

INDONESIA, Javan Rhinoceros, Ujung Kulon (Project 1960)

Ujung Kulon, as the last home of Javan rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) and the largest wilderness area left in Java, has received support from WWF for over 15 years to ensure the continuing existence of this viable and well protected rainforest area with its rich fauna and flora. In 1980-81 WWF/IUCN provided support for a one-year research project on population dynamics and habitat requirement for the Javan rhino in the Ujung Kulon National Park.

During the first period of our stay in Ujung Kulon, we observed and travelled through the reserve to study the general forest types and terrain. Three transects were made across the peninsula from the north to the south coast to study the vegetation.

Rhino tracks were measured and followed to record information on their age, sex, feeding and habitat use. We discovered more than 100 species of rhino food plants and compared them with those of the banteng (*Bos javanicus*) which shares the same habitat in the reserve.



Rarest of the rhinos, the Javan rhino, now found only in Ujung Kulon, Java

Photo: WWF/A. Hoogerwerf

A census of rhino was carried out in March 1981. The dense vegetation, rough terrain and climate in the tropical rainforest made the census a difficult task. Only indirect evidence (the size and location of the track) could be used as the basis of a census method, because in Ujung Kulon the rhino cannot be observed or captured.

The census gave a minimum estimate of 54 animals and maximum of 60 animals, reflecting improved census methods. An encouraging sign was the evidence of eight mother/calf pairs. Information on sex ratio, age and distribution were collected from the census and will be evaluated for population structure and dynamics.

From data collected, it appears that the Javan rhino is still in good shape. No overpopulation was indicated, although two or three rhinos have visited an area outside the peninsula.

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MALAYSIA, Endau-Rompin - Conservation of the Sumatran Rhinoceros (Project 1649)

Conservation of Sumatran Rhinoceros (Project 1972)

The status of the Sumatran rhinoceros (Dicerorhinus sumatrensis) in Malaysia is very precarious at the present time. The species has been greatly reduced in numbers and the remaining animals are scattered in small, isolated populations. The Endau-Rompin area contains the largest known contiguous rhino population, 20-25 animals, remaining in the country and has been the focus of initial research and conservation efforts. Rhinos have also been reported from several other areas in the country, but very little information is available on these populations. These areas include the protected reserves of Sungai Dusun and Taman Negara, but also several unprotected areas in the states of Kelantan, Pahang, Perak and Johor.

Information on the distribution and ecology of the Sumatran rhinoceros was needed to develop a conservation programme. Before this project was initiated in 1974, little information was available. Since then, considerable effort has gone into this study and it is hoped a successful conservation programme can be implemented before this unique animal slips away to extinction.