

A better future
for the Sumatran
Orangutans.

Courier 1/10

Jantho: Ready to go!

We are so excited and happy that we are now able to push ahead with the new orangutan reintroduction centre in Jantho. Once the necessary facilities are in place, we plan to have the first orangutans on site and beginning the process of reintroduction in January. Eventually they will be fully reintroduced into Jantho's rainforest.

After several months of meetings, involving numerous stakeholders, in August 2010 the Minister of Forestry finally gave his approval for the new reintroduction centre in the Jantho Nature Reserve. This approval, however, is dependent on us making every effort not to unduly disturb the ecosystem of Jantho's pristine forests and for this reason we must be careful to design and build the facilities in a non-permanent and non-damaging way.

Orangutans will continue to be released at the existing reintroduction centre in the Bukit Tigapuluh National Park in Jambi, and the new Jantho population will represent the second reintroduced population of Sumatran orangutans, this time in the far north of the island.

Next steps

In late September, SOCP field coordinator and former manager of the orangutan quarantine centre at Batu Mbelin, Asril, headed up to Jantho to begin work on repairing the access road and establishing the new camp. He also began recruiting local staff, a task made easier since our colleagues at Fauna & Flora International had already been working in the area for some years, and had established a team of young and enthusiastic «Jantho Rangers», who were eager to be involved. The road first had to be repaired in several locations to enable an off-road vehicle to reach the site of the new centre. Then at the beginning of November the cages were taken into the site and bolted together. The cages were built and erected by Danis and his team, who have built all of our cages since the SOCP began back in 2002, and once again they have done a first class job.

The next step is to construct some accommodation for the staff who will work at the centre, for which we will make use of some emergency shelters left over from the recovery after the 2004 tsunami, and if all goes well we plan to move the first five orangutans there before the end of January.

New technology for more information

The first orangutans to be released in Jantho, whilst not aware of it themselves, will also be testing new technology. Each of the five has been fitted with a small radio transmitter, about the size of a small coin, implanted under the skin on the nape of their neck. This is very new technology for orangutans and will allow them to be detected over some distance, by use of a special receiver, helping us to monitor their progress in the forest once they are released.



Orangutans confiscated in Aceh Province should also be reintroduced in the same area. Therefore we are building the new reintroduction center in Jantho.



Dozens of orangutans are waiting for their reintroduction in the quarantine station. Fortunately, more and more orangutans can be rescued from imprisonment. But space in our quarantine station is getting short. We urgently need the new reintroduction center!



Work on the new reintroduction center facilities is progressing well. Soon, they will be occupied by orangutans on their way back to freedom.

Photos: Hanne Book/Jeanne Gerster/PanEco

The minor surgery needed to implant the transmitters was expertly performed on November 2nd by SOCP veterinarian Yenny Saraswati. So far there have been no problems nor any sign that the orangutans are at all bothered by them. These orangutan reintroductions in Jantho will be among the first ever to use and test this equipment with orangutans in the forest and will be of great value in improving the technology over the coming years.

The Rainforest Centre Sibolangit.

On 23rd of April, we finally signed a contract of cooperation with the Ministry of Forestry's Nature Conservation Agency in North Sumatra, to co-manage the «Sibolangit Nature Recreation Park» for the next five years. The goal is to bring this beautiful forest near Medan to public attention and use it to promote nature conservation in the region.

The site was once a botanic garden, established by the Dutch and affiliated to the well known Botanic Gardens in Bogor, Java, but it has been left almost abandoned for most of the last 50 years. As such, the vegetation growth is extremely luxuriant and the forest is quite spectacular. We have already established a list of wildlife species present, including at least 13 mammals, 32 birds and over 57 reptiles and amphibian species.

The centre is progressing well

Our first tasks on the project involved establishing clear guidelines with the conservation agency regarding exactly who will be responsible for what at the site, and to engage an architect to start drafting some ideas and designs. We have also been busy searching for a suitable manager for the project, to take charge of all the day to day developments.

The aim of the agreement is to establish the site as a first class conservation information and nature education centre with facilities ranging from formal displays, to guided walks in the forest, opportunities for research and also packages such as special tours and possibly even children's «eco-birthday» parties. Indeed the possibilities are seemingly endless. We are making steady progress and expect 2011 to be a year when real changes start to take place in this beautiful, but previously neglected «oasis» of tropical rainforest near Medan.

You can find more information on PanEco projects at www.paneco.ch.



The new radio transmitters and receiver were tested as to guarantee that they work.



Sibolangit lies on the road connecting Medan with the Karo highlands and lake Toba. Thousands of tourists pass here every year.

Photos: Adriano Viganò/Jeanne Gerster/PanEco

**Your donation helps us to
protect the Sumatran
Orangutan. Thank you!**

Thurauen Nature Centre.

Following the long planning phase, construction is in full swing and the new building takes shape every day. Our unique nature centre and restaurant in Thurauen opens its doors in Summer 2011.

A floodplain of national importance

In the nature centre, the gateway to the Thurauen, we shed light on the fascinating floodplain, its revitalisation and role as flood control. The revived river dynamic creates many unique habitats for plants and animals. This valuable wetland in the Zurich Weinland is of national importance and provides a home to beavers, kingfishers and tree frogs, all living in close harmony with pearly heath butterflies and black woodpeckers.

The new building takes shape

The planning phase is over and the foundation stone will be laid together with the Canton of Zurich and the Community of Flaach in January. Once the foundation has been set, timber construction will follow and if the weather is kind to us, then we look forward to celebrating the topping out in March 2011. This will be followed by work on interior finishes, preparing the exhibition and setting the adventure trail.

An unforgettable excursion

An interactive exhibition, on site excursion and an adventure trail waiting to be explored, all will make for an unforgettable visit for both young and old. On the Thur Safari, for example, visitors will get an insight into the most important habitats of the flood plain and typical inhabitants. In the restaurant we will show our guests how seasonal dishes made from regional organic produce can be much more than «just healthy». Rotating weekly specials will supplement the menu.

The centre also lies right next to the swimming pool and TCS camping site of Flaach. Together with the nature centre and restaurant, this setup creates a single complex that enables synergies to be exploited in all areas. Nothing now stands in the way of an eventful day in Thurauen as we bring visitors a step closer to nature.

www.naturzentrum-thurauen.ch – You can find current offers and information on the nature center on our new website as of February 2011.



The wood for the construction of the Thurauen nature centre is already waiting. The pines have been felled last winter in the area itself and on the full moon.

Photos: ALUBA AG/Urs Tappolet/PanEco

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