



BORNEAN ORANG-UTAN

The Bornean orang-utan is the largest tree-dwelling mammal in the world. Alongside its cousin the Sumatran orang-utan, they are the only species of great ape to be found in Asia. Read on to discover more interesting facts about them.

Where they live

Bornean orang-utans are native to Indonesia and Malaysia, and can only be found in the rainforests on the Island of Borneo.

wwf.org.uk/wildlife/orang_utan/



CHARACTERISTICS

- Distinctive body shape, with very long arms that may reach 2.2 metres in length.
- Coarse, shaggy, reddish coat and grasping hands and feet.
- They weigh between 40-85kg.
- There are two different types of adult male orang-utan: 'flanged' and 'unflanged'. Flanged males have a long coat of dark hair on their back, a facial disk, flanges (cheek pads) and a throat sac used to make a very loud sound called a 'long call' which is used to attract females.
- They live up in the canopy of the rainforest, where they climb and swing and even build a nest by weaving branches.

DID YOU KNOW

Each night, an orang-utan builds a nest from bent branches on which to sleep, high up in the trees. In wet weather, they sometimes add a roof.

FAMILY

The female orang-utan gives birth to a single young usually once every seven to nine years. When they are an infant, they spend the first 2-3 years being carried constantly, and will still remain close to their mother up to 7 years of age.

Adult orang-utans are generally solitary, although temporary groups are occasionally formed in areas of abundant food.



VIDEO
Watch footage:



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ft2ntmJTm7Y>
- arkive.org/bornean-orangutan/pongo-pygmaeus/video-00.html
- arkive.org/bornean-orangutan/pongo-pygmaeus/video-01c.html

FEEDING

- Orang-utans' diet includes hundreds of different types of food including fruit which forms around 60% of their diet.
- They will also feed on leaves, shoots, insects, tree bark, seeds, nuts, honey and soil.
- They obtain water not only from fruit, but also from tree holes.

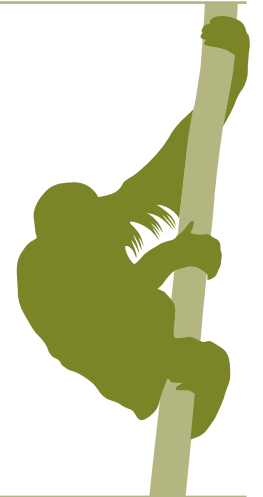
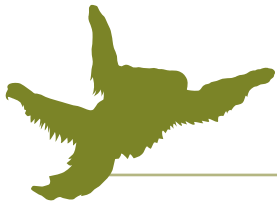
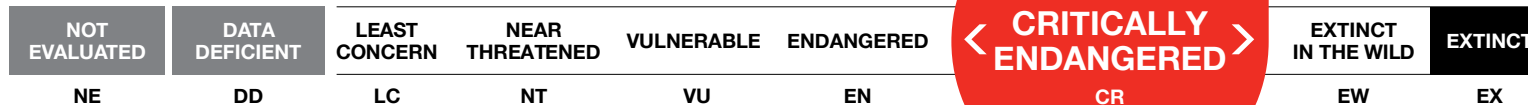


DID YOU KNOW

Bornean orang-utans are a 'gardener' of the forest, playing a vital role in seed dispersal.

CLASSIFICATION

Classified as **Critically Endangered** by the IUCN Red List.



STATUS

Habitat destruction, degradation and fragmentation, together with hunting in Indonesian Borneo, are by far the greatest threats to their population. Their lowland forest habitats are quickly disappearing. Over the past 40 years, around 17.7 million hectares of forest has been destroyed in Borneo – an area about the size of Florida. Half of these forests used to be prime orang-utan habitat. They are being cut down for timber or burned to make way for oil palm plantations and other agricultural developments.

The species has experienced sharp population declines over the past few decades. It's estimated that there are at least 55,000 Bornean orang-utans remaining in the wild.

Because they are large and slow, they are an easy target for hunters either for meat or in retaliation to stop crops being raided. Young orang-utans are also kept as pets, but there are conservation efforts to bring an end to this illegal wildlife trade as well as help conserve their habitat and promote sustainable forestry and agriculture.

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