# 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. Abdullah (Universitas Nasional) traveled to north Sumatra made for the excecution 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 sighn of paoching were found and obviously nobody had entered the area since the last axpanization and obviously sent to the area in the beginning of 1980. But WHILE 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 MEXEXEMENNIANE, 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. Abdullah, student in biology at Universital Nasional, Jakarta, traveled to Medan to make the necessary preparation for the expedition the the rhino area in the upper Manas.

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 Strienxxxxxx and Pepen Abdullah, the expedition team cosisted 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 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 MIXIMIX there. The most northern camp, camp Uning, as well as the most southern camps, camp Lukluk an Camp Pinus, are not longer used, but these areas are patroled from respectively camp Aceh and camp Pawang.

After patroling 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 samp 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.

On 11 september the team EXEMPNERXENCEMENT left the study area and part of the team arr ved 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.

#### 3 Scientific results

The weather during the expedition was very good, with only a few days with heavy rains and a large number of tracks were found. Of fourty are separate tracks plastercasts were made. Preliminary study of the casts showed that they were made by about 15 different rhinos, a few of which were \*\*EMEXINE\*\* only found a few times before and one was probably new to the area. It appeared that the distribution of the rhinos had changed since the last expedition in june 1979. Conciderably more activity \*\*EXIGNALIMINE\*\* of rhinos was found in the area around the saltlicks of Pinus and camp Uning and also in the area northwest of camp Aceh (Jalan Sudirman). But in the area around EMMEXEMMENTARY INCOMESTAL CONTRACTOR ACED Pawang very little sign of the presence of rhinos were found.

By following a rhino track a new small saltlick was found close to the camp Central. Because there are no well-developed trails leading to this place it had escaped our attention before.

Tracks of new calfs were not found, but at least two of the calfs been already known from previous expeditions were still found in the area.

A more detailed study of the plastercasts will be made later and the results will be #MMIINMEXXEMETHEXXWITHXEME included into the publication of the whole rhino research programme.

During the expedition also EXEX several foodplants could be sampled for identification and for analysis of the mineral contents. Also fresh feaces and samples of the all saltlicks were collected. These will also be analysed on the mineral contents. Results of these analyses will be EXEXES in the report to the faculty by Pepen Abdullah.

4 Controle of poaching

It was obvious that the since the last patrol, made by Salim on the order of the WWF-officer Ir Jan Wind, in may 1980, no one had entered the rhino area. Only on EME 9 and 10 september fresh tracks of a small group of people were found along the trail to Pinus, going in the direction of Lukluk. The tracks were made only a few days before and it was clear that they had tried to conseal their tracks, On the 10th the track was followed untill it was clear that they were on the way out.

The next day, when the team returned to Kutacane, their tracks were found again on the main entrance trail to the Mamas. Tey had obviously cut through from Lukluk to the trail and halfway their camp was found.

Because the supplies had run out it was not possble to spend more days in the rhino area and the make a thorough survey wheter traps had been build or not. MIEKE The most experienced field assistants, Rahman and Salim, will return to the area soon to make a thorough check of the Pinus and Lukluk area, for which funds have been left from this budget.

### 5)Other activities

Before returning to Bogor, Mr. and Mrs van Strien paid a short visit to Kuala Lumpur, on 20 and 21 september, where Mr Head of the Rhinoceros project of the Malaysian Game Department and mr Rodney W. Flynn, consultant for the Rhinoceros project, were met.

## 6) Recommendations

The present survey has provided clear evidence that the rhinos in Leuser are not safe at the moment and that rhino poaching is still axatingxex an exident management problem in Leuser. In the Management Plan for Gunung Leuser, that has officially been accepted by PPA, the formation of a special anti-poaching unit has been given a high priority, but so far thinxresemmentation which was not been implemented. A few partols have been organised to the rhino area byxxexxverxprojection funded by www. but PPA has not yet made available funds and appointed personnel for this task.

It is recommended that the formation of a special anti-poaching unit, MAXEMENTINE to patrol and controle the rhino area, is given a high priority XNAXEMENTATES AND ANTICE AND A