

## Upcoming Events for 2025

**October 13  
Gorilla Golf**

**White Oak Country Club  
Newnan, GA**

**November 1**

**Deadline to be on  
ballot for ACE Board  
November 15 Voting**

**Oct. 15 - Dec. 31**

**HoneyBaked Ham  
Fall Gift Card Sale**

**December 2**

**GA Gives/  
Giving Tuesday**

**December 13**

**ZA Volunteer  
Holiday Bazaar  
After Mega Update**



Photo by Eric Balke/Sauq

Milo, an unflanged male  
Sumatran orangutan settled in  
his night-nest.

## Orangutans make up for lost sleep with daytime naps, study finds

By Carolyn Cowan

When it comes to sleeping, few animals are as fastidious as orangutans. Each evening, as twilight approaches, the tree-dwelling great apes meticulously weave a cup-shaped nest out of branches, twigs and leaves, line it with comfortable soft foliage, and bed down for the night. The nest secures them high in the forest canopy and allows them to grab up to 12 to 13

hours of shut-eye per night.

For more than a decade, researchers studying a group of Sumatran orangutans (*Pongo abelii*) in the forests of Indonesia's Aceh province had observed individuals also taking daytime naps in more makeshift nests. They wondered whether the napping orangutans were catching up on poor sleep the previous night, in much the same way humans might flop down in an armchair or sofa for a quick power nap.

In a new study published in *Current Biology*, the researchers show that the orangutans do indeed compensate for a poor night's sleep by napping more the following day. They found the shorter an individual's sleep period overnight, the longer its cumulative nap period the next day.

They found that the presence of other orangutans sleeping nearby correlated to shorter night sleep and

daytime nap periods, suggesting that social interactions might interfere with sleep. They also observed that individuals that traveled farther during the day slept for shorter durations at night, and the higher temperatures during the day resulted in shorter nap times. These results indicate possible trade-offs between foraging, socializing, traveling and sleep.



Photo by Natasha Bartalotta/Suaq  
Cissy, a Sumatran orangutan mother naps in her day nest

The time the orangutans spent resting in their sleeping nests isn't a direct measure of actual sleep, the authors point out. Rather, it's the best available proxy for their "sleep period" given the challenges of studying wild animals in dense forests. "We can hear them rustling around, getting comfortable, and then everything becomes quiet," Dr. Caroline Schuppli said. "For us, these were clear indicators of them going to bed and falling asleep." In the morning, the researchers would observe them waking up and leaving their nests.

Research has shown sleep deprivation weakens the immune system and can

impair mental performance. With their steep energetic demands, "reduced sleep may be particularly detrimental for orangutans," the study says.

Daytime napping is one way the negative effects of lost sleep can be remedied, according to Schuppli. However, the finding that orangutans napped for shorter periods on hotter days is concerning - the climate crisis and associated rising temperatures could make it harder for them to catch up on the lost sleep with knock on consequences for their health and survival. "It's not just habitat fragmentation and habitat loss that's affecting orangutans, it's also climate change," she said.

Another finding that intrigued the authors was the reduced time spent sleeping when orangutans nest near others. Sumatran orangutans are a semi-solitary species, Schuppli said, so sharing nests is rare, occurring only between mothers and their nursing young. But even the impact of sleeping within 50 meters (160 feet) of another orangutan seems to be enough to reduce their length of time in slumber, the team found.

This adds to what's already known about the costs of being social for orangutans. As a large-bodied fruit-eater,

competition can arise when several orangutans dine on ripe fruit in the same tree, for instance. Despite this, and the new evidence that sleeping near others can reduce rest, orangutans still choose to be social, indicating there might be deeper reasons for sociality that are vital to orangutan survival that we don't yet fully understand, the authors say.

"If orangutans have to travel longer distances due to deforestation and habitat fragmentation, they might have less time or fewer safe places to nap and rest, leading to cumulative sleep debt over time. The study highlights just how interconnected sleep, energy balance, and movement ecology really are for these animals," she said.

Sumatran orangutans are considered critically endangered by the IUCN, the global wildlife conservation authority. Fewer than 13,900 individuals are thought to remain in the wild, confined to tracts of intact forest in the north of Sumatra - mostly the Leuser Ecosystem, where Gunung Leuser National Park is located. Even here, however, they're threatened by habitat loss driven by logging, mining and conversion of the supposedly protected forests to plantations.

However, many such programs are facing uncertainty amid global conservation funding cuts, she noted. "These data sets become more and more valuable each year that date is accumulated. Once there's data lapse, we can't go back and recover it."

Studying the behavior and perceptual realities of great apes through such studies is valuable not only to understand how anthropogenic pressures will likely impact other species, but also in revealing insights into our own humanity. As Schuppli puts it, "We risk losing global heritage of what those data can tell us about ourselves and who we are as a species."

