



**Wildlife
Reserves**
S I N G A P O R E



UPDATE REPORT

Project Title: EcosystemImpact Simeulue Bird Breeding Programme

Organisation: EcosystemImpact

Date: 09/06/20

Project Background:

Simeulue Hill Myna (*Gracula [religiosa] miotera*), Simeulue (Barusan) Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus hypolizus*) and Babi (Barusan) Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus opisthochra*) are classed by the IUCN Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group (ASTSG) and European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) Silent Forest Campaign as near-extinct subspecies.

By working with local bird breeders, EcosystemImpact will procure some of the remaining captive individuals of Simeulue Hill Myna, Simeulue (Barusan) Shama and Babi (Barusan) Shama and securely hold and breed them in purpose-built aviaries at Mahi-Mahi Surf Resort, Simeulue. Meanwhile EcosystemImpact continue to stay vigilant for any information or sightings of wild birds, and are developing plans and funding proposals for Simeulue Islands wide surveys and community ranger programmes.

The expected result of this project, is that EcosystemImpact will be able to secure the survival of the Simeulue Hill Myna and Barusan Shama, by successfully purchasing, housing and breeding some of the last individuals of these subspecies. Through cooperation with Sumatra Orangutan Conservation Programme (SOCP) and a number of other breeding facilities across Indonesia, EcosystemImpact aims to play a crucial role in saving these subspecies from extinction.

Funding Details:

The project has been funded by Wildlife Reserves Singapore (WRS) 10,000 SGD and ZGAP/Marlow Bird Park 5,000 EURO. This funding has been/will be sufficient for EcosystemImpact to plan and build the aviaries, research into the legalities of breeding, and to develop our BKSDA MoU.

EcosystemImpact have applied for another 10,000 SGD from WRS in order to purchase Barusan Shama, bird keeping, breeding of crickets and cockroaches, maintenance and staffing. This funding has been verbally confirmed but not yet in writing.

The current facility will only be large enough to hold Simeulue Myna. Due to Myna being notoriously hard to breed requiring large tall aviaries, in order to be able to breed Myna, an adjacent facility is being planned. This project is yet to be funded.

Project Progress:

Progress has been hampered by COVID 19. However, EcosystemImpact has made some good progress. Full designs (Figure 2, 3) and a work plan has been developed. The build has two phases. A simple concrete and brick construction phase which will be carried out by local Simeulue staff, and a more complex metal framing and mesh phase. This will be carried out by welders/metal workers from Sinabang, Simeulue's largest town. Full pricing has been agreed upon for both phases of the build.

