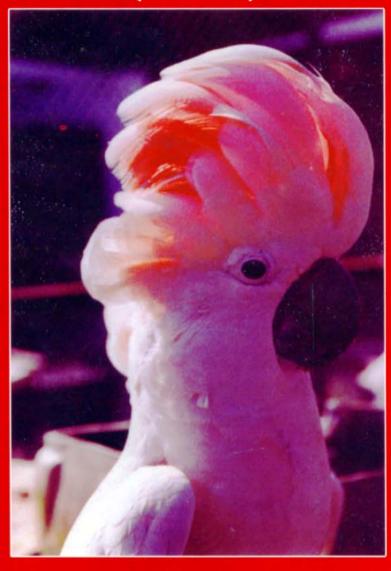
INVESTIGATION BY PROFAUNA INDONESIA OF PARROT TRAPPING ON SERAM ISLAND, MALUKU, INDONESIA

Flying Without Wings (Part II)



THE INDONESIAN **PARROT PROJECT** AND PROJECT BIRD WATCH



INTRODUCTION



After finishing its investigation in 2001-2002 about the trapping and trade of cockatoos and parrots in North Maluku, ProFauna Indonesia conducted a similar investigation in the south part of Maluku Province, Indonesia. The investigation was carried out between December 2003 and May 2004 and was funded by Project Bird Watch/the Indonesian Parrot Project.

South Maluku is home to some magificent species of parrot, including the Salmon-crested (or Seram) cockatoo (Cacatua moluccensis), red lory (Eos bornea), blue-eared lory (Eos semilarvata) and rainbow lorikeet (Trichoglossus haematodus).

The salmon-crested cockatoo is endemic to Seram Island and is now felt to be extinct on Haruku and Saparua. It has been reported on Ambon, but these most likely are

escaped birds, not true endemics. In the 1970's, this bird was very common in Maluku, and could be seen in large flocks, but now it is difficult to find them in the wild.

The Salmon-crested cockatoo originating from South Maluku has been protected by Indonesian law. Although other psittacines from South Maluku (such as the red lory, blue-eared lory, and rainbow lorikeet) have not been protected by specific laws, trapping quotas have already been prepared to protect them. Thus, any trapping of parrots in this region is forbidden.

Despite this, the 6-month investigation by ProFauna Indonesia in Ambon and Seram demonstrated that trapping and hunting of parrots in Maluku still occurs. ProFauna has been able to document the process of trapping, shipping and trading of these endangered species. Trade in the Salmon-crested cockatoo was frequently documented in some bird markets in Java.



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TRAPPING AND TRADE

Protection under the law does not stop the trapping of the Salmon-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua moluccensis*) on Seram Island. There are many birds collectors in there. One of them is Madam Kartini who lives in Waeputih Village, Kobisonta, North Seram District, Central Maluku Regent. Kartini is the biggest collector on Seram and has been managing her business for 10 years.

Kartini has employees specializing in catching parrots. In a representative month, Kartini might collect 20-50 Salmon-crested cockatoos, 200 Red lory (*Eos bornea*) and 350 Rainbow lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*).

Kartini collects birds from trappers in Waemual, Kobi, Tanah Merah, Bula, Namto and Jakarta Baru. She buys the birds for average of Rp 75.000 per cockatoo. However, she pays only Rp 10.000-17.500 for red lory. After a large numbers of birds have been collected, the birds are sent to Ambon. In 19 March 2004, ProFauna Indonesia investigator observed 19 Salmon-crested cockatoo at Kartini's house. The birds are concealed at the back house of Kartini.

These birds were sent to Ambon

At Kartini's house in Kobisonta, Salmoncrested cockatoos and other parrots are delivered to Kobi Port by car. The distance of Kobisonta to Kobi Port is about 40 km. Later, the birds are shipped from Kobi Port to Ambon using a motorboat that runs along the Seram Island shore. It takes 20 hours to reach Ambon.

