

Asian Rhino Project

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NOVEMBER 2006



1B5B4B3B6B2B0BA Warm Welcome to our New Members

Daniel Noble
Sarina Walsh

Anonymous (1)
Dean Main

Peter Hay
Kerryn Wood



ASIAN RHINO PROJECT INC. MEETING MINUTES Annual General Meeting

**Held 31st October, 2006 at Perth Zoo,
20 Labouchere Rd, South Perth, WA**

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Nicholas Duncan	Member of the Board of Management	
	Kerry Crosbie	Chairperson/Project Director	
	Clare Campbell	Vice Chairperson	
	Holly Thompson	Merchandise Officer	
	Martina ter Steeg	Secretary	
	Carly Palmer	Fundraising Officer	
	Emma Gatehouse		
	Rae Joy		
	Daniel Bennett	Daniel Scarporolo	Dianne Gates
	Evelyn Wong	Garnet Barndon	Greg Gibbard
	Jeff Beaton	Karen Payne	Khwaja Mohiuddin
	Leanne Anderson	Lorraine Dunn	Nicole Taylor
	Tony Alcock	Ursula Beaton	Valerie Hemsley

Apologies: Andrew Thompson Member of the Board of Management
Petra Hancock Treasurer

Proxies: Chair/Kerry Crosbie x 20
Clare Campbell x 5
Martina ter Steeg x 1

Meeting Opened: 7:05pm

DISCUSSION

- ❑ Welcome and introduction of Committee and Board of Management.
- ❑ Director's Report: Kerry read through 2006 Annual Report and gave a project overview. Copies of the report were made available for member's perusal. The report will be made available on the ARP website soon.
- ❑ Election of Committee :
Project Director - Kerry Crosbie - Uncontested
Vice Chairperson, National Committee - Clare Campbell - Uncontested
WA Branch Manager - Emma gatehouse - Uncontested

Victorian Branch Manager - Brooke Squires - Uncontested
National Secretary – Vacant (Kerry to continue until position filled)
National Treasurer – Vacant (Petra & Kerry to continue until position filled)
Grants Officer - Carly Palmer - Uncontested
Fundraising Officer – Vacant (Kerry to continue until position filled)

- ❑ Other Volunteer positions held: Rae Joy - Memberships
 Daniel Scarparolo - Website
- ❑ Treasurer's report: Final audit from Grant Thornton was unavailable at the time of meeting. Basic financial statements were made available in Annual Report. Acceptance of reports were proposed by Kerry Crosbie, seconded by Rae Joy and passed uncontested by members.
- ❑ Constitution Amendments: Kerry Crosbie discussed query raised by Eveline Read about meeting in person. Kerry clarified that all ARP decisions and communications will be made via e-mail communication with the option for phone conferencing if in depth discussions are required. The National Committee will meet in person at least once per year; the meeting will be held around the AGM. Constitution amendments proposed by Clare Campbell, seconded by Martina ter Steeg and were passed uncontested by members.
- ❑ Victorian Branch Update-: Kerry provided a brief update on activities of the Victorian Branch which missed the printing of the annual report. It has been provided as an attachment.

Meeting Closed: 8.01pm

Attachment Vic Branch Update

State Committee Members

*Brooke Squires
Kylie Bawden
Donna Livermore*

General Report.

Rhino Keeper Workshop 2007

The members of the ARP Vic Committee have largely been involved in organising the upcoming Rhino Keeper Workshop, to be hosted by Zoo's Victoria in May 2007. While this has taken away some of the time we would have devoted to ARP enterprises, we hope this has been balanced out by the large amount of publicity that ARP will receive through the Rhino Keeper Workshop.

The ARP has been listed as a key supporter of the RKW 2007. This information has been sent to every rhino holding institution worldwide as well as any interested conservation/research groups.

During the RKW07 we have allocated a key time slot for ARP to present/promote it's operations to all attending delegates. We will also ensure that ARP membership forms and promotional items will be part of the RKW07 workshop pack that each delegate will receive.

We hope that this opportunity will significantly raise ARP's profile in the professional Zoo Industry as well as any associated conservation/research groups that attend the workshop.

Financial Report

Through various small fundraising events, we have managed to raise \$523.00.

Plans for 2007

The most significant event for the ARP Vic branch in 2007 will be the RKW07, as we see this as a key opportunity to promote the activities and increase the membership of the ARP.

