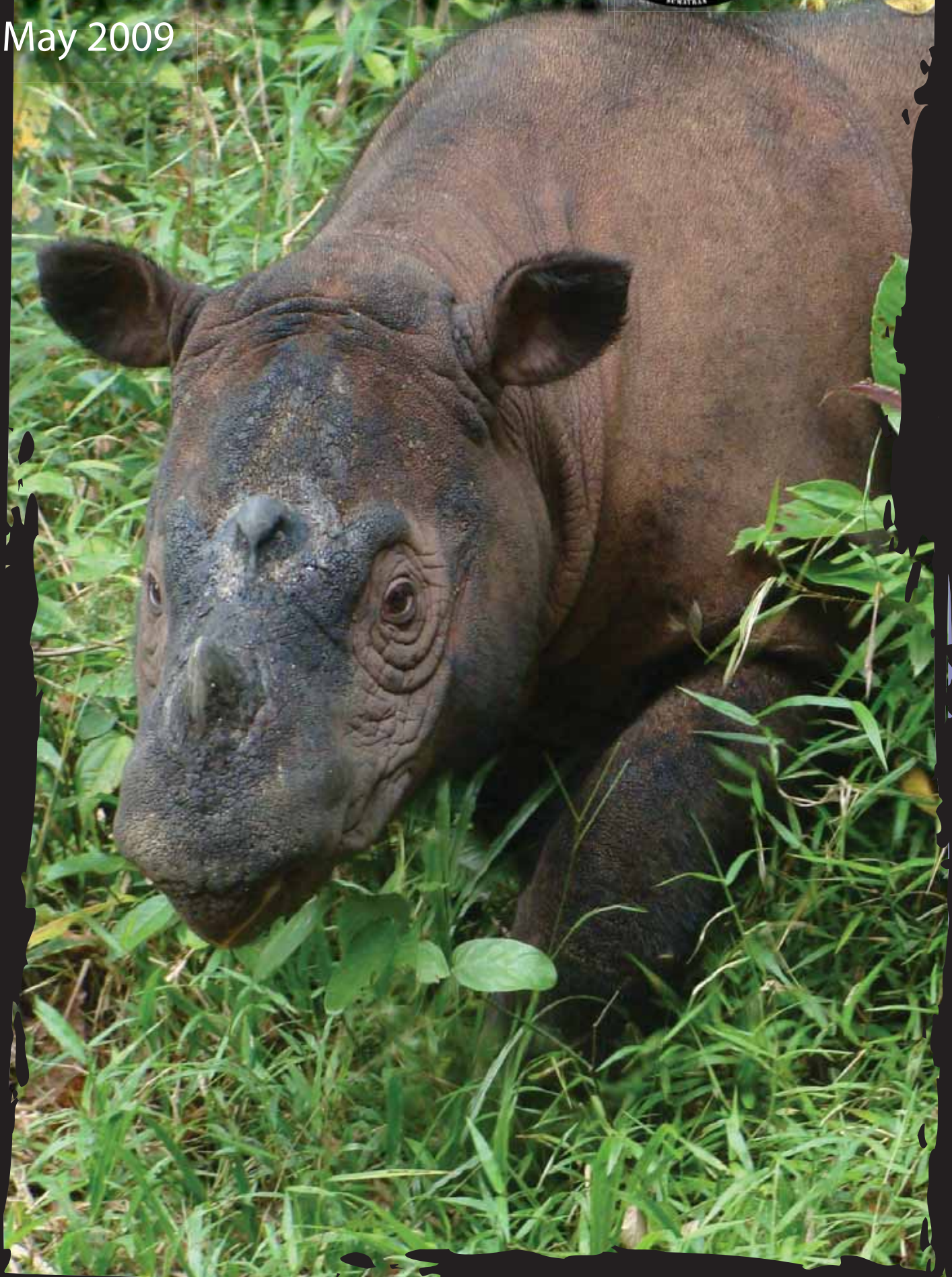


# The Rhino Print

May 2009



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## Asian Rhino Project



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## Welcome to the May 2009 Newsletter

Sadly the rhino news this past three months has again been primarily focused on poaching and human/rhino conflict in India and Nepal (pages 13 to 15). Four people (one a park ranger) and 21 rhino have lost their lives since I last wrote! Rhinos are not only being targeted of course. Ten tigers have been reported as poached in just the past 100 days. This news is incredibly distressing.

Despite continued poaching pressure, India has reported great news of the rhino population increasing. Gorumba NP, at the foot hills of the Himalayas has reported an increase to 35 rhino – up from 27. A Kaziranga census reported a population of 2,048 rhino – up from 1,855 rhino in 2006.

Sadly, Chitwan NP in Nepal encountered another distressing incident where a rhino was found wandering the forest blind and deaf from a bullet wound to the brain. It died six days later despite efforts from veterinary and park staffs efforts to save it.

Also in the news are stories of floating camps being deployed to step up anti-poaching efforts via river entrances to Kaziranga (ARP funded a generator for this project), more success from the video camera traps purchased by IRF and ARP and even a story on our Patron Peter Hall!

ARP is supporting another new project for the Javan rhino in Vietnam. Working with WWF Vietnam we will fund a snare removal program which will benefit not only the rhino but all creatures within the rhino range. Read more on page 3.

It is thanks to the great support of ARP members and contributors that we are able to do the great things we do – thank you!

Kerry Crosbie  
Project Director

Cover image: Sumatran Rhinoceros  
By Kerry Crosbie

## New project: Increasing enforcement within Cat Loc (Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam) for the protection of Javan Rhinoceros and other globally threatened species

Cat Loc of Cat Tien National Park is home to several species of globally threatened mammals, including the Buff-cheeked Gibbon (*Nomascus gabriellae*), Gaur (*Bos gaurus*), Sun Bear (*Helarctos malayanus*) and, most significantly, the Javan Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus annamiticus*).

