

SUMATRAN RHINO CAPTURE IN 1959 - 1960

by

B o e a d i

Location : Tenayan Ulu River, Pekan Baru - Riau

Method of Trapping : Setting Fence Traps, made of local wood-cuts by local people (hired), on selected grounds used to be wallowing spots of Rhinos.

Trap size : \pm 20 m x 20 m (rectangle) with hang-closed - down doors set on at least, each wall side of the trap. A small room was made in the corner of trap to confine the caught rhino to enhance feeding and possible taming it.

The capture was under an agreement between The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia and Bazel Zoo (Swiss), collaborated with Copenhagen Zoo (Denmark). The expenses paid by both zoos. The intention was to capture (ideally) 3 pairs of Sumatran Rhinos; each for Bozel, Copenhagen at the Bitanical Garden, Bogor.

Result :

Only three females happened to be translocated each to Bazel, Copenhagen and Bogor.

A single male captured but escaped in the following night through the bottom of the fence in the rivulet stream.

Three other previous caught females died in the trap due to mostly wounds on their foot padssoles and lack of nutrients (averagely after 1-2 months in captivity).

Five females caught in the consecutive months were released to the jungle after one day captured (due to high expense to feed them and more females were non target anymore).

Thus, totally twelve Sumatran rhinos captured since March 1959 to August 1961. Other beasts captured were three Tapirs (one male and two females) and released back to the jungle.