

Javan Slow Loris (*Nycticebus javanicus*)



TSI2-PRIGEN CONSERVATION BREEDING ARK
Summer Update
June 2023

By Jochen Menner



KASI
Konservasi Alam Satwa Indonesia



Preface

Taman Safari's Prigen Conservation Breeding Ark has been able to grow yet again during the past three months.

With the addition of the large semi-wild enclosure for Javan Warty Pigs and the Shama breeding unit under construction we are adding vital infrastructure to our ongoing breeding efforts for Indonesia's most threatened species.

New and exciting possible collaborations with institutions in other parts of Indonesia as well as our strengthened in-situ engagement underline the importance and impact our work here in Prigen can have.

We are looking forward to welcoming many international guests to the WPA Galliformes symposium in October, giving us an opportunity to share our experiences with conservation work in Indonesia and exchange knowledge with leading experts.



PCBA in June 2023

Second quartal 2022

In May we have been able to further complete our in-situ team. In Utami Lestari Budiawati we found the ideal candidate for our newly created in-situ coordinator position.

In the future Utami will coordinate KASI foundation's in-situ efforts, allowing us to engage more efficiently in urgently needed conservation measures in the native range of our focal species.



Utami, our in-situ coordinator



Timon, volunteering at PCBA

Other than that, Timon Glaw has joined PCBA to volunteer for three months. While helping out with daily animal husbandry work, Timon also focuses on the exploration of our native biodiversity, putting to work his experience in herpetology.

Semi-wild facility for Javan Warty Pig



Thanks to the generous support by the German “Zootier des Jahres” campaign we have been able to complete a semi-wild facility for Javan Warty Pigs on the grounds of Taman Safari II Jatim.

In order to sustainably grow the ex-situ population of this endangered species and in the future provide ideal candidates for reintroduction projects, we have set up an enclosure covering about 100 hectares of near natural habitat.

This extraordinary facility utilises the vast grounds of Taman Safari by enforcing the perimeter with an electric fence in addition to the existing mesh fence.

Six of our pigs are now getting used to their new surroundings in a habituation paddock which will later on function as feeding station and management facility.

Shama breeding complex

Shamas are among Indonesia's most threatened species, several taxa are either already extinct in the wild or on the very verge of extinction. In order to continue our very successful conservation breeding efforts for Maratua, Kangean and Larwo Shamas, more aviary capacities are needed. Thanks to the outstanding support by Zoologische Gesellschaft für Arten und Populationsschutz (ZGAP) we are able to set up yet another 40 additional aviaries, specifically dedicated to Shamas.



The new Shama facility under construction

These 40 new aviaries will enable us to separate our three priority Shama taxa into different aviary complexes. This will ensure that the different Shamas can be maintained without risking to lose unique song characteristics by cross imitation.

With now well over 100 Shamas in our care, PCBA has established itself as the leading facility for the ex-situ conservation of this highly threatened species group.

Reintroduction of Javan Pied Starling

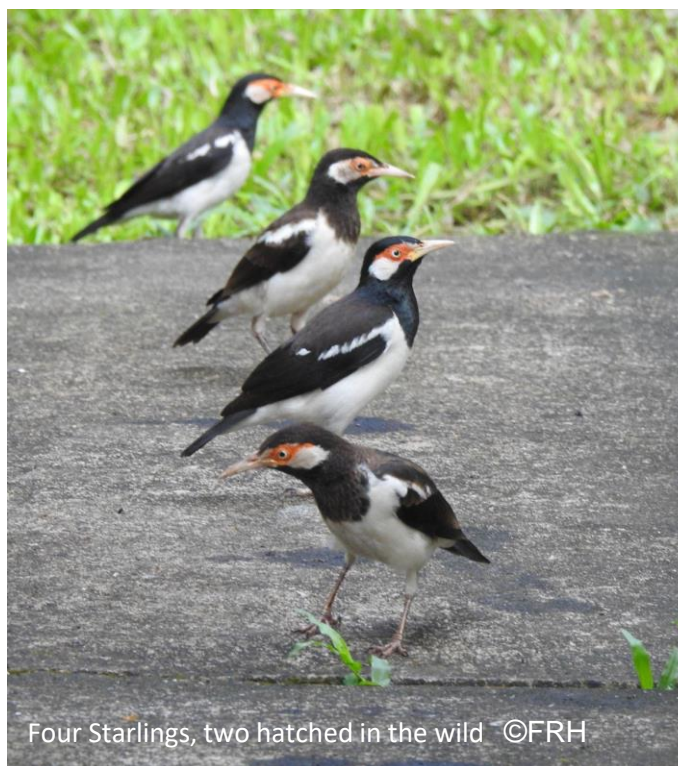
After the initial release of 40 Javan Pied Starlings (*Gracupica jalla*) onto the grounds of Taman Safari II Jatim in November 2022, the birds have established themselves very well.