Increase memberships

Increase committee

Achieve MOU with Zoo's Victoria

Raise \$1000-\$1500

Develop Badak Program.

Kylie, Donna and myself are still extremely excited about the Asian Rhino Project, its roots in keeper passion and its integrity in dealing with other NGOs in the areas of rhino conservation in Asia. We hope that 2007 will be a bigger and better year for the Victorian branch. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me at brooke.squires@asianrhinos.org.au Or rhinoworkshop07@yahoo.com.au

Brooke Squires
Victorian Branch Manager
Asian Rhino Project

Why Save Another Fury Critter? Justifying Bornean rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis harrissoni*) Conservation.

By ARP Member Marc Bowden

The Bornean subspecies of the Sumatran rhino (a.k.a 'badak' in Indonesian and Malay) is the smallest of all rhinos. It is in height donkey-sized, but far stouter—about 500kg. It is an insular (island) endemic (found nowhere else) from one of the most biodiverse and mammalian species rich areas on Earth. From a single-species conservation perspective the subspecies is worthy of conservation in its own right, "species with low population density, low reproductive potential, narrow geographic distributions, and relatively larger body mass within a taxonomic group tend to have a higher likelihood for extinction".¹ But there is far greater value in conserving the Bornean rhino's than merely its continued existence as a distinct subspecies.

According to one author, "Borneo Lowland Rain Forests are the richest rain forests in the world and rival the diversity of New Guinea and the Amazon".² The island's plant species and endemic mammal diversity is greater than the neighbouring islands of Sumatra and Java—the other two major islands in the Sundaland hotspot.³ Borneo is indeed a treasure-trove of biodiversity, but much of it is, unfortunately, very much at risk of being lost forever. Borneo's lowland rainforest habitat is in the grip of rapid simplification. Timber extraction and unplanned agricultural development are exacting a heavy toll on the island. Rampant establishment of vast oil-palm plantations are of particular concern because they now separate the last known remaining populations of *badak* in north east Borneo. According to the Malaysian Palm Oil Board, the states of Sabah and Sarawak in Borneo's north and north-west have established 1,209,368 ha and 543,398 ha (16.5% and 4.4% of total land area) of oil-palm respectively since 1975. Between 2000-2005 these estates expanded annually at an average of approximately 34,000 ha and 35,000 ha respectively.

It would be wonderful if there was plenty of time to conduct experimental analysis to determine how best to conserve Borneo's biodiversity, but the difficulty with such an approach is that to analyse the complex interconnections between all species is that it would take a very long period of time. And time is not on conservation's side, and there isn't a complete inventory of all the species involved. Indeed new species are routinely discovered in Borneo. For example, 422 plant species were catalogued in the 25 years to 2005,⁴ and in the decade to 2004, 260 insect species, "30 freshwater fish, 7 frogs, 6 lizards, 5 crabs, 2 snakes and a toad" were also described as new to science.⁵ A carnivorous mammal species was discovered in 2005, and in 2006 a snake that alters its colouration like a chameleon was discovered on an outlying island.⁶

¹ Groves, C.R., 2003: *Drafting a Conservation Blueprint; A Practitioner's Guide to Planning for Biodiversity*, Island Press, Washington DC.

² C. Loucks, cited in Wikramanayake *et al.* 2002: *Terrestrial Ecoregions of the Indo-Pacific; A Conservation Assessment*, Island Press, Washington DC.

³ Conservation International (CI) defines a biodiversity hotspot as an area that contains a minimum of "1,500 species of vascular plants (> 0.5 percent of the world's total) as endemics" and has "lost at least 70 percent of its original habitat" CI has identified 34 hotspots, see www.biodiversityhotspots.org.

⁴ Schilthuisen, M., 2006: *Biodiscoveries; Borneo's Botanical Secret*, WWF Indonesia, Jakarta.

