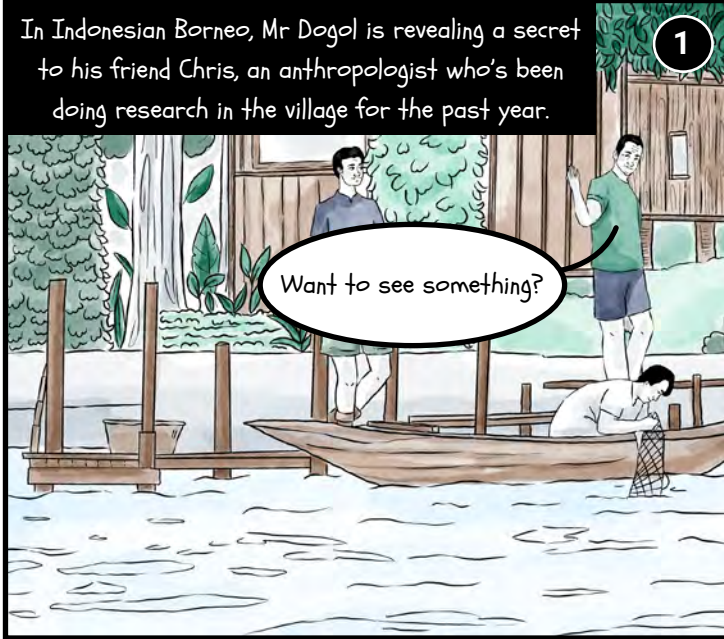


# Addressing local concerns

In Indonesian Borneo, Mr Dogol is revealing a secret to his friend Chris, an anthropologist who's been doing research in the village for the past year.



Want to see something?



He is still small and can't find his own food.

What happened to his mother?

We had to protect our durians.



I was hoping to find a buyer for him.

I'm not sure that's a good idea. You could get into trouble with the law.

Well, he's getting quite expensive to feed. Do you know anyone else who'd take him?



I am tired of your pet's noise, Dogol.

What about a rehabilitation centre? I know someone there. They can't pay, but they will pick him up.

Maybe... but I don't want any trouble. Talk to the village leaders first.



Later, at a meeting with the village leaders.

I suppose you could call the centre. Just don't talk too much. If you say the mother was shot, he'll go to prison.

Of course, I'll only mention the baby.



Ron, there's an orphaned orangutan in the village where I'm working. And word is spreading.

I'll need to verify the details and get authorisation. Let's do this quietly.

I'll just mention your visit casually to the villagers so they aren't surprised.





7

Be careful, the rehabilitation centre has undercover intelligence agents!

Dogel could go to prison!



8

Three weeks later...



9

Where are your parents? We need their signature.

They went to our farm.

Maybe they fled.

No! Our dad said to tell you that you already have his permission.



10

Thank you, Chris, see you in the city soon!



11

The following weeks are difficult for Chris. The villagers thought he had put them in danger.

People are suspicious about your role in the rescue. They think you're working for the rehabilitation centre. It might be a good idea to organise a gathering and explain to everyone what happened.



12

Chris decides to address the villagers' concerns at a social gathering.

Tonight went well, the gossip and fear should fade now. Next time tell your friends to take away the orangutans eating our durians!

I don't think I should get involved next time. You know what to do now!



## Takeaways

1. Navigating the intricate relationships between conservation, communities, and wildlife requires careful dialogue, cooperative strategies, and adaptability to rapidly changing situations.
2. Conservation often involves both risks and benefits for the different parties involved. These need to be carefully assessed when planning activities, alongside more conventional conservation outcomes such as species protection.
3. It is important to acknowledge local perceptions of and concerns about conservation. Clear communication, long-term engagement and mutual respect are vital for building trust and laying the groundwork for successful conservation activities.



## Questions for conservation practitioners:

1. Why do some people want to engage with conservation?
2. What risks and benefits do conservation programmes bring about in different contexts?
3. How can we ensure the safety and well-being of people who participate directly or indirectly in conservation programmes?
4. How can conservationists work with other individuals like researchers, government officials, and religious leaders to improve their community engagement?

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