

# RHINO PROTECTION UNIT (RPU)

## THE FRONT LINE FOR ENSURING THE SURVIVAL OF INDONESIA'S RHINOS

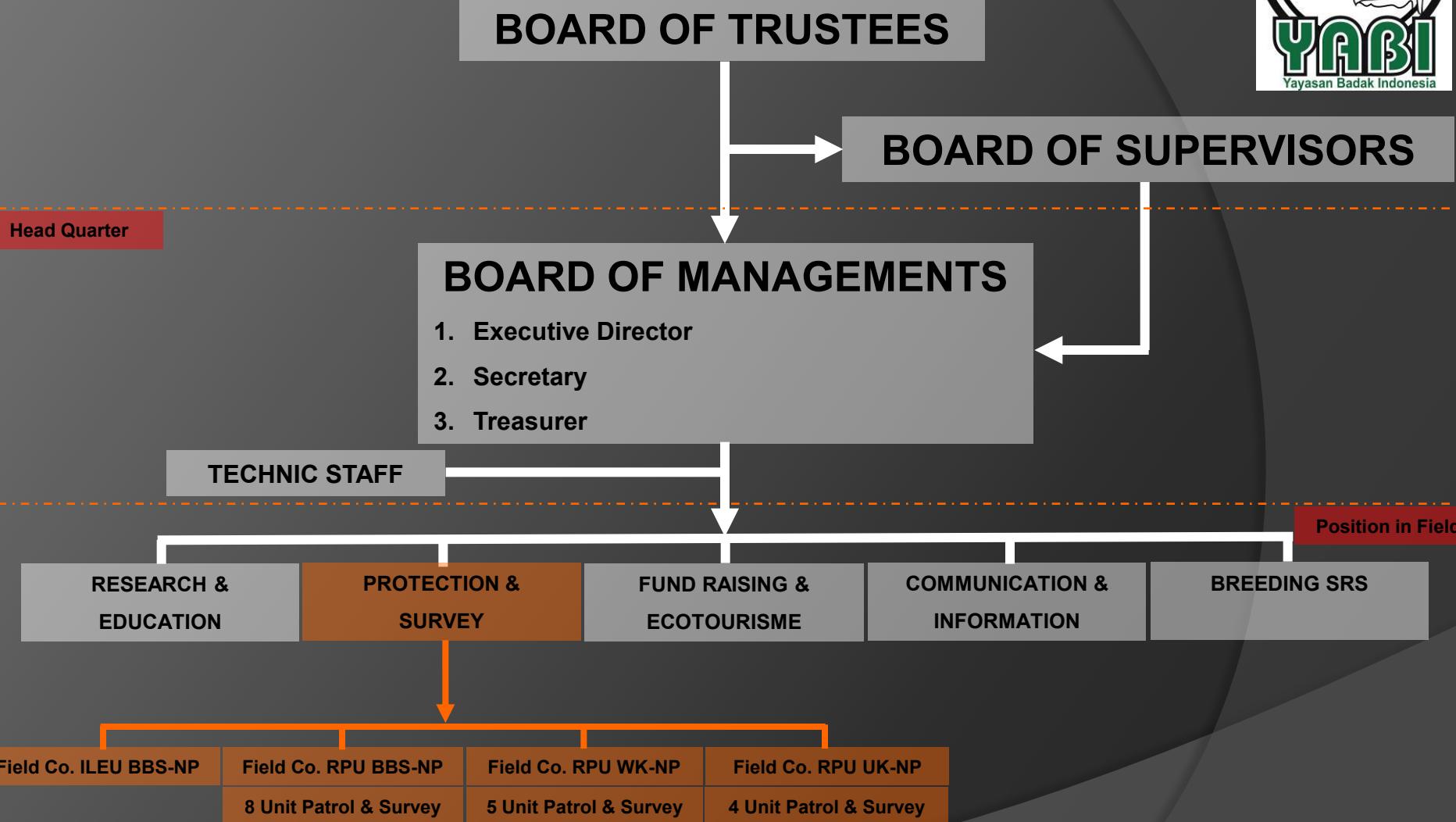
The Critically Endangered Sumatran and Javan rhinoceros may be the most threatened of all land mammals on Earth. Fewer than 225 Sumatran rhinos remain; Javan rhinos number only around 50 animals. Over the past 5 years, losses of Sumatran and Javan rhino have been nearly eliminated in Indonesia through intensive anti-poaching and intelligence activities by Rhino Protection Units (RPUs).

In addition to anti-poaching activities, RPUs are involved in population monitoring as well as working with local communities to enhance their livelihoods. RPUs also gather intelligence to identify and infiltrate illegal trading cells that are offering rhino horn, tiger skin, and elephant tusk for sale. This paper provides an update on the current situation facing Indonesian rhinos, and outlines the most urgent conservation needs that will lead to their population recovery.

# BACKGROUNDS

- Level of poaching activities height before the year 1995, rhinos population remaining is very few.
- On period 1980 - 1995 in Kerinci Seblat NP & Bukit Barisan Selatan NP, at least 135 rhinos killed by poaching activities.
- On 1990, Law enforcements operation an arrested 60 poacher.
- Economic local people still low and most of them as a traditional farmer with low crops production, and produces once time per year, make of dependency to high forest.
- Cultural and mindset some local people not yet supported conservation.
- The act No. 5/1990 about Conservation is effectively since early 2000.
- On 1998, Economy Crisis in Indonesia make encroachments out of control.