⁵ Pio, D., 2005: *Borneo's Lost World; Newly Discovered Species on Borneo*, WWF Indonesia, Jakarta

⁶ See www.panda.org/about_wwf/where_we_work/asia_pacific/our_solutions/borneo_forests/index.cfm

To conserve biodiversity conservationists must then try and find some type of surrogate: "a smaller set of features that...will have a high likelihood of conserving the full array of biological diversity in a region".⁷ This is where the individual traits of the Bornean rhino become very relevant. Individual *badak* require approximately 1,000 ha of closed-canopy rainforest habitat in order to survive. It is immediately apparent that a self-sustaining population of around a thousand will require about a million ha. Furthermore, because Bornean rhinos avoid open habitat, a population will require 1 million ha of connected habitat. Its wide ranges and low population density make *badak* ideal umbrella species: "[w]hen star species like rhinoceros and eagles are protected, they serve as umbrellas for all the life around them."⁸ *Badak* are also found from sea level to 3,000 m and in areas receiving rainfall from 1,500-3,500 mm *per annum*. This is very pertinent because "representing biotic targets in conservation areas across a range of environmental conditions is one of the leading recommendations for how to best conserve biodiversity in the face of global climate change".⁹

The Bornean rhino epitomises the very essence of a species-based biodiversity conservation surrogate. Its conservation in the wild should also protect much of Sabah's biodiversity, including many of the mammals listed in Table 1. So if anyone ever asks what the big deal is about the world's smallest rhino, you can tell them that guaranteeing its conservation will also conserve much of the world's richest rainforest!

Table 1 Selected Threatened Mammals from Sabah

Common name	Genus	Species
Banteng	<i>Bos</i>	<i>javanicus lowi</i>
Crab-eating macaque	<i>Macaca</i>	<i>fascicularis</i>
Pigtail macaque	<i>M.</i>	<i>nemestrina</i>
Proboscis monkey	<i>Nasalis</i>	<i>larvatus</i>
Banded langur	<i>Presbytis</i>	<i>chrysomelas</i>
White-fronted langur	<i>P.</i>	<i>frontata</i>
Grey leaf monkey	<i>P.</i>	<i>hosei</i>
Flying lemur	<i>Cynocephalus</i>	<i>volans</i>
Bornean pygmy elephant	<i>Elephas</i>	<i>maximus borneensis</i>
Bay cat	<i>Catopuma</i>	<i>badia</i>
Clouded leopard	<i>Neofelis</i>	<i>nebulosa</i>
Marbled cat	<i>Pardofelis</i>	<i>marmorata</i>
Fishing cat	<i>Prionailurus</i>	<i>viverrinus</i>
Orang utan	<i>Pongo</i>	<i>pygmaeus</i>
Agile gibbon	<i>Hylobates</i>	<i>albibarbis</i>
Bornean gibbon	<i>H.</i>	<i>muelleri</i>
Malayan porcupine	<i>Hystrix</i>	<i>brachyura</i>
Mountain spiny rat	<i>Maxomys</i>	<i>alticola</i>
Smooth-coated otter	<i>Lutrogale</i>	<i>perspicillata</i>
Short-headed roundleaf bat	<i>Hipposideros</i>	<i>breviceps</i>
Ridley's roundleaf bat	<i>H.</i>	<i>ridleyi</i>
Four-striped ground squirrel	<i>Lariscus</i>	<i>hosei</i>

⁷ Groves, C.R., 2003: As above.

⁸ Wilson, E.O., 1999: *The Diversity of Life*, WW Norton and Company, New York.

⁹ Groves, C.R., 2003: As above.

Bare-backed rousette	<i>Rousettus</i>	<i>spinalatus</i>
Jentink's squirrel	<i>Sundasciurus</i>	<i>jentinki</i>
Sun bear	<i>Helarctos</i>	<i>malayanus euryspilus</i>
False serotine bat	<i>Hesperoptenus</i>	<i>doriae</i>
Otter civet	<i>Cynogale</i>	<i>bennettii</i>

Source: CI 2006, IUCN 2006, Payne & Francis 2005

Project Updates

ARP and the International Rhino Foundation

Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary Update, Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra

By Nico van Strien

Rosa the young female that was relocated from Bukit Barisan Selatan NP (BBS) is apparently not yet fully mature and her reproductive organs have not developed fully. She may take a year or more to reach adulthood, and is not at all keen on being together with Torgamba. But she is healthy and has adapted very well.

On the other hand, Ratu, the female rhino rescued from Way Kambas NP, is somewhat older and has already paired twice with Torgamba. From her behavior during courtship it was obvious that she had encountered males before being moved to the SRS, but it appears that she was not pregnant before.



Andalas Photo courtesy of Tad Motoyama, Jeff Holland and LA Zoo, USA.