Besides Kartini, there is another bird collector who lives in Kobi, named Sugito. Sugito also run a café called Café Tenda Biru. Sugito does not sell Salmon-crested cockatoos, only lories and lorikeets. Sugito chooses to sell lories and lorikeets because







The Salmon-crested cockatoo at Kartini's house in Kobisonta, North Seram District



The misuse of trapping permit for Violet-necked lory

he knows that selling Salmon-crested cockatoos is prohibited by law.

OBTAINING TRAPPING PERMITS FROM BKSDA

Trapping parrots is flourishing because most trappers possess trapping permits issued by Nature Resource Conservation Office (BKSDA) in Maluku. For example, on the order of PT Pembangunan Maluku Permai based in Ambon, BKSDA Maluku issued a permit to a trapper in North Seram named Mr. Kardji. According to the terms of the permit, Mr. Kardji is allowed to catch 10 Violet-naped lories (Eos squamata riciniata), 20 python snakes (Morelia amethisturia) and Tree snake (Condola carinata). This permit expired in 29 January 2004.

Feeling secure by possessing the permit, trappers also catch other birds such as Red lory (*Eos bornea*), rainbow lorikeet (*Trichoglossus haematodus*), and Salmon-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua moluccensis*) as well, despite the facts that in 2004, there were no trapping quotas issued for

Maluku lories and cockatoo and the cockatoo is protected by law.

A Decree of Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHKA) no.158/KPTS/DJ-IV/2003 about quotas for pursuing natural plants and wild animals in 2004 mentions that a trapping quota was issued for only 200 Violet-necked lories (*Eos squamata riniata*) originating in Maluku. Moreover, this quota included only adult birds for use in breeding; catching birds for trade was prohibited.

Establishment of a trapping quota by BKSDA in Maluku for the Violet-necked lory on Seram Island is questionable. A Guide to the Birds of Wallacea (Coates, B.,Bishop, KD, eds., 1997) and A Guide to Parrots of the World (Juniper,T, Parr,M,; 1998) state that the riciniata subspecies of Violet-necked lory is found in North Maluku but not in Seram (located in South Maluku). Thus, the catch permit is only a justification to pursue others birds.

TRAPPING METHODS

One of the trapping sites for the Salmon-crested cockatoo is Manusela National Park. This is especially ironic since "manusela" means 'bird of freedom'. Each week, a single trapper is able to



collect an average of 4
salmon-crested cockatoos, or
16 per month. In March 2004
ProFauna Indonesia
investigator recorded the
processes used to trap
Salmon-crested cockatoos in
Waemual area within the
Manusela National Park
territory.

Two trapping methods were used, namely: taking out the birds directly from nest, and use of a trap. Theft from the nest usually was carried out in the nighttime in the dry season. However nowadays trappers prefer trapping birds instead of catching them because it is safer and guarantees greater success.

The trapping method for parrots commonly used in North Maluku as well as in Papua makes use of sticky tree gum, but in Seram use of a snare is more common. The trapper said that the use of tree gum would destroy the bird's plumage and reduce the price. Therefore, snares are preferred.

To place a snare, trapper would survey beforehand the location where cockatoo usually sleeps. One of the favorable tree types is the kenari tree (Canarium). After finding the cockatoo's sleeping tree, the trapper prepares the snare, using:

- -String or mica ropes
- -Two pieces of bamboo of 1,5 m long cotaining snares
- -Wire containing a knot

The snare is thrown up into the sleeping tree of the cockatoo using a catapult (a throwing tool made of a wood branch shaped in V form with a rubber is at each end; this is sometimes called a "sling-shot").

When the snare has been attached on the tree branch, the trapper watches the trap from a concealed place. At dusk, a cockatoo will come



The cockatoo trapping in North Maluku is different to the one in Seram. The cockatoo trapping in Seram is mostly using snare made of string or mica ropes. One of the most favorable places to trap parrot is within Manusela National Park territory. There are average of 16 Salmoncrested cockatoos caught from the park every month.



and perch on the branch and become trapped. It will produce loud cries that invite other birds to approach. Eventually more birds will become ensuared.

