

# SEMINAR

Department of Biological Sciences



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## Human Orangutan Conflict Resolution in Sumatra, Indonesia

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Hosted by N Sivasothi



Sumatran orangutans (*Pongo abelii*) are critically endangered, due to ongoing poaching, deforestation, degradation and fragmentation of their rainforest habitats. Increased conversion to cultivation has increased the frequency of human-orangutan conflicts from crop raiding. To mitigate such conflict, an understanding of local perceptions to crop-raiding orangutans is required and the impact on rural subsistence economies as well as orangutan response to living in human-dominated landscapes.

The Orangutan Information Centre of Sumatra, Indonesia, established a Human-Orangutan Conflict Response Unit (HOCRU) in North Sumatra. Responsible for investigation, assessments, enumerations and mitigation of conflict between farmers and orangutans, this programme is the first to provide insights on factors influencing human-orangutan conflict in Sumatra. It is also providing direct support to agricultural communities affected by crop-raiding orangutans.

The HOCRU team has surveyed local farmers about their methods for dealing with conflict. With affected communities, they have established a Conflict Reporting Centre which compiles data on orangutan, elephant and tiger conflict, and ensures relevant units act on report. A Standard Operating Procedure with Best Practice Mitigation Methods for Orang Utans has been developed. The Orangutan Information Centre has also initiated restoration of degraded orangutan habitat due to palm oil expansion and conducted various forms of education and outreach activities for local communities.

#### **About the speaker**

*Panut Hadisiswoyo founded the Orangutan Information Centre in 2001, working for the protection of rainforests, the critically endangered Sumatran orangutan and thousands of other species sharing their habitat. He promotes conservation amongst communities living adjacent to the Gunung Leuser National Park, helping them protect and improve their livelihoods and, in the process, safeguarding an ecosystem of vital importance in the global fight against climate change.*

For more information, see:  
<http://orangutancentre.org/>