The reproductive cycles of all three females are being regularly monitored, via ultrasound examinations and hormonal analysis. The health of the 'resident' old male, Torgamba, remains unstable with periods of anaemia and weight loss, and he only occasionally shows interest in the females.

Though the GMPB recommended to move Bina to the USA as soon as possible for an attempt to attain a pregnancy with Ipuh, the proven breeder in Cincinnati, the consensus is now to keep her in the SRS so that she has a chance for interactions with Andalas first. Andalas is expected to arrive to the SRS from Los Angeles Zoo (USA) early next year. Bina's reproductive cycle shows more and more irregularities and she may in fact be nearing the end of her reproductive potential however the high costs of moving a rhino, with

doubtful potential, is an important consideration. The situation will be closely monitored by the reproductive experts and veterinarians and evaluated from time to time. Andalas is expected in the SRS in January or February 2007.

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.

Update of the Indonesian Rhino Conservation Strategy

By Nico van Strien

As a follow up on the February 2006 workshop on the update the Indonesian Rhino Conservation Strategy the Director General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation has officially installed a Task Force in June 2006. The Task Force has 11 members from Government and NGOs and will complete the Conservation Strategy document and guide and oversee it's implementation.

It is expected that the documents can be finalized early 2007, and that the new Indonesian Rhino Conservation Strategy or the 'Rhino Century Program' can be officially launched later next year. Implementation, especially for the planned range expansion for the Javan rhino, could start soon after.

SOS Rhino Update

By Dr. Nan Schaffer, President/Acting Executive Director, SOS Rhino

Many changes have occurred since the beginning of the year. In April, we hired Dr. M.S. Thayaparan as Acting Program Officer to replace Dr. Edwin Bosi in Malaysia. Thaya is a 31 year-old veterinarian and recently finished his Masters degree at the local university.

We have a larger more committed crew in the forest. There are 2 coordinators and 25 rangers. We keep track of them with much improved technological and managerial capability. They are producing more detailed records of which areas they are covering and the information they are gathering through improved maps and tracking systems



We are applying three different methods to survey Tabin for rhinos this year. First, we are finishing a transect survey that can be compared with a survey that was done in 2001-2002. Second, we invited very experienced Indonesian rangers to train our rangers and to make some evaluations about the status of the population in Tabin as compared with similar areas in Indonesia. They have been in the forest with our rangers and are finding more evidence of rhino. And finally, we are asking Sabah Wildlife Department, WWF and the Sabah Foundation to help us accomplish a general survey, originally scheduled for the end of this year, but postponed due to heavy rains. After the comprehensive survey is completed, SOS Rhino Borneo will sponsor an international meeting that will help us make appropriate decisions about the continued management of the population in Tabin.

To date our RPU's have learned invaluable tracking information from the Indonesian Rhino Rangers and in exchange we shared new technology with them. This interaction with the Indonesian Rangers combined with Thaya's presence, the discovery of baby rhino footprints in two locations in Tabin and the exciting catch by one of our rangers of video of a wild rhino has really increased the enthusiasm among our Rangers. The news of the baby footprints and the video was disseminated over 32 national and international media outlets. The video was the first ever of a wild Sumatran rhino.

This renewed fervor could not have come at a better time given the recent increase in forest intrusions. Back in 2000-2001, we found camps of poachers in the forest who were so comfortable that they wanted a picture of our Rangers taken with them. Since 2001 we have found very few signs of human encroachment in the forest. However, we have recently seen an increase in evidence of human activity and are focusing more of our manpower and efforts on anti-poaching activities. In addition to asking and receiving more help from the surrounding plantations, 10 of our Rangers have passed the necessary exams and will soon be awarded Honorary Game Warden status. The Wildlife Department limits the number of Honorary Game Wardens; accordingly, we will retain these designations within SOS Rhino Borneo instead of allowing the individuals to take them if they leave the organization.

We now have two Field Coordinators. One leads the Rangers and the other focuses on outreach with villagers and aids the ecotourism masters student. They have been surveying the local attitudes about wildlife and conservation.

This long-standing connection with University of Malaysia Sabah has resulted in a giant leap forward in communication, assistance and support. We formed the first conservation club on campus for the University. They invited us to speak to the incoming undergraduates to increase their interest in joining the "Rhino Club." So far, the Club has sold a lot of t-shirts and its members are planning a rhino run next March. The Club has become a valuable source of volunteers to help us with our events and promotion around town and will hopefully interest more students in conservation careers.

