

Peter's Travel Diary - the rest of Indonesia

Zoos and Collections visited in Indonesia

Ragunan Zoo (Jakarta)
Schmutzer Primate Center
Seaworld Indonesia
Taman Safari Indonesia
Bandung Zoo
Baturraden Zoo
Banjarnegara Zoo
Gembira Loka Zoo (Yogyakarta)
Solo Zoo
Semarang Zoo
Surabaya Zoo

Friday 30th June 2006

Purwokerto. When you see a really bad zoo it puts the other bad zoos in the good category into a new light. 'Baturraden Zoo' on the slopes of Gunung Slamet is amongst the worst zoos I have ever visited. Never heard of it? Neither had I. I discovered its location by accident when planning my move on from Pangandaran. My visit there has also given clue to another zoo I was unaware of so there may be another revision of my route.

Baturraden Zoo is set within a popular Javan recreation resort. There is an entry fee for the park and another for the zoo. Combined the cost is still only about £0.40. There wasn't much to the zoo and it was maybe 2-3 acres in all, most of it garden. As there was so little I will take the unusual step of listing:

a single riding elephant housed in a circular 'garden' pit. At one end was the open sided house. I could see no evidence of it leaving this container. The only exercise the unfortunate animal must ever get is when it trails round the circle with visitors on its back. It was chained, unusually, around the neck. As the animal was rugged I could not ascertain its condition. a single large male pigtail macaque in a tiny cage. His canines had been pulled. A couple of crocs in a tiny muddy pool being terrorised by small boys with big sticks. I told them off, but for what use?

3 pythons in adjoining (actually suitably sized) awful cages.
2 sheep in heavy barred menagerie type cage.
1 cassowary. 2 porcupines. 2 green peafowl.
1 fruit bat . 1 female pigtail macaque. 1 anglo-nubian goat.
3 guinea fowl. 1 three year old male orangutan in an absolutely horrible little cage. 1 Brahminy kite. Standing room only. No way to spread wings. 1 sambar deer.
1 cassowary. 1 peafowl. 2 guinea fowl. 1 pigtail macaque. 1 female Celebes macaque. 1 gibbon. Uncertain as to sex or species. Hopeless, useless little cage. 1 pigtail macaque. 1 dove. 1 Crab eating macaque. Chained to a sort of mini dovecote arrangement. Trench worn in the ground.

The whole collection was dirty. There were a few signs which I could not read. No enclosures had barriers and all could be walked right around. Nothing could get away from attention. Anything could be teased to death if the persecutors wished. These were conditions far worse than those usually inflicted on palm civets in other collections. Some animals had food of poor quality and limited amount and variety. Nothing had any water. As far as I could see the majority of cages had nowhere that water could be kept. Forget enrichment or even a modicum comfort this was just

one bloody awful place. At some of the zoos I have visited the visitors can purchase fruit and veg. Not here. Junk food for human consumption in abundance otherwise I may have gone back with a wheelbarrow load. What to do? Well I have made my report here. I don't speak Indonesian. I hope someone who does will/can do something. So far there hasn't been even a blink of interest following my comments on the Orangutans in Ragunan zoo so don't hold your breath. Did I make my feelings known. Yes, to the three people who understood my word "rubbish" to describe the zoo. Poverty was claimed. Fair enough I said but even that should not prevent the availability of clean drinking water, or even drinking water per se.

Having said all that and in no way trying to forgive the conditions in which these animals are held but I find it more easy to accept exploitation and cruelty (in all senses of the world) which is inflicted in ignorance than that which is a result of the 'big boys' making a fast buck at the expense of animals as in Safari World at Koh Kong for example.

I know it must seem at times that I am turning into the poor mans 'Zoo Check'. Far from it. If anything, this trip has made me more pro zoo. It has just made me more aware of the ignorance of the common man and the absolute need to educate, educate, educate! It has also made me aware of the need for an international law to regulate minimum standards for maintaining captive animals. A law formulated by free thinking 'zoo' people and not by those who seek to undo.

Sunday 2nd July 2006

Banjarnegara zoo. Why Banjarnegara ? Because there is a zoo here. I hadn't turned it up in my research but saw reference to it in Baturraden. I took a rickshaw from my hotel out to. It is situated within a recreation area on the outskirts of town. It is enclosed by the town on the one side and a magnificent river on the other. The zoo and recreation area are one and the same, there is no division, the funfair type rides are in and amongst the animal exhibit area as are food and drink stalls. Some of the area is paved but mainly the ground is packed (and today, dry) mud. The inside of animal exhibits is the same where the cages are not raised or concreted.

