LIPI-FFI JOINT PROJECT FOR RHINO

DIET SELECTION OVERLAP BETWEEN JAWA RHINO AND HERBIVOROUS ANIMALS WITHIN THE RHINO HABITAT

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Studies conducted by the IBP team revealed there is a possibility of overlap use in the habitat between the rhino and the banteng (*Bos indicus*). As rhino tend always to be in the losing position, this may give some negative effects for the existence of the rhino. Firstly, the movement activities of banteng is far wider than the rhino. Banteng can pass through the rhino territory but in reverse for the rhino. Secondly, suitable habitat conditions is more rigid for the rhino than for the banteng. Thirdly, in general, the banteng population is higher than for the rhino, thus overtaking the habitat in a certain point would probably lead to the diet competition between the two animals. Besides the banteng, the TNUK accommodates other herbivorous animals, which up to now have never been assessed for their presence upon the threat to the rhino existence from the diet selection point of view. Thus, there is need in understanding the diet selection behavior between rhino and other herbivorous animals resent in the rhino habitat.

The present study is aimed to understand feeding behavior between rhino and other potential threat herbivorous animals within the concentrated rhino population habitat. The study will be focused on determining the degree of performance of similar plants which are selected by rhino and other herbivorous mammals, nutritional quality of plan parts selected by the animals and the ability of animals in digesting the plants through microbial activities via faecal evaluation. From this study it is hoped that such management based on the feed status within the rhino habitat can be gained in order to increase the survival of the rhino within the well established area.

The study will be conducted in conjunction with other participants, particularly the team which are going to collect faeces for DNA fingerprint purposes and the team which aimed to understand the population status of banteng in the rhino habitat. The parties responsible for this study will be from the physiologist, botanist, and ecologist.

The timetable will be at least in three occasions (pre-monsoon, mid-monsoon, and post-monsoon).

Cost consists of:

Chemical Analyses	US$ 7,500
Disposable Items	US$ 1,500
Travel (2-3 scientists & 4 field workers per visit)	?