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Geographical range

Knowledge
Experts
Action
Get Involved

Amazing Species: Bornean Orangutan

The **Bornean Orangutan**, *Pongo pygmaeus*, is listed as 'Endangered' on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™. Endemic to the island of Borneo, it has a patchy distribution in the two Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak, as well as in three of the four Indonesian Provinces of Kalimantan.

Orangutans are the largest tree-dwelling mammals on earth. Numbers of the Bornean species have undergone a sharp decline due to anthropogenic disturbances, including habitat loss through the rapid expansion of palm-oil plantations and forest conversion to agriculture, including rampant illegal logging. Hunting for bushmeat and for the trade in orangutan body parts, together with the illegal export of animals for the pet trade, also seriously threaten the survival of this charismatic primate.

The Bornean Orangutan is listed on Appendix 1 of CITES which makes it an offence to trade this species internationally; it is also fully protected under both Indonesian and Malaysian legislation. Since the majority of this species live outside protected forests, and past events on Borneo demonstrate that even seemingly well protected populations cannot be considered safe, urgent efforts are needed to ensure their long-term survival.



The production of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is made possible through the IUCN Red List Partnership.