

Green Junglefowl

Gallus varius

Family: Phasianidae, Genus: *Gallus*
Recognized Subspecies: 0, Monotypic
Conservation status: Least Concern
Wild Pop. Trend: Stable
CITES Appendix: Not Listed
USFWS: Not Listed

Range: Indonesian endemic
The Islands of Java, Bali, and most of the Lesser Sunda Island Chain

Conservation Concern: The Green Junglefowl is listed as least concern by the IUCN. The males of this species are trapped as part of the Asian Songbird trade and breed with domestic chickens to produce the Ayam Bekisar. The Ayam Bekisar is a first-generation hybrid of this cross. This hybrid has long been a cultural tradition for song competitions within this island chain. The Ayam Bekisar is the cultural mascot for East Java and has grown in popularity.



Male Green Junglefowl
Photo credit: Pinola Conservancy

The effects of the trade on the Green Junglefowl is not known and since only one sex is targeted it may not be detrimental to the health of the population overall. The Ayam Bekisar production is dependent on a pure male Green Junglefowl, and second-generations of this cross are not of value. There has been an increase in recent years of social media posts offering this species for sale through-out Indonesia. These ads are often accompanied by videos of copulation between that male Green Junglefowl and domestic Red Junglefowl hens to prove the bird's health. The rate of trade of Indonesian bird species for song competitions has been extreme, which has resulted in a rapid extinction crisis for many species.

Species account: The Green Junglefowl is one of four species of junglefowl. This species differs from the rest of the family and is eye catching to guests due to its bright teal, pink, and yellow coloration of the comb and wattles of the male. In the wild, this species inhabits a wide range of habitats and has adapted to some agriculture areas, such as coffee plantations. The impact of domestic flocks of Red Junglefowl around human inhabitations is not known on this species, although this is a much-cited concern for the wild Red Junglefowl populations.

AZA Role: With the ever-escalating threat of extinction due to the songbird trade on the species that share the same range as the Green Junglefowl, and the expansion of captive breeding programs within zoos for these species, there is an increase in needed ground birds for these

exhibits. The Green Junglefowl, when mixed with the threatened songbird species, illustrates the unique biodiversity and endemism in this region of the world.

TAG Monitored Goals: Over this RCP period, the TAG’s goal for this species is to highlight the connection to other more endangered and more populous species housed in AZA collections from these islands (e.g. Bali Mynah *Leucopsar rothschildi*). Many of the Lories in Lorikeet feeding aviaries originate from Indonesia. These exhibits present increased spaces for this species. Much like the domestic Red Junglefowl, the Green Junglefowl forages for insects and can control roaches and other pests that present a disease risk (e.g. *Sarcocystis*). The EAZA TAG has expressed interest in eggs or adults of this species as this species is failing in EAZA collections. The TAG will be investigating the feasibility of an export.



Handsome male
Photo credit Pinola Conservancy

Education Emphasis

- Gallus gallus domestication
- Sexual dimorphism
- Asian songbird crisis

AZA Connections: The following table is not a guide of what the Green Junglefowl can be housed with (although many of these are a possibility), but instead it is meant to show the range connections between other AZA recommended program species.

Green Junglefowl <i>Gallus varius</i> recommended species by other TAGs within species range				
Common name	Scientific name	TAG	Program	Conservation status
Hooded Pitta	<i>Pitta sordida</i>	PACCT TAG	Red SSP	Least Concern
Fairy Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	PACCT TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
Common Shama Thrush	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	PACCT TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
Chestnut-backed Thrush	<i>Zoothera dohertyi</i>	PACCT TAG	Candidate	Near Threatened
White-breasted Wood Swallow	<i>Artamus leucorhyn</i>	PACCT TAG	Candidate	Least Concern
Bali Mynah	<i>Leucopsar rothschildi</i>	PACCT TAG	Yellow SSP	Critically Endangered
Java Sparrow	<i>Lonchura oryzivora</i>	PACCT TAG	TAG Monitored	Vulnerable
Black-naped Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus melanospilus</i>	PACCT TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
Jambu Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus jambu</i>	Columbiformes TAG	Yellow SSP	Near Threatened
Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	Columbiformes TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
Pink-headed Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus porphyreus</i>	Columbiformes TAG	Candidate	Least Concern
Nicobar Pigeon	<i>Caloenas nicobarica</i>	Columbiformes TAG	Yellow SSP	Least Concern
Chestnut-breasted Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus curvirostris</i>	Turaco and Cuckoo TAG	TAG Monitored	Least Concern
Weber's Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus weberi</i>	Parrot TAG	TAG Monitored	Near Threatened
Forsten's Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus forsteni</i>	Parrot TAG	TAG Monitored	Vulnerable
Yellow-crested Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua sulphurea</i>	Parrot TAG	Candidate	Critically Endangered
Eclectus Parrot	<i>Eclectus roratus</i>	Parrot TAG	TAG Monitored	Least Concern
Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>	Parrot TAG	TAG Monitored	Least Concern
Milky Stork	<i>Mycteria cinerea</i>	Ciconiiformes TAG	Red SSP	Endangered

Storm's Stork	<i>Ciconia stormi</i>	Ciconiiformes TAG	Red SSP	Endangered
Indian Pygmy-goose	<i>Nettapus coromandelianus</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Red SSP	Least Concern
Lesser Indian Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna javanica</i>	Anseriformes TAG	Raft	Least Concern

**Disclaimer: this information was collected in 2017. If you have interest in any of these species, contact the perspective TAGs. All range overlap information was determined using the IUCN Red List range maps.

Conservation priority species that share the same range.

- Komodo Dragon *Varanus komodoensis*
- Banteng *Bos j. javanicus*
- Javan Rhinoceros *Rhinoceros sondaicus*

If your institution supports a field project with one of these species, see if your conservation partner observing the Green Junglefowl in their study/or field site. If your Zoo displays one of the following species, the addition of an aviary for Green Junglefowl can help illustrate the diversity of this biome better at your institution.



Green Junglefowl hen and chicks
 Photo credit: Pinola Conservancy