

**Ecosystem Impact Foundation  
Simeulue Conservation breeding & Awareness Programme**

**ZGAP and Marlow Bird Park Simeulue Conservation Update April 2020**

**1. Nias Hill Myna Discovery on Babi Island**

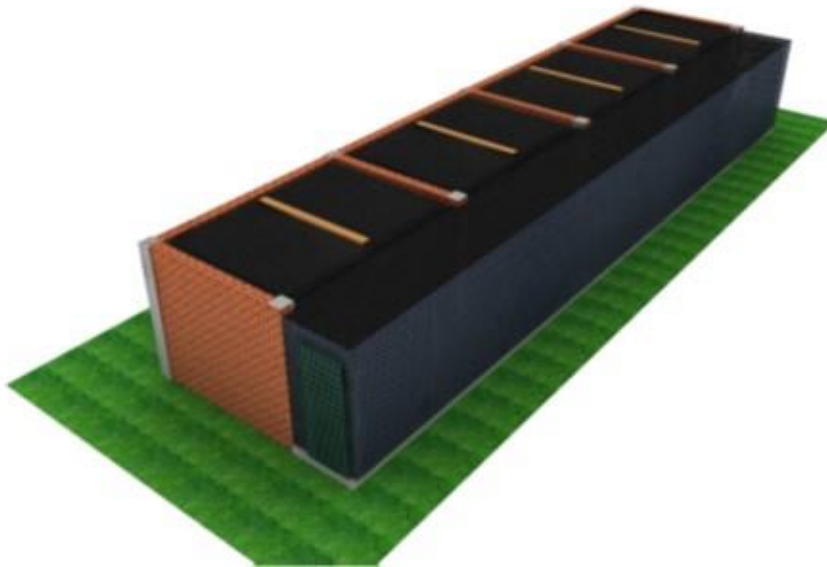
Through baseline surveys carried out by ZGAP and Marlow's Simon Bruslund and EI staff, Nias Hill Mynas (*Gracula robusta*), IUCN Critically Endangered, have been discovered and photographed on Babi Island, Simeulue's neighbouring island. This discovery heightens Babi's status as an internationally important site for bird conservation.



Nias Hill Myna photographed on Babi Island.

**2. Simeulue Breeding Facility**

Ecosystem Impact is currently building a breeding facility within the grounds of Simeulue based partner Mahi-Mahi Resort for Simeulue Hill Myna (*Gracula religiosa miotera*), Simeulue (Barusan) Shama (*Kittacichla malabarica hypoliza*), Babi (Barusan) Shama (*Kittacichla malabarica opisthochra*), all near-extinct subspecies according to Silent Forest and ASTSG. Funding for this project has been supplied by Wildlife Reserves Singapore and Zoologischen Gesellschaft für Arten und Populationsschutz (ZGAP) / Marlow Bird Park, with endorsement from Silent Forest and ASTSG.



#### Simeulue Breeding Facility Design.

During Simon Bruslund's trip to Simeulue time was spent developing the design and management plan for the Simeulue breeding facility, along with an official signing of the EAZA Silent Forest funding. Time was also spent discussing developing a Simeulue environmental education centre for which funding has been applied to by EAZA, and a Simeulue wide bird research plan.

EI has now received multiple accounts of sightings of Simeulue Hill Myna in the wild. Although contested, as a group of researchers from Singapore Universities Avian Lab have now failed to discover Simeulue Hill Myna in the wild on two occasions, there is a chance there are some individuals left on Simeulue. EI is currently working with local communities to collect data on the locations of sightings and developing a research methodology.

Tom Amey  
Director of Social and Environmental Programmes  
**Ecosystem Impact Foundation at Mahi-Mahi Surf Resort**