

The Rhino Print Autumn 2010



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Welcome to the Autumn 2010 Newsletter

Hello and welcome to your Autumn newsletter, which I think you'll find is another action packed edition.

I find I've become your new editor and I hope and trust you'll find the quality will remain at its high standard. Kerry Crosbie, ARP Chairperson, will continue her tremendous role, and it is a pleasure to be able to help ease her load a little (hopefully more so with the Winter edition).

Did you realize this amazing lady was not only a highly pregnant mother of one when working on the November edition, but was also supervising the building of their family home, and commuting 100km (each way!) by bus to and from work – using that time to work on her laptop! We wish you well and much happiness Kerry, as you settle into your new home with your new addition to the family.

Asian Rhino Project is extremely proud to announce its new patron, Dr Tim Flannery.

A very exciting report is the news of the Sumatran rhino pregnancy - Andalas, Emi's gorgeous little calf, has successfully mated with Ratu!

More translocations of rhinos are proceeding in India, and Clare's report on her recent visit there; also Taronga Zoo's part in gaining a \$10,000 grant for this program. More evidence found of the Javan rhino in Vietnam.

On a more distressing note, poaching is rampant in Africa, so much so in Zimbabwe that CITES may take punitive action.

Very sadly, news has just come to hand that Ratu has lost her pregnancy. The initial story has been retained so that you might share in the excitement it generated for the many people involved. Despite this disappointing outcome, hope for similar news in the future remains high.

Ursula Beaton, ARP Secretary

Asian Rhino Project Welcomes New Patron

Tim Flannery: scientist, author, explorer

The Asian Rhino Project is honoured to announce that Tim Flannery [BA (La Trobe), MSc (Monash), PhD (UNSW)] has agreed to come on board as our Patron. Tim is one of Australia's leading thinkers and writers. He has made contributions of international significance to the fields of palaeontology, mammalogy and conservation and to the understanding of science in the broader community. He is an internationally acclaimed scientist, explorer and conservationist; Tim's books include the definitive ecological histories of Australia (*The Future Eaters*) and North America (*The Eternal Frontier*). He has published more than 140 peer-reviewed papers.

As a field zoologist he has discovered and named more than thirty new species of mammals (including two tree-kangaroos), and at 34 he was awarded the Edgeworth David Medal for Outstanding Research. His research clarifies and draws attention to the status of endangered species and publicises past extinctions to prevent future ones. Without Dr. Flannery's conservation work it is likely that species such as Bulmer's Fruit Bat would already be extinct. His pioneering work in New Guinea prompted Sir David Attenborough to put him in the league of the world's great explorers and the writer Redmond O'Hanlon to remark, "He's discovered more new species than Charles Darwin."

He is a regular contributor to *The New York Review of Books* and *The Times Literary Supplement* and has edited and introduced many historical works, including *The Birth of Sydney*, *The Diaries of William Buckley* and *The Explorers*. He received a Centenary of Federation Medal for his service to science, and in 2002 he became the first environmentalist to deliver the Australia Day address to the nation.

Tim spent a year as professor of Australian studies at Harvard, where he taught in the Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology. In Australia he is a leading member of the Wentworth Group of Concerned Scientists, which reports independently to government on sustainability issues.

A familiar voice on ABC Radio, NPR and the BBC for more than a decade, he is also known to viewers of the Documentary Channel as writer-presenter on the series *The Future Eaters* (1998), *Wild Australasia* (2003), *Islands in the Sky* (1992) and *Bushfire* (1997). He was a



principal consultant on the SBS series *The Colony* (2004) and is currently Australian consultant-presenter for the international series *ATLAS*. In 2006, he appeared in a television documentary series called *Two Men In A Tinnie* about the environmental degradation of the Murray-Darling Basin, with his long time friend, John Doyle.

Formerly director of the South Australian Museum, Tim is chairman of the South Australian Premier's Science Council and Sustainability Roundtable; a director of the Australian Wildlife Conservancy; and the National Geographic Society's representative in Australasia. In April 2005, he was honoured as Australian Humanist of the Year.

In 2005, his international best seller *The Weather Makers: The History & Future Impact of Climate Change* was published, and a young persons version was published in 2006. Tim Flannery was named Australian of the Year in 2007. That year Tim also co-founded and was appointed Chair of the Copenhagen Climate Council, and he took up a position of Professor at the Faculty of Science at Sydney's Macquarie University, which he still holds. Tim also has language skills in Tok Pisin (Melanesian Pidgin), and Bahasa Indonesia (Indonesian).

