



Sepilok Orangutan Appeal UK

Registered Charity No 1092640

Trustees' Annual Report

1st April '02' – 31st March '03'

Our Mission Statement

To proactively work for the conservation and preservation of the orangutan population in Malaysian Borneo.

To repatriate, orphaned and displace orangutans, into protected rainforest reserves.

To support and promote awareness of the work carried out by the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre.

To intimately save the orangutan from extinction.

Objectives

To promote the preservation of the wild Orangutan in its natural habitat.

To promote its long term welfare in the Sabah district of Borneo and protect it from extinction for the public benefit

To advance education for the public benefit, in the study, preservation and protection of the wild Orangutan

The Appeal

Founded in 2000 by Sue Sheward, Sepilok Orangutan Appeal UK has rapidly grown from a small appeal for help to a registered UK charity, who's dedication brings together supporters worldwide.

The Appeal identifies specific areas in need and adopts them as Projects, which it not only raises the necessary funds to complete but is actively involved.

UK Activities

The Appeal launched its website (www.orangutan-appeal.org) in 2002 to promote awareness of the orangutans plight and the Appeal's involvement.

Also in 2002 our Orangutan Adoption Programme, featuring 2 of the orphans at Sepilok was set-up to provide much needed funding. The Programme is proving to be exceedingly successful and has brought in funds of £7,500 in its first 9 months.

Trustees and Appeal team members have been giving public talks and presentations to interested parties, ie school groups, W.I. meetings etc which has increased awareness throughout the UK.

During the year the Appeal has received donations of £12,000.00 and raised funds from sales of calendars etc and at social events amounting to £9,600.00.

Over the last year the Appeal has nurtured and progressed relationships with the Sabah Tourism Board, local press and National TV news channel which in turn has led to high profile coverage of our projects.

The Appeal issues a newsletter twice a year to approximately 1,000 supporters, informing them of the activities that have taken place both in the UK and in Sabah.

Activities in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo

The Appeal has established a close working partnership with the Sabah Wildlife Department, The Department of Tourism, Environment & Culture and their officials and Ministers.

Completed Projects to date include the provision of an outdoor exercise enclosure and the refurbishment of the night nursery.

Total expenditure being £26,000.00

In addition, a full grown male and two breeding females were transported by helicopter and released into the protected reserve of Tabin. The release not only attracted newspaper coverage but also was filmed by the BBC for inclusion in the series "Serious Jungle" which promoted awareness of the ape's plight to millions of viewers.

The release Projects expenditure to date is £12,000.00.

The Appeal employed a local girl in March 2003 to work at the Centre, caring for the babies in the nursery and also provided a Liaison Officer at the Centre to promote awareness to the Appeal and Sepilok's work to the visitors.

Manpower Project expenditure was £2,800.00

Expenditure Policy

The Trustees are very aware how difficult it is to raise funds and ask people to part with their hard earned money for a cause they may know little about.

With this in mind, the Appeal is committed to using its funds wisely, and keeping administration costs to an absolute minimum. In the current year this equated to 20p in the £, ensuring that the remaining 80p went directly to benefiting the orangutans.

The Future

We intend to build on and expand what we have achieved so far with exciting new Projects.

Orangutan Adventure

We will be launching the first Borneo Orangutan Adventure in April 2004. A group of 12 will take part in a trip of a lifetime. They will be introduced to the diversity and delights of Sabah, and will have the opportunity to see orangutans in the wild, as well as undergoing the rehabilitation process.

Expected income from the Adventure £6,000.00

Releases & Relocations

We will continue to translocate individuals into protected reserves to promote a wild breeding programme and widen the gene pool.

New Quarantine Ward

Work has already started to provide a new ward at the Centre where new arrivals spend up to 3 months. The facility will provide hygienic conditions and improve the inmate's quality of life.

4 Wheel Drive

We will be providing the Centre with a desperately needed "work-horse" vehicle to enable the rescue and release programme to expand.

Monitoring Station

The Appeal will be entering into discussions with the Wildlife Department and other relevant organisation on the provision of a post release monitoring station where the success of translocated and rehabilitated individuals survival and breeding in a protected environment can be observed and recorded.

Awareness

We will be working with filming teams to promote awareness worldwide.