THE BIRD TRADE IN AMBON

Parrots trapped from Seram and Buru Islands are mostly shipped to Ambon City, in Maluku province. The largest bird collector in Ambon city is H. Maradjuni, alias Noheng. Maradjuni owns the company named PT (Ltd.) Pembangunan Maluku Permai which is active in the bird trade. The address of his office is in Pala Street, Pasar Lama Complex, Ambon.

PT Pembangunan Maluku Permai works closely with Madame Kartini, the bird collector in Seram. Most of the parrots received in Maradjuni's company are





Parrots kept in the warehouse in Pasar Lama, Ambon. It is appear to be none of the Salmon-crested cockatoo is found in here

supplied by Kartini. Common people will see him to sell lories and lorikeet only because he hides his trade in the Salmon-crested cockatoo by keeping those birds inside his house and only taking them out when there is a dealer visiting to purchase them. The bird is usually placed inside a closed box.

The location of the warehouse used to keep birds belonging to PT Pembangunan Maluku Permai is in the middle of Pasar Lama Ambon (the traditional market in Ambon). The market itself is near the local port in Ambon. Parrots which we were able to see in that warehouse were red lories and rainbow lorikeets; in contrast, salmon-crested cockatoos are kept in a box inside the house.

In addition to Maradjuni, the bird collector, there is another bird trader who operates in Ambon named Daeng Jani. His stall is in Ambon Port. The birds most commonly displayed in Jani's stall are the Red lory, rainbow lorikeet, and yellow-crested cockatoo; once again, Salmon-crested cockatoos are usually hidden inside the house. Daeng Jani said that he could provide shipping permits for parrots if they needed to be transported from Ambon. The cost of a shipping permit is Rp 20.000 per 3 birds. A Salmon-crested cockatoo would be claimed to be a white cockatoo.

The price of Salmon-crested cockatoo at this stage ranged from Rp 350.000 to 750.000. Juvenile cockatoos are far more expensive than adults. On Ambon, red lory and rainbow lory sold for Rp 50.000. In Seram, red lory sold for only Rp 10.000 and Rp 5000 for rainbow lorikeet.

SHIPPING TO JAKARTA

Most parrots in PT Pembangunan Maluku Permai will be shipped to Jakarta. The average number of shipments is 2 per month. The birds are to send to Jakarta by plane. A single flight can carry about 400 parrots. In a month, the total number of parrots shipped to Jakarta would be 800; therefore, the number will multiply to 9600 during the course of a single year.

Bird traders in Pasar Lama explained that those birds are shipped to the exporter of birds in Jakarta. Flying Without Wings, Part I, which was published in 2002, mentioned that, after being provided with the shipping permit by KSDA in Ternate, some exporters of fauna like Firma Hasco receiving white cockatoo originating from North Maluku in 2001. This occurred despite the fact that no trapping quota was allowed that year.



Business card of Marajuni (bird trader in Ambon)



In order to conceal Salmon-crested cockatoos from custom officers, the packing shipment to Jakarta is divided into 3 parts so that it would appear that the package contains only red lories and rainbow lorikeets. The cage is divided into three parts. The middle part will be tightly closed by plywood while the upper and the bottom parts are constrained by wire mesh so the birds can be viewed from outside. The upper and the bottom of the cages are filled with red lories and rainbow lorikeets whereas the middle part, which is closed, is filled with salmon-crested cockatoos. Ten salmon-crested cockatoos can be successfully smuggled using this method. The size of the cage is 100 cm long, 60 cm wide, and 60 cm high.

The cockatoos, which are smuggled to Jakarta by plane, are therefore hidden amongst lories or sometimes may be claimed to be white cockatoos (*Cacatua alba*). C. alba is an unprotected species and looks superficially similar (to the untrained eye) to the Salmon-crested cockatoo. However, white cockatoos are only found in North Maluku, not in South Maluku.

On May 2004, ProFauna Indonesia investigator witnessed and documented the shipment to Jakarta of cages loaded with parrots which were owned by



The Salmon-crested cockatoos originated from Seram Island are ready to ship to Ambon using ship.