Kerry first heard of Tim's interest in Sumatran rhino conservation through Dr. Terri Roth of Cincinnati Zoo a few years back after he visited there and delivered a talk. We are deeply grateful for his support and dedication to the plight of the rhino and the ARP.

Information from www.theweathermakers.org/about, www.bookbrowse.com/biographies/index.cfm?author_number=1267, www.onlymelbourne.com.au/melbourne_details.php?id=10761.

Rare Rhino Pregnancy Gives Hope To Species

Andalas-Ratu love story proves conservation efforts can work

Cincinnati/Los Angeles/Indonesia -- Conservationists around the world are celebrating a pregnancy in one of the world's most endangered species, the Sumatran rhino. The pregnancy of female Ratu, born in Indonesia, and male Andalas, the first of only three Sumatran rhinos born in captivity in more than 112 years, is giving hope to international rhino biologists. The breeding occurred at Indonesia's Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas National Park after international efforts led to the pair's introduction. The calf is expected to be born in May 2011.

No ordinary pregnancy, Andalas and Ratu were brought together through international goodwill and cooperation in an effort to save this critically endangered species. Ratu wandered into a village just outside Sumatra's Way Kambas National Park in 2006; Andalas was born at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden in 2001 and grew up there before being transferred to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in 2007. With help from Dr. Robin Radcliffe of the International Rhino Foundation's (IRF) Rhino Conservation Medicine Program, the then-5 ½-year-old Andalas journeyed more than 10,000 miles on a 63-hour trip by plane, truck and ferry. Prior to his departure, he was vaccinated to protect him from diseases he would soon face in the rainforests of his native habitat.

Three years after Andalas' successful transition, he and Ratu mated. Mating followed months of gradual introduction by scent, sound, sight, and finally, physical proximity, ultimately resulting in the pregnancy.

Dr. Susie Ellis, executive director of the IRF said that a combination of sound science, international collaboration among government, non-profits, and zoos, as well as timing and personal chemistry, has led to this groundbreaking event. Their numbers have decreased by more than 50% over the last 15 years in the wild, so every individual counts. The captive population represents not only an 'insurance policy' for the wild population, but also a means to study the basic biology of the species, which must be understood in order to save them. The Sumatran rhino population is estimated at approximately 200 individuals in the wild and 10 currently in captivity worldwide. Ratu's pregnancy represents the hope for a future generation.

"We have been waiting a long time to share news of a

rhino pregnancy," said Dr. Dedi Candra, the sanctuary's animal collection coordinator. "With help from our partners, we have worked tirelessly to keep these animals healthy and breeding. Our dedicated keepers deserve a great deal of the credit."

"The Los Angeles Zoo is anxiously awaiting the birth of Ratu's calf in Indonesia," said John Lewis, Los Angeles zoo director. "We are long time supporters of this program. Although we miss Andalas at the zoo, we are so proud to have helped contribute towards the conservation of rhinos by sending him back to Indonesia."

In 1984, a group of reproductive biologists, zoologists and conservationists joined together to form the Sumatran Rhino Trust, an agreement bridging several countries and symbolizing hope for the conservation of an entire species. The Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary is a 250-acre complex built and funded by IRF. It is currently operated in partnership with the Indonesian Rhino Foundation under an agreement with the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry. The sanctuary houses five rhinos that are part of an intensively managed research and breeding program aimed at contributing to the conservation of the species in the wild. The rhinos reside in large, open areas where they can experience a natural rain forest habitat while receiving state-of-the-art veterinary care and nutrition.

Dr. Terri Roth, director of Cincinnati Zoo's Centre for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) and vice president for IRF's Asia programs, has used her extensive training in reproductive biology to produce three Sumatran rhinos beginning with Andalas in 2001, using hormonal assays and ultrasound techniques to determine the optimal time for introducing males and females.

"Sumatran rhinos are very solitary by nature and very aggressive towards one another except when a female is in oestrus," said Dr. Roth. "Through science we can determine when the female is ready to ovulate so that she is paired with a male at the right time and fighting is minimized while the likelihood of conception is optimized. It is wonderful to see the science developed at CREW help our Indonesian colleagues achieve success in the forest of Sumatra."

According to Dr. Roth, captive Sumatran rhinos fill many

roles. They represent a valuable resource for learning about the species' basic biology which can facilitate efforts to monitor and protect them in the wild. They serve as ambassadors for their species helping to educate both children and adults about rhinos and the rainforest, and they are becoming increasingly important as a back up to the wild population as the latter continues to decline.

"The Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary has been encouraged by Cincinnati Zoo's success," said Dr. Widodo Ramono, executive director of the Rhino Foundation of Indonesia. "Our staff has adapted the Cincinnati Zoo's methodology to the local environment at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, particularly ultrasonographic techniques, to achieve this result."

