

# ANNUAL REPORT OF PROFAUNA INDONESIA 2019

## INTRODUCTION



In addition to the problem of wildlife trade and hunting, in 2019 PROFAUNA Indonesia focused on the issue of forest conservation in Java. Forest conservation in Java Island has not been a great concern. Most environmental organisations focus on working for the forests in Sumatra or Kalimantan.

Although the numbers of forests in Java are much fewer than the forests in Kalimantan, Sumatra or Papua, we think it is important to save the remaining forests in Java because they become the main habitats of wildlife endemic to Java Island: Javan langurs, Javan slow loris, Javan leopards, Javan hawk- eagles, Javan gibbons, surili and rhinoceros hornbills.

Java Island is the most densed island in Indonesia. The total population in Java is around 150 million,

while the population of Indonesia is around 267 million. Therefore, the threats to the remaining forests in Java are very high.

According to the data issued by the Director General of Watershed Management and Protected Forest in 2016, the total area of the protected forests in Java Island is around 698,368.56 hectares. Ironically, not all areas that have been designated as protected forests are wild forests. Some of them have been converted into agricultural and residential areas.

For these reasons, PROFAUNA Indonesia has put concerns on forest conservation issues in Java. There must be challenges to preserve the remaining forests in Java because of the great threats. We will engage the local communities in the forest management as one of our key approaches to tackle these.

**Rosek Nursahid**

*Founder & Chairman of PROFAUNA Indonesia*

## WILDLIFE HUNTING AND TRADE ISSUES



In 2019 PROFAUNA Indonesia received 107 complaints from the public: 40 cases of wildlife hunting or poaching, 51 cases of wildlife trade, and 16 other cases including the illegal wildlife ownership.

The complaints that PROFAUNA received the most were the cases of the illegal wildlife trade via social media: Facebook. Between January and December 2019, PROFAUNA Indonesia recorded at least 67 cases of wildlife trade on Facebook.

Thanks to Facebook, the social media issued a new policy prohibiting the sale and purchase of wildlife animals in the marketplace or in the groups in April 2019. However, there are still many wildlife traders on Facebook who keep buying and selling the wildlife in the closed or secret groups.

One of the notable wildlife trade cases handled by PROFAUNA was the case of the illegal parrot trade in Malang involving an alleged military officer.

On 8 March 2019, the East Java Provincial Board of the Natural Resource Conservation, locally abbreviated BBKSDA; the Ministry of Environment and Forestry Law Enforcement Center, and the Malang City Police succeeded in arresting wildlife trafficker in the city of Malang, East Java. M, the suspect, a resident of Lesanpuro, Kedungkandang sub-district, Malang City, was caught

red-handed owning two protected parrots, a Moluccan cockatoo (*Cacatua moluccensis*) and a black-capped lory (*Lorius lory*).



The enforcement team had developed the case and found out that culprit got supplied by an alleged member of the Indonesian National Army (TNI) of the Air Force based in Malang. The BBKSDA and PROFAUNA teams actively conducted a series of lobbying with the management of the Air Force to fully enforce the law on the case of the illegal wildlife trade case involving an alleged member of the force.

Before the raid, M was monitored by the BBKSDA and PROFAUNA team and showed that he often offered the protected wildlife through Facebook. Through his Facebook account called '**Kin Van**', the team noted that he offered pangolin, parrots, lorries, and others.

### **Installation of Wildlife Hunting Warning Sign Boards**

PROFAUNA Indonesia, with the support of the International Primate Protection League (IPPL), installed 5 illegal wildlife hunting warning sign boards in the forests of the southern Malang region from January to March 2019. The board installation was supported by the local villagers living surrounding the forests and also the local authorities like the Natural Resource Conservation Center (BKSDA), the Forest Farmer Groups and the state-owned plantation company (PTPN XII).

The groups installed the warning boards because hunting or poaching of wild animals in the forests of the southern Malang region remains high. The wildlife species being hunted are birds, boars, primates, civets and jungle cats.

