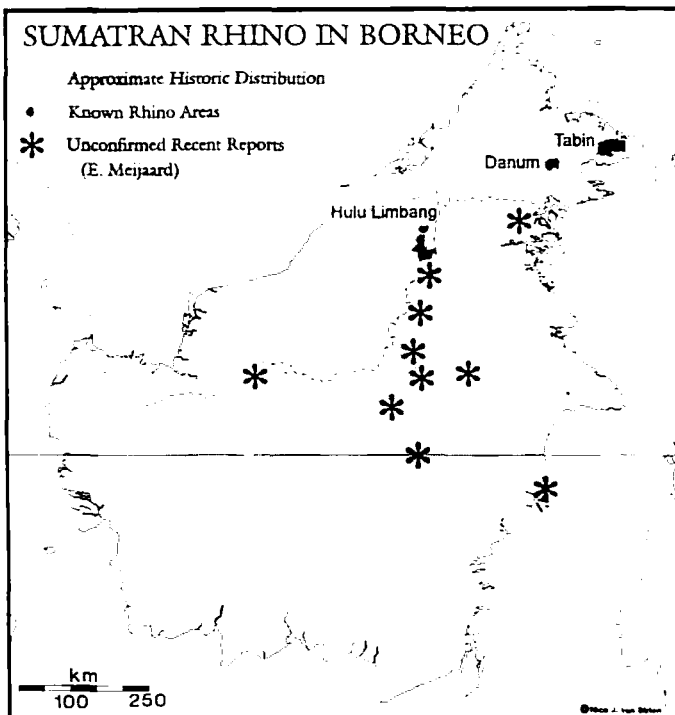


COUNTRY REPORTS

AsRSG Members in Asian Rhino range states are requested to provide reports on conservation activities and events in their countries for this column. No reports were available for this issue for India, Nepal, Myanmar, Thailand, or Laos.

INDONESIA

DISTRIBUTION SUMATRAN RHINO IN KALIMANTAN



The Bornean rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis harrissoni*) is considered to be a subspecies of the two-horned Sumatran rhinoceros. Hunting and habitat loss have this sub-species on the brink of extinction. Rookmaker (1977) estimated the total number of surviving rhino in Borneo to be as low as 25 animals. Even after more detailed surveys through 1993, Yayasan Mitra Rhino (YMR) in Indonesia still estimated the total number of rhino in Sabah and Sarawak (Malaysian Borneo) to be about 85. For Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) only a vague estimate of "a few" surviving animals could be

provided (anonymous, 1993). This last estimate already indicates the almost total lack of knowledge of the present conservation status of rhino in Kalimantan.

In 1994, a survey was initiated to investigate the present distribution range of the Bornean orang utan (*Pongo pygmaeus pygmaeus*), which was funded by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) in the Netherlands. This survey was conducted in cooperation with the Directorate General for Forest Protection and Nature Conservation of the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry (DG PHPA) and the MOF Tropenbos-Kalimantan Project in East-Kalimantan. As this survey was going to cover potential rhinoceros habitat in Kalimantan, it was decided to include information on recent sightings of rhinoceros in the orang utan survey. Extra funding was provided by the "van Tienhoven Stichting" in the Netherlands.

The map indicates recent rhinoceros sightings in Kalimantan. All reports are based on information from the local population and refer to the direct observation of one or several rhinoceroses, or their indirect signs, like tracks and faeces. All sightings were made between 1985 and 1995. None of these reports have been confirmed by the author. The survey will continue until the end of 1995, after which a more detailed description of the results of this survey will be presented.

References:

- Anonymous, 1993. Conservation strategy rhinoceros Indonesia (in Indonesian). PHPA & YMR.
- Rookmaker, L.C. 1977. The distribution and status of the Rhinoceros, *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*, in Borneo - A Review. Bijdr. Dierk., 47(2):197-204, map 1, table 1.

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