

STRATEGI PEMELIHARAAN  
SUMBER SEMULAJADI  
MALAYSIA

TRANSFRONTIER PROTECTED AREAS IN BORNEO:  
(1) CONSERVATION IN THE SABAH BORDER REGIONS

A report submitted to  
WWF Malaysia and the Government of Sabah

by

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## APPENDIX 3: VERTEBRATE FAUNA OF SOUTH-WESTERN SABAH

### INTRODUCTION

The mammal and bird faunas of Sabah are relatively well-known (Payne *et al.*, 1985; Smythies, 1981) and major new discoveries of taxa or regarding geographical distribution are unlikely. The amphibian and fish faunas are moderately well-known, but several new taxa, as well as extensions of known distribution, have been described for both groups since the publication of the relevant major works (Inger, 1966; Inger and Chin, 1962), and further field work remains to be done. With the exception of certain taxa, the reptiles remain the least-known vertebrate group. During the surveys done for this document, attempts were made to assess the main features of interest in the mammal and bird faunas.

### LARGE TERRESTRIAL MAMMALS

The western-most extent of the range of Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) in Sabah is demarcated by the upper parts of the Sapulut and Sumatalun Rivers (Davies and Payne, 1982; personal communications from local residents). However, Muruts in the Pensiangan region have their own name for the species: *haringan*.

Rhinoceroses (presumably *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) were present in the upper parts of the Sumatalun River until the early decades of this century but have been extinct there for many years (personal communications from local residents; this is backed up by the lack of any reports of rhinos since the area was logged during the 1980's). One informant from Kg. Babayasing (Kolong Pamiang) stated that rhinos are still present in the Sabah-Kalimantan border area between the Salilir and Sulon Rivers, while another claimed that they exist around Muruk Miau. However, other informants agreed that rhinos was formerly present in these areas, but denied that there is recent evidence of the species there. If any rhinos remain in the region, the most likely area worthy of investigation would be the upper reaches of the Sulon River in East Kalimantan, south of Gunung Kumaka. This area fits with the vague descriptions given, and is away from any of long-distance trails between Murut settlements. Rhinos do still occasionally visit a large salt lick in Sabah in the upper Sebuda River, near to the East Kalimantan border (Lantir Bakayas, personal communication).

The wild cattle or tembadau (*Bos javanicus*) occurs to the south of Gunung Lumaku but, according to local informants, has been wiped out from all other parts of south-western Sabah.

Sambar deer (*Cervus unicolor*) or their signs were found, at low abundance, around the highland swamp forest in the upper Maligan River, in the upper Salilir River and in the Pensiangan region, but not in the upper Telekosong. Barking deer (*Muntiacus*