We have been working diligently on the following awareness and community outreach initiatives:

- Tabin Wildlife Resort has established a package expedition with us to send their clientele for a rhino tracking experience. The opening for the package will be at the travel show in November in the UK.
- John Lo, one of our SOS Rhino Borneo Board Members, has introduced me to several of the local Rotary Clubs, which has given me the opportunity to speak on many occasions. One of the local Kota Kinabalu Clubs is considering making a grant request on our behalf to Rotary International and its members are interested in supporting the Rhino Run the UMS Rhino Club wants to put on next March.
- We held a press conference in Kula Lumpur for the Extreme 4x4 Malaysian Rainforest Challenge Tour for the Rhino in November 2006. DDB PR our pro bono ad partners have been working very hard at sponsorships. Andora Fredricks (now Kumar) is spearheading the drive. She has been with us since the early days when she was an education officer at the zoo in KL and created several rhino exhibits for us in that role.

We received grants from the US government (Fish and Wildlife Department), Pacific Asia Travel Association Foundation, Asian Rhino Project, and the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria. These funds have helped defray equipment, vehicle, personnel and supply related costs.

I have continued in my capacity as the Acting Executive Director. It has been challenging and rewarding. Since April, our biggest improvement has been the establishment of best business practices. Our relations with almost every organization have improved immensely. The hiring of new invigorated staff has increased productivity and morale. Our connections within the business community and local NGOs have expanded exponentially and have yielded new and creative ways to build awareness about the Sumatran rhino. As a result, we have had media coverage several times each month regarding the latest discoveries by our newly enthused Rangers. I am extremely proud of the way in which the staff has stepped up to meet the new challenges.

Thank you for your continued support!

Asian Rhino Project Adopt a Rhino Fundraiser

A great gift for Christmas, birthdays or just because you care. The Asian Rhino Project, Adopt a Rhino fundraising program. You can help us help save the Sumatran rhino by adopting a rhino today – and its tax deductible!

Two rhino have been bred in captivity in the past 6 years with a third on the way. These adorable calves were born at Cincinnati Zoo in the USA as part of a global breeding program for the species. With so many of the wild Sumatran Rhino populations in areas of suitable habitats facing imminent poaching danger, we are forced to resort to the establishment of secure healthy captive populations in sanctuaries. Here, they are better protected and provide insurance for the survival of the species. With the recent success of the Cincinnati breeding program, scientists feel they have learnt a lot more about this species and its captive requirements. This new breeding success has brought hope and demonstrated a real potential for future captive breeding success.

Breeding Sumatran Rhinos can be risky as they can become very aggressive when paired if the female is not receptive. The Sumatran Rhino are believed to be induced ovulators, meaning that they will only ovulate when mated. The scientists at Cincinnati Zoo have found that by monitoring progesterone levels and conducting regular ultrasound procedures to monitor follicle growth, they were able to pin point the



Emi and her first born Andalus wallowing at Cincinnati Zoo.
Photo by David Jenike, courtesy of Cincinnati Zoo, USA.



Emi and her second born Suci at Cincinnati Zoo. Photo by David Jenike courtesy of Cincinnati Zoo, USA.

precise time to introduce the pair for mating. The usual tell-tale signs of rhino oestrus are not as visual as other species and very hard to detect through behavioural changes between the two. These rhino are also very solitary animals, and are only compatible when the female is in full oestrus. If this oestrus is not detected at the right time the breeding will not be successful and the rhino can be injured.

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).



There are currently 4 rhino at the SRS – 1 male and 3 females, with Andalus the first born calf from Cincinnati Zoo soon arriving to the program soon from Los Angeles Zoo, USA which will bring the population up to 5.

You can adopt a rhino for 6 or 12 months. To find out more please contact Kerry by calling 08 89760952 or kerry.crosbie@asianrhinos.org.au . We hope to have the program up on our web site soon.

Can You Help Cut Administrative Costs?

The ARP works to keep administration to a minimum so funds can be directed to our important conservation projects. Our offices are in need of essential equipment. If you or someone you know can donate the following items, we would be very appreciative:

- Laminator
- Blank CD's
- Stationary e.g.: pens, paper, envelopes, folders, paperclips, and so on.

