

INDONESIA  
HERPETOFAUNA  
FOUNDATION

# Newsletter #8

October - December 2021



Broad-Banded Temple Viper (*Tropidolaemus laticinctus*) ©Nathan Rusli

## Post-Closure of Ciliwung Herpetarium

Our supporters who have been following the closure of the herpetarium will know that the animals were either released, or moved into a private collection. This closure has been a difficult decision, but it was the right thing to do. We would like to update on the condition of the herpetarium's former residents, who have now settled into their new homes, which will be illustrated in the following pictures...



Atul (vine snake) and Ablo (green pit viper) making use of the space in their new enclosure, which is much larger than at the herpetarium.

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The new enclosure for vine snake and green pit viper.



Glass vivarium housing Bule, our former spitting cobra, who has been at the herpetarium since 2015.



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Vivarium for kukri snakes.



Mocha, our former eight-lined kukri snake, utilising ledges in her new enclosure.



King cobra about to slough her skin, hence why the scales and eye are a bluish hue. She seems much calmer in her new cage, and rarely ever hoods up. This is a good sign, as the cobra's hood is a defensive posture that they use when threatened.



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New king cobra enclosure. We took apart the metal frame from the enclosure at the herpetarium, and re-installed it. The trap box and shift cage allows for safe and stress-free management of the animal.



New enclosure for Kumang and Tablo, our former black marsh turtles. This enclosure is much bigger than their display cage at the herpetarium, and has natural sunlight. It has a land area, as well as a filtered pool with depth gradients.



Reticulated pythons Jo and Oemar (right back corner) resting in their new enclosure. This cage is certainly bigger than their quarters at the herpetarium, and it has natural sunlight, as well as a pool and various branches/ledges to climb.

## Trilaksono's Bush Frog

Since end of 2020, we have started planning a project to conserve the Trilaksono's bush frog, an endangered amphibian endemic to Western Java. The first step would be to collect baseline data regarding the distribution and ecology of this species, along with the threats it faces. This will enable us to create a well-informed conservation action plan for the frog.

To date, we have received funding from Auckland Zoo and ASA (Amphibian Survival Alliance) to conduct extensive surveys for this study. This study is a collaborative effort, working together with various partners. Our main partners for this project are Dr. Graeme Gillespie (Australian Herpetologist), Awal Riyanto (BRIN; formerly LIPI/ Indonesian Institute of Sciences), Auzan Sukaton & team (UKF-IPB University), and Rahayu Oktaviani (Yayasan KIARA).



Ground check on one of the sites in West Java.



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The first phase of this study is to determine sites for future surveying, in order to have a good number of sites representing five different habitat and water body types. Apart from ensuring good representation of the area and various water body/habitat types, our team also conducted a ground check to determine the feasibility of conducting frog surveys in the area. 150 candidate sites were selected at random, to encompass a wide variety of habitats, and were spread out evenly throughout Western Java.

In October 2021, our team set out to conduct preliminary surveys in order to determine the most suitable sites. To reduce bias, we surveyed during the day, and did not look for frogs, to focus only on technical feasibility and habitat/water body type representation. The surveys ended in November, and we are currently in the process of narrowing down 100 sites for the surveys, which will commence in January 2022. During the period of December 2021 - January 2022, we will also finalise the data sheets, conduct training for the field team, and coordinate technical aspects of phases 2 and 3.



While surveying throughout western Java, our team faced many challenges, such as broken motorcycle, difficulty finding a place to sleep (pictured above), escaping robbers with machetes, and trekking through rugged terrain.



An endangered Trilaksono's bush frog (*Chirixalus trilaksono*) resting on a leaf.



Our field team trekking through one of the sites with thick vegetation.



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We will survey sites comprising different habitat types, including human-modified landscapes such as agricultural areas.



A male Trilaksono's bush frog observed calling.

## River Engage 2022

A collaborative event between researchers from Indonesia, USA, and Uganda, River Engage is an effort to engage the public, attempting to raise awareness about river conservation and its significance towards amphibians and reptiles. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of doing this through a scientific approach. For the Indonesian part, this project is led by IHF secretary Puspita Insan Kamil, and will commence in April 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. We hope that this can increase capacity of those concerned about river conservation, and inspire more citizen scientists throughout the world. River Engage 2022 is fully funded by National Geographic Society. To date, we have started technical planning and preparation of training materials.