Now before I get started, let me say that the Palm Civet enclosure here was close to or even the worst I have seen anywhere. As a starter that gives a good indication of what the zoo was like. It was horrible. There were the good sides though which is more than I could have said about Baturraden Zoo. Here the food looked good and most things seemed to have more than enough. Highly unusually there were some very good signs. Okay they lacked maps but they had all the important information in nice little 'mind bites'.

The first animals I came to were a pair of Two-wattled Cassowaries and a half grown chick. These birds were

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fantastic specimens. Without a doubt the best looking Cassowaries I have seen anywhere...and I have seen a lot on this trip. The enclosure was horrible, it was dirty and strewn in rubbish BUT they had water and they had shade and shelter from the rain (if it rained). This picture was more or less the same all the way round. Shelter and water. Sometimes the water was in just an old paint pot but at least it was there. The animals too were all, seemingly in good condition, physically. Of course the whole place was a health and safety nightmare and where barriers did exist they were really neither use nor ornament. The cages did have warning signs though which said don't feed or something similar "Dilarang memberi Makan satwa". That's it really. I cannot think of another good thing to say about this place. I don't know what the financial arrangements are but general conditions are very basic to say the least. I'm not going to list again because there was a lot more stock here. It is this stock that concerns me. Where did it come from?

A zoo like this cannot seem to afford more than the very basic, bare bones, unsuitable accommodation so they cannot afford to actually buy animals. So they must have been donated. By whom? I consider it one of the most horrific of deeds that any 'reputable' zoo would send any animal knowingly into such conditions. Please note that there must never be an unknowingly. Zoos must know where their animals are going to and where they are going to be kept. If the said 'reputable' zoo fails to check first then they are no longer reputable in my eyes. In fact they are worse than the crap place they are sending animals too. Far better to have a well managed breeding programme in place and euthanasia as an active tool within. There are lions here. Two pairs. Tigers too, I think 1.3.0. They are housed on moated islands with archaic denning. They will undoubtedly breed and if they are unlucky (or lucky depending on how you look at it) not to rear their own young then someone will 'save' them, bottle rear them and the whole sorry cycle will start again. This collection should be brought into the fold and these animals implanting or spaying now.

The three little Orangutans here at least had each other for company. Nice to have a playmate within the rubbish tip they called home. They did have a tyre and a chain and a couple of logs to climb as well. But it was the rubbish, the crispy, munchy, wheato, puffy type snacks that are THE enrichment in this zoo. Without that then life would be very bleak indeed. Of course it may well kill them in the meantime. And I have to ask myself the question "would that be such a bad thing?"....and if I am honest with myself "no it wouldn't". As long as it was quick.

The biggest and best enclosure was that for the elephants. Huge expanse of grass set down at the base of a slope. Moated right around and open sided stabling towards the back. Here the two animals were chained. One with front handcuffs and a rear chain, the other I could not see the arrangement. What I could see, because it was blatantly obvious was that these animals had very rarely, if ever, been into their paddock, and certainly not for many months. I suspect one animal may be used for rides within the park but the other is probably confined to quarters...like those in Bandung Zoo. For how long I ask? Seventy is not an

unreasonable life expectancy for an elephant. Can you imagine fifty plus years in handcuffs?

There were lots of oddments around the place Siamang, Gibbons, Tonkean Macaque, Pig-tail Macaque (biggest male ever), Leopard, Crowned Pigeon, Wreathed Hornbill, Green Peafowl, Green Iguana and boy was I sorry for the poor bear. Okay the cage was better than some but that depressing stereotyping. Two small herds of deer (Sambar and Timor), Porcupines, Lesser Adjutants, several birds of prey, one unfortunate Fruit Bat and more.

