



Picture 1. Reintroduction team on the release date.

From Left to right: Pak Namnan (Security guard), Pak Las (Antam Environmental Department), Pak Odet (Security guard), Pak Udin (Security guard), Anaïs Tritto (CCBC Curator), Fitryana Rahayu (CCBC Field Biologist), Renaldi Ednin Vernia (CCBC Education Officer)

REINTRODUCTION PROGRAMME

In the last newsletter, we explained the preparation process for the future release in PT. Antam Pongkor Gold Mine with five birds translocated on the 15th of May from our breeding centre in Cikananga to their habituation cage. We are proud to inform you that, on the 14th of June 2015, they were successfully released in the site. It took 4 hours and 11 minutes for the first bird to leave the cage and 6 hours 46 minutes until the last one leaves the cage. During the next week, they were very dependent on the food supply and came

back regularly to the cage, to feed and roost for the night. The cage was definitely closed on the 26th of June after the birds stopped to use it and they were only observed eating the food supply provided around the cage. The new released birds were immediately integrated to the social group, formed by the juveniles, all hatched on the site. The birds were observed following the juveniles in their foraging sites and eating wild fruits, insects and foraging for the nectar of the Calliandra trees. Even if the food supply is still provided, it is unlikely that they will need it since they found good instructors with the juveniles to find suitable food items.

During the monitoring session in July, one new-released female was observed close to a juvenile, one of the first hatched in April 2014. Our field biologist observed copulation and, since then, they are very active in one of the boxes, bringing nest materials and defending the tree against the other starlings. This small event is a big success for the programme since a breeding between the “old” and “new” birds was hoped to increase the genetic diversity of the reintroduced population.



Picture 2. The new pair formed by the wild-hatch adult and new-released bird, bringing material to the box

In addition, one bird fledged in June and was well integrated to the social group which increases the released population to 11 individuals.



Picture 3. Juvenile starling which fledged in June 2015

The team is now already busy planning the next release that should happen in December 2015, six months after the last one.

All the CCBC Team is very thankful to the help PT. Antam Pongkor Gold Mine provided during the organization of the release and the date of release. In addition to provide to the birds three suitable security guards during their habituation time and deliver the food supply; their seriousness and organization to meet all the requirement for a successful release was greatly appreciated. We can ensure that this release went very smoothly and the birds didn't receive any unnecessary stress. To strengthen our collaboration and establish the responsibilities of each party, a MoA was signed between Cikananga and PT. Antam Pongkor Gold Mine during a ceremony that happened one day later on another place than the release site, where a short movie was presented to local people about the release.



Picture 4. MoA signed by the director of Cikananga (Resit Sozer) and the Head of Antam Environmental Department (Pak Gede Gunawan)

CAPTIVE BREEDING

Export

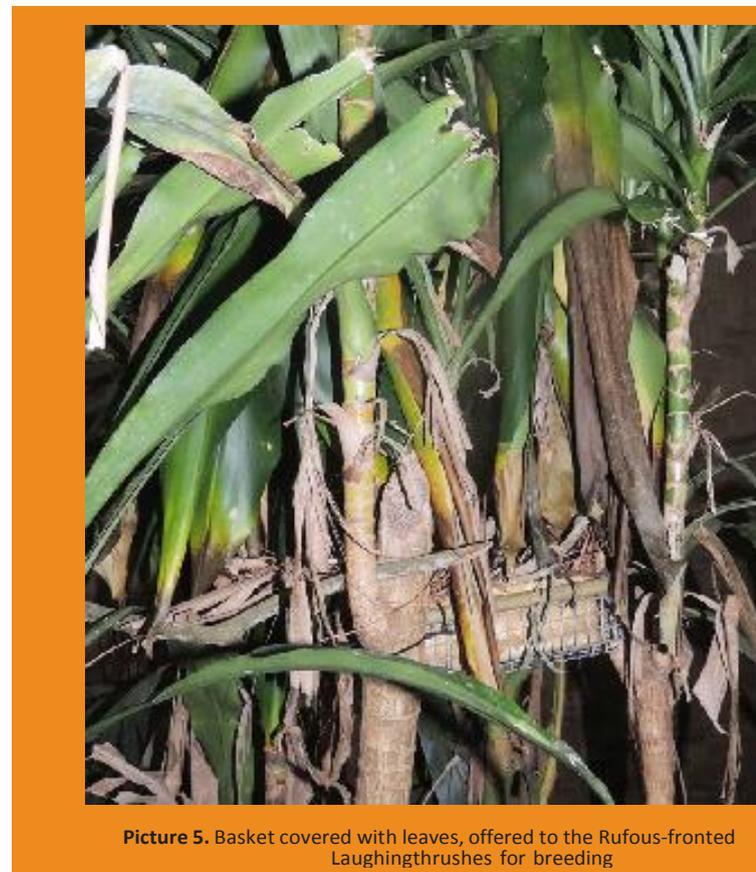
On the 29th of June 2015, 12 Javan Green Magpies and 8 Sumatran Laughingthrushes were transferred to Taman Safari Indonesia to spend their quarantine time there until they are exported to Chester Zoo. After the official quarantine time for birds translocated within Indonesia, Taman Safari will request for the export permit and make the appropriate tests that will be sent to an Indonesian lab and an English lab in United-Kingdom. It is hoped that the birds could be exported before the end of August so they can have enough time to adapt to the European climate before the winter season. This export is the first one happening since the creation of CCBC and is a major step forward for the preservation of the species. It is also hoped that in the future, some of the “European” offspring will come back to Indonesia to strengthen the CCBC population or even be released!