## The Team



**Puspita Insan Kamil**  
Project & Water Debris  
Survey Lead



**Nathan Rusli**  
Herpetofauna Survey  
Lead & Project Assistant



**Muhammad Azmi**  
GIS Analyst



**Luh De Dwi Jayanthi**  
Liaison & Post-test  
Assistant

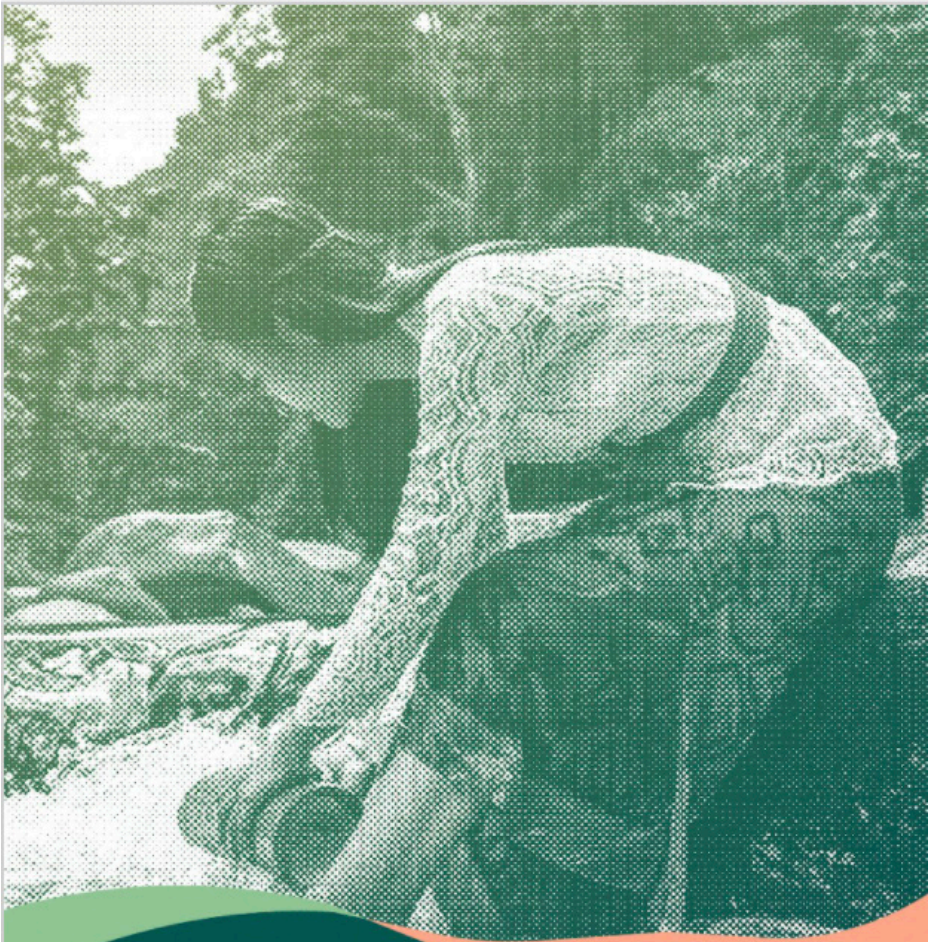


**Katharine Owens**  
University of Hartford  
USA Collaborator



**Hannington Ochieng**  
Busitema University  
Uganda Collaborator





**River  
Engage**  
2022

**2-3 APRIL 2022  
THE HUB BALI**

## **Cikananga Wildlife Centre**

Since 16th December 2021, IHF field technician Angga Risdiana has been helping out our friends at Cikananga Wildlife Centre, a rescue facility housing over 500 animals confiscated from the illegal wildlife trade. To date, he has conducted important maintenance to the ponds of various animals, such as otters, binturong, and various bird species. He has also fixed the walls of various enclosures due to landslides, and is currently in the process of constructing an enclosure for Asian forest tortoises, as their current enclosure is falling apart. Aside from this, he is also helping with various aspects of day-to-day animal care at the centre. Angga will be at Cikananga until mid-January 2022, and will be involved also with improvements of reptile facilities here (described on the following page) when we begin construction early next year.



Angga repairing some enclosures at Cikananga Conservation Breeding Centre.



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We recently received CSR support from PT. Garis Ring Sakti, an industrial equipment company, to conduct improvements of the reptile facilities at Cikananga, as well as provide capacity building training for Cikananga staff in regards to captive reptile management. Recently, IHF director Nathan Rusli, along with landscape architect Miftahul Rizki, conducted a visit to Cikananga, to discuss with the Cikananga team about the design and function of the new reptile facilities. Some preliminary drawings have been prepared, and we are now in the phase of technical planning.



Preliminary meetings to discuss design of the new enclosures.



Architect Miftahul Rizki drawing the designs of the new reptile facilities for Cikananga.



Medical procedures for a python at the Cikananga Wildlife Rescue Centre.

## Captive Breeding

Starting 2022, we will be involved in two captive breeding projects of herpetofauna, involving critically endangered species of Indonesian amphibian and reptile. Both these projects have been planned since 2021, and are supported by the Asian Species Action Partnership (ASAP).

The first project involves the captive breeding of *Lepidophryne* species, with the main focus species being the critically endangered bleeding toad, *Leptophryne cruentata*. Our collaborators for this project are IPB University and Chester Zoo. The second project involves a reptile, more specifically the Malayan giant river turtle, *Orlitia borneensis*. For this project, we will partner with Jogja Wildlife Rescue Centre, KONKLUSI, and Gembira Loka Zoo. In both these projects, IHF will be responsible for the husbandry aspects.



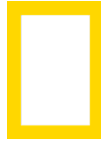
Malayan Giant River Turtle (*Orlitia borneensis*).



Bleeding Toad (*Leptophryne cruentata*).



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