

SUMATRAN RHINOCEROS (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA; AND CURRENT RPU ACTION PLAN

**By
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PENINSULAR MALAYSIA
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Overall Goal/Aim

**TO CONSERVE SUMATRAN RHINOCEROS AND
OTHER WILDLIFE SPECIES FROM EXTINCTION**

Objectives of DWNP Sumatran rhinoceros conservation programme

1. To collect and update data on Sumatran rhinoceros and other wildlife species distribution
2. To identify new population of Sumatran rhinoceros in potential areas
3. To identify threats on the populations (e.g. location and types of threats)
4. Improve staff skills in data collection and in carrying out field survey on Sumatran rhinoceros

Background work/studies on Sumatran rhinoceros

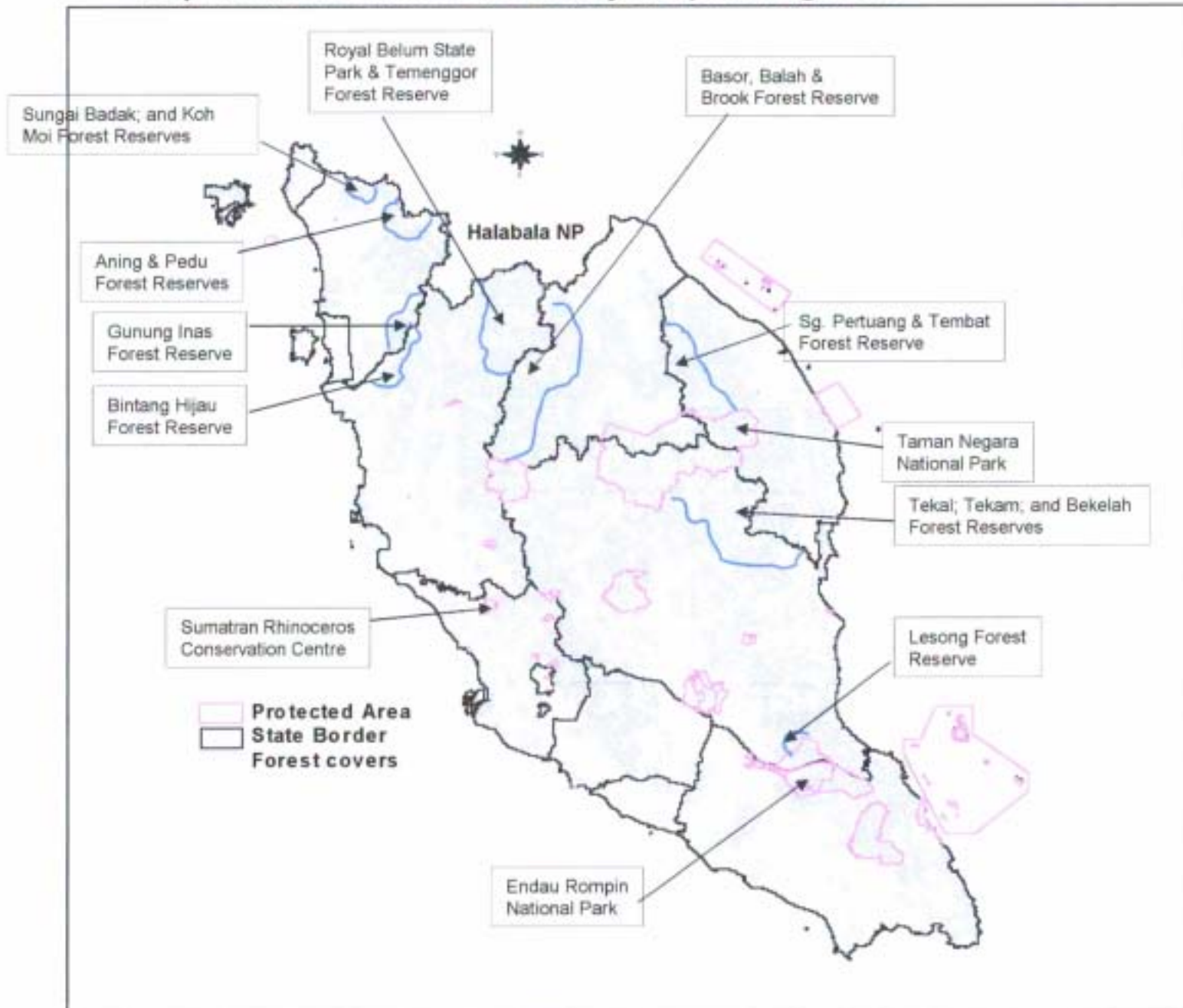
- 1939: T.R. Hubback
- 1961: Metcalfe – P.Malaysia
- 1964: O.B. Milton – Sg. Dusun
- 1966: D.L. Strickland – Sungai Dusun
- 1968: Stevens – P.Malaysia
- 1975 – 1981: Flynn & Abdullah (Distribution & ecological study)

- Earlier in 1970's there were rhino, tiger, gaur etc. units. However some of the units activity stop along the way.
- RPU (Rhino Protection Unit) initiated in 1975
- 1977 – 1994, RPU's in HQ, S'ngor, Perak, Pahang, Taman Negara NP (Kelantan, Terengganu & Pahang) about 30 staffs
- in 1995 (GEF funding) RPU activities were vigorously stepped-up
- 13 RPU's in P'sular Malaysia consisting of 62 people
- RPU's comes under the control of a community headed by the DG and assisted by 7 State Directors and 1 RCO.

