

Tabin Management

August 2017

1. Introduction

The rainfall in August 2017 are more frequent as compared to June (14 days) and July (9 days). The 18 days of rain mostly occurred in the afternoon with only 16% occurring in the morning. The total rainfall in August was 193 mm, 31 mm higher than in July 2017.

The pattern from January – August 2017, indicated high rainfalls in January – May, (average 506.4 mm) with sudden drop in June (141 mm). This is followed by a gradual increase in July and August 2017 (Figure 1).

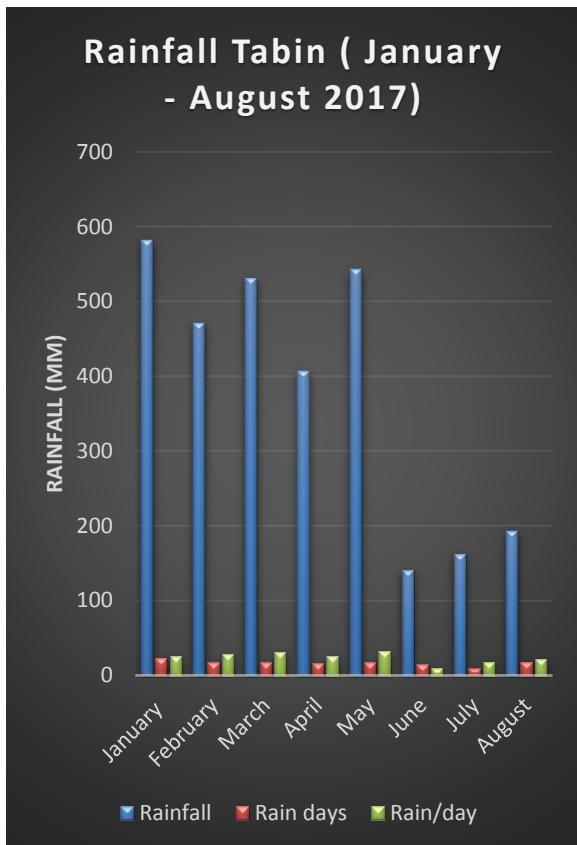


Figure 1. Monthly rainfall data (January – August 2017)

Most of the rainfall in August occurred in the second and third week of the month (Ladang Tungku, KL – Kepong, Rainfall Data August 2017).

2. Rhino Food Plantation (RFP)

Apart from obtaining two lorry loads of empty fruit bunches from KL – Kepong Sdn. Bhd, they assisted in some excavation work to prepare a loading bay to keep sand and gravels. These raw materials would be used for minor repairing of roads and BORA facilities. In addition, a path/road was also constructed inside the RFP (Plate 1 - 2).



Plate 1. Hasan supervising the bulldozer driver in the RFP



Plate 2. James and the unloading bay for sand

A total of 80 *Ficus francisi* was marcotted by the Universiti Malaysia Trengganu (UMT) students. These were also planted inside the RFP after about 20 days. A few of the marcots were not successful and subsequently replaced. Each student was requested to produce 20 marcots (Plate 3).



Plate 3. Lee Fei Lin marcotting the *F. francisi* in the Rhino Food Plantation

During the beginning of August, Tabin experienced heavy rainfall and rapid growth of weeds and grass in the RFP. The maintenance had to be carried out more frequently than in Jun – July (Plate 4)



Plate 4. Davidson in full gear cutting the grass in RFP

3. Electric fencing

The electric fence is checked daily to ensure highest voltage against macaques (in RFP) and elephants. The RIF recorded a low of 8.9 kV and a high of 9.7 kV. The RQF and RFP recorded 8.7 – 9.3 kV and 9.0 – 9.3 kV respectively. The keepers will conduct the checks before letting the rhinos out into the paddocks. In RFP, the field assistants will check the fence in the morning and evening (Plate 5).



Plate 5. Hasan Sani checking the fence before starting work

4. Other issues/activities

4.1 Borneo Rhino Sanctuary (BRS), Tabin updates

Nothing changed since the inspection in July and early August 2017. The condition of the fence, staff quarters, roads and night stalls deteriorated. Wild pigs and deer tracks were seen inside the paddocks. Water tanks are filled up with mosquito larva. Gutters were blocked with leaves and branches. The following are pictures taken in August 2017.



Plate 6. Elephant tracks outside the fence



Plate 7. Tree fell along the road to BRS is a common sight



Plate 8. More unwanted rubbish from the construction. Wooden planks with nails and polypipe



Plate 9. An empty can that would sliced the food pad of the rhino. These food can were left by the construction workers



Plate 10. Rusty metal rods and wires are strewn inside the paddocks. These would puncture the feet of the rhinos



Plate 11. Tracks of wild pigs inside the paddocks



Plate 12. Samat looking at the “open” fence



Plate 13. The shrubs and weeds are growing back to cover the fence. Wasted effort to clean up in July 2017



Plate 14. A part of the BRS fence in late August 2017



Plate 15. Wall paint coming off in the night stall

Just to note that these findings were done as a check to the “clean – up” by the contracted staff from **Syarikat Pengarah Enterprise (Roger Lee)** and monitored by **Konsultant Kumpulan (MT) Sdn. Bhd.**

5. Anesthesia, ultrasonography, electro ejaculation, semen evaluation and cryopreservation in Pig – tailed macaque (*Macaca nemestrina*) in Tabin (17th – 21st August 2017)

Report attached.

6. Reports by Mr. Yap Keng Chee for August 2017

Report attached