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# CREW PROGRESS REPORT

Lindner Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden • Spring 2024

## A Fairy Tale Ending to Moving Sumatran Rhinos to Indonesia



Photo courtesy of the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry.



In 2015, the Cincinnati Zoo made the very difficult decision to send Harapan, the last Sumatran rhino in the Western Hemisphere, to Indonesia to join his brother in becoming part of the breeding program at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS). Sending two Cincinnati-born Sumatran rhino calves to Indonesia was not without risks, and the odds of them both succeeding in the mission to help their species were slim given the ever-changing landscape of international conservation efforts. So, it was with tremendous joy and relief that we received news in November 2023 that Harapan had succeeded in siring a healthy male calf in Sumatra (just three months after his brother Andalas had sired his third offspring). Achieving this milestone is significant on many levels. With fewer than 100 wild Sumatran rhinos left, the SRS is probably the last hope for the species' survival, yet it was without a fertile breeding male prior to the addition of Cincinnati's male calves. Through the contribution of these two male rhinos, we played an integral role in turning the Indonesian breeding program into a shining success, forever weaving our legacy into the history of this species' fight for survival. Rarely does a zoo have the opportunity to make such a profound impact on the survival of an endangered species. Additionally, Harapan's son represents the first offspring for both the sire and dam which adds an inkling of much-needed, new genetic material into the tiny population. Finally, from a broader and more diplomatic perspective, just seven Sumatran rhinos were sent to the U.S. for the breeding program in the 1980s and early 1990s. With the birth of this 8th calf, all descendants of the Cincinnati Zoo line, we have repaid in full the Indonesian government for their previous gift of rhinos, something that seemed unattainable in the early years of this struggling program. Thanks to a huge team effort between the Cincinnati Zoo and our dedicated Indonesian colleagues, and a bit of cooperation from the rhinos themselves, there is still reason to believe Sumatran rhinos may rally despite the crisis they currently face.



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Applying Knowledge to Save,  
A Future for Wildlife"

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