



**Selamatkan Yaki**



Working to save Sulawesi crested black macaques and their native habitat

## NEWSLETTER

**January 2014**



[www.selamatkanyaki.com](http://www.selamatkanyaki.com)



# Dear sponsors, partners and friends of the yaki....

As we welcome the new year, we are pleased to send you our newsletter for 2014!

It has been quite some time since we last sent an update about our programme, and it has been an incredible year of challenges, progress and growth for Selamatkan Yaki...and we hope that progress has been made towards conservation of those wonderful yaki.

In this issue, we would like to present recent developments from the Selamatkan Yaki programme, with the latest achievements and what's to come for our future focuses. Here are just a few highlights:

- We happily welcome two new staff members...we sadly say goodbye to one
- Reporting in from the first ever Sulawesi crested black macaque conservation workshop!
- Completion of our Tangkoko Nature Reserve Management assessment
- Training programmes and conservation forums developed
- We open our EARS! - implementation of our 'Education and Awareness Raising Strategy'
- Fundraising, programme car, eco-schools and more!...

## Changes in the Team!

There has been some changes in the Selamatkan Yaki staff organisation since our previous newsletter. In October we had the pleasure to welcome Edyson (Edies) Maneasa to fulfil our newly formed position of Tangkoko Project Officer, where he will be responsible for planning, implementing and evaluating all activities related to our Tangkoko Rejuvenation Project. Following graduation from the Agriculture Faculty at UNSRAT (University of Sam Ratulangi) in Manado, Edies worked many years for capacity building and conservation groups such as the Wildlife Conservation Society, and now joins us with extensive experience and a useful skillset in conservation. Edies is knowledgeable in a diversity of wildlife management approaches, such as implementing awareness campaigns, providing environmental education, training teachers, developing renewable energy strategies and conducting research to support the programme operations. We believe his integration in the Selamatkan Yaki team will strengthen our presence in the field around the nature reserve and help us to implement our conservation efforts in this area with the cooperation of a broad network of collaborators. [Read more about our Tangkoko Project Officer here...](#)



November saw the arrival of a second new team member for another new key role: Tresia Reyni Palohoen as the Programme Secretary! Reyni graduated from the De Mono School of Secretary Manado in 2009 and has 3 years of experience at the Indonesian General Surgeon Society and the Department Surgery of UNSRAT Medical Faculty Manado. Reyni is a (smiley!) first port of call for the programme, and is responsible for keeping our administrative tasks organised. She brings to the team a whole range of skills including graphic design, organising of events, managing accounts and even speaks fluent English! [Check out why Reyni got interested in conservation here...](#)

After a year of dedicated time with SY, we bid farewell to our previous Field Project Coordinator Gaetan Masson. He has been instrumental in getting the programme off the ground, and has given a huge contribution to where we are now. We thank Gaetan dearly for his time and commitment to the programme. We hope that he has enjoyed his experience here in North Sulawesi and wish him all the best for the future. The new Field Project Coordinator has been developed into a new role, the core responsibilities of whom will be planning and monitoring of ongoing conservation activities and development of an alternative livelihood strategy. Keep a look out on our blog for an introduction to this new individual once they have been successfully recruited very soon.

In addition to the growth in the programme to a team of 5 full time staff in the field, we have been receiving fantastic support from a wide range of volunteers, from designers in Manado and Venezuela, to research assistants and social networkers. To all those who help us in our work, we send a huge thank you for your input and shared passion for conservation.

## What Have We Been Up To?

It has certainly been an eventful year, and we cannot explain all of our activities here, but we wish to bring attention to a few key moments or achievements from 2013.

### **Macaca nigra and Tangkoko Conservation Workshop**

We are proud to present you one our greatest realisations of the year: the completion of the first ever Sulawesi crested black macaque and Tangkoko Nature Reserve international conservation workshop. As part of their biodiversity conservation efforts, the Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam (BKSDA: government agency responsible for national protected areas in Indonesia) collaborated with us to facilitate a three day workshop focusing on drawing conservation actions addressing the protected area of Tangkoko Batuangus Dua Saudara Nature Reserve (Tangkoko) and the *M. nigra* native range within the scope of a Species Conservation Action Plan (SAP), an evidence-based guiding strategy for the conservation of the species.