Maradjuni. The cages were crowded with hundreds of red lories, rainbow lorikeets and Salmon-crested cockatoos. They were carried by airplane from Mandala Airlines, flight number RI 661. The protocol in Pattimura airport was not handled well. Cages were merely distributed without any detailed examination. In just one shipment, PT Pembangunan Maluku Permai of Maradji spent about Rp 2 millions.







Being trapped from Seram Island, shipped to Ambon, and then carried out to Jakarta by plane. Control toward birds carrying by plane in Pattimura Ambon and Sukarno-Hatta Jakarta Airports are relatively weak so there are average of two times in a month parrots originating from Maluku are sent to Jakarta

The Mandala Airlines flight carrying 7 cages filled with birds left Pattimura Airport in Ambon at 14.00 and arrived at Soekarno Hatta Airport in Jakarta at 18.00. ProFauna's monitoring shows that the cages were then distributed to a car with police number is B 9653 ZZ and moved to Pembina Street, near Pramuka bird market. In this area, three ProFauna activists were attacked by hundreds of wildlife traders for reporting illegal trade to the police.

Pramuka bird market in Jakarta is the largest market in Indonesia. Almost any animal can be found here such as orangutan, gibbon, slow lories (one of nocturnal primates), Salmon-crested cockatoo, palm cockatoo, sulphur-crested cockatoo, etc. The investigation completed in 2002 by ProFauna studied the shipment of hundreds parrots originating in North Maluku and going to Pramuka bird market. The birds were later shipped to Medan (North Sumatera), secured only by a domestic shipping permit issued by BKSDA DKI in Jakarta. Medan is a transit place before the birds are smuggled to Singapore.

Although the practice of trade in protected animals at Pramuka , and the illegal shipping to of birds to Singapore has already been reported to BKSDA officers in Jakarta, they seem to be powerless when confronted by this situation. The illegal trade of wild animals continues even though some markets are very close to the BKSDA office!!!

The monitoring report of ProFauna towards bird markets in Java in 2003 shows that at least 50 salmon-crested cockatoos had been traded amongst the three markets, Bratang Surabaya, Pramuka Jakarta, and Pasar Turi Surabaya bird markets. At these bird markets, the cockatoos had been traded openly with price about Rp 1.000.000 per cockatoo.

THE IMPACT OF THE AMBON RIOTS

Civil strife in Ambon started again in April 2004. It not only led to the death of many people, but it impacted the trade on parrots, especially the shipping of birds to Java. All of the parrot traders located in Pasar Lama and Ambon Port are in the

group I region (Moslem), whereas the BKSDA office is located in the group II area (Christian). Bird traders are afraid to get shipping permits from the BKSDA base in the "enemy" area. This affected parrot shipping to Java since no shipping permits were issued by BKSDA.

COCKATOO IN A THERMOS BOTTLE

In addition to transport to Jakarta for sale at the markets, bird traders sell Salmon-crested cockatoos directly to people in Maluku. These people include not only buyers but also soldiers of National Indonesian Army (TNI) who are returning to Java. Daeng Jani (bird trader in Ambon Port) said that, when new troops come to replace the previous troops, many of the departing soldiers buy parrots and bring them to Java. Shipments using military ships are difficult to control.

Common people who transport Salmon-crested cockatoos in passenger ships would pack the birds in a particular way in order to avoid inspection by the ship's crew. The bird is placed in a thermos (a bottle used to keep water hot) while they are entering the ship. Once the bird is on the ship, the owner will take the bird out from thermos but then would put it





Many ways are using to smuggle the Salmon-crested cockatoo going out from Ambon port. One of the ways is by placing the bird in the thermos bottle

back in the thermos again before getting off the ship. This method will avoid the custom officer in the port from suspecting smuggling of protected birds. A bird trader in Ambon taught them this technique.

THE CAMPAIGN OF PROFAUNA AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

After launching the report about Indonesian parrot trading entitled "Flying without Wings" in 4 July 2002, ProFauna Indonesia promoted campaigns concerning parrot protection. The campaign for parrot with the theme of "More Beautiful in the Wild" had great success.

