



# Prospects for the Sumatran orangutan & the work of SOCP

Serge Wich, Ph.D



## SUMATRAN ORANGUTAN CONSERVATION PROGRAMME



A collaborative program between :



PanEco



KAWASAN EKOSISTEM LESTARI  
YEL





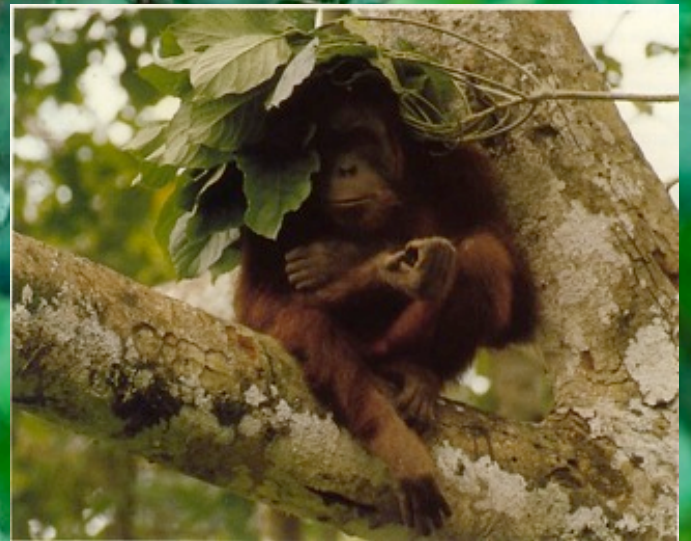
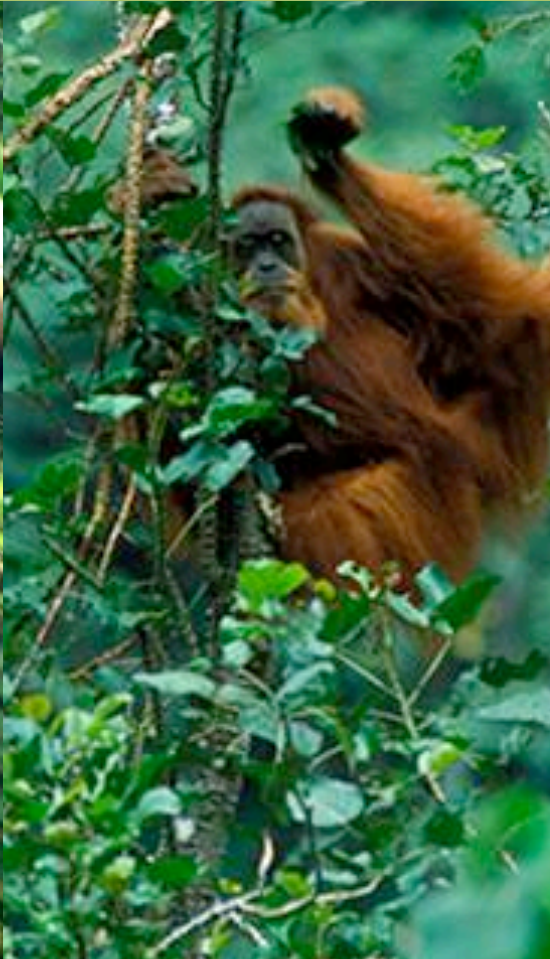
Sumatra, Indonesia