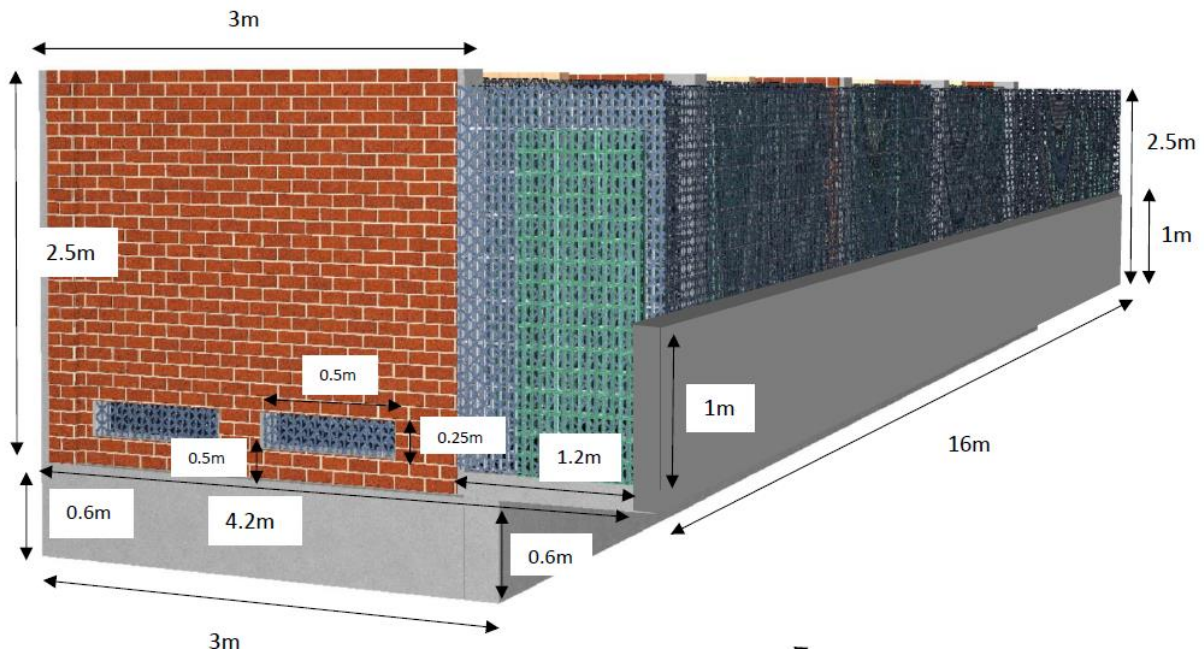


Figure 2. Aviary design, developed by partners Configura.

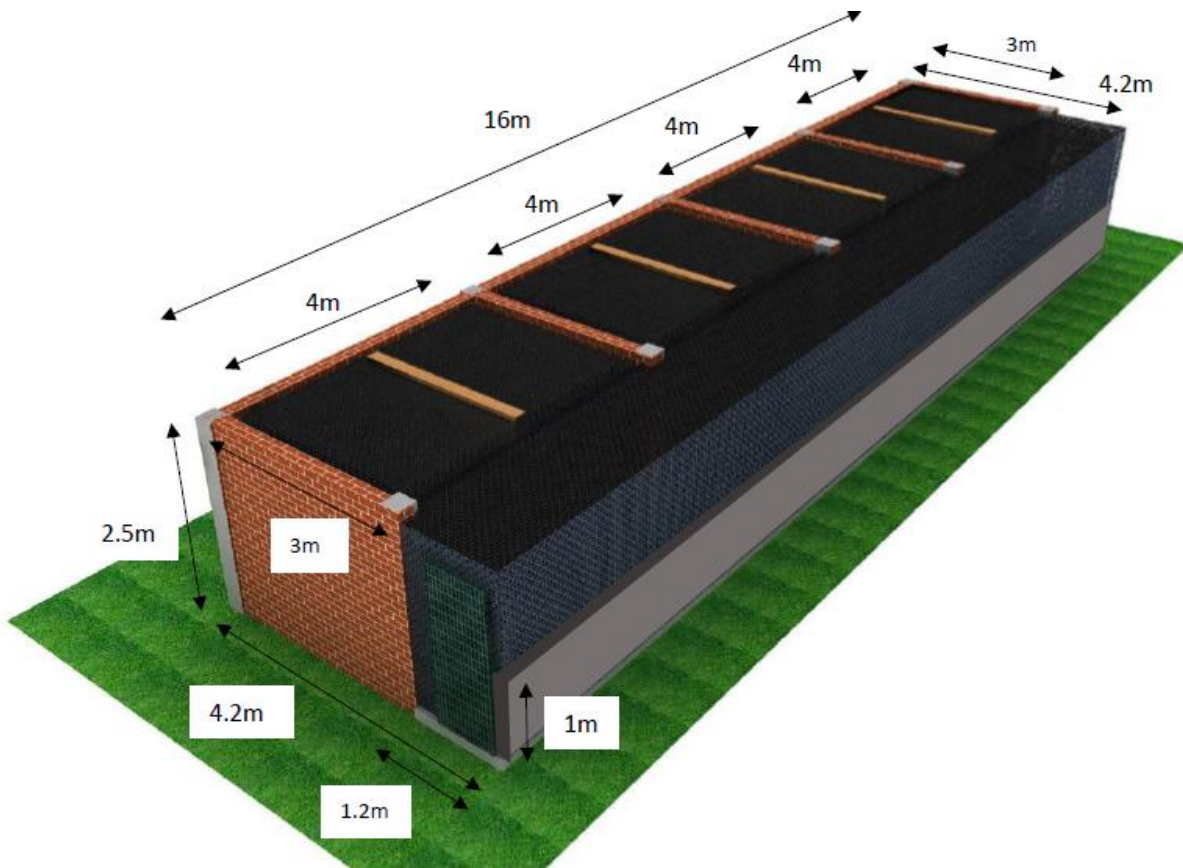


Figure 3. Aviary design, developed by partners Configura

There are a number of items which EcosystemImpact has needed to source from Medan, mainland Sumatra. This is predominantly the large custom-made metal parts, paint and thinners (see Table 1 for a full list). A buyer has been contracted to purchase these Medan items, with money being transferred and all items purchased and sent.

