

**SUMATRAN RHINO CONSERVATION CENTRE  
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND NATIONAL PARKS  
SUNGAI DUSUN, SELANGOR  
MALAYSIA**

**MONTHLY REPORT**

**NOVEMBER 2000**

**BY**

**Dr. AIDI MOHAMAD**

**&**

**STEVE ROMO**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Only one breeding was recorded throughout this month. The breeding took place between Ara and Seputeh on two successive days, 8/11/00 and 9/11/00. The rhinos were mixed based on their P4 result. As for Mas Merah, she was mixed with Ara on 19/11/00 but no breeding was observed. The blood result (analyzed on 16/11/00) showed that Rima is not pregnant and she was paired with Ara on 19/11/00 and 20/11/00 without any successful breeding. As for Seputeh, her pregnancy status cannot be confirmed since no result was obtained from UPM.

As for the bleeding procedure, this program is still carried out twice weekly on all females for progesterone analysis. Other than that, the fecal collection was continued from all females. The latest blood progesterone profile is attached in the report.

## **RHINO MANAGEMENT**

### **A) Breeding Program**

#### **i) Rhino Pairing**

The females were only mixed when they were expected in estrus based on the blood result for P4 and the breeding behavior was recorded throughout the period. The P4 result on 6/11/00, showed that Seputeh is not pregnant and she was mixed with Ara on 8/11/00 and 9/11/00 and successfully bred on both occasions.

As for the other females, they were mixed based on calculation and this was done three days prior to expected estrus. The behavior of both rhinos (male and female) was observed throughout the pairing period to prevent fighting.

Mas Merah was mixed with Shah from 1/11/00 to 7/11/00 (except on 2/11/00) based on the calculated estrus but no positive responds were observed especially from the female. She tends to run away when approached by the male and she also blew and vocalized a lot. Fighting was also recorded.

After receiving the P4 result on 17/11/00, Rima was mixed with Ara on the 18/11/00 and 19/11/00 but no breeding was recorded. Based on this result, Mas Merah was also mixed again but this time, she was paired with Ara but no breeding was observed. She looked afraid to the male and ran away when approached by the male. On 27/11/00, Minah was mixed with Ara but no positive responds were noted.

#### **ii) Bleeding Program**

##### **a) Blood Collection**

The bleeding was still carried out twice weekly. The blood procedure was summarized below.

## **b) Blood Results**

### **i) Progesterone Hormone Profile**

The latest blood result was received on 16/11/00 on four females only and tabulated in table below.

### **iii) Fecal and Vaginal Cytology**

The fecal collection is still continued and the samples were being pooled before sending them to UPM. As for the cytology work, the sample was still collected from Mas Merah.

## **B) HEALTH STATUS**

Basically, all rhinos are in the good condition. However, some wound were observed on the females after the pairing procedure. This were then treated with iodine, and Gusanex spray and the wounds resolved three days later. Apart from that, Minah and Panjang were observed having weight loss.

Both rhinos were force-fed about 20kg of browses each morning and afternoon, daily. Molasses block (Nutriblock®), 100gm/d orally were also given to both rhinos to increase their energy level. As for Panjang, she was closely monitored for any infection due to her pregnancy loss on 2/11/00.

Deworming program was carried on all rhinos on the 29/11/00 using Mebendazole (4gm) orally. Apart from that, the rhinos were weighed on 28/11/00 and the result is attached in the report.

## **C) FEEDING**

The feed was checked daily to ensure their quantity and quality and it were satisfactory. Jack-fruit or cempedak was ordered (2-4kg) on bleeding days especially for Seputeh.

## **D) OTHERS**

### **a) Patrolling**

Routine patrolling was carried out to inspect the reserve and the result showed that no encroachment was observed.

### **b) Monthly Meeting at SRCC**

A meeting with the staff was conducted on 8/11/00 and 28/11/00 to discuss the management of SRCC.

### **c) Visitors**

A group of tourist, brought by High Adventures Travel Sdn. Bhd. visited the centre on 10/11/00 and 13/11/00. This was followed by a group of lecturers from UNIMAS, which visited SRCC on 23/11/00. On the other hand, there are visits made by individuals especially during weekends and public holidays.

**Blood Collection from the Rhinos, November 2000**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Rhino ID</b>	<b>Area taken</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1/11/00	Panjang	Tail	The blood is sufficient for one sample only. Sent to UPM.
3/11/00	Minah Mas Merah	Tail Tail	Get samples from Mas but not Minah
4/11/00	Minah	Tail	Try to take samples from Minah via leg and tail but failed.
5/11/00	Minah	Tail	Get samples from Minah.
6/11/00	Mas Merah Minah Seputeh	Tail Tail Tail	Get blood samples from all females. The rhinos seem very cooperative.
9/11/00	Minah Mas Merah Panjang Rima	Tail Tail Tail Tail	Get samples from all females. Blood was taken from Rima on D11 post breeding.
13/11/00	Minah Mas Merah Panjang Shah	Tail Tail Tail Tail	Blood was sent for P4, CBC and karyotype (Mas & Shah only).
16/11/00	Mas Merah Minah Panjang Rima	Tail Tail Tail Tail	Get some blood from the females for P4 analysis.
20/11/00	Minah Mas Merah Panjang Rima Seputeh	Tail Tail Tail Tail Tail	Get blood samples from the females.
23/11/00	Minah Mas Merah Panjang Rima Seputeh	Tail Tail Tail Tail Tail	Blood was successfully collected from all females.

