



BATU KAPAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM – VOLUNTEER OUTLINE

Come and join our conservation team on a 1 to 8 week jungle adventure to protect the endangered wild Sumatran Orangutan and other animals living in this biodiversity hotspot, in one of the oldest and most beautiful rainforests in the world!

We are a grass roots community led conservation program, run by a group of dedicated local people who are passionate about nature and the environment and who want to protect the animals and rainforest where they live.

If you are looking for a hands-on conservation project, monitoring wild life, replanting the rainforest, helping with recycling and up-cycling educational projects to protect the jungle, where you can really make a difference to the communities you will be working with, please come and join us!

Our aim is to protect and conserve the rare and endangered native fauna and flora that occurs in this critical wildlife corridor occurring on private lands at Batu Kapal adjacent to the Gunung Leuser NP in North Sumatra. Please note we are an action-based community led Citizen Science program (there is no university supervisor on site).

Working at Batu Kapal Conservation base, you will be contributing to the protection the endangered wild Orangutan population and other rare and endangered animals that occur in this critically important national park buffer zone and wildlife corridor occurring on these private landholdings in the area.

You will find our conservation project site at the Batu Kapal Conservation Sanctuary in the heart of the jungle on the tranquil Landak River, overlooking the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Gunung Leuser National Park.

The conservation project is 20 minutes by motorbike or a 1 hour walk from the Bukit Lawang village, ensuring you will feel a world away from the hustle and bustle of village life, as soon as you arrive in this hidden Sumatran jungle paradise. We are surrounded by nature and geological formations, with frequent visits from the local population of wild orangutans and sightings of porcupines and civet cats!

We have resident wild populations of thomas leaf monkeys, silver monkeys, macaques, water monitor lizards, geckos and slow loris, as well as many birds, butterflies, dragon flies, frogs and insects!

Program Highlights

- Immerse yourself in the jungle. Wake to the sounds of gibbons calling every morning!
- Be amazed by the abundance of wildlife in this rare and the beautiful Biolink area adjoining the Gunung Leuser National Park.
- Make memories and friendships that last a lifetime.
- Immerse yourself in the local culture. Meet the locals, they will make you feel like one of their family!
- Explore the jungle, rivers, markets and surrounding villages in your free time.

Project Aim

The project aim is to protect and conserve the rare and critically endangered Sumatran orangutan and the native fauna and flora that occurs in this wildlife corridor on private lands adjacent to the Gunung Leuser NP in North Sumatra.

Batu Kapal Conservation Program goals are:

1. To survey, map and monitor the area, habitats and animals with GPS.
2. To identify existing private landholdings, their primary land use and the extant native vegetation.
3. To map orangutan habitation, large tree corridors and food forage areas. To map known orangutan and primate movement pathways with GPS.
4. To develop a full species list of fauna and flora. To identify the ecosystem service provided by each subject. With a view to developing a better understanding of what is missing. To establish recovery programmes for threatened and vulnerable species.
5. Create wildlife corridors to reconnect orangutan and animal habitats between the national park and the nature buffer zone on private lands as per the project plan.
6. Develop best practice agriculture and ecotourism activities which have minimum impact on the surrounding environment.

Specific conservation activities include:

- Observe, map, monitor, survey, photograph and GPS habitats, large corridor trees, flora and fauna in the Batu Kapal conservation project area, including orangutans, slow loris, other animals and birds.
- Develop a species list of fauna and flora.
- Create wildlife corridors to reconnect orangutan & animal habitats to GLNP through tree and bamboo plantings and establishing rope bridge crossings.
- Locating and recording areas with wild orangutans and populations of other animals.
- Identifying, GPS recording and monitoring orangutans and other primates' daily activity pattern, including migration paths and feeding, resting and travelling patterns.
- Dusk and dawn slow loris, civet cat and porcupine walks by torchlight to GPS, photograph and record sightings.
- GPS, record and map with GIS every significant canopy tree in the wildlife corridor, focussing on ficus, trembesi and pakam trees in the area and record when its fruiting seasonw, as these are important trees for orangutans.
- GPS all orangutan nests in the area and map using GIS.
- Identify individual orangutans, taking photos of individual orangutans for records.
- Identifying and GPS mapping new points of interest in the Batu Kapal Conservation area.
- Maintaining species monitoring databases and other work at the base.

- Assist with cleaning and rubbish removal on trails, in the conservation site and along the river once a week.
- Planting of trees and/or seeds needed for the wildlife corridors including in neighbours' lands and/or monitoring planted trees.
- **Volunteers are responsible for cleaning and maintaining their volunteer dormitory and bathroom, helping with the cooking for volunteer meals and washing dishes.**

About the Project

Working at the Batu Kapal Conservation base, you will be contributing to the protection of the stunning rainforest ecosystem occurring in the national park buffer zone situated on private landholdings.

