
EAZA Progress Report Simeulue Barusan Shama Breeding Programme Emergency Funding

28th April 2021



1. Programme Update

The Simeulue Barusan Shama Emergency Funding was supplied by EAZA in partnership with Marlow Bird Park for the three-month interim period between funding rounds. This funding allowed for the continued running of the programme, along with the purchase of two further female Barusan shama, the employment of security guards and to begin cricket breeding to supply an extra food source for the breeding programme.

1.1. Bird Purchase and Pairings

Two female Barusan shama were purchased on the 22/03/21 bringing the programme total to 12 individuals, 6 male and 6 female (see Figure 1 and 3). Both birds were obtained from Simeulue locals by the programme bird care and maintenance assistant. All birds have been purchased from Simeulue locals to try and secure the best chance of obtaining genuine Simeulue Barusan shama (*Copsychus melanurus hypolizus*) and Babi Barusan shama (*Copsychus melanurus opisthochrus*), and not bred hybrids. Both females are currently being held within the programmes temporary holding quarantine before being moved to the breeding aviary.



Figures 1. and 2. (left and second to left) show female Individual Identification Number SBS014. Figure 3. (right) show female Individual Identification Number SBS015.

SBS014 shows a deep orange chest with a black tail with only small white tips on first set and second set of tail feathers, both suggest a high likelihood of *C.m hypolizus*. SBS015 shows a paler chest and larger white tips on the first three sets of tail feathers. This may suggest that SBS015 is either a Babi Barusan shama (*C.m. opisthochrus*), or a possible hybrid. SBS015 was however obtained with the source stating *C.m hypolizus* and that as a young bird the tail may darken as plumage develops. Only full DNA testing will provide an accurate result of exact location origin which will be carried out at a later stage in the project.

Within the breeding aviary, four pairs have been partnered and nesting boxes and materials supplied. Both dried coconut husk fibres and pine leaves have been supplied as nesting material.



Figure 4. a pair of Simeulue Barusan shama within the breeding aviary. Nest box can be seen to the left of the photo. Vertical narrow nest boxes will also be supplied to provide a variety of choice.

1.2. Security

In order to provide the necessary security measures and reduce the risk of bird theft, a security guard presence is required. The aviary is situated within Mahi-Mahi Surf Resort which has existing security guards. However, due to Corona and the temporary closing of the resort, this security presence is running at a reduced capacity.

The Emergency Funding supplied has provided a contribution towards the existing Mahi-Mahi Surf Resort security guards, which has allowed the development of a shift rotation system whereby a two security guard shifts are posted at the aviary from 6pm after evening feeding, through to 7am when morning feeding begins.

1.3. Cricket Breeding

During the three-month Emergency Funding period, EcosystemImpact has started breeding crickets to provide a high nutrition additional food source for the breeding programme (see Figures 5 and 6). The programme now provides cockroaches, insectivore bird feed, meal worms and crickets, along with nutrient anti-stress supplements and a moulting supplement when required.



Figure 5. (left) showing cricket breeding box with fine mesh to provide ventilation, and Figure 6. (right) showing inside the box with crickets and water spinach feed.