Interesting was seeing Monitor Lizards being housed with a Salt Water Crocodile. Maybe they were food but I think not because there were the usual unsuspecting ducklings dabbling about. I thought the Croc was so much luckier than most animals here. He had managed to back himself down into a cave with just his head showing. There was only one Macropod. This was a Dusky Pademelon (*Thylogale brunii*) which was stuck in a concrete pit with nothing. I mean nothing. I felt so sorry, as I often do. I actually looked long and hard at this animal (and have since checked with photos on the internet) and now just have the shadow of a doubt in my mind about the Agile Wallabies I saw in Bandung. The similarity in appearance is quite striking if seen from a distance. Could it have been a group of Pademelons I saw there? Highly possible! Getting back to the poor old Palm Civets. They actually had two species here. One I could not see so well. The others were a pair of Masked Palm Civets, one animal of which was so beautiful it needed to be showcased...pride of the collection. Yet here it was crammed into a tiny little concrete cave. Sleep must really be a mercy!

Monday 3rd July 2006 . Gembira Loka Zoo (Yogyakarta Zoo)

The zoo had been badly damaged in the earthquake on May 27th. I suspect it was a bit of a mess beforehand but is now exceedingly so. The most that had been done seems to have been making things safe and putting in temporary essential repairs. There was no sign of new construction work. Who can blame really? I noted enough damage in the city when I passed through it this morning. It does mean that today that some of the enclosures do look like disaster areas and unintentional mixes have taken place. The dividing walls between the deer pens had all collapsed meaning Axis, Timor and Muntjac are now all running together. A few with their antlers decorated with all sorts of rubbish. If I remember rightly from the press several 'deer' were killed and two kangaroos escaped in the earthquake and some were conspicuous by their absence i.e. Nyala and in the small run of pens running up from that enclosure there were several collapsed shelters. On the staff front all were uninjured but some 70% were affected by losing family members or damage to their accommodation. This makes it really difficult for those left behind where, in the majority of cases zoo work is just a job and not a vocation as in the West. I understand that EAZA offered support following the disaster but I am unsure if or where this was taken up.

The zoo itself was very old fashioned, all pits and bars, far too small enclosures and nothing which struck me as a particularly good idea. The stock itself were mainly in good condition though some Deer and Nilgai looked a bit flakey.

Unusually they had Capybara here (two groups) and Brazilian Tapirs as well as Malayan. There were also an abundance of Dromedaries in two groups as well. There were signs on some enclosures. These were A4, done on computer and laminated. I'd say just a month or so ago....these things fade, or water gets in.

Five elephants in two different large enclosures...but of course they weren't. They were chained in the open sided houses and had evidently never trodden their hallowed turf. This seems to be the picture practically everywhere I go. It is puzzling that so much land is set aside in these zoos as an elephant paddock and then never used. If ever there was need for a re-education programme it is for elephant keepers. So much tradition, rumour, fable and claptrap that needs knocking on the head. Nice looking animals though, as far as I could see. It wasn't easy to see. I suspect there was only one Chimpanzee and one Orangutan, though I didn't see the second at all. Both were confined to their dungeonlylike inside accommodation because of earthquake damage to the outside (which weren't too bad) pens. So that means they have been locked away since and there doesn't look like much of a chance they are going to see the sun for a time yet.

The Aquarium was closed so I didn't get a look in there. What I did get a look at though was an off show pen holding a group of fourteen Proboscis Monkeys. The group held together included two large males and three infants in arms. Judging by the behavior of this group they were wild caught. Fantastic to see though. All in beautiful condition. There was a smaller group of three on public show down within the zoo proper. The other visual treat was another group, this time of eighteen Dusky Padmelon, again with youngsters. The enclosure was, literally, a heap of rubble but the animals looked fine and, in this case, the cage was big enough.

Not so though for the lions and tigers dotted around the place. Old menagerie type constructions mainly. Those that weren't had access to big deep pits. They weren't so bad but it looked like the animals there were confined to quarters because of damage which, in effect made them worse off than those in the menagerie cages. Sun bears in bleak pits. A single hippo in a pit area. Three pygmy hippos in small enclosures in shallow stagnant pools. None of the bird enclosures were any good. A bit of wood for the parrotlike to chew on would not have gone amiss but would probably have made the porcupines jealous. Primate cages too small. Barriers inadequate or non existent. Several crocodiles including two separately held absolutely massive animals. Four two wattled cassowaries, one single wattled. Two large Aldabran tortoises. I wondered if they came by way of the Seychelles...possible DNA work.

The wall along one side of the largest Komodo Dragon enclosure had collapsed completely. I wondered if any had escaped. The animals are currently held in three adequately sized smaller enclosures. Two of these held very big animals. When I looked in the first of these I remarked to myself "crikey!". Looking in the next took my breath away. Huge! By far and away the biggest Komodo I have seen yet. It took no imagination to believe this could pull down horses.

