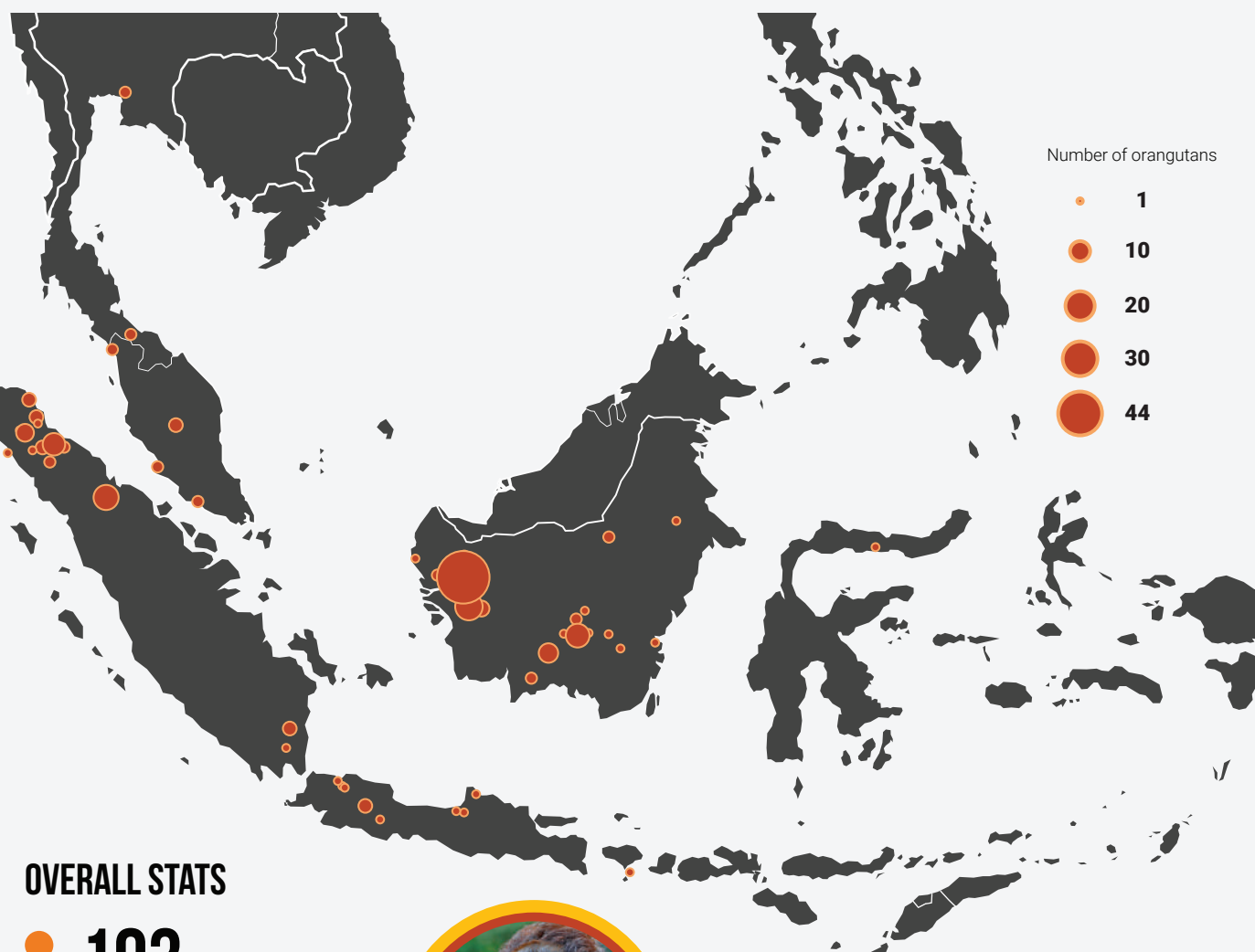


NO RESPITE FOR RED APES

Asia's only great ape, the orangutan, is native to the rainforests of Indonesia and Malaysia. While they are largely threatened by habitat loss, juvenile orangutans have long been targeted for the illegal pet trade. The three known species - the Sumatran, Bornean and Tapanuli Orangutan are all classified as Critically Endangered. Illegal trade, especially those linked to illicit exotic pet ownership continues to threaten orangutans.

