



Selamatkan Yaki



Working to save Sulawesi crested black macaques and their native habitat

NEWSLETTER

July 2015



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Selamatkan Yaki ~ Newsletter

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Image:

Juvenile Macaca nigra exploring Batuputih Nature Recreation Park, Tangkoko Nature Reserve.

© Andrew Walmsley Photography

Dear sponsors, partners and friends of the yaki....

Welcome all to our newsletter for 2015!

This edition of the newsletter is written by me, Reyni Tresia Palohoen, the Programme Secretary! I am proud to present the most recent update of our programme's activities, and on behalf of the whole team here we are pleased to present to you a fresh new edition of the Selamatkan Yaki newsletter.

We continue our dedication to conservation activities which aim to protect the Critically Endangered Sulawesi crested black macaques (*Macaca nigra*). It has been a very busy but highly productive year, with numerous steps forwards in enhancing the key campaign areas around North Sulawesi. Our education team has been training local youth community and religious leaders to represent as yaki ambassadors so that they themselves can spread our conservation message independently and get involved in participatory events to engage with as many people as possible. We look forward to continued progress towards our goals of reducing the threats of habitat loss and hunting of this charismatic and rather lovely monkey.

As usual, we present here the recent developments from the Selamatkan Yaki programme, with the latest achievements and what's to come for our future focuses.

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HIGHLIGHTS

- The SY team continues to expand!
- Protected area management advancements
- Forest Conservation Community Forums
- Assessment of guiding system in Tangkoko
- Talks at high schools and Yaki Youth Camp
- Arts and photographs of the yaki
- Fundraising events
- Yaki media coverage



Our team keeps expanding...

Beginning with helping the survey team in year one of our “EARS” education programme in 2013 with data entry, Caroline Tasirin had been contributing such a great deal for the programme that we finally decided to welcome her into our education team.

She was a fresh graduate from the Forestry Faculty of Sam Ratulangi University in Manado and really active in the university Nature Club, even once leading as chief of

the club. Leadership and a confident attitude are what is needed in spreading message in conservation, so it has been great having her in the EARS team as Education Assistant.

Caroline has been doing a fantastic job of delivering presentations about yaki conservation, from school to school, camp to camp, and even from island to island when joining our partners in several education activities.

“Alone we can do so little, Together we can do so much”

OUR TEAM

Harry Hilser
Programme Manager

Reyni Palohoen
Programme Secretary

Thirza Loffeld
*Advocacy and Education
Coordinator*

Yunita Siwi
Education Officer

Caroline Tasirin
Education Assistant

Prisillia Morley Loijens
*Education Assistant and Graphic
Designer*

Edyson Maneasa
Tangkoko Project Officer

Ance Tatinggulu
Tangkoko Project Assistant

We also got an extra pair of hands at the Tangkoko Rejuvenation Project. Sharing the same passion in conservation, Yoviani Loho contributed ideas and great work in six months time as an assistant to the project. We now welcome Ance Tatinggulu as Tangkoko Assistant, who has already contributed to many events with great enthusiasm.

With the increase in number of activities appearing on the SY calendar and numerous invitation to join partner’s events, we are in a push to provide materials, thus creating a challenge for our graphic design volunteers.

Meet our talented graphic designer and Education Assistant Prisillia Morley Loijens. Prisi as she is usually called was helping in designing our campaign materials for the Yaki Exhibition, posters, event banners, and calendars during our first year of Yaki Pride Campaign. She started joining our team voluntarily, then on July 2014 Prisi accepted our offer to join our team. Addition to design work and video material for our YouTube channel, Prisi has been coordinating our volunteers spread around the world.



The love of the ocean and nature brought her to take action in take part of saving the environment, including saving the yaki. Find out more about Prisi on [her blog!](#)

We keep receive more help and support from our volunteers that spread around the world.



“Participants engaged and focused during the data entry simulation using SMART software.”

More progress since 2014...

SMART - For the protection of Tangkoko

Following extensive assessments as part of our Tangkoko Rejuvenation Project (TRP), we identified several key areas in need of improvement in the management of Tangkoko Nature Reserve, the 8.800ha reserve known to be one of the last strongholds for the yaki. This includes the need for improvements in communication, stakeholder participation, in addition to building capacity for both patrols to improve law enforcement and tour guides to enhance the experience of visitors whilst lowering their impact on the forest.

