

## REVIEW OF THE ASIAN RHINO SPECIALIST GROUP ACTION PLAN FOR INDONESIA

by

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The foundation for this Action Plan was laid by Professor Rudolf Schenkel and his wife Lotte at the Bangkok meeting of the IUCN-SCC Asian Rhino Specialist Group Meeting in 1979.

### THE LESSER ONE HORNED OR JAVAN RHINO

The Javan Rhino occurred through most of South East Asia but has disappeared from almost all of its former range Assam, Burma, Thailand, Malaysia and Sumatra and is currently restricted to Java with scattered populations in Indochina.

The cause of decline is mainly attributable to the excessive demand for rhino horn.

The animals in Jawa are restricted to Ujung Kulon National Park, where as a result of strict protection the population has increased from about 25 animals in 1967 to about 55 today.

The Javan Rhino is the rarest large mammal in the world. Poaching is one of the serious threats to its survival. The species has been accorded protection since 1931. The Ujung Kulon National Park was established in West Java and it is managed by the local wildlife directorate which comes under the Ministry of Forestry.

#### Objectives :

- to preserve animal populations in the wild.
- to locate and/or establish other populations in the wild.
- to develop a captive propagation programme.
- to continue efforts to close down trade.

#### General recommendations :

- conduct intensive survey in Ujung Kulon.
- determine the resources available and those are additionally required to provide adequate protection.

#### Specific recommendations for Indonesia :

- strong anti-poaching measures
- training of staff
- public education
- initiation of appropriate forms of development in a buffer-zone outside the park to derive tangible economic benefits from the park.

- develop captive propagation programme
- formulate guidelines and perhaps conduct search for a site in which to establish a second wild population
- enforce strict measures to prohibit the use of Javan Rhino product.

#### THE ASIAN TWO-HORNED OR SUMATRAN RHINO

The Sumatran Rhinoceros is a species of rainforest in hilly and mountainous areas. It is more widely scattered, often in tiny inviable population. It is not as critically threatened as the Javan Rhino but probably experiencing the most serious level of poaching and habitat destruction.

Indonesia has 420 - 785 animals with possibility of additional animals in Kalimantan. A number of reserves, notably Gn. Leuser, Kerinci Seblat, and Bukit Barisan Selatan have been set aside to conserve wildlife including the Sumatran Rhino. Captive breeding is underway.

#### Objectives :

- Develop populations of at least 700 - 1000 rhinos in each of the major regions of its range : Sumatra, Borneo.
- To preserve, manage and where appropriate expand populations with potential to increase to 100 or more animals.
- To determine if the populations in each major part of its range constitute valid subspecies.
- To locate or establish additional viable populations, especially Kalimantan.
- To develop a captive population of 150 rhinos distributed in zoos world wide : South East Asia, North America, Europe.
- To continue efforts to close down trade.

#### General Recommendations :

Concentrate initial in-situ conservation efforts on the three populations :

	<u>Exist</u>	<u>Potential</u>
Gunung Leuser	130 - 200	140 - 800
Kerinci Seblat	250 - 500	500 - 1000
Bukit Barisan Selatan	25 - 60	70 - 360

- Calculate resources currently available and additionally required to provide protection for these populations.
- Ensure legal protection of viable populations.
- Organize surveys (Kalimantan highest priority).
- Continue to capture "doomed" animals to provide founders for captive populations.
- Manage captive animals as part of the overall conservation programme.
- Improve the effectiveness of law enforcement throughout the species range.

Specific Recommendations :

To ensure survival of viable populations, better protection is needed in Kerinci Seblat, Gunung Leuser and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Parks. Such protection should include :

- anti-poaching efforts.
- creation of appropriate forms of sustainable development in buffer zones around these parks to enable people to derive economic benefits from the protected areas.
- a public education programme.
- a training programme for all levels of staff.
- formal gazettement of Kerinci Seblat National Park
- monitoring of rhino populations.
- capture and translocation.
- research to determine number.
- to bring under control trade in rhino horn.

Captive breeding of the Sumatran Rhino has been actively carried out. There are 14 animals in captivity (5.9). In-situ conservation has not been equally active on with a lot of money spent by the Indonesian Government on in-situ conservation work.

Elsewhere in the briefing book is a proposal on the Global Heritage Species Program for the Sumatran Rhino. Dollars \$ 3,872,550 are being sought for this program to develop or create a Protection-Management Unit. Guard posts are proposed for protected areas as follows :

Protected Areas	Guard Posts
Gunung Leuser	12
Kerinci Seblat	17
Bukit Barisan Selatan	6
Kayan Mentarang	to be finalized
Ujung Kulon	to be finalized

Multi Purpose mobile units will be created to carry out surveys, enforcement, protection, capture/rescue, translocation, re-introduction, rehabilitation, education / extension.