In 3 April 2003, the Governor of North Maluku, Drs. H. Thaib Armaiyn, issued Governor Instruction number 188.5/719, which ordered all regents, heads of district and people not to trap parrots without a legal permit. The Governor also ordered that birds are forbidden to be exported from

North Maluku. Willingness to cooperate to protect the parrots was also expressed by Indonesia National Army (TNI). At this moment when there is rotation of troops in Ternate, North Maluku and Papua, provost (military police) oversees the soldiers very closely to prevent them from taking parrots away with them.

The Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHKA), Forestry
Department has responded positively to the recommendation from ProFauna Indonesia to punish anyone from KSDA Forestry Department involved in the violation of trapping quota for birds, such as



ProFauna campaigns for parrot entitled "More Beauty in the Wild"

happened in North Maluku and Papua. Finally, in the middle of 2003, the Head of BKSDA Ternate, Suharyadi, who had issued illegal trapping and shipping permits, was fired from his position. His replacement has already achieved positive results, since KSDA has stopped issuing trapping and shipping permits for North Maluku parrots.

During 2003 ProFauna Indonesia continued monitoring 2 bird collectors in Ternate —namely CV Baktimer and UD Kinari Muda. Both company were known to receive thousands parrots that had been illegally trapped in North Maluku. The Coordinator of ProFauna Indonesia Members Forum in North Maluku, Iskandar Abdullah states that those two bird collectors are no longer keeping parrots.

Although the success of the campaign "More beautiful in the wild" is obvious, Directorate General PHKA has not taken direct action to control animal exporting. Bird collectors still receive white cockatoos (*Cacatua alba*) that have been shipped illegally using a domestic shipping permit issued by KSDA North Maluku. It is illegal because in 2001 no trapping quota was issued to catch white cockatoos. Despite such clear regulations, KSDA of North Maluku issued trapping and shipping permits for white cockatoo. A paragraph within the shipping permit stated that the destination of the birds is to the exporters of animals based in Jakarta, such as Firma Hasco!

In 2002-2003, ProFauna had many meetings with high functionaries of PHKA to discuss the shipment of birds to animal exporters. However, there is clear that they were not prepared to punish the bird exporters. Ironically, in 2003 BKSDA DKI Jakarta made an agreement with Firma Hasco about translocation of animals from Tegalalur. The agreement dated 15 October 2003 signed by The Head of Conservation Section II, BKSDA DKI Jakarta, Ir. Edi Sensudi and Firma Hasco states that KSDA entrusts a number of parrots to Firma Hasco

to breed. The birds were a palm cockatoo (*Probosciger aterrimus*), 3 sulphur-crested cockatoos (*Cacatua galerita triton*), a black-capped lory (*Lorius lory*) and 2 Eclectus parrots (*Eclectus roratus*).

The parrots entrusted to Firma Hasco previously were rescued by Animal Rescue Center (PPS) Tegalalur Jakarta. PPS was built by PHKA and had been funded by The Gibbon Foundation, a non-profit organization based in Switzerland. PPS is a place intended to temporarily keep confiscated animals seized from illegal captivity, before releasing them back to the wild or translocating them to a better place.

In addition to PPS Tegalalur, there are other PPS: those built in Sukabumi-West Java, Yogyakarta, Malang, Manado-Sulawesi, and Bali. Compared to the other PPS, Tegalalur is the smallest one.

Although it can not receive large numbers of animals, animals kept there can be transferred to other larger PPS such as PPS Cikananga in Sukabumi, PPS Yogyakarta or PPS Manado. KSDA DKI that supervises PPS Tegalalur preferred to entrust the seized parrots to the animal exporter Firma Hasco. The reason why the seized parrots were transferred to Firma Hasco because the firma Hasco is considered success in breeding of parrots.

The agreement between the two parties stated that the result of the captive breeding (F2) at Firma Hasco will be divided between the parties which signed the agreement.

