

Javan Warty Pig (*Sus verrucosus*)



PRIGEN CONSERVATION BREEDING ARK

Spring Update
March 2022

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Preface

The year 2022 started off with an overall improvement of the Covid-19 situation in Indonesia. For the first time in nearly two years life seems to be returning to normality, at least in Java.

Travel restrictions have largely been lifted, both domestically and internationally. Slowly life is gaining speed again.

For PCBA, 2022 promises to become yet another very exciting year. Ahead of us lay some outstanding new cooperations and projects.

With the International Galliformes Symposium in October, we will for the first time host a major international event. This will serve as an opportunity for us to introduce our pheasant conservation breeding efforts to international pheasant enthusiasts as well as conservation practitioners. At the same time will also be an opportunity for PCBA to be known for its extensive conservation breeding projects in general.



PCBA in early March 2022

First quartal 2022

The first quartal of 2022 was the first in nearly two years that was not heavily impacted by Covid 19, at least for us at PCBA.

We have been busy as ever with keeping our existing breeding projects running and with establishing new projects.

While not having employed new staff this quartal, we had three young people doing internships at PCBA. This gives them the opportunity to gain work experience and allows us to pre-select potential future keepers.

All our activities here in Prigen are being enabled by the generous support by our sponsors and partners. We are more than glad to welcome more and more institutions and privateers on board of our endeavor to conserve some of Indonesia's most threatened animal species.



Betta miniopinna

Small-Mammal breeding facility

In February we have been able to complete the construction of our new Small-Mammal breeding facility.

With a total of 19 aviaries of different dimensions, this new facility will enable us to engage in conservation breeding of a number of threatened non-carnivorous mammal species.

Among the first inhabitants of the new complex are:

Sunda Pangolin (*Manis javanica*)

Javan Slow Loris (*Nycticebus javanicus*) and

East-Javan Red Giant Flying-Squirrel (*Petaurista p. nigricaudata*).

This project has been made possible by the support from Zoo Wroclaw, ZGAP, Hildegard und Hans Schaefer Stiftung, Zoo Leipzig and Roland Wirth.



The newly completed small-mammal complex

Blackwater Fish facility

With the completion of the new Blackwater facility, we have been able to move all fish from the existing fishroom into the new facility. The move was completed by mid-March and by the end of the month we started seeing the first free swimming fry.

The larger facility comes with its very own challenges, especially the coated concrete tanks have been leaching minerals into the water which had to be overcome with extensive watering and regular water changes. By now the facility works smoothly and the water parameters have stabilized, enabling us to engage in intensive breeding efforts once again.



Parts of the new Blackwater facility

Turtle breeding facility

In cooperation with Allwetterzoo Münster and ZGAP, PCBA has been enabled to set up yet another urgently needed conservation breeding facility.

To support international conservation breeding efforts for the Sulawesi Forest Turtle (*Leucocephalon yuwonoi*), we have set up 12 main enclosures for the conservation breeding of this Critically Endangered species.

Four of the 12 enclosures can be divided into four compartments to accommodate smaller individuals.

The complex is positioned in a way that guarantees direct sunlight for every enclosure in the early morning and late afternoon, for the rest of the day the enclosures are shaded to prevent overheating.

Thanks to an outstanding partnership with Allwetterzoo Münster we will be able to receive a group of turtles from Germany later this year.



Newly completed Turtle breeding facility

Rainbowfish tanks

Enabled by a generous donation by Tierpark and Fossilium Bochum, we have been able to start construction of eight large tanks dedicated to the conservation breeding of highly threatened Indonesian Rainbowfish species.

Each of the eight tanks will have a capacity of 6.000 liters and will therefore give us the opportunity to accommodate sizable populations of several highly threatened species.

Among our focal species will be:

Melanotaenia ajamaruensis
M. fasinensis and
M. urisa

The final selection of focal species will be based on the recommendations by leading experts such as Hans-Georg Evers and Jeffrey Christian of Maju Aquarium.



Foundation of the Rainbow fish facility

Remarkable changes in our animal populations

Mammals:

Javan Warty Pig (*Sus verrucosus*):

In January we were able to secure one female piglet that had been offered in social media, just over 30 kilometers away from PCBA.

Phenotypically, this piglet clearly resembles a pure Javan warty Pig, This was backed up by a DNA-analysis, carried out at BRIN, confirming the purity of this individual.

By the end of March, after a longer break we finally had another litter of Javan Warty Pigs, seven piglets have so far been seen.

Indonesian Mountain Weasel (*Mustela lutreolina*):

After an apparent surge of Mountain Weasels being offered for sale and following discussions with our advisors, it was concluded that PCBA should engage in breeding trials for this virtually unknown species.