The Javan Rhino is classified as Critically Endangered (IUCN 2008) with only two remaining populations in Java and Vietnam, and numbering less than 70 individuals in total. The Vietnamese subspecies is considerably more imperiled with probably less than eight individuals restricted to sub-optimal habitat in a sector of Cat Tien National Park. This population is under constant pressure from surrounding human settlements and its long-term future at this site is in question, given the current lack of political will to undertake adequate measures to ensure its protection.

There is an urgent need to assess the status of this population to determine appropriate conservation action and motivate the government to support these measures, and also to increase current enforcement efforts to ensure the rhino is adequately protected. WWF are planning to conduct this population assessment from November 2009 to April 2010 and through support from several donors, will have an established presence in the Park for at least a year, to conduct the fieldwork and improve protection on the ground.

WWF Vietnam therefore forwarded a request from ARP to support improved enforcement measures for one year whilst the status of the population is assessed, and appropriate future conservation efforts determined. ARP is proud to support this project and has awarded the full request of \$11,200AUD.

### Goal

To ensure Javan rhinos are maintained in Cat Loc by providing adequate protection.

### Objective

This will be achieved by increasing the frequency and coverage of enforcement patrols through:

- supporting 10 local villagers to undertake joint patrols into the core zone with Forest Protection Department rangers
- providing technical advice regarding patrol routes and locations.

### Project outcomes

1. The removal of snares and reduction of other illegal activities which threaten many species inhabiting Cat Loc, including Gaur, Bear and Javan Rhino
2. The involvement of local communities in wildlife protection and enforcement
3. Increased capacity of Forest Protection rangers in enforcement and monitoring of illegal activities

### Anticipated follow-up activities

Following the population assessment which will be conducted at the same time as the increased enforcement measures, decisions will need to be taken regarding the future strategy for Javan Rhino in Cat Loc. These decisions will be made on the basis of the viability of the population and could involve: translocation of the rhinos to larger and more optimal habitat in Cat Tien sector of the NP; translocation of the rhinos to a secure breeding facility in Cat Tien National Park; fencing of the core zone for the rhino in Cat Loc to prevent further encroachment of habitat; and/or bringing rhinos from Ujung Kulon to supplement the population in CTNP.

Article: Sarah Brook, WWF Vietnam

Thanks once again for the continued generous support from Auckland Zoo who recently donated another \$5,000NZD in March. This brings the total funds donated to ARP to over \$20,000AUD since March 2008! Well done guys. The funds from this recent donation will be allocated to Javan Rhino Projects in Indonesia. Always on a mission – Auckland Zoo keeper Nat Sullivan and her crazy colleagues are planning another fundraiser 'Skydiving for Sumatra' to support rhino, orangutan and tiger projects. Stay tuned for more.



## Project Update (March/April 2009): Spatial modeling and preparation of decision support system for conservation of biological diversity in Orang National Park, Assam, India

Orang National Park with an area of 78.8 km<sup>2</sup> is situated in the Brahmaputra flood plain of the Darrang District of Assam, India. Orang National Park is an integral part of Brahmaputra flood plain of Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot. The key mammals found in this park are Greater Indian One Horned Rhino, the Royal Bengal Tiger, Pigmy Hog, and Barking Deer.

Orang National Park is one of the last strongholds of the Indian Rhino with a total population of 68 rhinos in the year 2006. It is also a potential habitat for Royal Bengal Tiger. In respect of avifaunal availability, both migratory and local birds viz. Peacocks, Bengal Florican, Hornbills, King Fisher and Woodpecker are common in this national park. So the importance of Orang National Park in respect of conservation of biodiversity is quite high. Hence, a proper scientific approach to conserve and properly manage this rich biodiversity area is an utmost necessity.

Until now, comprehensive scientific research in this park has not been initiated to manage the wildlife habitat as well as the resources available within the park. Similarly, a systematic database on the resources available, habitat pattern and habitat utilization by different species within the park is not available for proper management of the park. So considering all these factors, this project intends to study the habitat

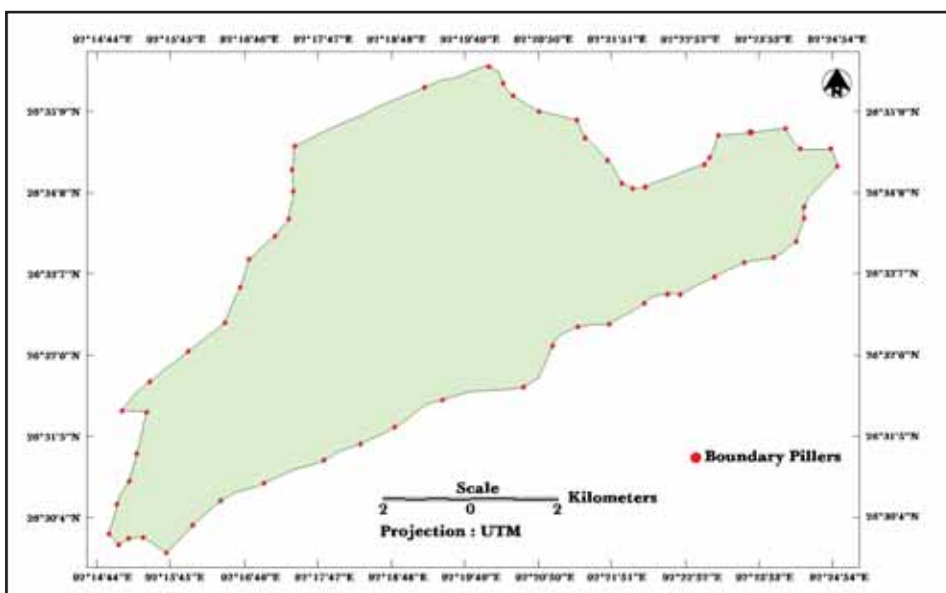
patterns and their utilization by different species, niche overlap of habitat by herbivores and carnivores and also create a comprehensive geo-spatial technology based database for the entire park area to assist managers to manage the national park based on sound information base and applied science.

