

Proposal

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PROPOSAL

The following is the proposal of the research team as to the
Kutai National Park with its warm expectations

1 Substantial number of orangutans is recognized in the Kutai National Park and its surrounding areas. Owing to the decrease of habitat capacity after extreme drought and forest fire and enlarged human activities into forests, a number of them are caught or slaughtered. Some of them were returned again to the forest.

At present, the only one rehabilitation center for orangutans in Kalimantan is located and operated at Tanjung Puting. Although the geographical variation of orangutan is under study, it is safe to assume that the East Kalimantan population of orangutans has its own right to be treated biologically. A new center for rehabilitation of orangutans should be founded in the Kutai National Park or in a proper area of East Kalimantan.

2 The area of the present Kutai National Park does not cover major habitat types of the lowland dipterocarp rain forest of East Kalimantan. Concerning the fauna of arboreal mammals alone some species, which are recorded in the areas nearby, are not known in the park. An additional area should be contained in the park, though the present park area was proposed by Dr. N. WIRAWAN with his great efforts.

3 To ensure and accelerate the recovery of the rain forest of Kutai National Park, effective managements may be needed. Some primates, hornbills, fruit bats and other potential seed-dispersers seem to be reduced in the number after the fire. An experimental re-introduction of these animals into 'habitat islands' of the remnant forest left behind in the burnt area is effective for the faunal recovery. While, populations of herbivores such as bantengs, deers, bearded pigs, etc. would be in the stages of rapid recovery because of enough food supply in subseral vegetation after the fire.

4 If possible, Kutai National Park should be designated as a 'biosphere reserve' proposed by MAB/UNESCO project. It is a suitable place for developing techniques for the management of large animals and conservation of diversified plants and small animals through international co-operation.