



Pusat Suaka
Orangutan
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Press Release

Orangutans Bento and Iskandar Returning to Borneo

Penajam Paser Utara, 4 Oktober 2019 – After living since their infancy in North Sulawesi, Orangutans Bento and Iskandar finally returned to their native Borneo island.

Bento, male, was rescued from an illegal ownership in a house at Manado on September 8, 2005. Upon his rescue, he was 5 years old. While the rescue process of Iskandar took place on 30 October 2004, at which time Iskandar was still around 1-2 years old. Iskandar was the first infant orangutan to be rescued from an illegal trade by a joint force cracking down on animal smuggling from Sulawesi to the Philippines.

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) through the Natural Resources Conservation Center (BKSDA) of North Sulawesi and East Borneo together with the ARSARI Djojohadikusumo Foundation (YAD) through the ARSARI Center for Orangutan Sanctuary (PSO-ARSARI), and the Masarang Foundation through the Animal Rescue Center (PPS) Tasikoki, and related parties have carried out a translocation process to return Bento and Iskandar back to Borneo. Upon arrival in East Borneo, Bento and Iskandar will be placed temporarily in a quarantine enclosure at the Arsari Center for Orangutan Sanctuary (PSO-ARSARI) located in the PT. ITCI in Maridan Sub-District, Sepaku Sub-District, North Penajam Paser District. Then they will be moved to a small island repurposed as sanctuary for orangutan.

"The establishment of PSO-ARSARI is to answer the needs of a sanctuary for orangutans who grow old in cages due to being illegally kept by humans, who are confiscated from the illegal wildlife trade since infancy, who are sick, and with other conditions that prevent them from being released into the wild," Hashim Djojohadikusumo, Chairman of YAD and CEO of PT. ITCI, remarked.

Bento and Iskandar, he said, would later be situated on a small island at Penajem Utara Paser Regency which would be managed by YAD in cooperation with BKSDA East Borneo Office in an institution called the ARSARI Center for Orangutan Sanctuary (PSO-ARSARI).



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The translocation of these two orangutans started from Tasikoki PPS since 28 September 2019 by land and sea, and scheduled to arrive at Kariangau Port in East Kalimantan on 3 October 2019.

"The translocation process of Bento and Iskandar took 5 days in total. It is not an easy process, but needs to be done in consideration of the welfare of Orangutans to be able to live freely in their natural habitat in Borneo," said Sunandar, Head of BKSDA East Borneo office, affirmed by Noel Layuk Allo, Head of BKSDA North Sulawesi office after signing the handover of Orangutans Bento and Iskandar on Friday, 4 October 2019.

"The process of translocating Bento and Iskandar to live together in a sanctuary is the initial pilot of the ARSARI Djojohadikusumo Foundation to further contribute to the conservation of endangered wildlife, namely orangutans (*Pongo pygmaeus*), where previously we were more active in the rehabilitation of other wildlife in Sumatra, especially the Sumatran Tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*)," remarked Catrini Kubontubuh, Executive Director of YAD.

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