



# Pig pipeline

Warty

- BEKI Updates -

## Bawean warty pigs!!!

Finally, we found them, the Bawean warty pigs! Until October last year it was not clear if this species still exists on Bawean island, or if it is already extinct. The Indonesian researcher Dr. Gono Semiadi, who is also BEKI's Indonesian research counterpart, did a survey on Bawean and „re-discovered“ the species by capturing a video with a group of warty pig.

BSc student Mark Rademaker is currently responsible for the camera trapping on Bawean island. Last week he passed the long-awaited news: The Bawean warty pigs are still there! In fact Mark captured several videos that show warty pigs of different age classes and group sizes.



Photo: Male Bawean warty pig on camera trap

Together with his guide Mr. Rahim Mark has installed 20 cameras at random locations to estimate the size of the Bawean warty pig population. That's how it works: First, he tries to see how long it takes to get a pig caught on camera. From this he can calculate the trapping rate. Next, each video provides information on the lifestyle of the pigs, for example if they live alone or in groups, and how fast they walk. The combined information of trapping rate, group size and speed of movement is all the information we need to estimate how many pigs are living in the forest. This information combined with the information from a habitat survey lets us know where the pigs are living now, and where they prefer to live.

At least this is the theory... Of course, first we must that catch some more pigs on the camera traps. With only a few videos we cannot do a reasonable analysis.

But even the first few images of this highly threatened species are so important and exciting for us, and for conservation of Bawean warty pigs!

## What makes Bawean pigs threatened?

The main reasons why warty pigs on Java and Bawean are highly threatened are habitat loss and hunting pressure. In the late 1970s Javan warty pigs (*Sus verrucosus*) were believed to be extinct and so were Bawean warty pigs (*Sus blouchi*). Both were re-discovered in the 1980s and in 2013 respectively. Nevertheless, the populations on the mainland are

### BEKI = IKEB?

BEKI stands for the Indonesian words „Bawean Endemik Konservasi Inisiatif“. In English the meaning is „Bawean endemics conservation initiative“, as our aim is to save Bawean endemic species (species that only occur on Bawean island and nowhere else), especially the warty pig, from extinction. However, we have to admit that the grammar of our Indonesian project name is not grammatically correct. In Indonesian adjectives that describe a noun are put behind the noun, for example a red car would be „mobil merah“ = „car red“. The same is true for describing nouns. That means, the true Indonesian project name would be: „Inisiatif Konservasi Endemik Bawean“ exactly the other way round!

But as BEKI sounds better than IKEB, we chose to stick with the grammatically wrong order.... :-)

extremely fragmented due to a lack of habitat. People hunt pigs because the animals are raiding crops in search of food. This seems to be especially the case in the dry season when food in the forest becomes scarce.

On the mainland and maybe also on Bawean island, warty pigs live in coexistence with a subspecies of the Eurasian wild boar (*Sus scrofa vittatus*). The Eurasian wild boar is the dominant species and conservationists suppose that it locally outcompetes warty pigs. In our study we try to address this issue by including habitat analysis in our study to see what the ecological niche of Bawean warty pigs is, and by distinguishing warty pig and wild boar trapping locations and comparing them. Another worry is that the wild boar and warty pigs may hybridise, as they can in captivity.

Finally, Asian zoos and private collectors are still a threat to wild animals, especially threatened species as it is kind of prestige to own a specimen of a rare species.

Although the Javan warty pig is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red list, and the Bawean warty pig is probably Critically Endangered due to its extremely restricted range, the species are not protected by



Photo: Javan warty pigs in Surabaya zoo. Most warty pigs in captivity are hybrids, but in Surabaya zoo they seem to be pure.

### The Team - Part 2: Johanna Rode-Margono

After Johanna finished her study to become a school teacher, she decided that she rather wants to work with animals. She then completed a BSc degree in Wildlife Management, an MSc degree in Primate Conservation and finally a PhD on the ecology and use of venom in Javan slow lorises. Johanna has always been interested in the least known and most endangered animal species, and thus, the Bawean warty pig got her interest and passion immediately. She planned the project BEKI together with Mark and is responsible for fund-raising, reporting and public communication. With her research background she also oversees the project's scientific design and intended publications of the study. She lives with her husband and daughter in Jakarta where she helps in her husband's company LAHUKA, facilitating the application for research permits for foreigners and organising expeditions and other tours..



