

**Observations of Sumatran Rhinos
in Way Kambas National Park**

July 1993 - December 1993

Submitted by

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Evidence of Sumatran rhino has been found in the following general areas of the Way Kambas National Park, Lampung Tengah. This has included trackways, dung piles and vegetation damage, and a single direct sighting by one of the park guards in 1991.

1. Way Kanan River.

Sighting of rhino on north bank in 1991. Cast of track from animal was subsequently taken and formally identified by Dr Nico van Strien in July 1993 as belonging to a Sumatran rhino.

2. West Kalibiru/Camp D. On an old logging track from the area known as Camp D to a swamp grassland, Kalibiru, three dung piles were found in September 1993 by Guy Hills Spedding and Apriawan. Two were estimated to be one month old and the third approximately three months old. Two piles overlapped and the third was positioned approximately five metres away. In November 1993 a further pile of dung was found by Colin McHenry on the same path, approximately a kilometre away from the original three piles. This was estimated to be about a week old.

3. Kalibatin. A trackway was found in this area, along a dry stream bed, by a park patrol on 20th September 1993. The tracks led for a distance of about 30m. The personnel on this patrol included Pak Mukhlissan, head of the Way Kanan resort, and Apriawan.

During subsequent days, a further three trackways were found nearby, all in soft mud. One of these was located on the bank of the Way Negara Batin river and comprised about twenty prints. The second, in a dry stream bed, consisted of about ten prints. The final impression, also along a dry stream bed, comprised a single print.

Scrapings and urination sites were also found in the surrounding area.

4. East Kalibiru. On 19th September 1993, in an area of lowland dry rainforest with some swamp forest, vegetation was found which showed signs of rhino browse. Persons present were GHS, Bagus (Indonesian counterpart) and CMcH.

On 22nd September 1993, dung was found on an old logging trail leading from the Way Kambas river to the Way Wako river. A track was also found in a dry forest pond adjacent to this trail. This consisted of six prints. Persons present: GHS, CMcH.

5. South Wako. On 21st September 1993, on a logging trail from the Way Kambas river to the Way Wako river, approximately twenty dung piles were discovered. This was distributed over a distance of approximately 4km long. One of the dung piles had been deposited that morning, and still had a strong odour. Another had intact boli which included a bolus of 14cm diameter.

Fresh urine was found in the same location as the fresh dung. This had been sprayed on vegetation at a height of approximately 2m high.

Scratches from rhino horn were observed on more than ten trees/saplings in the same general area.

Mud was also found on five trees/saplings from rhino rubbing.

More than five saplings were found to be twisted, in a style characteristic of rhino activity. One had occurred very recently and assumed to be the same day. One sapling had been twisted twice. The diameter of one of these twisted saplings was 6cm.

A large number of scrapings were also found in this area.

Some of this evidence was recorded on video. Personnel present on this trip were: GHS, CMcH and Pak Mukhlissan.

6. Camp C. On 30th September twisted saplings and vegetation which showed signs of rhino browse were found in the area known as Camp C, in young secondary rainforest. Persons present: JER, GHS and Pak Mukhlissan.

7. Rawa Pasir. The most recent evidence, located on 1 November 1993, was a single dung pile, found in an area of swamp forest. This was believed to be a number of weeks old. Personnel present were: GHS and CMH.

Casts made of rhino prints have now been formally identified as belonging to Sumatran rhino, possibly a subadult. Including the 1991 evidence, the track data collected so far indicates that there are definitely two rhino in the park, probably three, and perhaps as many as five.