

July 2022

A Membership Newsletter

**HAPPY
4TH OF
JULY!**

The Bonobo Peace Forest Part II

**(following the April 2022
newsletter article.)**

By Donna Mayer Todd

Sustainability and Good News

The Bonobo Peace Forest was conceived by Bonobo Conservation Initiative (BCI) and its partners. At the time, the Democratic Republic of Congo was mired in a war driven by competition for its natural resources. Clearly, humans wage war as do chimpanzees, the other closest relative to bonobos. Unlike these species, bonobos do not murder or wage war against their own kind, but rather, they use sexual contact and other forms of social bonding to resolve conflict. As such, they've been referred to as the "make love not war" apes. In honor of the peaceful, cooperative

society of the bonobos, The Bonobo Peace Forest was named. It is a network of community-based reserves providing protection for bonobos and other species in the Congo rainforest, while ensuring a better life for the people of the local communities. It builds reserves, yes, but even more it builds a conservation-centered way of life.



photo by BCI

With benefits for all partners, this conservation model has proved to be cost effective and sustainable. To date (since 2001):

- * **2 nature reserves**, the size of Massachusetts and Rhode Island combined, have been established
- * Agreements made and **projects initiated in 9 key sites** where bonobos are protected by local people

2022 Calendar of Events

Sept. 19, 2022

Gorilla Golf
Lake Spivey Golf Club
Jonesboro, GA

**November 1 -
December 31**

**HoneyBaked Ham
Gift Card Sale**
(details to follow in the fall)

- * More than 100 conservationists and eco-guards work daily
- * Programs for community development include a health clinic, scholarships, micro-enterprise for women and sustainable agriculture
- * Co-founded the first college for sustainable rural development in the bonobo range
- * The Coalition for Community Conservation of Bonobos created; a legally recognized network of local NGO's and other Peace Forest participants, to link and amplify indigenous voices



Photo by BCI

Plans for 2022 were no less exciting:

- * **Research** - Build upon the now 7-year study of bonobos carried out with Harvard University scientists
- * **Health clinic** - Update the first clinic and build another to expand healthcare
- * **Women's initiative** - The soap making project in Djouli is ready to become a bona fide business
- * **Trackers** - Secure consistent support to provide salaries, training,

and equipment, and to expand our monitoring program

And more really good news:

- * 3 new babies born at the Kokolopori Bonobo Reserve!
- * In the Kokoalongo bonobo group, Kidjo gave birth in December and PJ in February.
- * The third baby, in the Ekalakala group, was born to Violette.
- * All mothers and juveniles are reportedly doing very well.

The information and photos in this article come from the BCI website www.bonobo.org.



Tee Off Time - Fast Approaching

By Susan Smith

It's hard to believe, but the 11th Annual Gorilla Golf Tournament is fast approaching. **This year's tournament is scheduled for Monday, September 19th.** We are currently in

negotiations for a new location and plan to hold the event at Lake Spivey Golf Club, Jonesboro, Georgia. Although the location will change, the format and activities will all remain the same. An email and flyer announcing all details and sign-up information will be coming out soon.

Start spreading the word and identifying people who would like to play in this event, a fun day of golf and contributing to our fundraising efforts. Each golfer raises a minimum of \$500 through sponsorships and this is another way you can help by being a sponsor to one or more of the golfers.

Two other ways to help make this event successful are:

- * You or one of the businesses you frequent can sign up to be a [Hole Sponsor](#). A sponsorship is \$100 per hole and a sign with your name/company name and logo will be placed at one of the 18 holes. Sign up on the ACE website under Events.
- * [Donate raffle items](#). The raffle is always a big hit at the end of the day. Men and women's sports items, outdoor equipment & games, national brand gift cards are just some of the items that make great raffle prizes. For information on donating items, contact Shelley DeWeese at shelleydeweese@gmail.com

om who is chairing the raffle.

The 11th Tournament will again raise funds for the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International.

Through this event and several others ACE has raised over \$156,000 to save the mountain gorillas. Help us make this year's Gorilla Golf an even bigger success and continue our contributions to this worthwhile organization.



