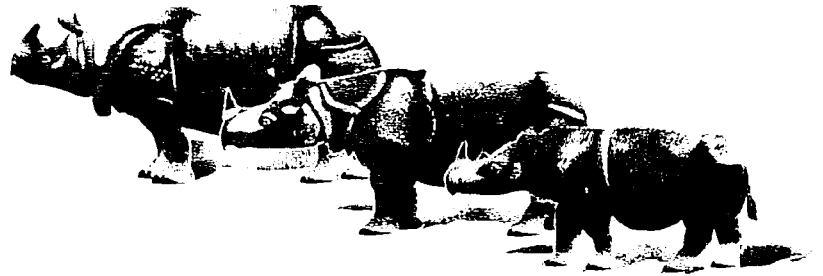


AsRSG



IUCN
The World Conservation Union



ASIAN RHINOS

Newsletter of the IUCN SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group
NUMBER 1 January 1995

Editors: Thomas J. Foose & Nico J. van Strien

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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The Asian Rhino Specialist Group (AsRSG) has been active for the last 10 years with increasing activity during the 1990-1993 IUCN Triennium as the conservation crisis for these species intensifies. The latest estimates of Asian rhino numbers will be a regular feature of the Newsletter. It is unsettling to note that numbers of the Sumatran rhino have now declined to probably fewer than 500, down from 700-1000. The numbers of all three Asian species of rhinos combined is lower than for the rarer of the African rhino species.

Traditionally the AsRSG, like other Specialist Groups, has concentrated on technical information and advice. In the future the AsRSG will assume a more active role in advocacy: program facilitation/coordination; and fund-raising.

To enhance its capabilities, AsRSG is reorganizing for the 1994-1996 Triennium. Mohd Khan continues as Chairman. There will now be two Deputy Chairs: Effendy Sumardja continues for S.E. Asia; Mr. S.C. Dey of India serves to provide more attention to the Indian Subcontinent. For the increased workload, there will also be two Program Officers: Dr. Tom Foose and Dr. Nico van Strien. AsRSG membership has been expanded; a full list appears at the back of the Newsletter.

This Newsletter ASIAN RHINOS will be published twice a year. The Newsletter will contain country reports. There will be an attempt to recruit a correspondent in each range state, but all members of the Group are invited to submit material. Please note that the AsRSG has a new logo and new letterhead.

A new Action Plan will be published in 1995. In conjunction, AsRSG will formulate and activate a strategic funding plan to recruit the estimated US ~ \$ 35,000,000 needed over the next five years and to develop sustainable means to support Asian rhino conservation.

A full meeting of the AsRSG was conducted at Jaldapara, West Bengal, India in December 1993. Full meetings will be conducted every 18-24 months. The next meeting is proposed for December 1995 or January 1996.

ASIAN RHINO SPECIALIST GROUP ACTIVITIES

SUMATRAN RHINO NOW THE MOST ENDANGERED OF ALL RHINOS

The Sumatran Rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) is probably the most critically endangered of all the rhinoceros species.

It is true that the population of Javan Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) is lower in numbers with only about 50 surviving in Indonesia and perhaps 10 + in Vietnam. However, the numbers of this species have been stable over the last few years in Indonesia.

It is also true that among the rhinoceros species, the rate of decline has been greatest in the African Black Rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) whose population has decreased 85% over the last 10 years. However, there are still an estimated 2,400 Black Rhino in Africa; wild population numbers appear to have stabilized, and; there is a self-sustaining captive population.

In contrast, the population of Sumatran Rhino:

- is very low (fewer than 500)
- the rate of decline is high (at least 50% over the last 10 years)
- there is no indication the situation is stabilizing
- the captive population is not reproducing at all.

Prior to the end of 1993, estimates of the Sumatran rhino were 600-1000 world wide with about 420-875 in Indonesia. The more rigorous assessment of Indonesian populations conducted at the end of 1993 indicate that only 200-300 survive there. Consequently the world population is no more than and probably fewer than 500.

Hence, the AsRSG believes the Sumatran rhinoceros is the most critically endangered of all rhino species at this time.

AsRSG NEWSLETTER PUBLICATION SCHEDULE AND SUBMISSIONS

It is intended to publish the AsRSG Newsletter twice a year, in January and July. Members are encouraged and invited to submit items about Asian rhino conservation. The deadlines will be 15 December for the January issue and 15 June for the July issue.

TENTATIVE PLANS FOR NEXT AsRSG MEETING

The next meeting of the AsRSG is proposed for December 1995 or January 1996. Among sites being explored are Sabah and Sarawak. AsRSG members are requested to advise AsRSG Program Officer Tom Foose of time periodss that are feasible for them during December 1995 and January 1996.

NEW VERSION AsRSG ACTION PLAN

The revision of the AsRSG Action Plan, *ASIAN RHINOS: An Action Plan for Their Conservation*, will be published in early 1995 and will be available through the AsRSG Program Offices.

GOLDEN ARK AWARD TO AsRSG CHAIRMAN

AsRSG Chairman Mohd Khan bin Momin Khan received the Golden Ark Award provided Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands in a ceremony at the Royal Palace in The Hague on 29 October 1994. This award is conferred upon persons who have contributed significantly to wildlife conservation. In receiving this award, Mohd Khan becomes a member of a very select group of conservationists worldwide. Widodo Ramono, another active member of the AsRSG, has also been a recipient of this award.

IRF ASSISTS AsRSG

The International Rhino Foundation (IRF) has been providing financial support for the AsRSG and is serving as the administrative vehicle for funds contributed to the AsRSG.

AsRSG MEETING JALDAPARA

The IUCN/SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group (AsRSG) conducted a plenary meeting at Jaldapara Sanctuary, West Bengal India 6-11 December 1993. (Note: The Asian Rhino Specialist Group designates itself the AsRSG to distinguish its acronym from the African Rhino Specialist Group which AsRSG designates AfRSG). As part of this meeting, a population and habitat viability analysis (PHVA) workshop was also conducted to initiate this process as one of the tools for conservation of this species. The PHVA was conducted in collaboration with: the Wildlife Departments of Assam and West Bengal; the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India; Zoo Outreach Organization-CBSG India; IUCN SSC CBSG

Representatives from 10 countries including the 4 major range states (*) for Asian rhinos participated in these sessions: India *, Nepal *, Malaysia *, Indonesia *, Thailand, Singapore, Kenya, United States, United Kingdom, Switzerland. Unfortunately, representatives from Myanmar and Vietnam were unable to attend.

The major objectives of these sessions were to:

1. Review the status of all 3 species of Asian rhinos and confirm the latest estimates of numbers in the wild.
2. Assess the activities and accomplishments of the AsRSG over the last 6 years and develop priorities and directions for the next 3 years.
3. Revise the AsRSG Action Plan which was originally developed in 1987.
4. Recommend Changes in AsRSG Structure and Function for the 1994-1996 Triennium
5. Prepare a First Draft of Southeast Asian Rhino GEF Project Program Document which will provide US \$ 2 million for rhino conservation in Indonesia and Malaysia over the next 2 years.
6. Commence formulation of a Strategic Funding Plan for Asian Rhino Conservation
7. Initiate the PHVA process for *Rhinoceros unicornis*

The latest estimates of Asian rhino numbers are presented in the table on the back page of this Newsletter. The most notable and unsettling fact from these figures is the revelation that numbers of the Sumatran rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) have now

declined to no more than 500. Previous estimates had been 700-1000. The decrease is attributable mostly to a 50% reduction in the numbers estimated for Sumatra in Indonesia. Although the Javan rhino is fewer in number and the African black rhino has perhaps decreased more precipitously over the last 10 years, the combination of low numbers and decline rate may render the Sumatran rhino now the most critically endangered of all rhino species on the planet.

