



Selamatkan Yaki



Working to save Sulawesi crested black macaques and their native habitat

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Programme Overview 2011 - 2012

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Selamatkan Yaki Brief Programme Overview

Mission

Selamatkan Yaki (Indonesian for 'Save the Sulawesi crested black macaques'), is a conservation, research and education programme focussing on protecting the remaining populations of Sulawesi crested black macaque monkeys (*Macaca nigra*).

Working partnerships both *in-situ* and *ex-situ* have combined to identify the anthropogenic threats posed to the current population of *M. nigra* within their native range, culminating in the production of a Species Conservation Action Plan for the species. A multitude of approaches addressing the conservation objectives comprise research, education, the improvement of ecotourism infrastructure and sustainable development. Long-term cooperative efforts will invest resources into improving agriculture techniques and sustainability and developing alternative livelihood strategies.

History

The Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust is an education, scientific and conservation charity dedicated to protecting our global wildlife heritage and inspiring in people a respect for animals, plants and the environment. History: Herbert Whitley was born in 1886 and brought up in Liverpool. His father, Edward Whitley was a solicitor, an ardent churchman, mayor and brewery baron. It was the latter that laid the foundation of the family fortune and the basis for the story of Paignton Zoo and the WWCT. Edward Whitley died in 1892 at the age of 67 and was commemorated by the City of Liverpool by a statue now standing in St. George's Hall in silent company of William Ewart Gladstone, his great friend and rival. The bereaved Mrs Eleanor Whitley proved to be a courageous lady who saw the need to move to new pastures with her five children. In 1904 they arrived at the Primley Estate in Paignton, when Herbert Whitley was only 18. Herbert Whitley was a shy, self-taught scientist and eccentric. As he developed his animal collections he became known as a mysterious millionaire who was said to live a monastic life in a white mansion on Primley Hill in Paignton. Stories were told of guarded reserves where weird and exotic creatures lived. He opened his animal collections up to the public for the first time in 1923 but closed them again twice due to disputes with the taxman over 'entertainment' tax. Herbert Whitley was adamant that his zoo was a place of education so should not pay entertainment tax on the admission charge. Herbert Whitley died in 1955 and in his will, founding trustee Philip Michelmores was instructed to set up a Trust to manage and control Paignton Zoological and Botanical Gardens, Slapton Ley Estate and all other lands and buildings defined in the will. In 1955 the Herbert Whitley Trust was established. The objectives of the trust were:- (a) The advancement of public education (b) The promotion of scientific and

educational study and research and the publication of the useful results of all such study and research (c) The conservation and preservation for the public benefit of animals and plants and their environments. (d) The provision of facilities for recreation and other leisure-time occupation for the public generally, and the inhabitants of Paignton in particular, in the interests of social welfare, with a view to improving the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities are provided. Arrangements at Slapton Ley were made in 1960 and the Trustees, following instructions in Herbert Whitley's will, provided finance and buildings to the Field Studies Council. Management of the reserve was overseen by the Slapton Committee, consisting of trustees from the FSC and the Herbert Whitley Trust. In 1991, the name of the Trust was changed from the Herbert Whitley Trust to the Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust. In 1995 the Trust first appointed a warden to manage the local reserves Primley Park and Clennon Gorge in Paignton. In 2003 the Trust built and opened Living Coasts in Torquay and purchased Newquay Zoo in Cornwall.

Surveys in North Sulawesi spanning 30 years have indicated a rapid population decline of Sulawesi crested black macaques (SCBMs). Following a research expedition led by the Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust in 2007 as a rapid response to previous survey results, areas of critical habitat were identified and conservation priorities set. *Selamatkan Yaki* (Indonesian for 'Save the Sulawesi crested black macaques') was subsequently founded to mitigate some of the threats facing the species, and are ultimately working to maintain a self-sustaining wild population of SCBMs and protect their forest habitat.

Conservation Problem

The Island of Sulawesi has extremely high species diversity and endemism (species found nowhere else), yet much of this biodiversity is under threat of extinction, evidenced by the number of species listed as Critically Endangered and Endangered in the IUCN red data list. It is likely that the degree of threat is severely underestimated for many species as few conservation efforts have historically been undertaken, or are currently active on Sulawesi. Recent conservation cost assessments found that Sulawesi represents the most effective investment of conservation funding ahead of other islands in Indonesia.