Subsequently two pairs were acquired from the online trade.

These two pairs represent the only individuals of this species kept in any zoological institution in the world.

After decades of virtual absence of any kind of record, recently alarmingly high numbers of Mountain Weasels appear in the trade. This raises concerns, especially for the Javanese populations since all traded individuals seem to be sourced from Java.



Indonesian Mountain Weasel

East-Javan Red Giant Flying Squirrel:

Yet another taxon that is traded in numbers that appear to be far above sustainable levels.

Thanks to our new facility for small mammal species, we were able to accommodate two individuals that were handed over to us. In the future we will try to source more founders to be able to support the creation of a stable ex-situ population.

Javan Small-toothed Palm-Civet (*Arctogalidia t.trilineata*):

In the end of March another Palm-Civet was born, unfortunately the baby died a few days later. This is particularly upsetting since the mother of this litter is a first time mother and is the only founder female that hasn't reproduced so far.

Javan Slow Loris:

One male and two female Slow Loris were moved from an exhibit at Taman Safari to the new breeding facility at PCBA. Here they will have the chance to successfully reproduce, undisturbed by zoo visitors. Even though assessed as Critically Endangered by IUCN Redlist and protected in Indonesia, this species is still traded regularly mostly via social media. The existing ex-situ population in Indonesia consists nearly entirely of confiscated Loris and breeding is still an absolute rarity.



Javan Slow Loris at PCBA

Songbirds



Javan Pied Starling

Successfully raised during the last three months:

- 2 Larwo Shamas (*Copsychus omissus*) have been successfully raised
- 3 Maratua Shamas (*Copsychus barbouri*) fledged.
- 1 Orange-headed Thrush (*Geokichla c. rubecula*) was raised by our breeding pair
- 3 Ruby-throated Bulbuls (*Rubigula dispar*) grew up under their parents care.
- 1 Wangi-Wangi White-eye (*Zosterops sp.nov.*) has been successfully raised.
- 2 Sunda Laughingthrushes (*Garrulax palliatus*) were raised by two different pairs.
- 1 Sumatran Laughingthrush (*Garrulax bicolor*) was raised.
- 5 Javan Pied Starlings (*Gracupia jalla*) have been successfully raised, among the parents is one F2 female.



Young Ruby-throated Bulbul

Transfers:

- A pair of Sumatran Laughingthrushes was moved from PCBA to an exhibit at Taman Safari 2 Jatim.
- One pair of White-crowned Shamas (*Copsychus stricklandii*) was given to a private breeder on a breeding loan agreement.



Copsychus stricklandii

Losses:

- One female Greater Green Leafbird (*Chloropsis sonnerati*) died, most likely due to old age.
- Our male Javan Crest Jay (*Platylophus g. galericulatus*) succumbed to a heart deformation.
- One Tenggara Hill Myna (*Garcula venerata*) was killed by its aviary mates, without any previous indications.
- One adult female Javan Green Magpie (*Cissa thalassina*) died of unknown cause, potentially old age.

Parrots

Again we have been able to raise a young Sula Hanging Parrot (*Loriculus sclateri*), this represents the fourth chick that has been successfully raised by our two breeding pairs.

Unfortunately we lost one Red-and-blue Lory (*Eos histrio talautensis*) to uncertain causes, even the autopsy result was inconclusive. This bird was never really thriving since its confiscation about two years ago, it never regained the ability to fly and often appeared less fit.

At the same time we recorded another fertile clutch of two eggs from one of our Lory pairs, unfortunately the embryos failed to fully develop. Nevertheless, the birds seem to make progress.



Sula Hanging Parrot

Galliformes

For the first time a Grey-breasted Partridge (*Arborophila orientalis*) hatched at PCBA unfortunately the chick died of unknown cause at the age of about four weeks.

Currently the parental pair is building a nest again and we are in good hope to successfully raise chicks in the near future.

We were able to secure a pair of Salvadori's Pheasant (*Lophura inornata*) giving us the opportunity to gain expertise in caring for *Lophura sp.* which will be of great advantage once more threatened species become available.



Bornean Peacock Pheasant

Blackwater fish

With all fish in the new facility we are now focusing on breeding efforts once again.

Within the first weeks after the move, *Betta burdigala*, *B.miniopinna* and *B.cf.uberis* Belitung reproduced successfully. More species are showing very promising reproductive behavior.

In addition to the species that were already kept at PCBA we received:

- *Betta foerschi*,
- *Parosphromenus opallios*,
- *P.juelinae*, a new species only described in 2021 and already considered critically endangered.
- *Sphearichthys vaillanti* and
- *Sundadanio gargula*