

A Membership Newsletter July 2023



## Upcoming Events

**Gingerbreads for Redheads Planning Meeting**  
July 15

**Gingerbreads for Redheads**  
October

**Gorilla Golf**  
October 2  
Location TBD

**HoneyBaked Ham Fall Gift Card Sale**  
Nov. 1 - Dec 31.

**GA Gives**  
November 28

**Holiday Bazaar**  
December 19 Mega

## ACE Website Gets a New Look!

by Jenny Reineck

Have you seen it yet? Head on over to [apeconservationeffort.org](http://apeconservationeffort.org) to see ACE's amazing new website! This amazing feat could not have been accomplished without the feedback, ideas, input and inspiration from the ACE board, as well as the technical and design expertise of our team at 48in48.

If you haven't heard of 48in48, they are the amazing non-profit organization that helped make this happen. 48in48 helps over 48 non-profit organizations build new websites in just 48 short hours. From Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> to Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, our talented 48in48 team got to work on our site during the Women's Build Event. The result? ACE's new website!

Our goal for the new website was to make it very clear right from the homepage what ACE's mission is, and why we all do what we do, as well as make it easy for visitors to see how they can help and get involved. Now, our website visitors can easily learn more about the great ape species, what ACE is doing to help, and how they can become a member and get more involved.



*We are grateful to Cindy Dyer for creating the original ACE website. Cindy and her company have been partners with ACE since the beginning, and Cindy continues to*

support ACE with our new website.



## ACE Has First In-Person Meeting Since COVID

On June 24 ACE had a meeting at the zoo after Mega Update. This was the first meeting for ACE since COVID shut down in-person gatherings. Everyone brought lunches, and bought desserts from AAZK.

Jenny Reineck presided over the meeting. The board was introduced, new members were recognized. Jane gave the Treasurer's report, prepared by Susan Smith who was out of town.

Why we fundraise and how we distribute the money was discussed. The events we would like to hold this year were reviewed, so everyone could discuss and think about how to help. Possible fundraising events for next year were suggested.

We have a lot ahead of us, and we know how important it is to begin fundraising and promoting ACE again after COVID.

Minutes were distributed to all members by email. If you have any questions, please contact a board member.



## Why Indonesia is moving its capital from Jakarta to Borneo

Jakarta is congested, polluted, prone to earthquakes and rapidly sinking into the Java Sea. Now the government is in the process of leaving, moving Indonesia's capital to the island of Borneo.

Indonesian officials say the new metropolis will be a "sustainable forest city" that puts the environment at the heart of the development and aims to be carbon-neutral by 2045. But environmentalists warn that the capital will cause

massive deforestation, threaten the habitat of endangered species such as orangutans and imperil the homes of indigenous communities. While access to the new capital's site is usually limited, The Associated Press was allowed to tour parts of the site to view construction progress in early March. Here's a look at why the capital is moving, the government's plans and why activists are worried about how it will impact the environment, endangered species and indigenous communities located near the project site.



Photo by Getty  
Construction begins on new capital of Indonesia

## Why is Indonesia moving its capital?

Jakarta is home to about 10 million people and three times that number in the greater metropolitan area. It has been described as the world's most rapidly sinking city, and at the current rate, it is estimated that one-third of the city could be submerged by 2050. The main cause is uncontrolled ground water extraction, but it has been exacerbated by the rising Java Sea due to climate change. Its air and ground water are heavily polluted, it floods

regularly and its streets are so clogged that its estimated congestion costs the economy \$4.5 billion a year. President Joko Widodo envisions the construction of a new capital as a nostrum for the problems plaguing Jakarta, reducing its population while allowing the country to start fresh with a "sustainable city."

## What will the new capital be like?

Widodo's plan to establish the city of Nusantara--an old Javanese term meaning "archipelago"--will entail constructing government buildings and housing from scratch. Initial estimates were that over 1.5 million civil servants would be relocated to the city, some 2,000 kilometers (1,240 miles) northeast of Jakarta, though ministries and government agencies are still working to finalize that number. Bambang Susantono, head of the Nusantara National Capital Authority, said that the new capital city will apply the "forest city" concept, with 65 percent of the area being reforested. The city is expected to be inaugurated on August 17 next year to coincide with Indonesia's Independence Day. New capital authorities said that the final stages of the city,

however, likely won't be completed until 2045, marking the nation's hundredth anniversary.

### Why are environmentalists concerned?

Skeptics worry, however, about the environmental impact of building a sprawling 256,000-hectare (990-square-mile) city down in Borneo's East Kalimantan province, which is home to orangutans, leopards and a wide array of other wildlife. Forest Watch Indonesia, an Indonesian nongovernmental organization that monitors forestry issues, warned in a November 2022 report that most of the forested areas in the new capital are "production forests" meaning permits could be granted for forestry and extractive activities that would lead to further deforestation. Until now there has been no certainty regarding the protection status of the remaining natural forests in the new capital city area, the report said. Data analysis from AP also showed that the region can expect more days of extreme heat in years to come.

