



Brief History

The construction of Tasikoki Wildlife Rescue Centre started in 2001 and was one of the 15 wildlife rescue centres and wildlife transfer stations that had to be built by “Yayasan Gibbon Indonesia” to care for the ever increasing inflow of confiscated illegally kept and traded wildlife within Indonesia. The Tasikoki centre however had a second and probably even more important objective; the cross-border trade from Indonesia towards the Philippines and onwards to China, Taiwan and Japan was out of control. Sulawesi being the closest Indonesian island to the Philippines was being used as a consolidation point for illegal shipments of wildlife and wildlife products from Java, Sumatra, Borneo and the islands in the Eastern part of the Indonesian archipelago, especially Papua. Orangutans, Malayan sun bears, Gibbons, Tarsiers, Lorises, and Pangolins were some of the most endangered mammals smuggled out of the country; however Cockatoos, Hornbills, birds of paradise as well as turtles and other reptiles were shipped out in even bigger quantities. The Tasikoki wildlife rescue centre was supposed to be a material tool in the stopping of this trade, without a sustainable rescue facility the authorities would not be able to enforce, raid and confiscate live animals as there were no other options. In addition there is a thriving bush meat trade in North Sulawesi that brings in bush meat of protected species such as the Sulawesi Macaques, the Anoa dwarf buffalo and the very rare Babirusa, from all over the island of Sulawesi. Tasikoki was involved in many raids on such bushmeat transports. In addition the former head-hunter tribes of the North Sulawesi highlands use primate and hornbill skulls to decorate their red and fierce costumes, again necessitating the hunting of the little remaining wildlife in this densely populated province with little forest habitat left undisturbed. Sulawesi is one of the islands with a huge degree of endemic species, making it an important centre that helps contribute to stopping the illegal wildlife trade.

In 2006, under the pressure of corrupt local government (and even NGO) partners originally tasked to run and finance the rescue centres, the charity that had founded this and other projects went bankrupt trying to take care of all the animals. Many of the rescue centres ended up closing down and many animals suffered inadequate care as a result. Tasikoki is one of the rescue centres that was still hanging on, but needed better management and a financial sustainability plan to rescue it from closure.

In mid 2009, Wildlife Friends Foundation Thailand (WFFT) stepped in to help by sending volunteers and management to assist in putting the rescue centre back on its feet and getting it running again. The standards of animal welfare were to be improved, the volunteers were to help financially support the operation and the management was put in place to make sure that every cent of supporter's and volunteer's money went towards the benefit of the animals. 240 animals were in care at Tasikoki at that time. With a volunteer scheme successfully established, WFFT stepped back at the beginning of 2010 to focus on further projects in Thailand. At this time, Orangutan Outreach (www.redapes.org), that had already began sponsorship of the orangutans at Tasikoki, joined to support promoting the rescue centre along with Tasikoki's sister centre in Yogyakarta as places where supporters can volunteer with orangutans and other wildlife.

2010 is set to be a new challenge for Tasikoki, with previously delayed primate release programmes resumed and the aim to become fully self-sustainable through the volunteer scheme before the end of the year.

Species

There are many endangered species at the centre, including many rare birds, primates and other wildlife. Among the mammals undergoing care at the centre are Orangutans, gibbons, macaques and one of the most critically endangered leopards in the world, the Javan leopard along with sun bears, rusa deer and the fascinating babirusa. Over 40 macaques are in residence at Tasikoki. Five of the seven endemic species, including the Crested Black Macaque, (*Macaca nigra*), can be found and are currently undergoing rehabilitation to form natural groups as they would in the wild. There are many birds which include the prehistoric Cassowary, extremely rare Pesquet's Parrot along with an assortment of exotic pigeons, birds of prey, cockatoos and several species of parrot. There are also an assortment of reptiles which include various species of turtle and crocodiles. A rehabilitation and release programme for native species is also under operation.





