

2024-2025 Newsletter





Conservation education programme for local communities in North Sulawesi, Indonesia

WELCOME, **SELAMAT DATANG!**



Photo booth fun promoting TCE's programs and wildlife conservation during Indonesia's Independence Day celebration (August 2025)

We are pleased to share this newsletter detailing the activities of the Tangkoko Conservation Education (TCE) programme for 2024-2025, filled with exciting events!

Thank you very much for your support!

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"Learn from Nature, Act for Nature!"



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CELEBRATING OUR 14TH BIRTHDAY!

In January 2025, we celebrated a major milestone: the 14th birthday of Tangkoko Conservation Education (TCE). To mark the occasion, we hosted a joyful birthday party filled with fun quizzes, songs, and of course, a beautiful birthday cake shared by all! We were thrilled to welcome our conservation partners, dear friends, and the children of Batu Putih - the local village near the Tangkoko Nature Reserve where many of our programmes take place - to join in the festivities.

Selamat Ulang Tahun TCE! Here's to 14 more years empowering local communities, wildlife, and learning together!



TCE's team during our 14th birthday party.

A TRIBUTE TO PAK DESMON

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of Bapak Desmon Baerame, in July 2025, shortly after his retirement.

Pak Desmon was a dedicated secondary school teacher at SMP 7 Bitung, in the village of Winenet. We first connected with him and the school in 2011, when we invited them to join our school programme. From the very beginning, Pak Desmon embraced our programme with great enthusiasm, and over the years, he became one of our most committed partners in education.

He integrated our TCE lessons into his own teaching and ensured they became part of the school curriculum. He also involved multiple classes in our Independence Curriculum and played a key part in our teacher trainings and other inspiring events at his school.

Pak Desmon's passion for education. commitment to nature conservation. especially his kindness, touched the lives of many. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his wife, family, friends, and all the staff and pupils at SMP 7 Bitung. His legacy will continue to inspire us and the many young lives he positively impacted.



Pak Desmon (left) during a teacher training in 2015.

Pak Desmon (left) and Eny, TCE education coordinator, in 2024.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Between August 2024 and June 2025, we implemented our 14th school vear educational interventions at schools across the Bitung region in North Sulawesi. We visited 13 local primary and secondary schools and taught 172 pupils. A list of the schools involved can be found on this online map.

Our curriculum includes 7 interactive lessons about human impacts on the environment, tropical rainforests, marine wildlife, national and local flora and fauna, crested macaques (and other primates), and conservation work. Our lesson plan is highlighted by educational field trips to the Tangkoko forest.



Pupils receiving one of our lessons at school. Each pupil gets their own booklet filled with information, illustrations, games, quizzes and practical exercises.

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We are proud to report that, since its creation in 2011, TCE has implemented its school activities for 4362 pupils (aged 9 to 15 years), from 22 schools in 13 villages. We are incredibly grateful to our TCE staff, volunteers, partners, and of course our donors, without whom none of this would have been possible!



MEASURING OUR IMPACT

Last year, we published our **first scientific article** describing the measured impact of our education programme on the knowledge, behaviour and habits of our pupils. The results were very positive, as we found significant improvements in the pupils' and behaviour knowledge of toward ecosystems and wildlife following their participation in our program.

Several schools have already adopted our lesson programme as part of their official curriculum, and we are working with local authorities to get environmental education implemented into the curriculum of all schools in North Sulawesi

We continue to evaluate the impact of our work, so that we can further improve our lessons and activities and more effectively collaborate with local communities to protect threatened wildlife and ecosystems.

SCIENCE CAMP AND SYMPOSIUM

In October 2024, we welcomed seven students aged 16-17 for the fifth edition of our Science a week of immersive research and conservation training. This year's camp focused on illegal wildlife trade and its impact on crested macaques.

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The Science Camp participants interviewing vets and animal caretakers at Tasikoki.

We partnered with the conservation experts at the Tasikoki Wildlife Rescue and Education Centre and our colleagues from the Macaca Nigra Project, to offer camp participants handson experience with researching conservation issues. The students also received presentations and advice from other wonderful conservation organisations such as Sulut Semangat and Selamatkan Yaki.

At Tasikoki, the students learned how to analyse the social dimensions of wildlife trade by conducting interviews with animal caretakers and vets. The students also got to practice their observational skills in the field, where they explored the effects of illegal trade on local wildlife.

