



Silent Forest Group Project update

Project name: Planet Indonesia - Wak Gatak Songbird rescue center

Project partners: Yayasan Planet Indonesia

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- Don't forget to include images (>1Mb)/videos with credits when available (please specify a description, name of the image, any caption, date and location, species common/scientific name and photographers name when available)
 - Please feel free to attach documents that expand beyond the 300 words limit...
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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)

Several construction works were completed between March and May 2021. These include, completion of separate septic tanks for the Clinic (Fig. 1), the foundation, sidewalls and the roof structure of the quarantine building (Fig. 2), the readjustment of the access road (Fig. 3), installation of street lights at the entrance and along the access road (Fig. 4), and the planting of trees (*Syzygium oleina*) along the property boundary (Fig. 5). In the case of the quarantine building, the construction work is more than 90% complete and planned to be finished by June 2021. In the case of the access road, the readjustment and strengthening of the road was necessary due several incidents of collapse due to bad weather that slowed down the construction work of rescue center facilities. After re-evaluating the position of the access road, we decided that the most effective way to rebuild the access road was by moving the road 2 meters inwards from the drain and constructing the initial road foundation. Other milestones include the development and handover of eight (8) temporary holding cages to West Kalimantan BKSDA (Fig. 6).

In addition to ongoing construction and development work, we have finalised the hiring of a veterinarian experienced in avian species who will join our team from June 2021. In order to develop the capacity of our veterinarian on specific issues such as songbird care, handling, and aspects of clinic management and hygiene, we will coordinate with the Cikananga Conservation Breeding Center (CCBC) located in West Java for an in-depth traineeship in the coming quarters of 2021.

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

In our proposal to EAZA Silent Forest, we requested funds to sponsor the construction of one block of aviary. As reported previously, construction work for the aviary is still on track and scheduled to begin by Q3 (July-September) 2021. At present, we have finalised the budget for the construction of the aviary building. As we are following a progressive construction plan for the Wak Gatak Songbird Rescue Center, we have prioritised the most urgent needs to be built first. As we have finished construction of the Clinic building and are currently developing the quarantine building (>90% complete), our next major construction work will be the Aviary building. Once the Aviary building is complete, we will have the infrastructure to start basic operations related to rehabilitation of confiscated songbirds in West Kalimantan, Indonesia.

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

The following table highlights activities that are planned to be carried out in the next 3 months (June - August 2021):

Activity	Expected date of completion
Quarantine building	May 2021
Aviary building	Q3 2021
Drilling Water Well Works	June 2021
Construction of Rehabilitation Cages	August 2021
Procurement of Transport Cage	September 2021
Procurement of Medical Equipment and Other Clinical Supplies	September 2021

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

We are excited that this year we will officially be able to open the Wak Gatak Songbird Rescue Center. This project exists within Planet Indonesia's Wak Gatak Conservation Centre. This centre utilizes a holistic approach from working alongside law enforcement and judicial agencies to improving the capacity of government partners to partnering with communities through Planet Indonesia's core model to reduce biodiversity loss through in-situ programs. In addition, this year Wak Gatak will add a behavior change campaign focusing on the issue of songbird competitions in West Kalimantan.

Pictures



Figure 1: Completion of Clinic building septic tanks for (A) infectious waste, and (B) human waste



Figure 2: (left) inside of the quarantine building, (right) outside view of the quarantine building



Fig 3: (left) Before access road development, (middle) before readjustment and reinforcement, (right) after readjustment and reinforcement of the access road



Figure 4: (left) Newly installed street lights at the entrance area of the center, (right) lights installed along the access road



Figure 5: Syzygium oleina planted along the boundary of the rescue center to rehabilitate the soil structure and prevent erosion caused by rainwater runoff.



Figure 6: Handover of a set of 8 temporary bird holding cages to the West Kalimantan's BKSDA office