

Copenhagen February 24th 2017

Dear Minister General Surasak Karnjanarat

Save the Orangutan is an international not-for-profit organization with headquarters in Denmark. Our aim is to protect the orangutan and its rainforest habitat. It is therefore with great concern we have read two recent reports published by the organization TRAFFIC, concerning apes situated in Thailand.

As you may know Bornean orangutans were declared critically endangered by IUCN in 2016, due to extensive deforestation of its habitat and due to the ongoing problem of poaching and the illegal wildlife trade. It is estimated that 200-500 orangutans are traded each year and many more are killed in the process; the exact number is unknown.

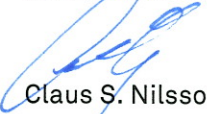
TRAFFIC's recently published reports investigate the state of orangutans in captivity in Thailand and the national legislation on protection of wildlife. Firstly, they concluded that only a few of the orangutans they found in Zoo's and tourist attractions were enlisted in the national registration. Secondly, they concluded the national legislation provides few opportunities for the Thailand authorities to take action against orangutans in captivity.

This loophole in the legislation allows criminals to use Thailand as a safe haven for trading illegal wildlife that is responsible for the death of thousands of orangutans. Save the Orangutan has therefore invited people to support our appeal to strengthen legislation and law enforcement in Thailand to stop illegal animal trade.

3,037 people from all over the world have already signed the petition and we hereby forward our shared appeal to you and urge you to help ban the illegal wildlife trade and give the relevant authorities the necessary tools to prevent this trade. We have attached our appeal and the signatures for your information.

Orangutans are wild animals and they belong in the wild. I hope you will support our mission and your government's responsibility to protect and conserve wildlife by strengthening global and national legislation and law enforcement to prevent future trade of critically endangered animals in Thailand.

On behalf of the signatories and the organization Save the Orangutan


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