# The Sumatran Orangutan

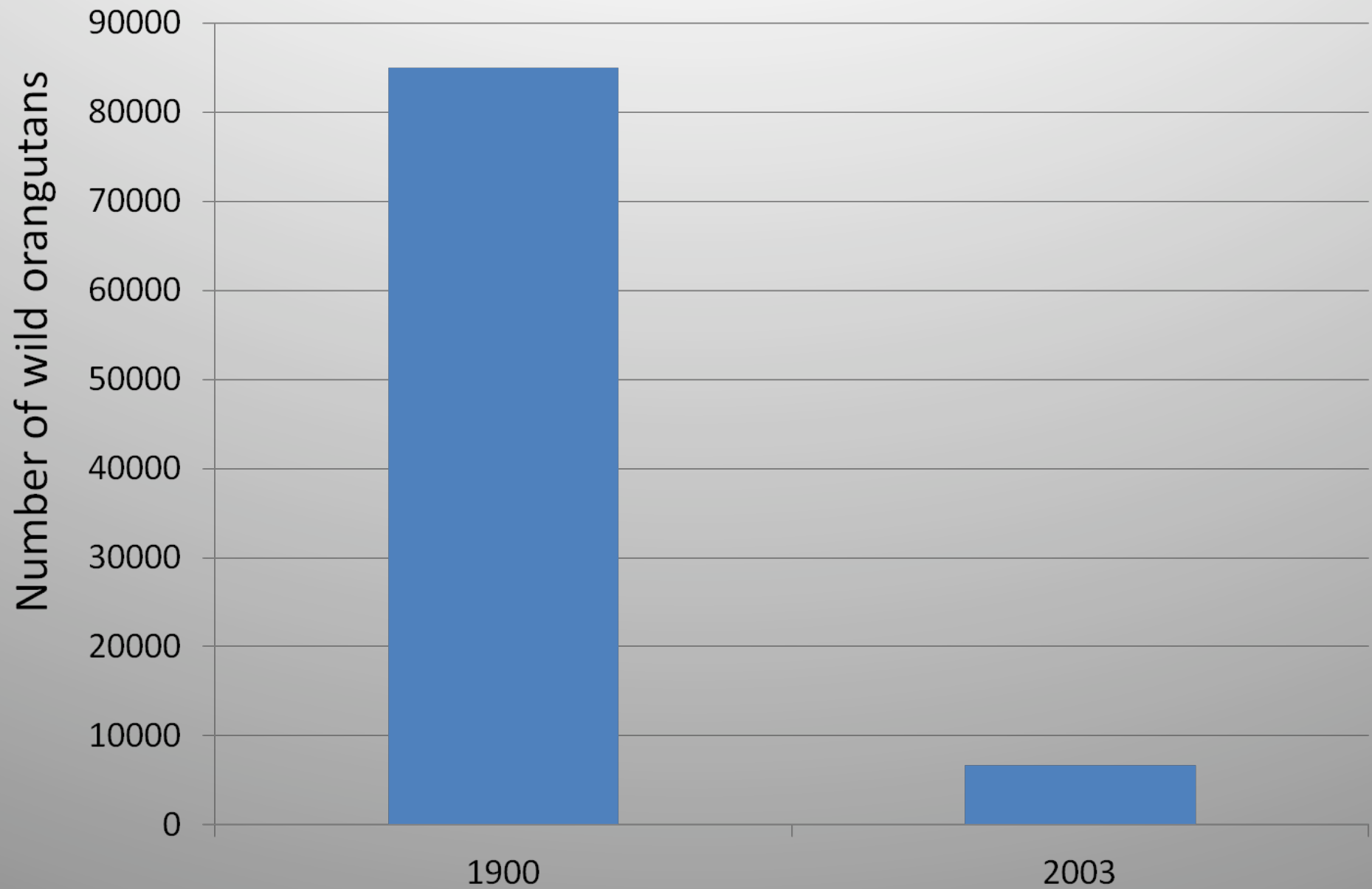


# What's so special about orangutans?

- Make tools and have extensive cultures



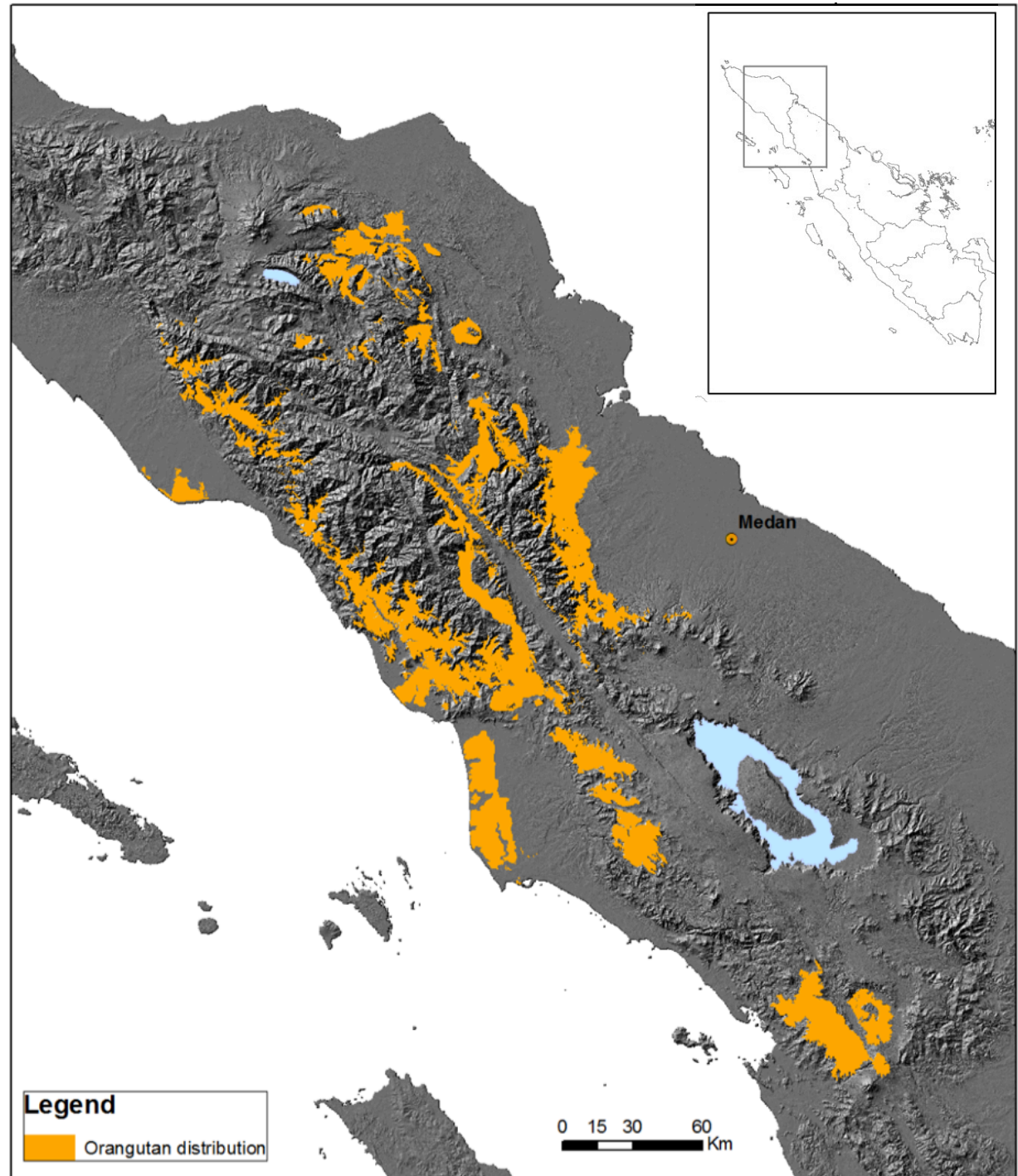
# The decline of the Sumatran orangutan



# Status of the Sumatran orangutan

*Pongo abelii*: 6,700  
(Critically endangered)

(Singleton et al. 2004,  
Wich et al. 2008)





Threats



Habitat conversion



Illegal hunting and persecution

# Large scale monoculture oil palm plantations





# Work of the SOCP to save orangutans

- Confiscations/Rescues and Re-release into the wild
- Conservation applied Research
- Habitat Protection through advocacy and promotion of law enforcement

# SOCP works with the Conservation Dept to confiscate illegally held orangutans



After confiscation orangutans must undergo health checks and quarantine period



