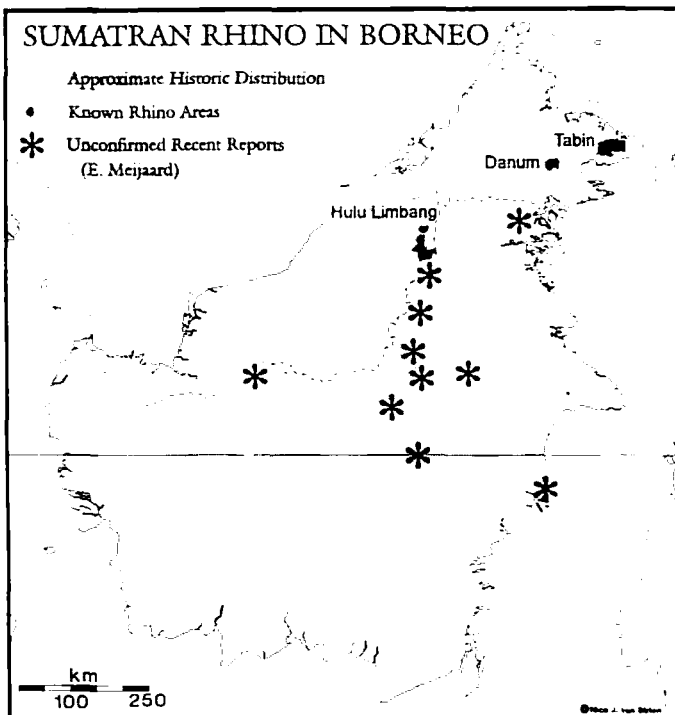


## COUNTRY REPORTS

AsRSG Members in Asian Rhino range states are requested to provide reports on conservation activities and events in their countries for this column. No reports were available for this issue for India, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, or Laos.

### INDONESIA

#### DISTRIBUTION SUMATRAN RHINO IN KALIMANTAN



The Bornean rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis harrissoni*) is considered to be a subspecies of the two-horned Sumatran rhinoceros. Hunting and habitat loss have this sub-species on the brink of extinction. Rookmaker (1977) estimated the total number of surviving rhino in Borneo to be as low as 25 animals. Even after more detailed surveys through 1993, Yayasan Mitra Rhino (YMR) in Indonesia still estimated the total number of rhino in Sabah and Sarawak (Malaysian Borneo) to be about 85. For Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) only a vague estimate of "a few" surviving animals could be

provided (anonymous, 1993). This last estimate already indicates the almost total lack of knowledge of the present conservation status of rhino in Kalimantan.

In 1994, a survey was initiated to investigate the present distribution range of the Bornean orang utan (*Pongo pygmaeus pygmaeus*), which was funded by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) in the Netherlands. This survey was conducted in cooperation with the Directorate General for Forest Protection and Nature Conservation of the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry (DG PHPA) and the MOF Tropenbos-Kalimantan Project in East-Kalimantan. As this survey was going to cover potential rhinoceros habitat in Kalimantan, it was decided to include information on recent sightings of rhinoceros in the orang utan survey. Extra funding was provided by the "van Tienhoven Stichting" in the Netherlands.

The map indicates recent rhinoceros sightings in Kalimantan. All reports are based on information from the local population and refer to the direct observation of one or several rhinoceroses, or their indirect signs, like tracks and faeces. All sightings were made between 1985 and 1995. None of these reports have been confirmed by the author. The survey will continue until the end of 1995, after which a more detailed description of the results of this survey will be presented.

