

Treasure Island Update - EAZA Report April-2020

Transition of Bangkaru Programme from HAKA to Ecosystem Impact

In December 2019, a decision was made for Forest, Nature and Environment Aceh (HAKA) to transition the Bangkaru Ranger Programme to Ecosystem Impact Foundation (EI). It was felt that direct management by EI would be more efficient & effective. It also enables EI to build on the Bangkaru bird & turtle conservation work and expand this to Simeulue.



Bangkaru Island Rain Forest from Above (@paulhiltonphoto).

With HAKA's MoU with Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam (BKSDA) for the Bangkaru programme ending March 2020, the first quarter of this year has been spent focusing on securing the renewal of this MoU / transitioning to EI.

During the interim period between the existing MoU ending and EI gaining the new MoU, EI and HAKA have worked together with BKSDA to secure the Bangkaru Rangers status as Masyarakat Mitra Polisi Hutan (Community Forest Ranger Partners). This gives the rangers the necessary legal basis to continue patrolling Bangkaru. EI have – through EAZA funding support – provided a formal commitment to BKSDA to finance the rangers.

EI has developed the MoU proposal to BKSDA, with an MoU request being the ability to carry out surveying of terrestrial and marine biodiversity on Bangkaru. This will give EI and partners the ability to carry out further scientific data collection into the birds of Bangkaru.

All 7 rangers as well as HAKA's former Bangkaru Coordinator will be moved to EI staffers from 1 April 2020. HAKA are being very supportive of this transition and we will continue to partner.

Bird Conservation Work on Bangkaru, and Future Developments

Entry points and camp locations of bird poachers have been identified in partnership with a new local conservation organisation working in the area – YSAN.

We have worked through a viable terrestrial monitoring program to further address bird poaching on Bangkaru that we will be implemented from Q2 onwards.

Paul Hilton film

In December 2019, the EI team hosted a group of world leading wildlife photographers – including award-winning wildlife photojournalist and wildlife trade expert Paul Hilton – on a trip to document the conservation work on Bangkaru.



Leatherback Turtle Captured by Paul Hilton on Bangkaru (@paulhiltonphoto).

The purpose of the trip was to produce a documentary which raises the profile of Bangkaru and shows its significance as a globally important conservation area. The focus is on turtles, as funding was from Pacsafe. However, we have rights to all footage shot. Paul would love to return to do a bird focussed production in Bangkaru & Simeulue. This is something we could explore with EAZA if there is interest – the cost would be around USD10,000 for a short film and associated profile-raising work.

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