# RPU STRUCTURE IN YABI:

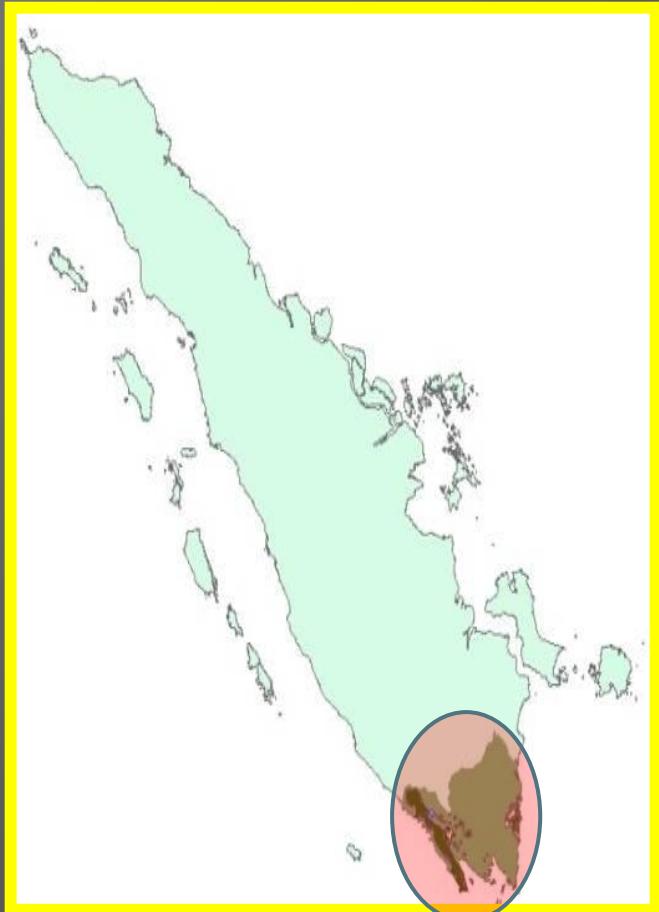


\* Each unit in RPU consist of one forest ranger and three local '*trained*' people



