REPORT ON SURVEY OF THE ORANG-UTAN AND KHINOCEROS IN NORTH STRATER AND ATJEH - JAMIARY TO MARCH 1963 World Wildlife Fund Project No.35

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Cliver Milten

Singapore
1 April 1963.

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project in Indonesia to study the status of the orang-utan (mawas) and the rhinoceros. The period under review was spent in North Sumatra and Atjeh from January to March 1963 and the work carried out with the close and valuable cooperation of the local Government officers. There was a generous grant from the World Wildlife Fund and also the sponsorship of the Survival Service Commission of the Local.

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- 2. The Loser complex appears to be the main and possibly last important stronghold of the orang-utan and rhinoceres although smaller groups of these animals are reported further to the north.
- In the main threat to the orang-utan and rhinoceros is the indiscriminate smuggling carried out by persons in possession of arms and assumition and this is largely confined to the military as the ordinary civilian does not possess arms.
- 4. I would venture to estimate a minimum population of 800 erangutans and a maximum of 1500. Of rhineceres (Sumatran) there might the 20 animals.

Two of the recommandations which were adopted by the First World Conference on National Parks in Seattle (USA) during July 1962

The First World Conference on National Parks recommends the early examination by the I.U.C.N. of a project to create within the natural range of certain gravely threatened species - rhinoceres, orangentan, Arabian cryx (et al.) one or more special reserves into which individual animals can be moved so as to premote increased repreduction of the species, and further invites the Government concernation other appropriate agencies to give sympathetic consideration to the project:

and endorses the proposed world campaign for rhinoceroses sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund and the Fauna Preservation Society in cooperation with the Survival Service Commission of the I.U.C.N. and recommends that the Covernment of the nations concerned consider the establishment of additional parks and reserves to incorporate areas in which rhinoceros still survive'.

I submitted to Dr. Harold J. Coolidge on outline for a survey of the rhinoceros and erang-utan in Sumatra and Kalimantan (Indonesian Bornes), which was to be carried out in conjunction with a similar project in Sarawak and North Bornes under the direction of Mrs. Barbara Harrison of Kuching, Sarawak.

After the National Park Conference Dr. Coolidge approached the Government of Indonesia and suggested that I be allowed to carry out such a survey for one year in Sumatra and Kalimantan so that the information gathered on the status of the orang-utan and the rhinoceros might give encouragement in carrying out the above recommendations.

of about two months each -

Worth Sumstra and Atjeh

Phase 2 Mid Sumatra

WARE BOTH TO SEE THE

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Phase 3 South Sumatra

I was finally granted permission by the Indonesian Government to

In addition to the above persons I am most grateful to members of the Parast Department in Penatang Siantar, Mr. Ranue Head of the Planning Section, kindly drove me to look at a match and paper factory and also drove me in his departemental car to Parapat on Lake Toba. Mr. Pohan was able to identify some of the food eaten by the orang-utan In Parapat I met Mr. Tobing and with his assistance I was able to have the Ferent Department Launch to take me around Samosir Island to Pangu-

My thanks also go to the Army Commanders in Ketatjane and Mangkedjeren and to the Governor of Kotatjane, all of whom accepted My presence.

Finally and not least to the British Consul, Mr. Frank Culver, and his wife, in Medan for their very kind hospitality during my stay thars.

LOSER RESERVE (ATJEE)

The Loser Reserve covers about 1700 square miles and forms part of the great mountainous mass of unexplored primayal jungle in southwest Atjah. The highest point of the complex is Gumung Loser (about 11.300 feet) at the north end of the Reserve and from the whole range. which decreases in height as it runs in a northwest-southeast direction, numerous streams flow westwards into the Indian Ocean and eastwards into the terrential Alas river. A very rough road runs paralled to the east bank of the Alas river and beyond this another range of densely forested mountains rises abruptly - the Sorbolangit Range.

Kotatjage, 135 miles from Medan, is a small town lying between these two mountain ranges and approximately level with their midway points. Although the road actually continues as far as Blangkedjeren the surface deteriorates to such an extent that trucks and buses terminate their trips at Kotatjane and further travel has to be done by jeep and even these vehicles find difficulty in covering the remaining 65 miles without getting bogged down in the mud or suffering from more serious mechanical trouble.