And the Palm Civet? A single animal that was going blind. Tiny little cage but a long way from being the worst I have seen. Needed branching and imagination. Which I suppose really sums up the collection as a whole.

These are trying times for this zoo. Who knows what personal tragedies the earthquake brought. I wish them the best of luck for the future and getting back on course. If they are relying simply on gate cash to fund repairs then it is going to take forever. It is a vicious circle. Earthquake means no tourists means no cash means no repairs. It is not just captive animals either. The recent minor eruption of the nearby volcano has meant, understandably, less tourists visiting. Less tourists have meant that the Long-tailed macaques that hang around the car parks and slopes of the volcano are getting nothing to eat (crisps and the like). They have started to descend into the towns and villages and steal.

Yogyakarta itself a neat tidy little place if you close your eyes to the debris. It is a city on the mend. There are people busy everywhere. Many of these are volunteers. Poor people themselves but with the skills to make and mend. They come daily from the countryside on donated fuel, bringing their own food and work all day for nothing. They expect nothing, they just know how they would feel if it happened to them. Some have been coming every day for weeks. It will be many months before they are no longer needed.

Wednesday 5th July 2006

Solo Zoo. This was yet another of those parched earth and big tree sites. Looking at the archaic design of most of the housing I would say whoever built the Ragunan zoo had an influence here. Or perhaps someone copied his 'inspirational' design. It's easy for me to say but then I daresay back in the 30s it was the way most zoos were. (n.b. I learnt later that the zoo moved to this, its present site, only two or three years ago. What an awful thought. There was this grand opportunity to actually do something right and instead this classic horror was created). There is an abundance of rubbish here. It is all over the place, lying about. Equally there are a huge number of food providers, either static or wandering about. The central lake is a green stagnant festering mess of plastic bags.

The first enclosure you meet on entering is that for the elephants. It is a pit, but a big pit, and all grassy and green. Perhaps 2.5-3.0 acres in all. It is safe, secure, escape proof and just plain nice. Sadly the two big elephants here have never walked, lain or rolled here and I have to ask why? It is that old established mindset again. The director needs to do some re-educating here. The unfortunate elephants, which looked in good nick were chained in their open sided 'house'. There was room here for several animals. There probably was once. Not so far away is another elephant 'pit' which now holds a few deer. In fact there were deer dotted all over. The other half decent enclosure was a moated one for tigers. Plenty of room, clean and neat. It just needed a bit of genuine wood for them to sharpen their claws. As far as I could tell there were just two lucky occupants of this enclosure. The other four tigers I saw were held singly in far from satisfactory accommodation of various degrees of horribleness. Sharing the same sort of set up and arrangement were a Leopard and a pair of Lions.

The three Sun Bears were in similar totally unsuitable and inadequate housing. From a public point of view all these carnivores except the first mentioned tigers, were a danger to every visitor. With no barrier to speak of and only a hint of supervision (at least I saw a keeper) this is a tragedy waiting to happen. The 'bird house' wasn't too bad. At least the theory wasn't. With a modicum of know how it could actually look attractive. Right now it is a waste of time for both man and beast. currently it holds a breeding group of Night Herons and the odd Eclectus, Palm Cockatoo and Wreathed Hornbill. There are single Hippo and Pygmy Hippo here as well. The accommodation is just adequate. The Pygmy Hippo enclosure was almost attractive but it is just too small for more. The aquarium was a horrible place. Happily half of it was closed. Out the back was a croc 'pit' containing a few animals. The barriers were token as were the very few signs which were dotted about.

There was a very big Salt-water crocodile of about 4 metres jammed into a tiny pool. The worst Small-clawed Otter accommodation I have come across housing a single unfortunate animal. One Komodo on its own. Unusual. Crocs dotted all over the spot. Two Sun Bears in a totally inadequate cage. Two Orangutans housed separately in small moated outside enclosures. These were sterile, boring and totally inadequate. The big male was at his wits end with frustration and was busy demolishing his accommodation. The inside denning was cramped and truly, truly awful. It was possible to approach this from the back of the building and have direct contact with the animals. The run of deer pens were far too small and several animals were held alone. There was a group of 10 Timor though and then 5 Axis and 3 Muntjac elsewhere. On the same run there was another group of 14 Padmilon. Lots of primates dotted about, usually housed as ones though there was the occasional group. There was a single especially attractive 'silver' Javan Gibbon. I admit though that without any form of guide that some of these Gibbons throw me completely as to identity. Chickens and Guinea Fowl were popular and there was a dozen or so aviaries turned over to these. The inevitable Peafowl and Cassowaries too of course. Camels, Banteng, Horses. More cramped monkeys waiting their lives away. Special mention should be made of the taxidermy specimens held in a glass sided house near the entrance. Without doubt there are the worst preserved examples I have ever had the misfortune to see.

