Orangutan SSP: Current Program Status
The Orangutan SSP

Chair: Lori Perkins, Zoo Atlanta
Vice Chair: Megan Elder, Como Zoo & Conservatory
Secretary: Dina Bredahl, Cheyenne Mountain Zoo
Members: Meredith Bastian, Ph.D., National Zoo
Cindy Cossaboon, Denver Zoo
David Hamilton, Seneca Park Zoo
Suzanne Husband, Toledo Zoo
Erin Jones, Utah's Hogle Zoo
Ronda Schwetz, Henry Vilas Zoo
Rob Shumaker, Ph.D., Indianapolis Zoo
Denise Wagner, Phoenix Zoo
The Orangutan SSP

Advisors:
Dusty Lombardi, Birth Management
Carol Sodaro, Husbandry
Ronda Schwetz, Field Committee Chair
Meredith Bastian – Conservation Research
Dina Bredahl – Palm Oil
Megan Elder, International Studbook
Deb Schmidt, Ph.D., Nutrition
Angie Selzer, Social Media
Nancy Lung, VMD, Veterinary
Joe Smith, DVM, Veterinary
We are charged by AZA with ...

- Organizing a scientifically managed captive breeding program for orangutans in AZA-member institutions
- Cooperating with other institutions and agencies to promote integrated conservation strategies
- Conducting basic and applied research to contribute to our knowledge of the taxon
- Increasing public awareness of wildlife conservation issues through education and advocacy
We are in this for the long haul!

- Long-term health of the population
- Lifelong well-being of individuals
- Sustained commitments and partnerships to assist public education, conservation and research
Breeding Recommendations

• They are one **tactic**: managing captive breeding to maintain healthy, **self-sustaining** populations that are both **genetically diverse** and **demographically stable**

• ... intended to serve the larger AZA SSP **mission**: to help ensure the **survival of wildlife species into the future** and to provide a **link** between individuals living in zoos and the conservation of their wild counterparts
The SSP Population (N=219, 54 zoos)
### Bornean Summary (current)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Population / Institutions</td>
<td>39.53 (92) 26 zoos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exclusions / Pending Imports</td>
<td>0.5 / 0.0 Net -5 = 87</td>
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<tr>
<td>Births since October 2015</td>
<td>4 (3.1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deaths since October 2015</td>
<td>2 (0.2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017 breeding recommendations</td>
<td>13 (6b.) 8 carryover [3 pregnancies], 5 new recommendations</td>
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<td>Sumatran Summary (current)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current Population / Institutions</strong></td>
<td>34.53 (87)</td>
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<td>27 zoos</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Exclusions / Pending Imports</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Net -10 = 77</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Births since October 2014</strong></td>
<td>2 (1.1)</td>
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<td><strong>Deaths since October 2014</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2016 breeding recommendations</strong></td>
<td>10 (5b.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9 carryover [1 pregnancy], 1 new recommendation</td>
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</table>
Regardless of genetic “value,” no orangutan is surplus to the SSP population.

We are committed to the highest standards of care and management for all orangutans for the duration of their natural lives.

We do not recommend transfer of orangutans to non-accredited facilities or to sanctuaries.

Hybrid Summary (current)

18.22 (40) in 21 zoos (4 deaths (3.1) since last year)
“Mean Kinship”

- An individual’s “relatedness” to the rest of the population
- **High MK** = over-represented, many relatives, “common” genes
  - decrease in genetic diversity
- **Low MK** = under-represented, few relatives, “rare” genes
  - increase in genetic diversity
Population Management

BASED ON MEAN KINSHIP

RANDOM BREEDING
### Population Management

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<th>STUD#</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>MK</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>STUD#</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

0.0235
Population Management

- Population-level recommendations do not occur in a vacuum - genetic considerations are only one of many factors used in making recommendations
  - Age
  - Personality and personal history (e.g., rearing)
  - Facility space (holding and exhibit)
  - Staff experience and confidence
  - Disease and disability issues
  - Management of social relationships
  - Accommodation of long childhood
Orangutans are:

- individuals *(well-being)*
- members of a group/population *(management)*
- ambassadors for a taxon *(conservation)*

Ignoring the needs of any one level may have negative consequences for the others
The SSP is a Resource

• Advice and assistance to institutions
  – introductions
  – facility design
  – birth management

• Advancing animal welfare standards
  – Animal Care Manual
  – Husbandry Manual
  – Medical Management Manual
Available in Members Only section:

- Current Orangutan SSP Breeding and Management Plan
- Current Orangutan Studbook
- Current draft of Orangutan Animal Care Manual (ACM)
- Blood Draw sleeve photos
- Annual Husbandry Workshop presentations
- Special Presentation on Chronic Respiratory Disease
- Husbandry Workshop Hosting Manual
- Orangutan Medical Management Manual
- Orangutan Population Viability Report
- Orangutan Birth Management Manual
- Nursing videos
- Cardiac Workshop Resources

www.orangutanssp.org
Available to all:

- Orangutan Husbandry Manual
- Orangutan Bibliography
- Ape TAG Necropsy Protocol
- GAHP Cardiac Necropsy Protocol
- Orangutan SSP Education Key Messages

www.orangutanssp.org
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* as of August 12th

Managed by Social Media Advisor Angie Selzer
Next Steps

SSP-logo merchandise now available!  
http://www.cafepress.com/orangutanspeciessurvivalplan

Steering Committee liaison for each member institution assigned!

New Husbandry Training Course debuted yesterday!

ACM external review this fall

New Education Advisor request submitted

Financial disbursement strategy this fall