The boundary of North Sumatra and Atjeh is at Lau Pakam, about 25 miles, south of Kotatjane and here there is a Police inspection post. Between here and Kotatjane the populated areas decreases rapidly except in the immediate vicinity of Kotatjane where there is a string of small Villages on comparatively flat ground and most of the land is vultivat-

ed for the production of roppe and markeless fourts such as during

Mangkedjezet, one could say that the land is almost uninhabited.

Rotations, work northwards along the Alas river camping at suitable spats on route, eventually reaching Blangkedjeren. From here, depending on local information available, I hoped to visit the regions to the northwest, north and northeast where both rhinocoros and crang-utan are reported to exist. Then, if possible, walk eastwards towards Rantaupandjang and the Simpang rivers, finally reaching Rualasimpang from there I would return to Medan by bus. As it happened this plan did not materialise and I only reached Blangkedjeren from where I returned to Medan via Kotatjane.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS (1)

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Bhinoseros As opposed to the amount of information I was able to gather about the grang-uten I learnt comparatively little about the status of the rhinogeres. The average native knew prestically nothing about their whereabouts and I had to depend for my information on those few persons who had hunted illegally. The informare were therefore rather reluctant to disulge their secrets for four being errested and so their replies to my questions were particulvague. In Blangkedjeren I had hoped to learn a lot from one man who is reputed to be the rhino expert of the whole area but it soen became apparent that he was not prepared to give away any information that might incriminate himself. He could, he said, take us to a place where he had come across rhino tracks 'a long time ago' or to another place where rhino 'semetimes' passed. As for the location of licks and wellows he merely said that he sometimes came across them byt they were all 'very fer away'. From other sources I learnt that this man had set up treps and with other persons was engaged in smuggling horn.

In spite of the peaching reports indicated that there are still rhine in quite a number of places in Atjoh. Mine specific places were mentioned to me and at one of these I was able to identify some old tracks near a salt link. If there are rhine in all the mentioned places and if one estimated one family in each, say, three minals the population is about 30 beasts. However in at least three of the localities they are reported as being "frequent" or "by no means uncommon" and as almost nothing is known about their status in the main Loser Reserve, perhaps there is a population of double, or say 50. At any rate, from

What I gatherd, their numbers and by us means up, . I was told that

between 1942-59 at least 20 had been shot or trapped.

The price of the horn seems to vary considerably. The lowest price was quoted as 9000 rupish per cures (official rate of exchange until equals 44 rupish; black market about 1000 rupish). The highest price was 42,000 rupish per cures ... this was about 3 years ago.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS (2)

BAG STORY

Orang-utan (or 'mawag')

Resident disturbances

Dr. Carpenter was the last person to carry cut a survey of the 'mawas and in his report he reproduces a map of Atjah showing their reported and observed locations. This represents the position in 1937 and need less to say there have been inevitable changes since then both to the habitat and the conditions under which the 'mawas' have to live.

forested eress and the opening up of land for rural development and cultivation and (b) the rutgless peaching by persons who have come into pessession of fiteerms and motor transport. This latter has increased seriously during the past 25 years. Dr. Carpenter realised that these factors would be interclable to the safely of the 'mawas" but a third cause which he could hardly have foreseen was a collapse inthe economy of the country. This has had a serious effect on the decimation of the 'mawas' population.

- (a) is happening in every country throughout the world. As human population increases at such a stupendous rate and more land has to be made available for cultivation and development. This means that much of the natural habitat of various species of wildlife is being completely destroyed and the animals are forced to leave their ancestral grounds and seek refuge in other and possibly less agreeable areas. On the recognised princips that 'Man comes first' and when an endangered species lives in an isolated pocket such as the Sumatran rhinoceros north of Engle Lumpur in Malaya one can only hope that the government concerned will agree to set aside an area for the preservation of that species.
- (b) is far more serious and yet I am sure that it could be reduced if sufficiently strong action were taken by the appropriate authorities.

I consur with what Dr. Carpenter said when he stated that the people of Atjeh are not hunters. With some diffidence I must therefore state quite clearly that the main threat to the existing population of 'mawes' comes from some members of the Army and Police and other representatives of the government who have access to arms, assumition and transport. What is more tempting than to obtain one or more of these animals and dispose of it for 20,000 rupish, thus augmenting one's income manifold? An orang-utan means a little to them and the fact that the species is rapidly becoming extinct causes no concern.