The event was broadly represented by a wide range of stakeholders, with productive and valuable focus groups discussions developing conservation recommendations and a short to long-term framework for action. The objectives of the workshop were widely achieved, with the output proving extremely valuable for development of our programmes. Plans to develop a broad systematic strategy for the protection of Tangkoko and *M. nigra* (through the SAP) are underway and have been contributed to extensively by all appropriate stakeholders. Insight was gained into the roles, understanding and commitments of all representative parties. Undoubtedly, many participants and parties learned a lot about the plight of the species and what is endangering them, in addition to the current and proposed strategies in development to mitigate these threats.

In addition to the central outcomes derived from the core objectives of this workshop, several additional conclusions were generated through this event:

1. Identified and prioritised threats to the conservation of Tangkoko and *M. nigra*.
2. Identified causes and effects of these threats.
3. Visions and goals clarified for Tangkoko and *M. nigra*.
4. Well defined conservation recommendations generated by stakeholder group discussions.
5. Framework for action created which identifies key parties involved in the suggested conservation actions, and timeline to carry these out.
6. Species Action Plan committee identified.
7. Extensive networking and facilitation of new opportunities to collaborate for maximised effectiveness for conservation.



Representing the partnership between SY (through the Synergy Pacific Institute) and the BKSDA, we would like to sincerely thank the attendance, input and feedback from all participants for this important event.

### **Species Conservation Action Plan**

Building on the outcomes of the workshop, our team was able to finalise the first draft version of the *M. nigra* Species Conservation Action Plan (SAP). An SAP is a multi-stakeholder, written conservation strategy providing background information about the target species, a summary of past and current conservation activities undertaken, and an overview of the 'threats' considered to be causal in the species' population decline. With due consultation, recommendations and framework for conservation activities to mitigate these threats are developed. An SAP aims to provide an authoritative source of species-related conservation information available to natural resource managers, conservationists and decision makers.



This action plan is developed with a single species focus, *M. nigra*. As a flagship species, conservation of the Critically Endangered *M. nigra* is important not just for the target species but will also make a significant and positive contribution to biodiversity conservation in an area of high endemism. Sulawesi is regarded for its remarkable species biodiversity, boasts the highest level of endemism within Indonesia, an area already recognised for its rich biodiversity and endemism. It is hoped that this *M. nigra* SAP document will help to encourage greater stakeholder collaboration, and facilitate an evidence-based approach to inform and guide future conservation activities for *M. nigra*, and contribute to the conservation of their sympatric biodiversity.

## Tangkoko Rejuvenation Programme

### **Broad Scale Assessments**

As the foundation for our programme in Tangkoko, a comprehensive assessment of the area was conducted in order to identify key players, major threats and most importantly pinpoint key areas in need of enhancement. This research, composed of various survey and data collection methods such as the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), a village survey and continual visitor surveys, gives us a solid baseline for further evaluation of our activities' impact.

We started our assessment phase by conducting a socio-demographic village survey. The survey, which involves questionnaires within a total of 40 households in each of 5 villages surrounding Tangkoko is a really important tool for us. In addition to other useful information, these surveys provide an indicator of the villagers' attitudes toward local wildlife and their use of natural resources. The data are viable as comparatives to several previous studies carried out by our team across Minahasa since 2007. These show that many people are still using forest resources, and some have occasional human-wildlife conflict situations, and still hunt or consume bushmeat including macaques in certain villages although this is rare. Community members are generally knowledgeable about why it is important to protect forests and welcome initiatives to harmonise their presence with preserving biodiversity.



The METT is one of the two most widely used and globally applicable systems developed to assess effectiveness of protected area management. The METT has been designed to track and monitor progress towards worldwide protected area management effectiveness and report progress towards the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is particularly useful at enabling park managers and donors to identify needs, constraints and priority actions to improve the effectiveness of protected area management.