The habitat patterns and their utilization by different species in Orang National Park will be estimated using recent dated high resolution remotely sensed data (satellite imageries) as well as ground based data that will be collected from the study area during ground data collection period. At the same time a systematic database (infrastructure, habitat patterns, available resources, etc) will be created for the entire national park using GIS and GPS technology which will act as a decision support system in near future to conserve the biodiversity of this important national park of India.

The project began on 1 March 2009 and the progress to date is as follows:

### Establishment of field station

A field station has been established in collaboration with the state forest department inside the Orang National Park for collection and analysis of data. A computer has been procured and already installed in the field station. The field station has all the logistic



Left: Boundary map. Right: Personnel at the field station

facilities for four personnel.

### Recruitment of field staff

One field assistant has been recruited for data collection. He will be based at the field station in Orang National Park during the whole project period. His name is Mr. Ajit Kumar Basumatary. He has a M.Sc. in Geography from Gauhati University, Assam, India.

### Boundary demarcation

In regards to the generation of the GIS database, the boundary of the park has already been demarcated and digitized using proper global coordinate system.

Assistance has been taken from the project adviser Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar and Mr. Jayanta Deka, Range Officer, Orang National Park for collection of GPS points and ground control points (GCPs). Satellite imagery (IRS P6 LISS IV) of the study area has already been ordered from National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad and by the first week of May it will reach Aaranyak.

### Preparation of Road Map

The road map of Orang National Park is progressing. Hopefully it will be completed by May, 2009.

*Article and photos: Pranjit Kumar Sarma*

## New window into the life of Javan Rhinos: WWF Indonesia Programs

What do the Javan rhinos do during the night? In wallow holes? When rearing the young? When facing competition? These questions are no longer mysteries to the rhino researchers in Ujung Kulon National Park.

Automatic video cameras (video trap) installed in every corner of rhino habitat in Ujung Kulon National Park enable park and population managers to look closely into the behaviour of these rhinos in the existing habitat.

Although it is still premature to construct a robust list of Javan rhino behaviour, recent data from video footage show different activities performed by 14 individual rhinos in Ujung Kulon National Park.

These activities consist of: movement (walking, head movement), resting (sitting/standing still, sleeping), wallowing, aggression, and even social activities between mother and the calf.

Behaviour data packaged as a set of activities (ethogram) is initiated as a part of deeper understanding of the life of the Javan rhino.

A new window of observation made possible by the use of video trap equipment enhances existing information of individual Javan rhino, for it now provides baseline information on how rhinos behave in their habitat.

This information is the key to further study of the well being of the rhinos, as behaviour has been used as indicators of the health of many other species.

Furthermore, recent video trap data also enables us to observe basic physiology of the rhino: the respiration rate. Respiration rate can suggest if the animal is under resting, normal, or distress conditions.

Recent data shows that the respiration rate of the Javan rhino is between 11 and 29 breaths per minute which is similar to that of white rhino (16-23 breaths per minute) under normal condition.

The possibility for assessing the health of the Javan rhinos is now waiting to be explored.

*Article and photo: Adhi Hariyadi*





## Report Update March 2009: Non-invasive Population Genetic Monitoring of Indian Rhino in Assam: A pilot study to standardise protocols for dung DNA analysis.

### Molecular marker based gender identification of Greater one-horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) from dung samples

We have successfully developed a multiplex PCR based marker system for gender identification of rhinoceros from dung DNA samples. Here, we use a combination of Y chromosomal SRY marker with a control of X and Y chromosomal ZFX/ ZFY marker. Using this method, samples from the male can be identified by the presence of both SRY and ZFX/ ZFY PCR products, whereas females are identified by the presence of only ZFX/ZFY products.

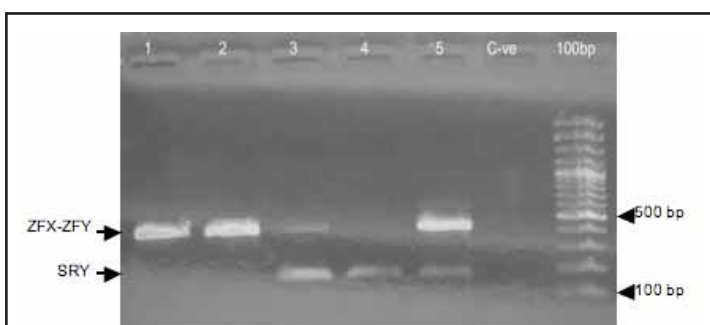
For developing this marker system, reference (samples with known gender identity) tissue or dung samples

were collected noninvasively, either from dead animals or dung obtained after direct monitoring of defecation from individual rhinoceros during field visits to Kaziranga National Park (KNP), Orang National Park (ONP) and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary (PWLS) in Assam.

Tissues collected from two female and one male rhinoceros and dung collected from two male rhinoceros were used for the work. Apart from the reference samples, 24 rhinoceros dung samples with unknown gender identity were also collected for the study. Of these 24 samples, 10 were collected from KNP, 10 from ONP and four from PWLS.

DNA was extracted from reference tissues and dung samples using DNeasy Blood and Tissue kit (Qiagen, Germany) and QIAamp DNA Stool Mini Kit (Qiagen, Germany) respectively. For amplification of SRY fragment, primers designed from horse SRY sequences (Primers were designed at CREW, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden) were used for the present investigations. For amplification of ZFX/ZFY marker, P1-5EZ: 5'-ATAATCACATGGAGAGCCACAAGCT-3' and P2-3EZ: 5'-GCACTTCTTTGGTATCTGAGAAAGT-3' (Aasen & Medrano 1990) were used.