Isolation cages



Medical Clinic



Laboratory



# “Socialisation” cages:

After pronounced healthy, orangutans are transferred to large socialisation cages.

Here they meet other orangutans again, frequently for the first time since their mother was killed



# Two Release Sites

- Bukit Tiga Puluh NP, Jambi (since 2003)
- Jantho NR, Aceh (since 2011)



# Orangutans back in the wild

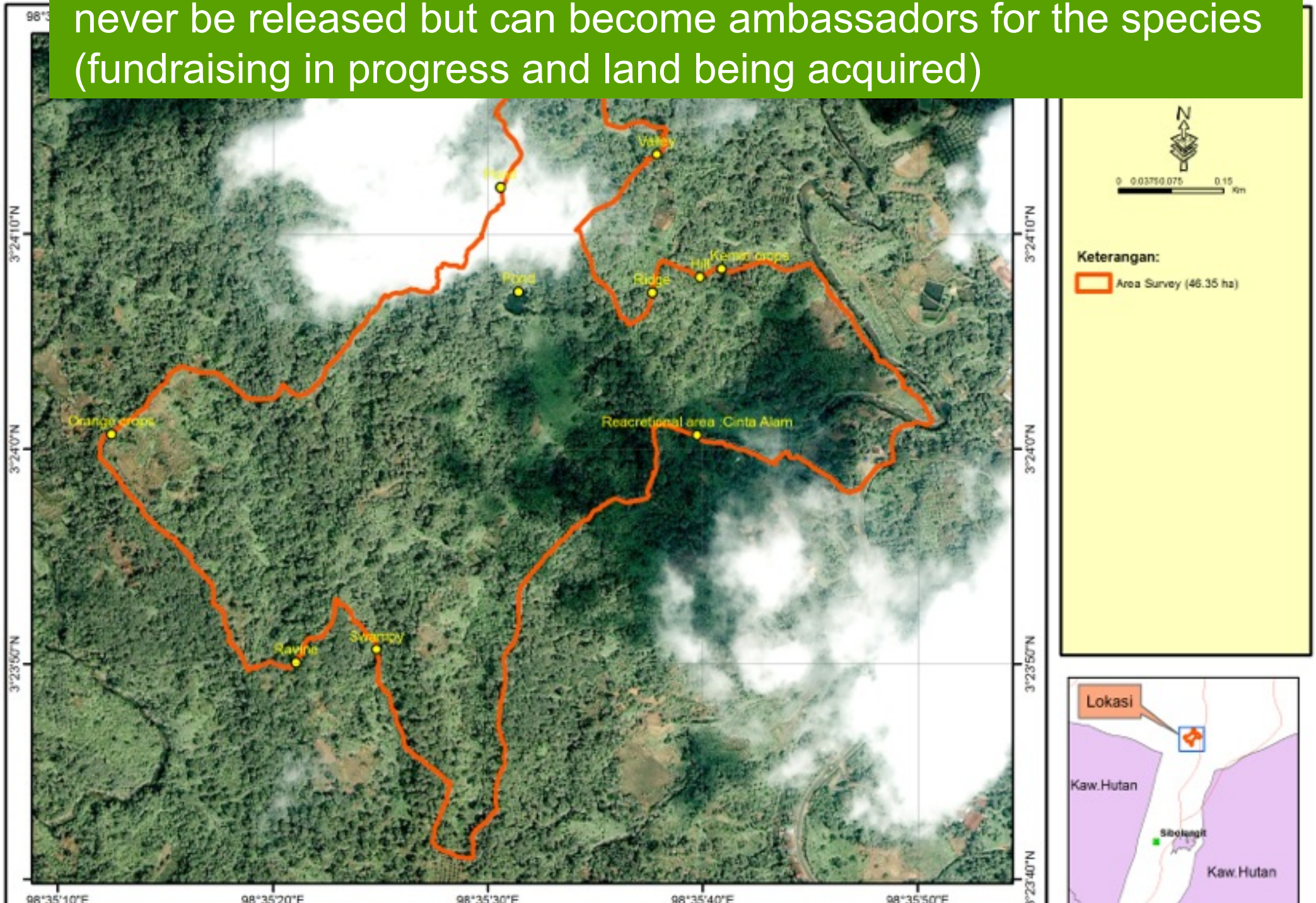


Unfortunately not all individuals can be released back into the wild



TILA: Healthy but hepatitis B positive

“Haven” concept: to provide a long term home for those that can never be released but can become ambassadors for the species (fundraising in progress and land being acquired)





