

Then in 1982 and 1983, several rhino died of a mysterious disease. Since that time, the population seems to have stabilized at about 50-60 individuals.

Hoever, the confidence limits of this track-analysis census method are large. Therefore, it was decided that the population should be studied in more detail before any of the recommended plans to remove rhino to establish new populations could proceed.

In 1990, PHPA and WWF initiated an extensive photographic survey of rhino numbers and distribution. Under guidance of Mike Griffiths, about 30 automatic cameras activated by a pressure mat trigger were placed at strategic points throughout the Park. During the two years the study was conducted, hundreds of color photographs of rhino and other large mammals were collected. From the photos, 27 individual rhino could be identified on basis of anatomical features such as horn size and shape, neck folds, skin pores, scars, etc. Considering area of camera coverage and other factors, the rhino population has been estimated at between 37 and 58 individuals, including several calves recorded on the photos. A further computation based on home range size and habitat condition has estimated the carrying capacity at 80 rhino.

The study recommends:

- Improved protection of the Park
- Development of a more efficient patrolling system
- Systematic monitoring of the rhino population
- Habitat management not be implemented at this time
- Captive breeding not be attempted
- Preparation of a translocation site for a second population
- Once the above conditions are in place, initiation of a staged translocation to the selected and prepared site.

Source: The Javan Rhino of Ujung Kulon - An Investigation of Its Population and Ecology Through Camera Trapping. Mike Griffiths. April 1993.

JAVAN RHINO STAMP

The famous Museum Zoologicum Bogoriensis commemorates its 100th anniversary (1894-1994) with two special stamps. The 700 Rupiah centennial stamp features the skeleton of the Javan rhino. This specimen, a solitary male, was collected for the Museum in 1934 at Karangnunggal, Tasikmalaya, W Java. It was the last Javan rhino known to exist outside Ujung Kulon. The 1000 Rp stamp illustrates the skeleton of the Blue Whale that stranded on Java's south coast in 1916.