Diegal trading

Name Calculate

The people recognise three types of orang-utan Mawas kuda (Horse mawas). This has little if any marketable value as
it is usually an old and lone male of considerable size and weight.

Mayas kambing (Goat mawas) very acceptable and weigh up to 100 lbs.

Mayas perck (Squirrel mawas). The smallest of the types and ranges up to about 50 lbs.

(Note - quite frequently the people refer to the Siamang (Symphalanaus syndactylus) as the wawas hitam ... Black mawas).

The type most favoured for capture is one that weighs about 20 line or about one year old; once larger than this get harder to capture, more difficult to keep in captivity and hide from the authorities during the trip to the coast. Very young ones are merely hidden under the comers coat but the usual practice is to squeeze two or more into a small bir which is then placed on a bus or jeep and sent to Medan. A native can send one in a military vehicle if he is prepared to pay about 5000 rupich while, of course, Army personal send their own 'mawes' on their own transport.

On account of the terrain the only practicable method by which 'mawas' can be expected from Central Atjah is by read through Estatice no. This route seems to form a natural funnel for all illegal traffic to Medan. The various check peats on route cause little trouble because a large sum of money passes hands 'under the counter'. On arrival in Medan the illegal owners keeps the 'mawas' in a secluded spot some distance from his own house and when the necessary arrangements have been completed the animal(s) are sent to Belawan where they are stowed on board one of the many boats going to Singapore or Malayan ports or elsewhere. 'Mawas' caught further north are sent from other smaller ports.

There are two distinct mathods, (1) Shooting a female and then taking the young. This is the method employed by parsons in passession of arms; it is quick and involves no special technique.

(2) The normal way used by unarmed persons is more laborious and time consuming. A mawas is located in a tree and then the surrounding trees are felled leaving the animal isolated. After eating everything available in the tree - leaves, fruit and bark - and suffering from thirst, the unfortunate animal is forced to the ground where his capture have been keeping vigil in a concealed spet. The men dash out, two of them grabbing an arm each while one takes hold of the back of the head. The arms are tied behind the back and the animal is thrust into a sack and removed.

The state of the s

Maintenance after capture

mal is looked on as a source of money and any thought of showing it any kindness seems to be completely lacking. I saw a total of 9 'mawas' in captivity, excluding 6 in the zeo at Pematangsiantar, and nearly all of them were kept imprisoned in a wooden box or crate which was of such a size that it was quite impossible for the animal to stand up. In two instances there were two animals in a box so small that they had to spand the whole time in a crouched position with their arms around each other. Another 'mawas' which stood about three feet high spent the whole time on a wooden shelf in a cage which measured about 9 feet high and three feet square with the front enclosed by 1 inch iron bars.

They are all fed on boiled rice, bananas and perhaps some pineapple. With this unnatural diet their stomachs become very distended and with the inability to move or keep clean, they become sick and as often as not die.

I also now one Siamang that was kept tied on a short rope in a garage. This smelt of oil, petrol and urine from the adjacent house and the poor animal could walk nowhere except on the oily floor or the smeeth drums.

Frices

There appears to be two value for the 'mawas'. If a person is walking through the jungle not specifically looking for one but finds one and is able to capture it he will probably accept about 10,000 rupiah which is about US\$10 at the Black Market rate of exchange and

about US\$230 at the official rate. However a person going out with the intention of catching one may be away for a week or longer. Several years ago a young 'mawas' might have fetched as much as 37,000 rupiah but now the average price in Kotatjane is about 17,000 while in Medan it is about 24,000 rupiah.

One encouraging point to note is that the prices are decreasing because the wildlife conservation authorities have been confiscating illegally owned 'mawas'. This is a great financial loss to the owner and so people are slowly become less anxious to trade in these animals. However there is still a lot to be done to stop the trade completely.

Mumbers of 'mawas' smuggled out of Atjeh

As the authorities are excercising more control over the possession of 'mawas' the number being sent out to Medan is decreasing but nevertheless it is estimated by the authorities that curing 1961-62 no less than 280 erang-utan were sent through Kotatjane to Medan. On arrival many were dead owing to bad handling and the criminally sized boxes in which the animals were kept. One of my porters claimed to have caught himself 8 from October to December last year.

