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ACTION INDONESIA Newsletter

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From The Editor:

We are at a critical junction in time. Species and habitats are disappearing at alarming rates and the challenges to wildlife conservation are seemingly unsurmountable. Luckily, there is still time and there is still hope.

Welcome to the first issue of the ACTION INDONESIA: Anoa, Banteng, and Babirusa Global Species Management Plan Newsletter. In this issue, we discuss the ways in which dedicated biologists, zoological professionals, wildlife organizations, species experts, non-governmental organizations, and government officials from around the world are working together to develop contemporary and creative ways to save endangered Indonesian wildlife — specifically three ungulate taxa: Anoa, Banteng, and Babirusa. These dedicated professionals are pioneering innovative ways to establish viable populations of animals and develop practical habitat protections.

Conservationists call this method the One Plan approach. This collaborative effort will bring together the skills of top zoos – conservation breeding, animal husbandry, veterinary treatment, education, population biology — with those of local experts, conservationists and sanctuaries on the ground. International zoos and local experts will share knowledge to work in a more effective way. This initiative is truly international and inspirational.

Action Indonesia Partner Organizations



Ministry of Environment and Forestry (Republic of Indonesia)



World Association of Zoos and Aquariums | **WAZA**
United for Conservation®



**ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS**

“This is the first global collaboration involving zoos for the conservation of banteng, anoa and babirusa. While zoos cannot provide solutions for all conservation problems, they are one important piece in the puzzle. It will not be an easy task, but if we all work together, we have much better chances to save these species.”

**James Burton,
IUCN SSC**

Anoa

There are two recognized species of Anoa: Lowland Anoa (*Bubalus depressicornis*) and the Mountain Anoa (*Bubalus quarlesi*).

Anoa are dwarf buffalo that are related to the Asian Water Buffalo and the Tamaraw. Anoa are light brown to black in color and range in shoulder height from 70-90cm. They can weigh 150-300kg.

Anoa are endangered across their range and some local populations are dangerously close to extinction.

They are endemic to the Indonesian islands of Sulawesi and Buton. These are



B. Huffman / Ultimate Ungulate

forest-dwelling animals that live solitarily and are territorial. Generally, one calf is born at a time.

The greatest threats to the wild population include hunting/poaching and habitat loss as land is converted from forest to agricultural use.

Life expectancy for Anoa in captivity ranges 20-30 years and is less in the wild.

Banteng

The Banteng (*Bos javanicus*) was once common throughout much of Asia in both mainland and island countries. But the Banteng has a problem — it readily hybridizes with domestic cattle and the wild genes become swamped and diluted. The resulting offspring belong to a group of animals called the Bali cattle. Used for both meat and milk production, the Bali cattle are highly valued, probably more so than their wild progenitors.

Wild Banteng are becoming scarce and remnant populations are restricted to the Indonesian islands of Bali, Kalimantan, and Java. The wild form of Banteng is impressive in size reaching a shoulder height of 120-190cm and weighing between

400-900Kg.

This species is dimorphic with males being a dark brown to blue-black and females and young being light tan to golden chestnut. Males are markedly larger than females.



Wildlife Conservation Society

Banteng are herd animals with adult bulls having a harem of females while immature bulls will stay solitary or form a temporary bachelor groups. One to two calves are born at a time.



B. Huffman / Ultimate Ungulate

Babirusa

With bizarre tusks (modified teeth) that curl back toward the skull, the Babirusa (*Babirusa sp.*) is the kind of animal that inspires myths and legends. These unique animals are actually members of the pig family.

Medium-sized, they have shoulder heights between 65-80cm and weights ranging

between 80-100Kg. Only males have the signature tusks.

There are three recognized species of Babirusa. The species are distinguished by geographic separation, pelage coloration, and tusk characteristics. All species are endemic to Indonesia and are threatened on the IUCN Red list.

Babirusa do well in forests but prefer habitats near lakes and shores. They are excellent

runners and swimmers. Females can bear 1-2 young twice a year.

Although a protected animal in Indonesia, these animals still suffer from excessive hunting and habitat loss due to logging.

History: Starting a Multispecies Global Conservation Initiative



Delegates at the 2014 Joint TAG Chair Meetings in Alphen, Netherlands

It started with an idea. What if there was a way to save three unique taxa at the same time? What if an international collaborative initiative was created that addressed *ex situ* insurance populations and *in situ* conservation at the same time? What if the plan could positively impact change toward the preservation of Anoa, Banteng and Babirusa on an unprecedented global scale? These thoughts and ideas were identified at the first Joint TAG chairs meeting, in Alphen, Netherlands in May 2014. At this meeting representatives of the Indonesian, European, and American zoo associations met and agreed that change on a global scale was needed.

