

NEWSLETTER #2

March 2020



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Cover: *Draco volans* ©Nathan Rusli

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Introduction

Starting off from the establishment of the Ciliwung Herpetarium in 2015, the Indonesia Herpetofauna Foundation was founded in September 2018, due to an urgent need for the conservation of amphibians and reptiles in Indonesia. Due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic, many of our projects have been put on hold. For the foreseeable future, we have no income streams apart from donations, so any support would be much appreciated.

Ciliwung Herpetarium

Quarantine Facility

At the end of February, we were told that the facility we were renting to use as our quarantine unit was no longer up for rent. As a result, we had to move everything by early March. Thanks to all the support, we have now managed to move to a different unit. However, we are still in need of funding for necessary refurbishments (e.g. fixing the well, replacing the roof, painting the walls), and new enclosures for the animals. The quarantine unit is very important for us, as a temporary holding facility for rescued animals, as well as a space to keep animals which cannot be released to the wild for various reasons.

If you would like to donate, please visit:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/r33ba-urgent-appeal>



As of now, our animal technicians are still taking care of the animals, with stricter protocols and conducting servicing less often.

Rescue and Release

In March, we have successfully relocated a total of 3 snakes from conflict with humans. These were a reticulated pythons and two spitting cobras. A reticulated python named Corona was rescued in February. The snake arrived with multiple deep machete wounds, and a broken bone. Her condition gradually improved, but suddenly deteriorated, to the point that she was in a lot of pain. Because of this, our animal management team, which includes a vet, made the difficult decision to euthanase her.



(above) Images from the initial rescue and surgery
(below) Cremation process of the deceased body



Education

Quarantine Facility

Together with Fabianus Bayu, one of our volunteers who is a graphic designer/illustrator, we have created a card game about the Ciliwung River ecosystem, which will be used as an educational resource to raise awareness and knowledge about conservation.

The file can be downloaded for free at:

<https://www.herpetofaunaindonesia.org/eat-and-run-card-game>



Meet the Team

This month we would like to feature Fabianus Bayu, one of our volunteers who is a skilled illustrator and graphic designer. His work on science communication has helped to raise awareness about conservation in Indonesia, and can be seen on his instagram account “**Shirohyde**”. This is his story..

Fabianus Bayu, Illustrator

When I was a young boy, I watched many wildlife documentaries, and that inspired me to become a wildlife vet. During my school years, biology was my favourite subject - especially taxonomy. I found the natural world and wildlife incredibly fascinating. However, I failed my National high school exams, and therefore could not get into a government university to study biology. Because of that, I made a decision to study visual communication and design at a private university.

Despite not doing a biological degree, I always used the theme of wildlife whenever creating any projects for university. My final project was to design the graphic elements of a mobile game about the Tanjung Puting National Park food web. Over the years, I started creating more and more online content to raise awareness for conservation and educate people on wildlife.

As my online presence grew, I got to know many conservationists through the internet. One of the people I met was Nesha Ichida, a marine biologist who focuses on shark and ray conservation in Indonesia. Combining her knowledge of marine life with my understanding of graphic design, I was able to create several infographics and games about marine conservation. I think that science can be communicated in a way that is fun and easy to understand, therefore spreading information that everyone (not only biologists!) can understand.



COMIC STRIP BY SHIROHYDE

(above) Examining a rescued python before putting it in a quarantine enclosure

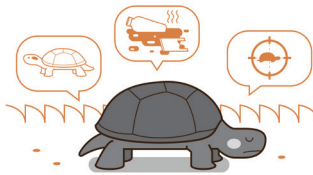
Through Nesha, I got in touch with Nathan Rusli, a herpetologist who ran the Ciliwung Herpetarium in Bogor. In 2017, he asked me to help design a comic strip for the turtle exhibit at the herpetarium, which is an educational facility that is free to the public. I made a comic strip about the black marsh turtle, a native species which is particularly threatened by invasive species such as the red eared slider. These sliders are a popular pet in Indonesia, and many people release them in the wild where they do not belong, therefore causing problems for native species. This comic strip aims to inform the public on this issue, and educate them to be a responsible pet keeper.

This is when I started volunteering at Ciliwung, to help create educational material whenever necessary. So far, I have made many infographics for social media content, as well as a Ciliwung River card game to educate people on urban wildlife conservation, through a fun and engaging manner. My time at Ciliwung has been interesting so far. I remember the first time I visited the herpetarium, that night they immediately took me herping, to see some reptiles and amphibians in the wild. This was a new experience for me and I thought it was very exciting.



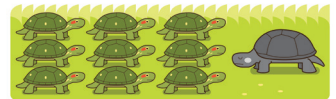
Kura-kura Pipi Putih (*Siebenrockiella crassirostris*) hanya dapat bertelur dua butir dalam satu kali, dan jenis ini hanya bertelur sekali dalam setahun.

The Black Marsh Turtle (*Siebenrockiella crassirostris*) can only lay two eggs at a time, and only lays once a year.



Maka dari itu, jenis ini terancam keberadaannya terhadap berbagai permasalahan, yaitu jenis-jenis invasi, kerusakan habitat dan perburuan liar.

Therefore, this species faces various threats, such as invasive species, habitat destruction, and illegal poaching.



Salah satu jenis invasi adalah Kura Brazil (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) dari Amerika, yang merupakan hewan peliharaan yang umum dijual. Kemudian terlepas atau ditinggalkan oleh pemilik yang tidak bertanggung jawab. Kura-kura ini merupakan jenis yang bereproduksi secara pesat, sehingga menjadi pesaing bagi Kura-kura Pipi Putih. Mohon untuk tidak melepaskan jenis import kedalam ekosistem kita.

One of the invasive species is the Red-Eared Slider (*Trachemys scripta elegans*) from America, which is commonly sold in the pet trade, and have escaped or been released by irresponsible owners. This species is very hardy and reproduces rapidly, becoming competition for the Black Marsh Turtle. Please do not release non-native species into our ecosystem.

I am passionate about wildlife and conservation, so I do not monetize the work that I create about these subjects. It is purely to educate people and raise awareness about conservation in Indonesia. Therefore, I must still work an office job in order to generate a stable income. I really enjoy doing what I do, as I feel that the simple dissemination of information allows people to learn and have fun at the same time! The more people are aware about conservation issues, the more that they will care and do something about it - which is extremely important, especially in this day and age.

I'm very grateful to have met some incredible people working in conservation, who have often helped me to create content, as I help them to get their message across to the public. I like to see it as a symbiotic relationship. It is my hope that the content that I create online can be used for free by anyone who wants to spread awareness for conservation. For the card game especially, I hope that conservationists and educators all over the country can use these to provide a more varied educational process. Personally, I have learned so much from games, and I want others to have a similar experience. One thing I have learned is that we depend on nature for our very existence, and the destruction of nature will ultimately affect humanity - and through these online educational content, I hope many others will understand this as well.

IHF Newsletter #2

We would like to thank all partners and supporters who have helped us in efforts to conserve the amphibians and reptiles of Indonesia:



Save The Snakes
savethesnakes.org



WILDSTUFF.

Individual Donors and Supporters:

Abby Pina, Alex Harcourt, Catharine Dixon, Chloe Allen, Chris Hallam, Deb Hartley, Finn Holmes-Kellett, Leon Yates, Liam Collins, Mary Pinborough, Oliver Rasmussen-Frost, Tom Wells, Wolfgang Wuster, and those who wish to remain anonymous.