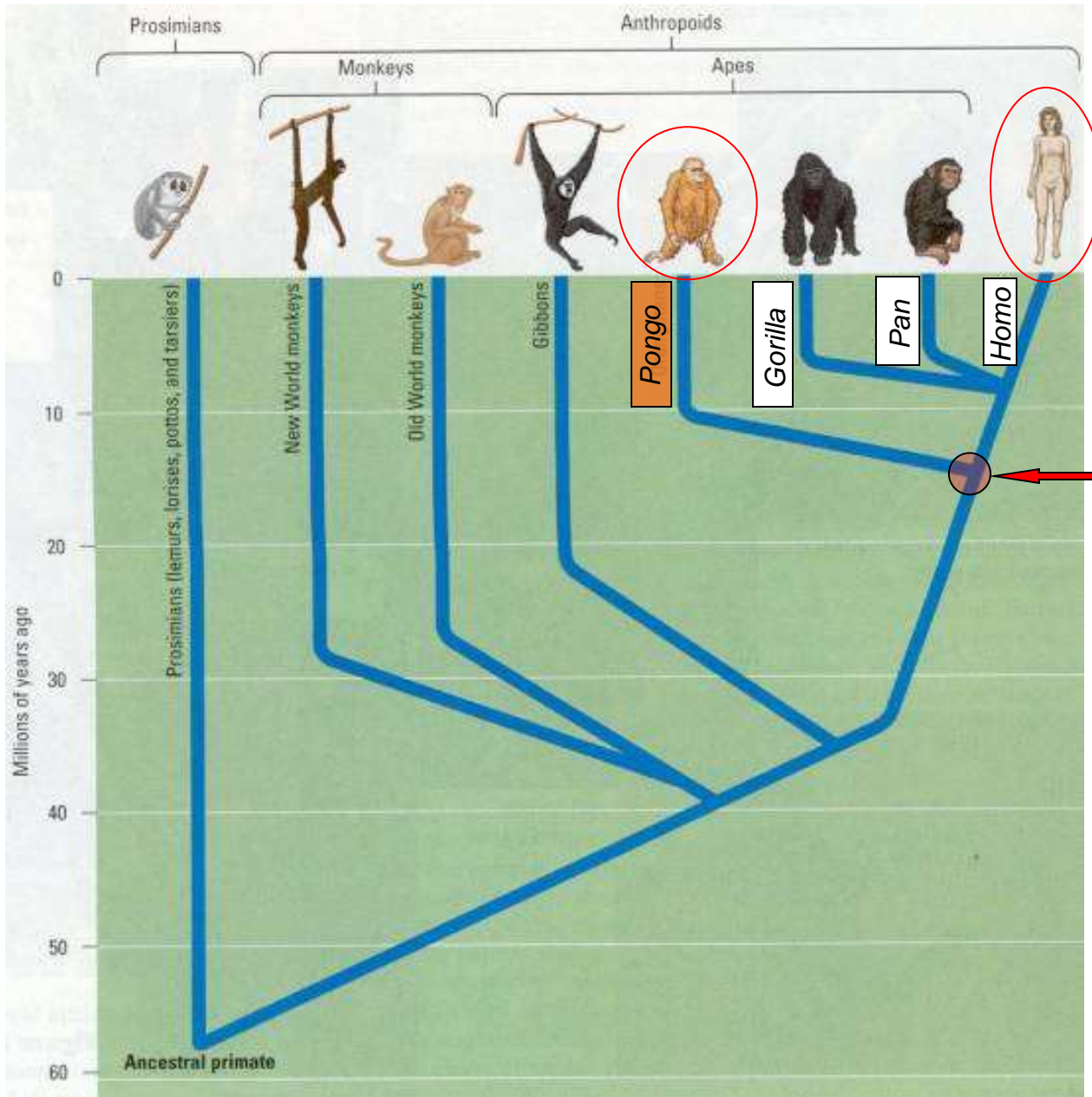
© M.Bastian, Gunung Palung



COURTESY MICHELLE MERRILL



# Least Closely Related (Great Ape) to Humans



14mya  
LCA  
share culturally  
modified behavior?

# PhD Fieldwork: Orangutan Cultures

BEHAVIORAL AND BRAIN SCIENCES (2007) 30, 393–437  
Printed in the United States of America  
DOI: 10.1017/S0140525X07002373