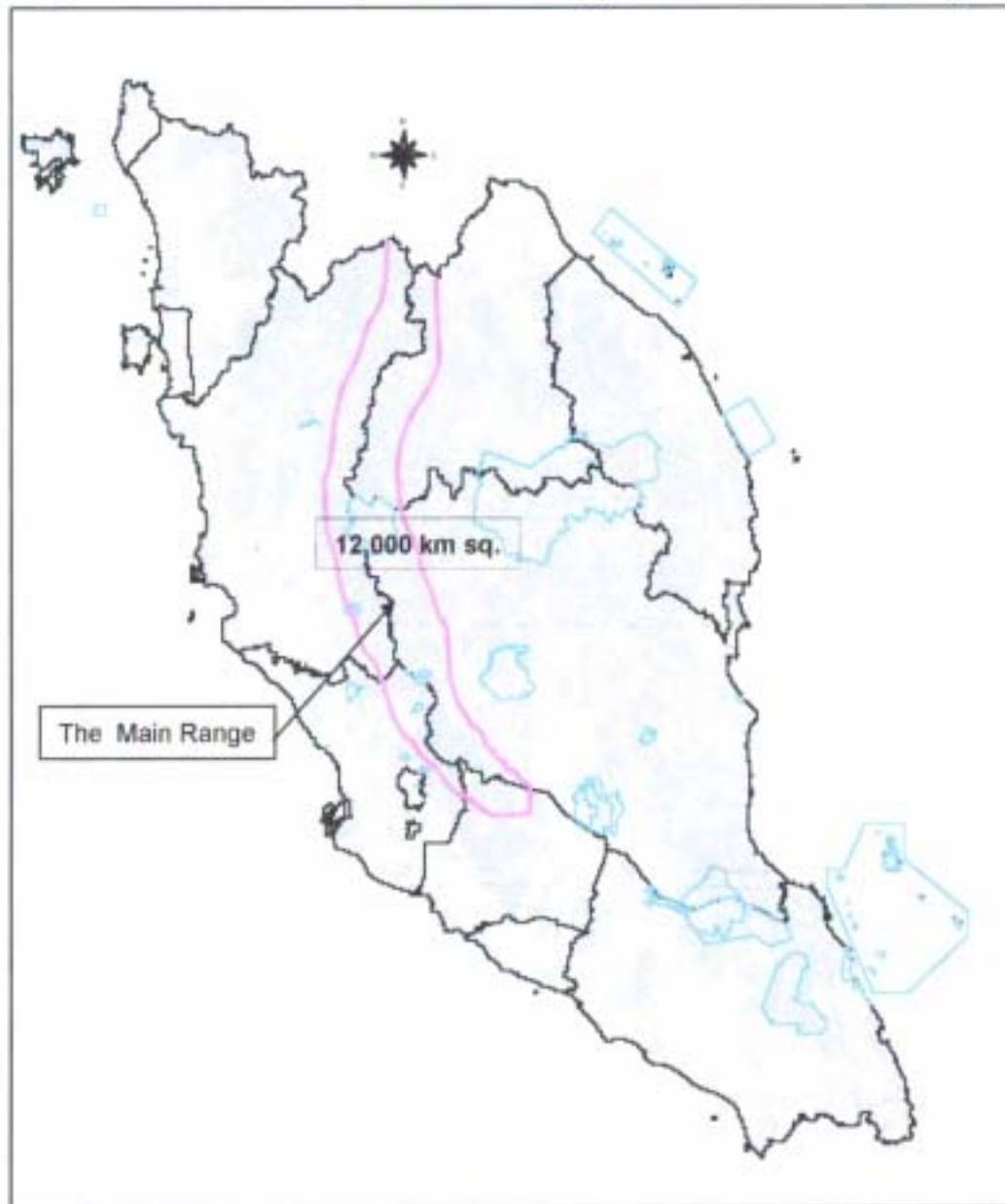
Map 1: Historic and present distribution of Sumatran rhinoceros in Asia



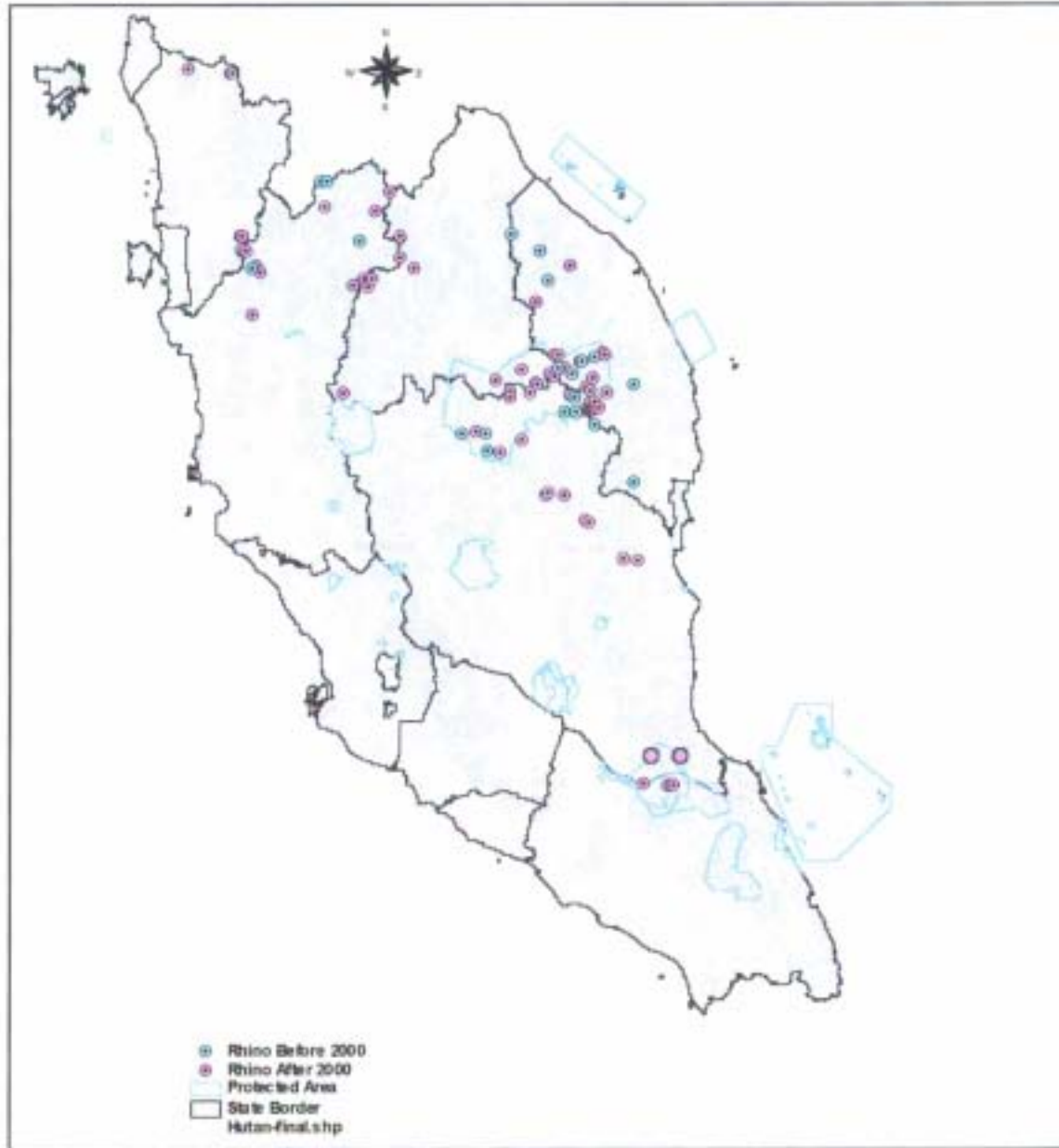
Map 2: Sumatran rhinoceros survey and patrolling areas



