

# Bornean Orangutan

## *Pongo pygmaeus*

### Form and Function

Bornean Orangutans are the largest arboreal mammal and have many adaptations for life in the trees. One major adaptation for an arboreal lifestyle is long limbs for swinging from branch to branch. Orangutans also have very strong shoulder muscles to support swinging. In addition to long arms with strong muscles, orangutans have opposable thumbs which allows them to grab onto branches, as well as other objects.



### Conservation and Management

In 2016, the IUCN listed the Bornean orangutan as critically endangered with its population decreasing. The main cause for population decline in orangutans is habitat loss and fragmentation due to agricultural conversion. With the loss of trees, orangutans lose their ability to move and get trapped. One other major concern with conservation is the hunting of orangutans for meat, as well as human-orangutan conflicts in villages. Conservation efforts include translocation and reintroduction, legislation which protects orangutans against hunting, and preservation of rainforests with suitable habitat for orangutans.



### Reproduction

Bornean Orangutans usually give birth to young about every 9 years and only give birth to one offspring at a time. The gestation period for an orangutan is 225-300 days. When born, a baby orangutan weighs around 1.5 kg. Young orangutans are highly dependent on their mother and are weaned at around 6 years old.



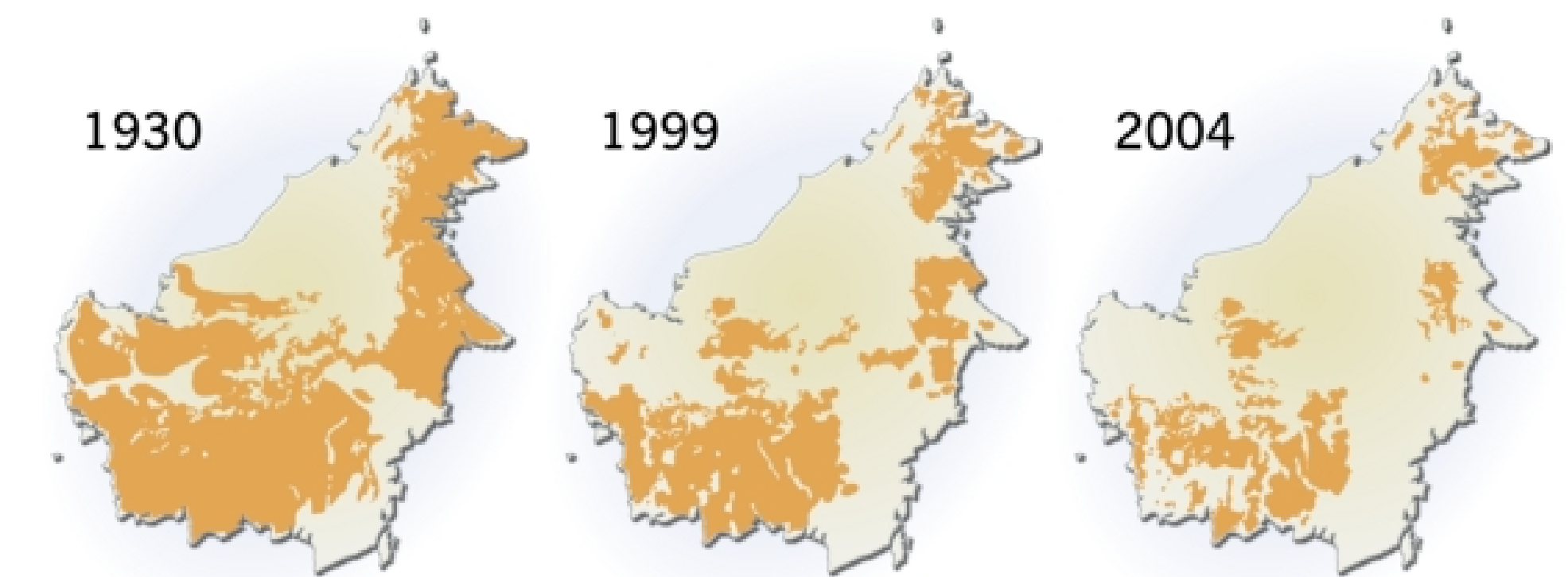
### Diet

A Bornean Orangutan's diet primarily consists of eating fruits, but they will eat leaves, shoots, insects and most other vegetation during times of fruit scarcity. Bornean orangutans have very strong temporalis muscles which they use to crush open hard-shell fruits that other animals might not be able to eat. Orangutans rarely drink water, and they obtain most of their water through eating fruits, shoots and other vegetation.



### Range and Habitat

Bornean Orangutans are members of the family Hominidae, in the order Primates. They are only found on the island of Borneo. Orangutans can be found living in the canopy of lowland rainforests, peat swamps, and lower montane forests. Their range is decreasing and becoming increasingly fragmented due to deforestation for agriculture.



### Behavior

Bornean Orangutans are semi solitary animals with mothers interacting with their young, and mates during mating season. During mating season, male orangutans can put out a "long call" which can be used to attract mates and deter other males. The call can be heard up to 1km away. When orangutans mate, they are polygynous/ promiscuous. Another form of communication which is commonly observed in orangutans is visual communication through gestures and facial expressions. This visual communication is mostly observed between mothers and their young.

