

**Lembaga Alam Tropika Indonesia (LATIN)****COMMUNITY-BASED JAVAN RHINO CONSERVATION****Tri Nugroho**

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Issues of Javan rhino conservation have been growing and attracting attention since the end of 1980s. The existence of the Javan rhino population seems to be at risk in Ujung Kulon National Park. This leads to proposal of how to reproduce them in other places.

At the end of 1991, LATIN tried to do an overview on Ujung Kulon National Park to figure out in detail the Javan rhino conservation-related problems. LATIN then found that the social economic issues are the most important aspects to be considered in the Javan rhino conservation in future.

LATIN at first hesitated to become involved in following up the findings as it was a newly-established NGO without well capacity and experience. Considering that there is still lack of research and studies on social and economic aspects of the Javan-rhino conservation, LATIN started following up the findings by carrying out an in-depth study on social economic issues in Rancapinang Village. It was the benchmark of LATIN to take part in efforts of the Javan rhino conservation in Ujung Kulon National Park by conducting a project of Community-based Javan Rhino Conservation.

The main objective of this project was to establish and/or develop a condition where there is a harmonious relationship between local people and the national park. It was found that the interaction existing so far was not balanced. It tended to disturb processes of the ecosystem balance which eventually threatened the habitat of the Javan rhinos either directly or indirectly.

In a broader context, harmonization of the interaction is the most important prerequisite for maintaining the interaction processes themselves which have to be mutual, in balance and sustainable. Eventually the interaction harmonization does not only guarantee the Javan rhino conservation and even their reproduction in long term, but also support objectives of the national park management in general.