
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: ASIAN RHINO SPECIALIST GROUP

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The Asian Rhino Specialist Group (AsRSG) Action Plan for Asian rhino conservation has been published: *Asian Rhinos: Status and Survey and Conservation Action Plan, New Edition*; Foose, Thomas J. and Van Strien, Nico (editors). The Action Plan provides the latest estimates of numbers and assessment of status for the three species of Asian rhinos: the Indian, the Javan, and the Sumatran. The Plan also presents a general strategy and specific actions for Asian rhino conservation, including 36 specific project proposals with estimated costs. The Plan contains eight maps of rhino distribution, past and present, and 10 photographs of rhinos and conservation activities for them. Copies of the Action Plan are available from the IUCN Publications Services Unit; 219c Huntington Road; Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK, Fax: +44(1)223-277175; Email: iucn-psu@wcmc.org.uk.

AsRSG has been requested to convene a colloquium on the Javan rhino and its principal protected area, Ujung Kulon National Park in Indonesia. Many organisations have been, or are interested in being, involved in conservation of this species and area. Considerable funds have been expended. However, these efforts have been largely unco-ordinated. Moreover, despite the efforts and funds, conservation problems continue; one or two rhinos have been lost to poachers in recent years (a significant loss considering the small size of the population, numbering around 50 individuals); there is concern that ecological conditions in the Park such as the invasion of several exotic plant species and the explosion of the banteng population are detrimental to the rhino. The colloquium will assemble the parties that are actually or proposing to be operative in Javan rhino conservation, to discuss relative needs and interests and produce an ad hoc plan. This plan would affirm priorities; propose actions; identify parties who would implement actions, and thereby co-ordinate and reconcile the various initiatives and interests; develop a work plan and time table; and consider mechanisms for long-term

financial sustainability of Javan rhino conservation in Ujung Kulon, beyond the dependence on external donors like the Rhino Tiger Conservation Fund (RTCF).

The RTCF of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has selected seven projects on Asian rhino conservation for support:

- Equipment for guards in rhino protected areas in Assam
- Wireless communications network for rhino protected areas in Assam
- Conservation awareness and training programme for rhinos and tigers in India Support for rhino protection units (RPUs) in Way Kambas National Park, Indonesia
- Electric fence equipment for the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, Way Kambas National Park, Indonesia
- Colloquium on conservation action and co-ordination for Javan Rhino in Ujung Kulon National Park, Indonesia
- Adopt-A-Warden programme by Minnesota Conservation Officers in Ujung Kulon and Way Kambas National Parks, Indonesia.

The AsRSG has been assisting the USFWS in review of proposals submitted for Asian rhino conservation.

AsRSG has done some preliminary groundwork for a rhino survey in Myanmar which will be conducted jointly by the Forest Department of Myanmar, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsula Malaysia, and the AsRSG.

Progress continues on development of the managed breeding centre in native habitat for the Sumatran rhino (Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary or Suaka Rhino Sumatera [SRS]) in Way Kambas National Park. After some delays due to heavy and long rains, it is

pected the first rhino will be moved from captivity to the SRS in August or September 1997. The managed breeding centre at Sungai Dusun in Malaysia is also progressing with significant support for improvements expected from Malaysian donors.

The GEF Project to initiate implementation of the Conservation Strategy for Rhinoceros in Indonesia and Malaysia is also progressing well. There are 12 teams operating in Indonesia in Way Kambas, Bukit Barisan Selatan and Kerinci Seblat National Parks. In Malaysia, there are 10 teams in Peninsula and two teams in Sabah. The GEF funds will conclude in 1998 and, according to the GEF/UNDP, there is no possibility of renewal or extension. Hence a major objective currently in progress is to develop financial sustainability for the

rhino conservation programmes. For the long term (by the year 2001) the major mechanism being developed for financial sustainability is the eco-tourism programmes associated with the Sumatran Rhino sanctuaries. Over the shorter term, i.e. 1997-2000, the AsRSG, in partnership with the International Rhino Foundation (IRF), are both providing and recruiting from other conservation partners bridging funds until the eco-tourism programmes are in full operation. Partners include the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) which has adopted the teams in Bukit Barisan Selatan N.P. and the USFWS RTCF which is supporting teams in Way Kambas N.P.

Finally, the AsRSG has a subpage on the IRF website at <http://www.rhinos-irf.org>.

RAPPORT DU PRESIDENT: GROUPE DES SPECIALISTES DES RHINOCEROS D'ASIE

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Le Plan d'action pour la conservation des rhinos asiatiques du Groupe des Spécialistes des Rhinocéros d'Asie (GSRAs) a été publié : *Rhinos d'Asie : Statut, Contrôle et Plan d'action pour leur Conservation, Nouvelle édition*; Foose, Thomas J. et Van Strien, Nico (éditeurs). Le Plan d'action apporte les dernières estimations de nombres et l'évaluation du statut des trois espèces de rhinos asiatiques : les rhinocéros d'Inde, de Java et de Sumatra. Le Plan présente aussi une stratégie générale et des actions spécifiques à entreprendre pour la conservation des rhinos asiatiques, y compris 36 propositions de projets spécifiques avec l'estimation de leur coût. Le plan comporte huit cartes donnant la distribution des rhinos, présente et passée, et dix photos de rhinos et des activités de conservation qui les concernent. Des exemplaires du Plan d'action sont disponibles à l'Unité du Service des Publications de l'UICN, 219c Huntington Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK. Fax : +44(1)223-277175. Email : iucnpsu@wcmc.org.uk.

Le GSRAs a été prié de réunir un colloque sur le Rhinocéros de Java et son aire protégée principale, le

Parc National d'Ujung Kulon, en Indonésie. Beaucoup d'organisations voudraient, depuis plus ou moins longtemps, être impliquées dans la conservation de cette espèce et de cet endroit. On y a dépensé des fonds considérables. Pourtant, ces efforts ont été en grande partie mal coordonnés. Qui plus est, malgré les efforts et les fonds, les problèmes de conservation persistent; les braconniers ont prélevé on ou deux rhinos ces dernières années (ce qui est une perte considérable étant donné la taille réduite de la population qui compte environ 50 individus); l'on s'inquiète aussi des conditions écologiques prévalant dans le parc, telles que l'invasion de plusieurs plantes exotiques et l'explosion de la population banteng qui pourraient nuire aux rhinos. Le colloque rassemblera les parties qui sont ou qui se proposent de devenir actives dans la conservation du Rhino de Java, pour discuter des besoins et des intérêts qui le touchent et produire un plan ad hoc. Ce plan définirait les priorités, proposerait des activités, identifierait les parties qui réaliseraient les actions et ainsi coordonnerait et réconcilierait les différents intérêts et initiatives; il mettrait au point un plan de travail et un