There was also confirmation from the latest transect and photographic surveys in Ujung Kulon that numbers of the Javan rhino are approximately 50 as previous censuses and estimates had contended.

The Indian/Nepalese rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) remains the success story among Asian rhinos with the total population in India at about 1,450 and in Nepal at about 500. However, levels of poaching in both countries are significant and intensifying. In Assam, still the stronghold for this species, poaching in most of the protected areas for the species are estimated at around 5% per year. This level is approximately equivalent to the annual rates of population growth so that any further intensification will cause decline of the population. Indeed, such decline has already occurred in at least two areas with the population in Laokhowa being completely annihilated and the population in Manas reduced by at least 50%. (More recent but unofficial reports suggest perhaps all have been lost.)

Another major topic of discussion at the Jaldapara meeting was the great concern expressed by most of the Asian rhino conservationists in attendance that these species do not receive their fair share of attention or resources from the international rhino conservation community. It was emphasized that despite the drastic decline in African black rhino over the last decade, the numbers of that species was probably still no lower than the total of all 3 Asian rhino species combined.

In terms of structure and function, the AsRSG extensively discussed:

- (1) the activities, accomplishments, and problems over the last 10 years and
- (2) future objectives, needs, and function of the Group in relation to the challenges for Asian rhino conservation.

These activities and accomplishments include:

1984 Mohd Khan bin Momin Khan becomes Chairman representing the first range national to occupy this position.

A Conservation Strategy Session on Sumatran Rhino was developed at a meeting in Singapore.

The *Ex Situ* Program for Sumatran Rhino was initiated concurrently in Malaysia and Indonesia.

1986 A meeting of AsRSG was conducted in Jakarta, Indonesia.

1987 The AsRSG Asian Rhino Action Plan was formulated at a workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

1989 A PHVA Workshop was conducted for Javan Rhino in Bogor, Indonesia.

1990 A follow-up workshop in Bogor, Indonesia was co-sponsored by the AsRSG and PHPA to develop the Indonesian Rhino Conservation Strategy Workshop.

1992 The first Program Officer was appointed for AsRSG with financial support from the International Rhino Foundation (IRF).

The AsRSG Program Officer represented the AsRSG and the IUCN/SSC at the preparatory UNEP Rhino Conference.

As a result of that Conference, the AsRSG initiated the development of a Global Environment Facility (GEF) Project for \$ 2 million to assist implementation of the conservation strategy for rhinos in Indonesia and Malaysia.

1993 The AsRSG Program Officer assists with Preparation of Rhino Conservation Action Plans for Malaysia and Indonesia through a grant from UNEP.

The AsRSG participates in the full UNEP Rhino Conservation Conferences in Nairobi, Kenya.

In preparation for, and as a product of, this UNEP Rhino Conference, the AsRSG develops a

continuing process of compiling overviews of priority actions and required funds for Asian Rhino Conservation through the national rhino conservation action plans. This process will be the basis of a strategic funding plan developed by the AsRSG.

Continuation of development of the GEF Project and Grant of \$ 2 million on South East Asian Rhinos.

Organization and conduct of a full meeting of the AsRSG at Jaldapara, West Bengal, India.

Provision of technical and financial assistance with Population and Habitat Viability Analyses (PHVAs) for Sumatran Rhino in Indonesia and Indian Rhino in India.

In general, it was observed that traditionally the AsRSG, like other IUCN SSC Specialist Groups, had concentrated on technical information and advice. There was general agreement that the AsRSG needed to assume a more active role in advocacy and fund-raising for Asian rhino conservation.

In particular, it was agreed that the AsRSG would initiate a Newsletter to be published quarterly. (*The schedule has been modified to semi-annually.*)

There was then much discussion of the future structure and leadership of the AsRSG to facilitate achievement of the objectives. The purpose was to develop recommendations that the Chairman of the ASRSG could submit to the Chair of the SSC as he considers appointments for the next Triennium 1994-1996. A number of scenarios for Chairs, Deputy Chairs, and Program Officers were considered.

There was strong agreement that the two major regions where Asian rhinos occur, the Indian Sub-Continent and South-East Asia needed to be represented in the leadership of the ASRSG. Hence, there was strong agreement that there should be a Chairman and Deputy Chairman, with one position occupied by a person from South East Asia and the other from the Indian Sub-Continent. There was strong support for Mohd Khan to continue as the Chairman and consensus for Mr. S.C. Dey to become the Deputy Chair. (*Subsequently, Mr Effendy Sumardja was requested to continue as a Deputy Chair.*)

There was also agreement that it would be useful to expand the program officer function into more of a secretariat. Currently, this function has been provided by Dr. Tom Foose, resident outside the range states. An objective for the next Triennium will be to move this function to one or more Asians in one or more of the range states. In the meantime, it was recommended that a second program officer, Dr. Nico Van Strien, be appointed. A major activity of the program officers will be to assist fund-raising. Dr. Foose will concentrate on North America; Dr. Van Strien on Europe. Other administrative and technical functions will be divided between Foose and Van Strien by mutual agreement.

Objectives for the 1994-1996 IUCN Triennium include:

- *Initiation of Newsletter.*
- *Revision of the AsRSG Action Plan.*
- *Activation of GEF Project for SE Asian Rhino.*
- *Development of a Strategic Funding Plan.*

As a first step toward development of a strategic funding plan, the AsRSG devoted time at the Jaldapara meeting to improving definition of projects and estimation of their costs. The total cost estimated is approximately US \$ 57,000,000 with \$ 35,000,000 required from external donors by the range states.

- *Better publicity for the plight of Asian Rhinos.*

than in Assam where most Indian rhinos live for two major reasons. One was to direct attention to the protected areas for rhino in West Bengal which had not been explicitly discussed in the previous edition of the AsRSG Asian Rhino Action Plan. These protected areas are limited in rhino population and habitat area but are nevertheless being well managed and will be important for conservation of this species.

A more important reason was to emphasize that the rhino in India occurs not just in one, but in three states thus qualifying rhino conservation efforts eligible for financial support from the federal government. Current Government of India policy does not permit federal funds to be provided for species restricted to a single state. Assam had previously been receiving federal funds but they were discontinued when the new policy was enacted. Restoration of federal support is vital if Assam and the other states are to successfully respond to the intensifying challenge of the poachers. Indeed, it is an objective of the PHVA workshop to provide support for development of a Project Rhino by the Government of India, analogous to Project Tiger which has been so critical to the conservation of that species in India.

An extensive summary of both the AsRSG Meeting and the Indian Rhino PHVA has been published in ZOOS PRINT (Vol IX: No 3,4; March/April 1994) which is available from the AsRSG Program Office or ZOO Outreach Organization, Box 1683, Peelamedu, Coimbatore 641 004, Tamil Nadu, India.

AsRSG PRIORITY PROJECTS AND COSTS

The table below indicates estimates of the cost, in terms of both internal and external sources of funds, for rhino conservation over the next five years in the four major Asian rhino range states. Thereafter is presented the priority projects that range states have identified.