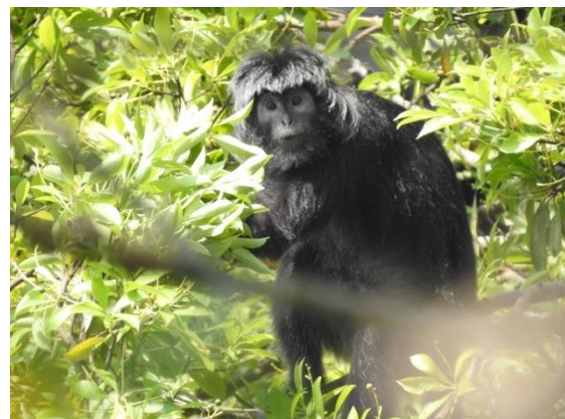


In addition to the wildlife hunting warning board installation, PROFAUNA has also been actively educating the local communities. The public outreach is carried out through gathering and discussion with the forest farmer groups in southern Malang.

## PRIMATE CAMPAIGNS

Around 59 primate species live in Indonesia, from small primates like tarsiers to large ones like orangutans. Unfortunately, Indonesia is also known as a country that has a long list of endangered wildlife, including the primate species.

IUCN enlisted 4 Indonesian primate species among the list of the 25 most endangered primates in the world in the 2016-2018 period. They were the pig-tailed langur, Javan slow loris, Kalimantan orangutan, and the Celebes crested macaque.



Other than deforestation, poaching and trading of primates still pose a serious threat to the preservation of primates in the wild. Primate hunting merely for hobby seems to be considered normal by the locals and similar to trophy hunting.



Therefore, in 2019, PROFAUNA is actively conducting a campaign to stop the primate hunting. Primate hunting issues have become the key theme in the commemoration of the Indonesian primate day which is celebrated every 30<sup>th</sup> of January.

Indonesian Primate Day (locally abbreviated HPI) in 2019 was the 6th commemoration since PROFAUNA Indonesia initiated the day in 2014. At least 28 actions were carried out by various groups: student organisations, nature lover groups, non-governmental organisations, and individuals to celebrate the Indonesian Primate Day in 2019.

There were 12 cities in Indonesia: Malang, Berau, Luwuk Banggai, Jakarta, Sidoarjo, Bandung, Probolinggo, Kuningan, West Kotawaringin, Makassar, Purwokerto, and Bogor participating the public campaign to celebrate the Indonesian Primate Day.

## **BIRD CAMPAIGN**

PROFAUNA Indonesia's survey in the southern areas of Malang in December 2018 showed a decline in hornbill encounters by up to 60%. This was due to deforestation and forest degradation in southern Malang.



PROFAUNA team visited 28 villages in 6 sub-districts in southern Malang to focus on recording the presence of 3 hornbill species: the oriental pied hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*), the wreathed hornbill (*Aceros undulatus*), and the rhinoceros hornbill (*Buceros rhinoceros*). The results showed a decrease of the bird encounter up to 60%.

Between 1996 and 1997, there were approximately 15 encounters of the hornbill flocks within a month in South Malang. Lately, the team could only meet 6 flocks. Worse, the number of the birds within a flock had been decreasing.

Before the massive deforestation in 1998, there were an average of 12 individuals in a flock. Meanwhile, the survey in December 2018 showed that the number of individuals in a flock was only 4 individuals on average.



Nowadays, only small numbers of hornbills can still be found in few areas including Sumberagung Forest; Apusan Bay, Sendiki Protected Forest, Kondang Merak Beach, Balekambang Beach, Kondang Iwak Beach; Kondang Rowo Forest; and Gajah Mungkur Mountain. The species can also be found in Sempu Island Nature Reserve which has been one of the main habitats of hornbills.

Previously, the forests in the southern Malang were known as the habitats for various types of wildlife such as hornbills (3 species), bulls, peacocks, Javan-Hawk eagles, Javan langurs

and leopards.