All the PCR reactions from dung DNA extracts were run with two positive-controls (One male and one female reference sample) and a negative-control.



Above: PCR amplification band pattern of male and female Indian rhinoceros reference DNA. Lane 1 and 2 are female tissue samples, 3 and 4 are male dung samples and 5 is male tissue sample. Lane 6 and 7 are control negative and 100 bp ladder respectively.

Amplified PCR products along with a 100 bp DNA ladder were visualized on an agarose gel containing ethidium bromide. Dung samples with unknown gender identity were screened for three independent PCR replicates.

Male identity was confirmed by the presence of the SRY PCR product in all three reactions and ZFX/ZFY in at least two of the three reactions. Female identity was confirmed by the absence of the SRY band in all three reactions and the presence of ZFX/ZFY PCR band in at least two of the three reactions.

With the method described, we could successfully identify gender for all the reference samples and 18 of the 24 unknown dung samples (12 male and 6 female, a success of 75%) (Borthakur et al. in communication).

#### Optimisation of PCR amplification from rhino dung DNA samples

We have successfully optimised PCR conditions for 10 polymorphic microsatellite markers developed from Indian rhinoceros (Zchokke et al. 2003) to get amplification from dung DNA samples. So far, we have obtained a PCR success of 80-95% for all the 10 loci tested on 39 dung samples (19 from KNP, 10 from ONP and 10 from PWLS).

We have started microsatellite fragment analysis, which would give us allele size information to be used for

calculating probability of identity and heterozygosity, in order to select the minimum number of loci needed for individual identification.

We have successfully amplified mitochondrial DNA marker MDL3/MDL5 (~630 bp), consisting a part of the mitochondrial control region (Fernando et al. 2000) with 90% success from 39 dung samples.

#### Reference

Aasen E & Medrano JF (1990) Amplification of the ZFY and ZFX genes for sex identification in humans, cattle, sheep and goats. *Biotechnology* 8: 1279-1281.

Borthakur U, Dutta J, Stoops M, Roth T, Winget D, Talukdar B. (in communication). Molecular marker based gender identification of Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) from dung samples.

Fernando P, Pfreder ME, Enclada S, Lande R. 2000. Mitochondrial DNA variation, phylogeography, and population structure of the Asian elephant. *Heredity* 84: 362-372.

Zschokke S, Gautschi B, Baur B. 2003. Polymorphic microsatellite loci in the endangered Indian rhinoceros, *Rhinoceros unicornis*. *Molecular Ecology Notes* 3: 233-235.

Article and photos: Udayan Borthakur

## Adopt-a-Rhino Fundraiser

You can help us help save the Sumatran rhino by adopting a rhino today – and its tax deductible!

All funds raised through the Asian Rhino Project rhino adoption program will be used to support the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS) in the Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra.

With each adoption you will receive an attractive adoption certificate including information on your rhino and the program – great for the wall!

You can also choose to receive quarterly updates on your rhino as well as an A4-sized photograph for your wall (extra costs apply for photos and updates).

More information on the rhinos and the program can be found on our website





## EPRC-II Project Update: Five Ponds Constructed in Community Forests

Co-Action Nepal with the support of Asian Rhino Project has completed the construction of five ponds under the Empowering People For Rhino Conservation (EPRC-II) project. Now, the rhinos at four community forests have easy access to water and wallowing.

Initially, five community forests around Chitwan National Park have been selected for the habitat management program. But a decision has been made to shift the pond construction plan at Siddhi Ganesh Community Forest due to the continuous internal dispute among the working committee members. With the consensus of District Forest officials, one more pond has been constructed in Kumroj Bufferzone Community Forest. Of the five ponds, two were constructed in Kumroj and one each in Gyaneshowr Community Forest, Siddhi Ganesh Community Forest and Majhuwa Community Forest.

Grassland management works are also underway in these forest areas. Areas have been selected, ploughed and unpalatable grass species removed. The prolonged, nine-month long drought has spoiled the planting and growth of rhino-preferred grasses such as *Sachharum* spp. and low land para grass. According to the recommendations from the technicians of the District Forest Office, grass planting will be started immediately after the rainfall. Rain trickled in the last week of April and the project is hoping to progress the grassland management work by the second week of May.

Influenced by the habitat management work at five community forests, Co-Action Nepal is receiving requests from several community forest areas of Chitwan in rhino dwelling areas to support them in habitat management. Panchakanya Community Forest and Rambel Community Forest have formally approached Co-Action Nepal, who is consulting with forest officials about their viability.

*Article and photos: Deepak Acharya*



*Top: Women workers removing weeds and unpalatable grass species from the selected grassland management area at Sedi Devi Community Forest.*

*Above: Pond in Gyaneshowr Community Forest. Mr. Deepak Acharya (Left) of Co-Action and president of Gyaneshowr Forest Mr. Surbir Pokhrel (Right).*



## Indonesia Visit: February/March 2009

### Scoping visit to Ujung Kulon National Park

Late in February, Dr. Bibhab Talukdar, Kerry Crosbie (Asian Rhino Project – ARP), and I visited Ujung Kulon NP to scope out the area where construction of the Javan rhino sanctuary is planned. We were joined by Widodo Ramono (YABI), Agus Priambudi (the new head of Ujung Kulon National Park), Remco van Merm (from the Netherlands, who has just finished an M.Sc. on Javan Rhinos), Inov (IRF Indonesia), as well as our Ujung Kulon RPUs.



Group photos of the Global Population Management Board and Asian Rhino Specialist Group meetings

Our first hike was southward across the narrow part of the neck then inland south and eastward to Gunung Honje, the area we plan to build a temporary, approximately 4,000 hectare (~10,000 acres) sanctuary (essentially a transition facility) to hold a small group of Javan rhinos for a short period of intensive study before they are translocated to a second site.

