

Javan Pied Starling (*Gracupica jalla*)



PRIGEN CONSERVATION BREEDING ARK

Autumn Update
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KASI
Konservasi Alam Satwa Indonesia



Preface

Species conservation in Indonesia can be extremely tiring and often frustrating. Many species are fighting for survival on so many different fronts that it can be hard to remain optimistic.

The ever growing online trade poses a risk to species survival that has yet to be fully understood. Not only the omnipresent songbirds are traded in large numbers but literally everything from Proboscis monkeys and Clouded Leopards to Bleeding Toads and Landcrabs. For many species this trade and the related poaching might pose a much bigger threat than so far assumed. We have to ask ourselves, how long can Natuna Langur, Indonesian Mountain Weasel and Sago Monitor withstand the pressure they are under?

In order to be able to engage more actively in in-situ conservation and therefore be able to better understand risks and chances for certain species, KASI foundation is preparing to employ an In-situ conservation coordinator.



PCBA in the end of September 2022

Third Quartal 2022

With several new enclosure complexes to be completed and the area of PCBA ever growing it was only logical to increase the number of staff.

Within the third Quartal of 2022 we have been able to employ one gardener and one biologist.

In Kasianto we found the ideal candidate for our maintenance and gardening position. Previously he worked at PCBA as part of our construction team and is therefore familiar with the team and our routine.



With Kukuh Hadi Wiyono a second biologist joined the PCBA team. Kukuh has previously been working in TSI Bogor and as consultant for other zoo projects. At PCBA he will be mainly focusing on in-situ conservation and conservation education.



Sulawesi Freshwater endemics



Sulawesi freshwater facility just before being finished

All major construction works on the new facility for Sulawesi freshwater endemics have been completed. Now we are working on getting the water parameters dialed in to be able to successfully house and breed the highly sensitive inhabitants of Sulawesi's unique freshwater habitats.

With a total of 147 aquaria and 22 filter tanks this new facility will enable us to actively engage in ex-situ conservation of some of Sulawesi's most threatened freshwater Invertebrates and Fish.

Only thanks to the generous support by Zoo Wroclaw, Re:wild, ZGAP and Sulawesi Keepers has it been possible to make this landmark project reality.

Bawean Warty-Pig facility

The new facility designed to cater the needs of several breeding groups of wild pigs is nearing its completion.

With five large enclosures, five paddocks and eight indoor holdings which are all interconnected this facility offers ample capacities to house and breed at least five groups of Bawean Warty Pigs. Covering an area of 2.500 square meters, this complex is the largest so far at PCBA.

This project was made possible by the generous support from the German "Zootier des Jahres" campaign.

With the African Swine Fever still raging through Indonesia it becomes ever more urgent to establish a safe ex-situ population of the highly threatened Bawean Warty Pig.



The new Pig facility just before completion

Rainbowfish tanks

After weeks of finishing surrounding infrastructure and cycling the tanks we are now finally ready to accommodate some heavily threatened Rainbowfish at PCBA.

The following species will be the first to be taken care of at our new facility.

- *Melanotaenia parva*
- *M. ajamaruensis*
- *M. klasioensis*
- *M. sikuensis*
- *M. multiradiata*
- *M. laticlavia*
- *M. mamahensis*
- *M. ogilby*
- *M. boesemani*
- *Chilatherina pricei*
- *Pseudomugil ivantsoffi*
- *P. pellucidus* "Mimika"
- *P. novagineae*

While the larger species will be housed in the eight large outdoor tanks, the *Pseudomugil* species will be bred in indoor aquaria within our first fish room.

All of these species are under threat in the wild and not well represented in the aquarium hobby. All specimens that will be kept at PCBA are of known collection locality.

In the future we will add more species, once they become available.

We are very grateful for Tierpark & Fossilium Bochum for sponsoring our facility, for Hans Georg Evers for his advice and support and for Jeffery Christian for not only advising us but also donating all founder individuals!



Rainbowfish tanks awaiting inhabitants

Javan Pied Starling Reintroduction

The Javan Pied Starling (*Gracupica jalla*) is a critically endangered, possibly extinct in the wild species endemic to Java, Bali and southern Sumatra. For decades there has been no reports of any viable wild population, at the same time this species is bred in huge numbers by commercial breeders in Java. Unfortunately little attention is paid to the preservation of original genetical and phenotypical traits. Therefore, it is ever more important to establish a stable population of Javan Pied Starlings that are free of selectively bred mutations and hybridization with Mainland Pied Starlings.

At PCBA we currently maintain a population of nearly 70 Javan Pied Starlings.

To move forward in conserving this species in the long term, we are going to establish a semi-wild trial population on the grounds of Taman Safari 2 Jatim in Prigen. 40 Starlings, all bred at PCBA, are going to be released using a soft-release method. These birds will find ideal habitat conditions within Taman Safari's grounds, large herds of herbivorous provide for ample open grassland and abundance of insects, large trees will provide safe roosts and nest sites. With 360 hectares of fully protected habitat this site offers ideal circumstances for the reintroduction of a managed semi-wild population.

The release is scheduled for the 5th of November and will involve our local communities as well as regional and national government.



Pre-release aviary under construction

Additional infrastructure

Thanks to Taman Safari we have been able to further complete PCBA's infrastructure.

In order to make the daily routine easier and allow for undisturbed access in special occasions, we completed our service road. This completion will allow for much easier access to the lower part of PCBA which is especially vital when moving heavy cargo and in case we are to move Warty Pigs in or out of their enclosure complex.



Concrete for the new road being poured

In addition to the road extension we have also been able to install a completion to our water supply.