Aviary change

After the translocation of 20 birds to Taman Safari Indonesia, aviary change was organized in CCBC to propose adequate aviaries to the remaining birds and take the advantage to disinfect all the cages before any bird move. Consequently, better cages

were offered to five of our six juvenile magpies, our Sumatran Laughingthrushes and Rufous-fronted Laughingthrushes. It was decided that a focus will be done on the breeding of the Rufous-fronted Laughingthrush that is still latent or unsuccessful for a couple of years.

After changing some pairs, new baskets were proposed to the birds for breeding, based on other studies done on a related species, the Blue-crowned Laughingthrush. A nest covered with Yuka leaves allows a better retreat for the birds and the small opening a better entrance for the birds and a view for our CCTV cameras. Few days after the pairs were put in their new enclosures, three of them started to build the nest. At the time of this newsletter, we have one pair with chicks and one pair incubating eggs. Great care is taken to not disturb the birds and the whole team is looking forward these new breeding. Fingers crossed for the fertility of the eggs and the survival of the chicks!



Picture 5. Basket covered with leaves, offered to the Rufous-fronted Laughingthrushes for breeding

Concerning the captive population for the Black-winged Starlings, it was decided to offer to the birds some rest as they are breeding without interruption for several years, some of them producing more than five clutches per year. Consequently, two single-sex groups of males and females were created and they are now housed in big aviaries where they can get access to outside, enjoying sun and small rain. It was recorded that our birds were losing their yellow masks and it seems that the access to sun is helping them to have their original colour back (based on observations in the release site). If it is proved to be successful for the welfare of the birds and allow a more efficient breeding, measures will be taken so they can yearly rest for a while before starting again their breeding season.



Picture 6. Aviary with the 12 female Black-winged Starlings for their resting period

The 3-meter high fence finally finished on the 6th of July 2015 and now includes the pre-release cage. After holding its breath for the whole Ramadan time, the team can finally breathe again since no intrusion or attempt was recorded during this critical time and we all think that the security measures are now strong enough to discourage potential thieves. This project was the last security measure we could implement before the next big security project starts, meaning the construction of brand-new buildings replacing our old ones. This project still needs to be implemented since we are currently on the fund-raising process to acquire the full funding for one building. We are very thankful

to the French Zoo Association (Association Française des Parcs Zoologiques) to be the first one to support this new building project and we hope that many others will follow. Your help will be greatly appreciated and don't hesitate to inform some of your zoo friends who could be interested to support our building replacement.



Picture 7. Fence enclosing the pre-release cage for the Black-winged Starlings

When a project ends, a new one starts! After the fence, the CCBC Team decided to focus on building a quarantine, in case new birds are acquired in the future. It was decided to use a part of the mice breeding building to create our quarantine. So far, the building is still under construction to be completely isolated from outsiders and one cage is already built, the second one coming soon. After the completion of this building, new Black-winged starlings could be acquired from private breeders and strengthen our current captive population, weakened by the theft of June 2014.



Picture 8. Quarantine building under construction

Pig Research

The 3-month research on the exploring behaviour of our captive Javan Warty Pigs, performed by a BSc student, finished in July 2015. The student studied mainly the group of 10 juveniles, housed with the hybrid domestic pig and his main findings are that the juveniles show reduced shyness compared to the other pigs in Cikananga (by following the behaviour of the hybrid domestic pig), causing likely better chance of success for *ex-situ* programmes, but probably impairing future reintroduction. Measures will consequently be taken regarding this hybrid domestic pig after discussion with experts. Additional study on the behaviour of paired Javan Warty Pigs led to some recommendations on the improvement of the enclosures and management.



Picture 9. The group of 10 juveniles

In this phase of development after the change of curator and the new advisors from Chester Zoo for all improvement regarding husbandry (Andrew Owen) and medical (Javier Lopez), many new projects and implementation let foresee a good future for all the valuable projects run by CCBC. Staytuned!

Sponsorship

Our work is made possible by your support and material donation.
Thank you from all Cikananga Conservation Breeding Center Team!

