

## PLAN FOR CAPTURE OPERATION

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In order to determine more accurately the sex ratio, age and number of the rhino population, we should survey the whole area and in particular the eastern fringes. Surveys based on the track dimension, shape, especially with plaster casts, are reliable but time consuming. Furthermore we have already an accurate report by Dr. Hartmann Ammann. In this case, I recommend the use of remote controlled cameras. 20 - 30 of the 35 mm still cameras could be purchased cheaply or even supplied free (in exchange of publicity) by a big company. These cameras, with a flash incorporated, should be placed on rhino trails, in several places in Ujung Kulon. Indonesia based, professional photographer, Mr. Alain Compost has already confirmed that he is available to set up the cameras and indeed he has already got pictures of leopard, tiger etc. using this method. A couple of rangers can check the cameras every few days. The whole operation will require only a few months and will not disturb the rhinos.

The base camp as well as the holding pens for the captured rhinos should be set up along the eastern fringes of the park.

The use of pit traps instead of stockade types is highly recommended as negative experience has indicated during the capture operations in 1960 and in 1986 (Torgamba). Professional animal collector Mr. Tony Parkinson is the best person to carry on with the capture and he will give the best advice on this matter.

The use of local trees for the construction of the holding pens and traps should be avoided for obvious reasons, but it may prove to be too expensive and impractical to carry the necessary poles from outside the Park.

As with the Sumatran rhino, a long period of acclimatization (at least two months) should follow after the capture of the rhino, before transporting it to the zoos.

## DISCUSSION

SUKIANTO : indicated that Pulau (island) Panaitan could be considered a second home for the Javan rhino. However, he cautioned that capture

operations would prove to be difficult, especially along the eastern part of Ujung Kulon peninsula since the terrain there was swampy.

RUBINI : concurred with Sukianto's comment and accepted the proposal of translocation some rhinos from Ujung Kulon to the Pulau Panaitan as a valid option.

WIDODO : pointed out that the number of rhino in Ujung Kulon doubled between 1969 and 1979, largely due to the efforts of Dr. Schenkel and his wife and the dedication of the guards. He recommended extreme caution before any effort was made to capture the rhinos in Ujung Kulon for breeding in captivity. He added that it was necessary to postpone such an operation until there was clear evidence that the carrying capacity of the reserve had been reached. At present, according to him, there was no firm evidence that this was indeed the case. The census showed that the numbers seemed to be constant. He therefore urged that we wait until the saturation point was reached.

NARDELLI : argued that if the numbers had in fact remained constant, then the saturation point had already been reached !

WIDODO : referred to the fact that there were no positive signs that the numbers had in fact reached the carrying capacity. Since the Javan rhino, by nature being a wanderer, he argued that should the numbers reach the carrying capacity, there would have been at least some signs of animals leaving the core area and moving out. In 1967, there had been such signs that animals did indeed move out. He therefore urged that more studies be undertaken to settle this issue. Only 40% of Ujung Kulon is under primary forest cover. The best habitat for the rhino is along the southern part of the park, where until now the secondary vegetation had increased the carrying capacity. He therefore doubted whether a serious change in the habitat quality had in fact occurred in Ujung Kulon ?

NARDELLI : referred to Dr. Schenkel's studies and pointed out that they revealed that there had indeed been some changes in the food supply of the rhinos.

WIDODO : argued that such information came from the study of vegetation plots in the park. Plots that were established near the permanent rhino habitats were found to be utilized by the animals, while those that were set up 1000 m away from these habitats were not used. He also referred to the fact that there was no lack of food plants for the rhinos, which are known to eat more than 100 species of plants, to overcome temporary fluctuations in the availability of any one type of species. The animals were known to shift their feeding activities from one area to another and so he doubted if the habitat in Ujung Kulon was indeed a limiting factor for the rhinos at present.

RODJAI ; agreed with Mr. Widodo's observations. He pointed out that disease was a possible cause of the sudden mortality of some rhinos in Ujung Kulon. He referred to the demise of the banteng in Pangandaran Nature Reserve (Java) as a result of the eruption in 1982 of the volcano, Gunung

Galunggung. He added that the more important issue was the successful breeding of the animals in the wild rather than in captivity, and recommended a cautious approach towards the captive breeding programme. He was in favour of breeding the rhinos in their natural habitats to that in captivity.

## COUNTRY REPORT — INDONESIA

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE PROTECTION

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Director of Forest Protection

and Nature Conservation

1.1.1. Background

The rhinoceros population in Java and Sumatra is now estimated to be around 100 individuals. The population in Java is concentrated in the Ujung Kulon National Park, while in Sumatra it is found in the Bukit Barisan National Park. The rhinoceros is a large herbivore and is found in the lowland rain forest and the mangrove forest. It is a very shy animal and is very sensitive to human disturbance. The population of rhinoceros in Java is declining rapidly due to poaching and habitat loss. The population in Sumatra is also declining due to poaching and habitat loss.

### 1. Background

The rhinoceros population in Java and Sumatra is now estimated to be around 100 individuals. The population in Java is concentrated in the Ujung Kulon National Park, while in Sumatra it is found in the Bukit Barisan National Park. The rhinoceros is a large herbivore and is found in the lowland rain forest and the mangrove forest. It is a very shy animal and is very sensitive to human disturbance. The population of rhinoceros in Java is declining rapidly due to poaching and habitat loss. The population in Sumatra is also declining due to poaching and habitat loss.

1.1.1.1. The rhinoceros population in Java and Sumatra is now estimated to be around 100 individuals.

There are several points which could be discussed concerning the status of the two rhino species in Indonesia. The first point is the status of the rhinoceros in Java. The rhinoceros in Java is found in the Ujung Kulon National Park. The population of rhinoceros in Java is declining rapidly due to poaching and habitat loss. The second point is the status of the rhinoceros in Sumatra. The rhinoceros in Sumatra is found in the Bukit Barisan National Park. The population of rhinoceros in Sumatra is also declining due to poaching and habitat loss.