## Animal innovation defined and operationalized

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BRILL

*Behaviour* 149 (2012) 275–297

**Behaviour**  
brill.nl/bel

## Innovative behaviors in wild Bornean orangutans revealed by targeted population comparison

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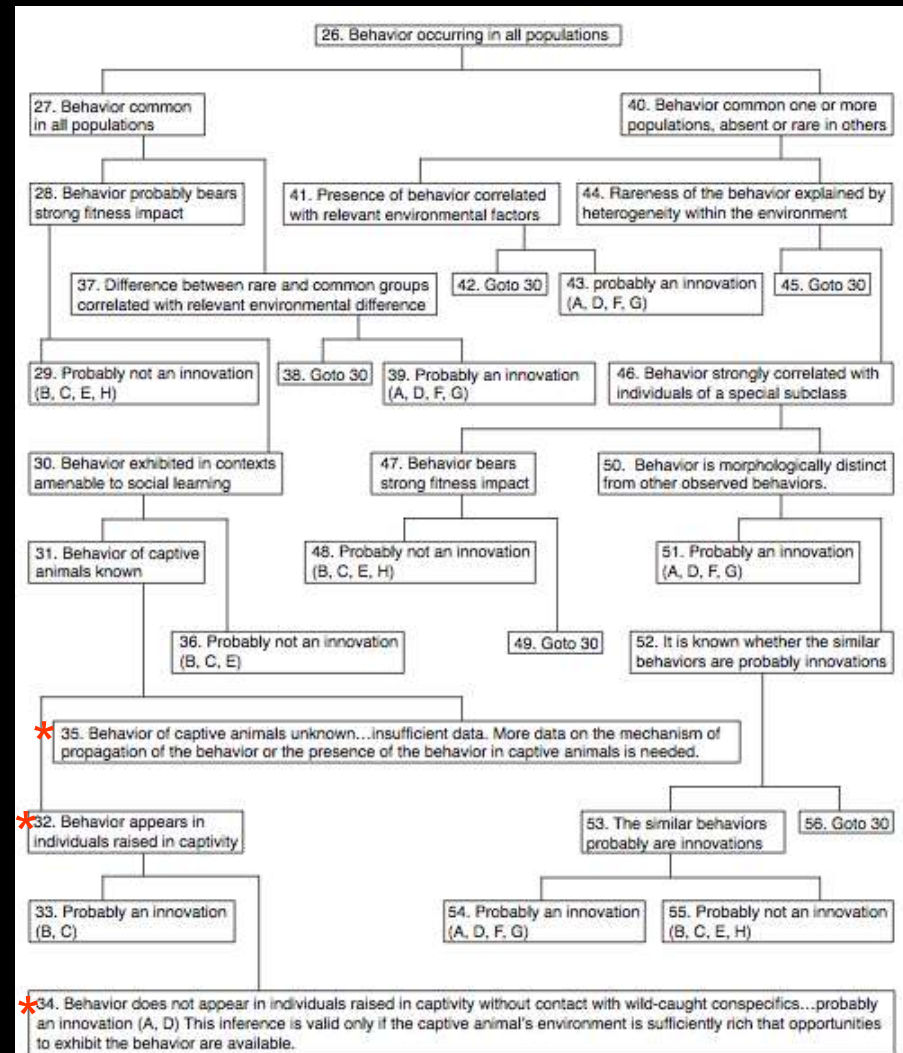
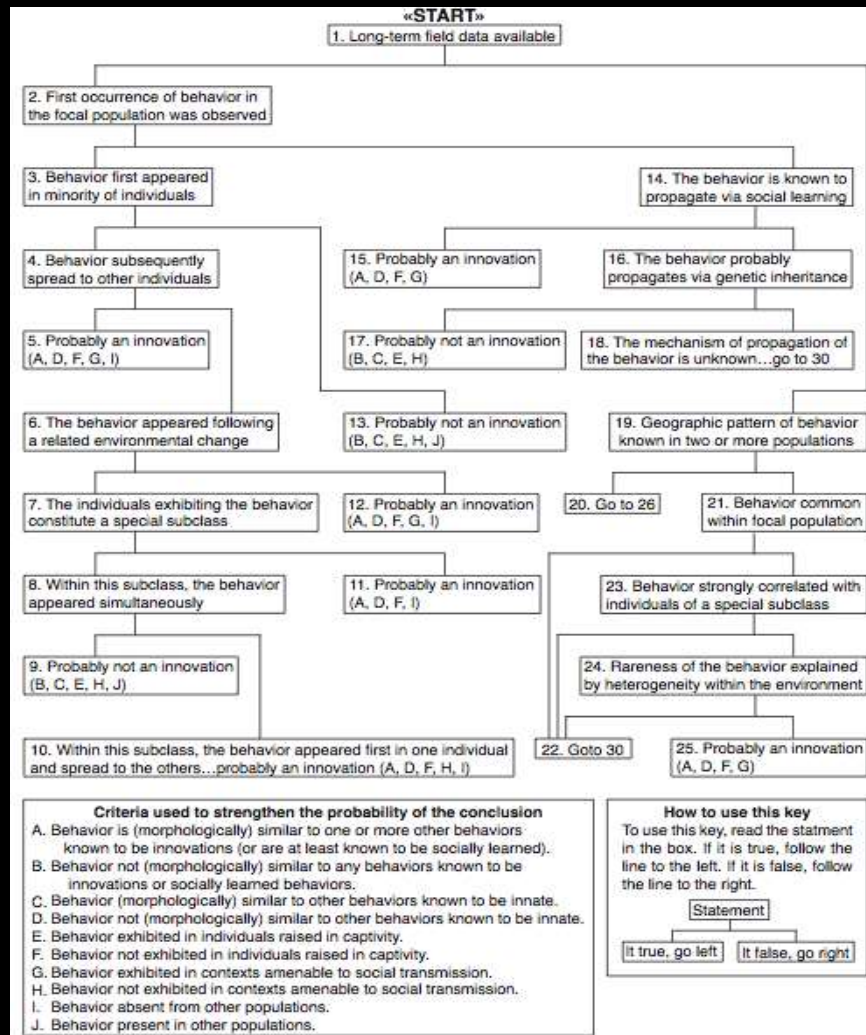
<sup>c</sup> Anthropological Institute and Museum, University of Zurich, Winterthurerstrasse 190, CH-8057 Zurich, Switzerland

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**Innovation**: the process that generates in an individual a novel learned behavior that is not simply a consequence of social learning or environmental induction.



