

Project 1907 - Control and survey of the rhino area, Gunung Leuser
National Park.

GENERAL REPORT

1 Summary From 18 august till 21 september 1980 mr. and mrs van Strien, and Pepen S. Abdallah (Universitas Nasional) traveled to north Sumatra ^{were made} for the execution of project 1907. After the necessary preparation the rhino area was patrolled from 25 august till 11 september. Returning from Sumatra a short visit was paid to the Game Department in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

In the rhino area no signs of poaching were found and obviously nobody had entered the area since the last ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ patrols were sent to the area in the beginning of 1980. But ~~XXXX~~ at the time of the present expedition a group of four people entered the Pinus area, probably prospecting for a good area to hunt rhino.

During the expedition most of the study-area was surveyed as usual and 40 separate rhino tracks ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~, made by about 15 different rhinos, were encountered. Further samples were made of foodplants, faeces and saltlicks.

2 Preparations

On 18 august mrs M.J.M. van Strien-Reygersberg and Pepen S. Abdallah, student in biology at Universitas Nasional, Jakarta, traveled to Medan to make the necessary preparation for the expedition the the rhino area in the upper Mamas.

ASAMERA OIL was willing to let us use their helicopter, but because of the high costs (about \$ 1200 for the roundtrip) and minor problems related to the supply of extra fuel and the timing of the trip, it was decided not to accept the offer. Other helicopters were not available in Medan.

On 20 august both traveled on to Kutacane, to purchase and prepare the supplies for the expedition and to organise the transport teams. On 24 august drs N.J. van Strien traveled to Kutacane to join the group.

2 17th Mamas expedition

On 24 august the first transport team, consisting of 7 people under the guidance of Rahman, departed from Kutacane and the next day the expedition team followed. Besides Mr. and Mrs van Strien ~~XXXXXXXX~~ and Pepen Abdullah, the expedition team consisted of three of the experienced field assistants and a young PPA employee from the office in Kutacane. The transport team brought the first half of the supplies to camp Pawang and returned to Kutacane on 27 august.

The expedition team reached camp Pawang in the afternoon of 26 august. The camp was found to be in good condition. The next day partols were made to the saltlicks of Pinus and to the small saltlicks south of camp Pawang. On 29 august the team moved on to camp Central and the next day to camp Aceh. Both camps needed extensive repairs. Camp Aceh was completely destroyed by elephants and only a temporary camp was made ~~XXXXXXXX~~ there. The most northern camp, camp Uning, as well as the most southern camps, camp Lukluk and Camp Pinus, are not longer used, but these areas are patrolled from respectively camp Aceh and camp Pawang.

On 31 august the team moved back to camp Central ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ and the next day part of the team walked to camp Pawang to meet the second transport team. This team, consisting of the same persons as the first transport team, brought the rest of the necessary supplies and returned to Kutacane with the plastercasts and samples made so far.

After patrolling the area around camp Central, the team moved again to camp Aceh on 5 september, for a more thorough survey of the northern part of the study area.

On 8 september the team returned to camp Pawang for more surveying in the southern part of the area. The next day fresh tracks of a small group of people were found along the route to camp Pinus, going in the direction of Lukluk. ~~XXXXXX~~

On 11 september the team ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ left the study area and part of the team arrived the same day in Kutacane. The three field assistants, who carried the rest of the collections, spend the night on the trail and returned the next day.

