



**Cinta Raja:
Conflict Hotspot to Wildlife Refuge**

SÖS



**Sumatran
Orangutan
Society**



An urgent opportunity exists to reclaim a highly strategic area for wildlife in North Sumatra, Indonesia. Currently a wildlife conflict hotspot, we plan to support our frontline partners to purchase an 890 acre oil palm plantation directly adjacent to the Leuser Ecosystem. By restoring the forest, we will create habitat for orangutans, elephants and tigers, as well as a buffer zone to protect the border of Leuser from encroachment and poachers.



The Opportunity

The Sumatran Orangutan Society (SOS) recently learned that a highly strategic plot of land on the edge of the Leuser Ecosystem is available for purchase.

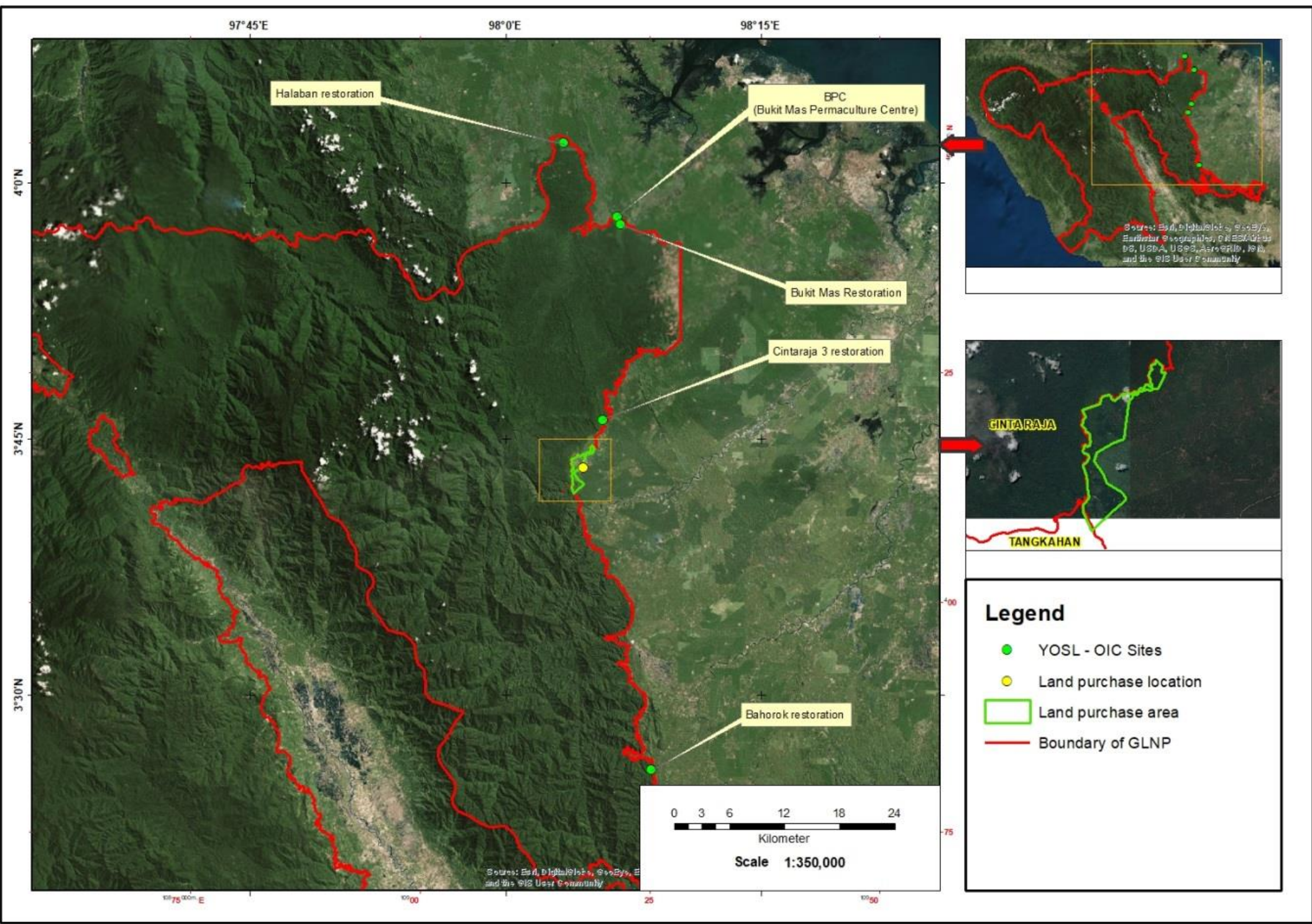
Currently managed as an oil palm plantation, the land lies within the home range of several of Leuser's most iconic species, including elephants, tigers and orangutans.

