

ORANGUTAN FRANK

SPECIES PROTECTION FOR CLIMATE PROTECTION

SCHWALBE SUPPORTS BORNEO ORANGUTAN SURVIVAL FOUNDATION FOR 12 YEARS

Frank is now four years old and has become quite independent. Although he still likes to be taken to forest school by his surrogate mothers, he immediately starts climbing and searching for natural food in the trees. Taste testing in the forest is an important part of the journey to independence for young orangutans like Frank.

Frank lives in Indonesia, where Schwalbe has been producing its tires since 1993. He was found there in the jungle and has since been cared for by the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOS). The foundation rescues homeless or orphaned orangutans and campaigns against the destruction of their habitat. Schwalbe has been supporting BOS for twelve years. Protecting the endangered great apes and the rainforest, their habitat, not only helps the animals, but also the people in the region and the climate.

Orangutans share 97 percent of their genes with humans, and are more empathetic and intelligent than any other animal. They recognize themselves in photographs, use tools, and know what to do with more than a thousand species of plants. A total of 409 of them live in the two sanctuaries of Nyaru Menteng and Samboja Lestari on the island of Borneo, with 25 being released into the wild in 2021. The orangutans learn foraging, nest building and climbing – all the things their mothers would otherwise have taught them. The sanctuary stations follow a familiar pattern: forest kindergarten, forest school and forest university – where they then live under almost natural conditions. After eight years, the training is completed and the orangutans are released back into the wild. First on a protected island, and one year later into the wild.

HOLISTIC APPROACH

The protected areas in Indonesia are to be further expanded in the coming years. At the same time, local people are being shown effective new methods of using the rainforests, because they too must benefit from sustainable species conservation. In this way, they learn how to earn a living by managing the forest sustainably and in a way that is close to nature, rather than destroying it. The foundation provides support through development projects and the granting of microcredits, for example to promote sustainable agriculture or rattan and rubber production.

SCHWALBE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Biodiversity and the preservation of species richness are integral aspects of ecological responsibility. Schwalbe published its first CSR report in October. This anchors the topic of ecological and social responsibility holistically within the company.

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