

## Crop raiding and local people's attitudes on Bawean island, Indonesia, with a focus on the Endangered Bawean warty pig (*Sus blouchi*)

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### ABSTRACT

Crop raiding by wild animals can cause damage to local farmers' fields with substantial economic losses especially in rural areas. On the other hand, local people's response to crop damage, such as hunting, can seriously imperil the populations of threatened species. Perceptions and attitudes shape these human-wildlife conflicts. In this study we investigated the extent and characteristics of crop raiding and protection measures employed on Bawean island, Indonesia, with a focus on the endemic and Endangered Bawean warty pig (*Sus blouchi*). We furthermore explore the attitudes of local people towards crop raiders, wildlife in general, nature and ecosystem services. We interviewed 52 respondents using a semi-structured design. Data were analysed descriptively and by using Cultural Consensus Analysis (CCA). We found that perceived crop loss was on average 28% and varied depending on the crop type and that different wildlife species targeted different crop types. People ranked pigs fourth after rats, macaques and insects as the most severe crop raiders. Protection measures employed for pigs always entailed the death of the animals. Attitudes towards nature and wildlife in general were positive, but negative towards crop-raiding wildlife. CCA revealed that attitudes in all domains (set of items that are of the same type) were in agreement amongst respondents, except for the domain wildlife. In conclusion, Bawean people are subject to crop raiding, but general perceptions of nature and wildlife are still positive. We expect that conservation initiatives will be accepted by local people and that our results can be used for the design of conservation projects and environmental education programmes.

**Keywords:** Agriculture, conservation, crop protection, Cultural Consensus Analysis, environmental education, human-wildlife conflict