



August- September 2015 Newsletter No.20

Chairman's Report

Welcome to our latest newsletter which features a number of important developments for Ecolodges Indonesia. Following a very productive AGM in mid-April 2015, we resolved to undertake a review of operations to enable long term sustainability of the company. The new management system under our new Direktur Utama Bapak Gede Anjasmara will ensure strict governance.

Emphasis will be on renewable energy supply for our lodges, and the management of waste stream to minimise environmental impacts. Confidence in our current Indonesian managers was expressed and more emphasis will now be placed on increasing our Indonesian shareholding which currently sits at 22.5%.

I would like to welcome Richard Noske from Brisbane, Australia, as a new shareholder in Ecolodges Indonesia. Richard is a renowned ornithologist who has been birding in Indonesia for over 25 years. Together with Carol and Detlef Davies, Richard will soon introduce specialised birding tours utilising overnight stays in our lodges. Further information on these exciting tours is contained in this newsletter.

Installation of solar energy supply at Rimba Orang-utan Ecolodge is proving to be extremely successful. Ecolodges Indonesia, in partnership with SEC Industrial Battery Company and Solar Power Indonesia, is committed to providing renewable energy and energy storage to support Rimba Orang-utan Ecolodge. We are also committed to the education and empowerment of local communities in sustainable growth and long-term conservation, whilst also offering eco- tourism to observe wild orang-utans. Chief Executive Officer of SEC Group, Heston Harper, calls the project "an excellent example of where our cutting-edge green technologies can be found to be making paradigm shifts in the lifestyles of rural communities, offering new means to conservation organisations and their projects."

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, and thank you for your support.

Alan Wilson

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- **Fantastic new tour**
- Links to Instagram, Facebook and Ecolodges websites.

Why Way Kambas National Park may be the last chance for the Sumatran Rhinoceros.

Marie Gale

Way Kambas National Park is at the epicentre of the conservation battle to save three of the most endangered mammals in Indonesia: the Sumatran Elephant, Tiger and Rhinoceros. As well, the national park is home to an amazing number of other vulnerable and endangered species, and is renowned around the world for its range of birds. The Satwa Elephant Ecolodge sits adjacent to the park, and provides guests the opportunity to explore this critically important hotspot of biodiversity.

Hidden away in the eastern Sumatran province of Lampung, the Way Kambas National Park is home to one of only two or three remaining potentially viable populations of Sumatran Rhinoceros.

In April 2015, the Malaysian Minister for the Environment made the grim public

announcement that the Sumatran Rhino was officially extinct in the wild in Malaysia. This leaves the only known populations to be in Sumatra. Way Kambas is estimated to have just 25 individuals.



Sumatran Rhinos are the smallest of the living Rhinos and the only one with two horns. They

are covered in long hair and are the closest relatives to the extinct woolly rhinos. The Sumatran Rhinos once roamed across a vast area from the foothills of Bhutan through Thailand and Vietnam to the Malay Peninsula. Today they cling to survival in Sumatra.



Photos by Marie Gale

Rhinos are vegetarian and feed mostly on saplings, fruit, leaves and roots. Adults usually eat up to 50 kilograms of food a day and tend to graze at dusk and dawn. During the day they wallow in mud hollows to keep cool and to protect themselves from insects. They live for between 35 - 40 years and are believed to give birth every 3- 4 years under good conditions. Pregnancies last about 15 months. This slow reproduction rate coupled with the relentless hunting of the rhinos for their horn (primarily for the Chinese market), and the rapid loss of habitat, has contributed to their dramatic decline.

A group of conservation enthusiasts from the local village, including some Way Kambas National Park rangers and a vet who has focussed his research on Rhinos (also a shareholder of Ecolodges Indonesia), are desperately trying to save Rhinos in the wild by expanding their habitat and planting Rhino food trees. The project is already underway, but desperately needs more funds. The not-for-profit Save Indonesian Endangered Species Fund (SIES) is raising funds to support the project through Planet Savers. 100% of funds raised go directly to the project. If you'd like to help what may be the last chance in the history of this planet to save wild Rhinos then please donate. Just \$3 means another Rhino food-tree planted in the forest.

<https://planetfunder.org/projects/TreesForSumatranRhino>