

Masarang International in 2021 – Message from the Board

The year 2021 turned out to be another challenging year for Masarang in Indonesia. The COVID pandemic reached its peak and the impact was felt across the organization. Obviously, our immediate concern went to the health of the employees and local volunteers of Yayasan Masarang Indonesia, and the many animal primates in our care.

Impact of the pandemic

Beyond health concerns, the pandemic posed an ongoing financial and organizational crisis. Similar to 2020, there were no income streams from international volunteers, school visits, and Eco-tourism. Therefore, it was very difficult to fund the operational costs for running the local Masarang foundation and the Tasikoki animal rescue center. While there were creative cost-saving solutions such as home-grown vegetables and fruits for the animals, Masarang international had to reallocate funds from nature restoration projects to emergency aid.

Despite great financial duress because of the pandemic, we still managed to release three groups of Sulawesi crested macaques in cooperation with the Ministry of Forestry. Two groups were released in the Gunung Ambang nature reserve while a third group was taken to the Masarang Mountain reforestation area for acclimatization. We also received more than 100 animals across 15 different species that were rescued from international smuggling and returned to Indonesia from the Philippines. Adding some more birds from Papua, we were able to send several dozen birds back to rescue centers closer to their original habitat. Also several private zoos went bankrupt and the Ministry of Forestry asked us to take in as many starving animals as possible. Unfortunately, we were only able to partly honor this request because of limited facilities and operational funds.



On the left a young Siamang gibbon baby rescued from smugglers and taken to Tasikoki. On the right a long row of cages with macaques just before their transport to the Gunung Ambang nature reserve. Beneath a picture of the group of our Tasikoki staff and the Ministry of Forestry ready to leave for the release area.



Temboan Beach

Masarang International has continued to invest in the flagship Temboan Beach project. The land acquisition of the Temboan project started in 2018 and is expected to continue in 2022. By the end of 2021, close to 570 hectares of beach and 'hinterland' have been secured and key steps have been made to implement the vision of Willie Smits and reforest the 222 ha of severely degraded grasslands. The first plots that we planted are already reaching crown closure and we also notice from the biodiversity surveys and monitoring in Temboan that birds are coming back to the rehabilitated areas. To support the completion of a comprehensive reforestation plan we needed a highly accurate topographic terrain map. This was made using the sophisticated LIDAR technology. Our research and field trials have demonstrated that using this LIDAR drone system, we can map individual trees with centimeter accuracy. As a next step, we will work on calculating the carbon capture of each individual tree from the LIDAR data.

With support from Masarang HK, we established a new turtle hatchery where the nests are safe and cannot be disturbed by crabs, lizards, etc. Several times we encountered the endangered giant leatherback turtles nesting at our Temboan beaches and after relocating their eggs to the safe hatchery, we were able to release many hatchlings to the ocean.

We also created fire breaks and access paths for the reforestation areas, set up a much bigger tree nursery, did botanical surveys on the tree species composition in the Temboan areas that still have good forest, installed a camera on top of a high hill with router and solar panels to enable live pictures of Temboan to be viewed from anywhere in the world.

Reforestation of the Temboan Beach hinterland and the new hatchery on the Temboan beach. Beneath a new monitoring post for our guarding staff, some valuable nipah swamp palms that provide roofing material and can be tapped for their sugary juice.



Financial Overview

Please find below the financial highlights for 2021:

- Donations received: a total of €84.818 of which €52.047 from private persons, €20.770 from companies and €12.000 from institutions. Out of the total donation pool, €42.770 was specifically earmarked for the Temboan reforestation project.
- Donations made: a total of €1.387.285 was transferred to Yayasan Masarang Indonesia, the foundation of Dr Willie Smits in Indonesia. Of this total amount, €132.559 was donated to support Tasikoki and the other operational expenses of the Yayasan, €65.726 went to the Temboan reforestation project and €1.189.000 was donated to acquire additional land for the Temboan project.
- Reserves per year-end: a total of €1.464.387, of which € 1.363.796 earmarked for Temboan land acquisition, €42.220 for Temboan reforestation and €75.000 for the Tomohon sugar factory. This leaves a negative general reserve of €16.629 which will be supplemented in 2022.

- The operational expenses are kept to a minimum. Board members receive no compensation. In 2021, total expenses amounted to €3.303, of which €943 related to the website, €345 for the audit, €1.148 for banking fees and €867 for general office support.

The 2021 Financial Report is included in the “Standaardformulier Publicatieplicht fondswervende instellingen” that is published on our website together with the Annual Report of the Board.

Organization in Indonesia

From an organizational point of view, it has been encouraging that Masarang Indonesia has been able to win the hearts of local volunteers. Highly qualified law students and young judges have joined the good cause to help combat the continuous infringements on Masarang land and other vulnerable assets. Furthermore, Masarang has started a collaboration with Mahayana, a new Indonesian foundation with young and talented people. We also hold regular open meetings on special subjects like organic agriculture, biochar, dangers of pollution, etc. We also produced a video manual for the 10 biochar units we built at the sugar factory and provided to several farmers as well as to Temboan and the amphitheatre.



*Highly qualified local volunteers have joined Masarang to combat environmental infringements.
Below participants in a training course for making biochar.*

Organization in the Netherlands

In 2021, Masarang International joined forces with Orang Utan Rescue as the purpose and focus of both organizations are highly compatible. To achieve strategic alignment, Henk Kaskens, Chairman of Orang Oetan Rescue, has joined the Masarang International Board in the course of 2021. In the near future, he will replace Hans van Willige as Masarang International chairman in order to have single leadership for both foundations.

Outside the Board, we have been blessed with the help of our loyal volunteers. A big thank you to Jos Eilert and Miranda Ruchtie for leading the charge on our digital communications, to Robert Hoedt for exploring strategic partnerships with large potential donors, and to Rowena Facee Schaeffer for taking care of the Masarang mailbox.

Finally, we want to express our gratefulness to our sponsors and donors. Especially in times of crisis, your financial support is not obvious and highly appreciated. Soon, we hope to be able to travel to Indonesia again and show you the full impact of your support.

Hans van Willige
Johannes Freije
Henk Kaskens