

Making Rhino History Sumatran Rhino Calf Andatu

As if timing his arrival to perfectly coincide with 2012 –13 as International Year of the Rhino, Sumatran rhino calf 'Andatu' was born at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in the wee hours of 23 June. This is the first Sumatran rhino birth at a breeding centre in Indonesia, and has been heralded as a critical step towards the species' conservation.

Dr Susie Ellis, PhD | Executive Director, IRF Dedi Candra | Animal Collections Manager, SRS Yayasan Badak Indonesia

In addition to being a tribute to international collaboration, Andatu's birth also represents an engaging boy-meets-girl story. Andatu's sire, Andalas, was born in 2001 at the Cincinnati Zoo – the first Sumatran rhino born in a zoo in more than 112 years. He was moved from Cincinnati in 2004 to the Los Angeles Zoo to make room for his mother's next calf. (Cow Emi went on to produce two more calves.)

Andatu taking a snooze with his Mum, Ratu



DEDI CANDRA | YABI

In 2007, Andalas was shipped to Indonesia's Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS), built by the International Rhino Foundation (IRF) in 1996 in Way Kambas National Park. The SRS now is managed by the Rhino Foundation of Indonesia

(Yayasan Badak Indonesia or YABI) in partnership with IRF. Three potential mates awaited Andalas – Bina, Ratu and Rosa – none of them proven breeders.

By the time he was 9, Andalas was sexually mature. Although he was interested in females, we undertook introductions with caution, as with most rhino breeding, aggression can quickly get out of hand. Fortunately, the 100-hectare Sanctuary provides spacious forest enclosures for each animal, as well as the capacity to carefully manage their interactions. Andalas and Ratu mated in January 2010, and that attempt, regrettably, ended in miscarriage a few months later; a second pregnancy ended the same way. Finally, after a third mating in March 2011, Ratu's veterinarians made the decision to put her on the same progesterone therapy that had enabled Andalas' mother, Emi, to carry him to term. Ratu completed the 16-month pregnancy and gave birth to Andatu shortly after midnight on 23 June, attended by the SRS veterinarian and keepers, backed up by vets from Taronga Conservation Society Australia, White Oak Conservation Centre, and a seasoned keeper from the Cincinnati Zoo.

Videos of Andatu's midnight delivery and his subsequent antics have received countless hits on YouTube. Andatu even has his own Facebook page, to which friend requests continually arrive. He could easily be the world's

most famous rhino this year – he is aiming to have 1,000 friends by 22 September, World Rhino Day!

In addition to increasing the world captive population of Sumatran rhinos by 10%, Andatu's birth also helps draw attention to the species' sobering plight. The Sumatran rhino is Critically Endangered; between 130 and 190 individuals are believed to survive in Indonesia and Sabah, Malaysia. Its final strongholds are three Sumatran National Parks: Bukit Barisan Selatan, Way Kambas, and Gunung Leuser. The IRF funds and operates protection programmes in the first two and works in partnership with a rhino NGO in Leuser. The fragmented Malaysian population probably numbers no more than two dozen scattered individuals and is now considered non-viable if managed as a distinct subspecies in isolation from the Sumatran population.

While the birth of a single animal does not constitute species recovery, it verifies that good science and international commitment can yield desired results. Ultimately, the successful breeding of Sumatran rhinos in captivity, coordinated with the management of wild populations, should result in a metapopulation management strategy that includes translocating animals between protected areas, reintroducing captive-born Sumatran rhinos to native habitats, and re-establishing extirpated populations within the species' former range.

The IRF is grateful to Save the Rhino for support of our programmes and we look forward to a long and productive partnership!

For more information on IRF's work See www.rhinos.org or email s.ellis@rhinos.org



I WILL SURVIVE!

HELLO, MY NAME IS ANDATU AND THIS IS MY STORY...

As translated by Katherine Ellis
Office and Communications Manager



About me

I was born at 12.40am on Saturday 23 June this year in the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Indonesia. My name 'Andatu', is a mix of my parents' names 'Andalas' and 'Ratu', and also means 'gift from God' in Bahasa Indonesia. You've heard the IRF's account of my birth on the previous page, so here's a bit more from me!

I am the first Sumatran rhino to be born in the Sanctuary, and also the first ever to be born in captivity in Indonesia. I'm hairy, cute and pretty smart; I know that I am fortunate to be growing up in the safety of the Sanctuary, given the current dangers out there for rhinos.

How my parents met

My Dad, Andalus, was born in Cincinnati Zoo in the USA in 2001, before being translocated to the Sanctuary. It was here that he met my Mum Ratu in 2007. My Mum, was originally from the wild in Indonesia so she makes fun of my dad's soft city ways. She used to wander outside the boundaries of Way Kambas National Park and became a bit of a problem rhino with local villagers; thankfully a team of rangers and veterinarians found her and brought her to the safety of our Sanctuary.

I've been told that my parents took a while to get to know each other; wild Sumatran rhinos are naturally solitary animals and spend most of their adult life alone. However after a few years of courtship, Dad used his American charm and finally won Mum over. After a few difficult pregnancies, Mum finally became pregnant with me and I was born into the world at a hefty 60lb. Thanks to the hard work of the keepers and vets, there were no complications during my birth, just lots of smiling faces from those involved.

About the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary

So here I am, growing up in the safety of my Sanctuary. I am free to roam 100 acres of natural forested habitat and also have a paddock area where I am fed and looked after by my keepers. I particularly enjoy exploring my new home and wallowing in the mud, as well as spending time with Mum.

Thanks

Many thanks to Red Hen Creative www.redhencreative.co.uk, which donated its time and creativity designing Andatu and our 'I Will Survive' appeal, and to the donors to the appeal, particularly the Wilhelma Zoo in Stuttgart (€5,000) and Chester Zoo (£8,000). Save the Rhino has donated £5,000 from our own core funds.

There are 14 staff looking after us rhinos here, including two veterinarians, they are responsible for the day-to-day running of my home and making sure we are fit, healthy, well fed and watered (they also give us the occasional foot scrub!). My keepers are incredibly dedicated and have been here much longer than me, many since the Sanctuary opened in 1998.

There are only around 130-190 of my Sumatran family left in the wild. We are a critically endangered species and without your help and support we could shortly become extinct. My wild relatives are under constant threat from the loss of tropical forest habitat and there is a high risk from poachers who kill rhinos for our valuable horns.

We urgently need funds to provide a successful future for myself, my Sanctuary and my wider Sumatran family. With your help, I Will Survive, I just know I will.



YABI IRF



DEDI CANDRA YAB



Here are some cute photos of me when I was born. Above is one of my keepers, Giyono

Help my species survive...

You can help me survive by donating to my appeal...

- **£10 per day** pays for my food and routine care
- **£40 per month** pays for my medicines and health checks
- **£250 per day** pays for the running costs for the sanctuary

How to donate

Online Card payment on our website at www.savetherhino.org/iwillsurvive

Post Cheques addressed to Save the Rhino International to 16 Winchester Walk, London, SE19AQ and marked 'I Will Survive' on reverse

Phone Call us on (+44) 020 7357 7474 to donate over the phone

Email Any other queries? Email katherine@savetherhino.org