5 YEAR COSTS (U.S.\$) ASIAN RHINO CONSERVATION IN MAJOR RANGE STATES						
COUNTRY	CAPITAL		OPERATIONS		TOTAL	
	TOTAL	EXTERNAL	INTERNAL	EXTERNAL	INTERNAL	EXTERNAL
India	21,000,000	19,000,000	15,000,000	1,000,000	36,000,000	20,000,000
Nepal	255,000	255,000	2,500,000	1,000,000	2,755,000	1,255,000
Indonesia	3,445,000	3,445,000	6,840,800	4,514,000	10,285,300	7,959,000
Malaysia	4,464,000	2,739,000	4,051,000	1,893,000	8,515,000	4,632,000
Total	29,164,000	26,439,000	28,391,000	7,407,000	57,555,000	33,846,000

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Indonesia:

Rhino Desk Officer	472,000
Ujung Kulon Rhino Conservation Unit	922,500
Gunung Leuser Anti-Poaching Unit	1,391,600
Javan Rhino Translocation Study	347,000
Kerinci Seblat Anti-Poaching Unit	1,870,400
In Situ Intensive Mgmt & Captive Programmes	1,237,000
Barisan Selatan Anti-Poaching Unit	1,121,800
Sumatran Rhino Zoo Propagation	187,000

Malaysia:

Infrastructure Support for Rhino Units - Peninsula	966,000
Activation/Extension of Pulong Tau N.P. for Rhino	379,000
Rhino Conservation Coordination - Malaysia	115,000
Deputy Rhino Conservation Coordinator	88,000
Rhino & Habitat Surveillance - Peninsula	225,000
Rhino & Habitat Surveillance - Sarawak	90,000
Rhino Survey - Sabah	170,000
Rhino PHVA/GIS Workshops - Malaysia	70,000
Capture and Translocation of Rhino - Peninsula	184,000
Capture and Translocation of Rhino - Sabah	322,000
Intensive (Captive) Management - Peninsula	572,000
Gene Pool Project- Peninsular Malaysia	401,000
Captive Propagation Programme - Sabah	206,000
Internl Adviser-Intensive Management Programme	57,000

India:

Habitat Improvement & Management	2,245,000
Infrastructure Facilities & Antipoaching Measures	18,755,000
Veterinary & Other Intensive Care	495,000
Other Equipment, Training, Monitoring, Evaluation	965,000
Ecodevelopment Programme/Fringe Area	8,350,000
Translocation	500,000
Wildlife Tourism & Nature Appreciation	915,000
Contingencies	3,335,000

Nepal:

Environmental Monitoring	257,600
Anti-Poaching Units	189,600

Thailand:

Rhino Survey Training	1,388
Rhino Surveys	23,240

Myanmar:

Boundary Demarcation Tamanthi	5,000
Buildings & Roads	50,000
Transportation & Communication	155,000
Public Awareness	42,000
Planning & Anti-Poaching Force	18,000
Staff Equipment	32,000
Staff Welfare	30,000
Rhino Biology Studies	56,000
Institutional Development	10,000

Members are requested to review these priorities and advise the AsRSG Chariman and Program Officers of any adjustments.

FUND-RAISING EFFORTS

GEF PROJECT FOR S.E. ASIA RHINOS

After two years, the approval process has finally been completed for a Global Environment Facility (G.E.F.) Biodiversity Project to assist initiation of full implementation of rhino conservation strategies and action plans in Indonesia and Malaysia. The Project will provide US \$ 2 Million over three years, evenly divided between the two countries.

This Project was initiated at the first of the two UNEP Conferences Among Range States, Consumer States, and Donors in 1992 and 1993. UNDP is administering this Project for the GEF. The Project will be nationally executed and implemented with the AsRSG providing technical coordination and facilitation. It is believed that this is the first GEF Biodiversity Project with species conservation as the focus, although the rhinos will serve as umbrella and flagship species for conservation of the ecosystems they inhabit.

The Project recognizes that there is an emergency for the rhinos in Indonesia and Malaysia which could well be extinct in 3-5 years without the kind of intervention the GEF Project will provide. Full implementation of the rhino conservation strategies and action plans in both Indonesia and Malaysia will require many more funds than the \$ 2 Million being provided by this GEF Project. However, the GEF funds are intended to catalyze and attract other financial support.

The project has 3 major elements, each to be

- Poacher activity will be reduced to the point of elimination within the areas covered by the units as measured by numbers of traps and poachers detected by patrols and the numbers of rhino lost as revealed by improved surveillance.
 - A number of rhino, particularly in Malaysia, will be translocated from isolated situations into the intensive protection zones represented by operational areas of the rhino protection units.
 - Monitoring of these rhino by radio telemetry will provide improved information on rhino status and biology needed for the programmes.
 - 350 Sumatran rhino (75% global population) and their ecosystems will be preserved.
 - A model will be provided for other range states.
- (2) *Develop more involvement by, as well as benefits and incentives for, local human communities in rhino conservation:*
- Persons from the local communities will be employed in the rhino protection units;
 - Income generating activities (e.g. eco-tourism) will be delineated and initiated; local communities will develop appreciation of and pride in the rhino, its ecosystem, and their conservation;
 - In conjunction with the World Bank WWF Kerinci Seblat programme and possibly other projects to be proposed, baseline data needed to develop an effective community involvement programme will be collected.
- (3) *Formulate, catalyze, and initiate a comprehensive*

UNEP RHINO CONSERVATION CONFERENCE AND FACILITY

A new Elephant and Rhinoceros Conservation Facility has been established at UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi as recommended by the UNEP Rhino Conference in 1993. The Acting Coordinator is Mr. Oluwafemi Owolabi. In October 1994, there was a meeting at UNEP of the representatives of the new Facility with the Chairs of the four IUCN SSC African and Asian Elephant and Rhino Groups to formulate relative roles and responsibilities. UNEP has not yet issued the formal report of this meeting. However, there were a number of points of agreement. In terms of relative roles and responsibilities, it was agreed that the Facility would concentrate on recruiting financial and political support for conservation programs while the Specialist Groups would continue to provide technical, scientific and information assistance and advice. The meeting proposed establishment of an Advisory Committee for the Facility to consist of: the Chairs of the four Specialist Groups; representatives of UNEP, IUCN, and CITES; a fund-raising specialist; and other resource persons who may be recruited for specific issues or meetings. It was recommended at the meeting that the Facility attempt to provide each of the Specialist Groups with some operational funds to support these technical activities. There are tentative plans for a meeting of the Facility and this Advisory Group in the first half of 1995.

U.S. RHINO AND TIGER ACT

The United States of America has just approved legislation to create a Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act, whose purposes are:

- (1) To assist the conservation of rhinos and tigers by supporting conservation programs of nations, and the CITES Secretariat, whose activities directly or indirectly affect rhino and tiger populations,
- (2) To provide funds for those programs.

Under this Act, up to U.S. \$ 10,000,000/year for the next 5 U.S. Fiscal Years (1996-2000) will be provided for projects that are approved by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Projects may include all activities associated with scientific resource management, such as research, census, law enforcement, habitat protection, acquisition, and management, propagation, live trapping, and transportation. Proposals may be

submitted by countries, the CITES Secretariat, or other parties involved in rhinoceros and/or tiger. Each proposal shall:

- (1) name the individual responsible for conducting the project
- (2) state the purposes of the project succinctly
- (3) describe the qualifications of the individuals who will conduct the project
- (4) estimate the funds and time required to complete the project
- (5) provide evidence of support of the project by appropriate governmental entities of countries in which the project will be conducted, if the Secretary determines that support is needed for success of the project;
- (6) provide any other information the Secretary of the Interior considers necessary for evaluating eligibility of the project for funding.

Projects may be approved if they enhance conservation programs for conservation of rhinos or tigers by assisting efforts to:

- (1) implement conservation programs
- (2) enhance compliance with provisions of CITES and laws of the United States or other country that prohibit or regulate the taking or trade of rhinoceros or tigers or the use of rhinoceros or tiger habitat.
- (3) develop sound scientific information on that species' habitat condition and carrying capacity, total numbers, and population trends, or annual reproduction and mortality.

The Act states that to the maximum extent possible, priority will be accorded to projects which will enhance sustainable development programs to ensure effective, long-term conservation of rhinoceros and tigers.

