

World Wildlife

YEARBOOK
1975-76

Edited by Peter Jackson
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with the assistance of Adrienne Farrell



*The Dominica Imperial Parrot (*Amazona imperialis*) is one of four Amazona parrots being studied in the Caribbean Islands under Project 1269 (see page 171). Drawing: Paul Barruel.*

Ten Orang-utans are not given food at the station anymore in the morning. They do not seem to be especially hungry and tend to keep away from the feeding site more often. Eight other animals which are still too small or not yet fit to look for their own food, are still fed twice daily.

It is planned to stop feeding the 10 animals altogether by March 1976. These which do not lose weight will be set out by helicopter deeper inside the reserve. This will be the third release of rehabilitated Orang-utans in the reserve.

4. Wild Orang-utans

In October, December, January and February, the station was visited by three different wild males. One of them was an adult, fully grown male, the other two were subadult. The males were interested in the two adult females at the station and often appeared or left together with them. The three males avoided each other. In February, one of the adult females was observed mating several times with the adult male, later on with the sub-adult.

Two adult females, one with an infant, were observed in the surroundings of the feeding site.

In September, an adolescent male and an adult female were captured in isolated forest patches, doomed to be cut in the near future. The area, between Besitang and Kuala Simpang, had been surveyed before. The two animals were transferred to the station and released there. The female disappeared and has not been seen since, whereas the male visited the station occasionally without being fed. In January it was observed mating with one of our adult females.

We have been working very well with the capture team, consisting of former professional Orang-utan catchers. They should be trained to do captures more or less independently from the Rehabilitation Centre. Eventually it would even be possible to teach them the use of a tranquilizer. Well trained, they could be sent out where Orang-utans are raiding plantations. Their operations should be advised and assisted by the competent nature conservation service official for the concerned area. It would be helpful if the catchers could enter the Nature Conservation Service. Captures should mainly be financed by timber companies working in the area or by regular contributions to the Nature Conservation Service by each operating timber company.

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Project 884 Sumatran Rhinoceros International
Conservation Programme

WWF GRANT 1975 - \$2,018

For previous reports see

- Yearbook 1972-73 page 132
- Yearbook 1973-74 page 178
- Yearbook 1974-75 page 170

Second Mamas expedition, (October 19 - November 4, 1975)

On October 19th we were flown by helicopter to the landing-site near the central camp. The food supplies, flown in the previous expedition, were in excellent condition and also the camp was largely undamaged.

From the central camp the rhino-paths discovered by the first expedition were patrolled again and a few new routes were surveyed. A very promising area was discovered northwest of the Sungai Badak. Tracks and trails are here more numerous than elsewhere.

On October 26th a new camp, called Camp Aceh, was made a few kilometres downstream. From here the Mamas valley was surveyed further to the north. Here the valley narrows and the game-paths leave the river and go up the mountains. A few kilometres further they descend again to the river, here the valley is again wide and flat-bottomed.

North of the confluence of the Mamas and the Sungai Markus (the side-river draining the continuation of the Central Leuser Valley) an extensive complex of warm mineral and sulphur springs was discovered. Elephant tracks were abundant here and Rhino also frequent this area.

Third Mamas expedition, (December 6, 1975 - January 1, 1976)

On December 6th we were once more flown to the central landing site, this time with a smaller helicopter chartered from Indonesia Air Transport.

This expedition was intended to extend the surveyed area further to the north, to the steep part of the Mamas-valley, and to the south, to about the study-area of Mr. Markus Borner.

Due to the extremely heavy rainfall in this period the Mamas had continuous high water and it was impossible to go downstream to camp Aceh.

After patrolling the rhino-paths near the central camp we

moved to camp Pawang on December 12 and built a new camp here. From here I surveyed several new routes, among others the rhino-path along the Sungai Pinus to some saltlicks, already discovered and studied by Mr. Borner.

December 19th we built a new camp at the upper Silukluk. This area, together with adjoining upper reaches of the Sungai Tenang, proved to be a very important rhino-area. Nowhere else did I find so many tracks and trails. The area is very flat, with minor ridges and fields of secondary vegetation (Musa and large Zingiberaceae). This is a major feeding-area for Elephant. Along the upper Tenang extensive treeless marshes (blang) are found.

December 25th we went back to the central camp, but it was still impossible to go further downstream and December 30th we moved again to camp Pawang for the return journey.

Rhino-survey

In these two expeditions the most attention was paid to the survey of new areas and the mapping of game-paths. This has resulted in a detailed sketch-map, scale 1 : 10,000, showing the major game-paths, rivers and streams, wallows, saltlicks and other characteristic points. Throughout the area a large number of marks is made for easy orientation.

Most of my primary study area is surveyed now, except the most northern part. Finally it will cover the whole of the upper Mamas-valley, with the surrounding slopes, and the plateau of Sungai Tenang and upper Silukluk, roughly 100 square kilometres.

To the south my study-area joins the area already studied by Mr. Borner and I will not extend it further in this direction. The mountains on the east, separating the Mamas from the Alas-valley, are only rarely visited by Rhino in the higher regions. Here I will restrict my survey to the lower regions and only now and then go higher up. The mountains on the west are more regularly visited by rhinos and I will survey some of the most interesting ridges till the highest point.

The next expedition I hope to be able to complete the survey of the northern area, to the steep part of the Mamas-valley. This gorge, through which the Mamas leaves the Central Leuser Valley, forms the boundary of the rhino habitat in this direction.

If the time permits I plan to make a few trips to the areas north and west of the primary study-area, to establish the presence of Rhino there.

Apart from the mapping-activities, much attention is paid to the study of footprints, in order to find a system for the identification of individual Rhinos. This is done by measuring the prints by a standard method and by making of plaster casts. During these two expeditions a good, fresh track was encountered on seven occasions and more than 30 reasonable or good plaster casts could be made.

Further most of the wallows were measured and sketched, a collection of faeces was made and the position of every dung-heap along the paths was noted down. A systematic collection of foodplants will be started next expedition.

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Project 1015 Operation Tiger - Javan Tiger

WWF GRANT 1975 - \$10,777

For previous reports see
- Yearbook 1973-74 page 180
- Yearbook 1974-75 page 172

The objective is the proper guarding and management of the Suaka Margasatwa Meru Betiri, established by the Indonesian Government on 6 June 1972, for the conservation of some 50,000 hectares of largely primary rain-forest in Eastern Java (Kabupaten Jember and Banyuwangi). Special attention was and is being paid to the occurrence and preservation of the Javan Tiger (Panthera tigris sondaica), of which only very few are left.

In the course of the years 1971-1975 several surveys were made in and around the reserve. The botanist Prof. Dr. R. van der Veen visited the area in August 1971, and the zoologist A. Hoogerwerf made a survey in August - September of the same year.

A.A. Hutabarat, B.A., PPA Malang, explored the wildlife of the area in May - June 1974, while in June-August 1975 a survey was conducted by H. Bartels, R. van der Veen and four Indonesian biology students, the latter working under the sponsorship of Prof. Dr. O. Soemarwoto, Lembaga Ekologi, Universitas Padjadjaran, Bandung. The students' names are