

Letters

Grand and was apparently uncommon even there. The Perrier's diadem sifaka is recorded from one other locality to the east of Ankarana, and was seen at Ankarana in the dry forests to the north-east of the reserve, which were not disturbed in the recent felling.

The Ankarana incident is just the latest of a

number of serious logging incursions into the tiny forest remnants of Northern Madagascar. Many endemics are threatened as a result.

Paul D. Stewart, Department of Biology, Southampton University, Southampton SO9 5NH, UK.



A female crowned lemur. This species, among others, is threatened by the destruction of forest at Ankarana (*Jane Wilson*).

Briefly

The Indo-Chinese rhinoceros

The last known surviving population of the threatened Javan rhinoceros *Rhinoceros sondaicus* lives in the Ujung Kulon National Park in Java. Several recent contributions about the wildlife of the Indo-Chinese countries (Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea) presented evidence of the continued existence of a rhinoceros in that region, for example Thouless (1987) on some Kampuchean animals. He gave some data about the 'Javan rhino' surviving in Kampuchea, but in his discussion the rhinoceros remains unmentioned as a reason for special action.

The reason for uncertainty is doubt about the specific identity of the rhinoceros living in that part of the world. This is caused by a lack of data, an absence of museum specimens and by conflicting statements about the number of horns. In an earlier paper (Rookmaaker, 1980) I reviewed the available historical evidence about the rhinoceroses in the Indo-Chinese region. There were many uncertain records, but the few detailed ones all point to the Javan species only. One must always allow a measure of doubt, but in my mind I am convinced that the surviving specimens of rhinoceros in Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam should be the Javan rhinoceros. The Sumatran rhinoceros *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis* could occur, but its presence has never been substantiated. It appears logical to work from the premise that all rhinoceroses living in the countries mentioned are *Rhinoceros sondaicus* only.

References

- Rookmaaker, L.C. 1980. The distribution of the rhinoceros in Eastern India, Bangladesh, China and the Indo-Chinese region. *Zoologische Anzeiger*, **205**, 253–268.
- Thouless, C. 1987. Kampuchean wildlife—survival against the odds. *Oryx*, **21**, 223–228.

L. C. Rookmaaker, Dokter Guepinlaan 23, 4032 NH Ommeren, The Netherlands.