After some early losses due to accidents or disappearance the group now seems quite stabil and several pairs are nesting and raising chicks.

The birds have now colonised large parts of Taman Safari's land but still have not settled in the savannah exhibits which were deemed to be perfect habitat for the Starlings. Instead, a majority of the birds has settled in and around PCBA while others have made the Baobab Hotel, in the west of Taman Safari's grounds, with its African exhibits home. Several birds regularly cover the roughly one kilometer between the hotel and PCBA and can be seen at one spot in the morning and at the other in the afternoon.



Young Starling begging for food ©FRH



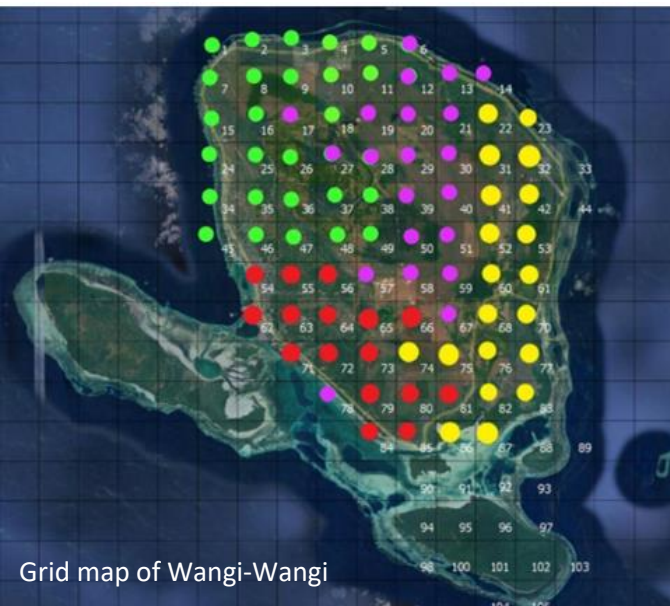
Four Starlings, two hatched in the wild ©FRH

In-situ efforts on Wangi-Wangi island

Since early June Utami L. Budiawati and Kukuh H. Wiyono are working on Wangi-Wangi Island, conducting the first comprehensive survey into the distribution, population status and ecology of Wangi-Wangi White-eye (*Zosterops paruhbesar*). At the same time our team is working on socialisation and education programs in order to strengthen the supports of the local communities for species conservation and assessing the land cover composition on the island.

These activities on Wangi-Wangi are carried out within the framework of our collaboration with Wakatobi National Park.

Early findings show that the White-eye remains distributed throughout the island but is dependent on taller vegetation. Reason for worry is that the birds seem rather sensitive to human habitat alteration and seem to avoid recently cleared land and the surroundings of construction sites, resulting in a shrinkage of available habitat on Wangi-Wangi.



Grid map of Wangi-Wangi



The Wangi-Wangi White-eye ©ULB

Remarkable changes in our animal populations

Mammals:

The Javan Warty Pig (*Sus verrucosus*):

Six Javan Warty Pigs have been selected to move into the semi-wild enclosure. These individuals will make space for new breeding groups, involving two new founder individuals which have not yet reproduced.



