

## AREA-BASED CONSERVATION - INDONESIA

There is no ground to fear any competition between rhinos and pigs. The pigs preferred habitat is forest whereas rhinos feed mainly in low secondary vegetation. Nest-building by pigs does not significantly influence the abundance of food plants of the Javan rhinoceros. Also nearly all the trees bitten by pigs continued to grow.

That Ujung Kulon and the survival of the Javan rhinoceros are of great concern to the Indonesian government is shown by the fact that the status of the area has been raised to that of a National Park. The guarding of Ujung Kulon continues to be done well, but still could be improved on as was shown by a grave case of timber poaching. Occasional poaching of seaturtles and coral was also reported.

In 1980 the Directorate of Nature Conservation (PPA) requested that a park planner from WWF assist PPA in implementing the management plan prepared by FAO for Ujung Kulon and in establishing a defined system of management that would ensure the development and continuation of Ujung Kulon as a valid national park. A park planner began work in November and is giving specific attention to upgrading the guard system and the administrative structure of the Park, improving law enforcement and park protection, guiding plans for tourism and other developments, training a chief park interpreter, formulating an interpretive plan, and initiating a buffer zone development project in the eastern region of the Park.

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A study of the Javan rhino's population dynamics and habitat requirements began in December 1980. After arriving at the field station at Peucang Island, we prepared for a preliminary programme to observe the Ujung Kulon peninsula as Javan rhinoceros habitat. General forest types and rhino tracks were studied. Observations were made of a wallow and vegetation types in the Gn. Ramea and Tanjung Layar area.

December to February is the rainy season and Ujung Kulon is drained by a number of rivers and streams. The lowlands round Gn. Telanca were swamped by fresh water. Passage through the dense and thorny vegetation usually had to be cut with a bush-knife. Steep and slippery slopes, numerous waterways and stretches of muddy soil made rhino tracks difficult to follow and track measurements inaccurate, so no tracking was done this season. A census of the rhino population will be undertaken in 1981, and rhino tracks will then be followed and plaster casts taken.

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