

## MALAYSIA - SUMATRAN RHINOCEROS

culture of those trees.

More than 2,000 species of the larger moths and 200 species of butterfly were collected. One interesting aspect of these studies is that certain groups of moths tend to be restricted to the canopy vegetation and others to the understorey. This could have considerable effect on the distribution of insectivorous birds or the flowering sites of moth-pollinated trees.

Project 1649      Sumatran rhino - Endau Rompin

WWF GRANT 1978 - \$3,490

The proposed Endau Rompin National Park, with an area of about 900 km<sup>2</sup>, is a mountain range crossed by the border between the states of Johor and Pahang. It embraces large stretches of untouched primary forest and harbours one of the last viable regional populations of the Sumatran rhinoceros, whose status remains very critical in Peninsular Malaysia.

The project has involved several major objectives including: a survey of the present status of the Rhino population in the Endau-Rompin area, including a census; survey of the present status of the habitat in the Endau-Rompin area, including a survey of formerly logged areas and land development plans; the collection of additional biological information on the Rhinos, especially habitat preference and feeding ecology which will be very useful in developing a management strategy; and the training and orientation of the Malaysian staff associated with the Rhino project.

A base camp was reestablished in the Sungai Selai area and the main census routes cleared. The logging area in Pahang was surveyed in early March along with the area to be cleared for the FELDA oil palm scheme. The logging in the Pahang concession was scheduled to stop in August 1978 but it continued through September 1978. No Rhino sign was found in the logged-over area. Fresh Rhino tracks were found in the FELDA area along the primary forest fringe to the north.

A census was completed successfully. A total of eight individual rhinos were counted over a 400 km<sup>2</sup> area. This figure compares with the previous census figures of eight in March 1977 and five in May 1977. No signs of reproduction were

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were found. It is felt that the population is stable, but not reproducing. No evidence of poaching has been found. An initial guard post is in the early stages of preparation along the main access point on the western side of the area.

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