Editor's Note: Naturally, in Asia, rhinoceros and tigers inhabit many of the same areas. Although the Act does not so state, it seems logical that projects for both rhinos and tigers will have an advantage in the consideration process. The AsRSG will work closely with tiger conservationists in this regards.

The Administrator of the Agency for U.S. AID will be consulted on all projects. A decision on each project will be provided no later than 6 months after submission.

Countries or persons interested in pursuing support from this Act may contact the U.S. Secretary of the Interior in Washington, D.C. or the AsRSG Program Officers who will be available to facilitate applications.

EUROPEAN UNION

At the UNEP Rhino Conference in 1993, representative of the European Union had indicated they would consider providing funds approximating 450,000 ecus (US \$ 600,000) to Asian rhino conservation.

Based subsequent discussions with the E.U., the AsRSG is now submitting proposals for support in 3 areas:

- (1) Core support for the AsRSG.

(The EU is already providing support for the AsRSG)

- (2) Contribution to the funding package needed for start-up costs of the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas.
- (3) Infrastructure support for Indian rhino in Assam.

TAIWAN GOVERNMENT

The AsRSG Program Office has also been exploring the possibility of major support from the Government of Taiwan for Asian Rhino conservation efforts.

WORKSHOPS AND REPORTS

SUMATRAN RHINO

A Population and Habitat Viability Analysis Workshop was conducted on Sumatran Rhino in Indonesia in November 1993. The Workshop was a joint endeavor of PHPA and the IUCN SSC through its Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) and the AsRSG. Dr. Ronald Tilson and Dr. Ulysses Seal assisted Drs. Widada, Ramono, in facilitating the workshop.

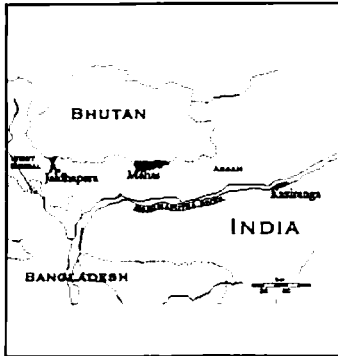
INDIAN RHINO

A PHVA Workshop on Indian Rhinos was conducted in Jaldapara Sanctuary December 1993. The workshop was a collaborative endeavor of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India; the Wildlife Departments of West Bengal and Assam; Zoo Outreach Organization-CBSG India; the IUCN-SSC CBSG and AsRSG. G. J. M. Smith, G. J. M. Smith,

COUNTRY REPORTS

INDIA

MANAS SITUATION



In the late 1980's, Manas National Park was estimated to contain 80 or more Indian rhinos. The Park has been occupied by Bodo tribesmen since 1987. The Bodo expelled and have excluded wildlife officials. The information that is available indicates that rhino poaching has been

severe. At the AsRSG meeting, P. Lahan reported that perhaps 50% of the rhino had been lost. More recent albeit unofficial reports suggest that virtually all of the rhino have been exterminated. Manas was probably the origin of 22 Indian rhino horns seized by Hong Kong customs officials from a Bhutanese princess in 1993.

Source: *Earth Island Journal*, Winter 1994-1995.

NEPAL

NEW CENSUS REPORTS



In March-April 1994, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) of Nepal conducted Count Rhino '94 in the Royal Chitawan National Park. This project was a collaborative effort of major governmental and non-governmental conservation organizations in the

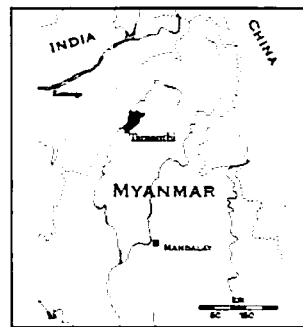
country: DNPWC, the King Mahendra Trust, the Nepal Conservation Research and Training Center, The World Wildlife Fund, and Resources Nepal. Elephants were used for block transect counts.

The resulting census reports that there are 446-466 rhino in Chitwan, a larger number than reported in 1993 at the AsRSG meeting. These numbers indicate that the rhino population has increased at about 3.7%/year from 1998 to 1994. Moreover, the current population of ~450 rhinos represents a healthy recovery from the estimated 60-80 rhinos in the area in the late 1960's. A total of 23 are known to have been lost to poaching since 1988.

Source: *Count Rhino '94*, Dr. Pralad B. Yonzon, Resources Nepal, GPO Box 2448, Kathmandu, Nepal, Fax 977/1/227132.

MYANMAR

TAMANTHI SURVEY



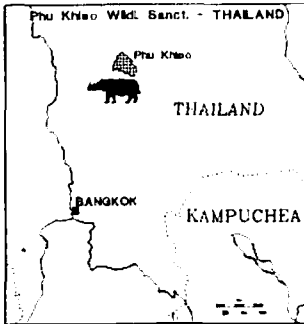
The Wildlife and Sanctuaries Division of the Myanmar Forest Department and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) conducted a joint survey of Sumatran rhino and other large mammals in Tamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary in February-March 1994. No

definite rhino sign was observed although a total of 33 rhino records for the years 1971-1993 were documented. At least 9 rhino kills were also documented during the 1980s (notably all before 1985). The report concludes that the rhino has been reduced to near extinction. One of the guides for the survey team, a former rhino hunter, had observed footprints in 1991. Several sightings of tracks since 1991 suggest that 1 or 2 rhino may survive in the northeast corner of the Sanctuary. Other recent sightings further suggest 1 or 2 rhino in the forests between Tamanthi and Indawgyi Lake and a similar number in vicinity of Saramati on the Indian border.

Source: *The Status of the Sumatran Rhinoceros and Other Large mammal Species in Tamanthi Wildlife Sanctuary*, Upper Chindwin District, Northern Myanmar; Dr Alan Rabinowitz, Dr. George Schaller, Mr. U Uga. Wildlife Conservation Society, 1994. A published report will appear in *ORYX* 29, Vol. 2.

THAILAND

SUMATRAN RHINO IN PHU KHIEO



There is very little hard evidence of the continued existence of the Sumatran Rhino in Thailand. Very small numbers are supposed to exist on the Thailand-Malaysia border, along the border with Myanmar, and in Phu Khieo Wildlife Sanctuary.

In November 1993 a 4-day survey was conducted in several parts of the Phu Khieo Sanctuary, particularly searching for sign of Rhino. "Old, suspected rhino footprints" were located at several places, but no recent evidence was encountered. There were no fresh prints, dung, scrapes, wallows or feeding sign of rhino. The survey could not confirm nor refute the existence of the Sumatran rhino in Phu Khieo. This information, from what was considered to be the "best" Rhino area in Thailand, offers little hope for the future of the Sumatran rhino in this country.

Source: A preliminary survey of the Sumatran Rhinoceros (Dicerorhinus sumatrensis) and other large mammals in Phu Khieo Wildlife Sanctuary, north-east Thailand. Royal Forestry Department, Thailand; Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Peninsular Malaysia; Japan Wildlife Research Center, Japan.

VIETNAM

JAVAN (?) RHINO IN VIETNAM

distribution is about 35,000 ha (but on the accompanying map the rhino core area measures only ~ 3,500 ha).

During surveys covering more than half of the core area, a total of 19 rhino tracks were encountered and measured. Based on differences in widths it could be concluded that there were 7 to 9 individuals in the survey area.

Interestingly the majority of the footprints detected are small (14 out of 19 are less than 25 cm in diameter) and would be from young animals, less than 2 years of age, if produced by Javan rhino. Only two tracks of adult Javan Rhino size were discovered (30 cm). The report concludes that there are 6-7 young, 1 subadult, and 1 adult rhino.

