



Silent Forest Group Project update

Project name: Planet Indonesia - Wak Gatak Songbird rescue center

Project partners: Yayasan Planet Indonesia

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1. What project-related developments, either directly or indirectly, took place in the past months (in the field, press/media, research outcomes, local community and unforeseen circumstances?) (Max. 300 words)

In Q4 of 2020 and Q1 of 2021, Wak Gatak's building work focused on completing the Clinic building (Fig. 1). This included the building paintwork, indoor tiling, the installation of window safety bars (Fig. 2), and the completion of the open workspace on the first floor of the clinic (Fig. 3). In the absence of zootechnical equipment companies and suppliers in Pontianak, West Kalimantan, we decided to design custom-made cages for quarantine and isolation purposes. The design of these cages takes into consideration the welfare of the songbirds while allowing efficient and effective cleaning and transportation. (Fig. 4). The first batch of 8 Cages will be allocated at the BKSDA offices to facilitate confiscations and transportation between the BKSDA offices and our rescue center.

In this first phase of construction work we encountered various unforeseen situations, which significantly slowed down the progress of our planned activities:

- Several consecutive days of heavy tropical rainfall made it impossible to carry out groundwork and use any form of power tools.
- The temporary access road from the main entrance to the Clinic building has collapsed several times as the plot of land is mainly composed of clay ground and tends to flood during heavy rains and crack during hot weather.
- Indonesian government restrictions and YPI HR CoVid-19 guidelines stalled the scheduled work activities until after a self-quarantine of the workers (Q2 and Q3 2020)
- Obtaining the last building permit took longer than expected because of the reduced work-flow at the government agencies in light of CoVid-19-related arrangements. We received our final building permit at the end of January 2021, allowing us to proceed with our project.

2. Can you please give us a short status update on objectives and goals you specified in your project proposal?

In our project proposal, we requested EAZA Silent Forest to sponsor the construction of one block of aviaries. The aviary is a crucial infrastructure for ensuring songbird health and welfare, stimulating rehabilitation. Our husbandry programs will include locomotive and foraging enrichment to encourage the birds expressing their natural behavior. The aviaries will provide the birds with choices of different locations of exposure, substrates, perching, and bathing opportunities. Each aviary connects with the other through a sliding hatch used to increase the size of an aviary or to move birds without capturing them to minimize and avoid bird handling unless necessary. By our schedules, the construction of the first block of Aviaries will begin in **Q3 2021**. Currently, we are preparing to build the Quarantine area and the new access road.

3. What activities are planned/ scheduled for the next three months? (Max. 300 words)

Activities planned for the next three months include completing the clinic indoor fitting and fixtures (work tables, sinks, etc.) (Fig. 5), improve the initial section of the access road (from the main entrance to the Quarantine area) (Fig. 6), and construct the quarantine area (Fig. 7).

Currently the site is being cleared of vegetation to initiate groundworks for the construction of the Quarantine building foundations and septic tank pits.

Under the present circumstances, we expect to accomplish our goals and commence basic operations in **Q3 of the 2021 calendar year**, provided that the following infrastructure, equipment, and employees are available:

- All Clinic facilities are in place
- Quarantine and one block of rehab aviaries are completed
- Basic infrastructure is furnished to support operations
- Vet and Head Keeper are hired and trained

Facility	Estimated completion date*
Clinic	Q4 2020
Access road (phase 1 from the Entrance to Quarantine)	Q1 2021
Quarantine/Incinerator	Q1 2021
Rehabilitation Aviaries	Q3 2021
Boundary Fence	Q4 2021
Food house/Recycling pits	2022
Workshop	2022
Access road (Phase 2 separate entrance and exit)	2022

4. Other information to share with the public related to the project (Max. 300 words)

As we are not accepting confiscations at the rescue center yet, we withhold distributing any public news until our basic operations are in place. However, we are committed to keeping EAZA Silent Forest group updated in case of any significant changes and milestones.

