

**Selamatkan Yaki**  
**Save Sulawesi macaques**

**Newsletter**

**January 2013**

 [www.selamatkanyaki.com](http://www.selamatkanyaki.com) 



Dear supporters and partners of Selamatkan Yaki programme,

We have the pleasure to send you the Selamatkan Yaki newsletter for January 2013!

### **In- situ Conservation Team**



**Gaetan Masson, SY's new  
Field Project Coordinator**

We would like to begin by presenting you Gaetan Masson who is the latest addition to our team with the position of Field Project Coordinator. He is 28 years old, comes from France and has worked for various wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centers in Asia. In the previous center, PPS Tasikoki in North Sulawesi, he met Field Programme Manager Harry who recognized Gaetan as being a potentially valuable addition to the team (with the condition of finding funds to cover his expenses). After returning to France, Gaetan was fortunate enough to find two generous sponsors, Amnéville Zoo and Mr Mantz (a private sponsor), who enabled him to go back to Indonesia and to cover some of Selamatkan Yaki operational costs. The remaining

operational costs are supported by the Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust (WWCT) and Dublin Zoo in the UK. After a month of acclimatization and familiarization with the programme, Gaetan is now working with our team on the projects that we are going to present you.



**Gaetan and Harry exploring Tangkoko Nature Reserve**



## Programme

We reflect back on a productive and fulfilled 2012. Throughout the year our team has been diligently working on the creation of a Species Conservation Action Plan (SAP) for the crested black macaques. This document, of a crucial importance for the *Macaca nigra* conservation effort planning, provides an almost exhaustive assessment of the different threats faced by the species, the primary and secondary conservation goals and the actions that will need to be carried out to reach those goals. This innovative approach, which has already proved of high value for conservation planning in other projects, allows clear and efficient programme management, quick and precise actions and a global communication between all the partners involved. Drafts are in preparation and we aim to utilize the outcome strategy for our Bacan island reconnaissance trip, Tangkoko rejuvenation programme and all future project planning.



**The iconic crested black macaques face threats from hunting pressures and habitat loss**

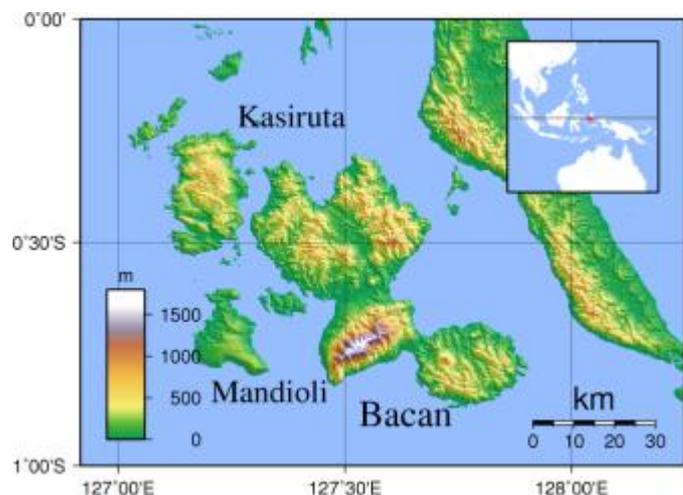
In addition to the SAP, 2012 saw the successful completion of our village dissemination and research project, a research project involving extensive surveys across Minahasa, examining attitudes, resource use and consumption behavior in addition to disseminating the results from 2007 research from WWCT. Further to this, after much careful project planning and application writing, we have secured financial support to enable the implementation of several new projects across the region, with particular focus on improving the

conditions currently in place in Tangkoko Nature Reserve. Also, an environmental education project was conducted over 6 months, thus creating an entire course of exciting, diverse and interactive lessons which will aid in our goal of incorporating environmental education into the curriculum. Weekly lessons were provided to junior high school students about a wide range of subjects including ecosystems, biodiversity, deforestation, water, pollution and many others. We hope to expand upon this pilot programme as we recognize that nurturing a new generation of environmentally aware and caring individuals is crucial to support our nature protection vision. In addition, the awareness raising and outreach activities have taken off, with a new blog, website, Twitter page, Facebook and other social channels; additionally numerous seminars, school and official visits, radio and TV shows, magazines and newspaper articles have been presented, thus increasing the recognition of our programme and the need to protect the wonderful nature in this unique region.

## **2013 Projects**

### ***Bacan Island Reconnaissance Expedition***

Our first 2013 project will be the Bacan Island reconnaissance trip, which is made possible thanks to the support of Chester Zoo in the UK. This island, situated more than 300km away from Sulawesi in the Molluca archipelago, is known to house a large population of macaques identified as crested black macaques (*M. nigra*). The most recent data on those macaques date from 1998 and don't allow with certainty to maintain if they are true *M. nigra* or hybrids of *M. nigra* and *M. nigrescens* (a close relative). Our two weeks expedition will enable us to update the macaque population data and to gather morphological and human population information to confirm its origin and threat status. In addition to the scientific input of this study, the expedition will allow us to establish the existence of a potential restocking population for the crested black macaques in the long-term if they were to become extinct in their native range, and additionally a prospective satellite programme to our activities in Sulawesi.