If you can help, please contact Kerry at the ARP head office by e-mail Hkerry.crosbie@asianrhinos.org.au or on 08 8976 0952.

Committee Updates

National Committee

As you will see in the AGM minutes previously there have been only slight changes to the National Committee. The Treasurer and Secretary positions remain vacant however, Kerry and Petra will continue to fill until new members can take on the role. Kerry was approached after the AGM with a few possible takers for these positions which we expect will go ahead – more soon.

WA Branch

A big congrats goes to our treasurer Petra Hancock who gave birth to a beautiful baby boy 5 weeks ago. Despite having a toddler and a new born, she has continued to carry out her role as WA Treasurer and contribute as Acting Treasurer on the National Committee. Thanks Petra and again, congratulations!

Clare Campbell stood down from WA Branch manager role due to work commitments and her increased role with the Silvery Gibbon Project. She will be handing over the role to Emma Gatehouse. Welcome Emma!

VIC Branch

Please see notes after AGM Notice

In the News – Asian Rhino Stories

Baby boom for near-extinct rhino

Scientists in Indonesia have found evidence of four new rhino calves on the island of Java. The discovery in Java's Ujung Kulon National Park has raised hopes that one of the world's rarest breeds of mammals could begin to re-populate. Scientists from conservation group WWF made the discovery.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/5305906.stm>

Other stories on this:

- <http://www.antara.co.id/en/seenews/?id=19328>
- http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/articlenews.aspx?type=scienceNews&storyID=2006-09-01T065817Z_01_JAK42861_RTRIDST_0_SCIENCE-ENVIRONMENT-INDONESIA-RHINO-DC.XML

More Than \$3.5 Million In Conservation Grants Go To 54 Countries To Help Conserve The World's Imperiled Wildlife

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will award more than \$3.5 million in international conservation grants to 54 countries to help conserve imperiled wildlife throughout the world, Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne announced today. Matching funds and in-kind contributions from nearly 100 partners, including American and international not-for-profit organizations and foreign governments, will raise the total to nearly \$9 million.

More: http://communitydispatch.com/artman/publish/article_6280.shtml

Vietnam investigates rhino horn smuggling

Vietnamese police are probing into a local couple who smuggled five rhino horns into Vietnam, local media reported Thursday. Local scientists have concluded that the five horns weighing between 0.55 kg and 5.35 kg each carried by a 58-year-old man named Ngo Kim Trong and his wife when they were flying to Vietnam's Hanoi capital from China's Hong Kong are horns of a rare kind of African white rhino.

More: http://english.people.com.cn/200608/24/eng20060824_296415.html

Kaziranga animals in danger due to drought

A drought-like situation in India's northeastern state of Assam may trigger a food crisis at this famed wildlife sanctuary, fuelling fears that animals would stray out of the park in search of fodder. Wildlife rangers at the internationally famed Kaziranga National Park, home to the endangered one-horned rhinos, are worried with scanty monsoon rains this year stunting fresh plant growth in the wet savannah grasslands.

More:

http://www.dailyindia.com/show/55460.php/Kaziranga_animals_in_danger_due_to_drought

Chitwan Declaration issued for conservation of rhino

After increasing cases of poaching of rhino in the Chitwan National Park, various groups including the political parties and the local residents have come up with a 20-point declaration to make effective the efforts of rhino conservation. The Declaration has set a goal to conserve the rare one-horned rhinoceros in the national park by launching proactive programs with coordination and cooperation among all concerned sides. It also vows to make effective the security mechanism and the management of the Chitwan National Park, involve the local residents in the conversation of rhino and its habitat and shift the hotels and resorts located around sensitive areas inside the national park to other places.

More: <http://www.nepalnews.com/archive/2006/aug/aug24/news13.php>

Sumatran Rhino In The Wild Captured On Video

Environmentalists in Sabah are buzzing with excitement. Years of patience was finally rewarded when they got a see a Sumatran rhino in its natural habitat on video. The video clip of the male Sumatran rhino was captured last week by a local ranger hired by Save Our Sumatran Rhino (SOS Rhino).