Map 2a: Location of the Main Range in Peninsular Malaysia



Map 3: Sumatran Rhinoceros distribution in Peninsular Malaysia



Threats to the Sumatran Rhino populations

1. Encroachment and poaching
2. Habitat fragmentation

Plate 1: Wire snares found at the Tekam and Tekai Forest Reserve, Pahang

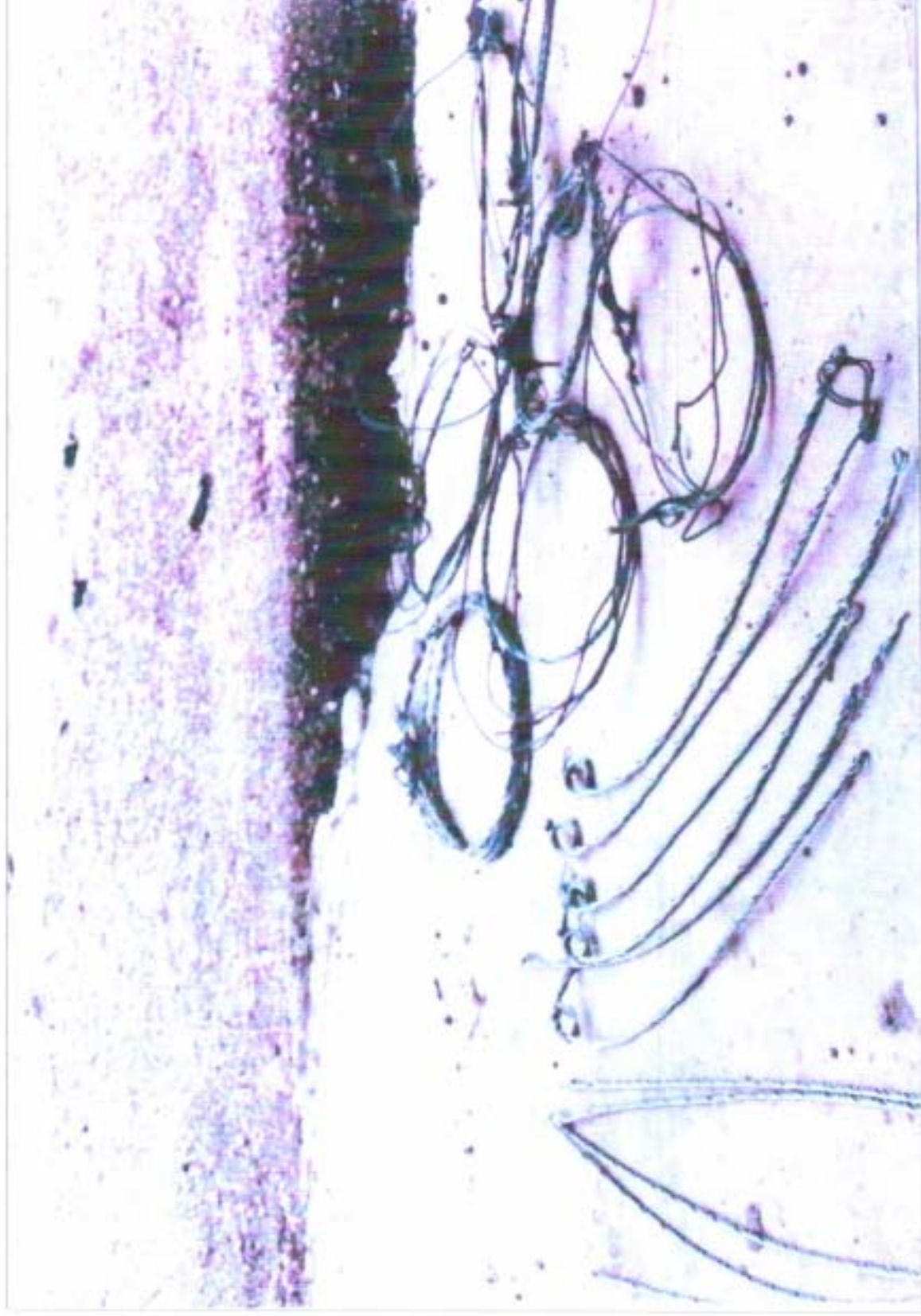


Plate 2: Sumatran rhinoceros carcass found at Gunung Shoid, Kelantan



Plate 3: Sumatran rhinoceros carcass at Gunung Shoid, Kelantan





Plate 4: Skull of Sumatran rhinoceros found at Tekam and Tekai Forest Reserve



Plate 5: Skull of Tiger that was seized in Gua Musang



Table 1: Mortality rate of Sumatran rhinoceros in peninsular Malaysia (1975 – 2003)

YEAR	LOCALITY	CAUSE OF DEATH	NUMBER
1975	Endau – Rompin	Unknown	1
1976	Kuala Krai, Kelantan	Poached;dehorned	1
1985	Bukit Bujang, Johore	Shot;dehorned	1
1986	Kambau/Tenggaroh, Johore	Snared	5 ?
"	Sungai Dusun, Selangor	Shot;dehorned	1
1988	Tenggaroh, Johore	Shot;decapitated	1
"	"	Shot;dehorned	1
1989	"	Shot;decapitated	1
1992	Medicine shop, Penang	Poached	7
"	Medicine shop, Perak	Poached	2
"	Medicine shop, Johore	Poached	1
"	Alor Setar, Kedah	Poached	1
"	Medicine shop, N.Sembilan	Poached	1
1993	Ulu Besut (Pelagat F.R.)	Shot;dehorned	1
1994	Sungai Terang (Basor F.R.)	Unknown	1
1998	Gunung Shoid, Gua Musang	Shot;dehorned	1
2002	Alam Muda, Pahang	Poached; dehorned	1
2003	Sg. Dusun, Selangor (Captivity)	Infection	7
TOTAL			36

Current conservation work on Sumatran rhino focuses on:

1. Survey/Inventory on wildlife
2. Enforcement
3. Patrolling
4. Awareness programme

Sumatran rhinoceros and other wildlife/enforcement inventory

- Conducted 3X/year
- Budgets & staffs depend on areas

Taman Negara National Park

- Conducted in October 2003
- Duration: 10 – 14 days
- Consists of 226 staffs



Plate 6: Moving into the inventory area



Plate 6a: Trekking along the mountain ridges



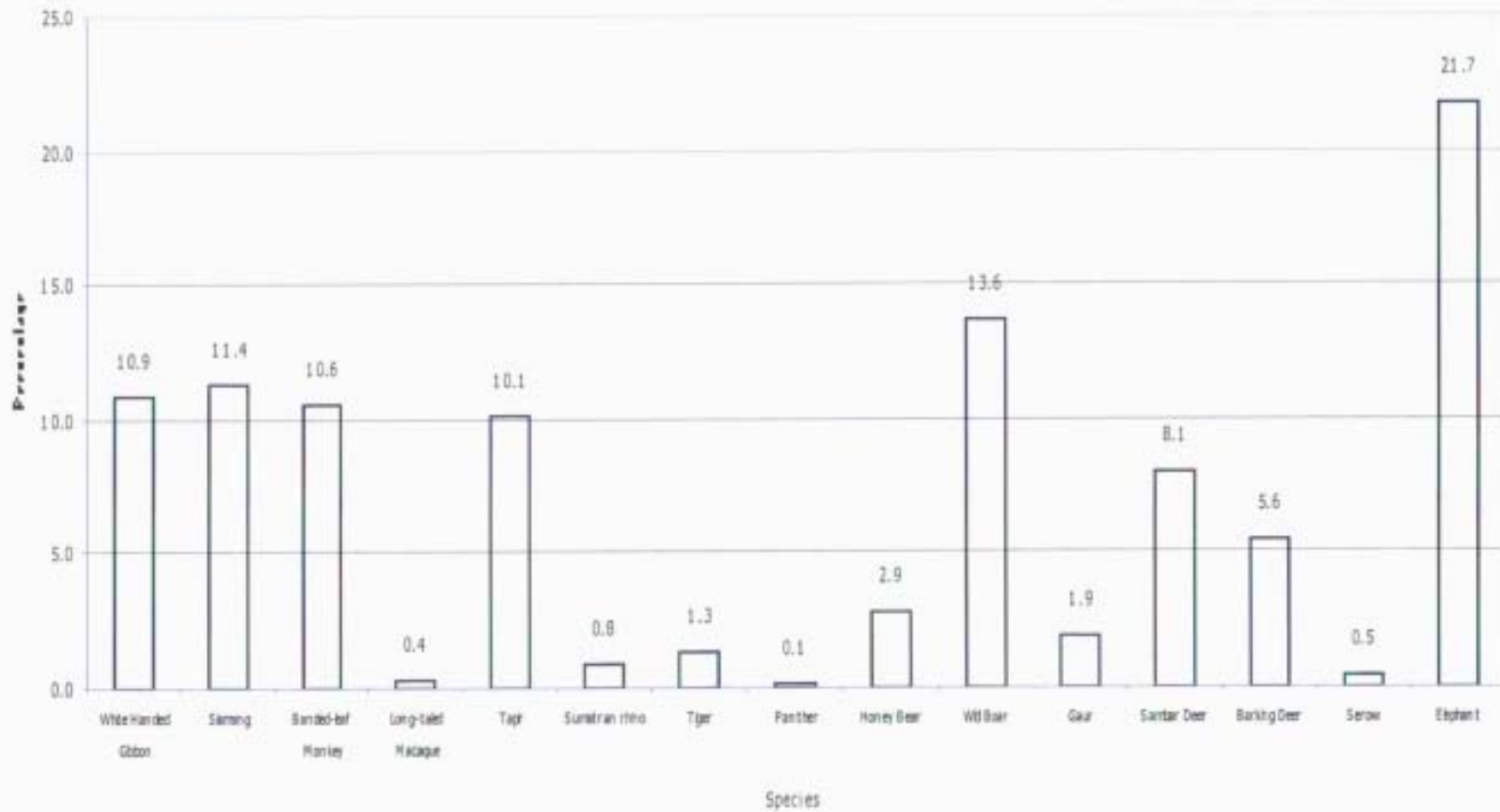
Plate 6b: Some of the wildlife inventory works