### How are indigenous communities impacted?

At least five villages with more than 100 indigenous Balik people are relocating because of the construction with more villages expected to be uprooted as the building site expands. The government said the new capital has received support from local community leaders, and has provided compensation to people whose land is being used for the city. But Sibukdin, an indigenous leader who like many in the country only uses one name and lives in Sepaku, a ward very close to the construction area, said "community members felt compelled to take the money they were offered by the government without knowing how compensation is calculated or if it was fair."

Edna Tarigan, AP  
Victoria Milko, AP  
*PBS News Hour*  
March 9, 2020



Photo by Getty  
Construction on new presidential palace

## Indonesia's new capital raises fears for orangutans, dolphins and more

By Richaldo Hariandja

As the small red car came to a halt, the window slid down and a hand emerged, tossing some yellow crackers on the ground. Seconds later, a group of southern pig-tailed macaques, a monkey species native to the island of Borneo, swarmed the area and devoured the food in an instant. Until recently, this road in the wilds of Indonesia was seldom used by either people or macaques, an endangered species that spends most of its time in trees. But with its repairs as part of the development of a new national capital, Nusantara, it is drawing macaques who have discovered the road's new users are a reliable source of food. "They were rarely seen before that," said Satwika Satria Prahita, a resident of the nearby port city of Balikpapan. The

Indonesian government says the new capital is necessary because the 11 million residents of the congested current capital, Jakarta, face environmental threats including pollution, sinking land and rising seas. Construction has started on the chosen site 1,200 miles away in Borneo, an island shared by Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei that has some of the world's highest levels of biodiversity. Officials say Nusantara will adopt a "forest city" concept, in which more than 75% of the area is green space, and that it will be carbon neutral by the time construction is completed in 2045. But conservationists worry about the impact on orangutans, dolphins and other wildlife in and around the new capital, citing the public's lack of conservation knowledge.

"Our big homework now is figuring out how to educate the people," said Hadi S. Alikodra, a professor in the faculty of forestry and environment at IPB University in Bogor, Indonesia. Experts have urged the government to protect wildlife from construction workers, as well as the 1.9 million people who are expected to eventually live in Nusantara, which is set to be inaugurated in August next year. Otherwise, there could be some disastrous conflicts between humans and animals, said Muhammad

Ali Imron, a wildlife expert at Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. "And it will lead to biodiversity loss," he said.



Photo by Getty  
Balikpapan rainforest of Borneo

Wiratno, an official with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, acknowledged the concerns but said the government was making wildlife protection a top priority. "We will intensively educate the workers and all of the people about conservation and how to live among wildlife in this forest city," said Wiratno, who like many Indonesians uses only one name. He said Nusantara's 75% forest cover would make it an attractive place for animals to live. As a safeguard against conflict between humans and animals, he said, the government is establishing a wildlife response unit and call center. Some of those potential conflicts can be dangerous. Conservationists say large-scale mangrove clearings and an increase in activity by large ships have already spurred crocodile attacks on local fishermen, putting them in a bind. "If I can

choose, I would rather go fishing in daylight to avoid encounters with crocodiles," said Hasanudin, a fisherman in the village of Gersik. "But the outcome will be less than doing it at night or before dawn."

According to the Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning, the new capital whose name means "archipelago" - could one day encompass almost 1,000 square miles of East Kalimantan province, or four times the size of Jakarta. About 125 square miles of the land is classified as primary forest that has been untouched by human activity, according to Auriga, an Indonesian nongovernmental organization focused on biodiversity. There are also about 75 square miles of mangroves, about three-quarters of which is considered nonforest, meaning it can be converted for agricultural, residential or industrial use.

Mangroves are the natural habitat for the proboscis monkey, a primate native to Borneo that has been classified as endangered since 2015. "You can't find the monkey anywhere but in Indonesia," Alikodra said. About 1,400 proboscis monkeys live in the mangroves of Balikpapan Bay, or 5% of the total population in Borneo,

according to a coalition of local civil society groups.



Photo World Wildlife Fund  
Irrawaddy dolphin

The bay, which will serve as Nusantara's harbor, is also home to the Irrawaddy dolphin, another critically endangered species. According to the most recent survey by the Conservation Foundation for Rare Aquatic Species of Indonesia, there were only 71 dolphins left in the area in 2015. The escalated activity in Balikpapan Bay, either during construction or once Nusantara is populated, is likely to put stress on the dolphins' environment, the coalition said, pointing to a 2018 oil spill that killed four of the creatures.



