

# BANTENG TALK

## Learning objectives

**Connect people with wildlife** - so that they have a better understanding and feel more connected to it. They feel it is relevant to them.

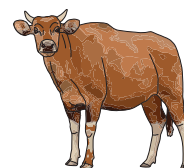
- There are three species of banteng
- Their behaviour & wild habitat
- Threatened by hunting and habitat loss

**Connect people with your zoo** - so that they have a better understanding of the conservation work you do to protect wildlife and want to support you.

- Introduce your banteng
- Explain what you are doing to help them in the zoo and in the wild – eg. The Global Species Management Plan involves research, education work and breeding in zoos. e.g. *We have successfully bred our banteng as part of Global Species Management Plan to protect the species from extinction*

**Get people involved** - what can they do to help?

- Say no to hunting and illegal wildlife trade
- Support zoos and conservation organisations who are working to protect banteng



Animal talk	Tips for delivery:
<p><b>Introduction</b> <b>You!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who you are?</li> <li>• Where you are located? - so that your audience can see you</li> <li>• What you are going to talk about?</li> </ul> <p><b>The animals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many banteng you have?</li> <li>• Where they can be seen?</li> <li>• Is there a feed or enrichment during the talk?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Think about where you stand - can your audience see you? Can they see the animals if at an enclosure?</li> <li>• Speak clearly</li> <li>• Be approachable &amp; well presented</li> <li>• Length of talk</li> <li>• Interactions</li> <li>• Involve your audience by asking them questions</li> </ul>
<p><b>Main talk</b></p> <p><b>To connect people with wildlife</b> – so that they have a better understanding and feel more connected to wildlife. They feel it is relevant to them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Banteng are a type of wild cattle</li> <li>• Males and females look different</li> <li>• Their habitat, diet and social structure</li> <li>• They are endangered</li> </ul> <p><b>To connect people with your zoo</b> – so that they have a better understanding of the conservation work you do to protect wildlife and want to support you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduce your banteng</li> <li>• Explain what you are doing to help them in the zoo and in the wild – eg. The Global Species Management Plan involves research, education work and breeding in zoos. e.g. <i>We have successfully bred our banteng as part of Global Species Management Plan to protect the species from extinction.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Get people involved</b> - what can they do to help?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Say no to hunting and illegal wildlife trade</li> <li>• Support zoos and conservation organisations who are working to protect banteng</li> <li>• Spread the word about these amazing animals</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Questions</b> Invite the audience to ask you questions at the end</p>	



# BANTENG TALK

## Introduction

Hello everyone and welcome to our banteng enclosure. My name is \_\_\_ and at the moment you'll find me \_\_\_.

I'm here to tell you about these amazing rare animals you can see in front of you, they are called banteng. The first thing I want you to think about is...are there any other animals that banteng look like? Yes they do look like cows, and that is because banteng are a type of **wild cattle** so they are very closely related to domestic cows. In fact in many places banteng have been domesticated and bred with domestic cows.

However, whilst they look similar to domestic cattle there are some important differences and one of those is that wild banteng are endangered. This means that sadly they are at a very high risk of becoming extinct in the wild. I'm going to tell you a little bit about how banteng live out in the wild, some of the reasons why they are so rare and what you might be able to do to help. I hope that by the end of the talk you'll agree that banteng are very special animals indeed.

First of all let me introduce you to our banteng. Here at the zoo we have \_\_\_(number) banteng, including \_\_\_ males and \_\_\_ females. You can easily tell the adult males from the adult females. Males are larger and have a much darker coloured coat. Can anyone spot our male banteng, point to them if you can? They also have different shaped horns to the females. The females' horns being much more tightly curved inwards (*demonstrate the shape of male and female horns with your hands*), whereas the males' horns arc upwards with a bald patch in the middle of the head.

You may think that because banteng are such big animals, they should be easy to spot in the wild, but this is not the case. They are actually shy elusive creatures which are not often seen in the wild.

## Habitat and lifestyle

banteng are found in many different parts of South East Asia. There are 3 subspecies; *Bos javanicus javanicus* on Java and Bali, *Bos javanicus lowi* on Borneo and *Bos javanicus birmanicus* on the Asian mainland.

Although banteng can be found in many places, there are only about 8000 wild banteng altogether. They live in different habitats in different areas including open dry deciduous forest and more densely forested areas.

Here you would often find them living in small groups. This group would usually include females and their offspring of different ages and perhaps an adult male. Males might live on their own or form groups with other males. In the breeding season males compete to be the most dominant, which means they get to mate with more females. Large groups of banteng made up of up to 100 animals are sometimes seen but these are normally for a short time period.

Where they have been studied in the wild, banteng are active both during the day and at night, swapping between resting and moving around or eating. If you were watching them in the wild you might expect to see more of them at dawn and dusk when they often emerge from thicker forest into open areas to find food and socialise.

Banteng are herbivores. *Question for your audience: Does anyone know what herbivores eat, put your hands up for plants, then put our hands up for meat?* – they eat plant matter. In the wild they eat grasses, bamboo, leaves, branches and fruit.

Here at the zoo we feed them \_\_\_\_\_ (types of food).



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ANO  
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## Threats and decline

Because they are shy and hard to see, you might expect that wild banteng should be safe from human impacts, but this is not the case. As we know they are a rare species and are declining all the time and this is often due to human activities.

The main threats to banteng are hunting and habitat loss.

Banteng are often hunted for their meat and their horns, for use as medicine and for sport hunting. In many areas loss of habitat has made it easier for hunters to get near to the banteng. In many places where they live banteng are losing their habitat as it is changed into farmland or developed in other ways.

Where banteng live near people and domesticated cattle, there is also risk of catching diseases from domestic cattle and breeding with domestic cattle.

## The Global Species Management Plan

Whilst it is sad to think that these animals are declining, the good news is that many people are working hard to try to help them. Zoos like this one, governments and conservation organisations from around the world are working together to save the banteng through a Global Species Management Plan. The plan brings together experts and has details of actions which will be taken to save the banteng from extinction. Breeding them in zoos in Indonesia and across the world is a really important part of this plan. Here at the zoo we have *successful bred/ or working towards breeding banteng (if appropriate at your organisation)* as part of the Global Species Management Plan. Can anyone spot our young banteng *(if you have any)*?

It's also really important to find out all that we can about banteng both in zoos like this one and in the wild. Research will help guide best practice in caring for and breeding these animals in zoos and support healthy populations to prevent the banteng from going extinct. Working with communities and raising awareness of the threats banteng face aims to reduce hunting and increase protection of wild populations. We also want people like you to know just how amazing and special banteng are and that they are worth protecting!

## How can you help?

We want you all to help us by spreading the word about how amazing banteng are and supporting zoos and conservation organisations who are working to protect banteng and other wildlife. Say no to hunting and illegal wildlife trade of banteng and don't buy banteng meat or products made from banteng horns. If fewer people buy these items it will help to reduce the demand and therefore the hunting of these incredible animals.

## Conclusion

I hope you've all enjoyed learning a bit more about our amazing banteng and about how you can help them. I'm sure you'll agree that they special animals and we should work together to save them. If you'd like to ask any questions about the banteng or the other animals then my name is \_\_\_ and you can find me \_\_\_ *(location)*.

## References

1. <https://news.mongabay.com/2012/01/forgotten-species-the-wild-jungle-cattle-called-banteng/>
2. <http://www.waza.org/en/zoo/visit-the-zoo/cattle-1254385523/bos-javanicus>
3. <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/2888/0>
4. <http://www.arkive.org/banteng/bos-javanicus/image-G134085.html>



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