The Conservation Challenge:

As one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry has identified 14 national top priority taxa that are threatened with extinction. Three of these are Anoa

(*Bubalus spp.* - dwarf buffalos), Babirusa (*Babirusa spp.* - wild pig), and the Banteng (*Bos javanicus* - a wild cattle species). These taxa are not only important as flagship species for their respective island habitats, but they play a vital role in their environments by helping to maintain habitat diversity through browsing and grazing. They also represent a major reservoir of genetic material that could help scientists safeguard and improve domestic breeds throughout the world. This is best represented by the Banteng, which has a domesticated form – the Bali cattle - that is now widely used for meat and milk production across Indonesia and other south-east Asian countries. Therefore, the rapid decline of these taxa combined with their many important attributes means there is a strong and clear rationale to act to protect them and their habitats. Fortunately, the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry has

been working to protect these species, and recently published and began the first steps in implementing National Conservation Action Plans for the three taxa. As a result, there is a great opportunity to turn the tide of declining populations for these three taxa in Indonesia, by making use of their presence in zoos and wildlife institutions.

The Ex Situ Challenge:

Examination of *ex situ* regional populations of these three taxa showed that no single regional population was viable in the long term, and that there was insufficient space for this to be possible in the future. The addition of new founder animals to the *ex situ* populations and the interchange of existing specimens among the various regions is vital to halt the current downward trend.

The three regions investigated the possibility of working together to develop an internationally managed population. Initial steps included discussions with the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry and the inclusion of IUCN Species Survival Commission. This growing set of partners then agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding that outlined why and how the six partners wished to work together.

“What if an international collaborative initiative was created that addressed *ex situ* insurance populations and *in situ* conservation at the same time?”

Memorandum of Understanding

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between supporting organizations was initiated and originally signed in Jakarta, Indonesia on October 2, 2014. The partner organizations for ACTION INDONESIA include Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KKH), World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA), Indonesia Zoos and Aquariums Association (PBSKI), European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA), Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), and the IUCN Species Survival Commission. The MOU was translated into both English and Indonesian and signed by all six partner organizations. It was finalized in May 2015.



Pictured: Tony Sumampau (PKBSKI), James Burton (IUCN), Novianto Bambang (KKH), Bambang Dahono Adji (KKH), and Rahmat Shah (PKBSI)

Momentum continues...

Throughout 2015, momentum for the Action Indonesia initiative advanced and development of the programs began: program leaders were identified, strong teams for oversight were built, and the official Anoa, Banteng, and Babirusa Global Species Management Plan (GSMP) applications through the World Association of Zoo and Aquariums (WAZA) were created. In addition, business plans and financial forecast models were developed, and fundraising was initiated. Toward the end of 2015, the 2016 GSMP workshop agendas and logistics were put together for the Action Indonesia meetings.

As an unexpected bonus to the program, the Chester Zoo and IUCN partnered to add a part-time coordinator for the IUCN SSC Asian Wild Cattle Specialist Group, bringing on Johanna Rode-Margono to act as a coordinator for collaborative activities. Her first challenge: helping to coordinate and develop the Action Indonesia programs.

“We are confident that our national conservation action plans in combination with the efforts of the global zoo community can help to save threatened species in Indonesia”
Puja Utama,
representative of the Indonesian Government

A collaborative first for species conservation in Indonesia

In January 2016, the first truly international and interagency collaborative planning workshops were held in Indonesia. Representatives from zoo associations in South-East Asia, Europe and North America along with IUCN representatives, species specialists and representatives of the Indonesian government spent six days developing strategies and action plans for each species. Action items from the workshops include finding ways collaborating organizations and individuals can work

together to improve the world zoo population so it can be a self sustaining backup and insurance population to the wild population, developing in country support for rescued anoa and rescue/rehabilitation centers, awareness raising/conservation education in country and abroad, and identifying conservation projects *in situ* especially in Sulawesi and eastern Java.



Delegates to the first GSMP planning workshops

It's official!

On 16 March 2016 the World Association of Zoos and Aquariums voted and approved the formalization of the three Global Species Management Plans (GSMP). Under the WAZA umbrella, these plans will be monitored and overseen by the partner organizations with each region managing multiple leadership roles. Current top appointees: Anoa (*Bubalus depressicornis* and *Bubalus quarlesi*) convened by Terry Hornsey from Africa Alive! (UK); Banteng (*Bos javanicus*) convened by Ivan Chandra from Taman Safari (Indonesia); and Babirusa (*Babyrousa* sp.) convened by Jeff Holland from Los Angeles Zoo (USA).

