

Ujung Kulon National Park Project, a Bilateral Development Assistance Project between the Governments of Indonesia and New Zealand

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Ujung Kulon National Park Project is a Bilateral Development Assistance Project between the Governments of Indonesia and New Zealand that was undertaken by the Department of Conservation, NZ. under contract to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, NZ.

The project commenced on 1 January 1990 with the primary goal of the project being to improve the management of Ujung Kulon National Park. The project staff working alongside the park chief and his staff on a day to day basis. On 1 July 1996 the project entered a 2 year phase of Continuing Links through the Development Programme Manager, NZ Embassy, Jakarta and DoC. ended its involvement with the project.

Although no longer involved with an interest/activity group, my interests in this colloquium is as a resource adviser with 6 years on-site experience in Ujung Kulon and some insight into the infrastructure, facility development, management planning and training activities in the Park.

In regard to management planning the park is managed in accordance with the Ujung Kulon National Park Management Plan and in this document it is accepted that the Javan rhino has high priority in Ujung Kulon. Consequently the sanctuary zone of the park reflects the perceived survival needs of the species and its habitat for the next two decades.

Taking this into consideration the current management plan has a the sanctuary zone which includes the core areas of, the peninsula, the isthmus and the Honje range. Access is by permit and only given for research or survey purposes.

To allow for public access in the park, the coastal strip of the peninsula and isthmus is zoned wilderness and to allow for access across sanctuary zone, eg. from the northern to the southern coastline corridors of wilderness zone have been established along the lines of existing tracks ie from Cidaon to Cibunar, from Tanjung Lame to Karang Ranjang, from Legon Pakis to Kalejetan and from Cikawung to Cegog.

If is true, that the Javan rhino are extremely shy, avoid any contact with humans and also avoid areas where humans have been or passed for up to 8 days. One of the many question to be answered is, do the trails across the sanctuary zone act as invisible barriers to the rhino and inhibit any natural spread from the peninsula onto and across the isthmus to the southern Honje? If so a recommendation from the colloquium could be to seek changes to the management plan to restrict public access in certain areas, especially the crossing of the isthmus.

The management plan policies however must also take into consideration the other purposes of the national park, such as; tourism, recreation, research, education, spiritual fulfilment and the interests of management, user groups, concessionaires and local people, on occasions, these are incompatible and may develop into conflict situations.

I believe that the recommendations that come from this colloquium will have some impact on other user groups therefore we must work together to educate and wherever possible accommodate other user groups into the overall strategy for the management of the Javan rhino.

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