

## Los Angeles to Sumatra: the flight of the rhino

*After years of work, Cincinnati Zoo's female Sumatran rhino, Emi, gave birth in 2001 to Andalas, a male.*

**Nico van Strien**  
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International Rhino Foundation

**T**his was the first time a Sumatran rhino had been bred in captivity for 112 years. Having now got the hang of things, Emi promptly produced a second calf, *Suchee* (female), in 2004. Meanwhile *Andalas* had been moved to Los Angeles Zoo, but this was never destined to be his permanent home.

As has been widely reported in the international press (and with predictable headlines about "Sex tourist rhino travels to Indonesia"), *Andalas* has just, as we were putting together this issue of *The Horn*, flown from Los Angeles Zoo to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary by way of Jakarta. Here, once he has been through quarantine, he will eventually be encouraged to mate with *Rosa* and *Ratu*, providing a badly needed new genetic strain. Here follows the account of the preparations for his epic journey.

It's Friday 9 February 2007. The very heavy rains which have caused extensive flooding and disruption of services in Jakarta since 1 February have stopped, and the floods are receding. Transport is back to normal and electricity and telecommunication services have largely been restored. The rainy season here lasts until March, though, so more rain can be expected.

Today we visited Soekarno-Hatta airport in Jakarta, to see the facilities there and to discuss the preparations for the arrival of *Andalas* with all agencies involved - including airport administration, airport security, animal quarantine, customs and cargo handling. The airway bill has just been received by the cargo agent. Everyone is very supportive and most of the paperwork has been completed, and we expect that the arrival of *Andalas* at Jakarta airport will run very smoothly. *Andalas*, with the keepers and veterinarians, will be transported directly from the aeroplane to a warehouse, and as soon as the paperwork is finished he will be put on a truck (provided by Taman

Safari). The Reception ceremony will take place on the parking area in front of the warehouse, because inside there is not enough space for the guests - we expect around 100 people to be there, including the local television and press.

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The ceremony will be very brief (30 minutes maximum) and the travel to the Merak ferry port should start no later than 19:00. If it rains, we will erect a tent for the guests on the parking area. A truck with a crane, a half-size bus, a pickup with emergency materials and food, and a number of small vehicles will follow the truck, and this caravan will be guided through traffic by a patrol car from Forest Police. If because of flooding or other reasons the caravan cannot depart from the airport, the animal quarantine facility at the airport can be used as an emergency holding area. The facility is currently being extended and in the back of the facility there is a tree next to one of the new buildings, where the crate with *Andalas* could be placed. The facility is closed to the public, and is within walking distance from the airport hotel. Some rooms will be reserved at the hotel if the weather looks like changing for the worse.

After our preliminary visit to the airport, we travel to Merak (about 100km from the sanctuary) to see the Indonesian Ferry Company, and the quarantine station at the ferry station. The quarantine facilities there will provide support and temporary holding facilities when required. For the crossing of the Sunda Straits to Sumatra (two hours' sailing), we have booked the *JATRA III* ferry, because this boat has large ventilation openings on both sides of the truck deck. We chartered the ferry so that there will be no other vehicles and passengers on board, and we expect to depart from Merak around 23:00. From the ferry port it is another four hours to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. Way Kambas Forest Police will guide the

Left:  
Rosa has a cake to celebrate her first anniversary of arriving at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary

NICO VAN STRIEN



Andalas' ferry



Andalas' holding pen

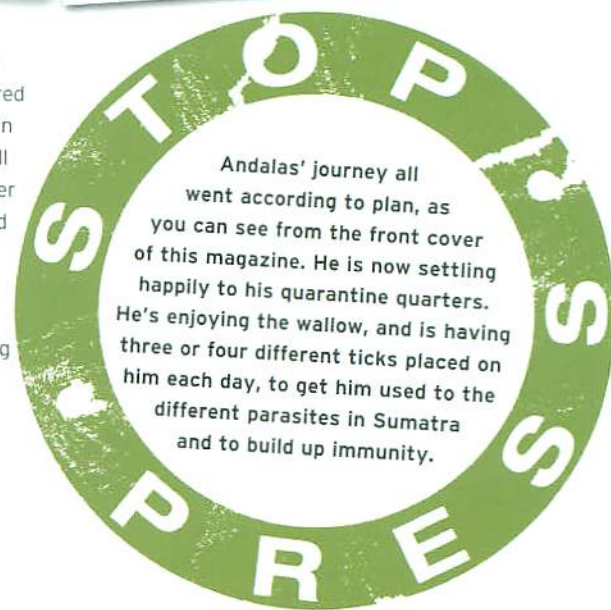


Another stop en route for Andalas

caravan on the Sumatra side. Over the last few months, all the necessary fences and holding pens have been completed, creating 10 paddocks - each, on average, 10 hectares in size - surrounding a central area through which the animals can be moved between paddocks. Every other paddock is served by a holding pen, with an additional holding pen in the central area. Andalas will be placed in stall five, in the southeast corner of the sanctuary, which is set back 50m from the perimeter fence where shade is better. A gate separates the front yard from the perimeter road. For the quarantine and acclimatisation of Andalas, the stall is covered with mosquito mesh and a tarpaulin.

Behind Andalas's stall, we have built a 20x30m temporary boma, again covered with mosquito mesh. The ground within this boma has been cleared of all small vegetation for hygiene, and piped water is available at the stall for washing and to fill Andalas's wallow.

Andalas flies in on 20 February, and will arrive in Way Kambas the following day. He'll have a new home, and two new females to meet...



Andalas' journey all went according to plan, as you can see from the front cover of this magazine. He is now settling happily to his quarantine quarters. He's enjoying the wallow, and is having three or four different ticks placed on him each day, to get him used to the different parasites in Sumatra and to build up immunity.

## Spotlight on Sumatra

Many people are unaware that there are five species of rhino.

**Henry French**  
Office & Communications Manager

So till fewer realise that two of these species live in the jungles of South-East Asia, and that these species have a combined total of just 360 individuals. There are just 60 Javan rhinos left in the world.

The 300 Sumatran rhinos remaining are arguably even more critically endangered

than their rarer cousins, due to habitat loss and their fragmented populations.

Save the Rhino supports projects set up to save these two critically endangered species. In 2006, we worked with the EAZA Rhino Campaign to give €50,000 for the Rhino Protection Unit (RPU) programme in Indonesia, and another €15,000 to SOS Rhino, which will pay for the establishment of a new RPU team and enhanced community outreach programme in Tabin Wildlife Reserve, Sabah (Malaysia).

Save the Rhino has also, with the help of donations from Silver Jungle, supported the RPUs in Way Kambas National Park in Sumatra for several years. Way Kambas is home to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, where Andalas now lives. As previously reported in *The Horn*, this provides a home for Sumatran rhinos found in threatening or

unviable situations, and is a starting point for an international programme to form a captive breeding population. Before Andalas' arrival, the only male at Way Kambas was Torgamba, an elderly male, formerly of Port Lympne Wild Animal Park in the UK; Torgamba mates occasionally with Bina, an elderly female, but there have been no pregnancies and it is feared that the animals are post-reproductive.

So an injection of new blood could be just what's needed. Two young females, Rosa and Ratu - recently rescued after wandering out of National Parks into heavily populated areas - will be introduced to Andalas after his period of quarantine. Rosa was found exhausted and infected with cattle parasites in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park but survived - last November, she celebrated the anniversary of her arrival with a cake presented to her by staff at the Sanctuary (see photo, left).