

# CBSG Indonesia Report



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Warm greetings from CBSG Indonesia Program! The political and economical unrest in Indonesia during the unpredictable first half of the year has passed. Statistics from the second half of 1999 have started to show signs of stabilization across most of the archipelago as the third millennium is approaching. We are optimistic with regard to our new president and new government and that the economy will recover.

Is the CBSG Indonesia Program ready to "Get what we left behind on track again"? Yes, we are ready! We owe special gratitude to CBSG Chairman, Ulysses S. Seal, and all of the CBSG staff for their continued support, and we look forward to an even closer and mutually beneficial relationship in the future.

Since 1992 CBSG has conducted several PHVA workshops in Indonesia. The predominant result of these PHVA workshops was the most important document ever produced in our country, which has created vigorous and vital conservation action ever since. Two notable projects are described here.



## Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS)

The Sumatran rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) has proven to be a formidable challenge to conservation. Mortality in captivity has been high, and today they only survive in captivity in four facilities worldwide. Moreover, to date no breeding has ever occurred in captivity. Evaluation of the captive program performance suggested that the surviving rhinos in captivity be consolidated in the most spacious enclosures and natural conditions (national park). Intensive protection and management are believed to be necessary because

of the precarious situation in the totally free-ranging situation in the wild. This adaptively modified approach was initiated at a PHVA conducted for the Sumatran rhino in Indonesia in 1993, and has come to fruition in Way Kambas National Park. The Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS) is now fully operational and we look forward to breeding success in the near future.



## Sumatran Tiger Project (STP)

Indonesia formally declared the importance of linking *in situ* and *ex situ* tiger conservation activities through the *Indonesian Sumatran Tiger Conservation Strategy* (Ministry of Forestry, 1994) and the *PKBSI Sumatran Tiger Masterplan* (Indonesia Zoological Parks Association, 1998). This is quite different than all other tiger range countries, which have not linked field and captive conservation priorities. Currently we are developing a strategy for another four years of active tiger conservation, to extend the ground-breaking work carried out in the captive and wild programs so far.

An illustrative example of the growing importance of this *in situ* and *ex situ* linkage, the *World Zoo Conservation Strategy* recognizes that "zoos need to build up a partnership in conservation to become true conservation centers".

We at the CBSG Indonesia Program are proud to be the hosts for two Indonesia workshops in the year 2000, first a CAMP for Indonesian primates and second, a PHVA workshop for the banteng (*Bos javanicus*). We hope to see you in Indonesia. ■

Submitted by Jansen Manansang, CBSG Indonesia.

Photos courtesy of Directorate General of Nature Protection and Conservation, Ministry of Forestry and Estate Crops, Republic of Indonesia, Sumatran Tiger Project, Way Kambas National Park.