

UNDP/GEF Sumatran Rhino Conservation Project**ITS APPLICABILITY TO THE UJUNG KULON NATIONAL PARK****Representative: Muniful Hamid****Introduction**

This paper will examine how the experience of, and system used by the UNDP/GEF Rhino Conservation Project can be applied to the Ujung Kulon. Not all aspects of the project are examined here only those parts deemed relevant to the park and species in question.

Background

The UNDP/ GEF Rhino Conservation Project is an in situ programme executed by the Directorate General Forestry Protection and Nature Conservation (PHPA). The project is administered through Yayasan Mitra Rhino (YMR) with a project manager and director appointed by the PHPA, and overview provided by the AsRSG. The objectives are:

1. To enhance the capabilities of the PHPA to arrest the decline of rhinoceros due to poacher activity and habitat disturbance.
2. To develop more involvement by the local human communities in the vicinity of the rhino habitat.
3. To develop a comprehensive and sustainable funding plan for rhino conservation.
4. To increase exchange of information and expertise between Indonesia and Malaysia on rhino conservation matters.

The projects objectives and sub-objectives were formulated from the Indonesia Rhino Conservation Strategy(1991), the AsRSG Action Plan(1990), Sumatran Rhino PHVA(Population and Habitat Viability Analysis, Lampung, 1993), and numerous discussions between the PHPA, AsRSG, YMR, field researchers and other government bodies. An offer to apply for a \$ 2 million grant was made at the end of 1992 by the GEF. Following the Sumatran Rhino PHVA (1993) which indicated that the Sumatran rhino had now become critically endangered, it was decided to exclude the Javan rhino from this funding whilst leaving the option open to carry out conservation activities if the opportunity arose. In 1995 the project was started with funds being shared equally between Malaysia and Indonesia, with counterpart funds from both countries.

For the field element of the project 9 rhino protection units (RPU) have been created each containing one forest ranger (PHPA) and three local people. In addition to this four people making up the management team each with their own specialisation reflecting the field objectives:

1. Patrolling
2. Research and Monitoring
3. Community Outreach
4. Law Enforcement

Each member has undergone an intensive six week training programme to provide the basic skills to carry out the necessary tasks, acting independently, as part of a larger operation, or in conjunction with other government agencies and national park authorities.