With more and more facilities to maintain PCBA's need for water is constantly growing. To keep up with the demand we set up two additional holding tanks which are being supplied by Taman Safaris main water supply. These additional tanks enabled us to split PCBA in two sections and therefore increase water pressure in each enclosure complex.



Additional water tanks behind PCBA

In-situ efforts on Maratua island

In late August and early September Adyah and Febry of PCBA conducted a one week visit to Maratua island.

The aims were to explore our options to set up a community ranger program, talk to the local resorts and other tourism stakeholders as key players on the island and ideally gather evidence of the continued existence of a wild Shama (*Copsychus barbouri*) population on Maratua island.

Two potential future rangers have been interviewed and we are now finalizing an agreement with both of them to set up a monitoring routine in core habitat.

Our efforts were welcomed with great enthusiasm by the local tourism stakeholders and local government. All parties agreed that the conservation of the remaining shamas and their habitat is of urgent priority.

While Febry did not manage to photograph any wild Maratua Shama, he was able to record the song of a handful of males. This proves that the Maratua Shama persists on the island and is not yet extinct as we feared. At the same time we found clear evidence of continued poaching and all remaining birds are extremely shy, indicating consistent hunting pressure.



Adyah and Febry on Maratua

In-situ efforts on Wangi-Wangi island

On 25th of July an MoU between Taman Safari Indonesia and Wakatobi National Park was officially signed, enabling us to fully engage in in-situ conservation for Wangi-Wangi White-eye (*Zosterops sp.nov.*) and Wakatobi Cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea paulandrewi*).

In late September Febry, Kukuh, Keni Sultan of TSI Bogor and Fery Agus, a botanist from IPB University embarked on another survey trip to Wangi-Wangi. Both will spend 40 days on the island, not only assessing the habitat requirements of Wangi-Wangi White-eye and Wakatobi Cockatoo but also evaluating the population status of both species and conduct a socio-ecological survey among the local inhabitants. We will also start to implement an education program to inform the inhabitants of Wangi-Wangi island about their threatened neighbors. All activities will be carried out in close cooperation with Wakatobi National Park.



Mr Darman of TN Wakatobi and Mr Tony Sumampau of TSI after signing the MoU

Remarkable changes in our animal populations

Mammals:

Javan Warty Pig (*Sus verrucosus*):

In the end of July our breeder male Roy died suddenly of a ruptured abdominal vein. It remains unclear what caused the rupture.

During his time at PCBA Roy has fathered 16 offspring, two of which have returned to the wild in Baluran National Park, his legacy will certainly live on.

In late September we were able to secure yet another young female Pig, resembling a Javan Warty Pig, that was being offered on social media. This piglet will undergo extensive quarantine and later on a genetic test to verify genetic integrity

Spotted Giant flying Squirrel (*Petaurista elegans*):

Four Spotted Giant flying Squirrels, one male and three females, will hopefully be the foundation of our conservation breeding efforts for this species.

Petaurista elegans elegans and the subspecies *slamatensis* are endemic to Java and under increasing threat by the infamous pet trade. Giant flying Squirrels are commonly offered as pets on various online platforms and sell for relatively high prices.



P. elegans at PCBA

Songbirds



Young Javan Green Magpie

Successfully raised during the last three months:

- Eight Javan Pied Starlings (*Gracupica jalla*) were raised by four different pairs.
- Two Nias Hill Mynas (*Gracula robusta*) were raised by our breeding pair.
- One Tenggara Hill Myna (*Gracula venerata*) was successfully raised
- Three Maratua Shamas were successfully raised by one pair.
- Five Larwo Shamas (*Copsychus omissus*) were successfully brought up.
- One Javan Green Magpie (*Cissa thalassina*) was parent reared, hopefully marking the start into a successful breeding season for this species.
- Three Javan White-eye (*Zosterops flavus*) grew up under the care of their parents.



Nias Hill Myna pair with fledgelings

Losses:

- One female Nias Hill Myna succumbed to an Aspergillosis infection
- One Javan White-eye died most likely due to old age,

Transfers:

- 12 White-crowned Shamas (*Copsychus stricklandii*) have been given to a private breeder on a breeding loan agreement, leaving us with only one female at PCBA and a pair at TSI Prigen.

Acquisition:

- As a reaction to its rapid disappearance in the wild and in coordination with members of the ASTSG we have decided to engage in breeding trials for Javan Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis banyumas*). Three pairs were donated to PCBA by a private bird keeper in Surabaya.



Male Malay crest-less Fireback

Galliformes

We have been able to acquire yet another two pairs of Malay Crestless Firebacks (*Lophura erythrophthalma*). All four birds arrived in good condition and seem to settle in very well. Once again these pairs have been sponsored by WPA Germany and Roland Wirth.

In order to be able to form unrelated pairs with our Grey-breasted Partridge (*Arborophila orientalis*) offspring we acquired two unrelated birds, unfortunately one birds died of Pancreatitis.

Parrots:

For the first time we are currently raising at least one White Cockatoo (*Cacatua alba*) chick. The offspring is still in the nest in a hollow tree and we have not yet closer examined it yet.

Unfortunately we lost one adult Sula Hanging Parrot (*Loriculus sclateri*) to an bacterial infection.



Displaying *P.juelinae*

Blackwater fish

We have been able to receive a few very interesting sample specimens from Bangka Island. Among those are *Betta schalleri*, *Betta chloropharynx*, *B.cf.cracens* and *B.cf.pardalotos*.

Among others we have bred *Betta schalleri*, *B.burdigala*, *B.miniopinna*, *Parosphromenus sp.* Tangkit and *P.anjunganensis*.

PCBA's supporters



Without the support of an ever growing number of sponsors and supporters PCBA's work would be unimaginable. We are very thankful to be able to rely on a network as reliable as ours. Thank you very much!