**Bacan Island in the Mollucas, also home to macaques**

## Tangkoko Nature Reserve Rejuvenation Project



**8,800 ha of forest comprise critical habitat for yaki and other species**

Upon return from Bacan we will focus on our main project: the Tangkoko Nature Reserve rejuvenation programme. This two years programme, funded by Save Our Species (GEF) and the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, was conceived in close collaboration with local and national authorities as well as different NGO partners. It is first composed of a full assessment of the protected area management system already in place and then implementation of concrete measures to improve conditions. Our key aims are: increasing patrol effort within the reserve; involving the surrounding communities; and implementing self sustainable ecotourism practices. We will adapt those measures after conducting the first evaluation and two

intermediary evaluations incorporated in the programme. The planning phase has begun this month and will continue until March 2013. Following this the assessment phase will begin, spread over a one month minimum period, which will be composed of interviews of key stakeholders and a comprehensive assessment of the protected area operating system on site. Finally after processing the results, we will start setting up measurable interventions aiming to reduce the threats faced by *M. nigra* in Tangkoko.

### Minahasa Awareness Raising Campaign

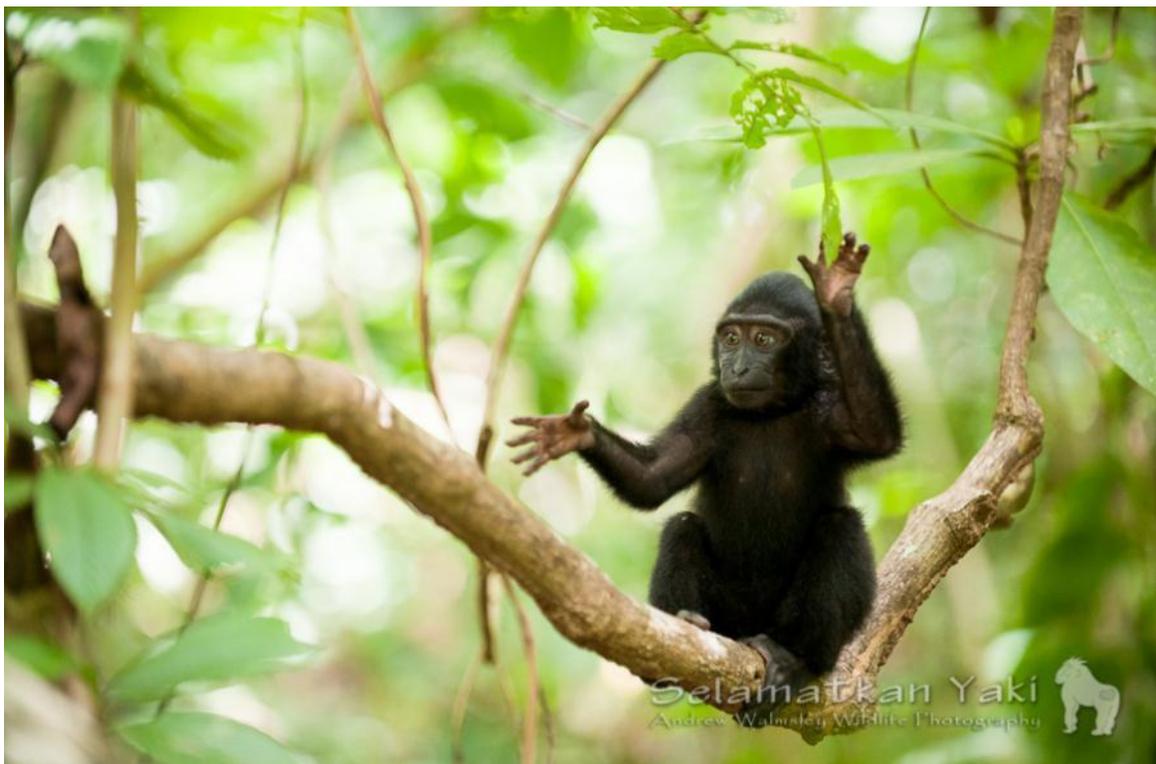
As an essential element of our programme, an education and awareness raising strategy throughout key areas identified as of high importance (Tomohon and Langowan) in the Minahasa region is vital for tackling the demand for bushmeat. In addition, this will enable us to gain support for protection of biodiversity and empower local inhabitants to ultimately sustain the future



**We hope more people develop pride for these wonderful animals**

populations. This will involve youth workshops, seminars, awareness-raising activities and events including church services and monitoring of local population and bushmeat market levels over the long-term. As stated earlier, we also plan to expand our team and collaborate with other educators in the area such as Tangkoko Conservation Education to roll out a more comprehensive environmental education programme this year, reaching more schools and helping to provide a greater scope of outreach.

Finally, although the majority of our resources will be focused on those three main projects of our programme, additional activities will be followed up or initiated this year, including the writeup and publication of our research results, the continuation of our bush meat consumption study and partnering with the forestry department for their campaign aiming to reduce the bush meat trade.



**On behalf of all the yaki...Happy New Year!**

The whole Selamatkan Yaki team would like to thank again all our sponsors and partners without whom nothing would be possible!



## Partners



BIMP - EAGA



## Sponsors



## In-situ Selamatkan Yaki team

H. Hilser

G. Masson

