

## AREA-BASED CONSERVATION - INDONESIA

The project's objectives are to protect the natural forest cover of the Dumoga watershed to ensure a regular supply of water to the irrigation scheme and prevent erosion; to develop the area as a park to protect its natural resources while allowing compatible human uses such as tourism, recreation and research; and to help the Directorate of Nature Conservation manage the park and integrate its role with that of other development agencies.

The work includes the establishment of a system of guard posts and a trained guarding force to control the human impact on the areas; to recommend any changes of boundaries and to ensure that boundaries are demarcated; to recommend the location and to advise on design of a park headquarters complex; and to design and assist in the implementation of an education programme for the local population and for visitors. Towards the end of the assignment a five-year management plan will be prepared.

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Project 1763  
Survey of Sumatran Rhino,  
Banumuda Area, East  
Kalimantan  
WWF GRANT 1980 - \$2,539

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Reports by visiting biologists in 1977 and 1978 indicated that a very small population of the Sumatran rhinoceros (Dicerorhinus sumatrensis) survived in the Banumuda catchment area, north of Kutai Nature Reserve, East Kalimantan. It was therefore proposed to include the Banumuda catchment and the area between Banumuda and the Sangata rivers into the Kutai reserve after a survey.

The objective of the survey was to establish the range of the rhino and to make proposals for the location of the boundaries of the Banumuda extension. A team, consisting of three students from the Ciawi School for Environmental Conservation and one lecturer spent three weeks in Kalimantan, sponsored by the WWF Indonesia Programme.

A search was made for tracks and other signs of the presence of rhino in two parts of the Banumuda area. No signs (tracks, trails, faeces, wallows) were found to indicate that rhinos are or were present in the area. At the saltlick close to the Banumuda river that was intensively visited by ungulates, no signs of rhino were found. Persons who have been working in the forest for

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many years were all aware of the existence of the animal, but none of them had ever encountered it or its tracks.

As a result of the field survey it must be concluded that there are no rhinos, at least not a viable population, in the Banumuda area. The rhino in Kalimantan is therefore probably extinct, or on the verge of extinction, with some scattered non-reproductive individuals left in remote parts.

Since the extension of the Kutai Nature Reserve, as proposed in the management plan, is highly unlikely, and since oil and gas exploitation are about to take over another large part of the already diminished reserve, the future value of Kutai for conservation becomes questionable. The current developments in the area, which are not likely to be stopped for the sake of nature conservation, will further damage the integrity of the reserve and reduce its value for conservation. Serious consideration should be given to the question of whether the area still qualifies for the status of National Park.

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### Project 1907

Indonesia, Gunung Leuser  
National Park - Control and  
Survey of Sumatran Rhino area  
WWF GRANT 1980 - \$4,504

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Gunung Leuser National Park harbours the world's largest and most viable group of Sumatran rhinos, estimated to number between 50 and 100 individuals. An expedition was undertaken in 1980 to the core area of their distribution in the Park, the upper Mamas basin, to investigate the effectiveness of measures taken to prevent poaching and to collect additional data for the rhinoceros research programme.

Nico and Tineke van Strien and Pepen S. Abdulla (of Universitas Nasional, Jakarta) travelled to the Mamas area in August. No sign of poaching was found and apparently no one had entered the area since the last patrols went in at the beginning of 1980. But the expedition came across the tracks of four people who had entered the Pinus area, probably prospecting for a place to hunt rhino. The identity of the group was discovered and though they claimed to be looking for birds' nests and honey, it seems more likely they were preparing for a rhino hunt. The shortness of the visit, however, indicated that they were only surveying and had not yet built traps. It is recommended that a special anti-poaching unit be formed to patrol and control the rhino area.