### Javan rhino sanctuary planning moving ahead

Bibhab, who chairs the IUCN Asian Rhino Specialist Group convened the SE Asia members in Bogor in early March. One full day was spent discussing and planning how to move forward with the efforts to develop a second population of Javan rhinos.

We made tremendous progress both on moving the Javan Rhino Sanctuary ahead as well as getting forward movement on the habitat assessments that need to be done to select an eventual second site for translocation. If all goes as planned, construction should start on the sanctuary by April/May 2010. WWF, ARP, and IRF have agreed to co-fund an assessment of three potential parks that may be suitable sites for establishing a second population. Those assessments should take place in the next month or so.

### Sumatran Rhino Global Population and Management Board convened

Seventeen people convened for the GMPB meeting in March in Bogor. The health and reproductive status of each animal in the Sumatran rhino captive population was reviewed and recommendations made for possible future moves and matings.

The group endorsed a recommendation from the AsRSG that the two subspecies be managed as one – a huge step forward.

Article and photos: Susie Ellis, International Rhino Foundation

## Donations

Just \$5/week goes a long way and donations over \$2 are tax deductible!  
If you would like to set up regular small donations to the ARP,  
please don't hesitate to contact us for easy, hassle-free options.

info@asianrhinos.org.au or phone 08 89760952.

## Borneo Rhino Alliance Update

The Borneo Rhino Alliance (BORA) rhino protection units (RPUs) supported by ARP in Sabah continued their work as planned during the first months of 2009. In January and February they focused on supporting the Sabah Wildlife Department's night-time road blocks on the various plantation roads leading into Tabin Wildlife Reserve. Although illegal hunters who enter the area by these routes are normally not targeting rhinos (they are generally seeking wild pigs and deer and occasionally elephants, for their tusks), this activity helps to maintain rapport with the government wildlife authorities, while advertising not only the fact that BORA is still active in and around Tabin, but also that the BORA RPUs enjoy the support of the government wildlife department.

17 March 2009 saw a major event for BORA, when a fundraising lunch held in Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Sabah, achieved its target of raising half a million Malaysian ringgit to not only fund the RPUs for another year, but also to allow recruitment of a full time field operations manager. A suitable candidate has yet to be found and recruited. See [picasaweb.google.com/leapspiralblog/RhinoRescueLunch17thMarch200902](http://picasaweb.google.com/leapspiralblog/RhinoRescueLunch17thMarch200902) and [leapspiral.blogspot.com/2009/03/latest-news-rhino-rescue-lunch.html](http://leapspiral.blogspot.com/2009/03/latest-news-rhino-rescue-lunch.html) for pictures of this event.

Four of the BORA RPU staff work on a shift system to help the Sabah wildlife authorities guard Tam the rhino, monitor his activities and collect 50 kilograms of fresh food for him daily, from the Tabin forest.

One of the BORA team members, Mr Wilfred Yuya, joined a survey of the Kulumba area, some fifteen kilometers north of Tabin, 27 March – 7 April, as part of a wildlife survey done by the NGO HUTAN. No signs of rhinos were found.

Susan Chong of LEAP paid a four-day working visit to the Tabin Base Camp, where she provided training to the RPU teams in improved photographic techniques, as well as joining in the routine RPU work.

One very important achievement during this period was the construction of new toilets and washrooms (one of each for both male and female staff) for the BORA RPUs at Tabin base camp. The team had suffered being restricted to use of a single toilet since 2008.

RPU team member Mr Suhairin Putra resigned from BORA in March; he damaged his knee tendon in 2008 and, finding forest work too onerous and painful, he decided to take a job as a security guard in an oil palm plantation bordering Tabin. Mr Alexter Japrin, the former Field Coordinator for the RPUs at Tabin left that job at end of 2008 and is now attached to the BORA administrative office in Kota Kinabalu on part time basis. Another RPU team member, Mr James Sandiyang, was married in April.

*Article and photos: John Payne*

*Photos (top to bottom): A group of specialists visiting Tam the Rhino. Miss Rajimah spraying medicine to Tam's injured foot. RPU members all set for survey – from left: James, Alvin, Rasaman, Suhairin and France (Team Leader).*



## National Committee Update

Another year is slipping by and the end of the financial year is almost here. This time of year gets incredibly busy for treasurers, merchandise officers, me and my off-siders. As we gear up for the onslaught of number crunching, stock-taking, annual reports and auditing I would like to thank everyone for their fantastic efforts to make the ARP the way it is. During this crazy time we look back over the past year and outline our achievements. Although we are only a small organisation we are supporting some great work and I feel this year has been highly productive. This of course would not be the case without the fantastic support of our partners, members, contributors, committee and board. Thanks to each and every one of you and well done!

### Indonesia Travel February/March

I joined the IRF and YABI team to Ujung Kulon to look at logistical requirements for the creation of a second population of Javan rhinoceros within Indonesia. This trip was outlined in Susie's report on page 11.

The first day we trekked into the western side of the park where the possible holding area for the rhinos would be constructed. We were accompanied by the very skilled RPU teams and National Parks crew who along with Pak Widodo (ED of YABI) and Sectionov were fantastic in really stopping to take the time to show us feed plants, discuss park and rhino threats and brainstorm the logistics of moving forward with the creation of a second population of Javan rhino. On this field trip I gained a much better understanding of the effects of arenga palm on the fodder species favored by the rhinos. I was also able to learn more about the logistics of the work ahead of us and was completely humbled by the skills and dedication of the teams working to save these creatures against the odds.

