



Ensuring Coral Reefs for Life

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Field trip to Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary at Way Kambas National Park Lampung, July 30 - August 1, 2013



Dicerorhinus sumatrensis or Sumatran Rhino at Rhino Protection Unit, Lampung, Indonesia

The mission of Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI) is to conserve the rhino population in Indonesia through protection of the rhino and its habitat, monitoring, training and community outreach programs, and rhino breeding programs. Indonesia has two rhino species: Badak Jawa (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) and Badak Sumatera (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*).

The Rhino Protection Unit (RPU) is the back bone for saving not only the rhinos in Bukit Barisan Selatan, Way Kambas, and Ujung Kulon but also its habitat with all wildlife within. Joint patrols with park authorities and local police address illegal activities such as poaching and encroachment.

In 2012, a unique event happened with the birth of Andatu, at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS) in Way Kambas National Park. The birth is the first in 124 years of Sumatran Rhino breeding facility history in Asia and a significant milestone in Indonesia's conservation efforts to preserve one of the Earth's most threatened species.

A 3-day trip was organized by Yayasan Badak Indonesia and hosted by Bapak Widodo Ramono and his team. Upon arrival at SRS, Pak Widodo and CTCs executive director participated in a staff meeting discussion about the successes and challenges the team face to preserve the rhino population. The collaboration between the various enforcement agencies make the patrols very effective but the area is large and requires also investments for example in river patrols. The following morning, the group went to see the feeding of the rhinos including Rosa, Ratu and Andatu. "What a mesmerising experience to stroke a rhino for the first time" said Rili Djohani, 'like the Komodo dragons they represent an

ancient era we should respect and cherish'.

A visit was also paid to the elephant rehabilitation area in Way Kambas National Park where circa 60 elephants are managed by the National Park's staff. More resources are needed to manage the elephant population adequately.

The day was concluded with a beautiful boat trip on the river with RPU members who are well trained and committed to protect the rhino's and their habitats. "Early in the morning of the last day I woke up by the noise of the jungle: birds singing and monkeys calling for each other; whilst driving out of the forest Pak Widodo mentioned: the only thing we missed was the direct sighting of a tiger. What a wonderful trip and great work done by Pak Widodo and his team with sheer focus, commitment, persistence and skills," said Rili Djohani.

More field exchanges between YABI, CTC and other initiatives are planned across teams to learn more about conservation approaches for different species and ecosystems.



Dicerorhinus sumatrensis or Sumatran Rhino diet is young saplings, leaves, fruits, twigs, and shoots