Date	Rhino ID	Area taken	Remarks
27/11/00	Minah	Tail	Samples were taken for P4 and CBC. The samples for CBC were sent to VRI.
	Mas Merah	Tail	
	Panjang	Tail	
	Rima	Tail	
	Seputeh	Tail	
30/11/00	Minah	Tail	Get blood from all females for P4 analysis.
	Mas Merah	Tail	
	Panjang	Tail	
	Rima	Tail	
	Seputeh	Tail	

#### Rhino Body Weight on November 2000

Rhino ID	Weight (kg) - November	Weight (kg) - July
Rima	541.4	569.0
Mas Merah	588.2	592.0
Minah	520.0	544.0
Seputeh	734.5	741.0
Panjang	534.1	539.0
Shah	569.1	570.0
Ara	609.1	608 (June)

# The rhinos were not weighed from August to October (the weighing machine is not available - sent for repair)

#### Latest Rhino P4 Result Analyzed on 16/11/00

Rhino	6/11/00	9/11/00	13/11/00	16/11/00
Panjang	0.11	0.06	0.19	0.11
Mas Merah	-	0.40	0.02	0.10
Minah	-	0.48	0.50	0.44
Rima	-	1.83	-	0.58

**The Pairing Program of the Males and Females at SRCC, November 2000**

Date	Remarks
1/11/00	Mix Mas Merah & Shah in the morning around 8.00 a.m. No response from both rhinos. Separated after 10 minutes.
3/11/00	Mix Mas Merah & Shah in the morning but no positive response. Separated before fighting occurred.
4/11/00	Mix Mas Merah & Shah in the morning. No positive response from both rhinos. Separated after fifteen minutes.
5/11/00	Pair Mas Merah & Shah in the morning and afternoon. No interest from both rhinos.
6/11/00	Mix Mas Merah & Shah in the morning around 8.00 a.m. No positive response from both rhinos. Separated after fifteen minutes of pairing. Mixing them again in the afternoon around 2.30 p.m. No interest from both rhinos. Separated after twenty minutes.
7/11/00	Mix Mas Merah & Shah in the morning around 8.00 a.m. Shah started to follow Mas after ten minutes of mixing but Mas ignored him. Separated after twenty minutes. Mix them again in the afternoon around 2.30 p.m. Fighting occurred after five minutes of mixing. Separated using baffle boards and fruits. Mas suffered wounds at the right flank. Laceration was observed at the head region.
8/11/00	Mix Seputeh and Ara this morning between 8.30 a.m. to 10.55 a.m. Ara bred her for about 23 minutes. 45 thrusts were recorded.
9/11/00	Mix Seputeh with Ara this afternoon between 2.30 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Ara bred her for about thirty minutes.
19/11/00	Rima was mixed with Ara in the afternoon. No positive response.
20/11/00	Mas Merah was paired with Ara in the morning and no positive response observed. Later, Rima was mixed but no breeding was recorded.
27/11/00	Minah was mixed with Ara but no positive response.

The Breeding / Pairing Dates of Rhinos in Sg. Dusun, 2000.

Date(s)	Rhinos	Remarks
4/9/00	Mas Merah & Shah	Two mountings were observed without intromission.
18/9/00	Panjang & Shah	Three mountings, two in the wallow
19/9/00	Panjang & Shah	Two mountings without penetration.
20/9/00	Panjang & Shah	One mounting
21/9/00	Panjang & Shah	Twelve mountings was observed and the last one lasted about 30 minutes
5/10/00	Rima & Ara	Twelve mountings were observed and intromission was noted during the last mounting, which lasted about 46 minutes.
14/10/00	Panjang & Ara	Ara was used after Shah failed to breed. Twenty-nine mountings were recorded with fifteen erections. The last mounting was assisted and lasted about 35 minutes.
19/10/00	Seputeh & Ara	Nine mountings were observed with six erections. The last one lasted about 35 minutes.
29/10/00	Rima & Ara	Rima was bred for about 35 minutes.
8/11/00	Seputeh & Ara	Intromission was observed and lasted about 23 minutes.
9/11/00	Seputeh & Ara	Seputeh was bred for about 30 minutes.

### Recommendation of Breeding Management at SRCC

- 1) The daily introduction will be started on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2001; 7 days a week
- 2) Probably only three females; Mas Merah, Panjang and Minah will be involved in daily introduction.
- 3) Before starting the daily introduction, the breeding yard should be ready and all the repairing works should be completed.
- 4) It is recommended that Panjang and Minah will be paired with Shah. MAS MERAH x Ara
- 5) Shah should be given the chance to breed and if he fails, Ara will be used.
- 6) Blood work will be done twice weekly.
- 7) All the metals and old woods inside the night stall should be removed.
- 8) The entire water trough in the night stall should be fixed.



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