

ASIAN RHINO SPECIALIST GROUP ACTIVITIES



GEF PROJECT ACTIVATED

The UNDP GEF Project Conservation Strategy for Rhinoceros in South East Asia (Indonesia and Malaysia) was activated in April 1995.

In **Indonesia**, the Sumatran Rhino Trust (SRT) base camp has been rehabilitated into the training and operations center for the project.

A four-member Mobile Team has been formed and deployed. The Mobile Team is led by the Regional Field Coordinator Mr. Dwi Sutantohadi, who also serves as the Mobile Team member for law enforcement. Other Mobile Team members are: Hario T. Wibisono (research & monitoring); Arief Rubianto (management & protection); Desmondh Bangun (education & extension).

To date, members for 4 Rhino Protection Units have been recruited and they have completed the first training course. Training of a second set of teams will commence after the first of the new year. The Teams are being deployed in Kerinci Seblat and Barisan Selatan National Parks. It is expected that the Mobile Unit will also be involved in training an anti-poaching team for rhinos and tigers in Way Kambas National Park where increasing evidence of a significant rhino population is being discovered.

Ir. Dwiatmo Siswomartono, PHPA Director for Nature, Flora and Fauna Conservation, serves as the Project Director. Drs. Widodo Ramono is the Project Manager and Rhino Conservation Officer for Indonesia.

Muniful Hamid is serving as the National Field Operations Consultant; Mr. Philip Wells, Dr. Nico van Strien, and Dr. Charles Santiapillai are serving as International Field Operations Consultants. The staff of Yayasan Mitra Rhino (YMR) is operating as the secretariat for the Project: Haerudin Sadjudin; Marcellus Adi; Dadan Dani Subrata.

In **Malaysia**, initial activity in the Project is concentrating on more intensive surveys of rhinos areas. Surveys have been conducted in Taman Negara, Endau Rompin, Selama, and Belum; in Sabah in Danum Valley and Tabin. Further survey work in Sarawak is also under way. Results will be reviewed at a Malaysian Rhino Population and Habitat Viability Analysis (PHVA) Workshop in November 1995 where both the GEF Project workplan and the Malaysian Rhino Conservation Strategy will be adaptively revised.

Musa bin Nordin, Director General of Wildlife and National Parks in Peninsula Malaysia is the GEF Project Director for Malaysia. Patrick Andau Mahedi serves as the Project Coordinator for Sabah; Abang Kassim bin Abang Morshidi for Sarawak. Dr. Zainal Zahari Zainuddin is the Rhino Conservation Officer and Project Manager for Peninsula Malaysia; Dr. Edwin Bosi, for Sabah; David Labang, for Sarawak. In Peninsula Malaysia, there are 4 National Field Operations Consultants who to some extent are performing many of the functions of the Mobile Team in Indonesia. These Consultants are: Abdul Kadir bin Abu Hashim; Mohd Samsudin Mohd Suri; Mohd Shariff Daim; Shahrudin bin Othman. Mr. Mohd-Tajuddin Abdullah is assisting all 3 regions of Malaysia as a Field Operations Consultant.

IUCN RED LIST CATEGORIES: Assessment of Asian Rhino Status

IUCN CRITERIA *	JAVAN RHINO		SUMATRAN RHINO			INDIAN RHINO	
	<i>Rhinoceros sondaicus sondaicus</i> JAVA	<i>Rhinoceros sondaicus annamiticus</i> VIETNAM	<i>Dicerorhinus sumatrensis sumatrensis</i> SUMATRA. MALAYSIA	<i>Dicerorhinus sumatrensis harrissoni</i> BORNEO	<i>Dicerorhinus sumatrensis lasiotis</i> MYANMAR. THAILAND	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i> Eastern pop. ASSAM. W BENGAL	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i> Western pop. NEPAL
A. Population reduction	VU	CR?	CR	CR		VU?	VU?
B. Extent of occurrence	EN	EN	EN	EN		EN	EN
C & D. Population estimate	CR	CR	CR	CR		VU	VU
E. Probability of extinction	EN?	CR?	EN?	CR?		VU?	VU?
OVERALL RATING	CR	CR	CR	CR	EX?	EN	EN

* Revised IUCN Categories and Criteria, approved by the 40th Meeting of the IUCN Council, 30 November 1994

EX = Extinct CR = Critically Endangered EN = Endangered VU = Vulnerable

ASSESSMENT OF ASIAN RHINOS BY IUCN RED LIST CRITERIA

The newly published IUCN Red List Categories have been applied to Asian rhino taxa. The results appear in the table above and indicate that of the 7 taxa maximally recognized: 1 is probably extinct, 4 are critically endangered, and 2 are endangered. In terms of the 3 species, 2 are critically endangered and 1 is endangered. Copies of the IUCN Red List Criteria are available from IUCN Headquarters.

ASIAN RHINO SPECIALIST GROUP MEETING

A full meeting of the IUCN SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group will be conducted in Sandakan, Sabah, MALAYSIA 29 November - 1 December 1995.

Major agenda items are:

- Review of the Status of Rhino Populations in each of the Range States
 - Critical Review of the first 6 months of GEF Project for S.E. Asian Rhinos in Malaysia and Indonesia.
 - Progress on Development of Sumatran Rhino Sanctuaries in Indonesia and Malaysia.

- Reassessment of the Situation for *Rhinoceros unicornis* in India and Nepal.
- Reassessment of the Situation for *Rhinoceros sondaicus* in Indonesia and Vietnam.
- Reassessment of Rhino Situation in Myanmar, Thailand, Laos.
- Review of Rhino Horn Trade Situation
- Finalization of New IUCN/SSC AsRSG Action Plan for Asian Rhinos
- Preparation of the Comprehensive Continent-Wide Strategy for Rhino Conservation in Asia Being Requested by UNEP. As a Basis for the next item.
- Formulation of a Long-Term Funding Strategy for Asian Rhinos.
- Cross Fertilization of Monitoring and Management Techniques Between the IUCN African Rhino (AfRSG) and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups (AsRSG).

Support for this meeting is being provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as part of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of the United States of America.