



Berg am Irchel, Switzerland, and Sumatra, Indonesia, 1.12.2025

To press and media

Emergency aid for Sumatra after flood disaster

The severe flooding in Southeast Asia has seriously impacted the island of Sumatra, Indonesia, where the Swiss foundation PanEco is working to protect orangutans and their natural habitats. PanEco's partner organizations and countless villages and communities have been severely affected, prompting PanEco to launch an emergency relief effort.

Medan, North Sumatra Province, Indonesia – Almost exactly one year after several destructive landslides at its own Orangutan Quarantine and Rehabilitation Centre, the Sumatra Orangutan Conservation Program (SOCP), run by the Swiss foundation PanEco and its sister organisation YEL, is once again facing a major challenge. After many days of continuous heavy rains in Sumatra, severe flooding has affected PanEco's partner organizations at numerous locations in the provinces of North Sumatra, Aceh, and West Sumatra.



The village of Beudari in East Aceh: Entire towns have been devastated by the floods. © PanEco/HAKA/FKL

Cyclone Senyar struck the island of Sumatra on November 25, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake. Since then, it has rained almost continuously, leading to severe flooding, the scale of which has not been seen before. Many rivers burst their banks and flash floods and mudslides destroyed entire towns and villages. More than 440 people have died in Sumatra alone as a result of the flooding. In the province of Aceh, around 45,000 people have been affected by the disaster – on Sumatra hundreds of thousands. Immense damage to infrastructure has been caused in many places. Roads, telecommunications and power lines have been cut off and many people remain unreachable.

By Sunday evening, not all partner organizations of the Swiss foundation PanEco had managed to locate their employees, many of whom are stationed in remote areas. In addition to searching for the remaining missing people, the highest priority at present is to provide shelter and emergency food and water supplies and to attempt to evacuate employees from remote camps. Partner communities have also lost their homes, farms, and essential possessions. Their immediate needs include food, medical care, shelter, clean drinking water, and means of communication. A shortage of petrol is also preventing relief efforts.

«Many people in the surrounding villages have lost everything. Roads, electricity, and telecommunications networks have been disrupted. These villages are directly linked to our programs, as many rangers live there and we work together with the local population to protect the rainforest and the orangutans», reports Dr. Anna Marzec, PanEco's Program Manager for Indonesia.

To contribute to the rescue operations and assist the people in this emergency situation, PanEco Foundation has already provided CHF 20,000 in emergency aid to two of its partner organizations in Aceh province. The foundation plans to support its partner organizations and the surrounding villages with further funds in the coming days and is therefore launching an emergency appeal for donations. These villages are directly linked to PanEco's ecosystem protection projects, as many rangers and their families live locally and work directly with the population to protect the rainforest and the animals that live there, especially orangutans. In the medium term, major reconstruction work will be necessary to continue the various projects with our partner organizations and ensure the protection of the threatened ecosystems in the affected areas.

Fundraising campaign emergency aid for Sumatra after flood disaster

We are now launching an appeal for donations to provide our partner organizations with funds for search and rescue operations and relief supplies, and to provide direct assistance to the surrounding communities.

Please mention the fundraising campaign in your report:

CHF - Swiss Francs

English: <https://paneco.ch/en/donate/>

German: www.paneco.ch/spenden

French: <https://paneco.ch/fr/faire-un-don/>

EUR - Euro

German: <https://paneco.ch/spenden-in-euros/>

English: <https://paneco.ch/en/donations-in-euros/>

GBP – British Pound

English: <https://paneco.ch/en/donations-in-pounds/>

USD – US Dollar

English: <https://paneco.ch/en/donations-in-us-dollar/>

You can find the latest information on our website:

English: <https://paneco.ch/fr/inondations-catastrophiques/>

German: <https://paneco.ch/flutkatastrophe/>

French: <https://paneco.ch/en/flood-disaster/>

Download pictures and video material: [Link Google Drive Folder](#)

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PanEco is an internationally active, non-profit foundation financed by donations and based in Berg am Irchel, Switzerland. In our three strategic areas of work – rehabilitation and reintroduction of endangered wildlife, conservation of natural habitats and environmental education – we contribute in Indonesia and Switzerland to strengthening the diversity of nature and promoting responsible interaction between people and natural resources.