Also: prosecuting “pet” trade: Julius’ trader imprisoned for 8 months and 7 million rupiah fine. First case ever in Sumatra., Feb 2012. **Law enforcement must be HIGH priority.**

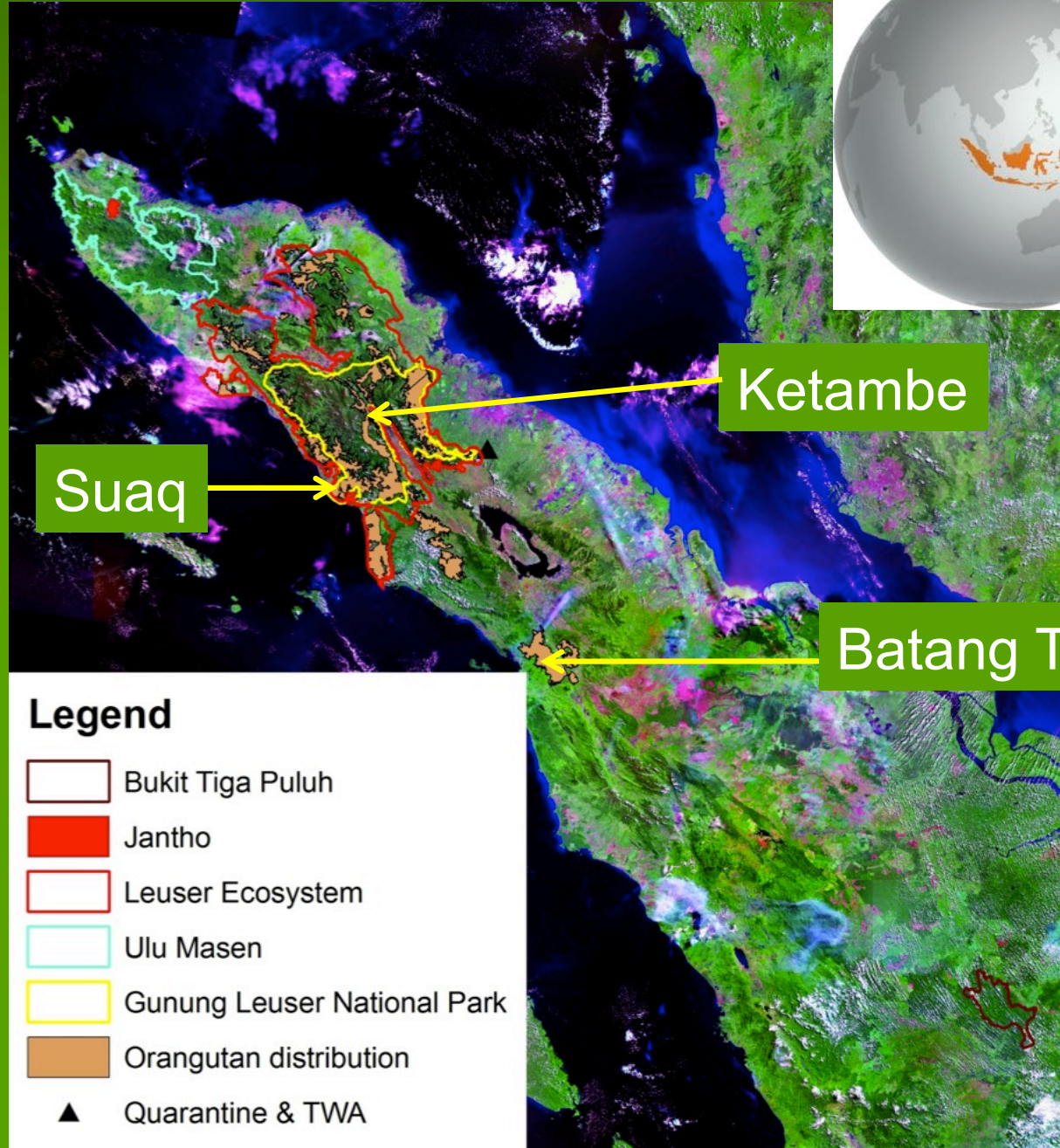


Julius now in Jambi awaiting release

# Research is the basis for conservation

- Home ranges
- Diet
- Reproduction
- Genetic variation
- Population size
- Reaction to habitat degradation
- Reaction to hunting
- Etc.

