

Two 'Bali mascots' take wing

CONSERVATION

TWO CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

Bali starlings (*Leucopsar rothschildi*) have been released into the wild, with a third release planned for October.

Led by the Begawan Foundation's Bali Starling Conservation Project, the release is part of an ongoing programme to repopulate the species in the wild on mainland Bali.

The birds hatched at the programme's breeding and release site in Sibang. On June 17, the two birds were released during a ceremony



The second Bali starling release for 2014 was in June by the Begawan Foundation. Two more birds will be released in October



Dr Jane Goodall releases the birds

by leading British conservationist, Dr Jane Goodall.

Mehd Halaouate, manager of the breeding and release programme, said the two birds are expected to join those previously released in Sibang.

He added: "Four Bali starlings released in April have already paired up with those

released in 2012 and are actively building nests.

"This is a vital step towards achieving our goals for a sustainable flock of Bali starlings on mainland Bali, the mascot of Bali that all can see with ease."

During 2006 and 2007, the project released 64 Bali starlings on Nusa Penida, an island off the south coast of mainland Bali.

● Find out more about the Begawan Foundation at: www.begawanfoundation.org