**RPU BUKIT BARISAN SELATAN NP  
RPU WAY KAMBAS NP  
RPU UJUNG KULON NP**

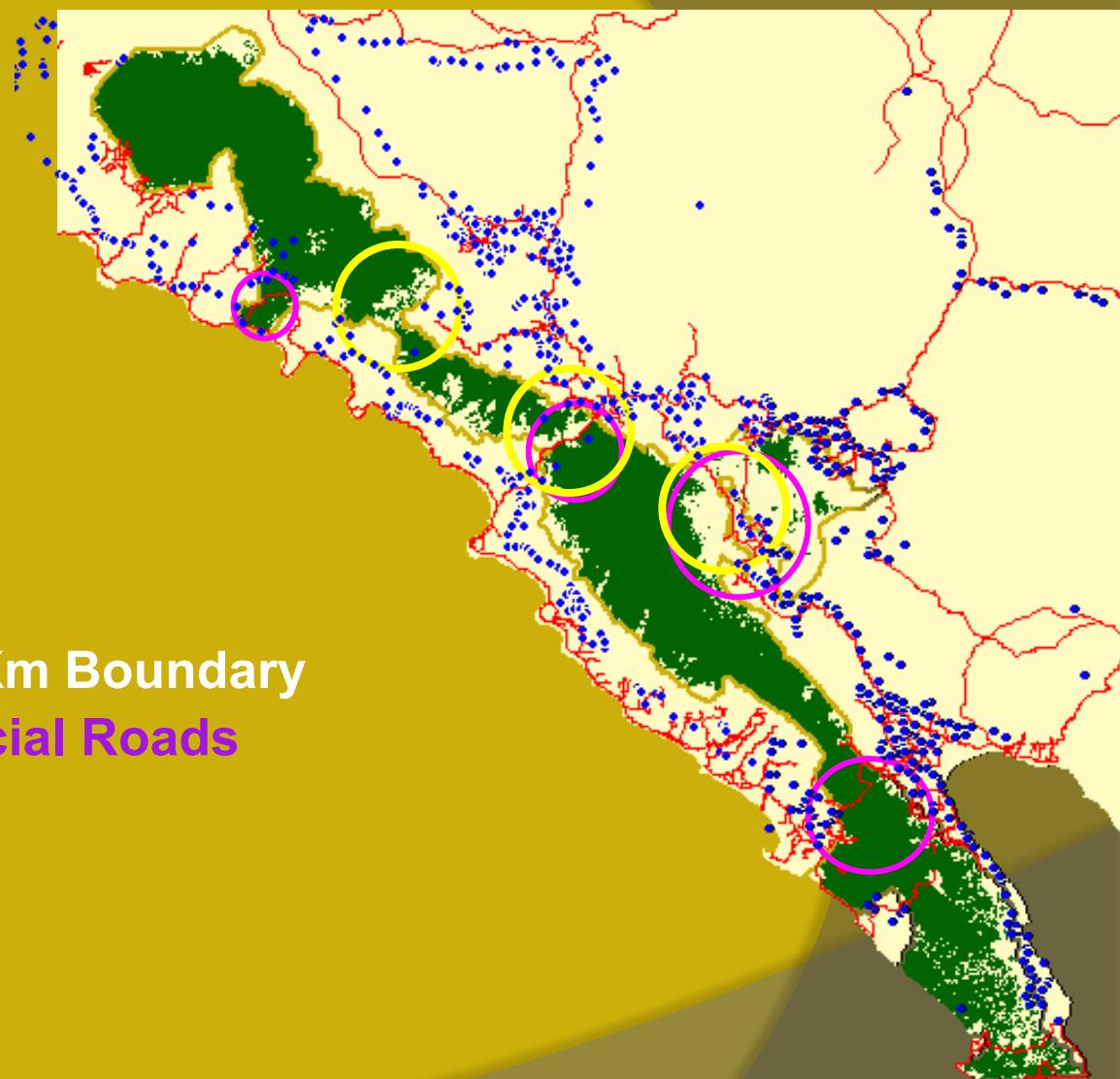
# RPU WORKING AREAS



**RPU**

## Site: Bukit Barisan Selatan NP

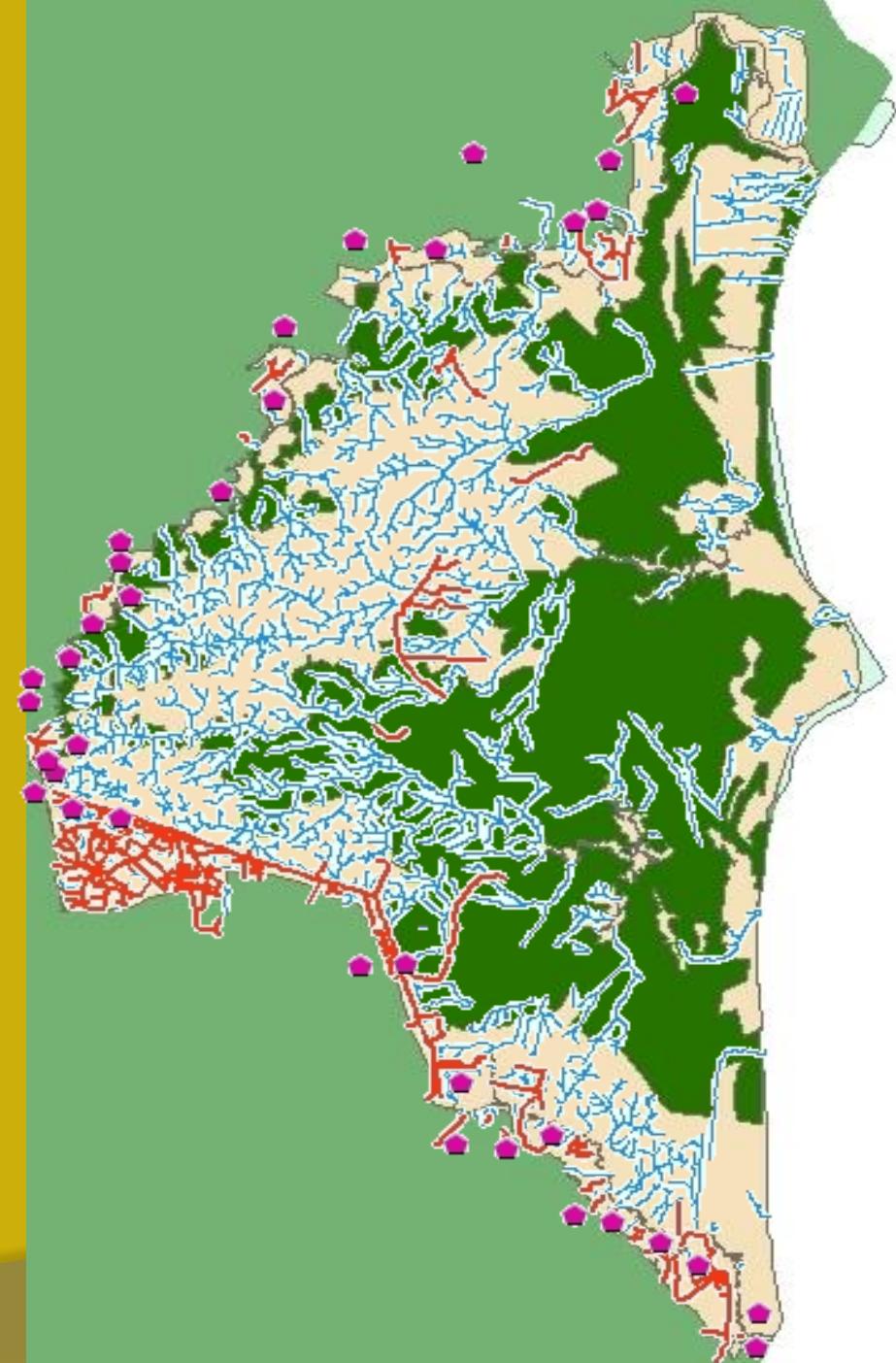
- 3.568 Km<sup>2</sup>
  - **Topography : Hilly**
    - > 2000 above sea level
  - > 200 Km Long and > 700 Km Boundary
    - **Crossed by Inter - Provincial Roads**
    - **Habitat Bottleneck**
    - **Surrounded by Villages**