*Mongabay News*  
July 24, 2025



## We have a MOU with Zoo Atlanta

It was time to renew the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Zoo Atlanta and ACE, and Susan Smith got the ball rolling. We are pleased to announce that we have a signed MOU as of July 17, 2025, and it will be in effect through August 2027.

Most of the details are the same as our last MOU, concerning ape-painted items, ostrich eggs, reserved space for meetings and events, etc. If anyone needs a copy of the MOU, please contact Jane Barron. Many thanks to Gina Ferrie and Susan Pinciotti for their help in getting this completed.



## Want to be a Board Member?

Can you believe a year has gone by? In just 6 weeks we will be voting on Board Members. Susan Smith's term as Board Member will be up in November, but we are happy to announce that she has agreed to run for another two-year term. Thank you, Susan.

If YOU would like to be a Board Member, please let a member of the current board know. The commitment is for two years, and the time commitment is very manageable since most correspondence will be through email. If you have questions, please let us know. The deadline to run for the 2026-2028 term is November 1, 2025.

Voting will be by email on November 15, 2025.



## It's Fall Y'all

By Susan Smith

Yes, Fall has finally arrived (hopefully the fall weather will soon follow) and that can only mean one thing – it's time for the annual ACE HoneyBaked Ham fall gift card sale. We are going to start the sale a little earlier this year on October 15 running till December 31. This will give you more time/events to buy and use your HoneyBaked Ham gift cards. Not only for holiday events like Thanksgiving and Christmas but tailgating family gatherings. The gift cards are also great to use as “thank you” gifts for folks that provide services to you- letter carrier, delivery person, hair stylist, etc.

Remember that ACE receives 20% of the purchase price from the cards you buy. You can get the cards electronically or request plastic cards (allow 10 days for delivery). It is easy to order your cards, use the link below to access the ACE HoneyBaked Ham website:  
[https://www.honeybaked.com/fundraising/ACE\\_Fall\\_Sale](https://www.honeybaked.com/fundraising/ACE_Fall_Sale)

[com/fundraising/ACE\\_Fall\\_Sale](https://www.honeybaked.com/fundraising/ACE_Fall_Sale)

A flyer with all the information is also included in the newsletter. You can help ACE raise more funds for great ape conservation by sharing the flyer with friends, family and co-workers. If you are active on social media, posting the flyer there is another way to spread the word. If you have any questions or need more information, contact Susan Smith at 404-226-7738 or email [susansmith9008@comcast.net](mailto:susansmith9008@comcast.net).



## Thank you From OO

September 25, 2025

Dear ACE:

I hope this email finds everyone at ACE well in these chaotic and challenging times.

Thank you so much for the continued support of ACE! Please let the team know how grateful we are!

We'll allocate the \$2,300 in full to BOSF in our October transfer. The funds will go toward the development of BOS Nyaru Menteng 2. Work as been steadily progressing on both the

new Forest School for juvenile orangutans and forested sanctuary space for unreleasable adults. The young orangutans moved to the new campus earlier this year! We've been posting videos on our website. Lots more to come! While BOS continues to create the islands, the next critical piece to the puzzle is the construction of a new veterinary clinic – along with night housing for more orangutans. We're hoping the majority (if not all!) of the orangutans can be moved to the new space by early next year.

Meanwhile, in Sumatra the plan is to move all operations from the damaged Quarantine to the Haven facility, where there is plenty of space to build a forest school and housing for the younger orangutans. It's hard to believe it's been nearly a year since the landslide... We've been posting updates on our website and social media. <https://redapes.org/landslide>

The dedication and continued support of ACE means the world to orangutans. If you'd ever like to chat about our work, please reach out anytime! We are always happy to jump on a video call! :-)

Best wishes and thank you again... Stay sane down there!  
Rich {-:-}

Richard Zimmerman  
Executive Director  
Orangutan Outreach  
*Reach out and save the orangutans!*



## Holiday Bazaar will be December 13

The next Mega Update and Holiday Bazaar will be December 13. Gorillas and orangutans are painting ornaments for ACE to sell.

If you want to donate Christmas ornaments and holiday decorations for ACE to sell, please let a Board Member know. We will set a time and place to get the donation.



Photo by RAN  
Bulldozers are being used by palm oil plantation PT Sewit Panen Tenus to destroy significant areas of lowland rainforest in the Leuser Ecosystem, in February 2024.

## Global brands join drive for deforestation- free palm oil in Indonesia's Aceh

By Hans Nicholas Jong

JAKARTA - Some of the world's biggest consumer brands are banding together to tackle deforestation in one of Earth's richest biodiversity hotspots in Indonesia.