Unfortunately, in 1998 there were massive illegal logging and looting in the areas. There were estimated around 41,000 ha were deforested due to the looting. Forest degradation has threatened various rare species in the areas.



After surveying the hornbills, PROFAUNA intensively conducted educational activities and campaigns to the local communities in the southern Malang areas. Forest patrols are also intensified to prevent forest conversion from hornbill habitats.

## **SEA TURTLE CAMPAIGN**

### **Sea Turtle Conservation Programme on Belambangan Island**

Since the beginning of 2019, the Indonesian Turtle Foundation (locally abbreviated YPI), supported by the Turtle Foundation and PROFAUNA Indonesia, has established a sea turtle conservation programme on Belambangan Island. Besides being supported by the two organisations in managing the Belambangan Island, YPI also worked together with the Berau Regency Fishery and Maritime Affairs Agency (locally abbreviated DKP) and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (locally abbreviated KKP).

Belambangan Island (also known as Balembangan) is a small island located very remote bordering the Philippines. Belambangan Island which under the territory of Berau Regency, East Kalimantan; has a land area of 9.3 hectares and is totally uninhabited by humans. This is



because Balembangan Island does not have any main natural resource for humans, fresh water.



Although small in size, this island becomes the main nesting habitat of the green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) in Berau waters. On the island, the turtles lay eggs throughout the year, but the highest turtle nesting season occurs between June and December.

Between April and December 2019 there were 5,599 turtles landing on Belambangan Island. In the same period, there were **.836** turtle nests and 141,507 eggs hatched.

### **Hawksbill Sea Turtle Trade**

The illegal trade of the Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) shell byproducts in Indonesia remains high, with an estimated economic value of around 5 billion IDR. The latest investigation by the PROFAUNA Indonesia team revealed the fact that the illegal trade of the hawksbill sea turtle shell byproducts took place in Bali, Nias, North Sumatra and online platforms.

The investigation also showed that the most trade happened online. Between August and September 2019, the team surveyed 11 online platforms to find out about the trade. The eleven platforms surveyed were Facebook, Instagram, Shopee, Tokopedia, Bukalapak, Carousell, Prelo, Kaskus, Belanjaqu, Blogspot and other websites. The result showed 1,574 advertisements and 199 accounts related to the illegal online trade of the hawksbill sea turtles.

The products containing the hawksbills sea turtle shell included rings, bracelets, necklaces and other accessories. The total number of the items offered online was 29,326 with an estimated monetary value of around 5 billion IDR.



The prices of the hawksbill sea turtle byproduct items vary from 15,000 IDR for a simple ring to millions of rupiah for a hand fan.

Other than the online sales, the hawksbill sea turtle shell byproducts were also sold in many souvenir shops in Bali and Nias. The team surveyed them between June and September 2019 in Bali. Out of the 353 visited shops, there were 25 shops selling the hawksbill sea turtle byproducts.

The main location in Bali selling the hawksbill sea turtle byproducts was in Sukawati. Out of the 22 visited shops, there were 13 shops selling the hawksbill sea turtle shell byproducts. Besides Sukawati, other locations selling the protected marine wildlife byproducts were in Denpasar, Dalung and Ubud.

Meanwhile, the illegal trade in Nias Island was found in 4 locations: Gunung Sitoli, Bawomataluo Village, Sorake and Teluk Dalam districts. Out of the 14 visited shops, all were selling the illegal byproducts.

The rampant illegal trade of the hawksbill sea turtle byproducts in Indonesia has moved a number of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to carry out joint campaign to fight the trade. The campaign which motto was "*Keren Tanpa Sisik*" ("being cool or fashionable without the hawksbill sea turtle shell" in local language) was carried out by a coalition of NGOs

consisting of PROFAUNA Indonesia, the Indonesian Turtle Foundation (YPI), Too Rare to Wear from the USA and Turtle Foundation International from Germany.

