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IUCN/WWF Help Wanted

Elephant Editors

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The World Wildlife Fund

(IUCN / WWF CONSERVATION PROGRAMME IN INDONESIA)

c/o DIRECTORATE OF NATURE CONSERVATION

Jalan Ir. H. Juanda 9, P.O. Box 133, Bogor, Indonesia

JAM/ms/II-25

7 February 1979

Dr. Hezy Shoshani
Dept. of Biology
Wayne State University
Detroit MI 48202
U.S.A.



Dear Hezy:

I am writing to ask you to place a short item in your next "Elephant".

HELP WANTED

ELEPHANTS IN SUMATRA are more endangered than in any other part of their Asian range, with the population of perhaps 250 to 350 being steadily confined to smaller islands of habitat. While there are a few reserves which contain elephants, most notably the Leuser Reserve in northern Sumatra (some 900,000 ha in extent), most reserves are too small to prevent the elephants from coming into fatal contact with an expanding human population. Steps are urgently required to conserve the Sumatran elephant, with the most productive approach appearing to be to establish several "Elephant Ranges", where certain human land uses are allowed, provided they are not inimical to elephants.

We need answers to the following questions:

- What is the elephant population in Sumatra and where is it distributed?
- Which of the local populations have potential for a conservation programme?
- What is the potential for domestication?
- What can be done with "problem elephants"?
- What sort of management structure is required for an Elephant Range?
- How can the necessary government agencies become involved in the Elephant Range idea?
- What steps are necessary to educate the Indonesian public about the plight of the elephant?
- What sort of education programme is likely to yield results in the field?

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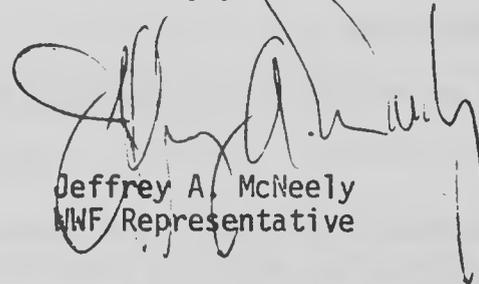
What are the factors leading to a shrinking of the habitat of the elephant; which of these are inevitable and which are amenable to change?

The World Wildlife Fund Indonesia Programme is working with the Indonesian Directorate of Nature Conservation in trying to answer these questions, but we need an elephant expert. We are therefore soliciting from the members of the Elephant Interest Group suitable proposals for finding solutions to the conservation problems facing the Sumatran Elephant. We are hoping to receive a number of proposals which would then be analyzed by the IUCN Elephant Specialist Group and the WWF Indonesia Programme before choosing one project for funding.

Please send your proposal, along with budget and curriculum vitae to Jeffrey A. McNeely, WWF Indonesia Programme, P.O. Box 133, Bogor, Indonesia.

Many thanks. When can we expect the next issue?

Sincerely yours,



Jeffrey A. McNeely
WWF Representative

cc.: Mr. Anton K.C. Fernhout
Mr. Robert C.D. Olivier