The age distribution, if correct, is quite unusual and one wonders whether it is really Javan Rhino that is occurring in Cat Loc. All small prints fall well within the range of the Sumatran rhino. The few larger tracks are certainly too large for Sumatran rhino, but could have been measured from vague prints. Judging from the tracks sizes alone one would conclude that there are Sumatran Rhinos in Cat Loc.

There are early reports of Sumatran rhino from this part of Vietnam, and although they have generally been dismissed as unsubstantiated since Rookmaaker's study of the rhino distribution in Indochina (Zool. Anz. 205 (1980), 253-268), the existence of the Sumatran rhino in Vietnam cannot be excluded (as also Rookmaaker concluded!)

Editor's Note: So far the editors of this newsletter have not observed proof of the identity of the Vietnamese rhinos as Javan Rhinos. Therefore we request our readers to help by communicating to us whatever evidence there is on the specific identity of the Vietnamese rhinos. We hope that in the next issue we can provide the final

MALAYSIA

SURVEY IN BELUM

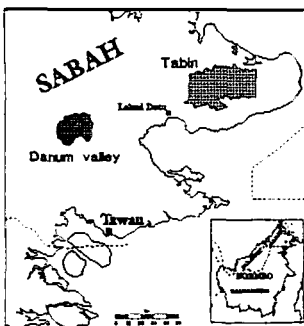


A survey in 1994 of the Belum Forest Reserve by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks of Peninsular Malaysia has confirmed the suspected presence of rhinos. Indeed this area has been considered a prime habitat and refuge for Sumatran rhinoceros in Peninsular Malaysia. The report

from this survey has not yet been officially released so more details are not available at this time. Rhinos are also confirmed to occur in nearby Selama Wildlife Reserve.

Source: Personal communication from Department of Wildlife and National Parks to the editors.

DANUM VALLEY RHINOS & POACHERS



The Danum Valley Conservation Area in Sabah is one of only three areas in the whole of Borneo where the Bornean subspecies of the Sumatran rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis harrissoni*) is known to survive. The area is about 1200 km² and is part of the forests lands under control of the semi-

governmental Sabah Foundation.

In September 1994, the Sabah Wildlife Department, Sabah Foundation and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) conducted a 10-day survey using 7 groups of rangers in various parts of the Danum Valley.

The results were mixed. Two of the groups found evidence of recent rhino activity. At both sites evidence of three rhinos were found and if this is

considered to be representative for the whole area, there could be as many as 23 rhinos scattered throughout the Danum Valley.

However, every survey team detected evidence of human intrusion and poaching throughout the conservation area.

Although the rhino is still present, and the current estimate of 20+ animals is encouraging, the presence of poachers indicates that the area is not under effective control. If more effective protection is not implemented, the Danum Valley rhinos will be exterminated within the next few years.

Source: On the horns of a dilemma. Alan R. Rabinowitz. Wildlife Conservation. Sept/Oct 1994, 32-39.

INDONESIA

RHINO CONSERVATION STRATEGY ADOPTED

The Government of Indonesia has officially adopted The Indonesian Rhino Conservation Strategy. Formulation of this Strategy was initiated at the Indonesian Rhino Conservation Workshop conducted in Bogor in 1991. The Strategy has been published in both Bahasa Indonesia and English. Initiation of implementation of this Strategy is the purpose of the GEF Project that is now commencing in Indonesia, as well as in Malaysia.

SIGNIFICANT DECLINE IN SUMATRAN RHINO NUMBERS

A Population and Habitat Viability Analysis conducted in November 1993 by PHPA in conjunction with the IUCN SSC and its Conservation Breeding Specialist Group (CBSG) and the AsRSG revealed a significant decline in the numbers of Sumatran rhino in that country. Previous estimate had been 420-875. The estimates that emerged from the new data and more rigorous assessment was 200-300. Much of the reduction in numbers derives from a significant decline in estimates for Kerinci Seblat National Park. Recent surveys have located little evidence of rhino in areas of the Park where they were thought to exist. The surveys have discovered much evidence of poacher activity.

APPOINTMENT OF RHINO CONSERVATION OFFICER AND SECRETARIAT

As recommended by the Indonesia Rhino Conservation Strategy, the Government of Indonesia has appointed a Rhino Conservation Officer, Mr. Widodo Ramono, a long-time member of AsRSG. Additionally, Yayasan Mitra Rhino (YMR - Foundation of Rhino Friends) has been appointed as the Rhino Conservation Secretariat for Indonesia. Drs. Haerudin R. Sadjudin is the Program Officer for YMR and Drs. Marcellus Adi is the Deputy Program Officer.

GUNUNG LEUSER PATROLS ACTIVE AGAIN



Gunung Leuser National Park in the north of Sumatra harbors the best known and probably the largest population of Sumatran rhinos. Until the early eighties the core area of the rhino distribution was regularly patrolled and rhino poachers did not have a chance to conduct successful operations. The

rhino patrols were mainly funded from external sources and when these sources disappeared, the Park management did not succeed in allocating some of their increasing regular funds to this essential activity.

The well-trained and highly motivated personnel of the patrol team were moved to other positions, and soon the poachers learned that it was perfectly safe to enter the National Park and to resume rhino poaching. From far away several groups of rhino poachers descended upon Gunung Leuser and for about 6 years nothing was done to stop their activities

killed, and the rhino had completely disappeared from parts of their former stronghold. It will require about 15 years to restore what was lost in just a few years if inactivity.

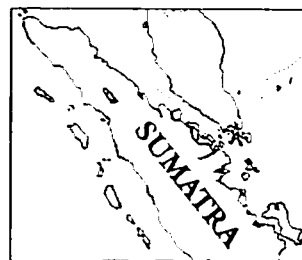
Fortunately the European Union has a strong interest in Gunung Leuser National Park and is currently developing a funding plan for a comprehensive integrated conservation and development programme for the Park, incorporating anti-poaching patrol and population monitoring.

The provisional budget calls for about 1 million ecus (~ US\$ 1.2 million) for training and support for anti-poaching patrols, while rhino conservation will also benefit from the improvements of management and protection aimed for through other activities under the programme.

For the immediate future, it is expected that rhino poaching will be virtually eliminated from the Park, but it should be kept in mind that it will require 15 years of intensive involvement in anti-poaching activities, before the situation is back to where it was 10 years ago.

Source: Personal communication from Herman Reijksen, Coordinator of the E.U. Gunung Leuser Project.

SUMATRAN RHINO EXISTS IN WAY KAMBAS



In 1991 Way Kambas Park guards observed a rhino on the banks of the Way Kanan river. This caused great excitement because the rhino was considered to have disappeared from the area in the 1960s. During the 1991

The Park guards collected a good plaster cast of the rhino's footprint, and although photographs of the cast clearly indicated that the footprint could not be from a Javan rhino, the true identity could not be established until the cast itself could be studied.

In 1993 Nico van Strien examined the cast and identified it as undoubtedly belonging to a Sumatran rhino. The small second horn was apparently not noticed by the guards that observed the rhino and the scales on the skin could have been caked mud.

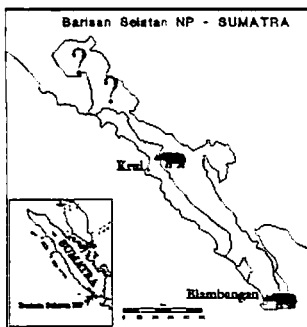
By that time more cast of rhino footprints had been collected by Park staff and by the University of Southampton Way Kambas project. All where Sumatran rhino and 2 or 3 individuals could be recognized on the form of the footprints.

Rhinos tracks have been located mainly in the very center of the Park, about the Wako river, and it is estimated that possibly 3 to 5 animals are present.

