

Project Update: December 2014

Training and Educational Accomplishments

While formal data collection awaits completion of training and reliability testing, we are anticipating that it will begin in the next few weeks. Our two local assistants (Yuli and Uni - pictured right) are familiar with ecology but not primate behaviour. These last few months we have been successful in training them in the nuances of primate behaviour, behavioural data collection, and basic field research. Uni will use a subset of the data collected to assist her with a future Master's degree.



Other Accomplishments

While we have no tangible results yet, we were able to send a proposal to the local forestry department (BKSDA) highlighting the possible negative effects of increasing Rambo II's range restriction. BKSDA has already had one public meeting with local officials and stakeholders regarding the addition of a recreation centre and subsequent increased range restriction of Rambo II. They must have at least one more before they present their request to higher departments. We intend to have a representative at this meeting and will work with other stakeholders in the area to enhance the visibility of this potentially problematic issue. The PI has already had one meeting with the programme manager of Selamatkan Yaki (<http://selamatkanyaki.com>), Harry Hilser. Harry was unaware of this renewed interest in increasing Rambo II's range restriction and added my proposal's talking points into Selamatkan Yaki's next meeting with BKSDA (scheduled for early January 2015). Additionally, we discussed ways we could help his organisation with their efforts to conserve *M. nigra*. His most recent endeavour regards the training of tourist guides in both forest ecology and proper forest behaviour. However, not all of the guides who work inside Tangkoko will attend this training class. In order to facilitate the assessment of this program's success, during data collection we will record the name of the guide responsible for each monitored tourist group.

Finally, we have also been in contact with Mathilde Chanvin, who runs Tangkoko Conservation Education (TCE). This organisation travels around the Minahasa region of north Sulawesi and teaches basic ecology and conservation to school children. The PI intends to join TCE and contribute to these ecology lessons with fun facts about *Macaca nigra* starting in January 2015.