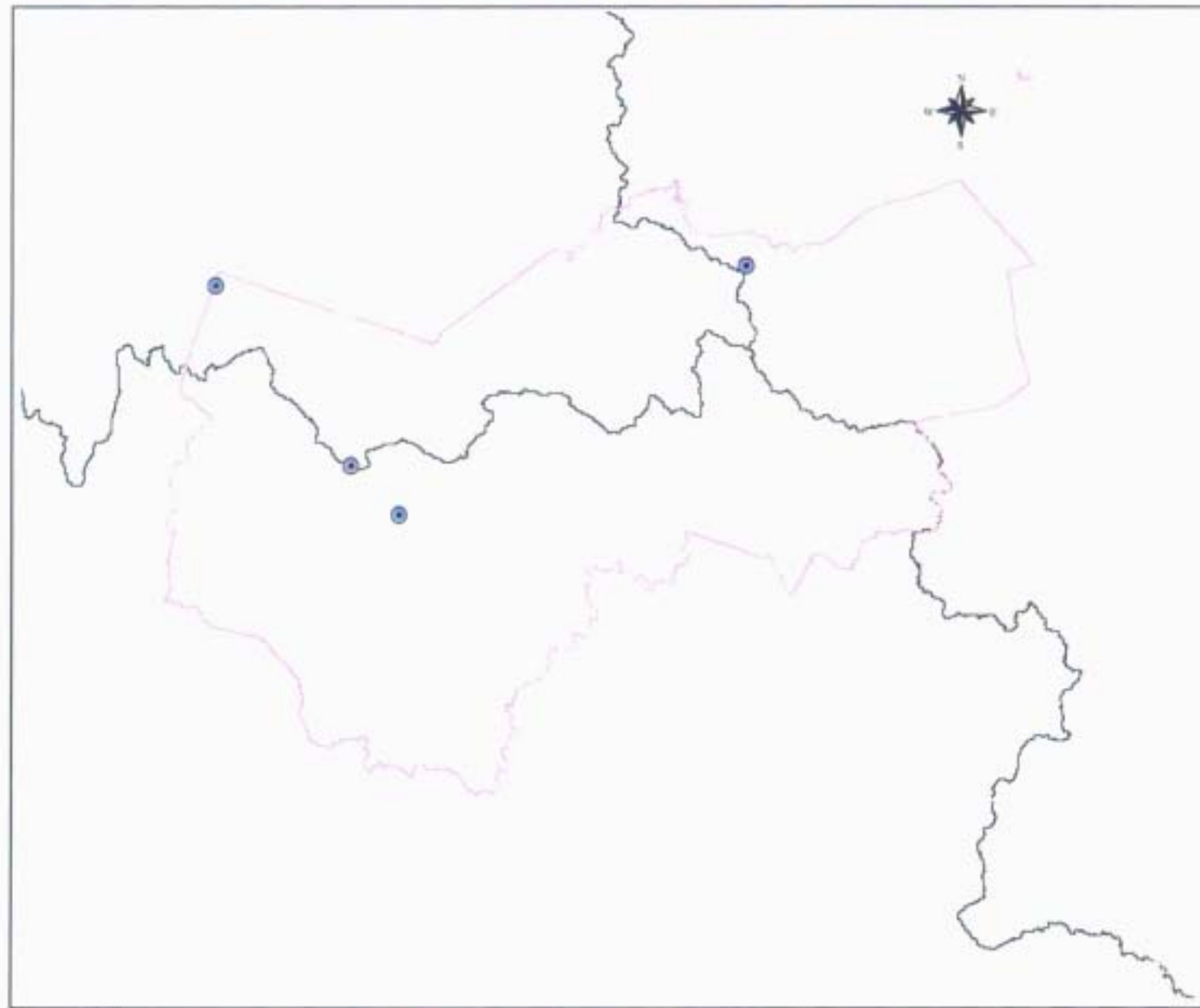
Plate 6c: Going back to base camp



Chart 1: Percentage of mammals frequencies in Taman Negara National Park

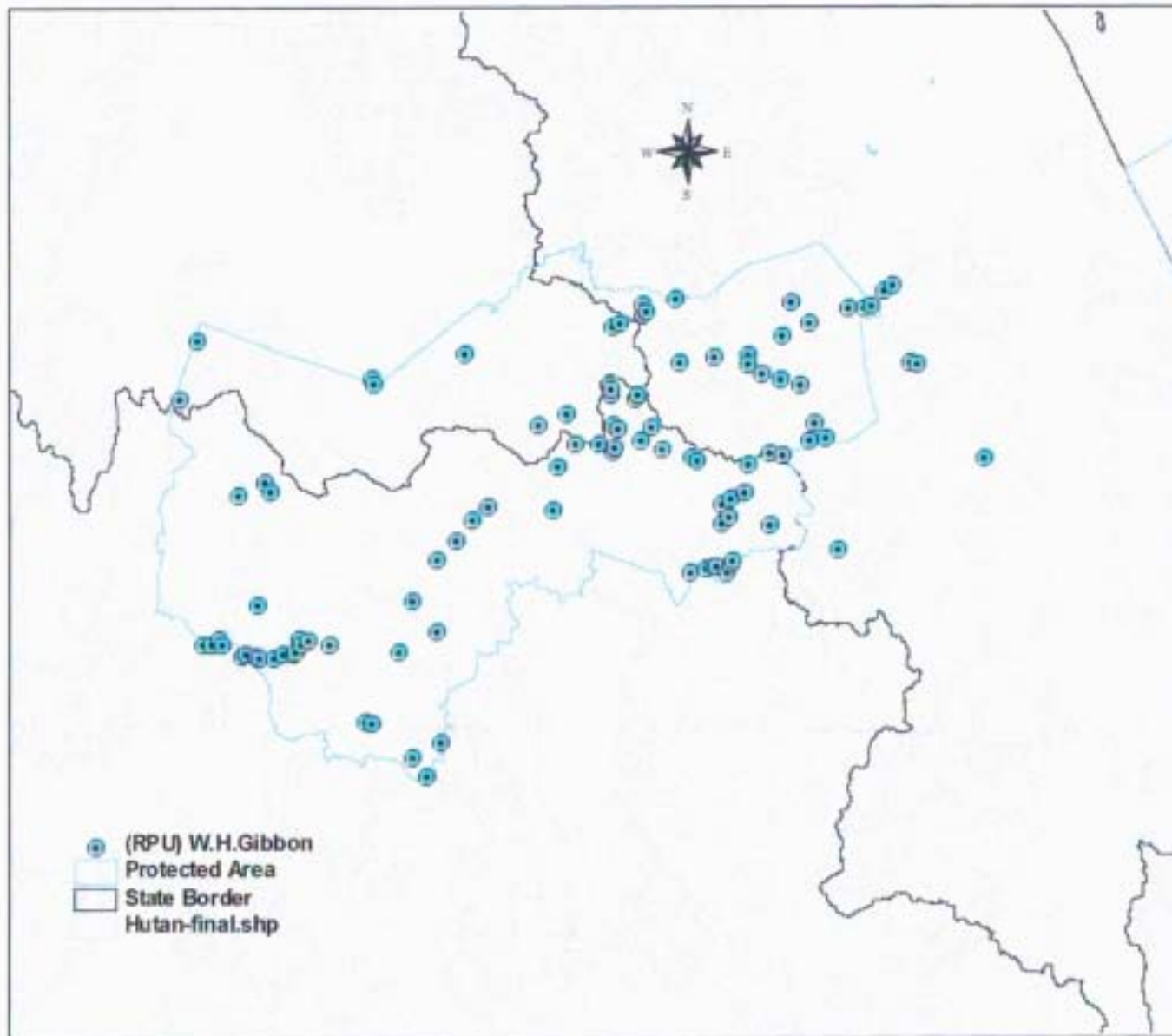


Map 4: The distribution of Crested Argus in Taman Negara (2003)

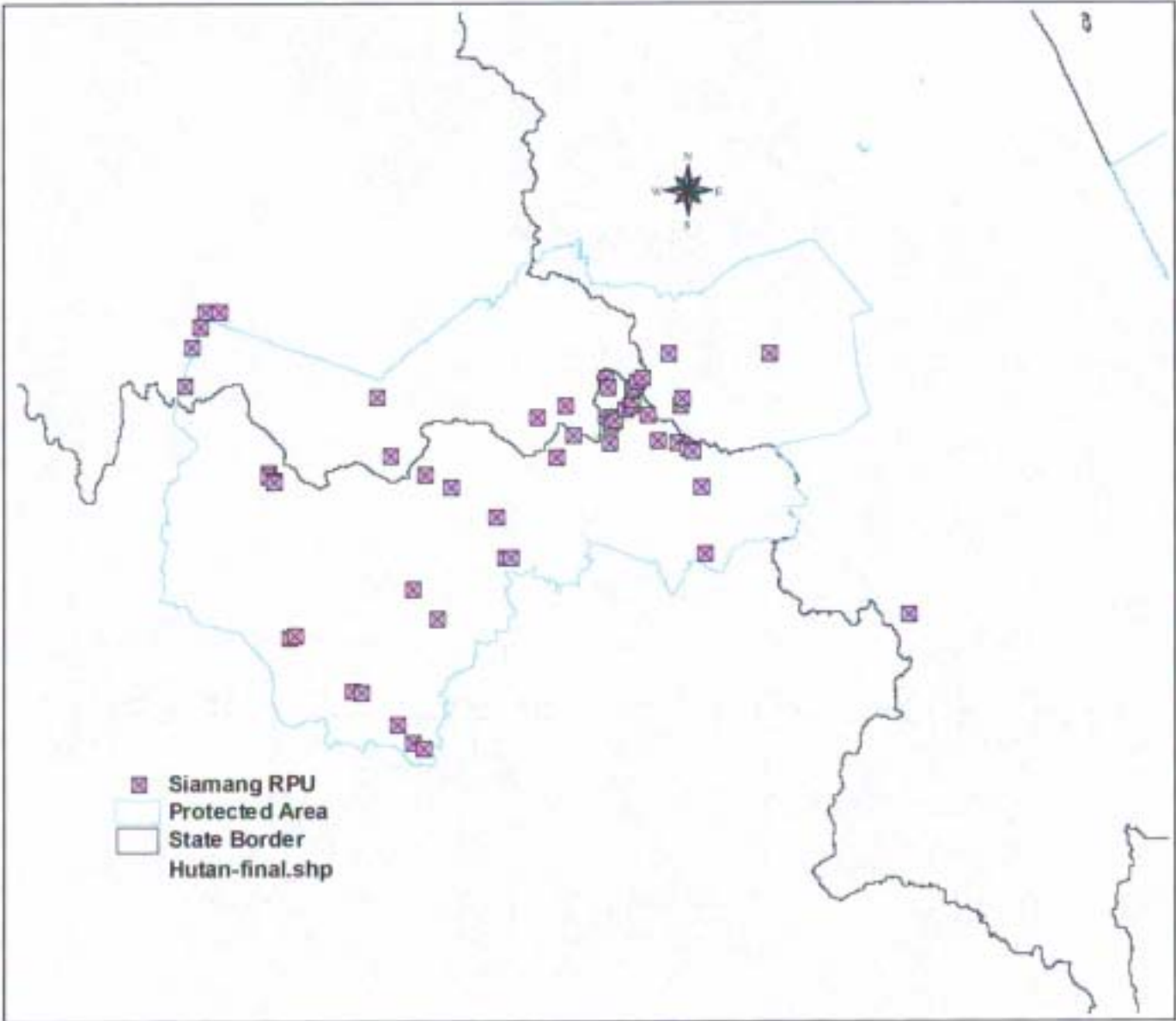


● Crested Argus location in Taman Negara NP

Map 5: The distribution of White Handed Gibbon in Taman Negara (2003)