The companies, including Nestlé, PepsiCo and Unilever, on August 13 launched the Aceh Sustainable Palm Oil Working Group, which brings together major palm oil buyers, producers and refineries to align with a newly established road map for sustainable palm oil in the province of Aceh, on the island of Sumatra.

The working group, the first province-level initiative of its kind in Indonesia, is "a much-needed, long overdue step towards halting the

devastating effects of palm oil expansion in the vital region," U.S.-based campaign group Rainforest Action Network (RAN) forest policy director Gemma Tillack said.



Photo by Rhett A. Butler/Mongabay  
A large male orangutan in the Leuser Ecosystem.

Despite its ecological importance, Aceh continues to face pressure from palm oil-driven deforestation. The province is home to Southeast Asia's largest and most carbon-rich peatlands, as well as the Leuser Ecosystem - the last place on Earth where critically endangered Sumatran elephants, tigers, orangutans and rhinoceroses coexist in the wild.

The Leuser landscape is part of the UNESCO-listed Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra World Heritage Site and is also designated as a Biosphere Reserve.

Deforestation in Aceh fell after a peak in 2009, but has been on the rise again since 2021. Between 2020 and 2024, the province lost 41,834 hectares (103,374 acres) of forest, more than half



of it inside the Leuser Ecosystem.

RAN and TheTreeMap recently documented the clearing of peat swamp and digging of canals to dry out the carbon rich soil inside the Rawa Singkil Wildlife Reserve, a legally protected zone, continuing after December 2020, which RAN says is a violation of the EUDR (European Union Deforestation Regulation) cutoff date. This is why a province-level commitment for sustainable palm oil production is needed, said Nassat Idris, IDH's country director for Indonesia.

"Real progress will depend on transparency, accountability, and continued pressure from civil society, Indigenous communities, and consumers around the world," RAN said. "The window for change is open. What happens next is still up to all of us."

Mongabay News  
August 22, 2025



## Gorilla Golf: Call for Videos

By Shelley DeWeese

Inviting Ape  
Conservation Effort  
Members to Share Their  
Putt Putt Moments

*Step up, dear friends, it's  
your time to shine,*

*Ape Conservation Effort,  
our vision aligns.*

*We're planning an event,  
wild and bold,*

*A Gorilla Golf story,  
waiting to be told.*

*We need your help to  
spread the cheer,*

*A simple request, we're  
making it clear*

*Take a video, just short  
and sweet,*

*Fifteen seconds or less –  
it's hard to beat!*

Please sent your  
masterpieces to  
[shelldeweese@gmail.com](mailto:shelldeweese@gmail.com)  
Thank you!



## Did you know?

To be great, truly great,  
you have to be the kind of  
person who makes the  
others around you great.

*Mark Twain*

Conservation is a way of  
living and an attitude that  
humanity must adopt if it  
wants to live decently and  
permanently on earth.

*Paul Bigelo Sears*



## 2025 ACE Board

Jane Barron  
Susan Callaway  
Barbara Cebula  
Shelley DeWeese  
Karin Keller  
Jenny Reineck  
Susan Smith

Primary contact:  
[info@apeconservationeffort.org](mailto:info@apeconservationeffort.org)

Gorilla Golf:  
[gorillagolf@apeconservationeffort.org](mailto:gorillagolf@apeconservationeffort.org)



**Just in time for Fall 2025 celebrations**



**ACE is selling  
HoneyBaked Ham gift cards.**

**Gift cards can be purchased in several denominations  
and can be used at any HoneyBaked Ham store and online.**

They never expire and there is  
no limit to the amount you can purchase.



**ON-LINE PROCESS**

Gift cards can be purchased from **October 15th thru December 31st**  
[https://www.honeybaked.com/fundraising/ACE\\_Fall\\_Sale](https://www.honeybaked.com/fundraising/ACE_Fall_Sale)



**ACE receives 20% of the purchase price.  
You get your party food and  
ACE helps save great apes in the wild. Everyone wins!**

*Ape Conservation Effort is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization  
with a mission to help save great apes in the wild.*

# Ape Conservation Effort Donor Form

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Please print clearly. The information you provide will be used to promote your donation and your company.

Your personal or company name: \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City	State	Zip Code	Phone Number
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Please give a complete description of the donated item: \_\_\_\_\_ Retail Value: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**(Complete this section if donating a Gift Certificate)**

Will you supply the gift certificate?	Yes	No
or		
Do you authorize ACE to create your gift certificate?	Yes	No

Ape Conservation Effort, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) organization.  
Tax I.D. #20-5911817

Do you want a copy of this Donor Form sent with your acknowledgment letter?    Yes                      No

**Donor's Authorized Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Ape Conservation Effort, Inc.  
800 Cherokee Avenue, S.E.  
Atlanta, GA 30315**

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FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY:

Committee member: \_\_\_\_\_

Rev'd.: \_\_\_\_\_