Number of 'mawas' in captivity

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William Cont.

It is not possible to give an exact figure as the number varies daily but at the beginning of March (1963) no less than 47 'mawas' could be accounted for in captivity in south Atjeh and in general vicinity of Medan. In addition to these three more are known to have died recently and the corpse of one of these was found by two of my porters on 6 February near Meleuwak. It was a largish animal with a rope around its neck and lying on the edge of the river partially decomposed. I strongly suspect that it was one of a pair at Gumbang village a few miles further to the north. I was informed that an Army sergeant threatened the owners with illegal possession. To settle matters 'amicably' the sergeant purchased the smaller of the two for 5000 ruplah and after he left the owners must have killed the large one, as it was too big for the market, and thrown the corpse into the river.

Known captive orang-utan at beginning of March 1963 (Atjeh-N.Sumatra)

Place	Male	Female	ex unknown
Takengon	• •	1	4
Sangir	1	1	

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Kualasimpang	1			4
Kotoradia				2
Pematangsiantar (20	00) 4		2	
Beherok ag and an an				1
Branden				
Pangkalan Susu		e e	A Section 1	
Sungal Musem				1
Sidikalang				1
Kabandjahe				

Total of 47

FIELD OFBERVATIONS (3)

North of Kotatjane I was only fortunate in seeing 'mawas' on three different occasions; once a lone male and twice a family group of three.

The first time was at Aunan. We had packed our bolonging and were on the point of moving camp when a man hurried to tell us that he had just seen a 'mawas' further up the road. We hastened to the spot which was about 100 yards from the road on the edge of a small rubber plantation. I had some difficulty in seeing the animal even though it was asleep on a nest about 50 feet from me. With the bineculars however I could make out a patch of reddish hair which pretruded above the rim of the mass of twigs and sticks that formed the crude sleeping place. The nest was about 30 feet from the ground in a small tree. As I watched from below I could see an arm (or leg) hanging over the side of the nest and holding on to a branch. One of the men started to climb a nearby tree and this awoke the animal. It walked from its nest along a small branch to an adjoining leafless tree. It remained there for about a minute, examining us, and then urinated before moving to another tree. To manoever a gap of about four feet it reached out with a foot, grabbed the tip of a branch and pulled it close so that it formed a bridge. At this point the men had spotted a Ismale with a baby in a tree about 60 feet away. The male approached

her, Musing though very thick planse, and they all disgipeend make

the dame canepy. The colour of each was reddish and the male had rether an obviously brownish face with a small beard.

MANAGE WAS WINDOW I WOULD TO THE THE PARTY OF THE PARTY O

The second one I saw was from the road north of Rumah Bandar near Kungke. The guide, Amangar, spotted it from his seat on the back of the jeep that was taking us to Blangkedjeren. The huge animal was seated in the fork of a tall, almost leafless tree, about 300 yards away. Even without binoculars the animal appeared enormous. It had two large check growths, a handsome beard and the whole body appeared covered in long red hair that reminded me of Spanish moss. It was feeding Injurely on the few leaves available and also the flowers of the tree, which Sinurat identified as Zanthoxylum rhetsa. It finally settled down again in the fork of the tree and seemed to go to sleep.

The third eccasion on which I saw them was again north of Rumah Ander; I was walking some way shead of the porters, stopping frequentity to examine the trees. At one point the branches of a huge big tree were almost overhanging the path. As I glanced up I saw, much to my surprise, a 'mawas' walking upside down along a branch. Then I saw a second animal and shortly after that the guide arrived with the porters the guide and I sut a path through the very dense undergrowth to the base of the tree and with some difficulty we could see one 'mawaa' on a ment in a fork everhead. There was no sign of a second one. We called out and tapped the tree hoping to get the one off its nest but it did not move. Then quite suddenly a youngster of about a year (?) climbed out of the nest, walked and swung its way to the top of the tree, cross of the another by brachiating along a vine directly overhead and then disappeared into the foliage.

Eventually the other one on the nest (probably the mother) climbed ont, walked up a thick branch, swung to another tree and then brachtated along the same overhead vine. Half way across it stopped to look down at us during which time it was suspended by one arm only. For several minutes both the adult and young were lest to sight but when they reappeared they were accompanied by a second adult ... possibly the male.

hundred feet of the main track which is used by jeeps. In the jungle itself, for from the track, I saw numerous nests but no orang-utans.

