



PROJECT UPDATE

Grant 46294-1

Conserving Javan Endemic Damselfly (*Drepanosticta sundana*) in
Menoreh Hill: Tackling Habitat Loss and Tourism Impact



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Conserving Javan Endemic Damselfly (*Drepanosticta sundana*) in Menoreh Hill: Tackling Habitat Loss and Tourism Impact

Project Update: August 2025 – January 2026

This update aims to report our project, “*Conserving Javan Endemic Damselfly (Drepanosticta sundana) in Menoreh Hill: Tackling Habitat Loss and Tourism Impact*,” including field survey progress, educational activities, and preliminary outcomes.

1. Field Survey Progress

Two field survey terms have been completed so far:

- **Term 1 (Dry season):** August–September 2025
- **Term 2 (Transition from dry to wet season):** December 2025–January 2026

Surveys were conducted at 13 sites across three regencies: one site in Magelang (Kalisalak), three sites in Purworejo (including Banyuasin and Tlogoguwo), and nine sites in Kulon Progo (Samigaluh, Purwosari, Jatimulyo, and Kokap).

Data collection focused on population abundance, microhabitat conditions (including vegetation), behavioral observations, and prey identification through fecal sample collection. Based on these two surveys term, several preliminary findings have emerged:

- a. A slight increase in recorded individuals was observed between term 1 and term 2, from a total of 242 to 262 individuals, suggesting higher detectability or activity during the seasonal transition period.
- b. The target species exhibits a wider distribution range than initially expected. *Drepanosticta sundana* was not only found in mountainous areas but also in lower-altitude parts of the Menoreh landscape, where higher individual numbers were recorded. In addition, the species was observed both in closed-canopy and more open habitats; however, individuals consistently displayed light-avoidance behavior.
- c. Adult longevity is estimated to reach up to approximately four months, based on recaptures of marked individuals from term 1 using oil-paint marking.
- d. Sites experiencing tourism activities and habitat disturbance (including logging and land conversion to plantations) tended to show a decline in individual numbers from term 1 to term 2, indicating potential negative impacts of human activities on local populations.

2. Educational Activities

Alongside field surveys, educational activities were conducted in two locations:

- a. **Jatimulyo (Kulon Progo):** Approximately 30 students from kindergarten to junior high school participated.
- b. **Banyuasin (Purworejo):** Approximately 52 students from elementary to vocational high school levels took part.

These sessions introduced participants to the characteristics, habitat, and ecological role of *Drepanosticta sundana*, followed by conservation messaging emphasizing simple actions to protect river ecosystems. Activities were delivered through short storytelling using a mini storybook developed by the team and creative coloring sessions featuring the target species.

3. Tourism Information Gathering

During fieldwork, we also engaged with local tourism managers and community members to gather information on tourism activities, environmental changes following tourism development, perceived impacts on damselfly populations, and opportunities for collaboration. These informal discussions and site observations will inform future threat assessments and stakeholder-based conservation strategies, particularly regarding biodiversity monitoring in tourism areas.

4. Preliminary Outcomes

Key outcomes achieved so far include:

- a. Establishment of baseline ecological information for the target species.
- b. Identification of several priority conservation locations within the Menoreh Hill landscape.
- c. Increased community awareness through educational activities.
- d. Initiation of collaborative networks with local communities and site managers.

5. Next Steps

Planned upcoming activities include:

- a. Third field survey during the wet season
- b. Additional educational activities in other locations
- c. Socialization and outreach to stakeholders and local communities
- d. Data analysis and synthesis
- e. Continued project implementation activities

Appendix

Field Survey



Educational Activities