In April 2014 we facilitated a comprehensive three days training course for forestry staff. By inviting knowledgeable experts Pak Suer Suryadi and Amir Hamza from java, we helped introduce the “SMART-RBM” system to the staff and rangers of the BKSDA (Indonesian natural resource protection unit of the forestry department). The training programme was designed for full integration into the BKSDA’s Resort Based Management (RBM) system, with the addition of new equipment to increase the capacity of the patrol staff. All participants were focused and contributed with great enthusiasm and motivation – they spent more than eight hours on the second day, making themselves familiar with the SMART software, which is used to record, store and analyze data collected from patrols.

On the final day of the training, the participants expressed a new boost of spirit for protecting the forest. Full adoption of the new systems and routine patrols by forestry takes a long time, and complete integration will be set to occur over this year to next. We plan to maintain and facilitate the motivation with a refresher training session soon as a stepping stone to the new system.

WHAT

SMART : Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool, a software/tools that have been developed by WCS, ZSL, WWF and FZS.

RBM: Resort Based Management, approach in decision-making based on data and information according to the conditions and the development of each region of the protected areas.



WHERE

FMKH is focused at five villages surrounding Tangkoko Nature Reserve;

- Batuputih Atas
- Dudasudara
- Winenet Satu
- Pinangunian
- Kasawari

WHO

There are 20 villagers as the members of FMKH per village.

WHEN

Regular meetings of FMKH are held within every village, and the representatives of each FMKH member then gather in the collective meeting around every three months.

FMKH – The Voice of the Communities

The development of Forest Conservation Community Forum (“Forum Masyarakat Konservasi Hutan – FMKH”) throughout villages surrounding the nature reserve is one such effort to increase the involvement of people living around Tangkoko. We have established community forums in five villages – platforms for discussion of anything related to the environment, where issues or suggestions are raised first internally by forum members within the communities, then disseminated to other villages and relevant stakeholder representative during collective meeting a few times a year.



“Conservation is the harmony between man and land”



FMKH Pinangunian watching BBC Movie “Yaki The Guardian of The Forest”

The enthusiastic response from members of the forums encourage us to organize trips for them to see yaki in the wild, as many of them have not seen the monkeys before or even visited the forest recreations area TWA Batuputih before. It was a really good chance to develop a new perspective and create value between the society and nature. Find more about these FMKH Day Trips here; [day trip one](#) and [day trip two](#).

The forums continue to be active and contribute to enhancing communication within and between communities and authorities. Recently, our education team came together to the collective meeting of all villages, to help empower FMKH members to be actively engaged with education activities within their own communities.



Image:

Bad Boys: Runner up in Mammal Category of the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of The Year Competition 2013

©Andrew Walmsley Photography



Guiding In the Right Direction

With the aim to reach the recommendations from the *Macaca nigra* workshop in 2013, one goal is to increase the capacity of tour guides within forest management in Tangkoko. This is important as the guides play an important role in communicating to visitors not only what can they find in the forest but also to deliver the message of protecting the forest by acting responsibly every visit.

Following a guide training course in November 2013, on June 2014 we facilitated a meeting between the guide groups, HPI - Himpunan Pramuwisata Indonesia, and the Head of Bitung Tourism Department, along with the BKSDA. Since the nature recreation parks TWA Batuputih and Batu Angus are managed by the Ministry of Forestry in Indonesia, The Tourism Department does not directly manage the tourism activities here, although their expertise in this field are essential and the key is to work together. We would like to thank Benny Lontoh for lots of experience sharing and great suggestion for the guiding system in Tangkoko. Building further on this, the second guide training course was facilitated by us in April this year, bringing in support from Director of the Indonesian Ecotourism INDECON. The guides learned responsible guiding and communication techniques, moving towards best practice to improve the visitor experience and reduce any potential detrimental impacts on the biodiversity. Following this, SY and others have set to increase guide capacity by facilitating English lessons for the guides in the area. Furthermore, the guides came together to co-create a guiding booklet to aid them on their tours. The booklets include background information to the unique area, information about the species to be found there, top guiding tips developed by the guides themselves, the codes of conduct for visitor behaviour in the reserve, and some useful phrases in English to learn.



