

Rhino Protection Unit Update

By Yayasan Badak Indonesia (Indonesian Rhino Foundation)

The Rhino Protection Program of Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI) provides protection from poaching and habitat disturbance for viable nucleus populations of Sumatran and Javan Rhinos through the establishment and operation of Rhino Protection Units (RPU), and supporting management, coordination and supervisory structures.

Seven RPUs operate in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBS NP), five RPUs in Way Kambas National Park (WK NP) and 4 RPUs in Ujung Kulon National Park (UK NP). Below is a summary of the quarterly report provided by YABI this month.

The Way Kambas Rhino Protection Units (RPU) have been actively evolved in a successful collaborative operation with Park Authority to remove old encroachment in Sekapuk and Kuala Kambas areas, and arrest suspects to bring to police station.

During the implementation of this activity such as surveys and patrols the RPU/RMPU achieved numbers of surveys. The Team also encountered many cases of illegal activities in the National Parks and the rhino conservation areas, into which prosecution had been made through filing the cases and hand the cases to local Police Stations.

Intelligence and Law Enforcement Unit (ILEU) has been operating to identify the threats which come from surrounding people or outside of the Park; its operations also covers identifying possible facilitations for raising local's alternative income in order to reduce threats to the park and its rhinos.

There are only three personnel in this unit. They work in collaboration with informants, RPUs, Park Rangers

and Police, in the case that they have a confirmed case and need to apprehend the suspect/s for further law enforcement efforts. ILEU's base operation is in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park and the surroundings, hence they also available to assist ILEU operation in both Way Kambas and Ujung Kulon NPs.

RPU Bukit Barisan Selatan were involved in collaborative operation to remove encroachments and investigations of cases and in wildlife-human conflict resolutions (elephant conflicts).

There was no direct sighting of rhino in BBS, WK and UK but, for Ujung Kulon, the RPU encountered the largest number of rhino signs (74 footprints and 75 of other signs).

Based on the patrol and survey in Ujung Kulon, it was found that poaching of non mammals (2 cases of fishing), 1 trap for mouse deer and three cases of tree felling were signs of serious threats to the park. Those infractions of regulation had been anticipated by RPU together with Park Authority.

While in Way Kambas, 30 illegal activities encountered were mostly located within encroachment area, which are all non rhino poaching.

In BBS, mostly was non mammals poaching (fishing and bird trapping) encountered when RPU undertook patrol/survey. Meanwhile the Program must help to keep an eye and be aware of the abandoned encroachment areas in Way Kambas and Bukit Barisan Selatan from which people will usually do poaching on this or its adjacent area. Further, wildlife trade indications in both surrounding areas of WK and BBS are still occurring.

Adopt-a-Rhino Fundraiser

Help us save the Sumatran rhino by adopting one today – and it's tax deductible!

All funds raised through the ARP's adopt-a-rhino program will be used to support the SRS in Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra.

With each adoption you will receive

an attractive adoption certificate including information on your rhino and the program.

You can also choose to receive quarterly updates on your rhino as well as an A4 sized photograph (extra costs apply for photos and updates).

More information on the rhinos and the program is on our website www.asianrhinos.org.au.