During this assessment we surveyed a total of 16 individuals, including provincial management level individuals from the BKSDA, field management level individuals from the BKSDA, local village heads and local NGOs' representatives. Major threats to the reserve support other research to highlight areas to prioritise necessary interventions and focus for resources of management. Insight into management deficiencies have been identified via total reserve management scores, and specifically in categories where scores were lowest. Overall, hunting and collecting terrestrial animals is the greatest threat to the reserve. The management score is relatively low, with particular deficits in particular management processes, most significantly with regards to communications across different management levels and other stakeholders. Additionally, improvements could be made in personnel and training, with a lack of budget allocation and equipment availability being a significant barrier to effective patrols.



In addition to these surveys, we are continually monitoring attitudes of reserve visitors to track any change in the visitor impact and experience, and collating supporting data from partners working in the reserve.

### **Training Programmes**

Based upon previous knowledge and following these initial assessments, one prominent recommendation was training of personnel working in the nature reserve. To this end, we have developed training programmes with a professional service from Java, known as Yapeka for both

the patrol teams and visitor guides. The training programme for the rangers of Tangkoko has been designed for full integration into the BKSDA's Resort Based Management system, with a professional, experienced trainer due to arrive to provide training in the new SMART software, techniques and equipment. The guide training took a substantial amount of planning, but took place in November with a good turnout, and positive feedback for the initial training session. This was implemented in conjunction with a consultation and discussion with the Head of the Tourism Department for Bitung, and the formation of a new official guide group. We aim to provide a second training session this year, and help to facilitate a more cohesive guide group system.

## Forest Conservation Community Forums

All supporting data and results obtained during the first Phase point to the great need for greater communication flows. In light of this, we have now established five community forums – platforms for discussion of anything related to the environment, where issues or suggestions are raised internally within villages, then disseminated externally to other villages and relevant stakeholder representatives. We consider these to be the most auspicious conservation interventions of the Tangkoko programme. Following our extensive communications and socializations in villages regarding the forums (termed Forum Masyarakat Konservasi Hutan: 'Forest Conservation Community Forums'), we have so far received full support from the communities involved. We now look forwards to the first official meetings, and then the major, multi-stakeholder quarterly meetings to be held in April.



We consider these forums to be of priority, especially within certain areas where there have been ongoing cross-stakeholder challenges. Residual issues have been ongoing, but were brought to attention following developments of the nature recreation area last year, with certain parts of communities unhappy with the land use and management of the protected area. There has been subsequent resilience against continued developments and challenges over land rights, including protests and areas of encroachment. As a neutral party, we hope to facilitate dialogue between the different stakeholders and work out ways to cooperate with one another. We organised a meeting last year with the aim to reconcile some of the issues, and have been investigating ways to avoid further issues. It is crucial that community members feel they have a voice and are considered with the stake in the surrounding areas and respect due, and that forest management authorities are also regarded highly through proper best practice methods. To this end, the forums may be utilised as a primary step to avoiding and reconciling disagreements through active discourse and information sharing between communities and other stakeholders.

## Let's Open Our EARS!...



This year and last year, the Education and Awareness Raising project (EARS!) focuses on two key areas for yaki conservation: the cities of Tomohon and Langowan. Both places have a traditional market where previous researchers found a high frequency of meat from animals living in the forests, the so-called "bushmeat". Macaque meat, including *M. nigra*, have been seen for sale at these markets. After an extensive survey of two and a half months, interviewing 781 respondents in the area, our team discovered some useful insights into consumer-behaviour, knowledge and attitudes. This includes that more than a quarter of the interviewed local communities are not aware that it is actually illegal according



to the Indonesian law to hunt or trade the Critically Endangered *M. nigra*. Furthermore, 89% of the respondents believed an awareness campaign to be effective to improve the conservation of the yaki. We decided to organise a gathering, bringing together community leaders with different expertise: heads of religious and educational institutes, respected elders, heads of the markets and cultural leaders.



On November 23<sup>rd</sup>, we hosted the event **“Torang Bacirita: Konservasi Yaki”** (**“Let us discuss: yaki conservation”**) at the Minahasa Museum of our partner the North Sulawesi Institute of Art & Culture in Tompaso.

