

## ABSTRACT

### FEEDING AND SALTING BEHAVIOR OF SUMATRAN ELEPHANTS (*Elephas maximus sumatranus*) IN PEMERIHAN RESORT OF BUKIT BARISAN SELATAN NATIONAL PARK

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Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park is one of the habitat of sumatran elephants. Feed and mineral salts are affect the quality of elephants life. The importance of data the feeding behavior and adequacy of mineral salts are the reasons for this research. The aim of these research were to analyze the feeding and salting behavior of sumatran elephants and to find out mineral salt content of the soil in the *saltlick*. The research was done on January 2015 in TNBBS Pemerihan Resort. The research methods of daily behavior used *Focal Animal Sampling*, the methods of feeding and salting behavior used descriptive analysis, mineral content analysis used *Microwafe Plasma-Atomic Emission Spectrometer* (MP-AES) supported by interview and literature studies. Feeding behavior had higher rate (70%) or 6 hours per day. The number of plant species eaten by Arni (75) and Yongki (78) species including 34 families. The parts that were eaten such as leaf (27,19%), stem (25%), root (21,93%), flower (8,77%), nursling (2,63%), fruit (7,89%), bark (3,07%), tuber (1,32%), branch (1,32%) and midrib (0,88%). The ways how to take the feed were by uproot, pulling, break, pluck, snatch, overthrow, kicking, pick up, peeling and stab. The source of the feed obtained from secondary forests, primary forests, meadow, shrubs, riparian, swamps, and *drop-in*. Salting behavior of Yongki (0,08%) of total daily behavior. The source of salt obtained from soil and mud on riparian, cliffs, primary forest, secondary forest and meadow. Salting was done by taking directly using trunk and put into the mouth. The results of the analyzed of mineral salt content in the soil there are Ca (0.190%), Mg (0,013%), K (0.158%). In the mud Ca (0323%), Mg (0.405%) and K (0.233%). Elephant prefer to the mud because mineral content in it is higher than soil.

**Keywords :** Sumatran elephants, feeding behavior, salting behavior, mineral salt content of the soil.