Thursday 6th July 2006

The three hour minibus ride to Semarang this morning took five and a half hours. It was mid afternoon when I eventually got to my hotel so after dumping my backpack I headed straight on out to Semarang Zoo. This turned out to be much further out of the town than I imagined and, much smaller. I was told that the collection had moved to this 'new' site only recently. I don't actually believe this. I suppose it depends what you mean by 'new' or 'recent'. There are certainly new cages there but there are also very old, rotten, dropping to bits, unoccupied ones. The 'new' is certainly happening though. This was the busiest zoo I have been to. There were new paths and steps being constructed all through the heavily sloped site. They look good. All the horrible little cages were having new coats of gaudy paint. This just served to make them 'pretty horrible'.

More than one of the occupants were now a colour which nature had not intended for them. The paint pots? Naturally they are just thrown on the ground amongst the other rubbish.

The 'zoo' site also contains a small newly constructed boating lake and swimming pool. A plaque close by said 2004 something. I imagine this is more of what the 'new' referred to than anything else. Running between these are some nasty little heavy cast 'parrot' cages containing cockatoos. Emphasis on the 'nasty little'. No barriers of course, and containing very sorry sad little specimens. Close by is a recently constructed aviary block. Actually this was not bad in principle. Somebody had actually seen a modern aviary before it was built. Sadly that was where the input stopped and the set up has been allowed to go downhill from, I imagine, day one. There was a single Cassowary here and also, oddly a very big Salt-water crocodile in a nasty muddy, stagnant, dirty and too small pool. The remainder was Eclectus and miscellaneous cockatoos.

Getting away to the zoo slope. This was an up, down and across site. Each little path leads to one of the 'pretty horrible' cages. These are in fact heavily meshed, badly constructed, inadequate old cages and no amount of coloured paint is going to hide that. Setting these up on concrete plinths does not make them bigger. Four foot high will never be high enough for the separately held Siamang and two Gibbons. The similar sized and designed cages are barely adequate for the odd chicken, Serpent Eagle, Goose or dove that most of the cages hold. A sorry little place. I progressed back to the town via a progression of small buses and a rickshaw. A hooker tried to pick me up en route. Glad I am not losing my touch (or more likely that haunted desperate look). A quick bite to eat. My first food today. I am just not hungry, or oddly, thirsty these days. Back at the hotel I crashed out for four hours solid. Woke, slept again on and off most of the night.

Saturday 8th July 2006

Surabaya Zoo. I took a taxi to the Surabaya Zoo. As it turned out it was just up the road and I could have walked there within ten minutes. Huge great big statue of a Crocodile and Shark battling at the entrance. I don't know what this signifies because I have seen it depicted elsewhere.

The zoo was much smaller than I had imagined it to be. Tiny compared to Ragunan. It was very old fashioned in many aspects but on the whole I liked it. What I liked especially was seeing the elephants, unchained wandering about in their paddock. Granted it wasn't the largest of paddocks, but they did have liberty of sorts. Two other animals not in the paddock were in a smaller barred holding pen. Another big plus on the fact they were unchained and together. Forward thinking is apparent here. The mahouts should be seconded out to other Indonesian zoos for a time

The Palm Civets were in a nocturnal exhibit. Good. The exhibits were big enough. Good. There were token branches but not enough of them. Whatever they put in would have to be very sturdy because all these Palm Civets

were obese. They desperately needed to go on a diet. As follows on from the Palm Civet gauge there were other animals that needed a diet too and the enrichment/ decoration was token or lacking except where living trees formed part of the exhibit. So it followed on from there that where primates were on lake islands they were very lucky, those on house islands less so and those in cages looked and were utterly miserable. The cages were that same old Victorian menagerie design. I thought that with just a little bit of know how and input they could be transformed from sterile little boxes to something that provided a modicum of comfort and food for the mind. As things stand the only environmental enrichment the animals appeared to be getting was visitors with peanuts. Happily there was not a shortage of either. There was a queue coming into the zoo when I arrived and they were still coming in thick and fast when I left. Definitely a popular spot. I don't see it every day, but today they were making money. There was a separate charge for the aquarium too. There were some attractive, colourful modern signs sponsored by Walls Ice Cream but these were limited to direction. There were signs on some of the cages but these were well past their sell by date, were flaking and letters obscured.