More: <http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/v3/news.php?id=218362>

Other stories:

- http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/nst/Wednesday/NewsBreak/20060906172207/Article/index.html
- <http://www.thejakartapost.com/detailgen.asp?fileid=20060908183334&irec=0>
- <http://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news.cfm?NewsID=44265>
- <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2006/09/060912-sumatran-rhino.html>
- <http://www.physorg.com/news76993739.html>
- <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,213302,00.html>

20 rhinos fall prey to poachers

Thirty-one rhinos died in the Chitwan National Park in the last three years and 20 of them had fallen prey to poachers. Even in Bardiya, of the 72 rhinos, which were translocated at the Bardiya Wildlife Reserve only three were found in the sweeping operation of WWF. The recent killing by poachers of four rhinos, including a pregnant female, in Chitwan in the last one month has raised serious concern about the increase of poaching during the cease-fire.

More: <http://www.gorkhapatra.org.np/content.php?nid=2597>

Other Stories:

http://english.ohmynews.com/articleview/article_view.asp?menu=c10400&no=315824&rel_no=1&isPrint=print

Baby boom provides hope for world's rarest rhino species

Scientists have found indications that four new Javan rhinos were born recently in Indonesia, in what would be a critical boost to the population of one of the rarest mammals in the world, the conservation group WWF said today.

More: <http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/008200609010940.htm>

Other Stories:

- <http://www.chinapost.com.tw/asiapacific/detail.asp?GRP=C&id=89466>
- <http://www.canada.com/topics/news/world/story.html?id=576ede73-0037-41a0-ae9-e2b5e340f9d2&k=88137>
- http://science.monstersandcritics.com/news/article_1196881.php/Baby_boom_for_worlds_rarest_rhino_species_WWF
- http://www.int.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=14&click_id=143&art_id=qw1157085901448R131
- http://www.panda.org/news_facts/newsroom/index.cfm?uNewsID=79280

Mingma Norbu Sherpa; Pioneer In Conservation in the Himalayas

Mingma Norbu Sherpa, 50, who grew up in the Himalayas near Mount Everest and became a leading voice for conservation in Nepal and Bhutan as an official with the World Wildlife Fund, died Sept. 23 in a helicopter crash in Nepal.

Mr. Sherpa spent 25 years managing national parks, founding conservation areas and educating Himalayan residents about the environment. He was also largely responsible for saving the single-horned Indian rhinoceros from extinction.

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/09/28/AR2006092801877.html>

US To Work With Borneo States On 'Heart Of Borneo' Project

The United States (US) will continue to cooperate with the three Borneo states of Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia on the "Heart of Borneo" project to preserve one of the oldest rainforests in the world. US State Secretary Condoleeza Rice pledged US\$100,000 (RM367,000) to support "Heart of Borneo" through the project initiator WWF Malaysia.

More: http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/state_news/news.php?id=221960&cat=sbe

Other Related Stories:

http://travelvideo.tv/news/more.php?id=9793_0_1_0_M

John Cleese to visit Dubbo for rhino program

English comedian and actor John Cleese will visit Dubbo next month for a fundraiser for the Western Plains Zoo. The Taronga Foundation is working to raise \$200,000 towards the cost of expanding facilities to begin a breeding program for the greater one-horned rhinoceros.

More: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/items/200609/1748605.htm?centralwest>

Conservation Groups Decry Release of Rhino Poachers

The government of Nepal's decision to release nine convicted rhino poachers and traders threatens the future of long-term efforts to protect the endangered species, conservation groups said Wednesday. Poaching has decimated Nepal's population of one-horned rhino in recent years and conservationists worry that the trend could continue and accelerate absent strict enforcement efforts.

More: <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/sep2006/2006-09-20-02.asp>

Conflict vs conservation

Up until 2000, Nepal's conservation efforts looked promising. Despite the conflict, the number of Greater One-Horned Rhinoceros had risen to 612 from less than a hundred in the 1960s, just one indicator of success. But Nepal today has just 409 rhinos. "From the rhino data alone, we can say conservation work has stepped back nearly two decades," says Chandra Gurung, WWF Nepal's country representative. Chitwan National Park alone had 544 rhinos in 2000. However, as the Maoists stepped up their activities, guard posts were abandoned, giving poachers and smugglers the freedom to move around national parks, encroach on protected areas, and illegally fell timber.

Source: <http://www.nepalitimes.com/issue/316/Nation/12526>

Rhino rescued after 24hrs in a marshy pit

An adult female rhino was successfully rescued from a marshy pit, after being trapped in it for nearly 24 hours, by a team of forest officials and Wildlife Trust of India.