Resta

Harry Salas

on their nests at quite close quarters. Looking at the figures it is

intersating to note that the heights layoured for the bulluing of heats letwern 30 and 70 feet and this corresponds to the observations mids by Scholler in Sarawak.

Heights of orang-utan nests above the ground

Height of nests (in feet)	Number of nests	%	Schallers	
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11112221 = 20	0	. 0	•8	
21 - 30		2•3	2.2	
31 40	6	13.6	15.3	
45 50	14	31.8	25.0	
51 - 60	10	2 2.7	24.5	
81 - 70	6	13.6	17.5	
71 - 80	4	9.1	6.1	
ki _ 90	2	4.6	2.6	
100	o e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e	.0	3.0	
101 - 110	<u> </u>	2.3	-4	
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	A SECTION OF THE SECT	******		

Most of the nests were encountered up to an altitude of 3000 feet above sea level although one was noted at 4350 feet a.s.l. The guide reported that they were to be found a little but not much higher than this altitude possibly a maximum of 5000 feet a.s.l.

FOOD

想起 医乳头

国际教育的自己的中国教育。

I only observed one mawas actually feeding. This was the lone male at 1500 hours in a Zanthoxvlum thetsa. There appeared very little foliage on the tree but with the aid of binoculars I could see quite clearly that the animal was eating both leaves and flowers. The guide informed me that they also eat leaves, fruit, flowers and seeds of the following:

Maga Gan	Wild an	d cultivated h	Rananas	Fruit and	haor
Figus SDD Fig		(Rambung)	Arras de Ma	Fruit	Hear
Roccour Aca				Fruit	
Moraceae		(Bergang)	,	Fruit	
Dicksonia Sorbifolia		(Baharce)		Fruit	
Parkia speciosa		(Pete)		Green pod	

Mangifora app

Salacon edulis

Palm (Salak)

Pithecolobium Lobatum

Myristique app

Nutmeg (Pala)

Pruit

Durio app

Durion

Fruit

Of this list the latter is possibly the most favourite if it is available. During the fruiting season the mawas can do considerable to these cultivated trees as their fruit is a source of income to the grower. This is therefore a time when many of them are caught.

In addition to the above list I learnt that they also eat grabs and other insects which they dig out of the bark of trees.

ESTIMATE OF WILD POPULATION

·尾雕旗, 位于姓氏 1997年级 200

rison in Sarawak and M. Bornes to reach a rough estimate of the population density of mawas in an area of known size consists of counting the number of nests seen, say within 100 feet on either side of the path, and dividing this by the number of hours (or miles at about 1 mile per hour). It has been assumed that mawas build one nest a day and each remains visible for about 6 months. One mawas would therefore to considered responsible for 180 nests in one squire mile.

For about 4 months and that definitely more than one nest a day was constructed.

In the Alas and Gajo areas their range is known to extend from Law Pakam to Blangkedjeren on either side of the Alas river. Except in a few places the jungle comes down to the river and the contours rise steeply one either bank. Bearing in mind that mawas are probably not naturally inclined to go above 5000 feet, their range in this particular area could easily extend for 10 miles on either side of the river and would therefore enclose an area of about 1500 square miles. My estimates indicated one orang-utan per square mile but this was based on one nest per day, making an approximate total of 1500 orang-utans in this particular area. However I would prefer to halve this number on the basis of at least two nests per day and the fact that the nests are reported to only last 4 months.

Therefore I would like to suggest that there might be 800 orangutans in the area in question. In addition however there is an area to the morth which I was unable to visit, another area near the coast on the west slopes of the Loser and a third area directly west of Medan.

might be the total population is dangerously low ... perhaps 1500 or few more or a few less. If 280 enimals are known to have been samgglout in two years - and this does not include all the one that have certainly died - at the end of ten years there may none left unless some very strong and active steps are taken NOW.

I do not belief there are any groups of any material size in At.

Worth Sumatra east of an approximate line from Singkel to Pangkalan
Brandan

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Firefrag control of the control of t

In Atjeh and North Sumatra as the Loser complex constitutes the main habitat area of the Grang-utan and rhinoceros (excepting a smaller area to the north towards Lesten and Lokop which I did not visitut received reports). I suggested that an appropriate part of this magnificent natural mountainous area be selected as a special reserve for Orang-utan and Rhinoceros as soon as possible.

