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World's rarest rhinos make first video trap appearance - then toss camera

28 May 2008

JAKARTA--After just a month in operation, specially designed video cameras installed to capture wildlife footage in the jungles of South East Asia have twice recorded remarkable images of a mother and child pair of the world's rarest rhino.

But the success was not without incident as after a short inspection, the rhino mother charged the camera installation in Ujung Kulon National Park and sent it flying.

Watch the video:



"With fewer than 60 Javan rhinos left in the wild, we believe this footage was well worth the risk to our equipment," said Adhi Rachmat Hariyadi, who leads WWF-Indonesia's project in Ujung Kulon National Park. "It's very unusual to catch a glimpse of the Javan rhinos deep inside the rain forest. The motion triggered infrared video traps are a useful way to observe them and the ways they use their habitat in a more detailed way."

Recordings of the Javan rhino are the highlight so far of the installation over recent months of improved wildlife recording video cameras developed by US-based PixController Inc. In its pioneering phase in Malaysia, the new system has already provided footages of rare Malayan tigers in the wild and a Sumatran Rhino in Borneo.

"Setting cameras such as these is always a challenge, especially with animals as rare and elusive as the Javan rhino," said WWF Malaysia photographer Stephen Hogg.



Young Javan rhino captured in a camera trap in Ujung Kulon, Indonesia. October 2006.
 © WWF Indonesia

Related links

[Access more information on Javan rhinos and what WWF is doing to save this critically endangered species](#)

[More on camera traps: tigers, elephants, rhinos, monkeys - all trapped by WWF!](#)

FAQ

Top 5 Questions

"The assault on the camera still has us baffled because we specifically use Infra Red (IR) lights as the source of illumination so as to not scare animals away when the camera activates."

The use of video traps over camera traps is yielding valuable insights into the behaviour of target and other species which will aid in their conservation.

In the case of Javan rhinos, the new video traps replace wooden bamboo platforms nearly 10 metres off the ground at wallowing sites, which were difficult and time-consuming to construct, required safety training and precautions for users and offered limited viewing angles. From a scientific viewpoint, adverse angles and larger

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