Sumatra represents one of two of the last remaining natural habitats for Orangutans in Indonesia! The Sumatran Orangutan is now classified as Critically Endangered.

Forest cover in Sumatra was reduced by 61% from 1985-1997 due to logging, infrastructure development, internal migration, and plantation development. The Sumatran Orangutan population has decreased by 86% over the past 100 years! The most recent estimate places the figure around 7,300 left in the wild, with steady losses occurring every year.

Your Itinerary

Day 1: Introduction Day!

You will fly into Medan (Kuala Namu (KNO)) airport, Sumatra, to begin your jungle adventure at the Batu Kapal conservation project site! It is a 4 hour drive to the project site from the Medan Airport. We will arrange to pick you up by private car from the Medan airport or your Medan hotel and transport you to the closest village, then by motor bike to transport you for the last 20 minutes to reach the jungle volunteer base.

Please note check in times at the conservation site are between 7am and 9pm Sunday to Friday. Please ensure your flight arrives at KNO Medan airport before 4pm if you would like to arrive at the conservation site on the same day as flying to Medan airport; **it is a 4 hour journey to the conservation base. You are able to arrive any day of the week except Saturday** (the staff go home to see their families on Saturday). Please note, as the weekly volunteer program starts on Monday, it is recommended that you **arrive on Sunday or Monday.**

If your flight arrives after 4pm, we recommend that you either stay at an airport hotel or our car transport can take you to Bukit Lawang, the nearest village on arrival and, with your motorbike taxi transporting you to the project base the next morning at 9am in the daylight.

On arrival at the project site you will be given an introduction and orientation to the programme and the intended daily schedule.

From Day 2 onwards - A typical day Monday to Saturday. Sunday is a free day for you to explore the area and local village, do a trek into the national park or some tourist activities.

A typical day's volunteering activities is made up of a combination of our environmental and educational volunteer activities. A usual itinerary which combines both is outlined below:

6.30 am Group 1 Early morning wildlife monitoring, gps, photograph and record sightings. This is often the time of the day the animals are most active!

8.00 am Help with the preparation of your breakfast

9.00 am Group 2 Morning wildlife monitoring.

10.00 am Group 1 Start morning activities with volunteer conservation wildlife monitoring and biolink project (See specific conservation activities listed above)

12.00 pm Help with preparation of Lunch

1.00 pm to 3.00 pm – rest time or optional activities for you to choose from

- Data entry of monitoring sheets, identifying orangutan photos and orangutan profiles
- Plastics projects - litter pickup, making ecobricks, plastic craft projects
- Plant nursery activities, tending to plant nursery, seedling collection, planting trees, making bamboo tree guards
- Assist with social media for the conservation project
- Helping out in the garden and veggie patch
- River stone sculptures. Stacking and making pebble towers alongside the river.
- Learn some Indonesian language with our team
- Take time out to relax, explore or cool off in the Landak River

3.00 pm to 5.00 pm. Afternoon activities

Afternoon program activities include - see weekly volunteer schedule

- Plastics projects - litter pickup, making ecobricks, plastic craft projects
- Plant nursery activities, seedling collection, planting trees, making bamboo tree guards
- Mondays to Thursdays. Assist at Selayang Jungle School and Sunshine Class English Lessons. 2.00 – 5.00 pm help teach English to our school children. ***(motor bike taxi transfer at extra cost to/from 60.000 to 70.000 IDR each way depending on the distance to which school you help at).*** 'Pack for a purpose' school supplies donation appreciated.
- Fridays visit traditional rubber, fruit and vegetable market (you can walk or motorbike transfer is 60.000 IDR one way).
- Weekly Batu Kapal rock and cave explore
- Help set up camera traps to record nocturnal animals and update database of findings, usually once a week.

5.30 pm Help with preparation of dinner.

6.30 pm Dinner

7.30-10.00pm Evening Activities and Free time.

Optional night walk to spot slow loris, civet cat, leopard cat or porcupine, gps, photograph and record sightings on some evenings, once or twice a week.

Other optional evening activities can include relaxing and playing cards and games, guitar and campfire on some evenings and our Indonesian/English exchange with the team and neighbours.

There are also opportunities to give workshops to your fellow volunteers about skills you know like photography, plants etc! This is optional but is a great way for everyone to learn new things! Please speak to the volunteer coordinator to organise!

Each evening volunteers have an opportunity to share their experiences for that day and plan for the next days activities.

10pm Sunday to Friday – Lights out! Volunteers retire for the night. We ask you to please respect the other volunteers and the staff.

