



# Newsletter

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WWF-Indonesia's Forest, Terrestrial Species & Fresh water program

*This newsletter contains the latest update within WWF-Indonesia's Forest, Terrestrial Species, and Fresh Water Program*

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## **WWF works with women's groups around Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park to promote green and fair coffee products**

Since September 2008, WWF-Indonesia has been facilitating women's groups in the vicinity of Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, Sumatra, to expand their "Green & Fair" coffee production, by improving the coffee quality and exploring marketing opportunities. This activity has been done in collaboration with a national foundation called Dana Mitra Lingkungan, which is responsible in monitoring and intensifying field works with seven farmer groups initially set up by WWF. Through several workshops and trainings, the groups learn processes to improve coffee flavor, packaging and quality control, as well as to obtain production permits from the local health agency.

The aim of the project is to support the community around the park to improve cultivation and coffee production practices on their own land outside the national park and therefore encourage illegal encroachers to move out from the park voluntarily and join the project.

Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park covers a total land of 365,800 hectares and is home to three of the world's most charismatic and endangered large species: the Sumatran rhino, elephant and tiger. WWF's study in 2007 revealed that 18 percent of the park has been encroached, mostly to develop illegal coffee plantation.

This project will be executed in stages in 12 villages around Bukit Barisan Selatan NP for four years. Currently, there are seven farmers groups, with a total 221 families, set up by WWF in four target villages around the Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, working on 600 hectares of land.

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Copy right: A. Cambone, R. Isotti - Homo ambiens

**The Sumatran Jungle Rabbit (*Nesolagus netscheri*)** is extremely isolated, making its home only in the Bukit Barisan Mountains on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. It listed as critically endangered by the IUCN and was thought to be extinct until it was accidentally photographed in the late 1990s. WWF scientists who explored Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park in September 2008 was lucky enough to happen upon one of the rabbits and was able to take a direct photo of it. Since the jungle rabbits are so isolated and have not been studied in the wild, there is scarce information on their behavior and habitat. The Sumatran Rabbit is interesting in that it has striped fur, thought to have been an evolutionary development to help the rabbit hide on the rainforest floor.

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## WWF Adds 30 Video Cameras to Track the Rarest Rhino

WWF-Indonesia and Ujung Kulon National Park officials have recently installed another 30 video camera traps in order to record the distribution and behavior of Javan rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) that live in deep in the jungles of the national park. These new cameras bring the total number of video cameras to 34, which cover the rhino's entire habitat in Ujung Kulon National Park. Thanks go to the International Rhino Foundation, ARCP (Asian Rhino Conservation Program) and WWF AREAS Programme who donated the new cameras.

“Close observation of Javan rhinos is very important as it helps us learn about their feeding and wallowing behavior, as well as their reproductive behaviors such as mating, rearing, and mother-calf separation,” said Adhi Hariyadi, who leads WWF-Indonesia’s project in Ujung Kulon.

The new cameras were installed during the last week of December 2008 and so far, the cameras have recorded video of nine individuals, including a mother and calf. One of the videos shows both male and female Javan rhinos sharing the same mud wallow, proving that both sexes share the same territory, a fact unknown to scientists until the footage were reviewed. It also has revealed the rhinos’ behavior at their wallows, which had never been witnessed before because the animals are so shy.

Javan rhinos are the rarest of the world’s five rhino species and are critically endangered. They are found only in two locations in the world: Indonesia and Vietnam. Ujung Kulon National Park in Java, Indonesia, is estimated to have only about 50 rhinos -- more than 90 percent of the global population.

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*From a month operation, the cameras have recorded video of nine individuals, including a mother and calf*  
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*WWF’s scientist installed a video trap in the jungle of Ujung Kulon National Park* (Copyright: WWF-Indonesia/ Maya Bellina)