More: http://www.wildlifetrustofindia.org/html/news/2006/061012_rhino.html

Rhino carcass found in Chitwan

Yet another rhino was killed by poachers in Chitwan National Park Wednesday night. The carcass of a 12-year-old female rhino was found at Dandauli near Purano Padampur, Amuse, said Chief Conservation Officer of the National Park Gopal Upadhyaya. The poachers had fired several bullet shots at the rhino.

More: <http://www.kantipuronline.com/kolnews.php?&nid=89102>

Other Stories:

http://english.people.com.cn/200610/20/eng20061020_313779.html

Nepal's rhinos threatened by resurgent poaching

Wildlife authorities in Nepal are concerned about a spike in poaching of an endangered species of rhinoceros after four of the animals were killed in the past two weeks in the country's biggest wildlife reserve. Last year a census showed the population of Indian Rhinoceros, also known as the Great One-horned Rhinoceros, in Chitwan National Park had fallen to just 372, its lowest level in 10 years, down from 544 in 2000. Poachers appear to have whittled that number down even further with at least five more rhinos killed in July.

Other Stories

Nepal's rhinos threatened

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2006%5C11%5C06%5Cstory_6-11-2006_pg6_12

Poachers target rare Nepal rhino

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/6111614.stm

Poachers kill three rare rhinos

http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=115101&version=1&template_id=44&parent_id=24

Three rhinos killed in two weeks

<http://www.nepalnews.com/archive/2006/oct/oct30/news04.php>

Another Rhino Killed in Chitwan

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullstory.asp?filename=aFanata0va2qzpa4a3Sa0a8a.axamal&folder=aHaoamW&Name=Home&dtSiteDate=20061030>

Nepal's rhinos threatened by resurgent poaching

http://today.reuters.co.uk/news/articlenews.aspx?type=scienceNews&storyID=2006-11-03T121306Z_01_B724376_RTRIDST_0_SCIENCE-ENVIRONMENT-NEPAL-RHINOS-DC.XML&WTmodLoc=SciHealth-C1-Headline-6

Nepal's one-horned rhinos at risk

http://www.itv.com/news/world_2ba72b828c6854e95b82db5d9fcac87e.html

NATO strongly condemns poaching of Rhinoceros

Nepal Association of Tour Operators (NATO) strongly condemns the poaching of Rhinoceros in the Chitwan National Park, which is on the rise day by day. With the killing of the fourth Rhinoceros in the past 15 days, NATO feels that it is the high time the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) address this burning issue and take major steps to protect and conserve one-horned Rhinoceros in Nepal.

More: <http://www.gorkhapatra.org.np/content.php?nid=5661>

Scientists crack rhino horn riddle

Rhinoceros horns have long been objects of mythological beliefs. Some cultures prize them for their supposed magical or medicinal qualities. Others have used them as dagger handles or good luck charms. But new research at Ohio University removes some of the mystique by explaining how the horn gets its distinctive curve and sharply pointed tip.

More: <http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/008200611080941.htm>

Other Stories on This

- http://reports.discoverychannel.ca/servlet/an/discovery/1/20061107/discovery_Rhinohorns_061107/20061107?hub=DiscoveryReport
- <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/15607685/>
- <http://www.physorg.com/news82053566.html> has picture of skull and horns
- <http://news.mongabay.com/2006/1106-ohio.html>

Vietnamese diplomat found trading banned rhino horns

South African police accused a Vietnamese embassy official in Pretoria of carrying rhino horns out of the country, an offence under an international treaty both countries have signed.

More: <http://www.thanhniennews.com/society/?catid=3&newsid=22246>

Two gored to death by rhino in Assam village

In a rare attack, a one-horned rhinoceros gored to death two people, including a pregnant woman, in an Assam village and had to be chased out by police and wildlife rangers.

More: <http://www.teluguportal.net/modules/news/article.php?storyid=21793>

Tigers, bears and rhino traded in London

A tiger cub slaughtered and stuffed before his eyes could open, a polar bear rug on sale in Notting Hill and a rhino horn seized in Kensington today proved London's booming trade in illegal animal products. Over the last decade, the Met's wildlife crackdown Operation Charm has seized more than 30,000 illegal animal items in the capital.

More:

http://www.thisishertfordshire.co.uk/news/roundup/display.var.1029369.0.tigers_polar_bears_and_rhino_traded_in_london.php

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