

CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES
OF WILD FAUNA AND FLORA



Sixty-second meeting of the Standing Committee
Geneva (Switzerland), 23-27 July 2012

INDONESIA'S CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE RHINO (IYR) 2012

1. This document has been submitted by Indonesia in relation to agenda item 47 on *Rhinoceroses*.^{*}
2. Indonesia has two of the three species of Asian rhino which are also the rarest of the world's five rhino species: namely the Javan Rhino with a population of about 50 individuals in Ujung Kulon National Park on Java Island and the Sumatran Rhino with a population of approximately 200 individuals in the national parks of Way Kambas, Bukit Barisan Selatan, and Gunung Leuser, as well as some other areas of natural forest on Sumatra Island. Sumatran Rhinos are also found in Sabah - Malaysia. Both of these species are categorized as Critically Endangered according to the IUCN, thus bring consequences and responsibilities to the world, all of us, for the conservation efforts needed to ensure the continued existence of both species.
3. Recognizing the importance of mobilizing world-wide support and commitment to save rhinos all over the world, and following up the initiative of the IUCN, His Excellency the President of the Republic of Indonesia with formal support from 11 rhino range states in Africa and Asia launched the international Year of the Rhino 2012 (IYR 2012) during the World Environmental Day on 5 June 2012 in Jakarta. The launch was made in front of representatives of rhino range States, representatives of international organizations, as well as other stakeholders.
4. Presidential support for the IYR 2012 brings new, and welcome, urgency to implementing the decree of the Minister of Forestry (MoF) No. P.43/Menhut-II/2007 concerning the Indonesian Strategy and Action Plan for Rhinos Conservation (NPOA) in the period 2007-2017. The NPOA has been implemented through a variety of conservation activities organized by the MoF together with partner institutions (such as YABI, IRF, WWF and also private sector), which include Breeding Conservation Program at Sumatran Rhinos Sanctuary (SRS) at Way Kambas National Park, as well as the work of the Indonesian Rhino Task Force. Of course there are many programs in the NPOA that have not been fully implemented; therefore the support and assistance of various parties for rhino conservation in Indonesia would be welcomed. Indonesia is further committed to working with the partners involved in declaring IYR 2012 (IUCN, International Rhino Foundation, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and WWF) to implement the necessary steps to maintaining, and restoring, populations of biologically viable wild rhinos.
5. Notwithstanding our well-established intensive rhino conservation breeding programme at SRS, Way Kambas National Park, Indonesia recognize that the successful conservation of our rhino populations should also, and as a matter of priority, focus on intensive management of wild populations, including improved protection, monitoring and biological management of Indonesian wild rhinos and their essential habitats in protected areas. Indeed, these actions are reflected in a motion submitted to IUCN's Word Conservation Congress, of which the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry is a co-sponsor.

^{*} *The geographical designations employed in this document do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the CITES Secretariat or the United Nations Environment Programme concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The responsibility for the contents of the document rests exclusively with its author.*

6. Indonesia is proud to report that the momentum of the declaration of the IYR 2012 becomes even more special with the birth of a male calf of Sumatran rhino in the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS) at Way Kambas National Park on Saturday (23/6/2012), at around 00:45. This birth serves as a milestone for rhino conservation efforts in Indonesia since this is the first successful birth under intensive management after 14 years of intensive breeding efforts in Asia. This long-awaited birth was the result of deliberate efforts to facilitate the natural mating of an 11-year-old male rhino named Andalas (another name for Sumatera), brought back to Indonesia from the Cincinnati Zoo in the USA in 2007, with a 12-year-old female rhino named Ratu (Queen), a native of Way Kambas National Park. From her mating with Andalas, Ratu has previously experienced two miscarriages. The young calf was named ANDATU by the Minister of Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia, as an acronym not only of the names of its parents (Andalas and Ratu) but also of *"Anugerah dari Tuhan"* (a Gift from God).

Recommendations

7. Capitalize on the Presidential support for the International Year of the Rhino to mobilize world-wide efforts, by all stakeholders, and at the highest level possible, to secure existing and new wild rhino populations.
8. Indonesia will use the birthday of the Sumatran rhino calf, June 23, as a national Rhino Day every year to maintain the momentum for the protection of the rhino and to increase public support for national rhino conservation efforts.