M. nigra are in danger of extinction due to the ubiquitous threat of habitat loss and fragmentation, but also from threats unique to Minahasa (hunting for consumption) and more specifically at Tangkoko (disturbance caused by recreation from local and foreign tourists). The consumption of bushmeat in Minahasa is a tradition which has grown in parallel to human population expansion, and has thus been identified as the primary threat to the species' survival. Hunting demands have outstripped reproductive output for some years and threaten the survival of other Sulawesi macaque species which are hunted and transported to Northern Sulawesi bush meat markets. This has led to local extirpation of other species throughout Minahasa (e.g. anoa forest buffalo and babirusa pigs) highlighting the strong requirement for immediate conservation action, focussing on shifting attitudes away from unsustainable wildlife consumption whilst ensuring illegal activities are reduced by enhanced enforcement efforts for protected areas.

Objectives

2012

1. Secure funding for longevity of programme, including:
 - salary for Field Programme Manager;
 - local staff expenses;
 - individual project expenses;
 - operational costs
2. Fundraising strategy
3. Species Conservation Action Plan
4. Stakeholder relationships – Memorandum of Understanding between key partners and collaborators
5. Completion of village dissemination project
6. Write up of village survey research and bushmeat research
7. Social media and awareness activities
8. Bacan Island reconnaissance trip

2013

1. Tangkoko rejuvenation project
2. Volunteer programme
3. Establishment of broad-scale awareness campaign
4. Sustainable agriculture development project
 - aquaponics agricultural system
5. Community development pilot projects
6. Continuation of Bacan Research – long-term establishment
7. Census of *Macaca nigra* across North Sulawesi

Staff and Partners

Key organizations:

- i. *Macaca nigra* project
 - Research and coordination of logistics within Tangkoko;
 - Maintenance of illegal activity data[Non-governmental organization]
- ii. Tangkoko Conservation Education
 - Implementation of EARS programme[Local non-governmental organization]
- iii. BKSDA (Natural Resources Conservation Agency)
 - Provision of protection and law enforcement;
 - Cooperation with guide training and equipment itemization[Governmental]
- iv. Tasikoki Rescue Centre
 - Coordination of pet trade activities
 - Sharing of data regarding illegal activities

[Local non-governmental organization]

Key individuals:

- i. Harry Hilser, Field Project Manager, Selamatkan Yaki
 - Primary representative of the programme and therefore responsible for planning, managing and rolling out projects and research to address the conservation objectives.
- ii. Dr John Tasirin - Chairman for Biodiversity and Biosecurities, Pacific Institute, Manado
 - Leading biodiversity and guide training workshops; formulating MoUs between appropriate parties; project sponsor contact.
- iii. Dr Vicky Melfi - General Project Manager, (Selamatkan Yaki) Taronga Conservation Society, Australia
 - Supervision at all stages of project implementation;
- iv. Andrew Bowkett; Amy Plowman - Conservation Management and Selamatkan Yaki Programme Coordinators, The Whitley Wildlife Conservation Trust, UK
 - Responsible for overseeing all project activities;
 - Budget and account management;
 - Report edits
- v. Dr Antje Engelhardt - Programme Manager, Macaca Nigra Project, Tangkoko
 - Research and coordination of logistics within Tangkoko;
 - Maintenance of illegal activity data
- vi. Mathilde Chanvin - Project Leader, Tangkoko Conservation Education
 - Implementation of education programme
- vii. Dr Noldy Tuerah - Director, Pacific Institute for Sustainable (PI); Director, Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Daerah Sulawesi (BAPPEDA, Government Department for Planning and Development); Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Universitas Sam Ratulangi (UNSRAT).
 - Regional governmental endorsement
- viii. Mr James Rompas - Director, Government of North Sulawesi Province Regional Development Planning Board Bitung (Tangkoko district)
 - Tangkoko district governmental endorsement
- ix. Shelley Sondakh - Executive Secretary, Brunei Darussalam Indonesia Malaysia and the Philippines East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA)
 - Implementation of community-based EcoTourism development
- x. Dr Wiske Rotinsulu - Environmental Consultant, University of Sam Ratulangi
 - Providing logistical support and field assistance

Publications

- ✦ Melfi V 2010 Selamatkan Yaki! Conservation of Sulawesi Crested Black Macaques *Macaca nigra*. In: (S. Gursky-Doyen & J Supriatna eds) Indonesian Primates: Developments in Primatology: Progress and Prospects. Part 2, 343-356.
- ✦ *Macaca nigra* Species Conservation Action Plan – *(in preparation)*
- ✦ Mongabay.com 2012 – Saving Indonesia's Rare Monkeys With a Heart Shaped Bottom
- ✦ Selamatkan Yaki! Save the macaque. What's Happening Magazine. Spring ed. 2011
- ✦ Demographic predictors of habitat disturbance and bushmeat consumption in North Sulawesi, Indonesia. *(in preparation)*
- ✦ Attitudes as a predictor of levels of bushmeat consumption and resource use exploitation. North Sulawesi, a case study. *(in preparation)*
- ✦ A comparison of the efficacy of different conservation education media on the transfer of knowledge and impact on attitude and empathy towards the conservation of *M.nigra* in north Sulawesi, Indonesia. *(in preparation)*