# RPU

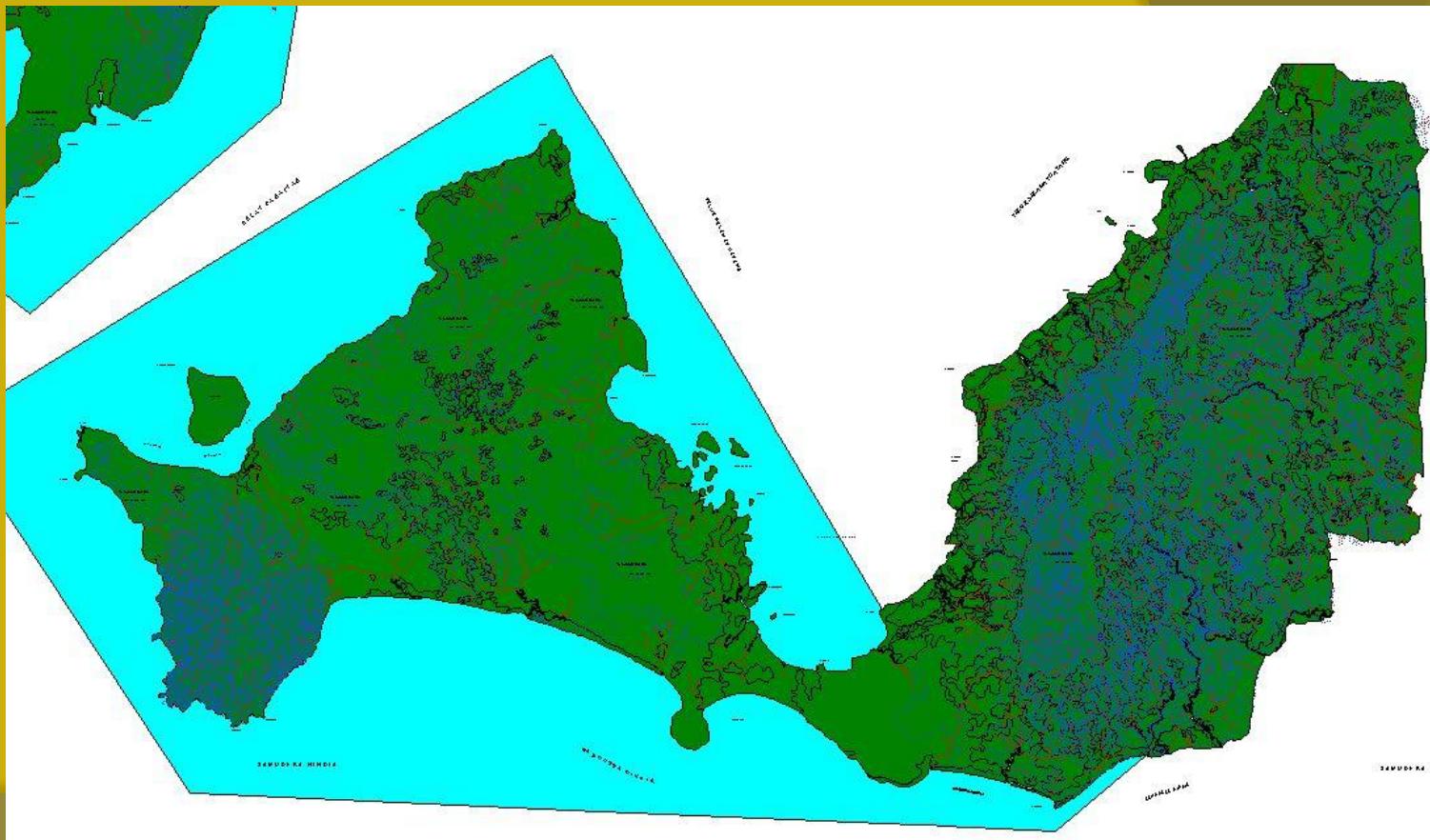
Site: Way Kambas NP

- 1.235 km<sup>2</sup>
- **Topography : Flat**
- **Much of the park adjacent to agricultural land and there is no buffer zone.**



## Site: Way Kambas NP

- 1.205 Km<sup>2</sup>
- **Topography : Flat**
- **Much of the park adjacent to agricultural land and there is no buffer zone.**



# RPU PROGRAM:

## 1. Survey and Monitoring

### Method:

- Identification of Individual Rhinos from the signs (track, print, tree twist, wallow, etc).
- Line Transect.