# Key for Determining Innovation Status of a Behavior



# Comparison of 2 Heavily Logged Peat Swamps

## SUNGAI LADING



© Sungai Lading Orangutan Project

- est. by **M. Bastian** April '05
- 200ha, **7.68** indiv/km<sup>2</sup>

←→  
Similar Habitats



## TUANAN



© Tuanan Orangutan Project

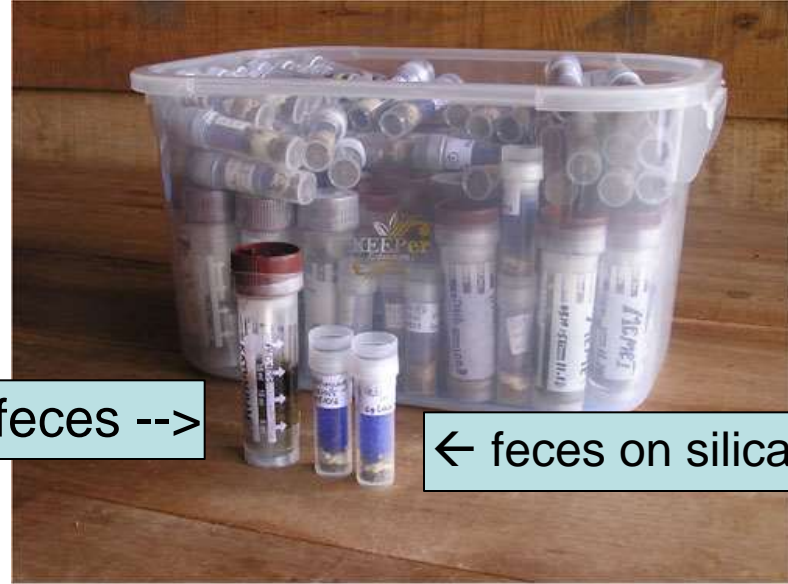
- est. by **C. van Schaik & M. van Noordwijk** Jan '03
- 945ha, **4.5** indiv/km<sup>2</sup>



# Similar Genetics



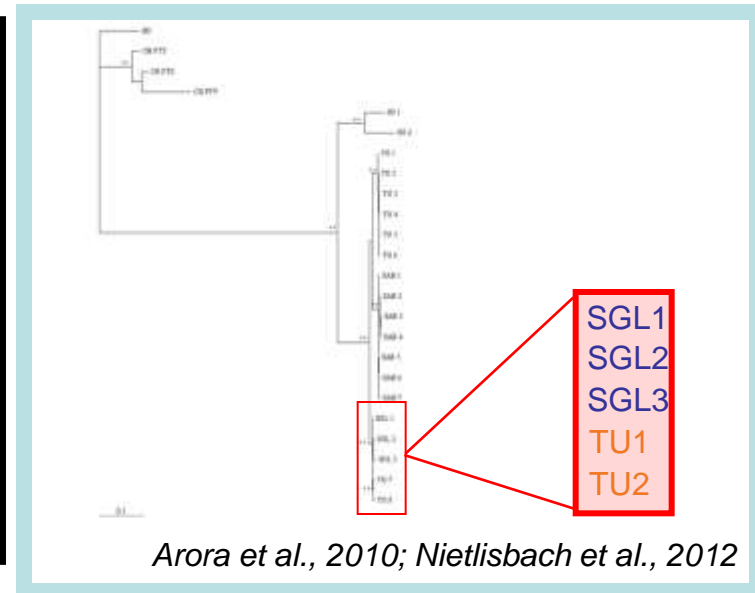
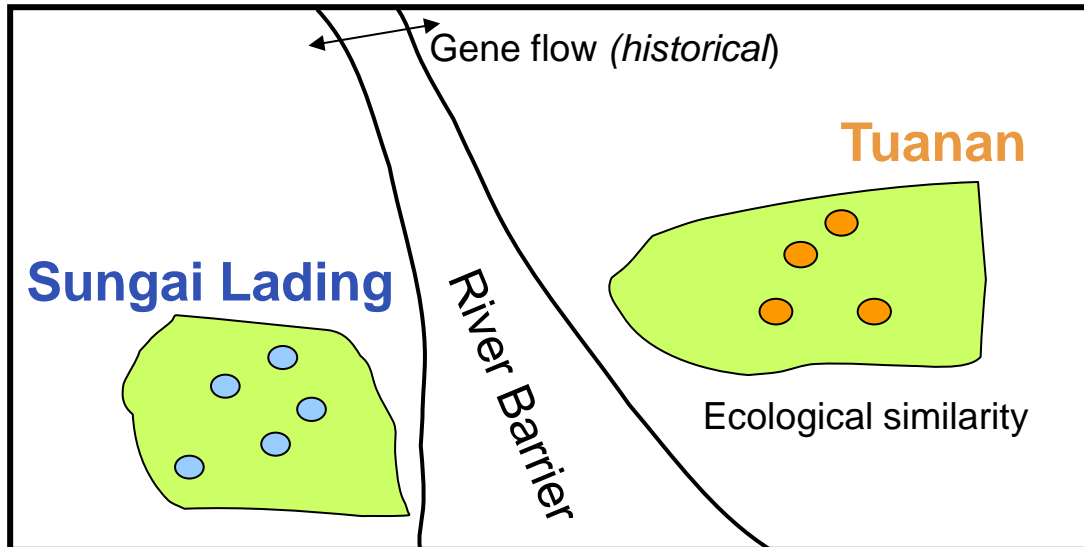
Collecting orangutan feces