The students presented their findings community members, conservation experts, and government officials at а **Symposium** November 2024, held at the office of the Department of Education of North Sulawesi in Manado

Thank you to all our collaborators that have helped us to train and inspire the next generation of conservation heroes!



The Science Camp participants presenting at the Symposium in Manado.

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EARTH DAY 2025

On June 5th, 2025, TCE partnered with the Nature Lovers Group 'KMPA Tunas Hijau' to celebrate Earth Day. Together, we organised a day filled with fun activities and workshops to raise awareness about the precious ecosystems on our planet and how to protect them. The day was highlighted by an art exhibition about plastic waste and how to reduce it.



Children enjoying artwork by Cindy Samiadji, made from plastic items.



LOKATANA AWARENESS EVENT

On June 20th, 2025, TCE and MNP teamed up with NGO Lokatana and Yayasan Masarang for an awareness event inspiring young people to protect nature. We presented our research and highlighted urgent conservation Tangkoko, such as the threat posed by wildlife traps.

MNP manager Risma Yanti presenting our research posters at the Lokatana

awareness event.

MACAQUE NEWS

It's also been an eventful year for the crested macaques that are studied by our colleagues from the Macaca Nigra Project (MNP) in the Tangkoko Nature Reserve.

This past year (from the start of August 2024 till the end of July 2025), 28 macaques were born and only three individuals died across the groups that were monitored. The MNP researchers rescued macaques from human-made traps in the forest on four occasions.

The MNP has now collected data on the macaques and their habitat for the past 18 years, and will continue to do so to protect this fascinating species.



Loss, mourning and support - The story of Cleo

Cleo, a female from the group 'Pantai Pasir' (meaning sandy beach) sadly lost her infant this year. One morning, the researchers noticed Cleo carrying her deceased infant with her. This behaviour has been observed before in crested macaque mothers, and it is very likely to be a form of mourning.



A group of macaques in the Tangkoko forest.

The carrying of deceased infants can go on for several days. In Cleo's case, however, body of the infant eventually got stuck between branches, making it hard for Cleo to bring it along with her. This is when the researchers noticed that other macaques from Cleo's group attempted to support Cleo by helping her to untangle her infant from the branches.



Cleo mourning the loss of her infant.

This heartbreaking yet heartwarming story highlights the emotional depth an empathy of these wonderful animals. Thanks to your support, and the dedication from the TCE and MNP teams and our conservation partners, we still have a chance to save this amazing species.

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INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

This past year was also full of exciting developments in our international outreach and collaborations!

Sending letters across the world

Caroline Fitte, a long-term volunteer and friend of TCE, is a biology teacher at Saint Victor Middle School in southern France. With her students, Caroline has started a pen pal exchange with students from SMP Pinangunian, a school in North Sulawesi that is part of the TCE programme. Similarly, Valérie Provin, a preschool teacher in northern France, is fostering connections between her young pupils and those in Winenet, North Sulawesi, through their own pen pal project.

Through these inspiring initiatives, the students and pupils from France and Indonesia regularly exchange letters, sharing stories about their daily lives, cultures, and local environments.



Caroline Fitte's class and a letter from one of her students.

Valérie, who visited Sulawesi in 2024, also organised various projects and activities at her school. One highlight was an exhibition about the TCE programme combined with an Indonesian market, where students sold different items to raise money for TCE. Altogether, Valérie and her students raised 600 euros! We are deeply grateful for their support, creativity, and enthusiasm.





Exhibition at Valérie Provin's school.

Fresh ideas from friends of TCE

Between February and May 2025, Carlotta Zanon, a former Master's student in Ethology, Ecology, Ecophysiology from and France. Tangkoko as a volunteer. She helped update our environmental lessons and designed macaque-themed games for children, which we tested together in class. Thank you, Carlotta, for your creativity and energy!



Carlotta with school pupils during a trip to the Tangkoko forest.

In July 2025, we were delighted to welcome Vasco Martins, a PhD student from the University of Portsmouth, UK. During his visit, Vasco met with both MNP and TCE staff to learn more about our work. His research focuses on conservation and education, with a special emphasis on plastic pollution. Together, we held inspiring discussions on the dangers of plastic for wildlife - especially macaques - and how best to include this urgent issue in our lessons and raise awareness among local children.