As the aviaries will be within close proximity to the sea, it is crucial each metal part is galvanised – therefore less likely to rust and longer lasting. As the custom galvanised metal process is not possible on Simeulue, the process is also being carried out in Medan. All items from Medan have now been purchased and the metal is being processed.

Due to COVID 19, there is a reduced ferry service to Simeulue from mainland Sumatra. All items have now been shipped to Simeulue and EcosystemImpact is ready to begin with the build phase.



Figure 4. Medan items being shipped to Simeulue and in storage.

Progress has been made with the EcosystemImpact-BKSDA MoU. With the decision to develop an all-inclusive MoU that covers both EcosystemImpact's turtle and bird work across Simeulue and Bangkaru islands, a draft MoU has been developed. This MoU continues to be worked on by EcosystemImpact's Pengawas (supervisor) Wahdi Asmi; Supervisor Program Bangkaru Khairul Mukmin Lubis; and legal advisor Irna.

Expenses to Date:

EcosystemImpact's contracted Medan buyer has purchased and sent the items needed from Medan – shown in Table 1. Due to the ongoing COVID 19 situation, finding a willing buyer and signing the contract took some time. For a period, Medan was on semi-lockdown, meaning our buyer struggled to purchase all the items in the expected timeframe.

Further expenses have been salary for the Medan material buyer and a transport cost from Medan to Simeulue. All items have now been shipped to Simeulue within the price estimates.

Table 1. Medan Expenses

No	Jenis Barang/Pekerjaan (Items)	Jumlah Harga (Price IDR)	Price USD
1	Galvanis steel frame	10.350.000	739
2	Plat besi galvanis frame	400.000	29
3	Baut 304 8mm/5cm	2.664.000	190
4	Mur 304 8mm		
5	Ring 8mm	936.000	67
6	Besi 4mm	13.512.500	965
7	Galvanis steel mesh	8.950.000	639
8	Cat bodelac 2 in 1 hitam (15 Liter)	3.345.000	239
9	Thinner (25kg)	1.672.000	119
10	Total belanja material (Item Total)	41.829.500	2,987
11	Gaji (salary) Buyer	3.346.360	239
12	Gaji Buyer sebelum pesan	600.000	43
13	Uang pulsa	100.000	7
14	Estimasi transport material dari Medan	4.500.000	321
Total		50.375.860	3,597

Site Location:

A number of possible locations were put forward within the grounds of Mahi-Mahi Surf Resort. Being within the grounds of Mahi-Mahi, there is a conflict of interest, in that visitor attractiveness and space takes priority over conservation. Through conversations with investors, this meant a number of location options quickly became unviable.

A visit from ZGAP and Marlow bird expert led to the recommendation and selection of a site behind staff quarters (Figure 1). This location was chosen for a number of reasons:

- Protected from sea winds and rain storms
- Tucked away and out of site of both guests and potential thief's
- An unused space which is open for use
- The right size and shape for aviaries
- Still within Mahi-Mahi grounds and thus protected by security surveillance

Projection:

The concrete and brick foundation and wall phase will be carried out by local Simeulue staff. This phase will use three people and is estimated to take 14 - 20 days. Each person is on a Perkerja Borongan contract, meaning the worker will be provided a set salary of IDR 2,100,000 for the job (the daily worker salary for Mahi-Mahi Resort is 100,000 per day, so the provided sum is a fair wage). If the job runs over the predicted timeframe, no additional salary will be provided. This is a commonly used method to on Simeulue to keep within budgets and assure the work gets done on time.

The workers for this phase have been chosen, using trusted Mahi-Mahi Resort workers that were responsible for building the similarly constructed Mahi-Mahi kitchen. The required materials (Table 2) are currently being purchased. We expect all materials to be purchased and work to have begun by 15/06/20.



Figure 5. Chosen location for the bird aviaries.