feces -->

← feces on silica

Orangutan fecal samples



# Orangutan Density Estimates



## SUNGAI LADING

**200 ha, 7.68 indiv./km<sup>2</sup>**

*extreme* population compression

Status of Wild Bornean Orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus wurmbii*) at Sungai Lading, a Heavily Disturbed Peat Swamp Forest in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia

Meredith L. Bastian<sup>1,2</sup>, Carel P. van Schaik<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Philadelphia Zoo, 3400 W. Girard Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Evolutionary Anthropology, Duke University, P.O. Box 90383, Durham, NC 27708, USA.

<sup>3</sup> Anthropologisches Institut & Museum, University of Zürich, Winterthurerstrasse 190, 8057-CH Zurich, Switzerland.

(in prep for Submission to *Biological Conservation*)

## TUANAN

**945 ha, 4.5 indiv./km<sup>2</sup>**

*minimal* population compression

Primates (2005) 46:249–254  
DOI 10.1007/s10329-005-0134-z

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Carel P. van Schaik · Serge A. Wich · Sri Suci Utami  
Kisar Odum

**A simple alternative to line transects of nests for estimating orangutan densities**

# Aerial & Ground Surveys

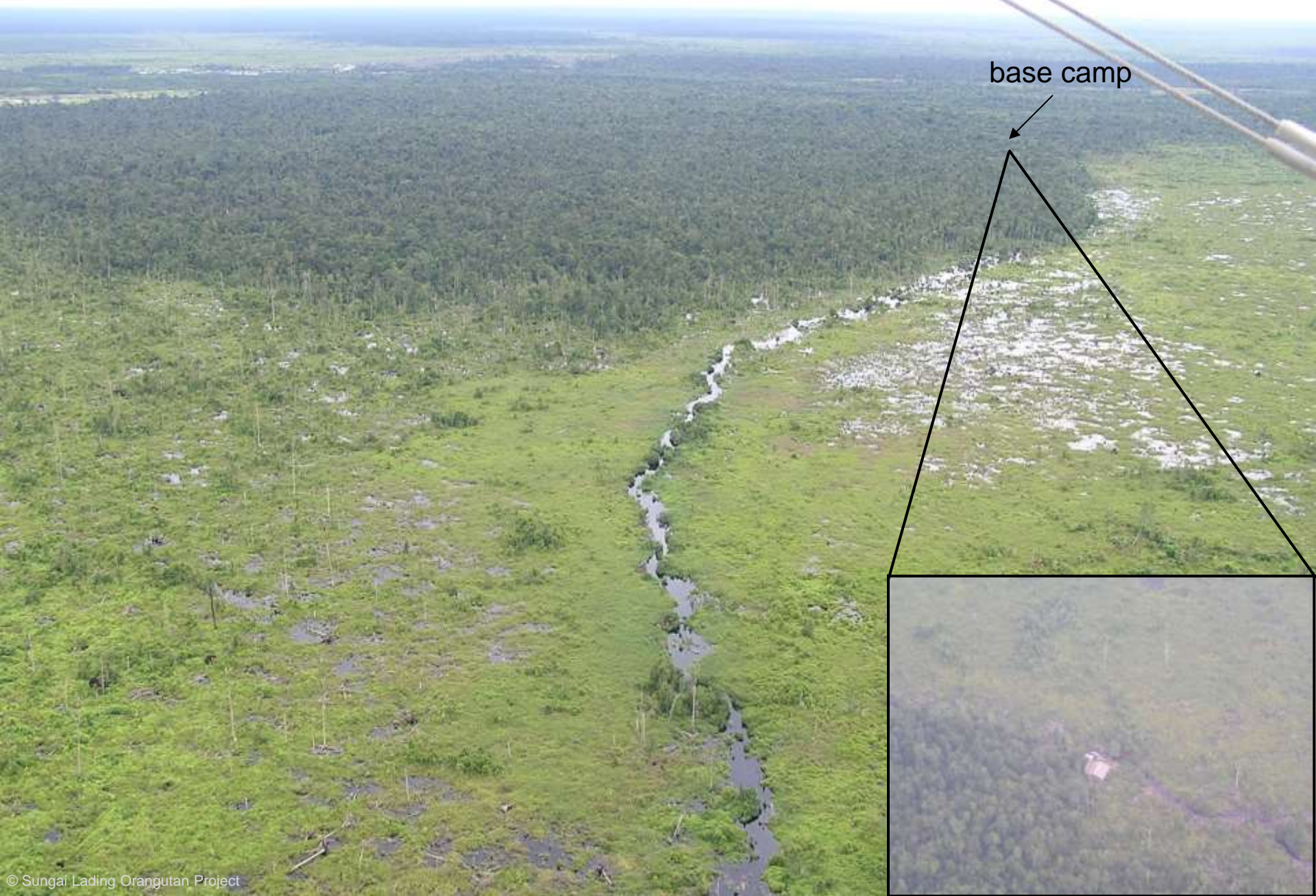






Sungai Tunggul

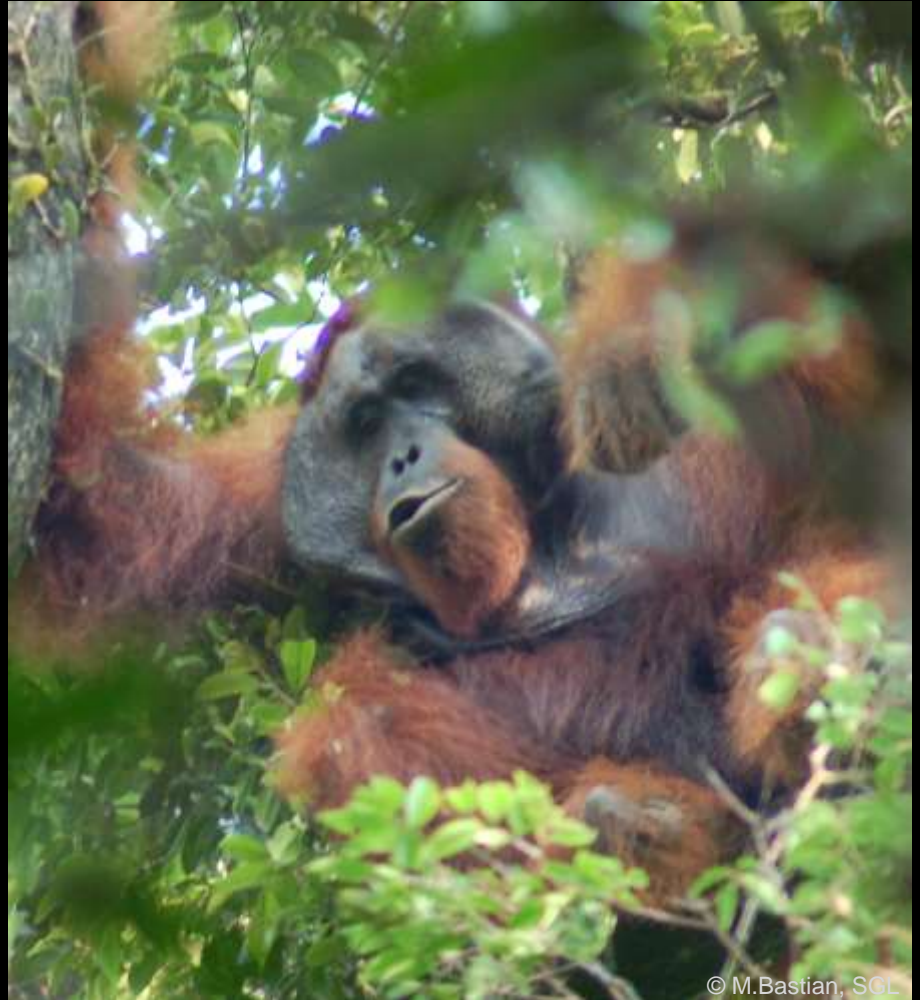
# Sungai Lading



base camp

# Sungai Lading Orangutan Project







© M. Bastian, SGL



© Tuanan Orangutan Project



© N. Zweifel, SGL



QuickTime and a  
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

© Tuanan Orangutan Project

© Tuanan Orangutan Project

# ALL DAY Follows (Nest-Nest)

Sungai Lading:  
2.5yrs, 3,260 hrs focal data

060309

060309

Time	Event	Notes
07:00	Start	
07:15	...	
07:30	...	
07:45	...	
08:00	...	
08:15	...	
08:30	...	
08:45	...	
09:00	...	
09:15	...	
09:30	...	
09:45	...	
10:00	...	
10:15	...	
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22:30	...	
22:45	...	
23:00	...	
23:15	...	
23:30	...	
23:45	...	
24:00	...	