Once lush biodiverse rainforest, the land is now an oil palm plantation, and a wildlife conflict hotspot. A herd of elephants regularly travels through the plantation, causing damage to crops and property; in October an elephant calf was killed in retaliation. A stranded orangutan has been evacuated from the plantation and returned to safe forests, and a plantation security guard has been arrested and jailed for poaching, having killed two tigers.

The extensive border between the plantation and the intact forests of Leuser (see map, next page) makes this a particularly strategic prospect.

If we can purchase and restore this land, we would create a buffer zone that protects the border of the Leuser Ecosystem from incursions and protects the wildlife from conflict and poachers.





Halaban restoration

BPC
(Bukit Mas Permaculture Centre)

Bukit Mas Restoration

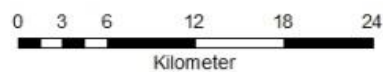
Cintaraja 3 restoration

Bahorok restoration



Legend

- YOSL - OIC Sites
- Land purchase location
- Land purchase area
- Boundary of GLNP



Scale 1:350,000

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the GIS User Community

Costs

We need to raise £870,000 to secure this 890 acre plot of land. This equates to around £978 per acre.

SOS has provided £10,000 GBP funding to our sister organisation, Yayasan Orangutan Sumatera Lestari (YOSL), as a down payment to secure the right to buy the land and avoid competitive bids from other prospective buyers.

Agreement has been reached with the landowner to finalise the purchase through three instalments:

1. £316,648– by 9th September 2018
2. £276,676 – by end of November 2018
3. £276,676 – by end of February 2019

Partnership Proposal

We would be delighted to explore the possibility of multiple funders clubbing together to ensure this 6km long stretch of forest frontier land can remain in the hands of a trusted local conservation NGO for ever. Might you consider a scenario whereby you pledge to match donations made by members of the public?

Communication opportunities

SOS will report on a quarterly basis on the progress of the forest restoration programme, number and species of trees planted, and wildlife sightings, including camera trap images and videos. Aerial images and footage from a conservation drone will also be supplied. We can also offer partners the opportunity to visit the site.

The Future

The health and prosperity of the people of Sumatra are inextricably linked to the fate of the forests. To tackle the root causes of forest degradation, our key strategy is to promote and enable sustainable development activities which are compatible with conservation: an absolute cornerstone to durable protection.

Our field partners develop bespoke conservation action plans with communities living next to the Leuser Ecosystem, then provide training and tools to equip them with the skills and knowledge to benefit from, rather than exploit, the rainforest ecosystem (for example, training in permaculture, agroforestry and organic farming techniques). Although often the cause of deforestation, agriculture can have a role to play in supporting conservation. Helping rural communities to increase productivity and profitability from their land, in regions where farming is the primary driver for deforestation, enables them to improve their own livelihoods, whilst also playing an active role in safeguarding the forests. Farmers have improved their profit, reducing their need to expand farmlands into the forest. This leads to decreased pressure on the ecosystem, providing greater security for the forests and wildlife.

We call this our CARE model, which stands for: Community Agroforestry, Restoration and Education. By working with the people who are most severely affected by the choking haze from forest fires, from flooding and drought when the fragile balance of the ecosystem is destroyed by forest clearance, this model demonstrates a 'greenprint' for breaking the link between development and deforestation.

At Cinta Raja, once the land is secured, the oil palms will be removed and community-managed organic tree nurseries will be established to provide seedlings for the restoration of the land. Community needs assessments will be conducted to support tailored sustainable livelihood development in the landscape, and 100 acres of the site will be developed as a permaculture demonstration site and social enterprise.



Track record

Thousands of acres of orangutan habitat have been destroyed and replaced with farmland and other developments. Together with our partners in Sumatra, we are reclaiming and restoring this land for wildlife.

Our sister organisation, Yayasan Orangutan Sumatera Lestari (YOSL), will own and manage the land at Cinta Raja. We recently supported them to purchase a 250 acre oil palm plantation directly adjacent to the Leuser Ecosystem in Bukit Mas, North Sumatra, where half of the plot will be restored and half will be turned into a permaculture demonstration site. We have an offtake agreement with Lush (natural cosmetics company) to purchase the essential oils produced through the permaculture element. We are also building a school to which local families can send their children in exchange for active involvement in forest restoration.

The 6 restoration sites managed by YOSL are within the Leuser Ecosystem, and are repairing damage to the forest caused by illegal activities – primarily the clearing of forest for oil palm plantations.

As well as restoring lost habitat and reinforcing national park boundaries, these projects engage local people in grassroots conservation action. Strong roots in the community are absolutely essential for this work to succeed, and the groups we work with have become the guardians of the forests, protecting the ecosystem from future threats.

YOSL have planted over 1.6 million trees to date, and wildlife is starting to return to these areas, including orangutans, elephants and sunbears. These animals are actually helping the restoration by eating fruit and bringing seeds in their dung – especially the birds, orangutans and elephants.





*For further information and to discuss your involvement in this project, please contact:
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