Projects

Tangkoko Rejuvenation Programme

With the proposed project we aim to 'rejuvenate Tangkoko' an area of rich biodiversity and the last stronghold for the Critically Endangered Sulawesi crested black macaque (*Macaca nigra*). The long-term goal of this project is to preserve a self-sustaining *M. nigra* population in their native range; thus conserving sympatric biodiversity. This can only be achieved by reducing the current threats which endanger this species, namely illegal hunting and habitat encroachment and fragmentation. As Tangkoko Nature Reserve represents the last stronghold for this species, and currently receives inadequate protection, we recognise that finding solutions to a better system of management and protection are to be of critical importance to the survival of *M. nigra*.

We have established a collaborative team which represent the main stakeholders working in this area. By strategically evaluating current protection activities, working directly with patrols, providing equipment and techniques, facilitating local and regional dialogue, monitoring illegal activities and working towards sustainable ecotourism, it is proposed that the management of this protected area can be brought to a higher standard. With a wealth of other species dependent on the same habitat, protecting this important Nature Reserve will ensure the survival of the impressive biodiversity of this unique area.

Bacan Island Reconnaissance Trip

One of seven macaque species endemic to Sulawesi, *Macaca nigra* are restricted to a small geographic range in North Sulawesi, Indonesia. Their population has declined by over 85% since the 1980's and are considered Critically Endangered. The primary threats which endanger this species are hunting and habitat degradation which occur across their range. Tangkoko DuaSaudara Nature Reserve is thought to harbor the last viable population in Sulawesi (Melfi, 2010). There are anecdotal sightings of *M. nigra* on nearby islands, but with one exception these are largely unsubstantiated. Since the mid-1800s *M. nigra* have been reported on Bacan Island; approximately 300km Southeast of North Sulawesi. In 1998, Rosenbaum et al. surveyed a population of *M. nigra* on Bacan estimated at around 100,000 animals. The current status of this population is unknown. As part of an integrated conservation programme (Selamatkan Yaki), a reconnaissance trip to Bacan Island is proposed to determine whether *M. nigra* are still extant on the island, assess their abundance relative to mainland populations and to assess population-specific anthropogenic threats. The latter will be achieved through village surveys of forest resource use and attitudes towards wildlife and will be comparable with recent survey data from Sulawesi. Support to conduct this project is essential to the conservation of *M. nigra* across their range as it will greatly improve our knowledge of the global status of the species and its threats, and therefore inform future priority setting.

Minahasa Awareness Campaign

As an essential element of our integrated conservation programme, an education and awareness raising strategy throughout key areas identified as of high importance is vital for tackling the demand for bushmeat, whilst gaining support for protection of biodiversity and empowering local inhabitants to ultimately sustain the future populations. Previous research has identified the key locations where hunting is frequent and the markets where macaque meat is most prevalent. Recognition has subsequently grown that these areas are crucial sites for an awareness campaign aiming to help change community mind-sets and subsequently reduce demand for protected species.

The provision of educational messages has been identified as a key factor in minimising the deleterious impact of consumption of bushmeat in other countries. The capacity for positive attitudes and empathy towards nature within local communities in the region is well-recognised. In the long-term, establishing a well-connected and supported awareness campaign will facilitate the creation of a socially popular icon and emergence of the macaques as a national emblem, developing a deeper sense of recognition and pride in local flora and fauna.

Junior High School Environmental Education Programme

One fundamental aspect of Selamatkan Yaki's conservation activities is education and awareness-raising. Environmental education holds powerful potential to increase knowledge of macaques, their conservation status, the threats endangering them and alternative actions which could be carried out to mitigate these threats and a positive attitude and empathy towards conservation.

The aim of the environmental education programme is to enhance the level of information about the environment and its preservation provided to students surrounding Bitung District, an area identified as critical importance to Yaki. A clear association between knowledge and attitudes, and the resultant behaviour and level of support for conservation motivates the requirement for education and awareness-raising activities. By providing the next generations with appropriate, clear information about the current situation facing Indonesian wildlife, why it is important and what they can do to help, it is expected that a greater level of support for conservation activities and a reduction in negatively impacting activities will be developed. This will be achieved through coordination and collaboration between parties according to their expertise and available resources. As a pilot programme, indicators of success from progress monitoring and continued support should show whether long-term viability and expansion of the programme is possible.