## 2. Patrol

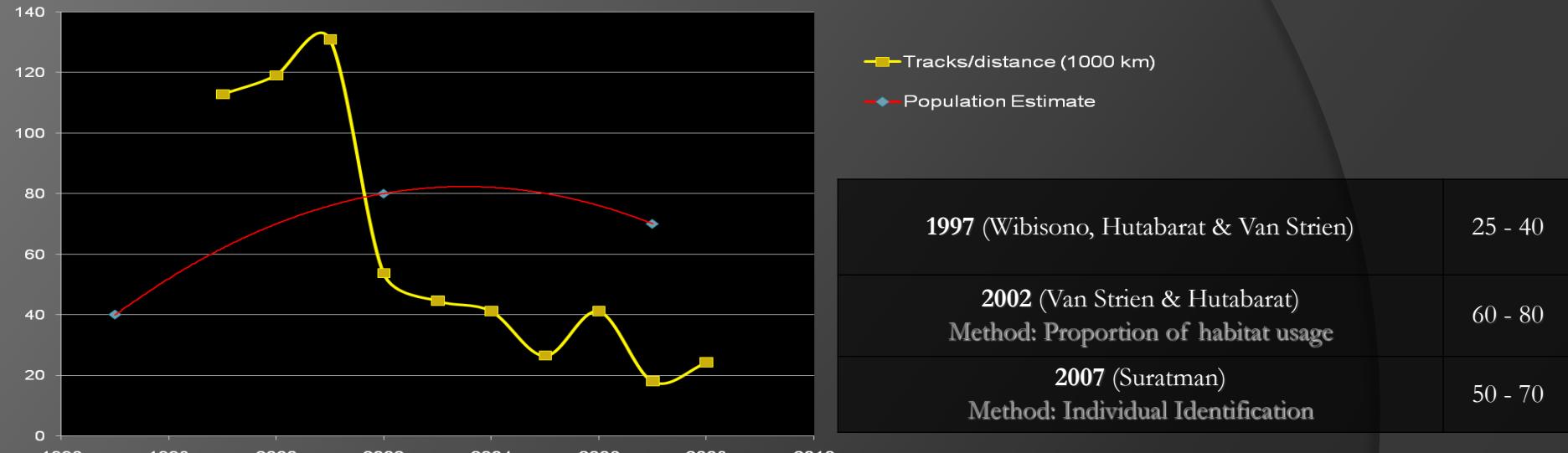
## 3. Intelligence and Law Enforcements

## 4. Community Outreach

## 5. Awareness

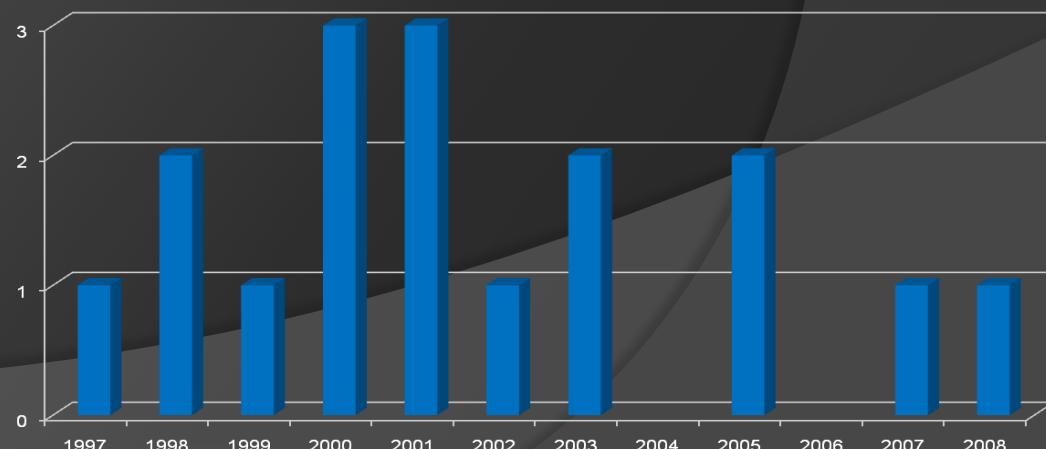
# SURVEY & MONITORING PROGRESS: RPU BBSNP

## Estimate of population



- **Death Incidence**  
of Sumatran Rhinoceros found in BBSNP:  
2001 → 1 rhinoceros  
2002 → 2 rhinoceros  
*Both of death are cause by trapped on poachers snare*

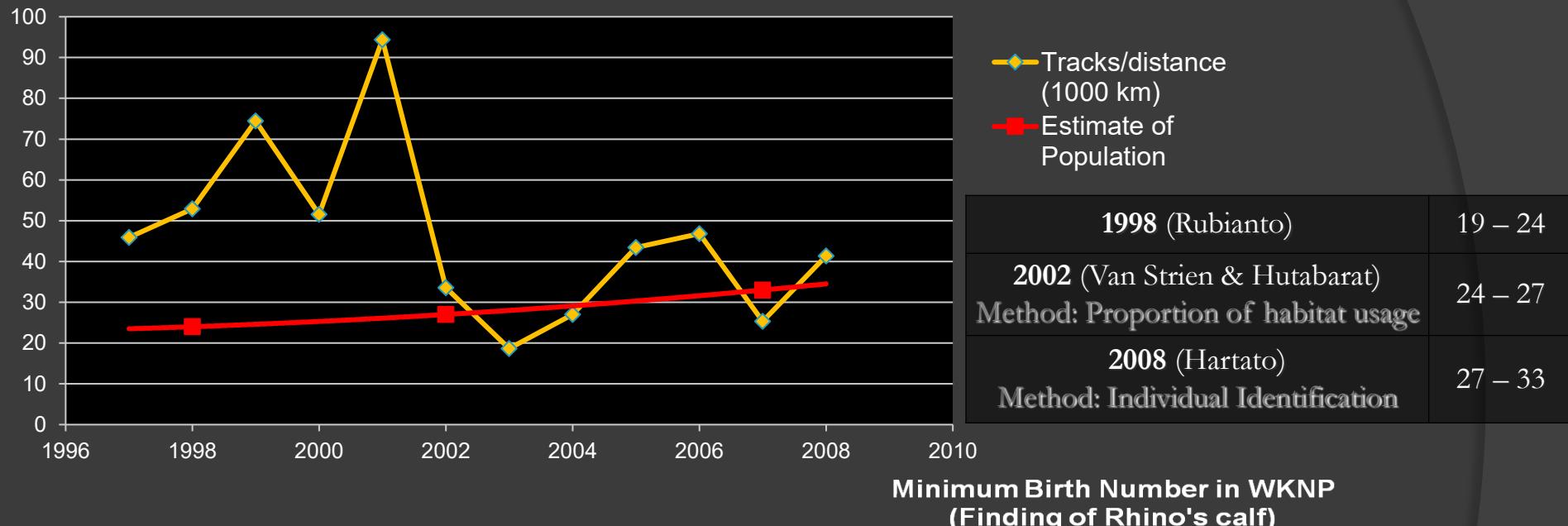
### Minimum Birth Number in BBSNP (Finding of Rhino's calf)



# SURVEY & MONITORING PROGRESS:

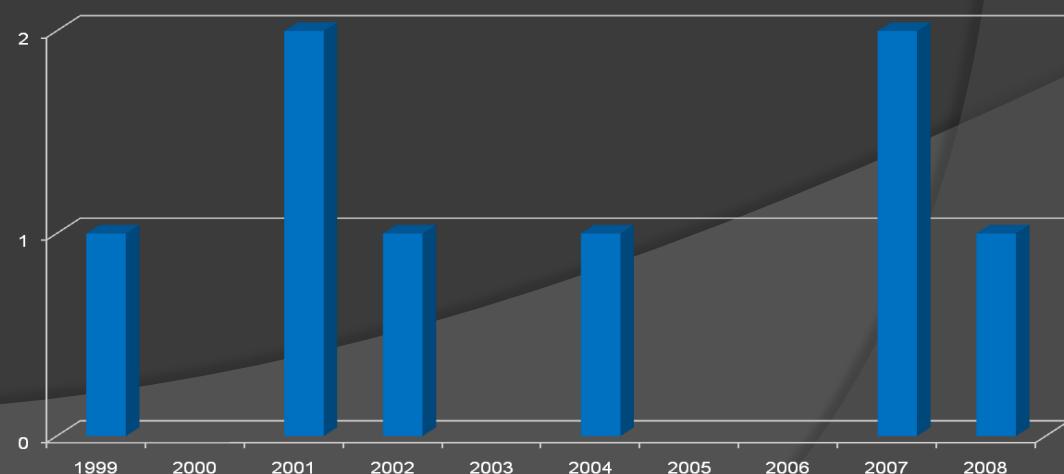
RPU WKNP

## Estimate of population



### Death Incidence

of Sumatran Rhinoceros found in WKNP:  
2000 → 1 rhinoceros, by natural causes  
2006 → 1 rhinoceros, shot by poachers