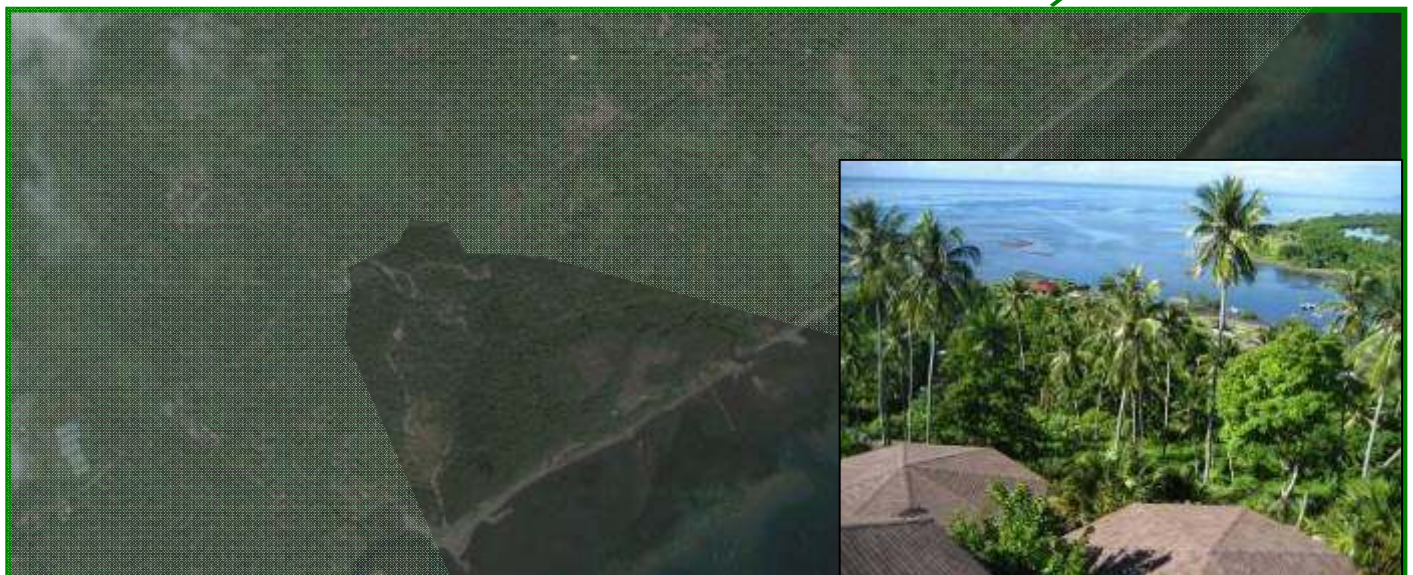
Tasikoki Volunteer Programme

Feb-10

Location

Tasikoki wildlife rescue centre is situated in a beautiful mangrove forest on the coast in Northern Sulawesi. The accommodation for the volunteers is situated just 200m from the rescue centre's own black sand beach where a coral reef lies under the ocean. In the distance, the source of the exotic black sand can be seen by way of several of the island's active volcanoes. Tasikoki is set amongst a tropical paradise with many native species still able to be seen in the wild.

The capital city of North Sulawesi, Manado, where the airport is situated is 50km from the rescue centre and there are many western style shopping malls, restaurants and bars. 15 km away from the rescue centre is the large port town of Bitung.





Accommodation & Food

Volunteers stay in male/female dorms with 4 to 5 beds per room. The rooms all have an ensuite bathroom (shower and western style toilet), air-conditioning and the bed linen is provided with each bed, which can be washed at the on-site laundry, where the volunteers can also wash their own clothes. There is a communal volunteer house, with a kitchen, dining area and recreational area with TV.



All food & drink supplies will be provided for by the project, bought on a bi-weekly shopping trip with a strict budget. There is a cook on site who prepares Indonesian style meals for breakfast lunch and dinner but volunteers can also prepare their own meals and snacks. On Sundays the cook takes a well earned day off so volunteers prepare their own food, usually western style. For animal welfare ethical reasons (as well as budget reasons), the project intends to only buy vegetarian food. But there will be regular fish dishes from sustainable local harvest for those that want it. If volunteers would like to buy any extra food for themselves, this can be done on the bi-weekly shopping trip.