Thanks for Your Purchases!!

By Susan Smith

The ACE Spring HoneyBaked Ham gift card campaign ended June 15th. Thanks to everyone who purchased gift cards, we sold \$625 worth of cards. ACE received 20% of all sales, which provided \$125 to the general fund. Although the Spring campaign has ended, stay tuned for the upcoming Fall event.

Starting November 1st we will begin the Fall Campaign that will run through December 31st. Gift cards are a great way to say "thank you" to all the folks that provided

you services - postal worker, dog groomer, teachers, etc. It is also an easy way to help you get through all the holiday events a lot easier by purchasing HoneyBaked Ham products.

Detailed information and a flyer you can share will be coming out in the October ACE newsletter.



Palm fruit

Government Bans Exports of Palm Oil

by John Emont

Indonesia, which accounts for 60% of the global palm oil supply, will stop exports starting on Thursday - a move that would make cooking meals more expensive for families around the world and cause headaches for a range of food and cosmetics manufacturers.

The ban follows a sharp rise in cooking oil prices at home, caused in large part by disruptions

stemming from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

"As the world's largest producer of palm oil, it's ironic that we're facing difficulties acquiring cooking oil," President Joko Widodo said on Wednesday. "I'm not going to let that happen."

He said he would restore exports when domestic needs are met.

Shortages in the supply of sunflower oil from Ukraine have driven up prices of all other edible oils, including palm oil which is a key ingredient in cooking oil. As a result, cooking oil prices in Indonesia have risen 45% since February, according to government data. Prices also were pushed up by drought in South America, which produces soybeans, another key source of vegetable oil.

This article appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, April 28, 2022



Demand for Palm Oil Tests Efforts to Save Rainforest

By Jon Emont

Pressure from businesses and environmental groups

slowed the destruction of rainforests to produce palm oil in Indonesia, Southeast Asia's largest country. Rising demand for the commodity has tested those efforts, but so far further deforestation has been kept in check.

Palm oil prices tripled over the past two years to record levels and are likely to remain high. Along with the other more costly commodities, palm oil is feeding global inflation.

"It looks like the link between prices and expansion has broken," said David Gaveau, a scientist who heads The TreeMan, a forest monitoring organization in France.

The group tracked the expansion of palm oil plantations using satellite data. As prices rose in 2020 and 2021, Mr. Gaveau expected to see a surge in deforestation. But in defiance of trends, growth continued to slow, he said. "For now it is holding," he said. "It seems like the price pressure isn't yet impacting deforestation rates."

A result of the slowdown is there isn't a plentiful supply of the world's most popular vegetable oil to offset a shortage in cooking oil due because of the war in Ukraine. Buyers like Unilever PLC and Colgate-Palmolive

Co. are saddled with high prices.

In palm oil's case, the supply restrictions have a gift upside: preserving Southeast Asia's rainforests. For three decades, forests were burned down to feed growing demand for palm oil - which is used to add foam to shampoo, smooth the nature of ice cream and keep candy bars from melting. The crop was so popular that by 2019 nearly 10% of Indonesia's landmass was covered by it, according to government statistics. For at least a decade, that fast growth kept prices in check.



Clear-cut fires in Indonesia

The heaviest deforestation occurred when prices were high. In 2012, when prices hit around \$1,000 a metric ton, slightly more than 2,000 square miles of Indonesian land - roughly seven times the size of New York City - were converted to industrial palm oil plantations, according to a paper published by Mr. Gaveau and colleagues in the journal PLOS ONE in March. By 2018, prices fell to about \$600 and annual plantation growth was down to about two New York Cities.

But when prices rebounded to \$1,100 in 2021 plantation expansion had declined - to the rough equivalent of just one New York City. By April, they averaged \$1,700 and faced further pressure in recent weeks when Indonesia said it would ban the export of some types of refined palm oil to lower the price of cooking oil at home.

The slowdown in Indonesia which produces about 60% of the world's palm oil, has been seen in Malaysia and other countries. Palm-oil production in these countries grew 18% from 2015 to 2018, but 4% from 2018 to 2021, according to the Council of Palm Oil Producing Countries.

