

# **RHINO BREEDING IN MALAYSIA**

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Presently a Sumatran rhino captive breeding programme is likely to be the only way to save the species from extinction and to increase its population. Rhinos bred in captivity can be released into the wild where their habitat is properly protected.

## **2.0 THE MALAYSIAN CAPTIVE BREEDING PROGRAMME**

Two sites have been identified for the captive propagation of the Sumatran rhino :

- (a) Malacca Zoo
- (b) Sungai Dusun Wildlife Reserve

There are four sexually mature female rhinos at the Malacca Zoo. A new rhino enclosure has been built here to house the animals. Probably four breeding pairs can be held in the area in the near future. In the Fifth Malaysian Plan 1986 - 1990 (FMP), about M\$ 4.82 million will be allocated for zoo development. Part of the funds could be allocated to upgrade the present facility. Grants should also be requested for a long-term captive study and to develop clinical methods especially on test tube rhino (sic), embryo transfer, artificial insemination, and genetics.

A Sungai Dusun Reserve, part of the 10,000 acre reserve will be fenced off for captive breeding of rhinos in a semi-wild condition. Under the Fifth Malaysian Plan (FMP), a total of M\$ 1.11 million will be allocated to improve the facilities and for setting up of electric fencing. The area could be compartmentalised for rotational use by a few breeding groups.

### 3.0 AFFILIATION WITH OTHER ZOOS

The zoos in Jakarta, Kent and Bangkok have Sumatran rhino in captivity. The Malacca Zoo could enter into cooperative programme with these zoos to acquire or loan rhinos on a short-term basis. The DWNP and the Indonesian PHPA are at present interested in the exchange of animals for breeding purposes. Such programmes would benefit the conservation of the rhino and help maintain its genetic diversity.

### DISCUSSION

ROEDJAI : was particularly interested in establishing closer cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia so that common reserves could then be jointly maintained and protected. He urged for a greater emphasis on the collaborative training programmes and closer cooperation in scientific research between the two countries.