Below a selection of pictures showing our completed and ongoing work to date:



Fig. 1: Front side of the clinic building



Fig. 2: Window safety bars installed in clinic building



Fig. 3: Open workspace on top of the clinic



Fig. 4: Quarantine/Isolation cages.

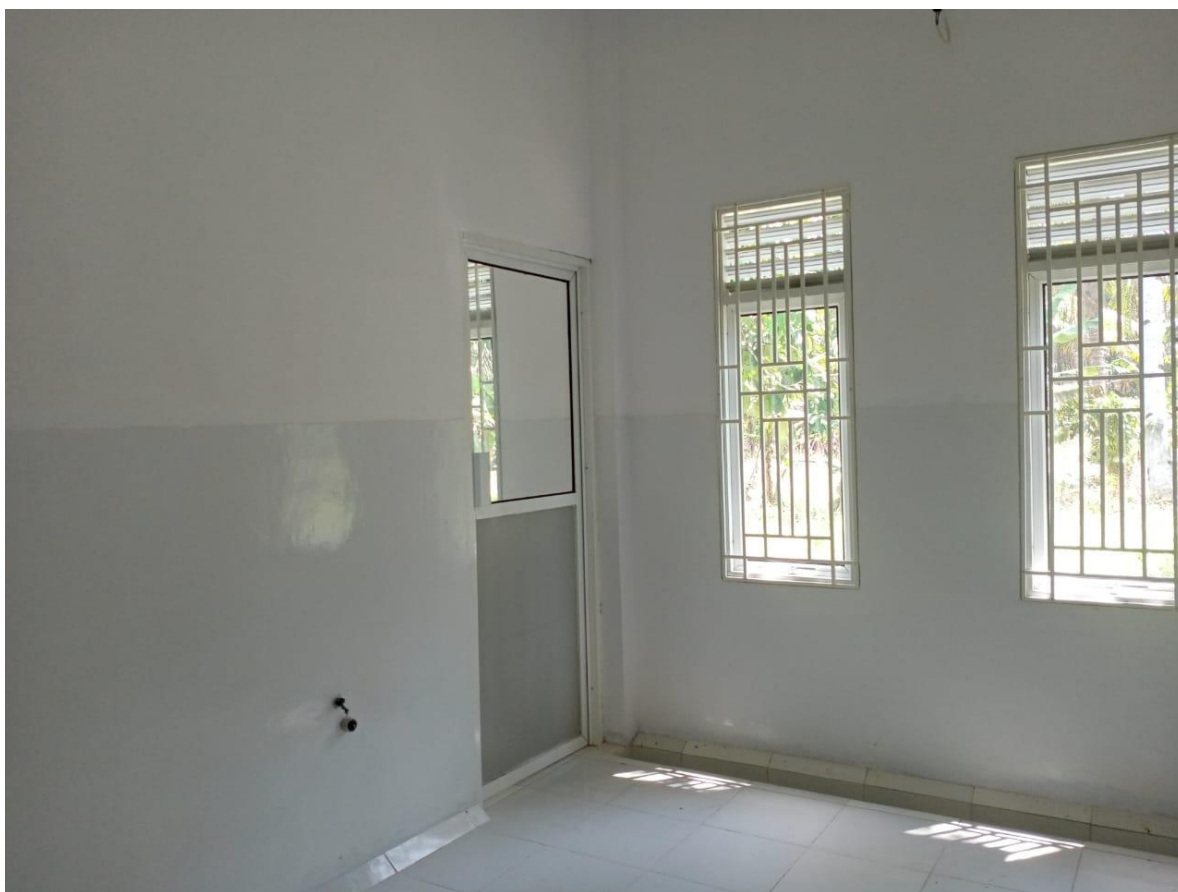


Fig. 5: All the clinic rooms will be fitted with the necessary sinks and worktables



Fig. 5: Remodelling and rebuilding the access road



Fig. 7: Backside of the Clinic: The Quarantine area will be built (approx.) 20 meters distance from the Clinic building, entirely fenced with only one entrance