Bornean orangutan mom and infant

Another endangered species that could be affected by the Nusantara project is orangutans, about 200 of whom live in a local sanctuary. Aldrijanto Priadjati, East Kalimantan program

manager for the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation, said the new capital would consume all of the sanctuary's 28 square miles. He said the Nusantara project was an opportunity for officials to demonstrate their commitment to orangutan protection. "We welcome the project with open arms, and (are) open to help the government establish safeguards for these orangutans," Priadjati said.

Medrilzam, director of environmental affairs at the Ministry of National Development Planning, said the Nusantara project would create environmental solutions rather than problems. "We have carefully planned this project in all aspects, including the environment," said Medrilzam, who also goes by one name. He said he was confident that no mangroves would be converted and the orangutan sanctuary would be unaffected. "We will protect these iconic ecosystems," he said.

*NBC News*  
April 8, 2023

*Reuters*  
March 22, 2023





## Georgia Gives on Giving Tuesday – Let’s Get Ready!

By Donna Mayer Todd

ACE is planning to participate once again in this year’s Georgia Gives on Giving Tuesday on Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. It will be our 7<sup>th</sup> year joining this online statewide fundraising event for non-profits. And Giving Tuesday in

Georgia is a piece of the larger national and international campaigns.

It’s all about social media. Don’t let that term scare you. Here’s how it works: We each share our commitment to the work of ACE with our friends and family. Emails, Facebook posts, Twitter tweets, text messages . . . sent in our own networks; short, including pictures or not, funny or serious, asking them to support us and our passion for saving great apes. It works! Small, medium, or large donations add up!

Georgia Gives on Giving Tuesday has a proven record of success with thousands of supporters giving to the non-profit that touches their heart. In 2022, \$27 million + were raised for state non-profits. ACE has raised approximately \$1,700 each year for the past 3 years. And ACE has made a positive difference in the conservation of great apes with these donations! Together, let’s raise our total receipts this year!



### HoneyBaked Ham Gift Card Spring Sale

#### Thank You for your Purchases !!

By Susan Smith

The ACE spring Honey Baked Ham gift card campaign ended June 15<sup>th</sup> and thanks to everyone who purchased gift cards. We sold \$620 worth of cards and ACE received 20% of all sales, which provided \$120 to the general fund. Although

the spring campaign has ended, stay tuned for the upcoming Fall event.

Starting November 1<sup>st</sup> we will begin the Fall Campaign that will run through December 31<sup>st</sup>. Gift cards are a great way to say “thank you” to all the folks that provide you services – postal worker, dog groomer, teachers, etc. it is also a simple 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.



### Thank You From BCI



Dear ACE:  
Thank you for your generous gift on 3/6/23 of \$2000 to the Bonobo Conservation Initiative (BCI). With your help, we are protecting the world’s second largest rainforest and providing a safe haven for bonobos - humankind’s closest great ape relatives. Founded in June 1998, BCI has been at the forefront of bonobo conservation for 25 years.

The Bonobo Peace Forest is growing - thanks to you! This network of community-based reserves currently includes two legally protected nature reserves spanning nine million acres and additional conservation sites in key areas of the bonobo habitat. We have made important steps toward our goal of gaining legal protection for another two million acres in the Bonobo Peace Forest, and your gift brings us that much closer! Each acre protected is a win for rainforest species, local communities, and the global climate.

To keep our programs going strong, we’ve been developing sustainable funding mechanisms, such as carbon credits. We’re thrilled that Carbon Streaming Corporation and Future Carbon have made initial investments in the Sankuru Nature Reserve and the Kokolopori Bonobo Reserve! Your support for our programs created this opportunity to increase the impact and effectiveness of the Peace Forest.

In the field, we continue to foster collaboration and cooperation. We’re partnering with The Nature Conservancy to officially protect the Lilungu forest. Through out Sankuru and Kokolopori, we are working with Congolese

NGO Action Massive Rurale (AMAR) to galvanize community engagement. Our ongoing collaboration with researchers from Harvard University is yielding vital information about our sister species, helping us understand how better to protect them. Your thoughtful contribution makes all of this progress possible.

Thank you again for your generous support of our efforts. Working together, we can ensure a brighter future for bonobos and their rainforest home. We deeply value the trust you have placed in us and appreciate your partnership in this important work.

Sincerely,

Sally Jewell Coxe  
President



## Did you know?

"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives."

John F. Kennedy

"We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses."

Abraham Lincoln



## 2023 ACE Board

Jane Barron  
Barbara Cebula  
Jenny Reineck  
Susan Smith  
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Gene Todd

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