ORANGUTAN SEIZURES IN MALAYSIA, INDONESIA & THAILAND JANUARY 2013- JULY 2023



OVERALL STATS

- **103** incidents of pet seizures, surrenders and trafficking in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand
- **161** live orangutans seized
- **56%** of the live individuals seized were juveniles
- **2X** more pet seizures and surrenders than trafficking cases
- **5** skulls seized



7 international smuggling attempts involving Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Kuwait, Russia and South Korea

SUMMARY

TRAFFIC's records* show that orangutans continue to be targeted for the illegal pet trade with at least 161 live individuals seized from January 2013 till July 2023. **

The 103 seizure incidents involved confiscation and surrender of orangutan pets and individuals found in trafficking attempts in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

More than half the number seized were juveniles, which are preferred as pets. Orangutans only become independent of their mothers after eight years and mothers are fiercely protective of their young. This presents the possibility that in the pursuit of juveniles for the pet trade, many more orangutans were poached than is known from these seizure cases alone.

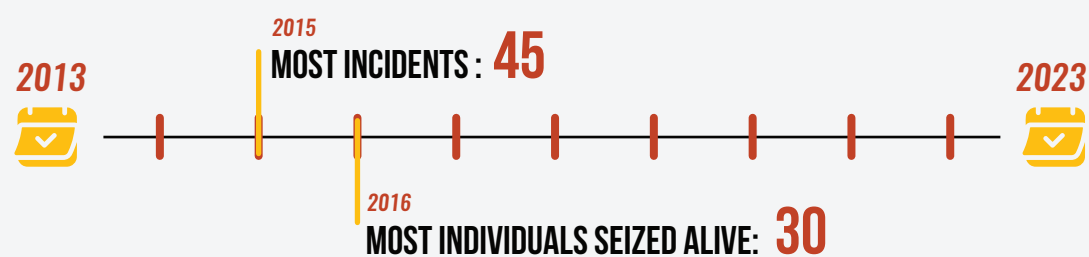
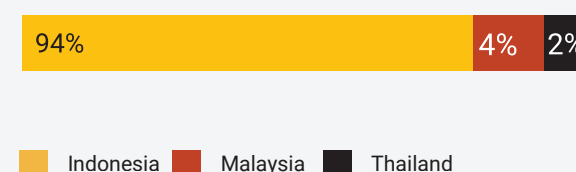
Of the three countries studied, Indonesia made the bulk of seizures with West Kalimantan in Indonesia recording the highest confiscations and number of orangutans seized.

Indonesia has also made some of the most high-profile arrests linked to orangutan trafficking in recent years and smashing a ring that had operated for years, and nabbing a former high-ranking government official for illegal possession of an orangutan.

*TRAFFIC's WITIS Database, largely from open-source records as well as selected data contributed by enforcement agencies and other organisations.

**All figures are minimum estimates.

INCIDENTS BY COUNTRY



NOTABLE CASES



Indonesian authorities took down an orangutan smuggling network in 2022 involving 3 key players in Sumatra including a notorious wildlife trafficker, Irawan Shia. He was in prison on his third wildlife conviction when he placed an order for an orangutan from jail.

Middle-man, Eddy Alamsyah, who arranged delivery of the orangutan was sentenced to 8 months prison and IDR 100 million (USD6,700) in fines. The seller, Thomas Raider Chaniago, active as an online wildlife trader from his teenage years, was sentenced to 1 year in prison and IDR 10 million (USD670) in fines.



The former Regent of Langkat in North Sumatra is on trial for illegal possession of an orangutan among other protected wildlife. The animals were found in January 2022 while anti-corruption officers were searching the home of this high-ranking government official who was being investigated for graft and the fatal caging of four people in his house at the time. He has since been sentenced to 9 years jail and IDR300,000,000 (USD 19,653) in fines for bribery.