



It's a Boy!

By Susie Ellis, International Rhino Foundation

We are delighted to announce that on Saturday 23 June, at 12:45 am, Ratu gave birth to a healthy male calf, weighing between 27 and 32 kilograms.

The arrival of the calf, named "Andatu" (meaning "Gift from God" in Bahasa, and also a combination of the name of his parents), is an auspicious beginning to the President of Indonesia's declaration of 2012 as International Year of the Rhino earlier this month, supported by numerous other rhino range countries.

I'm pleased to be able to share here my own 'bird's eye view' of the blessed event here at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. For me, this has been an incredible career highlight.

Friday Night/Saturday Morning

At about 11:00 pm on 22 June, it became clear that Ratu had entered second-stage labour, with the embryonic sac just starting to emerge. It had been a long week up to this point.

On Monday, Ratu was confined to a small boma area within the forest, with access to two maternity stalls. (For Ratu, it might have been the equivalent of moving from a four or five-bedroom house with acreage to a studio apartment...)

She very much wanted to go back into her larger rain forest pen, but for her safety and that of the calf, she needed to be in a smaller area so that the birth situation could be managed in case she got into trouble.

Ratu was exceedingly restless in the boma, pacing, chewing up rubber water bins, breaking up plywood barriers with her horn (barriers have been put up to make sure the tiny calf can't slip through the maternity stall rails).

To keep her occupied, Ratu's keepers devised a variety of enrichment 'toys' ranging from logs to placing bananas in tree crevices and hanging browse in different areas of the boma, which worked like a charm.

As delivery got closer, Ratu's appetite waned, and there was a noticeable difference in her behaviour with her restlessness seeming to be more self- than environmentally-focused.

One thing she did repeatedly was put her front legs up on trees or on the stall barriers, as if she were stretching. Perhaps this behaviour is one way the mother helps get the calf into position for delivery, who knows?

Because we wanted Ratu to be as calm as possible, only two keepers, Dr. Dedi Candra, SRS veterinarian and collection manager, Dr. Benn Bryant, veterinarian at Taronga Conservation Society Australia and Cincinnati Zoo keeper Paul Reinhart, who attended all three births at that facility, were allowed to be in the birthing area when the big moment arrived.

IRF had invested in a closed-circuit television system to allow continuous monitoring of the birthing area, placing four moveable cameras

around the birthing area, as well as hand-held cameras.

The rest of the SRS keepers, Inov (our Indonesia Liaison) and I watched the whole event together over the monitors at their quarters. It was an anxious few minutes when the calf emerged and before we could clearly see it moving about. But Dr. Candra later assured us that the calf had been breathing and moving right away, which we weren't able to immediately see in the darkness.

After the placenta was passed, it was whisked to the lab where I stood ready to process and freeze cells, as I was trained to do at the San Diego Zoo Centre for Conservation Research a few weeks ago. These cells hopefully can be used to generate stem cells in the future, which may have a number of potential uses from curing diseases to helping promote reproduction. This is another way in which this birth can contribute new knowledge and tools potentially important to sustaining the future of the species.

By 8 am, the samples were safely preserved in liquid nitrogen and I headed back to the main building – at about the same time the vets returned with ear-to-ear smiles that haven't left their faces since.

Baby Rhino Found

After the absence of regular monitoring and patrolling activities in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park for two years, in November 2011 the Rhino Protection Units (RPUs) have finally found signs of a rhino baby in the upper area of Way Krui.

The signs of the existence of a baby rhino were in form of footprints and fresh dung. Larger footprints were also found next to the baby tracks.

Apparently, the RPU encountered a female and infant rhino on this occasion. Based on the size of the footprint, the age of the baby rhino was estimated between 1 and 1.5 years.

Ivory Trade and Tiger Skins

By Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI)

Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam (BKSDA) Lampung confiscated 85 pieces of tiger skins and 8 cigarette pipes made of elephant tusks and whale fish bones from two local residents of Kotaagung, Tanggamus. Tanggamus is the district where the Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park is

A Critical Milestone

The story of this calf truly is an international success, in addition to a terrific 'girl-meets-boy' tale. This milestone has been achieved with the support and advice of numerous rhino experts across the globe.

Andalas, the father, was born at the Cincinnati Zoo in 2001 and brought over to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in 2007.

Ratu wandered out of the forest in 2005 and was brought to the Sanctuary to keep her from harm. After many introductions, and two pregnancy losses, the pair finally has produced a calf.

This birth is another step forward in ensuring the future of the world's most endangered large mammal.

The Sanctuary costs about \$225,000 to operate annually of which ARP assists to fund. Please consider helping to support the rhinos, keepers and vets at the SRS to keep the momentum moving forward to secure this species' future.

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located as home to many rare and endangered mammals such as sumatran rhinoceros, tigers, and elephant.

The confiscation operation performed by joint forces between BKSDA Lampung, the YABI Rhino Protection Units and the Intelligence Law Enforcement Unit (ILEU) team of Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park. Particular recognition must go to the members of the RPU: Saptono, Hendra Wijaya, Uga Yogaswara, Mad Nurzen, Zulkifli and Ujang Suryadi from the ILEU team.

Intelligence operations took place mid February to early March 2011 leading to the arrests taking place on 3 March 2011. The suspects and physical evidence were brought to BKSDA II Tanjung Karang office for preliminary investigation. The next day both suspects and the evidence were brought to Police Resort of Lampung. According to the Act No. 5 of 1990 concerning Conservation of Living Resources and Their Ecosystem article 21 paragraph (2), suspects will be sentenced to 5 years in prison and have fines of at least 100 million rupiah.