## Sea Turtle Campaign in Bali

At the end of 2019, the Indonesian Turtle Foundation (YPI) and PROFAUNA Indonesia intensively conducted campaigns to invite the tourists in Bali to no longer use or buy souvenirs made out of the hawksbill sea turtle shell byproducts. The public outreach was carried out by distributing leaflets at the tourism information centres, such as the Indonesian Tourist Information Center (ITIC) and also hotels around the tourist sites of Kuta, Bali.



The informative leaflets contained an interesting story about the process of how cruel the taking the shells from the hawksbill sea turtle bodies where the endangered marine species would slowly die in pain.

All sea turtle species have been protected under the Minister of Environment and Forestry Regulation number P.106 in 2018. According to the Law No. 5 of 1990 concerning Conservation of Biological Resources and their Ecosystems, everyone is strictly prohibited from capturing, trading, or storing sea turtles and their body parts. Penalties for violating these provisions are 5 years in prison and a fine of 100 million IDR.

## Training of Sea Turtle Conservation

Thirty sea turtle conservation activists from various regions participated in the sea turtle conservation training held by PROFAUNA Indonesia and the Indonesian Turtle Foundation (YPI) in Tamban Beach, Malang Regency, on 18 July 2019.

This sea turtle conservation training not only shared theories, but more on hands on practices on the field. Led by Bayu Sandi, Chairman of YPI, participants were invited to practice out how to evacuate nesting sea turtles and relocate the sea turtle eggs.



The practices did not use live sea turtles, but simulation by using sea turtle plushies. Besides the plushies, Bayu Sandi also asked some of the participants to act out as the nesting sea turtles and to be evacuated.

The training which was attended by participants from Malang, Surabaya, Probolinggo, Sidoarjo, Bandung, Jakarta, Luwuk and Bontang went successfully. According to the participants, the hands-on practices of the sea turtle evacuation and the sea turtle egg relocation were the most exciting activities.

## FOREST CAMPAIGNS

Before the year 2000, forests in the southern Malang area became one of the main habitats of various wildlife such as hornbills (3 species), bulls, peacocks, Javan hawk eagles, Javan langurs and leopards. It was very easy to encounter a large number of hornbills in the forests of the southern Malang area then.



Unfortunately, there was massive illegal logging in South Malang in 1998. At that time, it was estimated that around 41,000 ha were deforested due to the forest looting. Forest degradation had threatened the rare species in the forest of southern Malang area.

The PROFAUNA programme in South Malang aims to restore the damaged forest ecosystems working together with the local communities. In an effort to achieve that goal, PROFAUNA launched the Lowland Forest Conservation Program (locally abbreviated KHDR) in 2019.

KHDR's programmes include:

- Local community assistance in social forestry programmes
- Forest patrols
- Development of eco-tourism
- Forest conservation education for local people
- Forest and land rehabilitation



PROFAUNA's presence in southern Malang was welcomed by the local communities. In 2019, PROFAUNA assisted 2 community groups: the *Maju Mapan* Forest Farmer Group (locally abbreviated KTH) and the Gunung Piting Mangrove Conservation (GPMC). In addition, PROFAUNA also assisted the Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA), the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK) in protecting the Sempu Island Nature Reserve.

### Reforestation in Tanggulasi Hill



PROFAUNA Indonesia in collaboration with the *Maju Mapan* Forest Farmer Group (KTH), encouraged the local communities to conduct reforestation in Perawan Tanggulasi Hill in Tambakrejo Village, Sumbermanjing Wetan District, Malang Regency on Saturday, 1 February 2019. The groups planted 300 fruit and forest tree seedlings, which were fully donated by the Petungsewu Adventure.

The participants were from various groups including environmental activists, the forestry state-owned enterprise, BKSDA of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, KTH, PROFAUNA, P-WEC, students, and local communities. The Indonesian Armed Force and the police also joined the full-day event.

The reforestation movement that initiated by PROFAUNA Indonesia gained a lot of support by the Tambakrejo village communities because they thought that the reforestation would create long-term positive effects, both for the environment and the communities.