Currently the rhino area is surveyed intensively by the Way Kambas Project under the supervision of Joanne Reilly and Guy Hills Spedding and more details will be available soon.

Source: Personal Communication from Joanne Reilly and Guy Hills Spedding.

THE SUMATRAN RHINO IN BUKIT BARISAN SELATAN



Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park on the southern tip of Sumatra is considered to have the third largest population of Sumatran rhino on Sumatra, after Gunung Leuser and Kerinci-Seblat. In the past incidental records of Sumatran rhino were documented

throughout most of the Park.

The Park has a very difficult shape, with about 700 km of artificial boundaries extending through mountainous terrain, and with densely populated areas all around. All along the boundaries incursions into the Park area, for logging and agriculture, have reduced the area of undisturbed habitat. Also two public roads extend through the National Park from east to west.

In recent years the Park Management has been able to stop most incursions and to remove illegal settlers from the Park, but the remaining prime rhino habitat, especially in the southern two-third of the Park in Lampung province, is fragmented and reduced to narrow strips in the higher parts of the mountains.

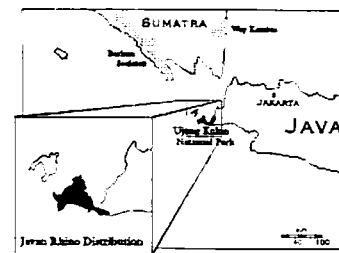
The strong-hold of the Sumatran Rhino is in the tip of the peninsula along the Blambangan (or Belambang on older maps) River. Surveys by the Park staff estimated 10 rhinos in 1987 and 13 to 18 in 1990. There are no indications of poaching in this area, and the current development of a large ecotourism facility nearby, is expected to provide additional protection for this rhino population.

Rhinos still survive in other parts of the National Park, but there are no recent estimates of numbers. In 1993 a cast of a Sumatran rhino footprint (identified by Nico van Strien) was collected 5 km east of Krui by Tulus Sibuea of Padjajaran University, conducting an agricultural survey in the area. Another potential Sumatran rhino area is the northern-most part of the Park, in Bengkulu province. This part of the Park appears to be rather undisturbed when viewed from the air, and would be ideal habitat for Sumatran Rhino. Rhino are known to survive in the mountains further north (Gunung Patah and Bukit Hitam). A ground survey of this area has never been conducted and there is virtually no Park staff present.

The GEF Rhino Project will establish rhino protection units in Barisan Selatan to prevent poaching. More ground surveys, especially in the northern part of the Park and the area east of Krui, are needed to establish the best locations for the Rhino Units.

Source: Personal Communication to the Editors.

JAVAN RHINO PHOTO CENSUS



Since 1967, the population of the Javan Rhino in Ujung Kulon National Park has been assessed annually using a simple track analysis method. Until about 1980, the annual census indicated a steady increase.

Then in 1982 and 1983, several rhino died of a mysterious disease. Since that time, the population seems to have stabilized at about 50-60 individuals.

Hoever, the confidence limits of this track-analysis census method are large. Therefore, it was decided that the population should be studied in more detail before any of the recommended plans to remove rhino to establish new populations could proceed.

In 1990, PHPA and WWF initiated an extensive photographic survey of rhino numbers and distribution. Under guidance of Mike Griffiths, about 30 automatic cameras activated by a pressure mat trigger were placed at strategic points throughout the Park. During the two years the study was conducted, hundreds of color photographs of rhino and other large mammals were collected. From the photos, 27 individual rhino could be identified on basis of anatomical features such as horn size and shape, neck folds, skin pores, scars, etc. Considering area of camera coverage and other factors, the rhino population has been estimated at between 37 and 58 individuals, including several calves recorded on the photos. A further computation based on home range size and habitat condition has estimated the carrying capacity at 80 rhino.

The study recommends:

- Improved protection of the Park
- Development of a more efficient patrolling system
- Systematic monitoring of the rhino population
- Habitat management not be implemented at this time
- Captive breeding not be attempted
- Preparation of a translocation site for a second population
- Once the above conditions are in place, initiation of a staged translocation to the selected and prepared site.

Source: The Javan Rhino of Ujung Kulon - An Investigation of Its Population and Ecology Through Camera Trapping. Mike Griffiths. April 1993.

JAVAN RHINO STAMP

The famous Museum Zoologicum Bogoriensis commemorates its 100th anniversary (1894-1994) with two special stamps. The 700 Rupiah centennial stamp features the skeleton of the Javan rhino. This specimen, a solitary male, was collected for the Museum in 1934 at Karangnunggal, Tasikmalaya, W Java. It was the last Javan rhino known to exist outside Ujung Kulon. The 1000 Rp stamp illustrates the skeleton of the Blue Whale that stranded on Java's south coast in 1916.



CAPTIVE PROGRAMS

SUNGAI DUSUN GENE POOL EXPANSION

The intensive management center at Sungai Dusun in Peninsular Malaysia will be significantly expanded and improved soon. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management has announced plans to enlarge the existing enclosures (which comprise 7 units of 1 hectare each) by constructing a 10 hectare paddock that will extend into the adjacent forest.

SUMATRAN RHINO "RESCUES"

In August 1994, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks rescued a Sumatran rhinoceros from the Mersing Coast region of the state of Johore in Peninsular Malaysia. The remnant forest inhabited by this rhino was being cleared for agriculture. The rhino was an adult male and will be placed in the Sungai Dusun intensive management center. Another rescue occurred in Sabah during June 1994. This rhino was a female and is currently in the intensive management center in Sepilok.

CAPTIVE PROGRAMS FOR SUMATRAN RHINO

In 1984, the IUCN SSC conducted a workshop in Singapore to develop an initial strategy for conservation of the Sumatran rhinoceros and provide guidelines for the proposed *ex situ* programs considered critical for survival of the species at that time.

Since then, 39 Sumatran rhinos have been captured.

Currently, 23 Sumatran rhino survive in 10 facilities worldwide. These 23 Sumatran Rhinoceros in captivity worldwide represent about 5% of the entire global population of this species. Considering the estimated decline of 50% in Sumatran rhino numbers since 1984, it seems more imperative than ever that these rhino in captivity be propagated to contribute to survival of the species.

However, the captive programs to date have not been successful.

Mortality has been high (40%) and deaths continue. Two of the surviving rhino in the United States are very ill. There is speculation by some rhino managers

and researchers that the major husbandry problem may be nutritional.

Moreover, none of these Sumatran rhino have yet reproduced in captivity. One calf has been born at the Melaka Zoo in Malaysia, but to a female that was captured pregnant.

The reasons why the Sumatran rhino has been so difficult to breed in captivity are not certain. The species will reproduce under captive conditions. Indeed, the very first rhinoceros ever born in captivity was of this species, at the Calcutta Zoo in 1889. The 3 other rhinoceros species which have been in captivity the African Black and White Rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum*) and the Indian/Nepalese Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) do reproduce regularly in captive conditions.

There are some possible causes for the difficulties with breeding the Sumatran rhino in captivity. It is true that there had been some problems with the sex ratio of rhinos captured. The result had been that adult females have not been in the same place as adult males a significant amount of time. However, there have now been mature pairs together at seven facilities for some time. There has been some reluctance by captive managers about placing the sexes together because courtship is so violent. At least one of the deaths in captivity was almost certainly caused by trauma inflicted during courtship. Other facilities have had significant injuries. It has been very difficult to detect estrus in the Sumatran rhino. This difficulty has prevented managers from regulating introduction of males to females to times of estrus when it might be expected that courtship would be less violent.

A number of the persons who have studied the Sumatran rhinoceros in the field believe the most significant problems have been the limited space and the less-than-natural conditions for the rhino in the captive facilities. One aspect that has been emphasized in particular is the need for total separation of males and females except when females are in estrus. Such separation is almost certainly the natural situation in the wild.