Being the wet season, trekking was not easy let alone trekking with a broken toe! Thanks to Inov and Martin I was able to dump my heavy boots and borrow sneakers to lessen the pain. The RPU team were a bit worried about us I think. It was not easy trekking up and down incredibly slippery mud banks and across thigh deep creeks. They kept close to us at all times and were there to catch us should we fall. For those that know me and know the average size of a RPU member, this proves they are VERY brave men!

Exhausted by nightfall we managed to regenerate our spirits with a few beers and continue on into the night with some great discussions on rhino and conservation in Asia. Valuable time was spent with the RPU teams of Ujung Kulon, with one on one discussions building on relationships and outlining concerns and issues we all face. These guys are great and I am so proud to be able to assist the work they do!

The trip to Ujung Kulon was followed by a full week of meetings; the IUCN Asian Rhino Specialist Group meeting, Global Propagation Management Board meeting covering the global captive management programs for Sumatran rhino and finally a YABI (Indonesian Rhino Foundation) Board meeting. Much was achieved throughout the meetings. See page 9 for more details.

Benn Bryant of Taronga Western Plains Zoo in NSW also attended the Global Propagation Board Meeting with the full support of his Zoo as a representative of the Asian Rhino Project Veterinary Support Team. He now sits on the technical advisors committee for this group. Thanks Benn for your continued dedication to the program!

### Fundraising

A new merchandise form has been created (included in this newsletter) for distribution. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you would like to help sell stock. Every little bit helps!

### Congratulations!

Three committee members were married in March. Congratulations from all the ARP team to NSW Branch Manager Kristy Garard (now Murray), WA branch Martina Ter Steeg (now Hart) and NSW branch Renae Zammit (still Zammit for now).



*Small working group on poaching threats at the Asian Rhino Specialist Group meeting. Photo by Sectionov, IRF*

## In The News - Asian Rhino News Stories

### **Two killed in Rhino attack in Nepal 12 February 2009**

At least two people have been killed in attacks by Asian One-horned Rhino in Chitawan National Park of southern Nepal, police said. Sena Mahato of Mrigauli area died after being attacked by a rhino near Betari river when he was collecting firewood today, they said. Mage Bhote of Madi was attacked by another rhino while he was ploughing field at Pandavnagar yesterday. Later, he succumbed to his injuries while on way to a hospital. Last week, a rhino killed a person in the same area. Chitawan is the main rhino habitat of Nepal, which is considered home to over 500 rhinos, an endangered species.

More: <http://www.indopia.in/India-usa-uk-news/latest-news/501002/International/2/20/2>

### **Rhino Population In West Bengal Forest Goes Up 19 February 2009**

The rhino population in a national park at the Himalayan foothills has gone up. Elated officials of the West Bengal forest department are now getting ready to carry out a census in another reserve forest. During a census last November in the Gorumara National Park, located in the Himalayan foothills area of West Bengal called the Dooars, the officials found the number of the one-horned giants had increased to 35 from 27, the State Forest Minister Ananta Roy told IANS. The officials say the main reason for the increase in rhino population in Gorumara is that forest guards as well as local residents are extremely vigilant against poachers. Rhinos face the danger of poaching due to the mistaken belief that their horns yield a medicine that acts as an aphrodisiac. In the illegal international market, a kilogram of rhino horn fetched \$60,000 in 1994.

More: <http://blog.southasiannews.com/index.php/2009/02/18/rhino-population-in-west-bengal-forest-goes-up/>

### **24 Rhino Fall Prey to Poachers 25 February 2009**

At least 24 rhinoceros fell prey to poachers in the past two years in Kaziranga national park and adjacent areas in Assam, the Lok Sabha was informed today. Lucrative price for rhino horns in international markets is the main motive behind the poaching of rhinos, the minister said.

More: <http://www.indopia.in/India-usa-uk-news/latest-news/510759/National/1/20/1>

### **Forest Exploitation Puts Endangered Rhinos At Risk 27 February 2009**

The residents of two villages near Cat Tien National Park in the Central Highlands province of Lam Dong where a group of endangered one-horned rhinos live have yet to be relocated out of the area, despite a government programme that called for their resettlement. In 2003, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) approved a project to move local residents out of the national park's core. Conservationists said illegal logging and the activities of locals in Phuoc Cat Commune were affecting the food supply of the rhinos. The park is the Javan rhinoceros' only known habitat in Viet Nam. Local authorities, however, have allowed all 52 families to remain in the area, blaming the delay on reduced budgets.

More: <http://exitstageright.wordpress.com/2009/02/27/forest-exploitation-puts-endangered-rhinos-at-risk/>

### **Rhino-Tiger's losing battle in Kaziranga Reserve**

Assam's wildlife reserve with international fame is presently in the media headline, but again for wrong reasons. Kaziranga National Park, which is more popularly known as a safe heaven for the endangered one horn rhinos and also Indian tigers grabbed media attention with the poaching of over 20 rhinos in last two years and the death of ten tigers in the last 100 days.

More: <http://www.weeklyblitz.net/index.php?id=467>

### **Rhino kills woman 3 March 2009**

A male rhino of Gorumara National Park strayed into a nearby village this morning and gored a 55-year-old

woman to death while injuring another villager. Tophiljadi Bewa had come out of her house in Adabari village of Mainaguri block around 6.30am to relieve herself, when the rhino attacked her. The other villager, who had tried to steer the animal out of the locality, escaped with minor injuries.

More: [http://www.telegraphindia.com/1090304/jsp/bengal/story\\_10621168.jsp](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1090304/jsp/bengal/story_10621168.jsp)

### **Jungle Video Project Helps Reveal Secrets of World's Rarest Rhinos 5 March 2009**

34 video cameras will track the Javan rhinos' every move, in an attempt to find out more about the world's most endangered large mammal and help to prevent the species from going extinct. With fewer than 60 Javan rhinos left in the world, the camera footage is a useful tool to get to know more about how these single-horned animals use their habitat and thus help to protect them.