Orangutan Habitat Restoration

The Gunung Leuser area and surrounds, has one of the most concentrated population of Orangutan in the Southern hemisphere! However, deforestation and encroachment of their habitat has destroyed their environment and displaced them from the natural forest to the private landholdings in this conservation project area bordering the national park.

During your volunteer placement you will be monitoring and recording the rare animals and plants of Sumatra first hand! Activities include:

1. Wildlife Biolink Corridor Program

1. **Nursery Activities** – Establishing and maintaining the tree and plant nursery is an important component for the creation, restoration and maintenance of the Wildlife Biolink Corridor Project. You will be collecting seedlings, seeds and fruits for nursery, and also learn how to prepare and cultivate tree saplings or seeds in the nursery.
2. **Planting and Establishing Wildlife Biolink Corridors** - Through this activity you will gain an understanding, as well as directly be involved in, enrichment tree planting to create this wildlife corridor needed by wildlife including critically endangered Sumatran Orangutan and other primates and animals.
3. **Tree Maintenance** –GPS, monitoring and maintaining the trees planted as part of the reforestation program in the biolink and conservation area is a crucial part of wildlife corridor program, to ensure a higher survival rate of planted trees.

2. Batu Kapal Orangutan and Primate Program

Working in small groups within the project area, your activities will include monitoring the isolated population of wild Orangutans and other animals occurring in isolated rainforest fragments on private lands at Batu Kapal, abutted by palm oil, rubber plantations and farm land.

The longer term aim is to develop and conduct an environmental education program in schools and the community living adjacent to this wildlife biolink.

Please note we have a strict no human contact or feeding policy of wild animals. Our aim is to keep wild animals wild through the protection and reforestation of their habitat!

3. Animal Surveying, Monitoring and Data Collection Program

As a volunteer you will have the opportunity to monitor, survey, record and track movements of some of the forest's most elusive wildlife! Activities include:

Conducting animal and bird monitoring and surveys

- Locating, observing, identifying, monitoring, photographing and GPS recording areas with wild populations of orangutans and the other animals and birds occurring in the Batu Kapal conservation project area and at specified GPS points of interest in the program
- Identifying, GPS recording and monitoring orangutans and other primates' daily activity pattern, including migration paths and feeding, resting and travelling patterns
- Continuing with GPS mapping of the project site and identifying and GPS recording new points of interest in the Batu Kapal Conservation area
- Survey, GPS, photograph and collect data of sightings of Orangutan's Nests

4. Biodiversity Identification

- Learning to identify tree species
- Insect identification (eg butterflies, dragon flies etc).
- Keeping a photographic record of animal and bird sightings, as well as plants identified
- Compiling, identifying and analysing data collected

ROAR COMMUNITY PROJECT – (Recycle or Activity Reduce)

One of the biggest problems experienced by the local community is the use and disposal of single use plastics. The ROAR program was established to assist the community in tackling this issue. Activities on the ROAR project include:

- Helping with the recycling project and sorting plastic at the conservation site
- Helping at the project site with composting to produce organic compost and fertiliser
- Helping plant, weed and harvest edible garden, fruits and vegetables
- Weekly clean-up along the river, in the conservation site and the jungle for any rubbish.
- Reducing plastic waste through the ROAR program. Stage one – zero plastic bottles project
- Leading by example – help set up demonstration areas on the project site to assist with the education of the community and local farmers (ie signage and information on projects)

Upcycling Plastics Projects.

- Making Eco bricks from single use plastic bottles and plastic bags from litter pickups.
- Set up the eco brick bins with signage about the program in tourist areas to reduce littering
- Building rubbish collection bins, fences and buildings out of eco bricks.
- Learning to make bags, purses, baskets, mats etc from single use plastic bags and sachets, with weaving, knitting and crocheting techniques

Free-time activities - Choose from any of the optional activities below for you in your free time (cost extra)

1. Full day activity. Walking to the Selang Pangeran swimming & picnic spot (easy 2 – 2.5 hour walk one way. Fitness average), returning at 5pm by motorbike (POA) .
2. Full day trip by jeep to Batu Rongring with hike to the 47M circumference tree with lunch included (POA).
3. ½, 1, 2 and 3 day jungle treks to Adi Back camp and Batu Gajah camp in the Gunung Leuser National Park into the wilder parts of the park, straight from our project site! (POA, price depends on the number of people on the trek).
4. Natural Hot springs day trip by 4wd including lunch (POA).
5. 3 hour motorbike tour of the villages and rice fields, visit cottage industries, rice hulling and drying, palm sugar, tofu, bamboo weaving (POA).
6. Traditional massage (POA).
7. Traditional rice cooking in evening – prepare and cook rice in bamboo over fire
8. Donate and plant a tree as part of the Batu Kapal Reforestation Program (donation \$15US per tree with proceeds going back to the conservation program)