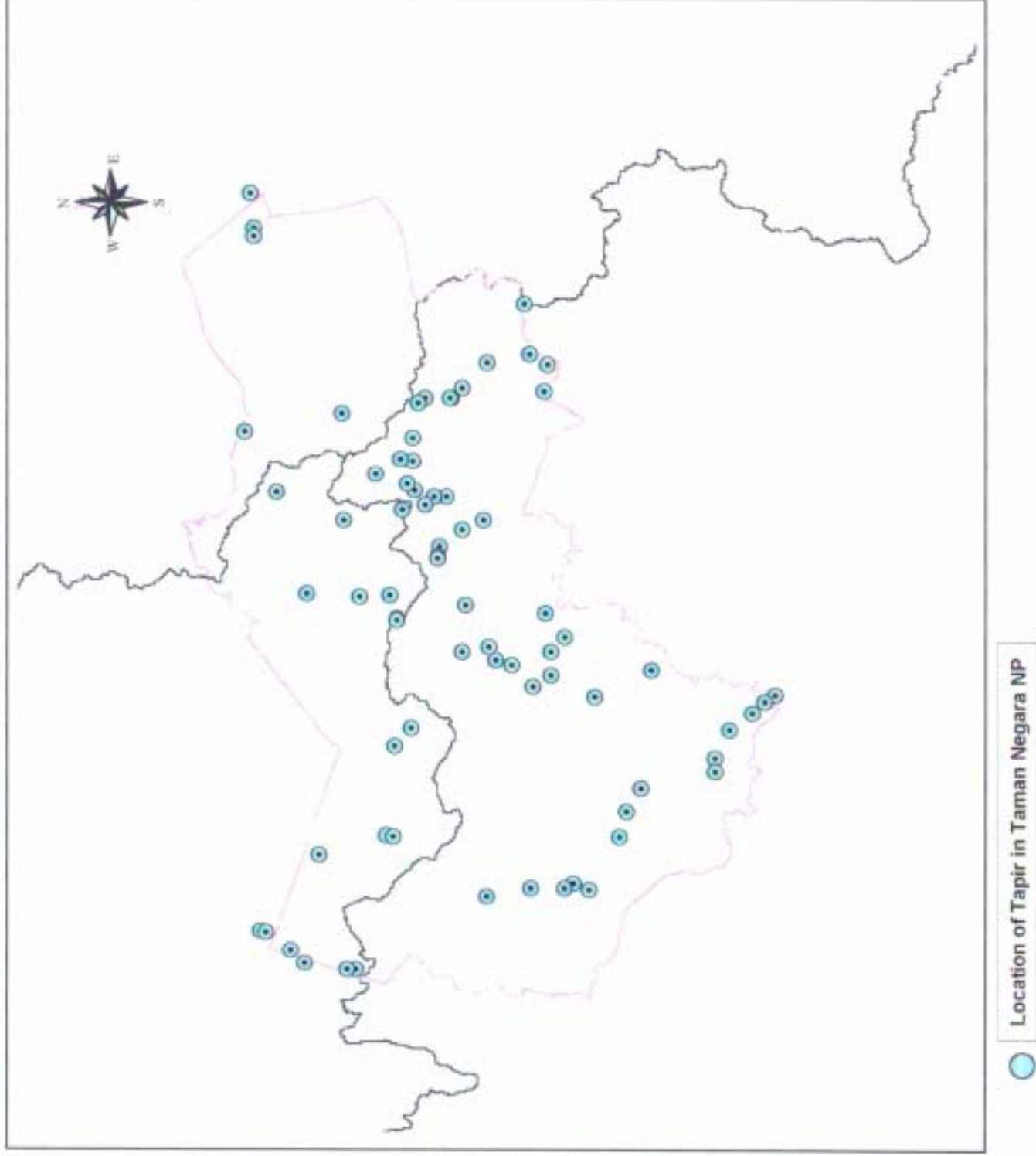
Map 6: The distribution of Siamang (*Hyobates syndactylus*) in Taman Negara (2003)



Map 7: The distribution of Indo-chinese Tiger in Taman Negara (2003)



Map 8: The distribution of Tapir in Taman Negara (2003)



Map 9: Encroachment location in Taman Negara (2002/3)

