

## Golden Agri-Resources (GAR) and Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) Release Six Orangutans in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia

**Central Kalimantan, 19 December 2019** – Six orangutans – four males and two females – have been released into natural habitat reserves in Central Kalimantan this week, marking the latest successful collaboration between Golden Agri-Resources (GAR) and Orangutan Foundation International (OFI).

The orangutans were prepared for their reintroduction to the wild through OFI's well respected rehabilitation programme. The programme specialises in rehabilitating and releasing wild-born but captive orangutans.

Some of the orangutans released this week had been rescued by the *Natural Resources Conservation* Agency in Pangkalanbun (Central Kalimantan), others had been handed over to OFI by citizens or other private sector actors.

On 16 December, two males, Junai and Rambo, and two females, Ismi and Indian, were released in Tanjung Putting National Park in Kotawaringin Barat Regency. Two more males were released in forest in the Seruyan Regency on 17 December.

"For nearly a decade GAR has implemented policies to protect important forest areas, and the endangered species that rely on them. Orangutans are a globally recognised symbol of Indonesian forests. Through the 'Friends of The Orangutan' programme with OFI, we are actively working to return orangutans to forests," said Agus Purnomo, Managing Director of Sustainability and Strategic Stakeholders Engagement at GAR.

Before being released, the six orangutans were rehabilitated in the OFI led programme in Pangkalanbun (the capital city of Kotawaringin Barat Regency). The rehabilitation programme involves reintroducing the animals to their natural habitat, teaching them skills to survive in the wild.

Each orangutan is released to suitable habitat based on its physical and psychology readiness. Sometimes the process can take a long time, as the animals readjust to forest life. The veterinarian and OFI's staff will monitor and observe each of them closely to ensure reintroduction is successful.

Agus added, "Since our cooperation with OFI began in 2011 we have supported the rescue, rehabilitation and release of 116 orangutans. These six animals are the second of a further 60 animals we hope to release, with OFI, by 2021. On 2018, we released 10 orangutans in Central Kalimantan as well"

In addition to returning animals to the wild, GAR and OFI are providing conservation education and training to company employees, as well as the community and school students in villages near the plantation areas, to reduce human/animal conflicts which can lead to orangutans needing to be rescued and rehabilitated.

GAR's Social and Environmental Policy requires the protection of High Conservation Value and High Carbon Stock forests which are home to rare, threatened or endangered species such as the orangutan. The company further has a Zero Tolerance Policy which bans hunting and was developed with input from OFI and others.

### **About Golden Agri-Resources Ltd (GAR)**

GAR is one of the leading palm oil plantation companies with a total planted area of 498,395 hectares (including plasma smallholders) as at 31 December 2018, located in Indonesia. It has integrated operations focused on the production of palm-based edible oil and fat.

Founded in 1996, GAR was listed on the Singapore Exchange in 1999 and has a market capitalisation of US\$2.3 billion as at 31 December 2018. Flambo International Limited, an investment company, is currently GAR's largest shareholder, with a 50.35 percent stake. GAR has several subsidiaries, including PT SMART Tbk which was listed on the Indonesia Stock Exchange in 1992.

GAR is focused on responsible palm oil production. In Indonesia, its primary activities include cultivating and harvesting of oil palm trees; processing of fresh fruit bunch into crude palm oil (CPO) and palm kernel; refining CPO into value-added products such as cooking oil, margarine, shortening, biodiesel and oleo-chemicals; as well as merchandising palm products throughout the world. It also has operations in China and India including a deep-sea port, oilseeds crushing plant, production capabilities for refined edible oil products as well as other food products such as noodles.

For more information, please contact:

#### **Media enquiries**

Wulan Suling

T: +62 818 909 900

Email: [wulan.suling@sinarmas-agri.com](mailto:wulan.suling@sinarmas-agri.com)