9. Full day trip by jeep to wash the elephants at Tangkahan (POA)
10. Stone Carving Workshop (\$15US pp min 2)
11. Rubber tubing on the Bohorok River (POA).
12. Batcave half-day adventure with lunch on the Landak River (POA).
13. Visit Rafflesia Arnoldii or Amorphophallus titanum (largest flowers in the world) if in season. Visit two of the world's largest and smelliest flowers! (POA).
14. Learn how to up-cycle plastic into bags and purses from local lady named Rosita. \$10US for 1 hour pp excluding motorbike into village (extra \$6US per bike each way).

SKILLS

We are looking for volunteers that have a passion for wildlife conservation, an ability to work as a team with other volunteers and by yourself, have an upbeat, positive attitude and are committed to achieving the project's goals. Tasks are not particularly physically strenuous; however a fair level of fitness is advised as the climate is hot and humid.

While no specific skills or experience are required, being able to use a laptop, excel and word and a willingness to learn how to use the GPS to record wildlife sightings is desirable but not essential. Knowledge of how to use GIS software would also be handy but not essential and can also be learned while on site.

We are looking for volunteers that are highly motivated, have significant drive and able to work independently or as part of a small team of volunteers after the initial induction and orientation. Our team are here to assist and support you, but we expect our volunteers to be self directed and motivated in completing your daily volunteer activities.

To ensure you have a great volunteering experience with us, please take the opportunity every day to discuss the programmed activities with the volunteer coordinator, as well as any specific activities you might like to undertake during your stay. If you have any particular concerns or need further advice or support, please discuss this with the coordinator so it can be addressed and resolved.

A guide to maximising your volunteering experience with us. Volunteering programmes like ours operate on a basis of mutuality. That is to say, the more you put in and immerse yourself in the experience and take ownership of your volunteer tasks, the more you will get out of it. Our team is here to help guide you and motivate you, but your personal motivation and drive will be the key factor for your success both here and during your life.

If there is anything you would like to talk to us about regarding the volunteer program, please let us know and we will be happy to discuss it with you.

VOLUNTEER FEES

Your contribution to our volunteer program includes shared open-plan dormitory accommodation mattress pillow sheets and mosquito net, your transfers to/from Medan airport/hotel, three meals per day, tea, coffee and drinking water at the project site and the programmed volunteer activities on site

Your volunteer program fees are calculated as a daily rate (not per night) and include the day you arrive and the day you depart.

Minimum volunteer fee is \$490US per person for stays of 7 calendar days or less.

Fees are \$40US per person per day from day 8 onwards.

Subject to availability, volunteers may be able to upgrade to a private guesthouse room with ensuite, for an additional discounted rate of \$35 US per night per room. The cost of a private guesthouse room fee per day is in addition to your daily volunteer fee.

Please note it is a condition of the volunteer program that families travelling with minors upgrade to a private room for \$35 US per night per room.

All proceeds of the volunteer program are reinvested in the conservation program to fund the ongoing operation of the program to achieve our conservation goals. This includes operational costs such as the staff salaries, food and maintenance, as well as the purchase of much needed conservation and tree nursery equipment, trees for our reforestation program, conservation resources and the strategic acquisition of private landholdings with high conservation value to create a private nature sanctuary to protect this critically endangered Wildlife Corridor. Your fee includes a donation to our rainforest rescue program to enable the purchase critical parcels of land in the wildlife corridor for conservation.

Program Requirements

MINIMUM AGE

In order to join the program you need to be at least 18 years old on the program start date. There might be exemptions if you can provide the permission of your legal guardian(s) or when families are travelling together.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

You need to speak English (intermediate level) to participate in our program to follow safety and activity instructions.

TIME COMMITMENT

Your helping hand will be required on Monday to and including Saturday. Note Sunday is a free day for you to explore the local surrounds or go on a day activity at extra cost.

SUITABLE FOR

Singles, Couples, Groups, Families
1 – 8 Weeks or longer

NATIONALITY RESTRICTIONS

No restrictions. Helping hands from all over the world are welcome!

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Please ensure you have travel insurance to cover injury, accident, sickness, hospital and medical expenses, missed flights, cancellation and loss or damage to your personal belongings.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Please note if your plans change your volunteer fees are non-refundable, however, we are more than happy to change your start date. Please ensure you have travel insurance to cover cancellation.

COVID PROTOCOL

We recommend you contact the Indonesian embassy in your country or check their website, to determine the current COVID requirements that apply at the time you will be travelling, as these are constantly being updated.