**SUMMARY - CAPTIVE PROGRAMS
SUMATRAN RHINO - 1984 TO 1994**

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>CAPTURED</u>	<u>BORN</u>	<u>IMPORTED</u>	<u>EXPORTED</u>	<u>RELEASED</u>	<u>DIED</u>	<u>ALIVE</u>
P. MALAYSIA	3/9	0/1	1/0	0/2		2/2	2/6
SABAH	7/1	0/0	0/0	0/0	1/0	3/0	3/1
INDONESIA	7/11	0/0	0/1	4/7		2/2	1/3
THAILAND	0/0	0/0	0/1	0/0		0/1	0/0
U.K.	0/0	0/0	1/2	0/0		0/1	1/1
U.S.A.	<u>0/0</u>	<u>0/0</u>	<u>2/5</u>	<u>0/0</u>	—	<u>0/2</u>	<u>2/3</u>
TOTAL	17/21	0/1	4/9	4/9	1/0	7/8	9/14

SUMATRAN RHINOCEROS LIVING IN CAPTIVITY

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>INSTITUTION</u>	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Indonesia	Jakarta	0	1	1
	Surabaya	0	1	1
	Taman Safari	1	1	2
	<i>Subtotal Indonesia</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
Malaysia				
	Peninsula			
	Malacca	1	2	3
	Sungai Dusun	1	4	5
	<i>Subtotal P. Malaysia</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>8</i>
Sabah	Sepilok	3	1	4
	Tabin (Released)	(1)	0	(1)
	<i>Subtotal Sabah</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>
United Kingdom	Port Lympne	1	1	2
	<i>Subtotal U.K.</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
United States	Cincinnati	1	1	2
	Los Angeles	0	1	1
	New York	0	0	0
	San Diego	1	1	2

WAY KAMBAS SUMATRAN RHINO SANCTUARY

As a consequence of the failure of current, conventional captive program for Sumatran rhino, there have been strong suggestions to establish a managed breeding center in native habitat (a "sanctuary"), inside or nearby a major protected area, to provide much larger areas and more natural conditions that hopefully will induce Sumatran rhino to reproduce. Such a rhino sanctuary can also serve as a base of operations for more intensive protection of rhino that inhabit the larger protected area around the sanctuary. Finally, the rhino in the breeding enclosures can be a tourist attraction that can contribute to financial self-sufficiency of the sanctuary and rhino conservation programs in general.

The Indonesian Rhino Strategy, the Government of Indonesia has for some time been proposing to establish sanctuaries for Sumatran rhino. These sanctuaries would be contained but very large and entirely natural areas in native habitat where rhino could be intensely protected and their breeding still be under management.

There was much further development of this rhino sanctuary concept at the Population and Habitat Viability Analysis (PHVA) Workshop conducted in Bandar Lampung in November 1993, although the terminology used at that time was an *in situ* intensive management center ISIMC. The major results and recommendations that emerged from the PHVA to guide further development of a Sumatran rhino managed breeding center in native habitat included:

- (1) Support for the center should be sought from national and international, governmental and non-governmental agencies;
- (2) The center should be located within or adjacent to a major conservation area for Sumatran rhino to encourage and support better wildlife management in the conservation area.
- (3) Rhinos for the center should be derived both from animals already in captivity as well as rhinos rescued from the wild as determined and recommended by PHPA.
- (4) The center should have an eco-tourism component to provide on-going operational support.

In August 1994, a further workshop was conducted, this time at Taman Safari Indonesia to organize an attempt to develop a managed breeding center in native habitat that could and would evolve into a Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS). The intent is to move in the direction of the sanctuary system that has proved so effective for

rhino conservation in African countries, although the forest habitat of the Sumatran rhino will require adaptive re-interpretation of this concept.

The recommendations of this workshop are:

- (1) the first Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary be located in Way Kambas National Park.
- (2) the protocol for rhino management and the design of enclosures must maximize natural conditions;
- (3) The Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary Program will consist of both:
 - (A) an Animal Programs and
 - (B) a Conservation Tourism Program to provide financial self-sustainability for the program
- (4) The Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary Program should be managed by private companies which receive concessions from and ultimately report to PHPA. To this end, a new Managing Company will be formed through a partnership between Yayasan Mitra Rhino (YMR) and the International Rhino Foundation (IRF) under auspices of PHPA. Other major "investors" in the program (i.e. parties providing money, rhino, etc.) will be receive shares in the company and be represented on the Board.
- (5) An Operating Company with experience and expertise in both animal management and tourism development will be contracted by the Management Company to operate the Sanctuary
- (6) It is estimated that the start-up costs for the Sanctuary will be ~ U.S. \$ 1 million: half for the biological program; the other half for the tourism program. An additional one-half million is anticipated in operating expenses for the first 3 years until the tourism program is capable of generating the self-supporting income.
- (6) The funding strategy will consist of both a short-term and a long-term plan:
 - (A) Short-term: The initial funding during the first 3 years for the Sanctuary would be provided by national and international contributors to be known as "investors".
 - (a) The IRF will lead the effort to recruit about \$ 500,000 outside Indonesia and will provide a substantial initial contribution as a challenge for other matching donations.
 - (b) YMR will lead this fund-raising campaign in Indonesia.
 - (B) Long-term: A conservation tourism program will be developed with the objective and expectation that it will provide financial self-sufficiency and sustainability for the entire program by within 3-4 years.

A unique feature of the new strategy is that it incorporates a conservation tourism component designed to fund the continuing Sumatran rhino conservation efforts necessary to preserve this Indonesian national treasure. The plans call for facilities oriented to both day visitors and a range of overnight programs designed for every budget. This facility will provide the only opportunity in the world to view the Sumatran rhino, the Sumatran elephant and the Sumatran tiger all in a natural setting. These programs will help to educate the public to the plight of this magnificent species and promote public support for its continued conservation.

The plans call for funding the program entirely from monies raised in the private sector both in Indonesia and abroad.

For more information on this program contact:

*In Indonesia: The Directorate General of PHPA tel. and fax 62\21\584818
Yayasan Mitra Rhino tel. 62\251\360737
and fax 62\251\313985*

In U.S.A. International Rhino Foundation tel. 1\614\228\0402 and fax 614\228\7210.

INDIA AND U.S. RHINO EXCHANGE

The Indian Endangered Species Breeding Program (IESBP) and the North American AZA Species Survival Plan (SSP) program are in the process of exchanging specimens of Indian rhino to genetically and demographically enhance their respective populations. There is currently a dearth of females in Indian zoos. The North American population is in need of further founder stock for genetic viability. Hence the SSP will provide a female for the IESBP. In exchange, the IESBP will provide a male for the SSP.

TRADE ISSUES

CITES

The rhino crisis was once again a major topic of the 9th CITES Conference of the Parties (C.O.P.). Two major issues were considered:

- (1) a general Resolution on rhinoceros conservation in Africa and Asia;
- (2) a Proposal from South Africa to downlist their population of southern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*)

The adoption of both proposals reflects what appears a significant change of direction for rhino conservation toward more adaptive management and innovative approaches based on performance measurement and range-state self-reliance.

