

seur du Gouvernement indonésien pour tout ce qui concerne la protection de la nature.

Nous faisons des vœux pour que ses efforts continuent à être couronnés de succès.

Genève, Avril 1956

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Fauna Preservation in the Dutch East Indies

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Concerning the problems of the protection of fauna in the Dutch East Indies, it is necessary to make a distinction between the very densely populated Java and the other little-populated islands, especially Borneo and Sumatra, which now form the principal treasury of fauna in the Sunda Islands.

Java, which is intensively cultivated, has still 20 to 23 per cent of forest, of which 100 per cent is now reserved forest. In the east of the island there are great heaths, the consequence of former abuses, but now no more damage is caused by burning forests.

In Celebes, as a result of former destruction, only little forest area remains. In the other islands together, including Borneo and Sumatra, 68 per cent of the surface is forest, 6 per cent of it being reserved forest.

In Sumatra the system of shifting cultivation is very usual and represents a considerable danger to forest, flora, and fauna.

Without doubt the idea of the protection of wild life has gained considerable popularity in the Dutch East Indies. To a great extent the credit for this is due to the "Nederlandisch Indische Vereeniging tot Naturbescheerming", founded in the year 1912 by Dr. S. H. Kooders, and which has splendid publications and done very important practical work.

There exist a great number of sanctuaries; in Java 116,000 hect. Many of these are small in extent, and for that reason are not so valuable. But Oedjong-Koelon (37,500 hect.) and Poerwe (40,000 hect.) are very important.

In Sumatra there is a reservation territory of 700,000 hect., principally virgin forest; in the Cajoe and Alas Land (Atjeh) and in South Sumatra another reservation of 400,000 hect. has been begun. There also exists a considerable area of game reserve and many smaller sanctuaries.

The Lorenz Reservation in New Guinea, reaching from the tropical forest to the snow peaks, has an extent of 300,000 hect.

Naturally there is the danger that the institution of so many reserves together may remain as a project on paper only, and all will depend on sufficient control.

Furthermore, in the existing sanctuaries, the protection must be a more absolute one. The importance of the preservation of the tiger is underestimated. For example, in the "Boschdistrict Garoet" there still exist approximately ten tigers, while in Java they are almost extinct. Then it was thought that ten tigers would be too much for the other, especially the deer, and it was decided to shoot six. It is clear that such a procedure proved to be the death sentence of the remaining tigers.

Oedjong-Koelen is one of the most important sanctuaries in the world. It is a little peninsula situated on the extreme western point of Java, and connected with the rest of Java only by a narrow passage which forms the only access by land. The other boundaries are formed by the sea.

The isthmus can easily be blocked up. Until now the natives, paid by Chinese contractors, entered for the purpose of hunting by way of the sea.

On the peninsula lives a stock of about thirty-five (some years ago there were fifty) *Rhinoceros sondaicus*, many Banting Bulls, and a small number of tigers.

The natives not only killed many rhinos, but by noise and disturbances also discouraged them from breeding. Lately no young rhino has been seen.

In the Sunda Islands there is an export prohibition for the most precious species of animals, and the authorities do everything in their power to enforce these laws. However, the lengthy coastline is favourable to illegal exportation, which at times has been considerable, especially that of living orang-utangs. In 1929 I went to the Dutch authorities at the Hague and I quoted to them the figures which had been communicated by an Austrian journal (*Neues Wiener Journal*, 29-9-1928). The reaction of the Dutch authorities was strong and energetic, and they also interested the British authorities in Borneo to take common action with them.

It would be highly desirable to limit the exportation of the skins of pythons and lizards. This export has its principal seat in Borneo and amounts to many tens of thousands of skins a year, principally of giant serpents which represent the most wonderful ornament of the forest.

A close season exists in the Sunda Islands, and I had the impression that the population also takes this legislation into account.

Generally hunting is not much taken up in the Sunda Islands. It impressed me very much to read in the publication *See Java*, issued by the Official Tourist Office at Batavia: "The most pertinent question is, however, that of firearms. In the first place, big game shooting is strongly discouraged in the Dutch East Indies, and it is most seldom that a permit will be issued for that purpose." This attitude on the part of the authorities naturally has a corresponding effect on the whole population —with the exception of certain Chinese hunters.



Photo A. Hoogerwerf

Varanus komodoensis
Giant lizard of Komodo. - Lézard géant de Komodo
Komodo-Riesenechse. - Varano gigante de Komodo



Photo A. Hoogerwerf

Rhinoceros sondaicus

The Javan Rhinoceros. - Rhinocéros de Java. -
Javanisches Nashorn. - Rinoceronte de Java