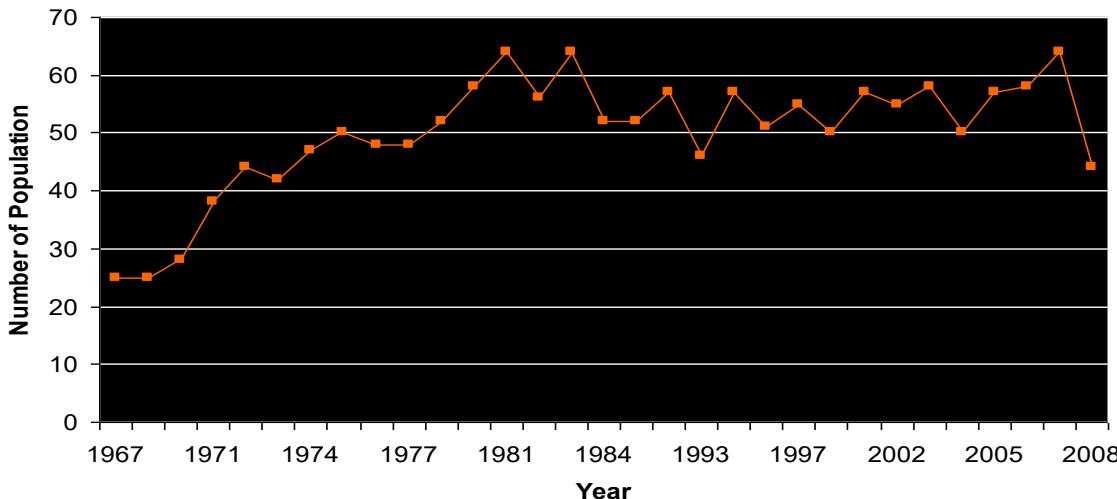


# SURVEY & MONITORING PROGRESS:

## RPU UKNP

### Estimate of population

Estimation of Javan Rhino Population  
1967 - 2008



1967 Shenckel

20 – 30

1985 Amman

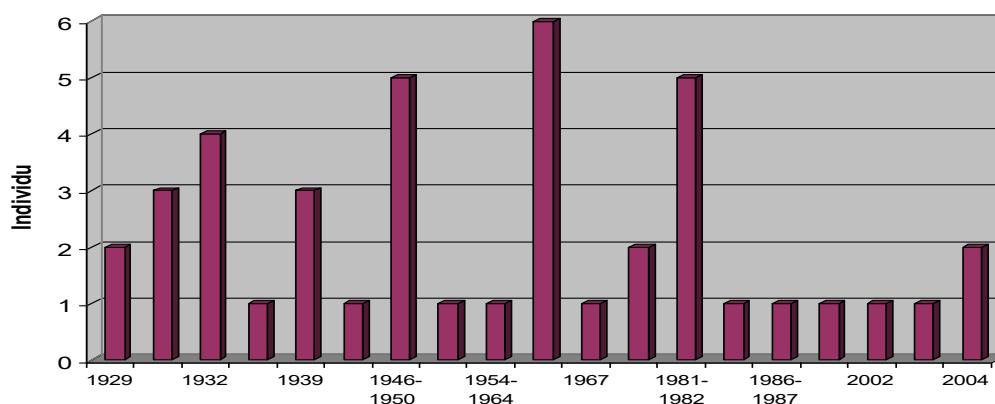
50 – 60

1993 Mc. Griffith

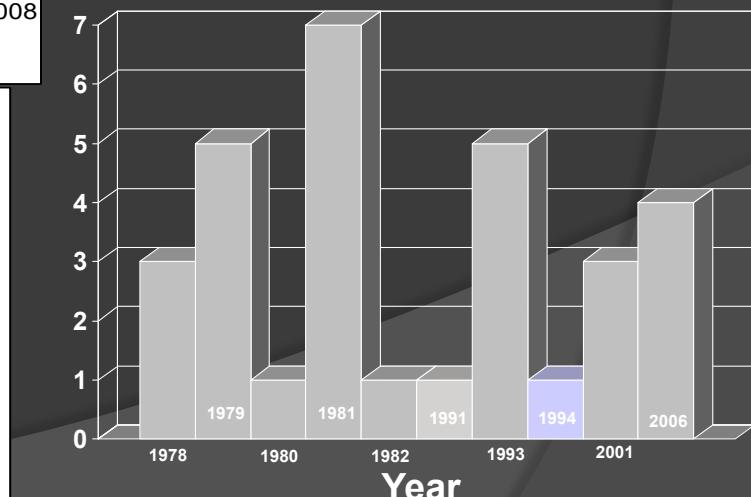
40 – 50

Reports from Official of UKNP

Number of Rhino Death in UKNP

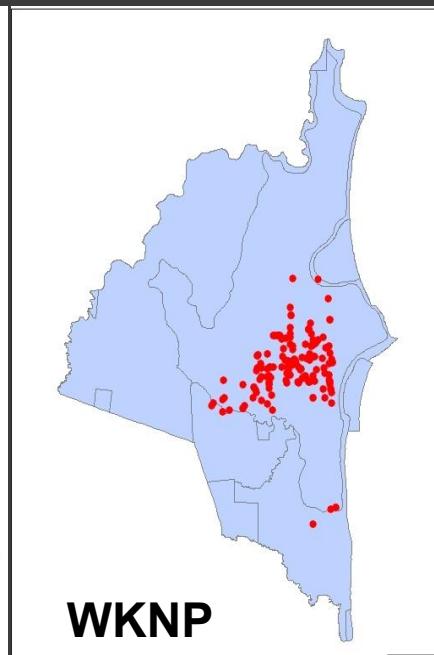


Number of Javan Rhino Birth