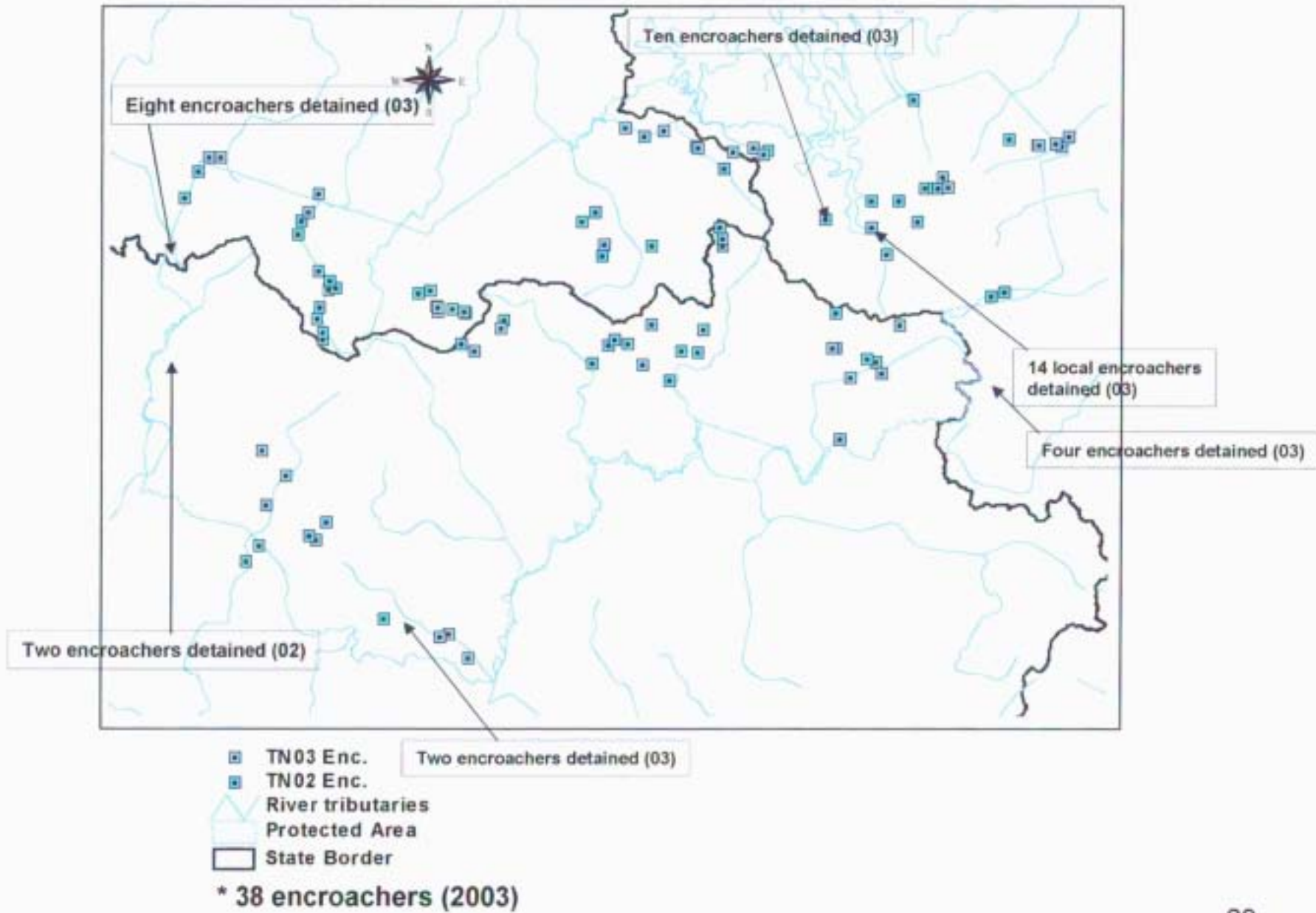
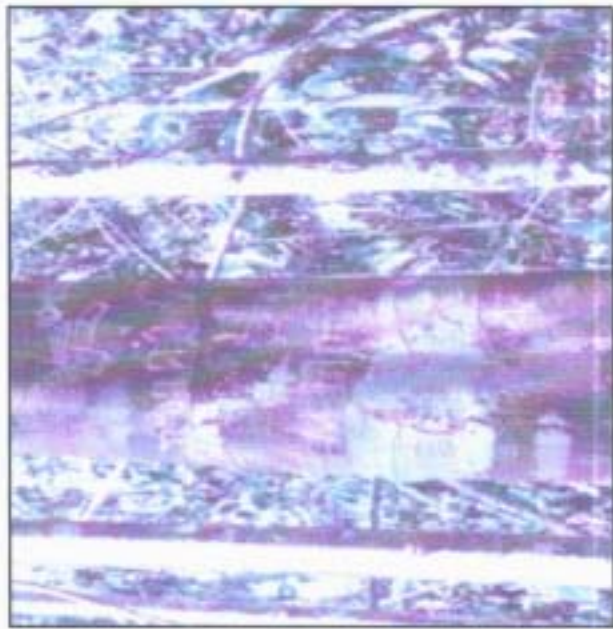


Plate 7: Marking on the tree bark by encroachers (mostly Thai people) were found almost everywhere in Peninsular Malaysia forest reserves



**Plate 8: Encroachers camp found in Taman Negara on the Terengganu side
(Kenyir dam) in 2003**



Plate 9: Tools for cutting and extracting aloewood/sandalwood



Plate 10: Foods supply found at the encroachers camp



Plate 11: The burning of the encroachers camp



Plate 11a: Tools that was prosecuted form the illegal immigrant e.g. wire snares, small mammal baits, medicines, axe etc. (2003)



Plate 11b: Prosecution things were exhibit at the DWNP district office (2003)

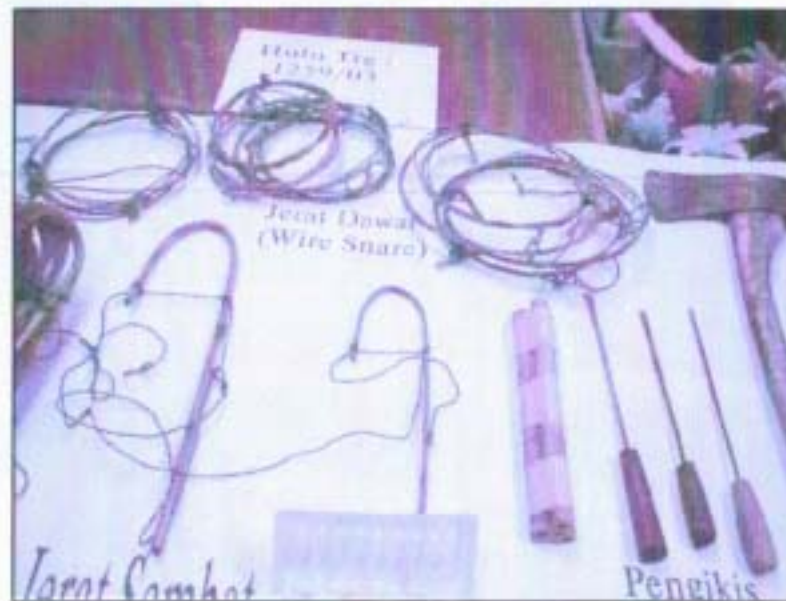


Plate 12: Two Thailand encroachers has been seized by the RPU in Taman Negara (2002)



'Rucksacks' containing sandal woods, wire cables and smoke wild boar.



Plate 13: Another two Thailand encroachers detained in Taman Negara (2003) at Kuala Atok



Plate 14: Ten Thailand encroachers captured in Taman Negara (2003) at Kenyir side



Map 10: Encroachment and Sumatran rhinoceros locations in Peninsular Malaysia (1997 – 2003)