March 2014 was a busy month for both TRP and our EARS education team. Parallel with the preparation of our key student capacity building event the first Yaki Youth Camp, the Tangkoko team were busy with arranging community activities such as beach cleaning and a forest photography workshop, hosted by our friend the talented wildlife photographer Andrew Walmsley. After incredible exposure to the species, with a prestigious win at Wildlife Photographer of The Year competition in 2013, Andrew joined us again to inspire local wildlife photographers to take part in raising awareness with their pictures. A lot of fun was had by participants from many ages and backgrounds, meeting

Education and Awareness Raising Strategy

Part of our Education and Awareness Raising Strategy (EARS) are the Yaki Pride Campaigns. One of the activities is giving educational talks to students at all schools in the campaign areas.

At our first campaign areas, there were twenty one senior high schools listed in Tomohon and Langowan. Thirza, Junita and Caroline did a great job in completing all these talks before the next activity, our Yaki Youth Camp! The Yaki Youth Camp is: an engaging and interactive three days event to bring together students from every schools to learn about conservation and how to help spread the conservation message themselves as Yaki ambassadors. According to plan, the team managed to get the golden tickets spread to representatives of each school

that will be joining this exciting activity.

On the day, we had eighteen participants that joined with a hidden excitement that was finally released when they got to know each other! Games, dancing, photography workshop, Yaki computer games, learning how to deliver presentations about Yaki, tree planting, and even participation in Earth Hours, paying respect to our planet, ensured that no one will forget what was called by the participants “the most creative camp ever”. In May this year, we held the same event for the new campaign areas of Bitung, Airmadidi and Lembeh Island, nurturing even more ambassadors, and inspired from the attendance of last year’s ambassadors, who provided motivation and encouragement to the new cohort.



Image:

Yunita shows the golden ticket

©Andrew Walmsley Photography

“Ears can help us to hear, in order to understand and care...”

As another part of our “two step approach” (capacity building), we organized a series of workshops in each campaign area, called “Torang Bacirita (“we Discuss”): Green Gospel” that brings together the leaders from the biggest churches in North Sulawesi. The fact that yaki

are Critically Endangered and have such an important role in the forest and to society, the involvements of the church in spreading conservation messages is desperately needed, given the fact that the majority of Minahasa people are Christians, and the church plays a crucial role within the community.



In the name of God, we promise to conserve the nature; to protect the forest and the Wildlife..

We aim to get all participants of this event to go home with a goal to make preparations of service materials that can raise awareness of the community about the importance of preservation as well as protection of God’s creations, the earth and all the living creatures, in this case especially the yaki.

From school to church, same as last year we did again our information stands in traditional markets Tomohon and Langowan, as these areas celebrate thanksgiving in every mid-year.

YAKI PRIDE CAMPAIGN

Langowan and Tomohon were the first areas for Yaki Pride Campaign in 2013—2014. These areas have traditional markets that provide bushmeat and were therefore identified as key areas for yaki conservation.”

By 2015 we have finally had our own tent for our next info stands.



Yaki Pride Campaign logo
by: Oriana Chalbaud



Yaki Facts at Inspirational Board
Made by Angel to be displayed at
her school SMA Negeri 1 Tomohon



The EARS team packed their campaign materials and moved to the traditional markets on the Saturday before thanksgiving. This aims to let people know to not buy yaki or other bushmeat or serve it during thanksgiving.

With a help of our supporters; KPALANG a nature club in Langowan, and also with companion Helen Bersacola, many people came and visited our stand and had a chance to watch

the short educational movie about the yaki by BBC and more information given by the team.

The stands got a lot of attention as this is a huge traditional market. The kids as usual made the day more colorful with coloring yaki masks made by our volunteer Oriana Chalbaud and some yaki drawings, taking home a message of caring for nature.



Introducing the Yaki ambassadors...

We are so proud of our Yaki ambassadors from the Yaki Youth Camp who have already taken the initiatives in spreading messages about yaki conservation locally. Meet Angel from senior high school SMA Negeri 1 in Tomohon, who delivered presentations about yaki to the youth community at her church. Amazing! Not only that, but Angel also spread the message about yaki by including yaki facts in an inspirational wall poster in her school. Well done Angel!