More: [http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/Tech%2Band%2BScience/Story/STIStory\\_346273.html](http://www.straitstimes.com/Breaking%2BNews/Tech%2Band%2BScience/Story/STIStory_346273.html)

### **Forest guard killed by rhino 9 March 2009**

A forest guard was killed on Sunday by a rhinoceros in the Kaziranga National Park here. Atul Bora died of his injuries on way to hospital after the rhino attacked him in the Kohora range, park director S.N. Buragohain said. The other guards fired at the rhino but failed to save the man, he added.

More: <http://www.hinduonnet.com/thehindu/thscrip/print.pl?file=2009030951520700.htm&date=2009/03/09/&prd=th&>

### **One more rhino found injured in CNP 30 March 2009**

Poaching of endangered one-horned rhinos is on the rise at Chitwan National Park (CNP). One more rhino has been found with a bullet injury. The male rhino was found in an injured state in Khorsor area in eastern parts of CNP. The condition of the injured rhino is becoming critical as Nepal does not have any technology to extract bullet from the body. Officials at CNP found the rhino with critical head injury two days ago. Currently, the rhino is under protection of CNP officials and security officials. Altogether nine rhinos have been killed since the rhino census conducted last year. The census had shown that Nepal had a total 408 endangered one-horned rhinos back then. In another recent case, one female rhino in her mid-twenties was found killed on February 13.

More: [http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=3172](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=3172)

### **Rhino Carcass Found, Horn Missing 13 April 2009**

The carcass of a full-grown male rhino without its horn was found by forest officials inside the Kaziranga National Park. The carcass was seven-days old, the official said adding its horn, considered an aphrodisiac, could have been extracted by the villagers living in the fringe areas of the park.

More: <http://www.ekantipur.com/kolnews.php?&nid=190174>

### **Rhino population rises in Kaziranga 17 April 2009**

The success of conservation in Kaziranga National Park has once again been highlighted with the latest rhino population estimation recording 2,048 of the Schedule One species. The last estimation that took place in 2006 had identified a population of around 1855. The estimation resulted in identifying 651 male, 790 female, and 407 calves while the sex of 200 animals could not be identified. Some of those who took part in the survey have hinted that there is possibility of higher numbers because "grass burning was not perfect this year and therefore visibility was limited."

More: [http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=4189](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=4189)

### **Rhino deaths unabated 20 April 2009**

At least 13 one-horned rhinos have died in the last one year inside Chitwan National Park (CNP), all thanks to the government's failure to avail needful resources to forest officials combat the problem. According to information provided by CNP, seven rhinos were killed by poachers and six others died of natural causes. It is believed that

the government's failure to deploy essential staff for patrolling, increase check posts and reluctance to upgrade security measures have resulted in the rise in deaths of rhinos in the recent past.

More: <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/details.asp?id=apr1809/at05>

### **Park lacks facilities to treat injured rhinos 23 April 2009**

The two rhinos shot and injured by poachers in Chitwan National Park during the past one and a half months have died due to lack of treatment. There was much uproar in the conservation sector when a rhino devoid of its horn was found in the Dumaria lake of the Park on February 3. Angered by seeing the state of the rhino, locals had locked up the National Park office. "Even if the horn was cut off, we will do our best to save the rhino," the park officials had said then to calm the public. But they failed to save it and the beast eventually died on February 13. A group of Park officials found a wounded rhino on March 28, when they followed gunshot sounds on March 27 night.

More: [http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=4246](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=4246)

### **Rhino calf born 24 April 2009**

The number of rhino calves in the Chitwan National Park has reached five, after a rhino gave birth to a calf in Gyaneshwor Community Forest in Mangalpur of Chitwan on Friday.

More: [http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=4246](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=4246)

### **Endangered rhinos on the rise despite poaching 26 April 2009**

The number of endangered animals in Chitwan National Park is on the rise despite the animals in the wildlife sanctuary increasingly falling target to poachers in recent years.

More: [http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=4346](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=4346)

### **Second floating camp for Kaziranga 26 April 2009**

With monsoons just a couple of months away, the Kaziranga National Park now has a second floating camp to deal with poachers. The miscreants usually take advantage of floods to hunt down animals inside the protected area. The 65-foot-long and 14-foot-wide boat will serve as a floating camp primarily to man the northern boundary of the park which is surrounded by the Brahmaputra. As this particular boundary is comparatively remote as compared to others, wildlife population is more concentrated here.

More: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Guwahati/Second-floating-camp-for-Kaziranga/articleshow/4449749.cms>

### **Save the rhino, and the funds 29 April 2009**

A bloke needs a dream. Something to inspire him to greater heights. Take Peter Hall, big banana at the ethical fund manager Hunter Hall, who dabbles in saving the world at the same time as trying to make a few (more) bucks. Of late much of the world has been focused on the latter rather than the former. Which is why we were taken by a video interview with Hall that has popped up in a financial industry rag. In a breezy discussion covering an end to slavery, World War II and what it is like to have a \$500,000 tax bill, Hall reflects on, among other things, his own legacy. "I see the purpose in my life to try and return the world to balance," Hall tells Financial Standard. "If I can have played a part in saving whales from extinction, rhinos from extinction, dugongs from extinction, all these beautiful animals and plants from extinction, that would be a fantastic legacy."

More: <http://business.smh.com.au/business/save-the-rhino-and-the-funds-20090428-am1a.html>

### **New bid to protect rhino 3 May 2009**

With a view to tracking down natural deaths and poaching instances of one-horned rhinoceros, Chitwan National Park (CNP) has come up with a new strategy to maintain identification records of these endangered species. CNP officials said that 35 employees and about two dozens elephants were mobilised from Saturday to mark the rhinos. As the identification, proper signs will be marked in ears, horn, back and other organs of these

rhinos. All rhinos will bear different set of marks on their bodies to separate one from the other. These marks will help CNP officials to identify the sick and injured rhinos so that necessary treatments could be offered on time.