But

- cient lands at its disposal to engage men to patrol such an area, and is (b) the military and other persons are so involved in the capture of Orang-utans for smaggling out of Indonesia, and as (c) the estimated population of Orang-utans in the above area is possibly only about 1900 animals, and
- (d) in view of the fact that at the recent meeting of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums the following motion was pass
- 'A list of animals to be prepared, whose wild population would be severely endangered by new see collection, importation, and/or exhibition; that this list, after annual review and approval by the beard of the AAZPA be published as the 'AAZPA Black List' and that members be encouraged to support a policy of non exhibition of such endangered forms' (with special reference to orang-utans)

I would like to recommend

- 1. The Indonesian Government requests its Highest authority to take urgent and very strong steps to condemn and prevent the smuggling of orang-utans from Indonesia
- 2. Local Forest Department, Wildlife conservation and Custom Officials have the authority to arrange for surprise check points along the read leading from the Loser complex to Medan and ports from which vessels might leave for Singapore, Malaya, Thailand etc.,

- J. That they have the authority to confiscate any illegal owned orangutan and ensure that the owner is <u>severely</u> fined.
- That frequent checks are made by Customs at all airports as many orang-utans are smuggled out by plane.
 - 5. That the Custom, Veterinary and other appropriate Department in Singapere in particular but also in other ports such as Bangkok and Hong Kong be requested to cooperate in a general campaign to end the smuggling of orang-utans from Indonesia.
 - 6. Until such time as an effectively patrolled sanctuary or special reserve is formed the I.U.C.N. assist the Indonesian Government in finding means of disposing those orang-utans confiscated and already known to be in illegal captivity (such as the approximate 45 specimens in the general vicinity of Medan in March 1963).
 - 7. That any of these 45 specimens which have not already died might be possibly sold at a nominal price to approved zoos.
 - 8. That funds outside sources be made available to the Indonesian Government to assist them in developing a special Reserve in the Loser region.
 - 9. That a further study be made of the Loser complex in the near future to determine a suitable area for a special reserve.

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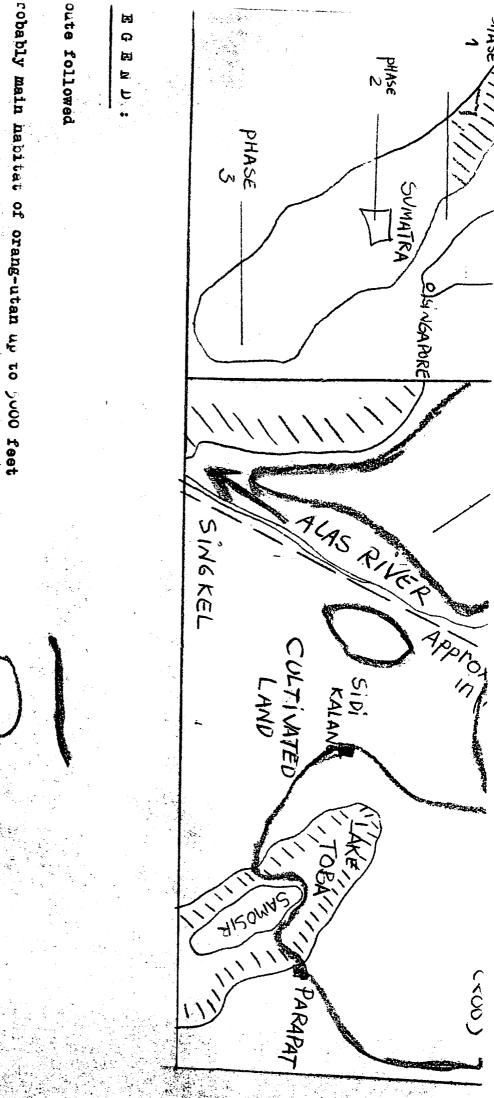
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A more complete bibliography will be included in the final report .-

Disalin oleh:

PANGATUR MUDA TINGKAT I Seksi Perlindungan dan Pengawetan Alam Sumatera-Utara Medan.

Ponira



eported rhinoceros (sumatran) hapitat

ilno tracks seen

