

Cincinnati Zoo, U.S.A.

As part of their Conservation & Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) project, Cincinnati Zoo officials said their goodbyes to Harapan the Sumatran rhino, leaving him wallowing in the mud on the island of Sumatra.

Harapan, formerly known as the last Sumatran rhino in the Western Hemisphere, safely completed his 10,000-mile air, land and sea trip in early November to join the rest of his kind in Indonesia.



Cincinnati Zoo officials formally handed over the rhino to Indonesian authorities, who hope that the rhino will mate to help save his species from extinction.

Accompanied by keeper Paul Reinhart and zoo veterinarian Dr. Jenny Nollman, the 1,800-pound rhino departed from Cincinnati on Oct. 30. His trip around the world included stops in Columbus, Chicago, Anchorage, Hong Kong and Jakarta, Indonesia, before he was trucked and ferried to his final destination on the Indonesian island of Sumatra.

The 8-year-old male is one of fewer than 100 Sumatran rhinos left in the world. Zoo officials said Harapan's only opportunity to breed and contribute to his species' survival is at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, a breeding facility in the Way Kambas National Park of Indonesia.

After completing a mandatory two-week stay in quarantine, 8-year-old Harry will have access to the forested areas at the sanctuary and will embark on his mission to mate to help save his critically-endangered species from extinction. The hope is that Harry will sire a calf with one of the three females at SRS. His brother Andalas, born at the Cincinnati Zoo in 2001 and now living at SRS, has sired one calf with 12-year-old Ratu. She is now pregnant with a second calf and is expected to give birth in May.