Resolution on Rhino Conservation in African and Asia

- The CITES Standing Committee had requested the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG) to formulate this Resolution. The AfRSG did so at its meeting in Mombasa May 1994. Two members of the IUCN Asian Rhino Specialist Group (AsRSG) attended this meeting and participated in formulation of the Resolution. Subsequently, the Resolution was circulated to the Chairs, the 2 Deputy Chairs, and the 2 Program Officers of the Asian Rhino Specialist Group by whom input was provided.
- The basic premise of the Resolution is that for the most part current conservation measures, including some of the CITES provisions, have not succeeded in arresting or reversing the decline in rhino numbers.
- Drafters perceived that there were several major reasons for this lack of success:
 - A major problem has been inadequate funds for the level of protection and management required. This inadequacy pertains both to funds from range states and external donors.
 - Another major problem has been the lack of performance assessment of conservation measures being applied and lack of adaptive management based on such evaluation.
 - A third major problem has been the reluctance or failure to consider the full range of options that might be applied.

- This Resolution consequently contains provisions for:
 - Performance evaluation of all conservation measures;
 - Adaptive management based on the performance evaluation;
 - Consideration of the full range of options that might be applied and therefore preservation of opportunities to use those options;
 - Expansion of funding sources to respond to the substantial needs, with a particular emphasis on sustainability and self-reliance within the range states.
 - A shift in position on legal stockpiles of rhino horn from acquire and destroy to consolidate and control.
 - Hence, rescision of CITES Resolutions Conf. 3.11 and 6.10. to be replaced by this Resolution.

Discussion on this proposal from the floor reflected the dilemma caused by acknowledging that past approaches have not solved the problem but innovative ones have unknown risks and consequences. The rescision of CITES Res. Conf. 3.11 and 6.10 was a particular point of discussion. In the end the resolution was adopted by an overwhelming majority receiving support from all significant range states in Africa and Asia.

Downlisting of South African Population of Southern White Rhino to Appendix II

The recovery of the southern white rhino in South Africa is an exceptional conservation success story. Indeed, the population of this subspecies has recovered to the point where it would qualify for downlisting to Appendix II under CITES Berne criteria. From only about 100 at the turn of the century, the southern white rhino in South Africa now numbers more than 6,000. Moreover, the approximately 400 southern white rhino in the wild elsewhere in Africa and over 600 in captivity world-wide are also a direct result of translocations from South Africa.

The financial cost of this success has been great and has been almost entirely provided from internal sources within South Africa without support from external donors. It has been estimated that to successfully

conserve and manage rhinos in South African sanctuaries costs \$1,000 to \$1,200/km²/year.

However, it is anticipated that it will be increasingly difficult for South Africa to sustain these costs from previous sources and shortfalls are expected. To date, adequate levels of alternative support from external donors has not materialized to cover shortfalls in funds within range states. It seems unlikely such support will be available on a sustainable basis. Therefore, it seems critical that range states like South Africa develop innovative means for self-generation of additional income to cover current and future shortfalls.

A number of major points were considered for and against the proposal.

- On the positive side, the proposal South Africa clearly could provide financial benefits for conservation of the southern white rhino. There could also be biological benefits by further expanding the population in both distribution and number. Expansion of rhino populations to additional sanctuaries has proven to be one of the more successful conservation approaches for rhinos. Overall it was argued CITES should encourage efforts for self-reliance by range states like South Africa so the Treaty does adaptively and actively serve conservation of taxa like southern white rhino.
- On the negative side, major concerns were expressed about repercussions the downlisting might have on rhino populations in other range states. There was also concern about the fate of live rhinos dispersed to other countries where there might not be adequate security in the wild or inadequate conditions in captivity. However, it was also argued that these

risks need to be measured against the needs of and benefits to continued success in the conservation of southern white rhino in South Africa.

During the consideration process, South Africa amended their original proposal to apply to legitimate hunting trophies and live specimens only. Further, there was an intervention that provides for the downlisting to be approved only until the next Conference of the Parties when activities that have occurred under this downlisting will be reviewed. The amended proposal was adopted by an overwhelming majority, again with support of the significant African and Asian rhino range states. The CITES Secretariat will monitor activities under this downlisting and report to C.O.P. 10.

There seemed to be much agreement among those attending the Conference, that the intercessional work that has been occurring should continue to better delineate the benefits and risks of proposals like the one from South Africa. A number of major studies have been in progress, e.g.: a cost-effectiveness study of rhino conservation sponsored by WWF and WCS; a major study of the rhino horn trade sponsored by WWF and Save The Rhino International. This work should be expanded to include more interaction between the Asian and African range states and rhino conservation communities. IUCN will facilitate this collaboration by more interaction between its African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups. There were two financial commitments toward support of this work: U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service to CITES inaugurating activities under the U.S. Rhino and Tiger Conservation Act; the Ministry of the Environment of the United Kingdom to TRAFFIC for study of rhino horn trade.

COMING EVENTS

This section is intended to announce events of interest and relevance to

ASIAN RHINO SPECIALIST GROUP (AsRSG) MEMBERS 1 January 1995

REQUEST TO ALL MEMBERS

*Please review the information for your entry on this list and advise the editors of any corrections.
A number of telephone and facsimile numbers are particularly needed. Thank you.*

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POPULATION & DISTRIBUTION FIGURES FOR ALL RHINO SPECIES

	Indian	Javan	Sumatran	
INDIA - TOTAL	1,320 - 1,585			1,320 - 1,585
- <i>Kaziranga</i>	1,030 - 1,298			
- <i>Orang</i>	90+			
- <i>Manas</i>	60 ?			
- <i>Pobitora</i>	56			
- <i>Jaldapara</i>	33+			
NEPAL - TOTAL	486 - 506			486 - 506
- <i>Royal Chitwan</i>	446 - 466			
- <i>Royal Bardia</i>	40+			
INDONESIA - TOTAL		50	235 - 320	285 - 470
- <i>Ujung Kulon</i>		50		
- <i>Gunung Leuser</i>			90 - 120	
- <i>Kerinci-Seblat</i>			64 - 77	
- <i>Barisan Selatan</i>			25 - 60	
MALAYSIA - TOTAL			135 - 200	135 - 200
- <i>Taman Negara</i>			22 - 36	
- <i>Endau Rompin</i>			20 - 25	
- <i>Selama</i>			10 - 15	
- <i>Belum</i>			10+	
- <i>Tabin (Sabah)</i>			20+	
- <i>Limbang (Sarawak)</i>			10+	
VIETNAM		< 20	?	
LAOS			?	
THAILAND			10 ?	
MYANMAR			10 ?	
TOTAL ASIAN WILD	1,806 - 2,091	< 70	390 - 540	2,266 - 2,701
Captive - Range States	36	0	16	
Captive - Outside Range	90	0	7	
TOTAL ASIAN CAPTIVE	126	0	23	149
TOTAL ASIAN RHINO	1,932 -	< 70	413 - 563	2,412 - 2,850
		Wild	Captive	Total
Black Rhino - <i>Diceros bicornis</i>		2,350	210	2,560
White Rhino - <i>Ceratotherium simum</i>		6,770	640	7,410
TOTAL AFRICAN RHINO				9,950
TOTAL ALL RHINO SPECIES				12,362 - 12,800

TOM FOOSE DISAPPEARS INTO THE WILDS

The address is changing for AsRSG Program Officer Dr. Tom Foose

After 1 March 1995, the new address will be:

**Dr. Thomas J. Foose
International Rhino Foundation
c/o The Wilds
14000 International Road
Cumberland, OH 43732**

The main telephone and facsimile numbers for this new site are:

Tel: 1/614/638-5030

Fax: 1/614/638-5044

In later March, the IRF Office will acquire its own permanent telephone and facsimile numbers.

Each of you will be notified personally of these new numbers. These numbers will also be published in the next ASIAN RHINOS

PLEASE NOTE:

The correct new address but an incorrect old postal code appears as part of the contact information for Dr. Thomas J. Foose among the AsRSG Membership List on Page 22 of Number 1 of ASIAN RHINOS - The Newsletter of the AsRSG.

The postal code should be 43732 not 43215.