UNREGISTERED



# Diet Traditions in Wild Orangutans

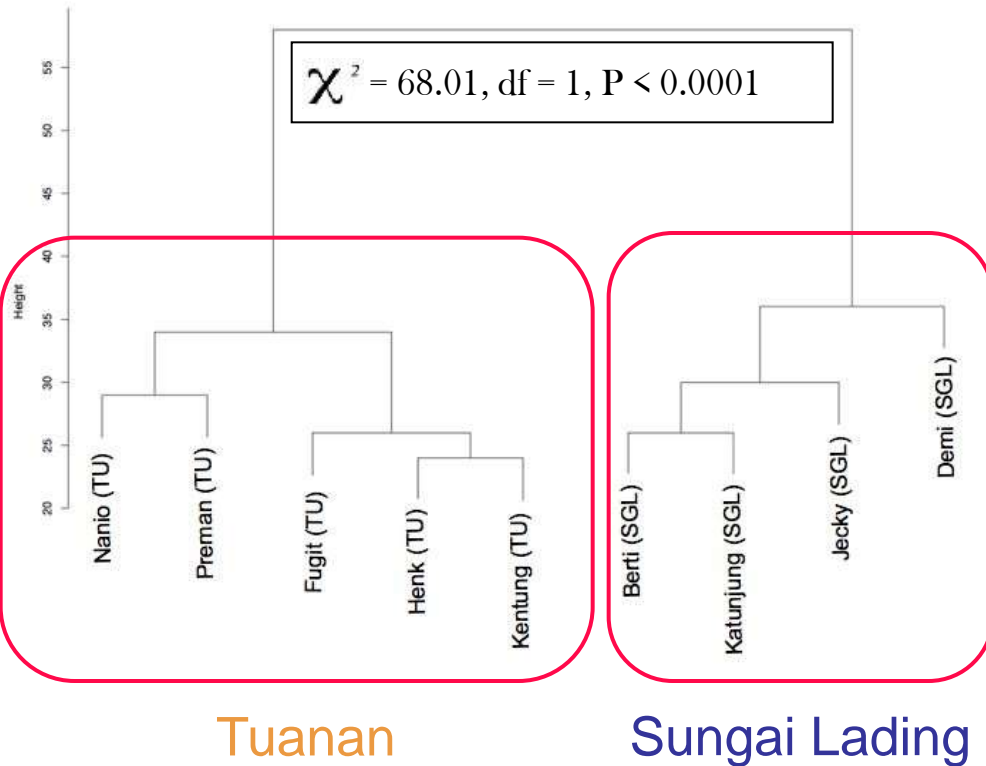


# Diet Traditions in Wild Orangutans

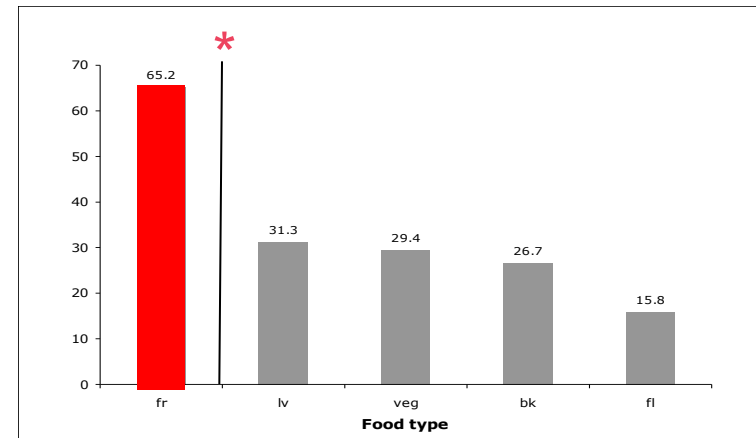
Meredith L. Bastian,<sup>1,2</sup> Nicole Zweifel,<sup>3</sup> Erin R. Vogel,<sup>4</sup> Serge A. Wich,<sup>5,6</sup> and Carel P. van Schaik<sup>1,3\*</sup>



Individual diet profiles **cluster** significantly **by population**



Social acquisition of diet, followed by individual fine-tuning via trial-and-error learning (*possible only in intelligent, long-lived species*)



% overlap lowest for lower quality, more difficult to process foods



# Responses to Fruit Scarcity



*Increasing reliance on bark, also buys better coping with selective logging*

- inner bark



- rotan pith



- leaves

## Fallback Foods

*Marshall & Wrangham, 2007;  
Bastian et al., 2010*

# Behavioral Variation

SUNGAI LADING (SGL)		Local Prevalence at Sungai Lading													
Individual	Class	A	A	A	R	R	R	R	R	R	H+	R	H+	C	H
BERTI	AF				?										
DEMI	AF			?	?	?	?	?	?						
KATUNJUNG	AF			?											
LALA	AF			?	?	?	?	?	?	?					
WINA	AF	?	?												
VELVEETA	ImmF			?	?	?	?	?	?						
TINO	ImmM	?		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
ELVIS	AFM			?	?	?	?	?	?						
SUNI	AFM	?		?	?	?	?	?	?						
FRANKLIN	UFM			?	?	?	?	?	?						
IMAM	UFM			?	?	?	?	?	?						
JECKY	UFM														
RHOMA	UFM			?	?	?	?	?	?						