Volunteer Duties

Volunteers not only bring in essential financial support to run the operation, but the volunteers are essential for improving and maintaining the animal welfare standards of the local staff.



Volunteers will spend a significant amount of time providing fresh drinking water to the animals, cleaning their enclosures and carrying out enrichments for all of the animals. This includes a variety of ancillary jobs, such as cleaning food bowls, equipment and food preparation areas. Full training is given, so no specific qualifications or experience are required. Depending upon the number of volunteers and ongoing activities at the time, there will also be work in connection with building/upgrading enclosures, usually involving a lot of digging and painting.

The types and variety of duties will depend largely on the duration of stay of each volunteer and number and skills of volunteers participating. Some of the work is also seasonal and dependent upon available resources on-site at the time. Your participation is vital and will be the main reason this Wildlife Rescue Centre in Sulawesi can continue to operate.





Volunteer requirements

No animal-related qualifications or experience are necessary, although we welcome anyone from relevant fields. Full training and guidance will be given. Volunteers should be compassionate about animal welfare and nature conservation, be old enough to take responsibility for themselves, be fit enough to work in a tropical climate and have up-to-date vaccinations against tetanus, TB, and hepatitis A/B.

Duration

The animals require care all year around and volunteers can participate for a minimum 2 weeks due to the training required. Stays of 2-6 months are also welcome.

How to Apply

Please send an email to volunteer@tasikoki.org with the following details:

- Name, age, nationality
- Dates of availability / desired duration
- Reason for wanting to volunteer with us
- Relevant experience or anything else you think we should know about you
- How you found out about our project

We will endeavour to get back to you as soon as we can, but please be patient as sometimes there are difficulties with internet connection, and the staff are busy also looking after the animals and volunteers on-site.

Upon receipt of your application, the volunteer fee for various durations is will explained to you, which covers the cost of your meals and accommodation, as well as a contribution towards the animals' food and medication. A free taxi pick-up from one of the nearby towns is also included. The cost per week is less, the longer your stay in total. Based upon your intended duration of stay, the exact figure of the volunteer fee will be confirmed to you by email.

Agreement on dates

We have volunteers here all year round, some staying only a few weeks, some staying for several months and we are always glad for the support. However, we only have limited space for volunteers, so we would need to know when you intend to come (and for how long) before accepting your application. As this project is not yet well known, availability is usually guaranteed up to 90 days in advance. In any case, we will confirm availability upon receipt of your preferred start date and duration.

Dates are based upon number of night's accommodation. For example, for a 4 week placement arriving at the rescue centre on a Sunday, you will have 28 nights stay with the first night being a Sunday and the last night being a Saturday. You may leave any time during the day after your last night stay at the centre and you may also work on this day if you wish. Your accommodation space may be planned for another arriving volunteer on the same day that you leave, so please inform us as soon as possible if you intend to stay longer.

Deposit Payment

To confirm your place we require a deposit of the volunteer fee, once we have agreed on the dates. This helps us cover the cost of the volunteer recruitment process. If we do not receive any deposit payment from you, then we may offer those dates to other applicants, making that period no longer available to you. In this case you will be informed by email. The remaining balance of the volunteer fee should then be paid 30 days prior to the start of your placement. Payment methods will be explained to you when you receive the fee quote for your duration.

Confirmation of booking

Upon receipt of your deposit, we will confirm your placement dates to you by email. For payments made by PayPal, confirmation can be made within one or two days. For payments made by bank transfer, this may take up to two weeks. Please inform us by email when you have made a payment, so that we may track this for your booking. We will then also send you an information pack to prepare you for your trip.

More Details

Further information and a volunteer FAQ are available on our website www.tasikoki.org

We are also developing new volunteer programmes to support local nature conservation efforts for the future.