

Species Survival Commission
(SSC)

Indonesia's rhinos

Indonesia is the only country in Asia with two surviving species of rhinoceros, and both are seriously endangered. The Javan rhino is reduced to some 50-60 animals in the Ujung Kulon National Park; the country's Sumatran rhino numbers some 420-785.

From 5-7 June, IUCN convened a meeting in conjunction with the Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHPA) of the Indonesian Government - an IUCN member since January 1985 - to discuss ways to implement IUCN's recently published Asian Rhino Action Plan in Indonesia. This plan was prepared by Mr Mohd. Khan bin Momin Khan, Chairman of the IUCN/SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group.

The meeting recommended that Javan rhinos be caught in Ujung Kulon National



Park and bred in captivity in Indonesia. Way Kambas National Park in South Sumatra was recommended as a potential re-introduction site.

For the somewhat more numerous Sumatran rhinos, the meeting recommended that top priority be given to protecting the remaining viable populations, and that current efforts to establish a

Weasels and badgers

An educational booklet entitled *Weasels, Badgers, Civets and Mongooses, and their Relatives* has just been published.

The first of a series on families of fur-bearing animals, the booklet will be widely distributed in North America and Europe. Future booklets will cover cats, canids, otters, seals and procyonids.

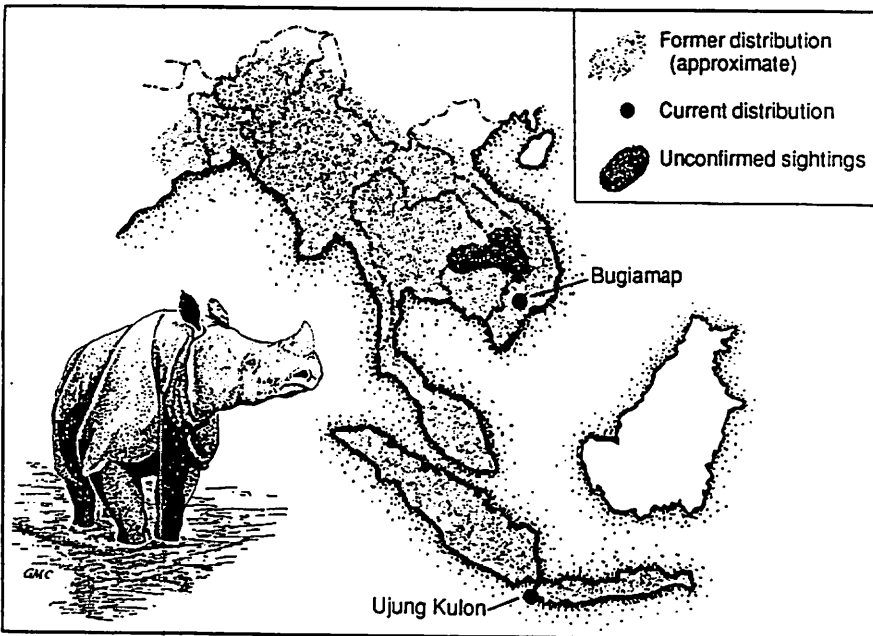
The project is supported by the International Fur Trade Federation.

At left is the cover illustration.

captive breeding programme should be continued.

Coherent plans which could restore both species to safe population levels are therefore now in place. However, the necessary financial resources have yet to be found.

In October HRH The Duke of Edinburgh visited Indonesia in his capacity as International President of WWF - World Wide Fund for Nature. He met with President Suharto and presented him with a copy of the Action Plan and the report of the meeting. President Suharto expressed his interest in seeing these conservation initiatives succeed.



The Javan rhinoceros once occupied various habitats in South-East Asia, probably preferring lowlands, but its past distribution is uncertain owing to possible confusion with the great Indian rhinoceros. At present it is known to exist for certain only in the Ujung Kulon reserve in the western tip of Java and in Bugiamap, Vietnam (source: IUCN).

Species categories being revamped

IUCN's categories of threatened species (frequently used in the Red Data Books) are used all around the world. For a number of years, however, the inadequacies of the current system have drawn criticism.

Accordingly, the Species Survival Commission has embarked upon a revision of the categories on behalf of the Union. Dr Georgina Mace of the Zoological Society of London, an IUCN member, is taking the lead in this revision.

Any IUCN member interested in contributing to this process should contact Dr Simon Stuart at IUCN headquarters. It is hoped that the new category system will be approved and ready for use, at least for mammals and birds, by the time of the next IUCN General Assembly.

The Zoological Society of London

The Zoological Society of London was founded in 1826 as a scientific society for "the advancement of Zoology and Animal Physiology and the introduction of new and curious subjects of the Animal Kingdom". It has been a member of IUCN since January 1985.

The Society's Gardens in Regent's Park - better known as the London Zoo - were opened in 1828, and in 1931 the complementary Whipsnade Park was created on 200 hectares of countryside. Research is carried out at the Institute of Zoology, which comprises several well-equipped laboratories and a veterinary hospital. The Society holds scientific meetings and symposia, has one of the finest zoological libraries in the world, and issues several important publications, including the *Journal of Zoology*.

In recent years the Society has expanded its involvement in field conservation programmes in a number of countries, including Kenya, Niger, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia.

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