The shift stems from tighter government regulations, high-quality satellite imaging and the work of environmental groups, which pressured businesses to stop buying palm oil grown on recently deforested land. The groups could watch the satellite images and tell businesses which companies to kick out of their supply chains. Losing access to buyers reduced incentives for growers to burn down jungle, according to environmental campaigners.

The situation presents challenges for consumer-good companies that until

recently could count on ever-larger quantities of palm oil to keep prices in check. Unilever, which buys palm oil for its skin-cleaning products, said reduced expansion could lock in higher palm oil prices in the years ahead, pushing up its business costs.

"There really hasn't been an increase in the global crop acreage in palm oil," Graeme Pitkethly, its chief financial officer, said in July. A spokeswoman said Unilever is exploring alternatives to palm oil "as good sourcing practice to ensure a resilient and agile supply chain" though it says it will always be a significant palm buyer.

A search is on for alternatives. Calyxt Inc. is working with an Asia-based customer to develop a gene-edited soy crop that produces fatty acids with the properties of palm oil. "You can grow it in a much more sustainable way than some of the palm products that have been traditionally used in the past," said Travis Grey, chief technology officer.

Pressure rose on palm-oil producers in 2013, when fires set to clear rainforests blanketed Southeast Asia in a thick haze. Big palm-oil traders said they would stop buying from suppliers who wrecked the rainforest, amid

concern about deforestation's contributions to climate change. By 2020, 83% of Indonesian and Malaysian palm-oil-refining capacity wouldn't buy palm oil linked to deforestation, according to Chain Reaction Research, a Washington, DC sustainability-risk analyst group.

Among the largest entities targeted was GAMA, an Indonesian palm-oil-plantation group with expansive ambitions. Evidence it was clearing rainforest prompted traders to cut ties.

"It was a bit like Russia right now - suspended trade with everybody from the supply chain," said Eric Wakker, a Dutch environmental consultant who conducts work for the company, now known as KPN Plantations.

The company controls 500,000 acres - far less than the 900,000 acres it says affiliated member companies were trying to acquire in 2016, before the trade suspensions. KPN says it won't develop any new land. Traders are buying from it again.

This article appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, May 9, 2022



New Limits Could Cut Rainforest Carbon Offsets

By Jon Emont

The fast-growing market for carbon credits faces a challenge from two Asia-Pacific countries that cut back on generating offsets for overseas businesses.

Indonesia and Papua New Guinea are restricting the credits produced by preserving their rainforests, which unsettled the market for these credits and created uncertainties like those faced by mining, timber and drilling companies operating in developing countries.

Indonesia hosts some of the world's largest forest-preservation carbon projects, and over the past 12 years has been the biggest supplier of forestry and land management-related carbon credits in Verra, one of the two major registries tracking the sector.

But in recent months, Indonesia restricted carbon-credit sales and required companies to stop preparation work to develop new projects. Its heavily forested neighbor, Papua New Guinea, said in March it

was putting a hold on certain new carbon projects, to audit them and ensure "environmental integrity."

Developers of carbon credits buy the rights to endangered rainforests and pay locals to protect the. These reductions generate credits, which overseas businesses buy to offset their greenhouse-gas emissions. The system is intended to create a way for people with rights to the rainforest to profit from preserving it instead of knocking it down.

One factor behind the two countries' shifts is who gets credit for lowering carbon emissions. Under United Nations climate accords, countries commit to lowering carbon emissions. To prevent double counting, countries that sell credits can't count them toward their own carbon-reduction targets.

Indonesia worries the growth of private carbon projects means it is losing control of the carbon stored in its rainforests.

"Under Indonesian law, taking something from the country's forests by violating the rules is illegal. If we play around with this and take it lightly, it could lead to disaster," say Agus Justianto, Indonesia's

director general of sustainable forest management. He said all carbon projects are being evaluated by the government.

The ministry singled out one project for claiming its documents met legal standards without consulting with the government. The government has been tightening rules since last year and says more comprehensive regulations are coming.

