



# Pig pipeline

Warty  
- BEKI Updates -



## Sizing up warty pigs - BEKI work gets boycotted!!!

Before you get worried: everything is fine at Bawean and with the work of BEKI! However, when the team wanted to start with a side-project of measuring the height of wild warty pig they got boycotted by some other individuals. But first things first...

When you see a fully grown adult warty pig male on the camera for the first time, the animal looks huge and very impressive (see photo). With a face full of warts and a large bulky body it is not difficult to pick out the dominant males passing by. This complies with first-hand stories from local people when you ask about pigs. According to them, it is always big pigs that come to the field to crop-raid. However, the videos do not always depict an accurate picture due to a distorted perspective (close animals appear to be larger), and people often misjudge the size of wild animals.



In the last couple of weeks the team has been lucky enough to get some close-up encounters with our warty pigs while walking transects through the forest. One thing that immediately stood out though, was that despite still being very impressive, the pigs were certainly not as big as one might deduce from the videos and stories alone. So approximately how big are they then?

To find out we conducted a small experiment with our cameras last week. We placed ropes at heights of 25, 50, 75 and 100 cm on a relatively straight tree in front of the camera. Now all we had to do is wait and hope the pigs would pass the specific stick in question.

The first thing we noticed when we got back to the camera though, was that the bottom rope was moved and perhaps a little bit shorter than before? This was explained by the videos showing our first visitors to the scene: a group of long-tailed macaques that were very eager to investigate new things, such as white ropes!



After a few videos of rope-pulling monkeys we got some warty pig videos as well! As shown on the previous photo, only the first two ropes are visible, these are the ones at 25 and 50 cm. This gives a crude estimation of the size of these animals, with females reaching heights of about 50 cm. Males get considerably bigger with approximately 70cm, whereas the juveniles on our camera only measure about 35-40cm.

We will continue to place the ropes whenever possible and hope to get some more of these videos to look for variation in sizes. In case you were wondering, the last two snapshots have been made within the same video. Just like any responsible mother, female pigs do not let their young run around unattended for long.

The next photos show an adult male, adult female and immature warty pigs and their approximate heights.



## The Bawean serpent eagle: another Bawean endemic species

The Bawean serpent eagle (*Spilornis cheela baweanus*) is another endemic taxa of Bawean island. The team on Bawean took several photos of this raptor and got asked by the forestry department in Surabaya on East-Java to write a short article about the Bawean serpent eagle in the authority's monthly bulletin. We hope that the article will raise awareness for the need of research on this unique and little known raptor. Together with the Bawean warty pig and the Bawean deer (*Axis kuhlii*), the Bawean serpent eagle decorates the BEKI logo. The bird is currently treated as a subspecies of the Crested serpent eagle (*Spilornis cheela*), however, several authors argue that it is an own island species.

The Bawean serpent eagle is a medium-sized raptor (approx. 50cm), with a dark brown to blackish head, uniformly brown chest and white spots covering the belly, sides and underparts (see photo). These white spots are also present on the head and back of the neck and wings. The head, chest, belly, sides and underparts of juveniles are of a white colour (see photo).



### The Team - Part 3: Shafia Zahra

Shafia lives in Bogor, West Java, and recently graduated from the University of Indonesia. She did her final project on biocontrol of invasive tree species. BEKI provides a basic scholarship for her, so she can join the team and gain further experience in conservation field work. She also helps us with translation and socialisation with the local people. After the project she wants to continue her studies by doing a Masters programme.



Furthermore, when in flight three small tail bands are visible in juveniles, but only two broad tail bands in adults (see photos). The only species-specific study on the Bawean serpent eagle was a 15-day survey conducted by Vincent Nijman in 2006, who estimated that 60 -75 pairs are still present on the island with a crude home range of between 3.5 and 6.0 km. He also found that they used tall forest more than expected on the basis of its availability, and coastal forest less than expected.

We collected data about the Bawean serpent eagle during 40 days. We took a GPS and noted down details on how many individuals we saw and the age range. In total 43 observations were made in which 67 adult- and 5 juvenile individuals were observed. Sixty percent of the observations were single birds, 28% consisted of pairs, 5% of three birds and single observations were made of groups including 4, 5 and 7 birds. Sightings were obtained across all habitat types except the marsh forest. Next to this, sightings were mostly concentrated in the middle part of the island and no sightings were obtained in coastal areas.

Although our methods are non-systematic, we will continue collecting data, as so little is known about the birds.

(Reference: Nijman, V. (2006). The endemic Bawean Serpent-eagle *Spilornis baweanus*: habitat use, abundance and conservation. Bird Conservation International, 16, 131-143)



## Bawean - the island of women

Bawean island is located 150 km north of Surabaya in East Java in the Java Sea. In 2010 Bawean island had about 70,000 inhabitants. But more than 70% of the male population (26,000 men) work and live abroad because the island's economy is not very strong and people mainly work as farmers and fishermen. This results in more than 3/4 of the inhabitants being women. Thus, the island is often referred to as „the island of women“, *Pulau Putri* in Indonesian.

### CONTACT

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