## **Sempu Island Nature Reserve**

Apart from actively helping the rangers of BKSDA in securing the Sempu Island Nature Reserve, PROFAUNA Indonesia also actively conducted a campaign to protect the nature reserve. On 22 February 2019, PROFAUNA sent a letter to 41 travel agents who still offered tour packages to Sempu Island Nature Reserve, Malang Regency. In the letter, PROFAUNA reminded that travel agents should no longer offer tour packages to Sempu Island because it violates the law.



From PROFAUNA's online desk-investigation, there were at least 41 travel agents or tour operators offering tour packages to Sempu Island despite the Island status as a nature reserve that is not allowed for tourism activities.

The illegal tourism on Sempu Island remained because of the tour operators kept advertising the tour package to the Island. Although the government banned tourism in the island who were guarded by some rangers, tourists could sneak into the island.

According to the Law No. 5 of 1990 concerning Conservation of Biological Natural Resources and their Ecosystems, nature reserves are not for tourism activities. This provision was further strengthened by the Government Regulation No. 28 of 2011 which stated that the nature

reserves were only intended for: research, nature conservation education, carbon storage and utilization of germplasm sources to support cultivation.



On 20-22 July 2019, PROFAUNA and the East Java BBKSDA, conducted a training on wildlife inventory for forest rangers in Sempu Island Nature Reserve. The keynote speakers in the training were Dr. Rustam from Mulawarman University who is also a PROFAUNA Indonesia activist.

Throughout 2019, PROFAUNA Rangers together with East Java BBKSDA rangers conducted forest patrols in Sempu Island Nature Reserve 3 times. In the patrols, there were no cases of serious violations. But the team encountered some illegal tourists sneaking into the nature reserve areas.

### **Kamojang and Papandayan Nature Reserves**

A number of environmental activists, communities and organisations in West Java rejected the status reduction of the Kamojang and Papandayan Nature Reserves to become Nature Tourism Parks. The rejection on behalf of the West Java Nature Reserve Alliance was conveyed at a press conference in Bandung on 23 January 2019.



The organisations joining the West Java Nature Reserve Alliance included West Java Walhi, West Java PROFAUNA, West Java Indonesian Conservation Cadre Communication (FK3I), *Sadar Kawasan* (Regional Awareness), Bandung Regency Nature Lovers Forum, the Democratic Society Study & Service Institute (LPPMD) and the Blue Ocean.



The violations and damages in the Kamojang Nature Reserve area moved the local people and community forums from various regions to carry out the "Save Ciharus", "Save the Nature Reserves" and "Regional Awareness" movements, which since 2012 had been continuously campaigning for the nature protection.

Unfortunately, the local community movement to save the nature didn't go along with government policy. Beginning in 2019, the people who joined the Kamojang Nature Reserve protection movement were shocked by the issuance of the Ministry of Environment Decree 258 in 2018 which changed and reduced the status of more than 4000 hectares of Kamojang and Papandayan Nature Reserves from the Nature Reserve into a Nature Park.

According to the chronology of the decree issuance, it was stated that the background for status reduction was to legalise the exploration of geothermal mining in the Kamojang and Papandayan Nature Reserves.

### **The Illegal Logging Case in Merubetiri National Park**

Merubetiri National Park (locally abbreviated TNMB) is a nature preservation area of 52,626.04 hectares located in Banyuwangi and Jember districts, East Java. This national park was once known as the habitat of Javan tigers which are now considered extinct in the wild.

Although as a nature preservation area, unfortunately logging still occurs in Merubetiri National Park. Even in August 2019 the officers shot to dead a culprit of an illegal logging. Known as Aris, the culprit did the illegal logging in the forest of Krajan Sub-Village, Andongrejo Village, Tempurejo Sub-District, under the territory of the national park area.

According to the TNMB, as reported to a number of media, there were at least 2,700 hectares of damaged land due to the illegal logging practices throughout the national park.

The shooting of the alleged logger in the Merubetiri National Park (TNMB), did not stop the ongoing logging in the nature preservation area. Instead, loggers seemed to pay revenge by chopping down trees in TNMB, especially in Bandalit, Jember Regency.