# RESEARCH: SITES



## Legend

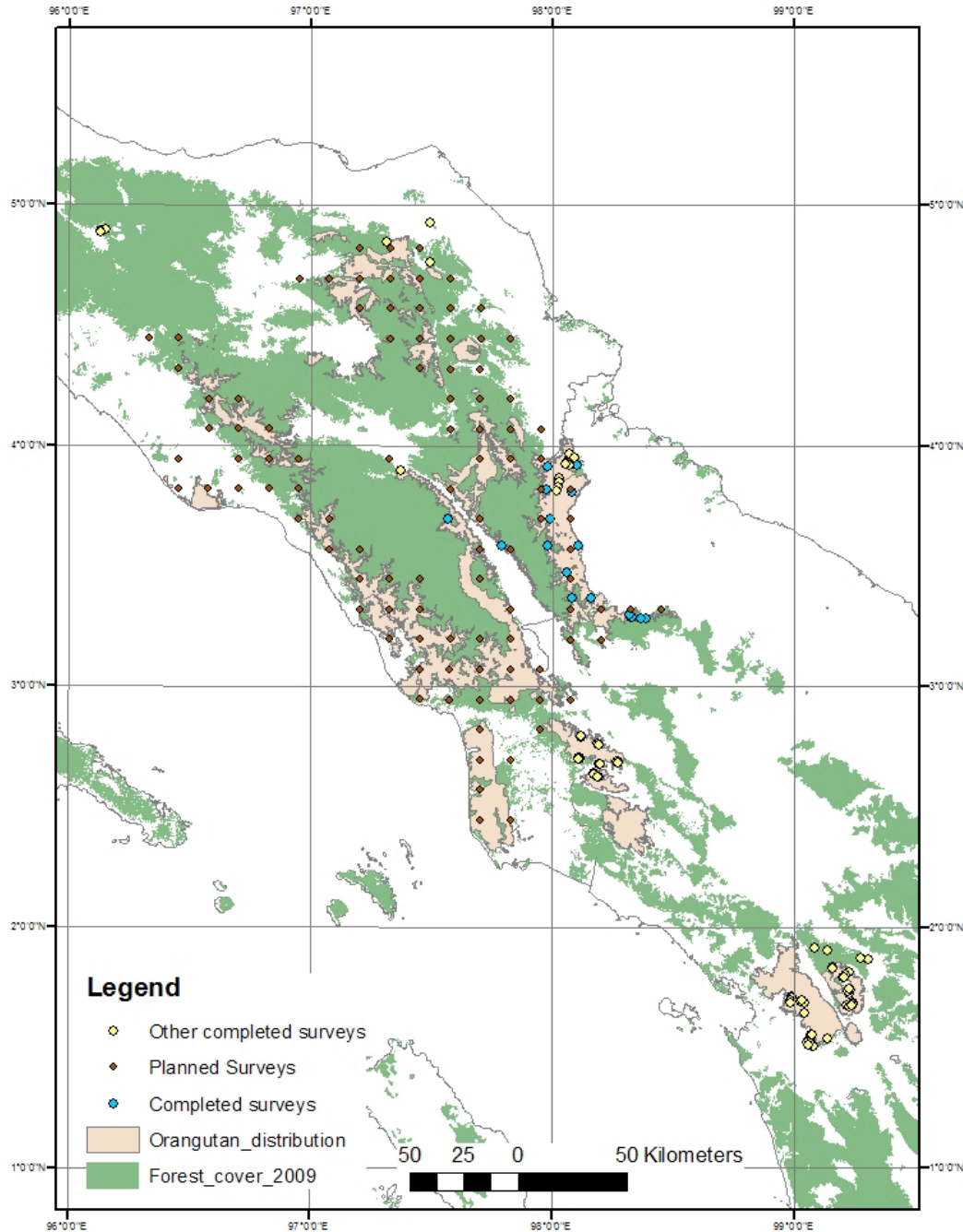
-  Bukit Tiga Puluh
-  Jantho
-  Leuser Ecosystem
-  Ulu Masen
-  Gunung Leuser National Park
-  Orangutan distribution
-  Quarantine & TWA



ORANGUTAN NESTS



# SOCP Island wide orangutan surveys (2009-2012): just completed





# Conservation drones



A project of Lian Pin Koh, ETH,  
Zurich and Serge Wich, LJMU.  
See:

[www.conservationdrones.org](http://www.conservationdrones.org)

Automatic Take-off  
Autonomous Flight  
Automatic Landing  
Range: ~30-50 km  
Cost: ~USD 3,000



First ever orangutan photo from a drone



# First ever orangutan nest photos from a drone





# Deforestation and oil palm



A tool for monitoring of land use changes and illegal activities (logging, fires, smoke)

# Research Feeds into Advocacy: Recent UNEP report launched in 2011 with Minister of Forestry in Jakarta.

[www.orangutanreport.un-grasp.org/](http://www.orangutanreport.un-grasp.org/)



## ORANGUTANS AND THE ECONOMICS OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN SUMATRA



## ORANGUTANS AND THE ECONOMICS OF SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN SUMATRA

Editors: Serge Wich, Riswan, Johann Jensen, Johannes Reifsch and Christian Nellemann

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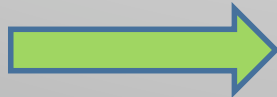


