

Rhino Baby in Way Kambas National Park

By Nurbasuki (RPU Way Kambas) and Inov

Recently on the last survey in the end of November 2010, my team and I surveyed and monitored the central areas of Way Kambas NP. We are familiar with the location. According to data base that we have, this area is rhino habitat and RPU's often directly see the rhino although only for a few second. We always find foot print, scratch marks, feces and wallow as well. At the time, we found foot print and feces of rhino. As usual we collected the data and try to find other data along the track. The foot print we found was almost the same with data that we have previously. After four days patrol and monitoring we found a different foot print it was a small foot print and still fresh.

I was enthusiastic to measure the foot print. I believe it was the foot print of baby rhino. It was not far away from an adult foot print, it may mother of baby rhino. Indication that there have baby rhino was also seen from small dung as well not far away from the location we find foot print. Look like the dung still fresh. We can see from the structure of the dung, look fresh and still in ball. I have seen fresh dung at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS), make me know the difference fresh and old dung. We were more enthusiastic to follow the foot print. We believed the mother and baby rhino not far away from us. After one hour following the foot print and track, we found a fresh wallow. We predicted about the mother and baby rhino 100% correct. We found two wallows side by side, normal wallow and small wallow. I predicted that the baby rhino start to learn how to wallowing and any kind rhino behavior from the mother.

Unfortunately we did not see directly the mother and baby rhino at the time because almost dark and impossible to meet at night time. At least we have found the new foot print baby rhino and very happy to know about it. We were surprised after along time we didn't get a foot print a baby rhino, finally in the last 2010 we found it. This evidence makes us very happy and gives more spirit to us RPU Way Kambas NP. Hopefully there still have more baby rhino in Way Kambas NP.