The PROFAUNA Indonesia investigation carried out in October 2019 revealed the fact that the illegal logging was even more severe and blatant. Every night, there were about 3 trucks transporting the illegal logs.

PROFAUNA carried out a campaign to urge the law enforcement by the authorities to fully investigate the illegal logging cases in TNBM, including to reveal the investors, middle-men, backing and collectors in the black markets. According to Law No. 18 of 2013 concerning the Prevention and Limitation of Forest Destruction, Law number 5 of 1990 concerning Conservation of Living Natural Resources and Ecosystems and Law No. 41 of 1999 concerning

Forestry, activities of forest destruction or logging are illegal and threaten the preservation of forest ecosystems.

### **The Illegal Logging Case of the Protected Forest in Southern Malang**

Most of the protected forests in southern Malang, East Java are threatened by the illegal logging and agricultural land conversion. One of the remaining protected forests in southern Malang is the Apusan protected forest, managed by the state-owned Forestry Company (locally abbreviated as Perhutani). Unfortunately, the protected forest located in Tambakrejo Village, Sumbermanjing Wetan Sub-District, Malang Regency was also looted for its timber. The Apusan Forest damage was estimated at around 200 hectares.



The Apusan protected forest in 68B plotting with a total estimated area of 566.20 hectares is a lowland heterogeneous forest which is the habitat for various wildlife species, including the threatened species: the oriental pied hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) and the Javan langurs (*Trachypithecus auratus*). These two species are threatened by the deforestation in the Apusan Forest.

PROFAUNA's monitoring in February 2019 found two groups of Javan langurs and the oriental pied hornbill in the Apusan forest. One group of the langurs consist of 7 to 10 individuals. According to the locals of Tambakrejo Village, close to the Apusan forest, that when the forest was still in good condition in the past, they can see dozens of the hornbills.

Even though the forest is small in size, PROFAUNA thinks that the Apusan forest is important because it is one of the remaining forests in southern Malang. PROFAUNA is intensively conducting campaigns and advocacy to save the Apusan forest and other protected forests in southern Malang.



PROFAUNA campaign succeeded in engaging the Law Enforcement Center (locally known *Gakkum*) team of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to Apusan Forest to carry out law enforcement. Throughout 2019, the *Gakkum* team made 3 patrols in August, September and November. Unfortunately, the *Gakkum* team did not succeed in capturing the illegal loggers in the protected forest of Apusan, because during the patrol they never encounter any logging activities.

Although they did not succeed in capturing the illegal loggers in the Apusan forest, the patrols themselves brought positive impacts since the illegal logging declined.

Apart from advocacy of the illegal logging case in the protected forest in southern Malang, PROFAUNA is also actively conducting education to the local communities and conducting forest patrols. In 2019, PROFAUNA Rangers patrolled the forest for 12 times.



## PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

In 2019, PROFAUNA Indonesia still actively carried out educational activities and public awareness about forest and wildlife conservation. One form of the education activities was school and university visits.



PROFAUNA conducted 19 educational activities in different areas, including East Java, West Java, South Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi and East Kalimantan. In addition to school and university visits, PROFAUNA also educated the rural communities living by the forests in Malang, East Java. PROFAUNA also educated the village community there for 10 times.

Other public awareness done by PROFAUNA was holding regular talk shows on Metrum Radio Station, in Bandung. There were 20 talk shows talking about wildlife conservation, forest conservation and animal welfare topics.



very happy to receive the calendars with forest conservation theme.

Meanwhile, to increase public awareness on the lowland forest conservation, PROFAUNA also distributed the 2019 calendar to the local communities in South Malang. The targets were the forest farmers or villagers who live by the forests.

The calendars were handed out in December 2018 and January 2019 in some villages in the Sub-District of Sumbermanjing Wetan, Donomulyo and Bantur, Malang Regency. The villagers were

# THANK YOU

PROFAUNA Indonesia would like to thank PROFAUNA activists, supporters, donators and partners who have supported the success of PROFAUNA's activities in 2019.



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