# Potential profit of different land uses: peatland versus non-peat

Oil palm



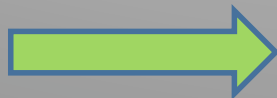
Carbon



Oil palm



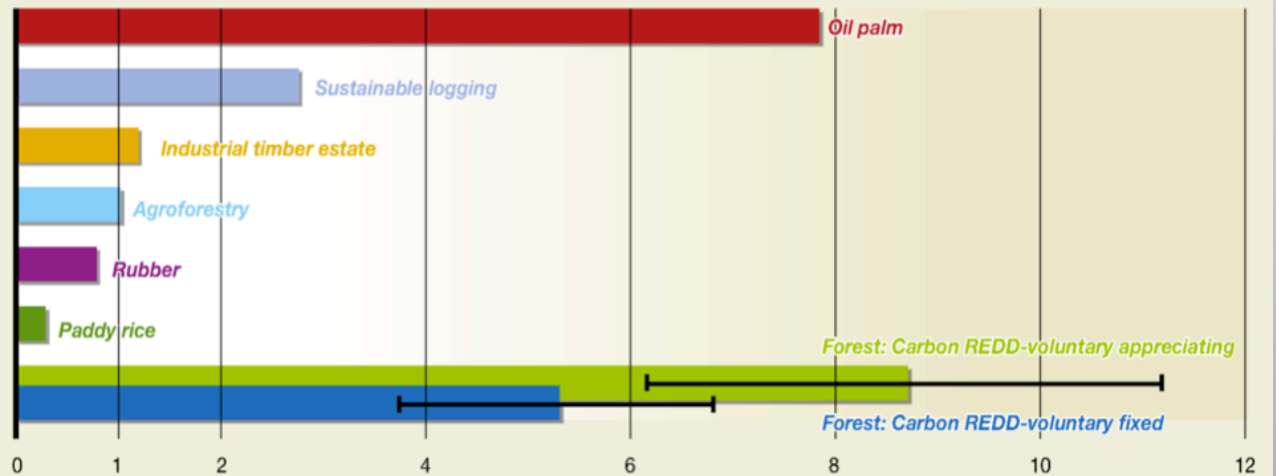
Carbon



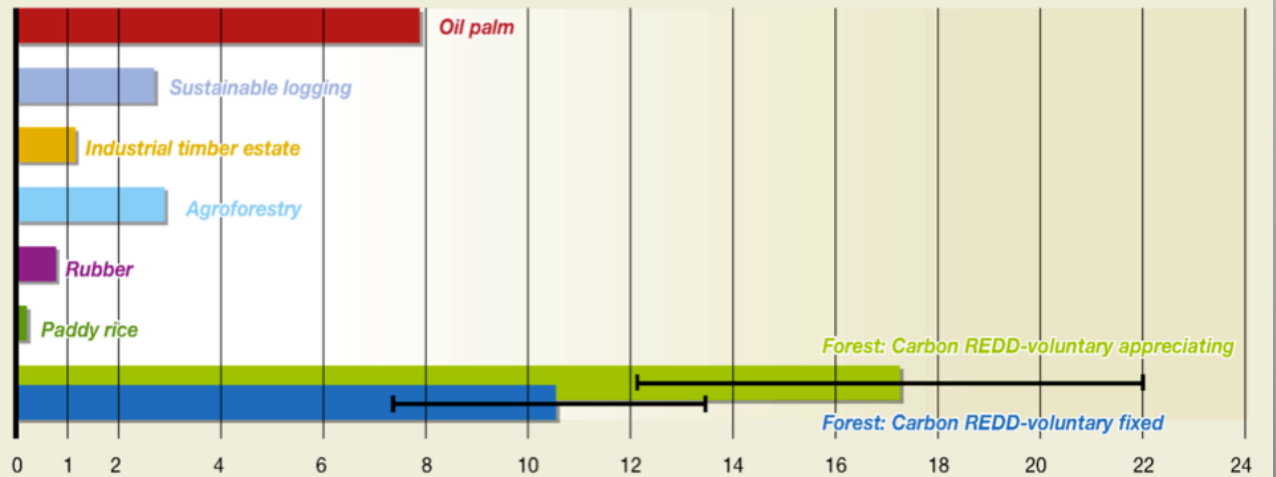
## Land use values

Net present value  
Thousands of dollars per hectare

