



Silent Forest Group Final Project Report

Project name Building breeding facilities at Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre for some of Indonesia's most threatened Songbirds

Project partners: Cikananga Conservation Breeding Center

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

In late October 2021 the building project at Cikananga Conservation Breeding Center (CCBC) which had received funding from EAZA Silent Forest, Block C, was completed. This aviary block is now the largest block within CCBC, affording us 56 aviaries of varying size at its full capacity. As well as the aviaries, this project also included a keeper building that has two rooms, one for the processing of birds and the other which we will use as a recovery room for sick or injured birds (Image 1 – 6).



Image 1. Preparation of land



Image 2. Foundations and structure

This project has unfortunately been subject to a number of delays throughout the building process and consequently the date of completion was around two months later than predicted. Causes of these delays were primarily associated with the strict social restrictions in the region of West Java causing the ordering of materials to be a lengthy process. We also found the project manager of the build team had underestimated the time this build would take.



Image 3. Mainframe



Image 4. Awaiting mesh installation

CoVID related issues also seemed to be a catalyst for significant price increases in materials during this project, especially of steel, the primary material of the aviary block. This consequently meant significant budget adjustments were made during the project and additional funding needed to be sourced to ensure this project was completed.



Image 5. Bird processing and recovery rooms



Image 6. Mesh installation

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

The original proposal outlined the building of 20 aviaries at an average cost of €1000. Following discussion with our team and core partners it was decided that the needs of CCBC were far greater than 20 aviaries as old aviaries that are made of timber had fallen into a state of disrepair and now posed a health risk to birds. We then embarked on finding alternative funding to realise an aviary block built in a new area which expanded the footprint of CCBC and which looks to the future, providing us flexibility in our capacity. We achieved this project at the original estimated average cost of €1000 per aviary, funding was used for preparation of land, expansion of perimeter fence and the main project build. Additional funding was sourced from Chester Zoo (including additional funding mid-way through the project to assist with material price increases), Waddesdon Manor Aviary, The Rothschild Foundation and Montpellier Zoo.

This aviary block follows roughly the same design as other recent builds at CCBC, focusing on durable and high quality materials constructed to ensure pest species cannot enter. One change we made for this build is the use of a mesh for the inner walls which has not compromised on quality but was cheaper in price as it was deemed unnecessary to have the mesh that had been used previously, which is favoured for its security credentials, throughout the whole build. This high security mesh now just makes up the outer shell of the aviary block. This also meant the steel pipes used for the internal structure could also be of smaller diameter, saving on steel price but maintaining quality. Aviaries are interconnected with sliding windows to enable easy transfer of birds or if aviary size is deemed to need expanding. All aviaries are partly covered by roof to provide cover for birds but also enabling direct access to sunlight, something we have taken into account when positioning this aviary for certain species which depend on long sunlight exposure to maintain optimal body condition e.g. Black-winged Myna *Acridotheres melanopterus* (Image 7).



In the coming years, CCBC aims to source funding to replace the remaining two blocks within CCBC which are now both almost entirely retired due to their condition. The project in this report therefore highlights an important step in facility progression as it provides us the capacity to move birds around the center with reduced impact upon breeding efforts which can occur from overcrowding/unideal species dynamics in blocks.

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

As of November, and continuing into the following months, the aviary block is in use, initially this is primarily for moving birds from sub-standard aviaries elsewhere and for introducing new breeding pairs. Due to the delay of completion it may be unlikely that aviaries are ready for breeding attempts of certain species e.g Javan Green Magpie *Cissa thalassina* until next year. This is because preparation of aviaries began at the start of the breeding season and consequently means plants and the environment will not have established significantly. Despite this we will still encourage breeding efforts in these aviaries for some pairs as it is still possible the conditions are acceptable for certain individuals. Preparation of aviaries includes the planting of vegetation and generally attempting to create an environment which promotes breeding success (Image 8 and 9).



Image 8. Large size aviary mid-preparation



Image 9. Medium-sized aviary mid-preparation

The larger capacity of CCBC means we have also been able to begin introductions of birds to create new breeding pairs. This is a process we undertake with care and do not rush due to the importance of the birds. We therefore place birds in neighbouring aviaries until we are happy we are seeing positive pair behaviour, once this is observed we open the windows separating the aviaries and continue to observe. If the pair is looking good we will then move to an appropriate breeding aviary (Image 10).



Image 10. Newly introduced Javan Green Magpie pair

A general overview of the plan for the coming months is outlined in the following table.

Activity	Time Scale
Preparation of Aviaries	November – December
Moving of Birds	November – December
Breeding Pair Introductions	December
Encouragement of Breeding	December - March

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

CCBC is very grateful to the EAZA Silent Forest campaign and to all of our funders for such strong support, especially during a period of time which has been difficult for all. This aviary block has significantly improved the facilities of CCBC and gives a very positive outlook for the coming years as CCBC aims to grow current breeding programmes and knowledge of the captive requirements of the species in our care. Furthermore, as the facilities of CCBC expand and improve, this gives us the opportunity to begin new conservation breeding programmes for species in desperate need of conservation breeding efforts. It is likely in 2022 we will begin a new conservation breeding programme for a Javan species/sub-species following research and recommendations of the ASTSG.

Financial Report

Project Summary

Item	Original Allocated Budget (IDR)	Original Allocated Budget (EUR)	Actual Spend (IDR)	Actual Spend (EUR)
Building Material	580.000.000	34,117.65	701.860.100	41285.88
Building Team	200.000.000	11,764.71	235.000.000	13,823.53
TOTAL	780.000.000	45,882.36	936.860.100	55109.41

Exchange rate 1:17,000

Summary of Funding Sources

Source	Amount (EUR)	Amount (GBP)	Amount (IDR)
EAZA Silent Forest	20,000		336.069.914
Chester Zoo		22,489.47	460.913.835
The Rothschild Foundation	4,000		74.946.000
Waddesdon Manor Aviary		3,000	58.812.485
Montpellier Zoo	586.85		10.000.000
TOTAL	20,586.85	29,289.47	940.742.234

Amount in IDR using exchange rate at the time of each specific transfer.