UNWILLING LAW ENFORCEMENT

Thousand of parrots are traded freely at bird markets. The largest trade is found at Pramuka bird market in Jakarta, Bratang bird market in Surabaya and Pasar Turi in Surabaya. These three markets were known to sell hundreds of protected parrots such as sulphur-crested cockatoo, palm cockatoo, salmon-crested cockatoo, Eclectus parrot, black-capped lory, and Tanimar (Goffin's) cockatoo; these had been traded openly. Despite launching of the report entitled Flying Without Wings (Part I) in 4 July 2002, the activity of the parrot trade in those markets still continues.

At other bird markets such as in Ambon, sale of the cockatoos is not open to view, but at Pramuka, Bratang and Pasar Turi bird markets, the protected cockatoos are now traded openly like there is no law. There is no real action from BKSDA to control protected parrots trade at bird markets.

During 2003, ProFauna noted that at least 50 Salmon-crested cockatoos were traded at bird markets in Java. The real number must exceed the apparent number because the average number of parrots shipped

from Seram to Jakarta within a month is at least 20 birds. This fact means that during a year, a minimal figure of 240 salmon-crested cockatoos had been shipped illegally to Jakarta.

If strict penalties are not given for the illegal trade in parrots, then the trapping of parrots from the wild will continue. Equally bad, people will think that trade in protected parrots is legal and this will encourage them to continue to buy parrots. Law no. 5 in 1990 about Conservation of Nature Resource and its Ecosystem, states that the punishment for someone trading in protected animals shall be imprisonment up to a maximum of 5 years and a fine up to a maximum Rp 100 millions.

The Indonesian Government (specifically BKSDA) apparently acts unwillingly to enforce laws protecting animals. Parrots confiscated from people would be better off if they are placed at a non-commercial place such as a Animal Rescue Center (PPS), and not with an animal exporter or with government officials. For many reasons, if confiscated animals are given to an exporter, it will cause suspicion and distrust with the public.

More importantly, PPS have only the best interest of the animals in mind and have no selfish interest. In contrast, there is the possibility that animals given either to exporters or to government officials will not be sent to the places which are in the best interest of the animals.





Turi Birdmarket in Surabaya: hundreds of protected cockatoos are freely traded in bird markets

Furthermore, member of PPS are extremely skilled in looking after the health and feeding of animals taken from the wild, and they have the proper facilities to care for them. In contrast, exporters and government officials do not have those skills or facilities; therefore, there is the possibility that great harm could be caused to the animals while they are in the possession of exporters or government officials."

In 24 May 2004 BKSDA South Sulawesi I was able to rescue 43 sulphur-crested cockatoos. It would have been a worthwhile action except for the fact that the rescued parrots were later kept at the house of head of BKSDA South Sulawesi and some of the cockatoos were distributed to the head port sector police as a gift for the help in confiscation process. At first, the four confiscated cockatoos were given to the police of port sector and the two others were given to Head of BKDSA Sulsel I. A large number of the rest were sent to PPS Tasikoki-Manado. The plan to send cockatoos to the house of Head of BKSDA Sulsel I aroused protest from ProFauna members in Makassar-South Sulawesi.

In 14 June 2004, the Head of BKSDA South Sulawesi, Mr. Edy informed coordinator of ProFauna Indonesia Makassar area, Indra Poernomo that the 6 confiscated cockatoos would not be given to the police but instead that all would be kept in his house. After getting protest from ProFauna, two cockatoos are sent to PPS Tasikoki, Manado in 30 June 2004. There is no information about fate of the rest cockatoos at Mr. Edy's house.

Cases such as translocation of parrots from PPS to Firma Hasco and placing confiscated cockatoos in the house of the Head of BKSDA South Sulawesi I sets a terrible example about the role of law enforcement in protecting Indonesian animals. When there is a place with better facilities such as PPS, noncommercial, confiscated animals should be sent there; NONE should be sent for the personal use of government functionaries or animal exporters.

Tens of Sulphur-crested cockatoos are confiscated by BKSDA Officers South Sulawesi I



Stop parrots trapping in indonesia



THE INDONESIAN
PARROT PROJECT AND
PROJECT BIRD WATCH

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