### Batang Toru: values of various land uses on mineral soils



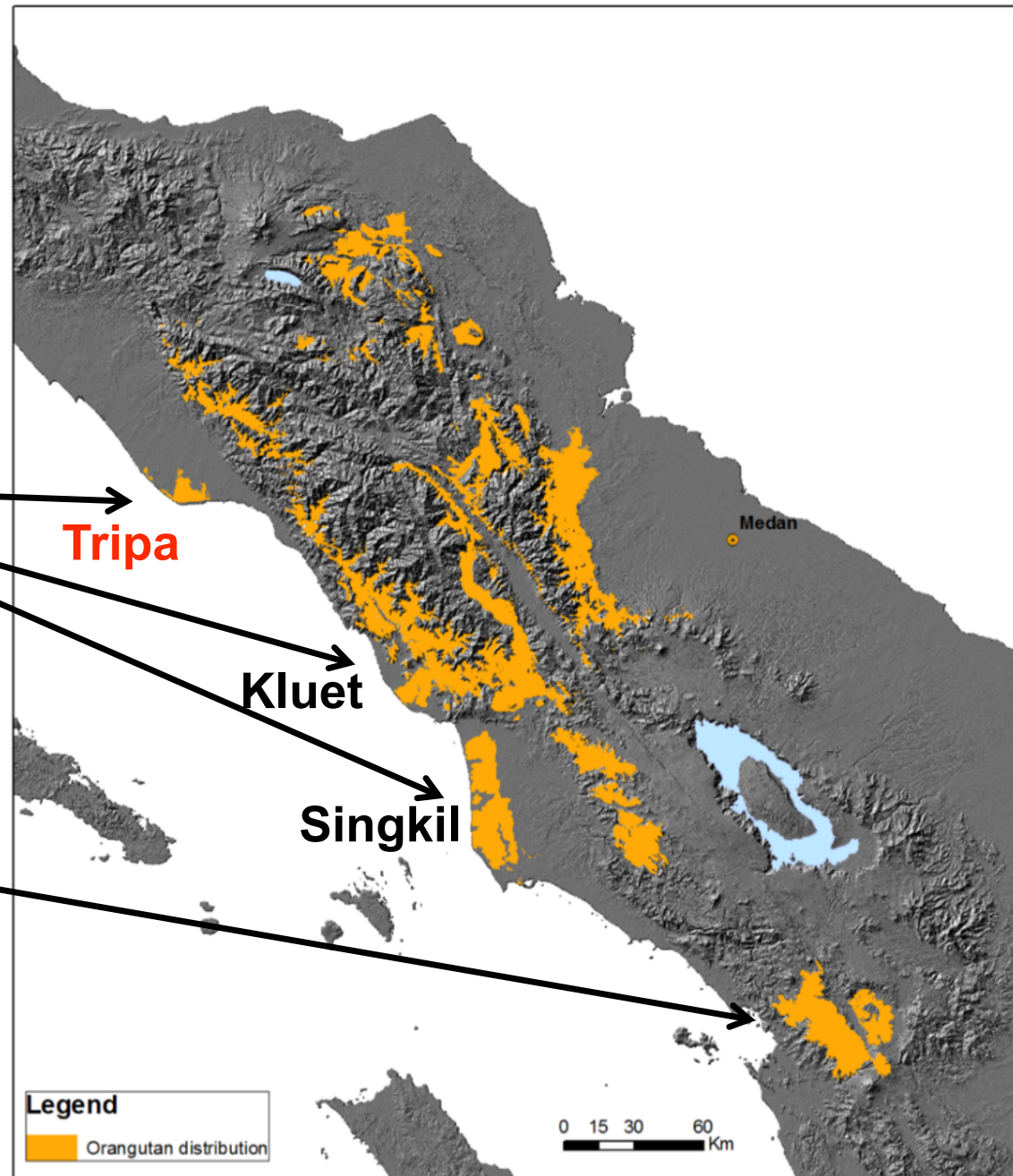
### Tripa: values of various land uses on peat



# Advocacy: Promoting protection of unprotected populations

The peat swamp forests of Aceh harbour the highest orangutan densities in the world, up to 8 or more per km<sup>2</sup>!

