



Pig pipeline

Warty

- BEKI Updates -



Project BEKI

This is the first update of BEKI - we call this series „Pig Pipeline“. We intend to introduce the project, keep you updated about the progress of the project and last but not least try to give you insight into the life of the local people and BEKI team on Bawean island.



What is BEKI?

BEKI stands for Bawean Endemik Konservasi Iniatif - in English: Bawean Endemics Conservation Initiative. The project focusses on the Bawean warty pig, but its conservation efforts support the protection of all wildlife and nature on Bawean, and island 150 km off the coast of East Java. The project was initiated by the student Mark Rademaker in 2013 and has been jointly developed by Mark and Johanna Rode-Margono into a interdisciplinary conservation project that was launched in November 2014.

What are Bawean warty pigs and why are they threatened?

Bawean warty pigs are possibly the rarest pig species in the world. They are very little known, but due to their restricted occurrence on this tiny island they are highly threatened by extinction. There is not much forest left on the island, and the pigs destroy the local

farmers' fields in search for food. Consequently, the farmers hunt and kill the pigs to protect their livelihoods. The Eurasian wild pig lives on the island as well, and competes with warty pigs for habitat and food. Bawean warty pigs are closely related to Javan warty pigs that occur on the main island of Java. It is still unknown how closely they are related.

Aims of BEKI

BEKI has two main parts: one part focusses on the Bawean warty pigs in the wild and explores the threat and socioeconomic background of hunting, the other part studies animals in captivity that have been rescued by Cikananga Rescue Center.

A. On Bawean island we:

- Explore the unknown population numbers, behaviour and ecology of Bawean warty pigs by using camera traps and line transects
- Collect data about the habitat where the animals are encountered to study their ecological needs
- Install camera traps at crop-raiding sites to investigate details about crop-raiding by pigs
- Conduct interviews in the local communities to find out the attitude of people towards wildlife, and what damage wild animals and especially pigs cause
- Discuss with the local people what effective measures to protect crops can be taken that do not harm the pigs
- Conduct awareness and education measures to improve the general attitude towards wildlife and nature, and support the development of local pride of Bawean's endemic species

B. At Cikananga Wildlife Center we:

- Observe the behaviour of rescued warty pigs and compare it to the behaviour of their wild relatives in order to find recommendations for effective reintroduction planning



Welcome to Bawean island!

End of October, the Dutch students Mark Rademaker and Simen Blokland arrived in Jakarta where they spent their time organising the research permit and completing their equipment. They also met up with the Indonesian student Shafia Zahra who receives a stipend to join the project and learn about the research methods that we use. In return she helps Mark and Simen with interviewing the local people of Bawean.

Last week the three of them took the train to Surabaya in East Java, where they had to apply for further permits, and visited Surabaya zoo that is the only zoo that holds Javan warty pigs in captivity. Although Surabaya zoo is said to be the worst zoo of the world, it was a good opportunity for the team to see the very shy animals close by before studying them in the wild.

Finally, the team took the 4 hour ferry from the mainland to 150 km far island Bawean. They landed at the harbour of the small town Kusuma and were welcomed by Mr. Nur Siamysi who is the head of the Nature Reserve Management on Bawean. They quickly settled in at the homestay of Mr. Nur in a small village, and were stunned by the view on the still forested

mountains in the centre of the island in one direction and the sea in the other. In contrast to hot and humid Jakarta, Bawean is currently extremely dry as it has not been raining for 6 months. During the first week, the team was training their guides and exploring the location in preparation of the research.

Mark, Simen and Shafia are highly motivated and excited to start their work. Mark will be responsible for camera trapping, while Simen and Shafia will focus on the interviews. In the next newsletter we hope to report their first findings.

The Team - Part 1: Mark Rademaker



Mark Rademaker studies a BSc in Wildlife Management at Van Hall Larenstein University, the Netherlands. He is the one who had the idea to study Javan warty pigs and he developed the project together with Johanna Rode-Margono. Mark did his compulsory 5-months internship at Johanna's PhD project „Little Fireface Project“ at Mount Papandayan in West Java and looked at arthropods as a potential prey of Javan slow lorises. In his freetime, Mark loves exploring the nature in his surroundings. He already speaks the Indonesian language and wants to continue his education with a Master study in Indonesia.

CONTACT

BEKI is part of the Javan Endemic Species Programme (JESP).

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More infos on the web:
<http://www.jesprogramme.weebly.com>

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