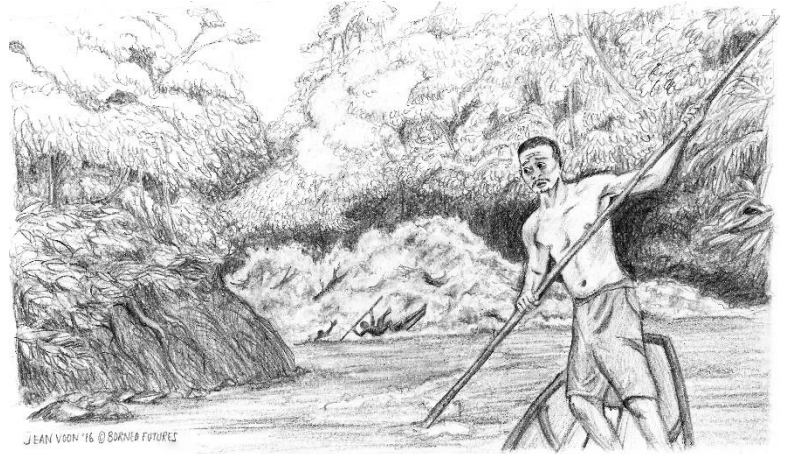

New thinking in orangutan conservation



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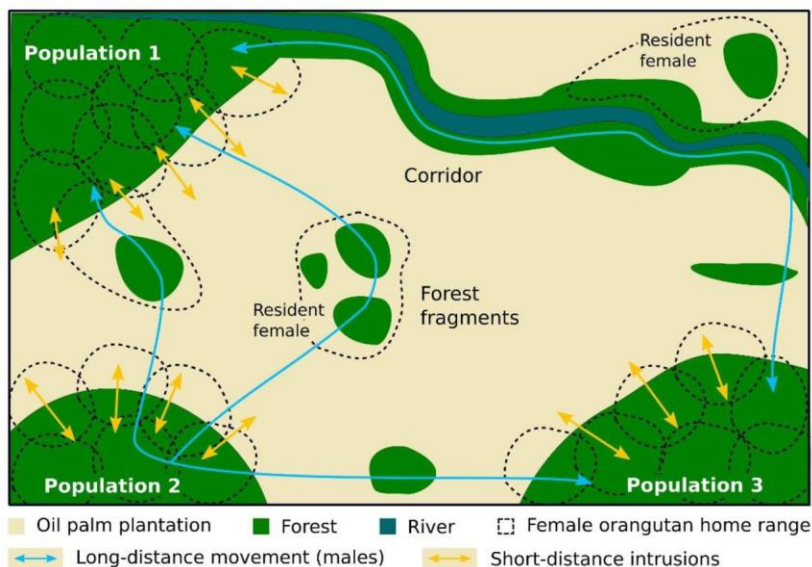
A summary of recent research from three publications:

- **Shifting apes: Conservation and welfare outcomes of Bornean orangutan rescue and release in Kalimantan, Indonesia** . Journal for Nature Conservation, Vol. 55, 2020.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2020.125807>
- **Envisioning a future for Bornean orangutans: Conservation impacts of action plan implementation and recommendations for improved population outcomes**. Biodiversitas, Vol. 21, no. 2, 2020.
<https://smujo.id/biodiv/article/view/4852>
- **The importance of orangutans in small fragments for maintaining metapopulation dynamics**. Preprint, BioRxiv, 2020. <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.05.17.100842v1>

Key findings

- Orangutan killing and illegal possession are commonplace, (994 orangutans taken into rescue centers between 2007 and 2017), but are rarely prosecuted.
- Deforestation, conflicts, and fires drive capture of wild orangutans for relocation (wild to wild translocation). At least 621 wild orangutans were translocated 2007 – 2017. The survival of wild-to-wild translocated individuals is not known, and may be very low.
- But orangutans survive and breed in small forest patches in agricultural landscapes if they are not killed.
- Translocating orangutans undermines metapopulation dynamics, and likely harms welfare.
- Wild to wild translocation should not be the default solution to habitat conflicts or fragmentation.
- A new approach to orangutan habitat and management of fragmented populations is needed. Forests both large and small can be protected and connected to maintain wild orangutans where they currently live, and support metapopulations. New thinking is needed to facilitate peaceful coexistence of humans and orangutans instead of removing orangutans and losing forests.

Maintaining wild orangutans in forest patches is important for metapopulation dynamics and thus long-term survival of species in wild:



What's next – ongoing studies and planned publications (Jun – Dec 2020)

- What happens to forest fragments after orangutans have been removed?
- What have strategies to deter orangutan crimes achieved?
- What is the conservation legacy of 20 years of efforts, with \$80 million annual spending on different strategies? What works best under which circumstances?
- What are the most effective ways to invest conservation dollars to better protect wild orangutan populations?

Additional papers are forthcoming to explore these topics.