More: <http://www.kantipuronline.com/capsule.php?&nid=192311>

### **19 rhino carcasses found in Bardiya 6 May 2009**

Police personnel on Tuesday confiscated carcasses of 19 endangered one-horned rhinos from Bardiya National Park (BNP) buried underground in Sattar Farm at Bhimmapur VDC-6 situated near the Nepal-India border.

BNP officials suspect that poachers killed the rhinos for horns when these animals were out for grazing and later buried the dead animals underground in the farm. Locals claim that poachers coming from both Nepal and India have been living in Sattar Farm for the past seven or eight years and they have killed dozens of endangered animal species along with hundreds of deer inhabiting BNP using modified weapons. "The farm had been set up as a convenient spot for poachers stay in to poach the rhinos which move to and fro in the corridor that lie along Nepal-India border," one local said. BNP serves as one of the biggest reserve for endangered rhinos in the country. However, due to rampant poaching activities, the park has lost dozens of rhinos at the hands of poachers within the past few years. According to the latest rhino census done in 2007, a total of 31 rhinos were found inside BNP. That number has been reduced to 22 at present.

More: <http://www.ekantipur.com/kolnews.php?&nid=192758>

### **Power plants could spell finish for Cat Tien rhinos**

Cat Tien National Park faces the risk of losing its last few rhinoceroses, with a proposed hydropower plant set to further shrink their habitat, most of which has already been lost to human encroachment. In March 2003, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development approved a plan to move many ethnic families out of the rhino reserve but it was never carried out. Cat Tien National Park is home to 40 animal species on the international red list of endangered animals. It is located too close to human habitation and is under constant threat from poachers and illegal loggers and encroachment by residents.

More: <http://www.thanhniennews.com/society/?catid=3&newsid=48109>

### **Rhino count increases in Pobitora 8 May 2009**

Pobitora wildlife sanctuary — the park with the highest density of rhinos in the world — now has more of the animal with its population registering 84 in the rhino census held today. Park officials started the count from 5am and the entire exercise ended by 8am. "The figure cannot be less than 84," Seal Sharma, divisional forest officer of Pobitora wildlife sanctuary, said. Nearly 80 people participated in the rhino census at the wildlife sanctuary situated in Morigaon district. The 2006 rhino census had estimated the number of rhinos at 81 in an area of nearly 17 square km. Of the 84 rhinos, 24 were males, 43 females and 17 were calves. As part of the exercise, the entire park was divided into 14 blocks — seven within the park and seven outside it. The blocks outside the park were meant for the rhinos, which stray outside the sanctuary, which has been facing this problem. On an average, an area of 2 to 3 square km was demarcated for counting the rhinos by direct sighting so that the job can be done easily. Sharma said three rhinos were sighted outside the boundary of the park.

More: [http://www.telegraphindia.com/1090509/jsp/northeast/story\\_10935761.jsp](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1090509/jsp/northeast/story_10935761.jsp)

### **New home for straying rhinos 16 May 2009**

Rhinos straying out of their habitat at Kaziranga or Pobitora will henceforth land at Manas National Park, according to a new plan worked out by the forest department. The department's decision to send the straying rhinos to Manas arises from the protracted exercise required to bring back these animals to their original habitat. "Straying rhinos have always been a problem for us. We have to keep a constant vigil on these animals, which sometimes move more than 100km away from their natural habitat," a forest official explained, adding that the new plan would also obviate the need to pick up rhinos from inside Kaziranga and Pobitora for translocation to Manas.

More: [http://www.telegraphindia.com/1090517/jsp/northeast/story\\_10975644.jsp](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1090517/jsp/northeast/story_10975644.jsp)

### Corporate Donors

ARP would like to recognise the following corporate donors working to help us help the rhinos. Funds or funds raised from donated items all go towards our valuable conservation projects. Thank you.



### Pro-Bono Supporters

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Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to support Asian Rhino Project by becoming a member for: (please tick)

- 1 year = AU\$30     3 years = AU\$80     5 years = AU\$130     Life = AU\$400

Membership includes quarterly newsletters. We encourage members to receive newsletters by email – not only to save administration costs but also to conserve paper.

I would like to receive my newsletters by:  Email     Mail

Asian Rhino Project often receives information about fundraising events from other local conservation groups.

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Donations are warmly welcomed and should be made to the Asian Rhino Conservation Fund.

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**Rhino Rembrandts – \$475**

The artists are Indian and Sumatran rhinos from Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, USA. Painting is a special activity that has become one of many ways to enrich the rhinos' day. Not only do the paintings enrich the zoo rhinos' lives, they also help their wild cousins with proceeds of painting sales going to Asian rhino conservation.



**Rhino Earrings – \$20**



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**Drink Bottles – \$7**



**Thermal Mug (350ml) – \$10**  
**Thermal Mug (750ml) – \$15**

Merchandise Order Form

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|-------------------------------|-------|---|--|-------|
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| Rhino – Animals in Art (Book) | \$22  | N/A   |  |       |
| Coloured Earrings             | \$8   | yellow (long)<br>yellow (short)<br>black/orange | red<br>blue  |       |
| Rhino Earrings                | \$20  | gold  | silver   |       |
| Pen                           | \$4   | red   | blue green   |       |
| Sticker                       | \$2   | N/A   |  |       |
| Magnet                        | \$2   | N/A   |  |       |
| Wine Cooler                   | \$20  | terracotta                                      |  |       |
| Thermal Mug (350ml)           | \$10  | purple<br>green<br>black                        | pink<br>blue   |       |
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| Drink Bottle                  | \$7   | black   | silver   |       |
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Please accept my payment by:  Cheque  Cash  Credit Card  Electronic Transfer

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Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_