

Spectators or collaborators

This forest is our home, too

An indigenous Dayak village in Indonesian Borneo

I'm heading to our farm to harvest vegetables.

Hurry back - it's a release day!

Ton

Lusi

1

These cassava roots have grown beautifully! A great snack for the next ritual gathering - Ton will be proud.

Lusi and Ton's farm

village

river

2

Conservationists are preparing for an orangutan release to take place upriver.

I can't wait to see Bonbon's reaction when he sees his new home

3

I heard these people take care of orangutans and bring them here to release them.

Those orangutans get life jackets?!*

Lusi

Ton

4

*floats attached to cages

5

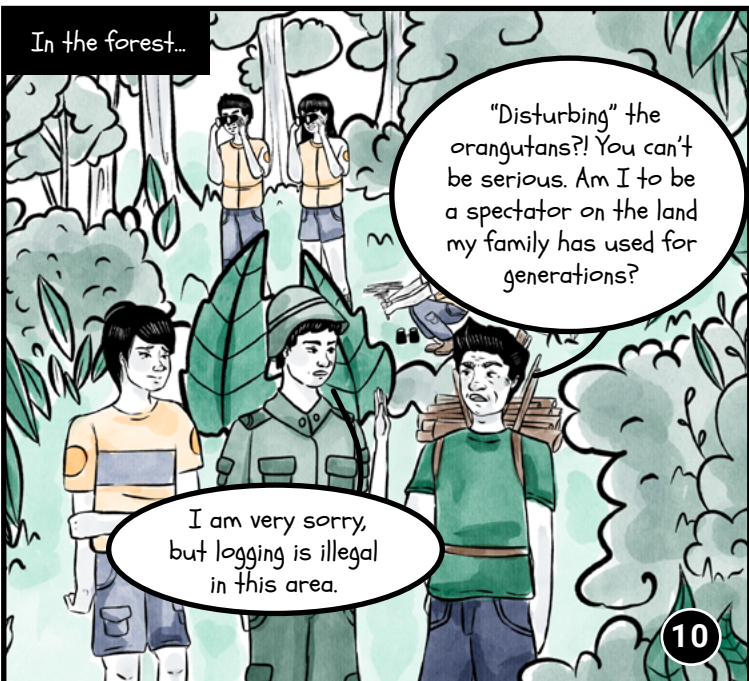
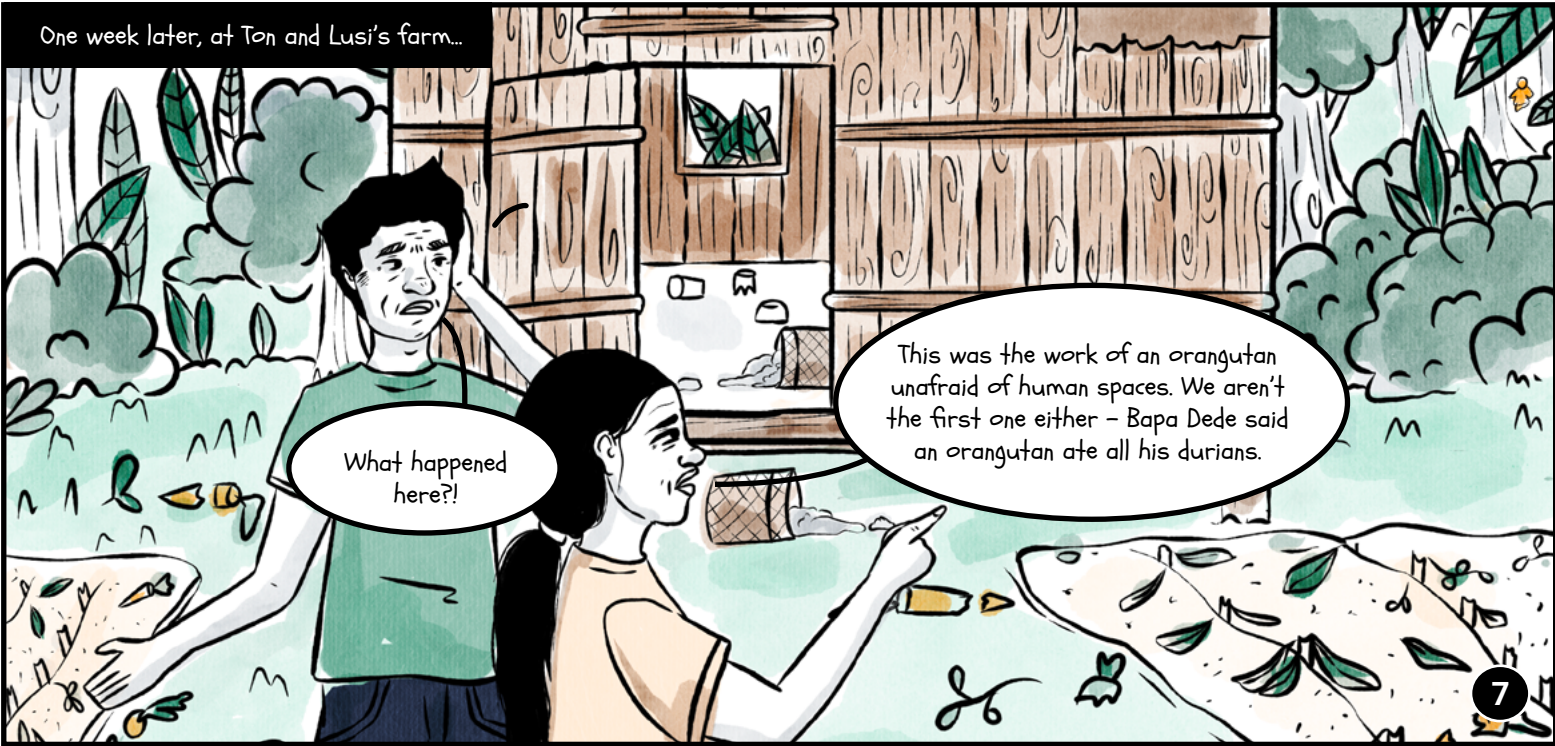
They are finally free!

And make sure nobody bothers them.

We will monitor them closely.

6

One week later, at Ton and Lusi's farm...





Takeaways

- 1.** Landscapes and forests where conservation takes place are never simply 'empty' or 'wild'. They embody diverse relationships, intricate histories, varied forms of ownership, and contested land rights.
- 2.** Orangutan releases and conservation initiatives can usher in profound and enduring challenges for local communities, including limitations on livelihoods and resource depletion.
- 3.** When implementing community development projects, it's crucial to acknowledge the enduring impacts of these changes, and to address ensuing anxieties, uncertainties, and resentment.



Questions for conservation practitioners

- 1.** How can you gather information and consider different ways people own and use land when planning conservation efforts?
- 2.** What if local land uses conflict with conservation goals? How can you find solutions that work for both communities and conservation?
- 3.** How can you identify and respect how local communities connect with their environment, even if it's different from official rules or your own ideas?
- 4.** What systems can you create to manage disagreements over land, resources, and ownership in conservation areas?
- 5.** How can you ensure that local communities benefit from your presence and programmes? How can you build strong relationships with them?

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