# RHINOS

## Spatial Distribution



# PATROL

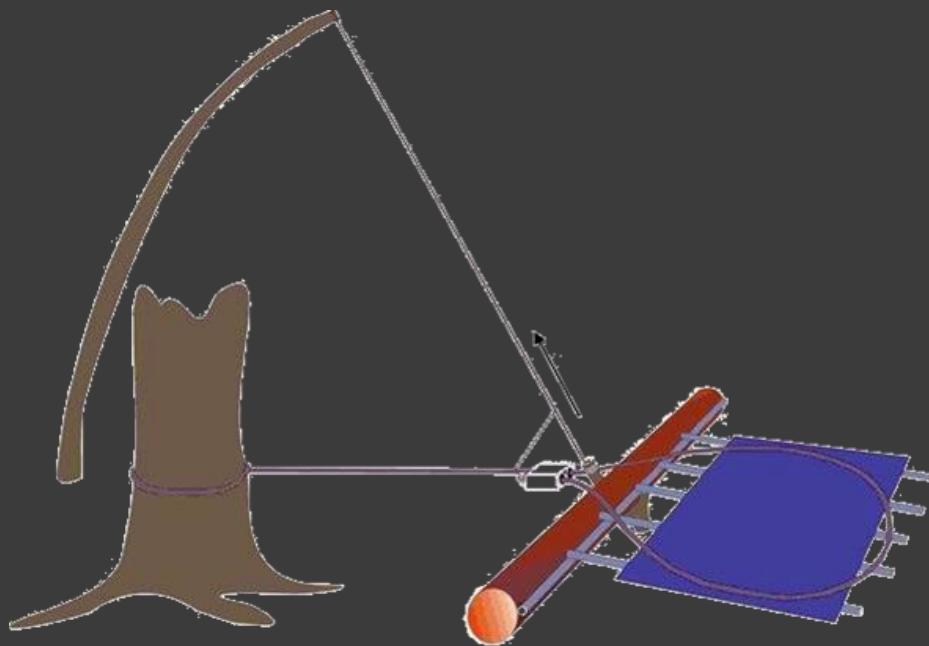


## Patrol inside the National Park:

- Eliminated more than 400 snare trap for rhino, tiger and deer since 1997.
- Prevent patrol for the encroachment, illegal logging and other illegal activities.
- Support the Global Warming issues in 6.008 Km<sup>2</sup> Tropical rainforest areas in BBSNP, WKNP and UKNP.



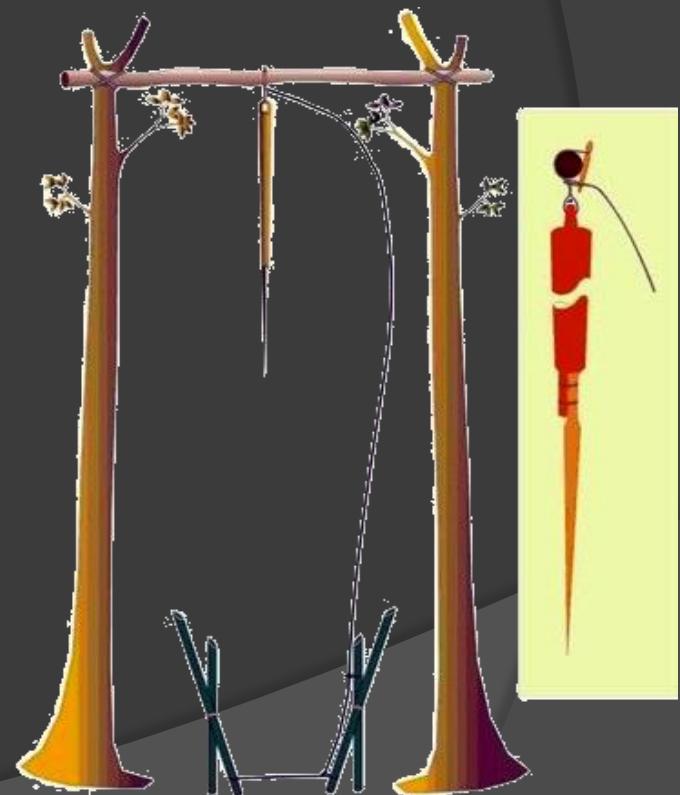
# TYPE OF TRAPS:



SNARE WIRE TRAP



PIT TRAP FOR BIG MAMMALS

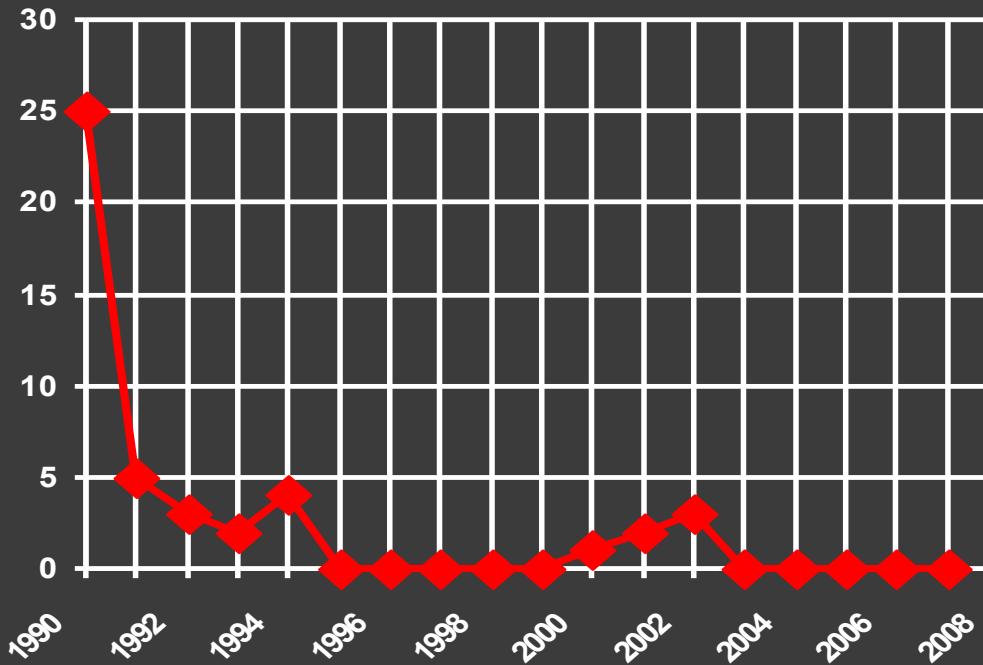


SPEAR TRAP

# INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Start since 2003 in Bukit Barisan Selatan NP

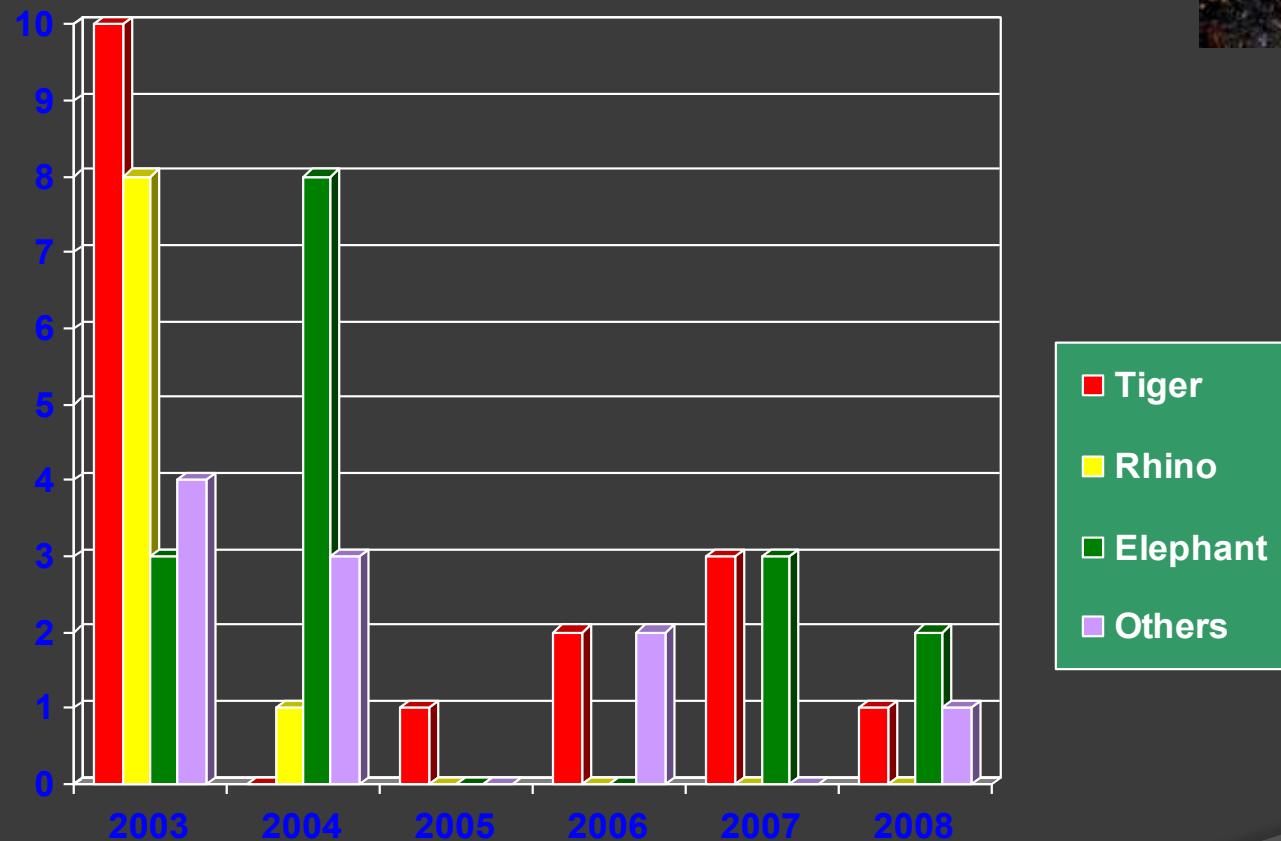
## Estimation of Rhino Killed by Poaching Activities in Bukit Barisan Selatan NP



Source: RPU – YABI 2008



## Number of Poaching Cases Handle by RPU BBSNP Year 2003 - 2008



# TRADE OF RHINO PART



# RPU ACTIVITES:



INTELLIGENCE



# LAW ENFORCEMENT:



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



1. Assisted more than 1000 people in 15 villages surrounding BBSNP
2. Economic income of local people increase 15 % - 30% in 4 year



- **Community Outreach impact:**  
Local people delivers 87 pc their illegal gun to the RPU and NP Official

# AWARENESS



# PROBLEMS

- Improving Survey Method.
- Encroachment.
- No buffer zone surrounding NP.
- *“Sanggi-Bengkunat Cross road in BBSNP”*.
- Livestock inside NP (Space & Feeding conflict, Surveillances).
- Forest fire.
- Limited fresh water in dry season.
- Information of rhino status in other NP (Kerinci Seblat NP in Jambi Province, Bukit Tiga Puluh NP & Borneo).

# RECOMENDATIONS

- Collaborations with stakeholders to improve performances of RPU.
- Intensive population monitoring for Javan rhino.
- Rhinos population expedition in other habitat outside BBSNP, WKNP and UKNP.
- Improving Community Outreach Programs to decrease of encroachment and increase economy income of local people.
- Rehabilitation ex-encroachment areas for extends rhinos habitat.
- Improving Awareness and Education Programs surrounding NP.



**LET'S SAVE THE INDONESIAN RHINO**

# THANK YOU



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