TUANAN (TU)		Local Prevalence at Tuanan														
Individual	Class	C	C	H	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	C	C	H+	H	H
DESY	AF			?												
INUL	AF		?													
JINAK	AF															
JUNI	AF															
KERRY	AF															
MINDY	AF															
SUMI	AF															
KONDOR	ImmF															
LOLO	ImmF															
BUDHI	ImmM															
NANIO	ImmM															
OTIS	ImmM															
ADIK NIKO	AFM															
ALDO	AFM															
AQIL	AFM															
BOBO	AFM															
DAYAK	AFM															
FUGIT	AFM															
HENK	AFM															
ISIDOR	AFM															
JIMI	AFM															
KAY	AFM															
KENTUNG	AFM															
LUWI	AFM															
NADI	AFM															
NIKO	AFM															
RAMBO	AFM															
SULTAN	AFM															
TEJU	AFM															
UCOK	AFM															
ZEKE	AFM															
CIPTO	UFM															
EKKO	UFM															
GISMO	UFM															
OGUN	UFM															
PREMAN	UFM															
SAMSON	UFM															
WODAN	UFM															
YOGA	UFM															

- = behavior observed
- = behavior not observed (Poisson > 95%)
- = insufficient observation time
- = N/A (based on context of behavior)

$\chi^2$  Analysis indicates a **clustering of cultural behaviors** by population:  
 $\chi^2 = 68.01, df = 1, P < 0.0001$

# Behavioral Variation

- NEST SMACK 
- THROAT SCRAPE 
- COERCIVE HAND-HOLDING

High local prevalence at Tuanan, absent in Sungai Lading population



© K.Odom



Innovations constrained in more compressed population due to low rates of association/opportunities for cultural transmission

# Innovations in Nesting - Tree Selection

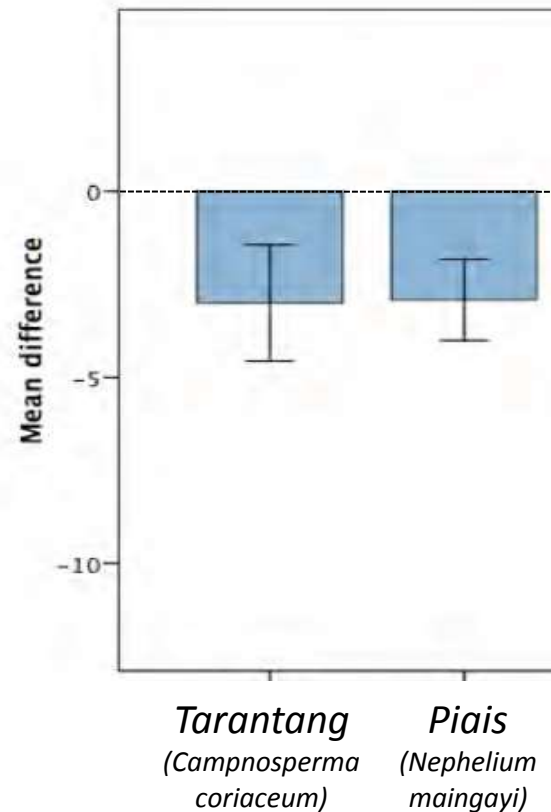


*Tarantang*

- Tarantang (*Camposperma coriaceum*)
  - preferred by orangutans
    - especially by mothers and infants
    - more so during the mosquito season



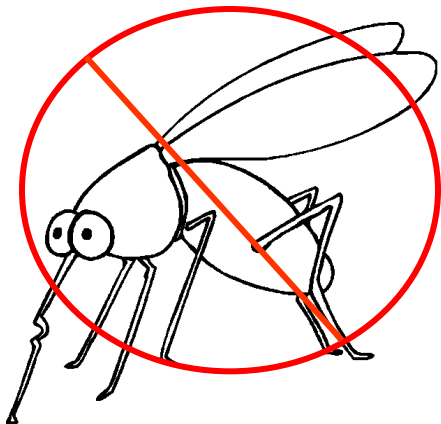
© M. Bastian



# Leaf Carrying for Nest Building



- Tarantang & Piais leafy branches carried to other nest sites in same and different tree species



Use of leaves as mosquito repellent

## Mosquito Avoidance Drives Selection of Nest Tree Species in Bornean Orang-Utans

Claudine J. Largo<sup>a</sup>, Meredith L. Bastian<sup>b</sup>, Carel P. van Schaik<sup>a</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Anthropological Institute and Museum, University of Zurich, Switzerland;