The main Komodo Dragon enclosure was the best I have seen. Nice to have trees and grass. Impressive looking animals too, comparable in size to those in Yogya. The smaller enclosures were okay too. There was a large walk through aviary. At over 70 foot tall it must be the highest I have seen. Sadly it was closed and had been for some little while that I could see. Again when I see big aviaries like this I think wonderful, they have an appreciation of a birds need for space. It doesn't work out like that though as some of the birds here were in pokey horrible little dives and this included some of the Birds of Prey which makes it worse still. The main Lion enclosure was fine as was the White Tiger and the Cheetah. Where was the Cheetah though? That enclosure was full of Lions. Inevitably there were Sumatran Tigers and other cats tucked away in far from satisfactory housing.

There was a big bunch of Proboscis Monkeys on two of the islands. I wasn't sure whether they were one migrating group (the islands were very close) or two separate lots. I could not see that there was anything other than water keeping them on the islands anyway and knowing their aquatic abilities wondered if any had gone exploring. Actually though the size of the turtles in the water would be enough to stop me thinking of putting even a toe in the water let alone anything else. There were either Timor or Bawean Deer on the island with the Proboscis. There were also Axis and Sambar dotted around in far too small enclosures. Talking of large turtles, in one of the outside pools next to the aquarium were three absolutely huge Green Turtles. I have not seen bigger anywhere. Close by was another pool containing another ten more 'normal' sized ones.

Adding a further dimension to my Padmelon/Agile Wallaby mystery was the group here. This time Agiles and a nice breeding group of thirty or so. Horrible boring little enclosure though. So perhaps they were Agiles back in Bandung after all. The only other Kangaroos here were

Tree Kangaroo (*Dendrolagus ursinus*). They looked fine and at least had the opportunity to go up a dimension even if the enclosure was a bit small.

Again there were Capybaras here. I suppose either supplied to Gembira Loka or vice versa. There was even a couple of Kulan! By what route they arrived is a bit of a wonder. None in the UK any longer. Lots of Hippos. You could see this, like so many places is starting to become a problem. I reiterate that some sort of breeding management programme is essential now.

The Sun bears had a bigger pit than usual but it was still horrible though. I really can't comprehend why it is deemed necessary to make life so mind numbingly nasty for bears. Bugger all to do. When I recall all the wonderful work done for bears by Dave Ware and his colleagues up in Cambodia with next to no cash it just makes it seem all the more tragic.

There were a couple of American Black bears here too in an equally boring environment. Mind you it was the same for the Jaguars, Leopards, Tigers and other unfortunates on this block of cages. The group of Sitatunga were a surprise. Again lots of Camels. Very few Cassowary. Javan Warty Pigs. The Otter enclosure was nice...especially compared to those seen recently. There were crap Orangutan enclosures and some good ones too. The Chimpanzees looked happy enough but oh gosh, do I hate these drop moats. The Hornbill aviaries were high enough to allow the birds some privacy otherwise they were too small and people could get right round.

There were a few Green Iguanas including the most magnificent male specimen I have ever seen. Not the biggest by a long way but just so perfect. He was accompanied by another Iguana which I did not fully recognise though something in the back of my mind said it was something special. They were obviously doing well with Green Iguanas because they had a whole bunch of babies too. These, I thought may be the back up forces for the Red-eared Terrapins as they slowly take over the world.

The close by 'Nocturna' or nocturnal house was quite well lit compared to some I have seen though there wasn't a great deal in there apart from the Palm Civets though except a Pangolin! The first I have seen on this journey.

People in the zoo were so very friendly. They invited me to sit and eat with them or just to stop and talk. They smiled, they laughed, they flirted and were generally wonderful. I know I have said it about all the nations I have passed through but the Indonesian people truly are the most friendly of all.

Next issue .. Jakarta Zoo -- don't miss it.

Common Mongoose
Herpestes edwardsi