Angel was joining our Info Stand in
Tomohon traditional market.

We also have Ira from Langowan who made a really nice song about yaki, demonstrating the connection of conservation and music. Please find it here on [Sound cloud](#).



Leyfi, Uje and Ira were helping Yunita
In spreading messages about yaki
at Langowan market.

With supervision by Caroline, Yunita and Prisi, our ambassadors finally joined the junior high school talks, together reaching more than 2500 students and 70 teachers! It makes us all very happy to see them confident and keen in giving their presentations, and we look forward to the new ambassadors.

Yaki Photographs, Arts and Outreach



Yaki Wood carving and necklace
By Jane Leakey

Our office has been more crowded since early 2014. We were excited in receiving fresh photograph of the yaki, as our friend Andrew Walmsley and Lucy Radford were in the town. For the second trip of Andrew, as was expected stunning images followed after. Digital image and painting also play an important part in yaki conservation, helping to draw people in to see the beauty and wonder of nature whilst portraying powerful and emotive messages. We had another colorful month when a primatologist friend and talented artist Hellen Bersacola arrived with her brushes and inks ready to mix into a canvas and create some wonderful paintings of the yaki to add to our Yaki Exhibition at the Minahasa museum in Tompaso. Creative supports never stops coming to help the conservation of the yaki. The Yaki Exhibition was furthermore enriched by the wood carving of Jane Leakey, an artist and puppeteer who had a chance to visit North Sulawesi. Wood carved into the charismatic shapes of yaki faces added yet more amazing materials for us to inspire people to be more creative. What a blissful year! Thank you all for the creativity and expression for conservation!



Yaki paintings by Hellen Bersacola

“Conservation is a meeting of art and science...”



Find online our creative Yaki Magz
[here!](#)

Valentine’s Day, was a great opportunity to spread the love of the heart-shaped-bottom monkey! The weather was nice when Thirza and Reyni arrived in Radio Manado. For a one hour live chat with Anthony at 91.8 FM, again the monkeys had more people to reach! Followed by exciting live shows on Pasific TV – Kompas TV Manado, the team have done an inspiring job in encouraging people to take action in yaki conservation. Edyson and Prisi had also three hours live chat shows on Golden Heart radio amongst others, broadening our spread of outreach efforts.

We have been reaching so many wonderful people, from young to adult, from the local to international communities, from farmers to teachers, to as many as possible people to help us save the yaki. It is by working with one another that we can maximize our efforts and energy for conservation of our beautiful natural places.





Gaining support from the local people is one of the most important aspects of the conservation effort. We continue to expand the coverage areas by broadcasting jingles made by our ambassadors the famous Indonesian rock band – SLANK and our young volunteer Zefanya, into radio channel Trivana FM (Langowan) for several months. We believe that many people have heard about how special yaki is, and how important it is to help save them from extinction. In addition, through collaboration with our partners BKSDA and wildlife rescue and education center Tasikoki, we produced a yaki protection protocol to help anyone who sees yaki kept as pets or found in the market. The yaki seems to keep catching international attention followed by heartbreaking pictures illustrating strong emotions of a young mother carrying a dead yaki infant by Andrew Walmsley photography.



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“Together We Will Save The Yaki...”

It is amazing to have more and more people supporting our programme all the time, in addition to coming up with incredible ideas of how to raise both awareness and funds for the conservation of the species. A legend was written by ten macaque mountaineers who conquered the three mountain peaks in the UK to help save the yaki. These amazing efforts had attracted the attention of many local and international newspapers. Their hard work and passion was paid through lots of supports and donation. Read what our long time supporter Jodie Dryden wrote about the successful event and meet the macaque mountaineers in [their video](#)! Further incredible support was provided by two dedicated girls who ran a half marathon for the yaki, what an amazing effort, thank you so much Lauren Amos and Jennifer Dixon!

With such a dedicated and passionate network both in North Sulawesi and around the world, we hold hope for this incredible species.

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Working to save Sulawesi crested black macaques and their native habitat

PARTNERS



SPONSORS



“Many thanks go to all of our partners and sponsors of the programme, for their contribution towards the protection of yaki and their habitat.”