Vasco discussing the effects of plastic pollution with TCE's Stephan Lentey.



Twelve years of support from French zoos

In May 2025, MNP co-director Julie Duboscq attended the general assembly of the French Association of Zoos (AFdPZ), hosted at CERZA Zoo in France. She presented the activities of both MNP and TCE, highlighting 12 years of invaluable support from AFdPZ for our education programme. It was a wonderful opportunity to share the positive impact of this long-standing partnership and express our gratitude for their continued commitment.

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Science is Wonderfull

In March 2025, MNP co-director Dr Jerome Micheletta took part in the Science is Wonderful! fair in Brussels, an event organised by the European Commission schoolchildren face-to-face with cutting-edge research. This year, the fair welcomed more than 5,000 pupils.

Together with fellow researchers Dr Teresa Romero, Dr Marine Joly, and Dr Francesca De Petrillo, Jerome presented an interactive exhibit titled 'Smart Monkeys: How Primates Think and Why They Need Your Help!'. The stand introduced schoolchildren to primate intelligence through fun, researchbased games and activities. The children explored how monkeys forage and make decisions, learned to read monkey facial expressions, played a probability-based bingo game, and discovered the effects of habitat loss through a puppet story. Together, these activities highlighted the remarkable cognitive abilities of primates and the urgent need for their conservation.

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Dr Teresa Romero introducing her puppet macaque at the Science is Wonderful! fair.



Dr Jerome Micheletta demonstrating the interactive exhibit to European Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva.

FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

We have a lot more in store for 2025 and beyond!

- We have started our 15th TCE school year (2025-2026) with even more students and schools involved, while also preparing our 6th Science Camp and Symposium!
- MNP will celebrate its 20th birthday in 2026! Activities, seminars, and workshops are currently being planned in Bogor and Sulawesi to mark this wonderful achievement. We can't wait to be part of it!
- Our 8th lesson, 'Plastic Waste,' is now complete and ready to be piloted, thanks to the help of Elodie Philippe (illustrator). We will also begin work on our **9th lesson**, focusing on land conversion for palm and coconut oil plantations, and how this issue can be mitigated.
- We continue to look for funds to establish our own plastic recycling project, inspired by the one run by RIMBA. This initiative would reduce plastic pollution and improve sanitation in the Batu Putih area. Please get in touch if you would like to help us make this idea a reality!
- Adam Zeeman, educator at DierenPark Amersfoort Zoo in the Netherlands, is planning to visit Tangkoko in the autumn of 2026 to meet with the TCE and MNP teams, as well as other partners. He will also deliver workshops during Science Camp 2026, focusing on education and ways to raise awareness about wildlife conservation among young people in Europe. We are looking forward to welcoming Adam!



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Tangkoko Conservation Education would like to thank all members, volunteers, friends and partners who have supported our activities since 2011, and especially in 2025: We thank the Education Department of Bitung, the Ministry of Forestry's Conservation Agency of North Sulawesi (BKSDA), NGO Regards d'Ailleurs, Macaca Nigra Project directors and staff, IPB Bogor, Yayasan Konservasi Tangkoko Indonesia, Kaum Muda Pencinta Alam (KMPA), Tunas Hijau Airmadidi, Lamp of Bottle, Forum Komunikasi Kader Konservasi Indonesia (FK3I) Manado, Mahasiswa Pencinta Alam (Mapala) Bumi, Mahasiswa SMA, MAN Model Manado, Sahabat Tangkoko, Tasikoki Wildlife Rescue and Education Centre (PPST), Yayasan Masarang, Lokatana, Selamatkan Yaki, Sulut Semangat, Alliansi Konservasi Tompotika (AlTo), and Rimba NGO.

We are also incredibly thankful to our donors, as well as the students, volunteers, friends and acquaintances from around the world for their outstanding help and support: Caroline Fitte, Claire D and G, Carlotta Zanon, Vasco Martins, Adam Zeeman, Christine Morrier, Pierre Bouthors, Julie Duboscq, Jerome Micheletta, Adam and Valérie Provin, Christine Avril, Marine Joly, Teresa Romero, and Nadege and Reno from Rimba NGO.

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Thank you for your support in helping local children and young people to Learn from Nature, and Act for Nature!





Our supporters in 2024-2025

























































