



Erik Meijaard

Chair

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Location/Affiliation

(1) Borneo Futures/Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia

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Number of members

70

Social networks

Website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/wildpigspecialist-group/home>



Mission statement

The SSC Wild Pig Specialist Group (WPSG) has not yet defined a mission statement. Key components of such a statement would be: (1) viable wild pig populations, (2) all wild pig taxa, (3) threat management, (4) conservation breeding, (5) habitat management and (6) resolution of conflicts with people. Most wild pig species are in decline, especially the various species and subspecies in Indonesia and the Philippines. The WPSG uses a combination of strategies to try reduce these population declines. This primarily includes (1) research on taxonomy and distribution (the cornerstone of any conservation management); and (2) management of captive and wild populations to prevent the extinction of the most threatened species.

Main activities by Key Priority Area (2016 & 2017)

Barometer of life

■ Red List

i. All wild pig species were assessed and Red List assessments completed, except for *Sus scrofa*, which is pending. (KSR #1)

■ Research activities

i. Java-wide surveys were conducted in 2017, updating the previous survey conducted by Semiadi and Meijaard in 2003. Javan warty pigs have disappeared from a number of previous locations, and their survival in the wild seems much threatened. Studies continue in an area in West Java, where the species was recently hunted. Research findings will be written up in 2018. (KSR #12)

ii. The genetic collaboration with the University of Oxford to study Javan and Bawean warty pigs continues. (KSR #43)

iii. Taxonomic research of Giant Forest hog and Wild boar ongoing. (KSR #43)

iv. Surveys of Common warthog and Ethiopian warthogs in Kenya were done and articles are being published. (KSR #43)

Communications

■ Research activities

i. Publication *Suiform Soundings*. (KSR #43)

ii. Publication of the first worldwide scale book on wild pigs. (KSR #43)

Conservation action

■ Research activities

i. Two interview-based surveys were conducted on Buru assessing the status of Moluccan Babirusa. (KSR #12)

ii. We have conducted surveys in different protected areas of Uganda to evaluate the status of the Giant Forest hog populations. (KSR #12)

■ Technical advice

i. Babirusa GSMP plans for and coordinates implementation of *ex situ* contributions to the conservation of Babirusa - collaboration with WAZA, PKBSI, EAZA, AZA and Asian Wild Cattle SG (Anoa and Banteng). The first master plan was produced, organisational structures for cooperative *ex situ* programs by Indonesian zoos were established by Ministry and PKBSI, first breeding and transfer recommendations in PKBSI were issued, training on husbandry and education for zoos and Sulawesi *ex situ* centers was conducted, funding for Hairy Babirusa *in situ* surveys was secured and Buru survey conducted, Ministry and PKBSI staff attended EAZA, AZA and WAZA conferences, newsletters produced. (KSR #27)



Babirusa (*Babyrousa babyrussa*), Vulnerable
Photo: Chester Zoo

Team of the Tamaraw Conservation Program and Chester Zoo setting a camera trap to find Oliver's warty pig, as a preparation for a planned project on Oliver's warty pigs
Photo: Scott Wilson



Acknowledgements

We thank Alexandria Zoo, Audubon Zoo, Cologne Zoo, Leipzig Zoo, Los Angeles Zoo, San Antonio Zoological Society, San Diego Zoo, and Saint Louis Zoological Park for supporting the in situ small grants projects for Hairy Babirusa on Buru and Maluku Islands and supporting patrols for the conservation of the babirusa in the Nantu Forest. We thank Antwerp Zoo, Centre for the Conservation of Tropical Ungulates, Chester Zoo, Global Wildlife Conservation, Leipzig Zoo, Opel Zoo, Wilhelma Zoo, Hogle Zoo, Utah, and the Zoological Society of London for supporting the implementation of the Global Species Management Plan for Babirusa. We thank Chester Zoo and Jersey Zoo for supporting and coordinating conservation activities in the Philippines, Indonesia and Assam. We thank Copenhagen Zoo for their ongoing support of the activities of the Wild Pig Specialist Group and on-the-ground implementation of conservation programs, and WCS and Fondation Segré for supporting the Babirusa conservation project in North Sulawesi. We are indebted to ZGAP and Wrocław Zoo which contributed funding to the Javan warty pig, Bawean warty pig, Visayan warty pig and Pygmy hog projects. And finally, we thank the Talarak Foundation in Negros as the driving force behind the local implementation of Visayan warty pig captive breeding, and the Cikananga Wildlife Center and Taman Safari as the local partners in the Javan warty pig, and Taman Safari also for hosting some of the Global Species Management meetings.

Targets for the quadrennium 2017-2020

Barometer of life

Red List: Red List assessment of all pig species completed.

Research activities: (1) status update of the Hairy Babirusa; (2) Javan warty pig status surveys; (3) genetics of Javan and Bawean warty pigs; (4) taxonomic research on Giant Forest hog and Wild boar; (5) Giant Forest hog status in Uganda; (6) Warthogs research in Kenya; (7) Red river hog ecological research in Sierra Leona; (8) Sulawesi ungulate project (phylogenetic/taxonomic research); (9) Philippines pigs program 4: Mindoro warty pig -survey 1 and 2; (10) comprehensive surveys for all species of pigs in Philippines and Indonesia. Scientific meetings: African Pigs Conference on status of the five species of African suids by country at the continent wide scale.

Bolster work at national scales

Agreements: new MOU between WPSG, Government of Assam and Jersey Zoo. Conservation activities: EAZA Tapir and Suiform Regional Collection Plan.

Capacity building

Conservation activities: collaborative captive breeding of Javan warty pigs.

Communications

Communication: publication *Suiform Soundings*. Research activities: publication of the first worldwide scale book on wild pigs.

Conservation action

Conservation activities: (1) Conservation Needs Assessment and Planning Strategy with CPSG; (2) Babirusa Global Species Management Plan; (3) release program for Javan warty pig; (4) Philippine pigs programs 1, 2 and 3 of captive breeding of Visayan warty pigs; (5) collaborative captive breeding of Javan warty pigs.

Projected impact for the quadrennium 2017-2020

We aim to safeguard the small populations of the two Critically Endangered suid species, Pygmy hog and Visayan warty pig and continue the captive breeding and release programs. The target for Pygmy hogs is to ensure a population of the wild of at least 250 individuals. For Visayan warty pig, we still need to confirm that the species survives in the wild, as no such information has been forthcoming. For all other species, we are still in the stage of assessing population status and trends, and we do not have conservation programs that can realistically aim to stabilize populations in the wild. For *Sus scrofa*, we aim to revise the taxonomy of the current 18 subspecies.

Summary of activities (2016-2017)

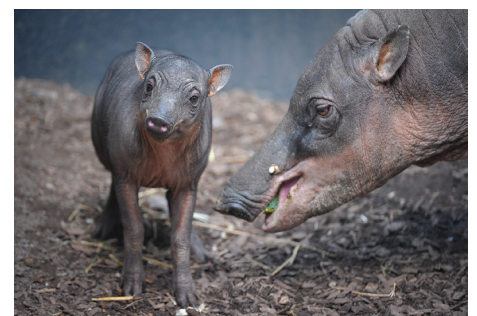
Key Priority Area ratio: 3/7

Key Priority Areas addressed:

- Barometer of life (5 activities)
- Communications (2 activities)
- Conservation action (3 activities)

Main KSRs addressed: 1, 12, 27, 43

KSR: Key Species Result



Babirusa (*Babyrousa babyrussa*), female and offspring in captivity
Photo: Chester Zoo