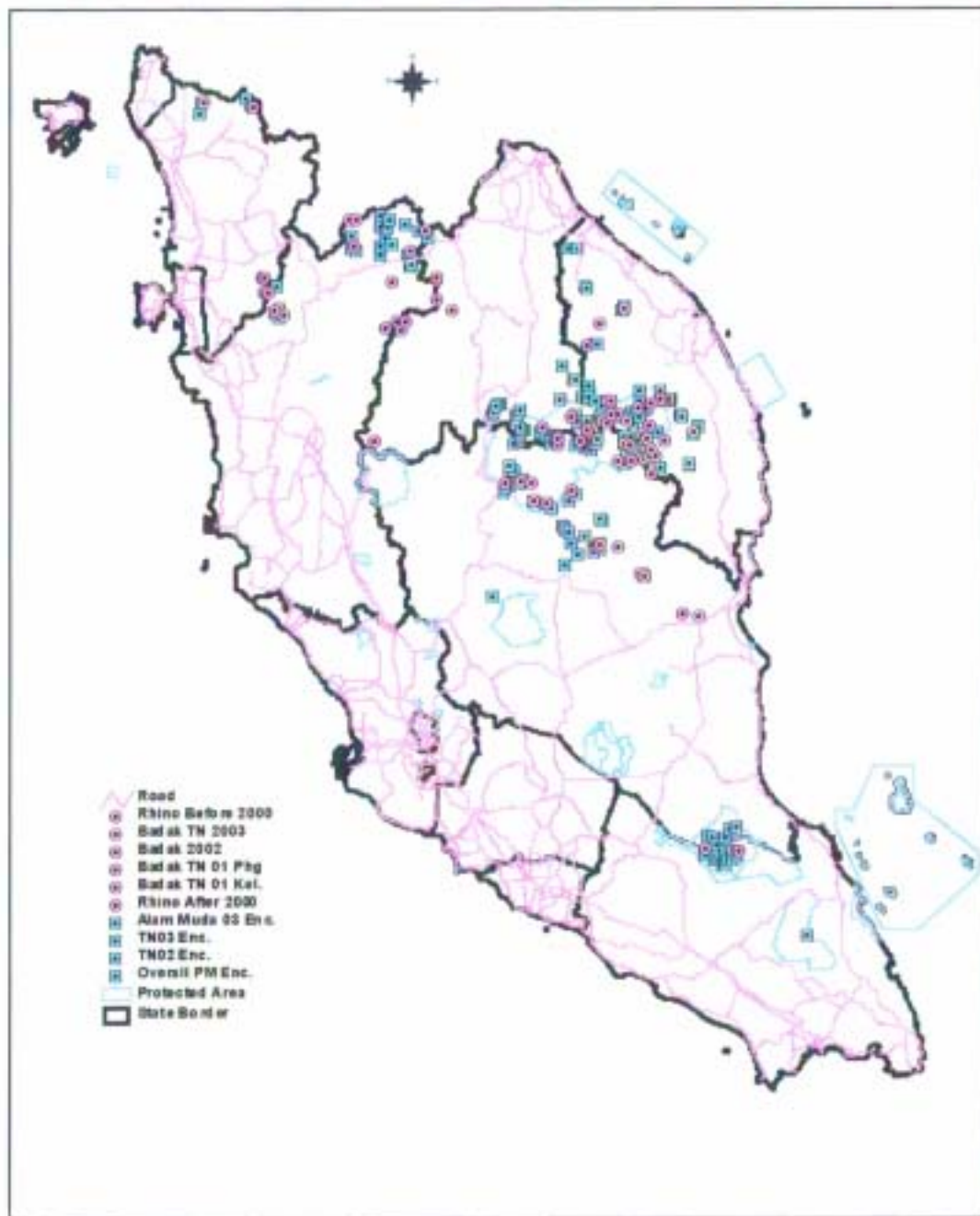


Table 2: Estimation number of Sumatran rhinoceros in Peninsular Malaysia

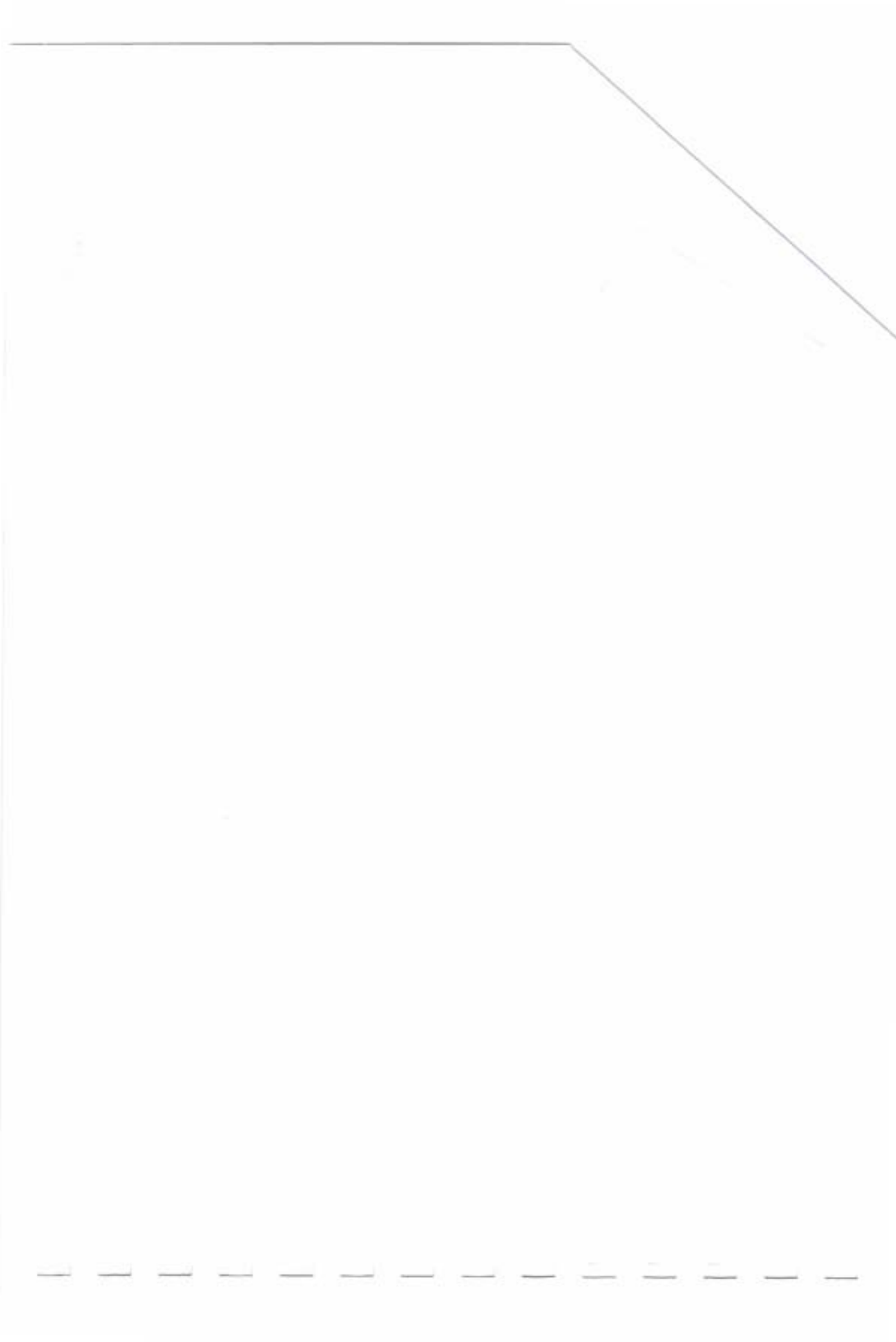
No.	State	Estimated no.
1	Kedah	4 – 5
2	Perak	11 – 13
3	Johor	1 – 2
4	Pahang	13 – 15
5	Taman Negara	20 – 30
6	Terengganu	4 – 6
7	Kelantan	6 – 7
	Total	59 - 78

Achievements of the Sumatran rhinoceros unit:

1. Managed to plot rhino & other wildlife species location.
2. Plot of encroachment locations in all rhino areas
3. The arrest & prosecution of poachers/encroachers
(Taman Negara)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Increase patrolling and survey in rhino areas – increase man power & equipment.
2. Increase awareness programme to communities residing near rhino areas e.g. indigenous people.
3. Conduct surveys (using other methods e.g. photo traps) in the Main Range.



Thank You...



Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Abdul Kadir Abu Hashim'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

ABDUL KADIR ABU HASHIM
Sumatran Rhino Conservation Officer