Table 2. Concrete and Brick Foundation and Wall Phase

Item	Price	Unit	Frequency	Total IDR	Total USD
Cement	80,000	Bag	40	3,200,000	228
Besi 10mm	120,000	Pack	40	4,800,000	343
Besi behel	25,000	Pack	25	625,000	45
Batu bata	1,000	Pack	7000	7,000,000	500
Pasir plester	450,000	Load	6	2,700,000	193
Pasir Cor	450,000	Load	6	2,700,000	193
First order				21,025,000	1502
Second order (20% first order)				4,205,000	300
Pekerja Borongan		3	14 - 20	6,300,000	450
Total				Rp10,505,000	3,754

Legalities:

The document which lays out the Types of Plants and Animals Protected under Indonesian law, is the Minister of Environment and Forestry's NOMOR P.106/MENLHK/SETJEN/KUM.1/12/2018. This is the latest document, brought out on 1/12/2018, which succeeded P.20 and P.92.

Barusan Shama continue to be classed as White Rumped Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus*) within Indonesian and international law. There is no mention of White Rumped Shama in P 106 – it is only in P.20, the now exempt version. Therefore, Barusan Shama are not protected under Indonesian law.

Simeulue Hill Myna (*Gracula [religiosa] miotera*) continue to be classed as Common Hill Myna (*Gracula religiosa*) within Indonesian and international law. The Common Hill Myna is listed in P 106 so are protected in Indonesia.

EcosystemImpact have developed a letter to BKSDA stating EcosystemImpact will commit to protecting the above species. EcosystemImpact are currently undergoing the renewal of an existing MoU with BKSDA for turtle ranger activities on Bangkaru Island. It is an opportune time to develop an MoU which includes bird conservation activities alongside our existing turtle focused MoU.

The current funded project phase is to build aviaries to house and breed Barusan Shama. As Shama are non-protected species the legalities are:

For the non-protected species, you only need to apply for a breeding permit for two reasons:

- *The population in the wild is very low/close to extinction and just a matter of time they will be listed as protected species*
- *If you want to export bred birds overseas*

Although we know Barusan Shama populations are very low/close to extinction – and as a conservation organisation we would prefer they did get granted protected status – as they continue to be classed as White-rumped Shama, it is unlikely they will not gain protected status soon.

For Hill Myna and in the case that Shama did get granted protected status, EcosystemImpact will need a breeding permit (Izin Penangkaran). In order to be granted a Breeding Permit, it is advantageous for an organisation to be classed as a Lembaga Konservasi (Conservation Institution). However, Breeding Permits can be granted to non-Conservation Institution organisations.

EcosystemImpact is not currently a Conservation Institution, but a Yayasan (Foundation) set up for conservation purposes – which is legal within Indonesia. To gain a Breeding Permit as a non-Conservation Institution, foundations must gain agreement from the relevant government department, in this case BKSDA. The new EcosystemImpact MoU will include a breeding permit of both Hill Myna and Barusan Shama, in case they are provided protected status.

Areas for Development:

EcosystemImpact continue to have update and development calls with representatives of the IUCN Asian Songbird Trade Specialist Group (ASTSG), ZGAP/Marlow Bird Park, WRS, EAZA's Silent Forest, National University of Singapore and a collection of other breeding facilities across Indonesia. It has been suggested, to unite this group of interested parties and develop a legal form within which to work, an Indonesian wide bird conservation form should be set up. There is an existing forum *Forum Konservasi Burung*, yet there is very little

information on the forum and it does not appear to be all that active. It could be that through cooperating with this existing forum, a more active and larger group of organisations could come together.

EcosystemImpact is currently in the process of developing a funding grant with EAZA Silent Forest to achieve funding to survey birds of Simeulue and surrounding islands, with a specific focus on endangered and endemic species; develop protection plans for areas of particular significance (for example if wild populations are discovered); build a bird focused environmental education programme on Simeulue; and develop a community ranger and monitoring team to act on Babi and Lasia Islands. EcosystemImpact believes that this project is not only necessary for the protection of Simeulue's biodiversity, but also as a next step for the Simeulue Bird Breeding Programme. These birds will need secure, well protected and community supported areas to be released into. Through developing community ranger programmes and anti-poaching awareness within communities, EcosystemImpact – with support from our funders – aims to develop just such places.