<sup>b</sup>Department of Anthropology, Boston University, Boston, Mass., USA

E-Mail: claudine\_largo@bluewin.ch

Folia Primatol 2009;80:106–174











# Rainy Season, 2006



# Dry Season, 2006





Borneo

Sumatra

Java Sea

Java

2006

100 km



# Sungai Lading (2005 - 2009)



# Sungai Lading (2010)



# Orangutan Habitat Loss Impacts Many Other Species



# Reasons for Hope

## orangutan bridges



## longterm field research presence



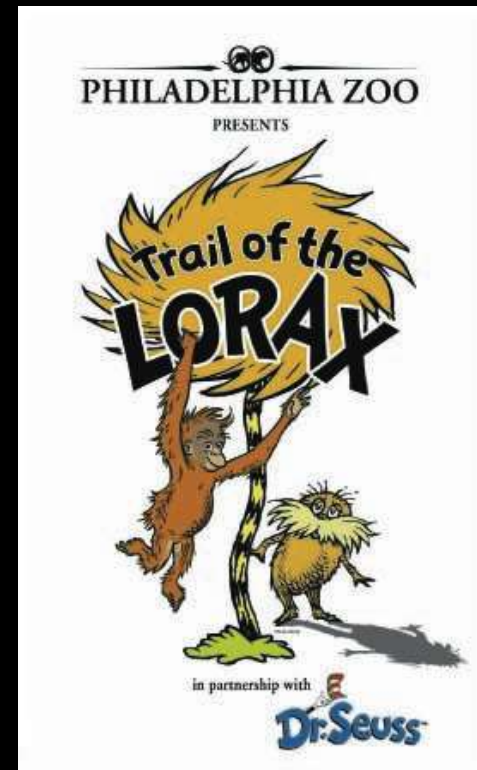
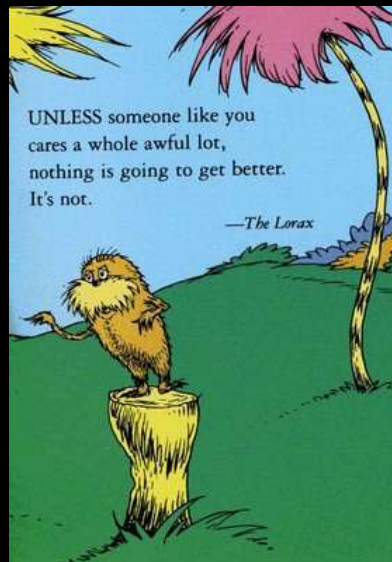
## promising collaborations between zoos & conservation organizations such as SOCP



SUMATRAN ORANGUTAN  
CONSERVATION PROGRAMME



# Partnership between Philadelphia Zoo & Dr. Seuss





# “Year of the Orangutan” at the Philadelphia Zoo

- Scout contests
- Zoo CREW Action Plan
- K-12 Unless Contest
- University Prize Challenge



Troop 71915 Girl Scouts of Central and Southern New Jersey



## UNLESS...

**Grades K-5 "UNLESS" Contest (Art Contest focus)**  
**Guidelines:** Create a piece of artwork that tells the conservation story of the endangered orangutan. Artwork should include the following:

- An integrity of message
- What do they live and what do they need to survive?
- Why are they endangered (please address the pain of loss)?
- What are the actions you can take to help?

**Art Contest Criteria**

- Be creative – artwork can be any visual medium. Participants must be able to submit actual artwork to the Zoo no larger than 20" x 30" (vertical or horizontal) or a photo of the artwork that has been displayed in the school.
- Please keep in mind the Zoo would like to have the winning piece turned into a poem.
- Artwork should be incorporated into a school-wide campaign to raise awareness about the connection between orangutans and palm oil.
- Judging will be based on creativity, impact, originality and the most effective campaign, including awareness methods used and number of students reached.
- Each class or club (up to 40 students) should submit one representative multimedia project or one action station display.

**Grades 6-12 "UNLESS" Contest (Multimedia/ action station focus)**  
**Guidelines:** Develop a multimedia project or action station display that shows the connection between palm oil and orangutans. The project should include the following:

- Link palm oil production and human consumption to the plight of the orangutan.
- Challenge your people to help orangutans by being informed consumers.
- When describing situations, focus on certified sustainable palm oil and positive advocacy.

**Multimedia/ Action Station Display Criteria**

- The created Multimedia project can include videos, social media and/or website.
- Action Station Display can be visual (done in a window for format), mechanical or digital. Display is not interchangeable.
- Project should be incorporated into a school-wide campaign to raise awareness about the connection between orangutans and palm oil.
- Judging will be based on creativity, impact, originality and the most effective campaign, including awareness methods used and number of students reached.
- Each class or club (up to 40 students) should submit one representative multimedia project or one action station display.

Visit our Teachers' Lounge at [philadelphiazoo.org](http://philadelphiazoo.org) to apply. Please email [education@philadelphiazoo.org](mailto:education@philadelphiazoo.org) for more details.



# “Year of the Orangutan” at the Philadelphia Zoo

- Online Thank You Notes to Companies committed to CSPO by 2015

- Guest Conservation Engagement

- 3-D Glasses Distribution
- Leaves of Gratitude
- Conservation Talks



- Staff Conservation Engagement

- “Picture This” Photo Challenge / Zoo Donation to SOCP’s Drone project
- Orangutan Field Conservation Seminar Series

- Onsite Sustainability Efforts

- Collaborations between Zoo &

- SOCP  SUMATRAN ORANGUTAN CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

- Seventh Generation 



# Great Ape Trail





QuickTime™ and a  
decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

# Thank You!



## FIELD RESEARCH



## YEAR OF THE ORANGUTAN