Indonesia's restrictions are ricocheting around the industry of carbon offsets. Carbon Streaming Corp., a Canadian company, negotiated the rights to sell around 70 million carbon credits generated by the Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve Project in Indonesian Borneo over the next two decades.

Carbon Streaming said no new credits will be issued by Rimba Raya until the government develops a new carbon-policy framework. "Our investment is a 20+ (year) investment, so over this longer term we believe having a national framework and carbon policy will be positive," spokeswoman Amy Chambers said. Carbon Streaming's shares are down by two-thirds this year.

The government restrictions mark a new chapter for Indonesia's

private-forest carbon projects, long among the world's most ambitious. Along with Rimba Raya, there is the Katingan Mentaya Project, also based in Indonesian Borneo. It provides locals with jobs that don't involve knocking down a huge stretch of forest and has sold the resulting carbon credits to companies in Japan and France.

Dhrasono Hartono, CEO of PT Rimba Makmur Utama, the company that runs Katingan, declined to comment on the impact of recent government actions, saying regulations are still being developed. Permian Global, which develops large-scale tropical forest-protections projects and has provided financing for Rimba Makmur Utama, said it is "keeping a close eye on developments across the Indonesian carbon market, not least to ensure the project's continued compliance with any new legislation."

Some environmental activities welcome greater government oversight of the sector, saying private carbon-credit projects do little to reduce overall deforestation, as loggers and plantation companies can simply carve around protected areas.

This article appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, May 2022



What are carbon credits ?

A carbon credit is a generic term for any tradable certificate or permit representing the right to emit a set amount of carbon dioxide or the equivalent amount of a different greenhouse gas. Carbon credits are measurable, verifiable emission reductions from certified climate action projects. These projects reduce, remove or avoid greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. but they also bring a whole host of other positive benefits, for example they empower communities, protect ecosystems, restore forests or reduce reliance on fossil fuels.

The burning of fossil fuels is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions.

One carbon credit is equal to one ton of carbon dioxide. Carbon trading is an application of an emissions trading approach. Greenhouse gas emissions are capped and then markets are used to allocate the emissions among the group of regulated sources.

Carbon credits can be purchased by an individual or more commonly, a company to make up for carbon

dioxide emissions that come from individual production, delivery vehicles or travel.



Under the banner of the UN and Paris Agreement, the world's countries have come together to declare that urgent action must be taken to lower emissions if we are to maintain a habitable planet that can support the world's population.

Compensating unavoidable emissions through carbon projects:
* catalyses faster climate action,
* puts a price on carbon,
* attracts funding to eligible and deserving projects,
* develops and scales solutions that dramatically reduce emissions and facilitate sustainable development,
* and allows companies to do something (rather than nothing) on their way to net zero.

Excerpts taken from Wikipedia and SouthPole.com

(The SouthPole.com mission is to accelerate the transition to a climate-smart society. SouthPole is a member of the UN Global Compact)



Did you know?

Monkeypox is a rare virus that belongs to the Orthopoxvirus genus in the family Poxviridae. It is not related to chickenpox. Monkeypox and smallpox viruses are genetically similar, which means antiviral drugs developed for protection against smallpox may be used to treat and prevent monkeypox.

Monkeypox is rare and does not spread easily between people without close contact.

Monkeypox was first discovered in 1958 when two outbreaks occurred in colonies of monkeys kept for research. Despite being named "monkeypox," the source of the disease remains unknown. However, African rodents and non-human primates (like monkeys) may harbor the virus and infect people.

The first human case was in 1970. Since then, monkeypox has been repeated in people in several other central and western African countries. Prior to the 2022 outbreak, nearly all monkeypox cases in people outside of Africa were linked to international travel to

countries where the disease commonly occurs, or through imported animals.

Monkeypox is zoonotic, meaning it can spread between animals and people. However, the CDC does not currently believe that monkeypox is a high risk to pets in the US.

As of June 30, 2022 in the United States, there were 396 confirmed cases of monkey pox, and eight in the state of Georgia. Globally there are 5323 cases from 52 countries.

Taken from CDC website



Life is not measured by the number of breaths you take, but by the moments that take your breath away.

Maya Angelou



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Bornean orangutan mom and infant