#### References:

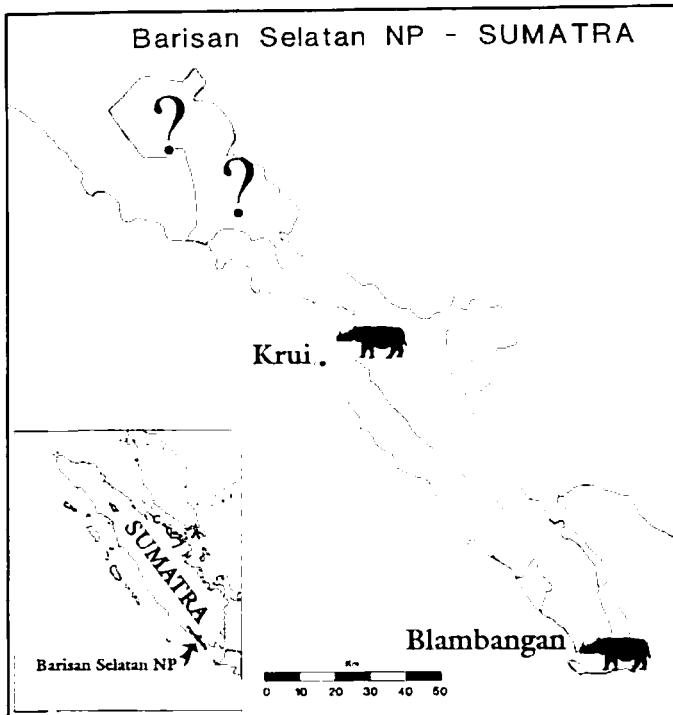
- Anonymous, 1993. Conservation strategy rhinoceros Indonesia (in Indonesian). PHPA & YMR.
- Rookmaker, L.C. 1977. The distribution and status of the Rhinoceros, *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*, in Borneo - A Review. Bijdr. Dierk., 47(2):197-204, map 1, table 1.

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## SUMATRAN RHINO IN BUKIT BARISAN



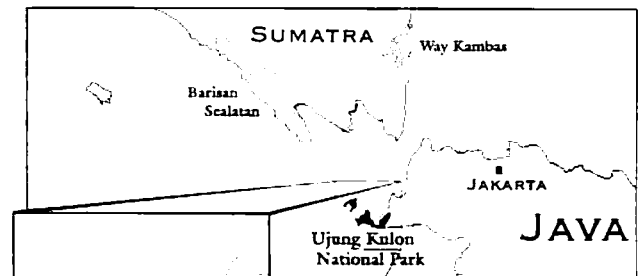
Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, located on the southern tip of Sumatra, is the third largest protected area in Sumatra (235,000 ha) and is believed to contain one of the largest remaining populations of Sumatran rhino on the island. Although rhino surveys were conducted by Park staff in 1987 and 1990, these surveys were limited to the southern portion of the reserve near the Blambangan and Seman Rivers.

Haru, we found no sign of rhino. Additional surveys on the northern boundary of Lampung Province, near the village of Rata Agung produced no sightings. Rattan and garahu collectors active in the area claim that no rhinos have been sighted for over 10 years. In all areas surveyed, representative Sumatran mammals were sighted or signs were detected (e.g. elephant, sun bear, sambar deer, muntjac, mouse deer, pig, otter). Prints of tapir were sighted only in those areas where rhino were also detected.

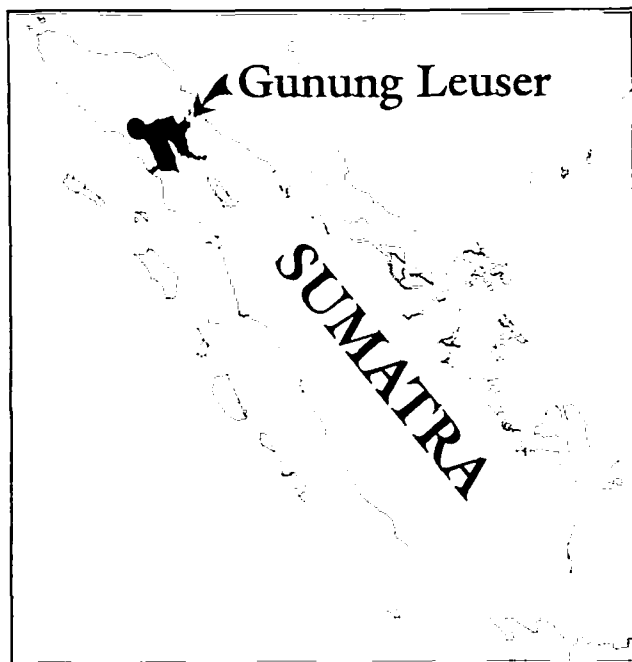
Our sightings seem to support the general impression that the southern region of Bukit Barisan Selatan N.P. provides better habitat relative to the north for Sumatran rhinos. This may be due to the swampy conditions and more open canopy of the southern forests, or better protection in the south. We believe the proposed hunting reserve in the area of highest rhino density is cause for concern. Ground surveys in Bengkulu Province are still needed.

