

The male deer begins secreting musk at the age of one year; at three the musk is mature and can be used. In the past the deer was killed because it was thought that the animal would not live after its musk was taken. The farm workers dissected the musk gland and found that musk is secreted from exocrine glands, thus musk could be extracted without harming the deer. Using a method recommended by a hunter, musk is taken out with a spoon through an incision in the sac. Under the present conditions and methods used at the farm musk can be taken from male deer on a regular basis, and it is common that a deer can give more than an ounce of musk from three collections in the span of 20 months.

(from "China Reconstructs", March 1975)

Didermocerus sumatrensis



NATURE CONSERVATION AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT IN INDONESIA

John Blower, a Wildlife Expert with extensive experience from Tanganyika, Uganda, Ethiopia, and Nepal, is currently in Indonesia as Manager of an FAO/UNDP Project titled Nature Conservation and Wildlife Management. His duties include assisting the Government with identifying conservation problems and formulating proposals for future action, including the development of national parks. He is also engaged in the preparation of a new conservation legislation.

The task is an urgent and onerous one as widespread habitat destruction, hunting, and other adverse influences are rapidly depleting the once so rich and varied wildlife resources of the country and threatening a number of species, several of which are endemic to the region, with extinction.

The Government of Indonesia recognizes the value of the country's wildlife as a natural resource, and is anxious both to ensure its more effective conservation and management, and to develop its economic, social, and recreational potential through the formulation of sound programmes of management of national parks and nature reserves. Indonesia already has 142 nature parks and reserves and others are being proposed. A Directorate of Nature Conservation and Wildlife Management was established in 1971 under the Directorate General of Forestry with special responsibility for the management of wildlife resources.

Mr. Blower has recognized the greatest obstacle to progress in this field as the present lack of Indonesian personnel with professional training in environmental conservation. Training is particularly needed at intermediate and subordinate levels and this can best be achieved through a combination of short instructional courses and in-service training on a local basis. Mr. Blower has therefore proposed the establishment of a training school under the Directorate General of Forestry. This proposal has taken on some added significance and urgency as a consequence of the recent visit of Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands in his capacity as President of the World Wildlife Fund, who advocated such training in a public lecture.

Mr. Blower has many other projects under consideration and he has informed us that he would like to exchange information with TIGER-PAPER readers on turtle conservation, including establishment of hatcheries, and the commercial raising of deer and possible market outlets for antlers, velvet and other products (e.g. from *Cervus timorensis*). His address is:

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SUMATRAN RESERVE LAST HOPE FOR SMALLEST RHINOCEROS

The Sumatran rhinoceros, smallest of the five rhino species, has a chance of survival in Sumatra only in the Gunung Leuser reserve in the north of the country, according to a report received by the World Wildlife Fund.

Between 30 and 50 animals are estimated to live in the dense jungles of Gunung Leuser, but in a recent survey tracks of only eight or so were seen in an area of 3000 square kilometres. Only one animal was seen.

No evidence of rhino was found in the lowland alluvial plains of central and southern Sumatra, once considered the main habitat. The Gunung Leuser reserve, which lies in virtually untouched rain forests west of Medan, is also a sanctuary for the increasingly rare Sumatran tiger and the orang-utan.

The Sumatran rhinoceros (*Didermocerus sumatrensis*) has two horns compared with one in other Asiatic species in India and Java. Loss of habitat to human settlement and hunting for its horn as an aphrodisiac have reduced the rhino, which once ranged throughout South East Asia into eastern Asia, to a few scattered and isolated animals. The only recent captive specimen died in Copenhagen Zoo in 1972 of old age.