

Sumatran Rhinoceros International Conservation Programme
World Wildlife Fund Project 1907:

Control and Survey of Rhino Area, Gunung Leuser
National Park.

PROGRESS REPORT

18th Mamas expedition

May - June 1981.

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Introduction

From May 31th till June 15th, an expedition made to the rhino area in Gunung Leuser National Park for WWF project 1907 a continuation of project 884 that has been operating since 1975 under supervision by Drs Nico J. Van Strien.

The main objective of this expedition was control and prevention of poaching.

Mamas expedition.

The expedition left Kutacane on May 31th and on the third day the pawang camp was reached. This Camp was seriously damaged and had to be rebuilt. June 6th camp has moved to central camp, June 10th back to pawang and on June 13th the party walked back to Kutacane in one day. The two northern camps could not be visited because of the high level of the Mamas river.

In this period the weather condition was not favorable for field work, almost daily it rained and only a small number of plastercasts, food plants and faeces could be collected.

Progress of the anti-poaching patrol

The main objective of this project is prevention of poaching of Sumatran rhino through regular patrols of



of the main rhino areas.

With the help of the map made by Nico J. Van Strien and the marks in the field it is possible to make effective patrols in the area.

The patrol-routes follow mostly the big gamepaths which form an extensive network, covering the area.

During this patrol no signs of poaching were found, although the whole area where poaching could occur has been covered. It was clear that since the last patrol in November 1980 no one had entered the rhino area.

Progress of the study of the Rhinoceros

The other main objective of this expedition is to continue the scientific monitoring of the rhino population in the Mamas area, mainly by identification of individual rhinos, based on their tracks and foot prints. Therefore the characteristics are recorded by means of measurements and plastercast of hindfoot prints.

In a dry period however the prints remain visible for the duration of this period. After a few days without rain already daily good tracks can be found. But in a rainy period good fresh prints are encountered on an average only once week.

During this expedition it rained almost daily and

only 14 plastercast were made with measurements between 18 and 22 cm.

Foodplants and faeces were preserved in alcohol for later analyses. During this expedition 13 food plants and 1 faeces could be collected. Result of the analysis of plastercast, foodplants and faeces will be incorporated in the final reporting of the rhinoceros research.

Conclusion

Fortunately no signs of rhino poaching were found, which proves that the followed patrolling strategy has had its expected effect.

Since 1974 the area has been under regular surveillance and this has prevented poaching effectively. Therefore the current programme of patrols by anti-poaching unit should continue.

M a m m a l i a l a i n

Gunung Mamas, Taman Nasional Gunung Leuser di samping menjadi habitat yang cocok untuk badak Sumatra, juga merupakan habitat yang baik bagi binatang mammalia lainnya.

Beberapa jenis mammalia yang terdapat dalam areal tersebut di antaranya adalah :

- a. Orang utan (Pongo pygmaeus abelii)
- b. Siamang (Symphalangus syndactylus)
- c. Wau-wau (Hylobates agilis)
- d. Kedi (Presbytis sp)
- e. Harimau (Panthera tigris=sumatrensis)
- f. Rusa (Cervus unicolor)
- g. Kijang (Muntiacus muncak)
- h. Kambing hutan (Capricornis sumatrensis)
- i. Anjing air (Aonyx cinera)
- j. Gajah (Elephas maximus)
- k. Beruang madu (Helarctos malayanus)

Jadwal kegiatan ekspedisi

- 26 Mei 1981 berangkat dari Bogor ke Pematang Siantar.
27 Mei 1981 dari P. Siantar ke Kutacane.
28 Mei 1981 dari Kutacane ke Ketambe.
29 Mei 1981 ke desa Tanjung MUDA, mencari pembantu lapangan.
30 Mei 1981 persiapan ekspedisi.
31 Mei 1981 berangkat ekspedisi ke Gunung Mamas.
15 Juni 1981 kembali ke Kutacane.
16 Juni 1981 ke Ketambe.
17 Juni 1981 kembali ke Kutacane.
18 Juni 1981 berangkat ke Medan.
19 Juni 1981 di Medan , tidak ada pesawat ke Jakarta.
20 Juni 1981 di Medan , tidak ada pesawat ke Jakarta.
21 Juni 1981 berangkat ke Jakarta.

U c a p a n t e r i m a k a s i h

Study lapangan mengenai badak Sumatra (Dicerorhinus sumatrensis, Fischer 1814) telah memberikan pengetahuan dan pengertian bagaimana cara bekerja di lapangan dengan bimbingan sepenuhnya yang di berikan oleh Drs Nico J. Van Strien dan isteri. Untuk hal tersebut maka tidak lupa penulis mengucapkan banyak terimakasih.

Di dalam kesempatan ini, tak lupa pula penulis ucapkan terimakasih kepada :

- a. Bapak K.S. Depari; yang telah sudi membantu penulis sehingga terlaksananya ekspedisi.
- b. Bapak Ir R. Kosasih; Kepala SBKPA Tanah Merah dan isteri, yang telah banyak membantu penulis dalam melaksanakan ekspedisi.
- c. Bapak Rachman, Salim dan Aminin, yang telah membantu di dalam melaksanakan ekspedisi.