Javan Warty pigs in the habituation pen

The Indonesian Mountain Weasel (*Mustela lutreolina*):

For the first time we had a litter of Indonesian Mountain Weasels, unfortunately these young were not raised successfully. Nevertheless, we consider this event progress, hoping that in the future we can breed this virtually unknown species.

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

PCBA is now home to 17 Javan small-toothed Palm-civets, 10 of which have been born here. With the new enclosure complex, completed last quartal, we now have more flexibility to move our civets in between enclosures, making introductions and socialisation much easier for the keepers and the animals.

Songbirds

Successfully raised during the last three months:

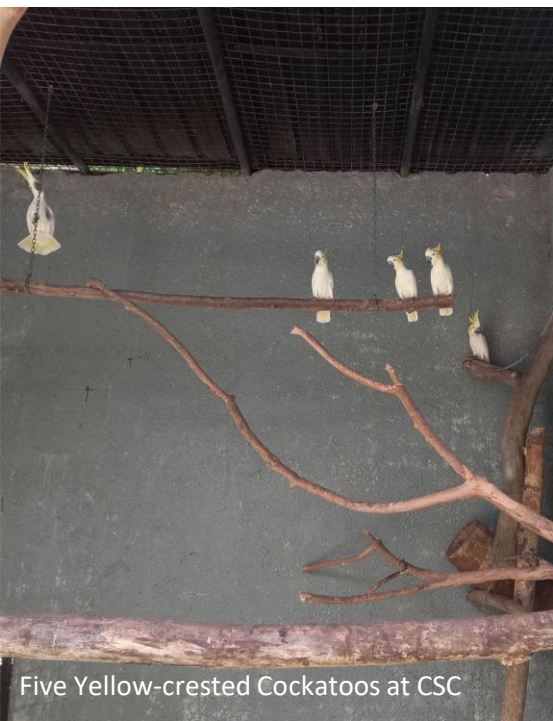
- Four Javan Pied Starlings (*Gracupica jalla*) were raised by two different pairs.
- Two ruby-throated Bulbuls (*Rubigula dispar*) were raised by a parental pair.
- Five Kangean Shamas (*Copsychus nigricauda*) have been raised by a second pair, representing a very important contribution to the conservation breeding of this terminal threatened species.
- One Maratua Shama was raised while the majority of pairs has been molting.
- For the first time since 2020 we have been able to successfully breed Javan Leafbirds (*Chloropsis cochinchinensis*), two chicks have been hand reared.
- For the very first time we have raised a Greater Leafbird (*Chloropsis sonnerati*).
- As yet another first, comes the successful reproduction of the Mount Slamet Laughingthrush (*Garrulax rufifrons slamatensis*) at PCBA. One chick has been raised.
- One Javan White-eye (*Zosterops flavus*) grew up under the care of its parents.



The first Mount Slamet Laughingthrush to hatch at PCBA

Future collaborations

Citra Satwa Celebes



Five Yellow-crested Cockatoos at CSC

Located in Gowa on the outskirts of Makassar, Citra Satwa Celebes (CSC) is a small but very dedicated zoological facility.

In a joined project with Citra Satwa Celebes, Aviary Park Bintaro, a new modern bird park close to Jakarta, and TSI2-PCBA, we are planning to set up a breeding facility for the critically endangered Yellow-crested Cockatoo (*Cacatua s.sulphurea*). CSC is home to seven individuals which will hopefully soon be able to contribute to the conservation of the species. Furthermore, we will also include Anoa (*Bubalus sp.*) into the joined project. CSC is home to five individuals which have yet to contribute to the ex-situ population.

Taman Burung dan Anggrek Biak

Biak Island in Cenderawasih Bay is home to a large number of endemic species, many of which are threatened with extinction.

After an initial visit with the Aviary Park team, to meet with Taman Burung Biak's, we are exploring opportunities for a collaboration with Taman Burung dan Anggrek for the conservation of Biak's unique fauna, focusing on birds and small mammals.



Initial visit to Biak island