

**SUMATRAN RHINO CONSERVATION CENTRE  
DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND NATIONAL PARKS  
SUNGAI DUSUN, SELANGOR  
MALAYSIA**

**MONTHLY REPORT**

**FEBRUARY 2002**

**BY**

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**&**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

There was no breeding occurred during the month of February. However the females were mixed with Ara based on the progesterone results. As for Panjang and Minah still had a low level of progesterone.

The bleeding procedure was carried out as usual, twice weekly. As for the bred females, blood will be collected once a week.

## **RHINO MANAGEMENT**

### **A) Daily Management**

#### **i) Night stall**

##### *Daily work*

Adam, Shariff and Umor managed the night stalls. Shariff and Umor will clean the night stalls daily while Adam will inspected the food supply when it arrived around 9.30 a.m. The browse and fruits were weighed and cleaned before giving to the rhinos. About 40 to 50 kg of browses and 7kg of fruits including papaya, banana and sweet potatoes were given daily. The rhinos were also given horse pellet about 2.0kg every morning. Every Monday and Thursday morning, blood samples will be collected from all rhinos.

##### *The rhinos*

The rhinos were let out first before cleaning the night stalls. After cleaning, the browses were put in the feed trough and the rhinos were let in for their morning meal. The drinking water was changed daily and stress vet (multi-mineral powder) was mixed inside it. Daily observation was made and recorded in the workbook for each rhino. The rhinos were fed twice daily: 9.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m.

#### **ii) Ten acres enclosure**

##### *Daily Work*

Mohd Noor inspects the electric fencing every morning. The fencing was cleaned from any foreign objects such as spider web, dried leaves or creepers to avoid short circuit. Voltmeter was used to ensure that the voltage of the fencing is about 7.0 kV. They will also inspect the fencing for any damages.

During the inspection, the ranger will looked for the rhino inside the enclosure and called the rhino for their morning meal. The rhino was confined in the quarter acre first before putting their browse in the feeding trough. The amount given was about 100kg for each rhino per day.

## **B) Breeding Program**

### **i) Breeding Introduction**

There was no breeding occurred although three females; Seputeh, Rima and Mas Merah were mixed with Ara. The females were mixed with Ara from 8/2/02 to 14/2/02 but no positive behaviour was observed although the females were expected to come into estrus during the period.

Aggression was observed especially from Seputeh and the rhinos had to be separated to avoid fighting. Rima showed no interest at all and she walked away from the male. As for Mas Merah, she vocalized a lot and ran away from the male.

Rima was mixed again with Ara from 19/2/02 to 22/2/02 based on the blood result but no breeding occurred. There was no positive behaviour observed and the rhinos were separated after 20 to 30 minutes of mixing. On 27/2/02 and 28/2/02, the females were mixed again and the same result was obtained.

### **ii) Bleeding Program**

#### **a) Blood Collection**

The bleeding was still carried out twice weekly. As for the bred females, the blood was collected once a week. The blood procedure was summarized in Table 1.

#### **b) Progesterone Hormone Profile**

The latest blood result was attached below.

## B) HEALTH STATUS

Generally, all rhinos are in the good condition. Minah still recovering from the weight loss and she was monitored closely. The rhinos were weighed and the result is tabulated below.

**Table 3: Rhinos' Body Weight, February 2002**

<b>Rhino ID</b>	<b>Body Weight (kg)</b>	<b>Body Weight (lb)</b>
Seputeh	738	1623
Mas Merah	612	1346
Panjang	532	1170
Minah	462	1016
Rima	552	1214
Ara	610	1342

## C) FEEDING

No changes were made for the feeding program. A contractor will supply the browses, which deliver them around 9.00 a.m. daily. The feed was checked to ensure their quantity and quality upon receiving them. They were cleaned and weighed before giving to the rhinos. The rhinos were given about 40 kg of browses and 7.0g of fruits daily. No pellets were given at the moment.

**Table 1: Blood Collection from the Rhinos, February 2002**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Rhino ID</b>	<b>Area taken</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
03/02/02	Minah Mas Merah Panjang Rima Seputeh Ara	Tail Tail Tail Tail Tail Tail	Samples were taken from these females for P4 analysis. Blood was taken from the males for testosterone analysis.
06/02/02	Rima Panjang Mas Merah Ara	Tail Tail Tail Tail	Samples were taken from the females for P4 analysis. Blood was taken from the males for testosterone analysis.
11/02/02	Rima Seputeh Minah Mas Merah Panjang Ara	Tail Tail Tail Tail Tail Tail	Blood was taken for the P4 and testosterone analysis
14/02/02	Minah Rima Seputeh Panjang Mas Merah Ara	Tail Tail Tail Tail Tail Tail	Samples were taken from all rhinos for P4 and testosterone analysis.
18/02/02	Rima Mas Merah Panjang Minah Seputeh Ara	Tail Tail Tail Tail Tail Tail	Get samples via tail from all females except Seputeh.
21/02/02	Minah Mas Merah Panjang Rima Seputeh Ara	Tail Tail Tail Tail Tail Tail	Blood was taken for the P4 and testosterone analysis
27/02/02	Minah Mas Merah Panjang Rima Ara	Tail Tail Tail Tail Tail	Blood was taken for the P4 and testosterone analysis
28/02/02	Seputeh	Tail	