Indonesian law. The consequence is that if a wild pig roams outside a protected area (where hunting in general is prohibited) it is allowed to kill it.

The latter entails that the conservation of warty pig relies on the goodwill of the local people. If other methods than hunting can be found to keep the pigs away from their fields, they may be willing to help saving the species as a heritage of Java.

## Butterflies and moths on Bawean

Pigs are not the only interesting animals on Bawean. BEKI currently focusses on warty pig, but we would like to help conserving all Bawean wildlife and nature. And who knows, maybe there are even new endemic and until now unknown species on Bawean!

Although the student Simen Blokland mainly is responsible for the interviews with local people on Bawean, one of his favourite animals are moths and butterflies (the insect order „Lepidoptera“). From the Netherlands he brought a net and a light trap with a 250 Watt lamp to attract and then examine moths and butterflies. After he discovered that the electricity net on Bawean just has 190 Watt, Mr. Nur helped him to overcome this problem with an adapter. These kind of practical problems are common in the field!



The next problem was that due to the dry season only a few moths were around. As the rainy season is approaching, Simen hopes for more specimens soon. In contrast, butterflies are more abundant. They never sit still as during the day it is quite warm on Bawean and they are very active.

Simen hopes to still find many moths and butterflies; maybe he can even do an inventory of this insect order for Bawean island. Although Bawean seems to be very special with so many endemic species even for mammals (Bawean warty pig, Bawean deer) and birds (Bawean serpent eagle), not many people have looked at the smallest of Bawean's wildlife and there may be many new things to discover!!!



Photo: Moth on Bawean island

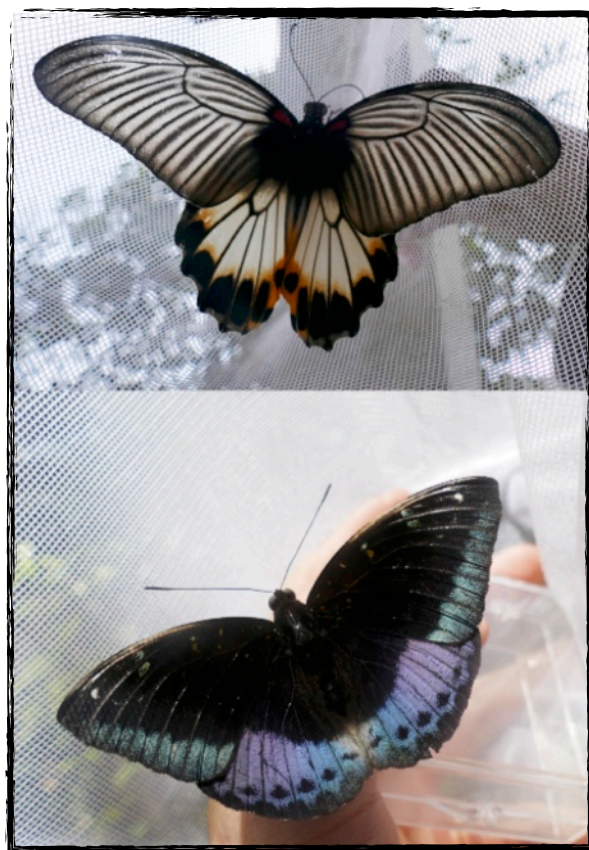


Photo: Butterflies on Bawean island

## Greetings from Bawean island!!!



### CONTACT

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

Contact us:

[jesp.info@gmail.com](mailto:jesp.info@gmail.com); [johanna.margono@gmail.com](mailto:johanna.margono@gmail.com)

More infos on the web:

<http://www.jespprogramme.weebly.com>

### Thanks to our generous sponsors:

people's  
trust for  
endangered  
species



Los Angeles Zoo &  
Botanical Gardens



Send **donate** via Paypal: [jesp.donate@gmail.com](mailto:jesp.donate@gmail.com)