

habitat or breeding center to ensure the safety of the rhinos. Veterinarians and rhino experts would need to be present during the capture, health assessment and translocation process. The best possible site for translocation is the Kappi plateau due to its high variety of preferred foods for rhinos (149 species), at least 6 saltlick complexes, a relatively flat landscape, and the area has a strong legal status. The biggest threat right now in this area is a geothermal project plan and the frequent presence of locals coming into the forest to fish, hunt, and harvest non-timber forest products. An ideal site for a breeding center can be developed in Samarkilang, which is a relatively lowland forest landscape and is still naturally regenerating after logging activity halted a decade ago. There is a high variety of biodiversity in Samarkilang due to the continuing regeneration of secondary forests, which will provide a high variety of food for rhinos. The main threats in this area are illegal poaching, logging, and forest encroachment. Strong legal protection of these two areas is a critical precondition to be fulfilled before we designate them as translocation and breeding center sites.

Conserving Javan rhino through special interest ecotourism in Ujung Kulon National Park

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The Javan rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*, Desmarest 1822) is one of two species of rhino found in Indonesia (the other is the Sumatran rhino). The Javan rhino is critically endangered and can now be found in the wild only in Ujung Kulon National Park (UKNP), Indonesia. It was also previously found in Vietnam, but was declared extinct there in 2011. Only about 60 individuals are found in the UKNP, and they face threats from loss of habitat, encroachment (by local people) for farming, invasive vegetation, and competition from other species (wild cattle). Poaching, although not currently occurring, is also a potential threat. Despite the problems the Java rhinos face in UKNP, it is considered still possible to save this population from extinction through a concerted effort by all parties. Both commitment and substantial funding are required to save this species. Special interest ecotourism offers an opportunity to both raise funds for the conservation of the species, and to increase awareness of its plight. Friends of Rhino is a local NGO which is developing special interests ecotourism through community-based partnerships. The concept is to accompany small groups to UKNP, so they can observe rhino behaviour and feeding in their natural habitat. There will be strict rules to protect the fauna and the ecosystem. Tours will center on the Cikeusik area, in the core zone for Javan rhino, so groups will be limited to a maximum of three people. Tours are restricted to July to mid-September (dry season period is the best time), Participants will spend at least 7 to 10 days in UKNP, travelling through coastal areas, estuaries and along the river where they are most likely to observe rhino. The anticipated benefits of this special interest ecotourism development are: (a) to increase awareness and knowledge about the conservation of rhinos for visitors; (b) Creating business opportunities and employment so as to increase the income of local communities and the economic growth of local, regional and national levels; (c) as an alternative and sustainable sources of income for local communities and (d) provide a funding source for rhino conservation.