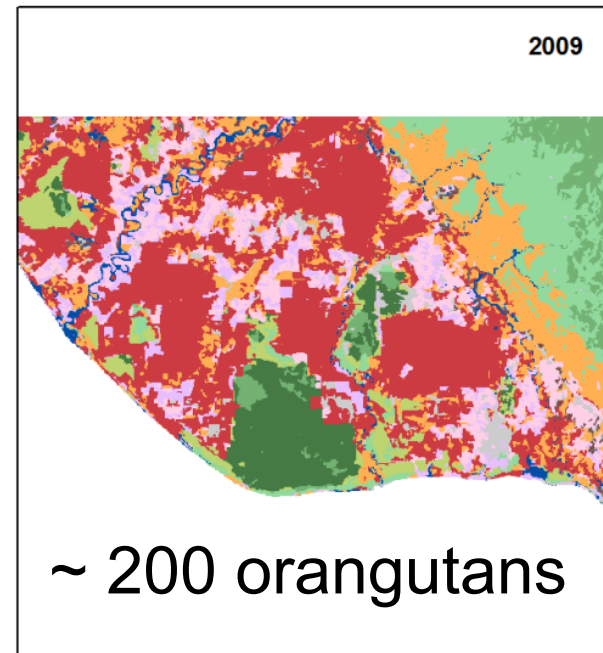
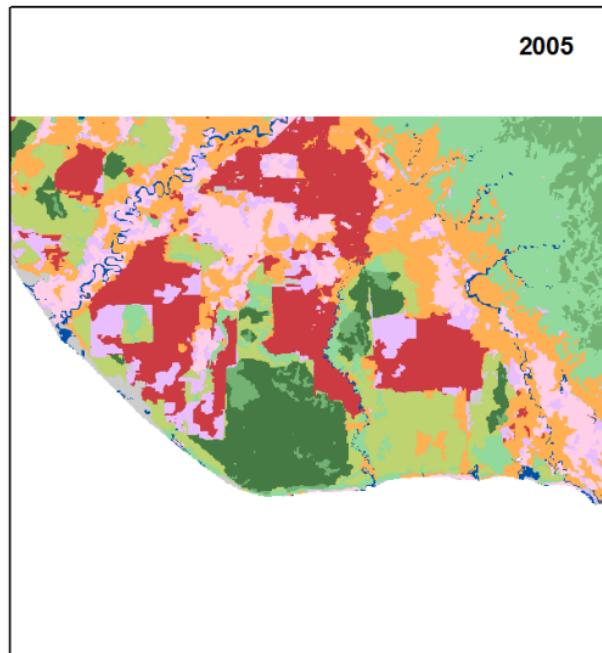
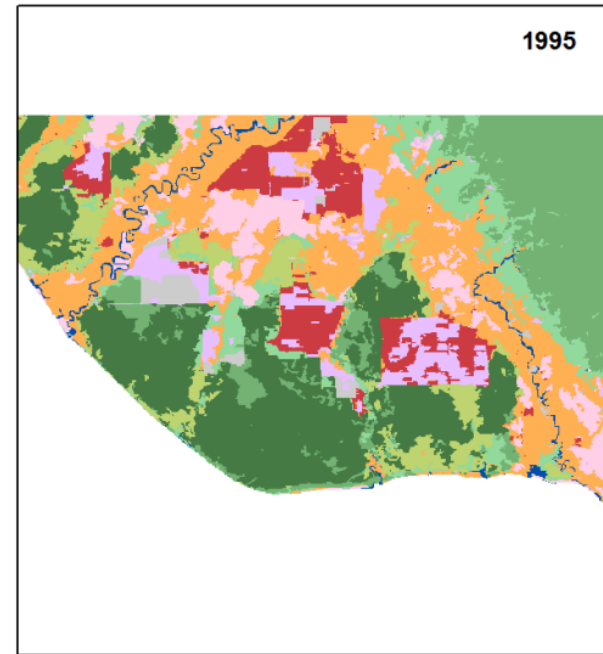
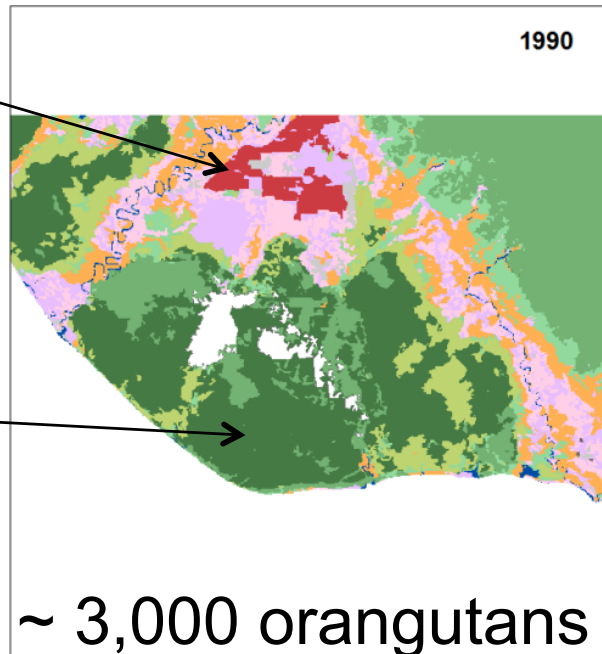
Batang Toru population genetically unique but unprotected!



# Land cover change: Tripa

Oil palm

Forest



# To the field with Ian Singleton and NBC



**Global public opinion has been vital in prompting Government to act in cancelling permit and investigating companies in Tripa:**



**Court grants Walhi appeal, cancels plantation permit in Aceh**

Sita W. Dewi, The Jakarta Post, Jakarta | Archipelago |  
Wed, September 05 2012, 9:05 PM



**REDD+ Task Force Hails Medan Court Decision on Rawa Tripa Case.** *Jakarta, September 6, 2012*



**Walhi Scores Big Win Over Illegal Permit**

Fidelis E. Satriastanti |  
September 06, 2012

# You can help save orangutans from extinction

## Write:

To your favourite food , cosmetic,, etc manufacturers asking them to source 100% Certified Sustainable Palm Oil and to clearly label palm oil products.

To your local Member of Parliament and European Member of Parliament and request that they

Support: the mandatory labelling of palm oil; importing only 100% certified sustainable palm oil; and NOT using palm as a “sustainable” biofuel!

<http://www.angelfire.com/planet/palmoilproducts/>

<http://www.saynotopalmoil.com/palm-oil.php#ProductLists>

<http://www.animal.org.au/azpalmoilcomplist.htm>





# Cosmetics and food industry using palm oil

## Brands and Products using Palm Oils

### Cosmetics



## Brands and Products using Palm Oils

### Food Industry



# You can help save orangutans from extinction

**Find out more, follow us and share with your friends!**

Web: [sumatranorangutan.org](http://sumatranorangutan.org)

Facebook: [/sumatranorangutan.org](https://www.facebook.com/sumatranorangutan.org) and [/endortheicons](https://www.facebook.com/endortheicons)

Twitter: [@endortheicons](https://twitter.com/endortheicons) [@DrlanSingleton](https://twitter.com/DrlanSingleton) [@socp\\_tweets](https://twitter.com/socp_tweets)

## **Fundraise!**

Donate or Adopt orangutans

## **Sign!**

Sign the **Save Tripa** petition and tell Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to Enforce the Law! <http://www.change.org/saveTripa2>.

**This really does have an impact.**



**Thank you very much!**