Our key speakers approached yaki conservation from different points of views: the important role of yaki in human lives and from a religious and cultural perspective. These talks were followed by two focus group discussions, which led to very interesting results and laid the foundation for our campaign. The first focus group discussion was about the ways in which all stakeholders can contribute to yaki conservation through education and awareness raising. In the afternoon, this was followed by a second session focusing on the Yaki Pride Campaign, discussing which messages and activities would be most suitable to change people’s knowledge, attitudes and behaviour regarding yaki conservation. At the same location and day of this event, we had the opening of our very first yaki exhibition! The beautiful yaki photos of Wildlife Photographer Andrew Walmsley were complemented with yaki art and designs from all around the world!



Based on the recommendations gathered at the “Torang Bacirita”- event, we have made a campaign plan encompassing the various stakeholders. Just before the holidays, two billboards were produced and placed on strategic locations in Tomohon and Langowan. Each billboard features a community leader, in this case the heads of the districts Langowan East and Tomohon West, including their message of support of yaki conservation. With the help of additional sponsors, more billboards will follow from this month and will be spread throughout the campaign areas to reach as many people as possible. Because of the holidays, especially Christmas, and the increase of bushmeat trade around this time we also held information stands at the traditional markets of Tomohon and Langowan.

During four of the busiest market days, **our team raised awareness about the yaki**, their Critically Endangered status and ways to help yaki conservation. Many volunteers of several Nature Lovers Clubs helped during these days reaching out from young to old among the market visitors: Kelompok Pecinta Alam Langowan (Kपालang) and Arannaka & KPAB Volcano in Tomohon. We handed out campaign stickers, educational posters, and sold our yaki books and campaign T-shirts! We also had information banners, activities for children during which they could make their very own yaki mask and more than 200 people signed our Yaki Conservation Banner to show their support! We are happy how the local communities have received our education and awareness raising activities during a productive 2013 and we are looking forward to continue our campaign in this brand-new year! For our EARS 2014 our key words will be: Collaboration, Information sharing and capacity building! Together we can build a solid foundation for the conservation of yaki and other endangered species in this beautiful country Indonesia.



## And Finally....

In addition to what's been happening for our core projects, we have also been involved in many other exciting events and activities. This includes the purchase of our **programme car**, and its epic trip (accompanied by Gaetan and Harry) to a United Nations Development Plan meeting in Palu, **a yaki quiz fundraiser** (thanks to Jodie Dryden for the amazing effort and raising of over £1000!), participation in the **World Animal Day event** with great involvement of local youth to speak out for animals, and **visits to inspiring schools**, such as the eco-friendly model school SMNP 14 in Manado, where we talked about sustainability and environmental education in the provincial curriculum along with other partners.

We are also happy to announce our partnership with the **Moroccan Primate Conservation Foundation (MPC)**, who work to protect the Endangered Barbary macaque (*Macaca sylvanus*), another wonderful macaque species. After assisting us during the workshop to create our Species Action Plan for *M. nigra*, we are now in partnership to support and promote each other's conservation work. Following the progress of last year, we now look forward to another productive year, with continuation of both core projects, recruitment of new Field Project Coordinator to help develop the monitoring and cohesion of the project activities, build a longer term strategy and procure funds to enable continuity into the coming years.

A final word...in January 2014, North Sulawesi, our study site and home, was devastated by the worst floods and landslides on record, affecting 70% of the city Manado. All our staff and people we know are fine, and we don't suspect the forest wildlife will have been affected. However, many people have lost everything...some lives were even lost. Our field team, together with many friends, has been trying to help those people that haven't received much help. We try to reach these areas to speak with people affected and distribute much needed supplies. **Donations can be made here**, and are crucial in making this work possible - we thank you for your support.

We will of course be sure to keep you updated on all our different projects. Please remember to visit our website and other social channels and spread our message.

The whole Selamatkan Yaki team would like to thank again every one of our sponsors, partners and friends without whom nothing would be possible! **"Together we can save the yaki!"**

## All the best for 2014... from the Selamatkan Yaki Team

~ In loving memory of Benedictus Giyarto (Ugiek) ~

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