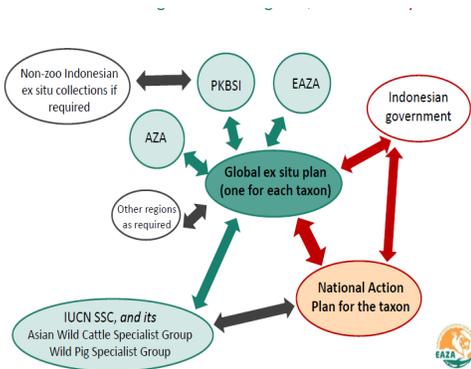
2016 Joint TAG Chair Conference

With the three GSMPs approved by WAZA in early March, the work then continued at the 2016 Joint TAG Chair and AZA mid-year conferences held 17-24 March in Omaha, Nebraska. Delegates from all six partner organizations met and continued to focus on strategies and actions to further these joint programs. The AZA mid-year conference offered opportunities to reach a broader audience to garner support for the Action Indonesia initiatives.



Some of the delegates attending and leading meetings held in Omaha 2016

GSMP Committee Activities



Framework for Action Indonesia

The Anoa, Banteng, and Babirusa GSMP committees each successfully held their first conference calls in April 2016 (in each case, people joined from 5 different time zones), and a second set of conference calls will take place in late summer 2016. These are a productive way for members to update the committees on the work they are completing, and track progress against each plans' action lists. The zoological population biologists and studbook keepers for each

species have also had calls to update the *ex situ* datasets and fill any gaps. This work is now nearly complete and they will be providing breeding recommendations for the Indonesian captive populations in the coming months.

The *in situ* experts on the committees are currently identifying short-term field projects to apply for small grants to benefit the GSMP species: Banteng, Anoa, and Babirusa. An evaluation form to help select the best projects/applications is also under development.

“All these taxa are threatened with extinction. However, there is a great opportunity to turn the tide of declining populations for these species in this country, by making use of their presence in zoos and wildlife institutions.”

James Burton

IUCN SSC

July Activities

A group of delegates will be visiting a variety of Indonesian zoos from 25-28th July 2016 to help plan husbandry training in October. This is kindly being arranged by the Indonesian Zoo Association (PKBSI), led by Tony Sumampau and his team. The group will include: Tony Sumampau, Yohana Tri Hastuti (Indonesia Anoa studbook keeper), Ivan Chandra (International Banteng studbook keeper), Thomas Kauffels (Opel Zoo), Jeff Holland (Babirusa

GSMP Convener), Steve Metzler (Banteng GSMP Co-convener), Tim Rowlands (Chester Zoo), Johanna Rode-Morgano (IUCN) and James Burton (IUCN). Thomas Kauffels and James Burton will give a presentation to the Indonesian Zoo Directors at their annual meeting on 26th July to promote the benefits of collaborative breeding programs and share more information about the GSMPs. Visits to

potential field project sites that hold priority populations on Banteng, Anoa and Babirusa in east Java and Sulawesi will happen before and after the zoo visits. We are linking with the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry to arrange these visits. This will allow us to have first discussions with potential partners and see possible sites; it will be followed by further visits in October and early 2017.

Additional Upcoming Events

Action Indonesia will give updates at several meetings during the EAZA conference (21-24 Sept 2016) in Belfast, Ireland:

- 22 Sept. 2016 EAZA Tapir and Suiform TAG, 8:30am
- 24 Sept. 2016 EAZA Cattle and Camelid TAG, 8:30am

We will also hold an Action

Indonesia meeting 8.30am Thursday 22 Sept. 2016, which everyone is invited to attend. This meeting will educate and update those not currently involved, explain GSMP plans for 2017, and ensure that we are making progress to acquire the resources to implement the GSMP Business Plan in 2017.

October 3-7, 2016—Delegates will be hosting a skills sharing and training event at the end of annual Indonesian Zoo Association conference. Topics will include animal husbandry, awareness raising/conservation education, and population management. This event will be the first major skills sharing event run by the GSMP Committees. Further details will be available in August.

Business Planning and Fundraising:

Action Indonesia partners are close to completing a GSMP Business Plan for 2017-2020. The plan will be shared with a greater audience once complete, and your help will be needed to identify the expertise and funds required to implement the GSMPs and related conservation actions!



GSMP Workshops January 2016, Taman Safari Cisarua, Indonesia



Meetings and updates at the 2016 AZA Mid-year meetings Omaha, Nebraska, USA

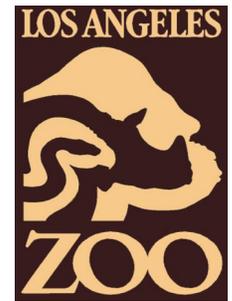
Animal News



Captive-bred male anoa from wild-born parents was born on 24 March 2016 at Taman Safari Indonesia, Bogor. This is the first animal born under the new Anoa GSMP umbrella.



Special thanks to these supporting organizations!

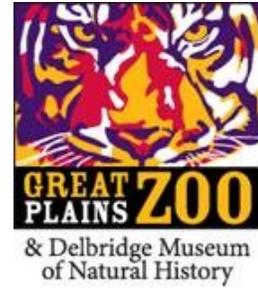


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Please send any comments to us! GSMPnewsletter@outlook.com