*Dr. Margaret Kinnaird & Dr. Timothy O'Brien*  
*Associate Conservation Scientists, Wildlife Conservation Society*

## RHINO POACHED IN UJUNG KULON



## EUROPEAN UNION GUNUNG LEUSER PROJECT: FULL STEAM AHEAD!



The European Union has approved a 32 Million ECU grant (~ US \$ 43 Million) to support a technical partnership of 7 years for conservation of the Leuser Ecosystem. The Leuser Ecosystem covers ~ 19 000 sq km of State forest land, including the current Gunung Leuser National Park (~ 9 000 sq km).

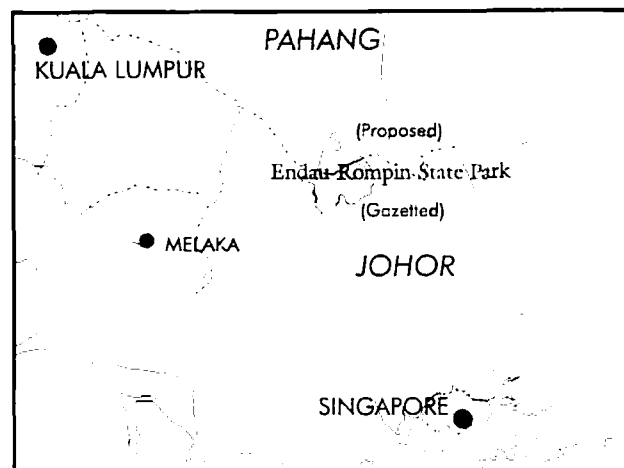
Conservation of the Leuser Ecosystem will be achieved through an Integrated Conservation and Development approach. Conditions for locally desired, ecologically sound developments will be established in a "quid pro quo" exchange of commitments, in covenants, by local communities, to support protection of the ecosystem. To facilitate the programme, a special "Conservation Concession" has been issued to the Leuser International Foundation, who delegates management to a joint Indonesian-EU Management Unit.

Currently, the EU is recruiting international staff for the Management Unit through a inter-union tender procedure. Leuser is the most important area for the Sumatran rhino. Protection of the population in the Central Leuser Rift is a high priority of the project.

Source: H.D. Rijksen, M. Griffiths.  
*Leuser Development Programme, Masterplan 1995.*

## MALAYSIA

### ENDAU ROMPIN SURVEYS



In 1994 and continuing in 1995, a number of surveys have been conducted in Endau-Rompin in Pahang and Johore, Peninsula Malaysia. This area has been considered to contain one of the largest rhino populations in Peninsula Malaysia, perhaps as many as 20-25. However, there has been much disturbance in the area and delays in properly gazetted major parts of the Park on the Pahang side. Results of these surveys will be assessed further at the Malaysia Rhino PHVA Workshop, but the preliminary reports are cause for concern. Adequate protection and management of this rhino area is vital for the species.

## VIETNAM

### WHY THE CAT LOC (VIETNAM) RHINOS ARE JAVAN

In response to the Editor's query in *ASIAN RHINOS 1*:

- (1) Schaller et al. (1990, *ORYX*, 24:71) were "shown the horn and a piece of skin" of a rhino killed in 1988 by a Stiang hunter in Bao Loc district (west Lam Dong Prov., i.e. in Cat Loc Reserve). The skin is entirely characteristic of *Rhinoceros sondaicus*. The horn differentiates the genera *Rhinoceros* and *Dicerorhinus* well. If Schaller et al. were at all familiar with rhinoceros morphology, this would have been adequate for identification.