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## BREEDING COLONIES OF WATERBIRDS ALONG THE COAST OF JAMBI PROVINCE, SUMATRA, AUGUST 1989

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## Ringkasan

Pada bulan Agustus 1989 telah dilaksanakan suatu kunjungan ke tempat kelompok biakan *Mycteria cinerea* dan *Ardea cinerea*, yang juga telah terpantau pada bulan Juli-Agustus 1985. Diberikan pembahasan mengenai menyusutnya jumlah kelompok biakan *Ardea cinerea* (dari tujuh menjadi empat) serta hilangnya kelompok biakan *Mycteria cinerea*. Juga diberikan beberapa saran menyangkut kemungkinan penyebabnya.

During 15-18 August 1989, as part of a survey for a film on mangrove ecology, the sites of waterbird colonies which were discovered in 1985 during a survey along the north coast of Jambi Province (Danielsen & Skov, 1987), were revisited to check on the present situation.

The 1985 survey discovered seven colonies of Grey Heron, and one colony of Milky Stork with a minimum of 74 active nests. In 1989, only four colonies of Grey Heron remained at their previous sites. The others had disappeared (see Fig. 1). No new colonies were found.

Most of the north coast of Jambi Province is protected in the mangrove reserve Hutan Bakau Pantai Timor. However, since the establishment of this Nature Reserve in 1976 there have been many changes in the area, including a rapid increase of agricultural settlements. As the reserve boundaries were not marked in the field until 1990, it was not clear exactly which areas were protected and which not. As a result, there have been many incursions into the mangrove forests, and logging and conversion to agriculture have continued, amounting to a loss of over 50% of the original mangrove vegetation. During the survey it was noted that large stretches of coastline were devoid of vegetation except for dead and decaying coconut trees, leaving the beach exposed to wave erosion.

The degradation of the mangrove forests may have caused the decline in number of breeding colonies, including the loss of the Milky Stork colony. However, there are many other possible causes. In this context it is appropriate to mention also the increase in (illegal) international trade in Milky Storks in 1986 after the announcement of the discovery of the breeding site and the attention drawn to its status as an endangered species by other publications. Juvenile Milky Storks were traded to (and purchased by) zoos in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Brunei, and several European zoos, including some in the Netherlands and Germany. Apparently these derived from the same shipment of 40-50 young birds. The only other known colony at that time was on Pulau Rambut, Java, (numbering 10 active pairs in 1984 (Milton and Marhadi, 1984)).

### Acknowledgements

The survey was an activity of the cooperative wetland and waterbird survey programme of the Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHPA) and the Asian Wetland Bureau, and was carried out in association with Fauna Film (Denmark) and the Danish Ornithological Society.

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