"While captive breeding is not a substitute for protecting the species in the wild, it is a critical part of an integrated strategy for the Sumatran rhino's recovery," said Dr. Ellis. "The IRF, through its local partner, the Indonesian Rhino Foundation, also operates anti-poaching units in three Indonesian national parks. Thanks to those programs, there has been no rhino poaching in the last five years, and poaching of other large vertebrates which share rhino habitat has decreased significantly."

Development of a viable and holistic program that involves captive breeding will provide insurance against the difficulties and uncertainties of protecting the Sumatran rhino in the wild. Solid success with this species may provide a model for development of a similar program for the critically endangered Javan rhino, whose population is more stable but numbers no more than 50 individuals in the wild, with no insurance population in captivity. Indonesia harbours two critically endangered rhino species, but with far less attention than African rhinos.



Above: Andalas. Photo: Mongabay.com

Sumatran Rhino Miscarriage Deals Rescue Efforts a Setback

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/news/sumatran-rhino-miscarriage-deals-rescue-efforts-a-setback/367282>

The loss of the first pregnancy of Ratu, a young female Sumatran rhinoceros at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas National Park, is a blow to efforts to pull the species from the verge of extinction.

"This is not unusual for a rhino's first pregnancy," Susie Ellis, the executive director of the International Rhino Foundation, said in a statement released late on Wednesday.

"While we are saddened by this loss, the fact that we achieved a pregnancy confirms that our work with the Sumatran rhino breeding program is progressing. Ratu and [male rhino] Andalas are healthy and have produced one pregnancy, so we are optimistic that success will soon be achieved," she added.

"Our staff is disappointed, but the fact that we did achieve a pregnancy reconfirms our commitment to helping Ratu and Andalas succeed," said Dedi Candra, the sanctuary's animal collection coordinator.

Adopt-a-Rhino Fundraiser

Help us save the Sumatran rhino by adopting one today – and it's tax deductible!

All funds raised through the ARP's adopt-a-rhino program will be used to support the SRS in Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra.

With each adoption you will receive an attractive adoption certificate including information on your rhino and the program.

You can also choose to receive quarterly updates on your rhino as well as an A4 sized photograph

(extra costs apply for photos and updates).

More information on the rhinos and the program is on our website www.asianrhinos.org.au.



Indian Rhino Vision 2020 Program

Poaching pressure remains high within India and Nepal. In 2008, 26 rhinos died at the hands of poachers in Assam, and at least eight were poached in Nepal, where populations are highly fragmented and difficult to protect. In 2009, at least 17 rhinos were poached in India and Nepal. These events occurred mostly during the rainy season when animals were forced to leave their normal ranges for non-flooded areas.

In April 2008, as part of Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV 2020), a partnership among Assam Forest Department; ARP's Partner, the International Rhino Foundation (IRF); WWF-India and other NGOs, the much anticipated translocations of Indian rhinos commenced with the movement of two males from Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary to Manas National Park in Assam. The IRV 2020 goal is to "increase the total rhino population in Assam from present numbers to 3,000 by 2020, and to ensure that these rhinos are distributed over at least seven protected areas to provide long-term viability of an Assam metapopulation."

The first translocation has produced initial positive results, and will be followed by the translocation of more animals to Manas very soon, as all necessary government clearances have been obtained to import the necessary immobilization drugs. Tentative plans are in place to translocate up to 18 greater one-horned rhinos from Kaziranga National Park and Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary to Manas National Park in

March/April 2010. Along with partners from Taronga Zoo, Dr. Susie Ellis, IRF's Executive Director, travelled to India in February to meet with partners to review the translocation plans and to visit the project sites (see also Clare's report on page 8.)

Currently, more than 85% of the Indian rhino population inhabits one protected national park, Kaziranga, exposing the population to the risk that a single catastrophe such as a flood or disease outbreak could again lead to serious population decline. The expansion of their distribution will reduce stochastic risks and reduce the population pressures in any single habitat by ensuring a better distribution of rhinos over suitable ranges. This is essential for the species' metapopulation management and long-term survival.

Support for moving rhinos to Manas in the local administration and among local communities is in place, as is enhanced security within the Park. The key to the success of the initiative will be the safe capture and translocation of the animals as well as the ability to both continuously monitor and provide for their security.

The expected conservation output of this project will be the successful establishment of an Indian rhino population in Manas National Park. Rhinos once flourished here, but were wiped out due to heavy poaching pressures in the past. (Due to enhanced security measures and strong local support, the park is once again safe for rhinos.)

Rhino selection for translocation is based on age, sex, health and other variables as laid out in the Translocation Protocol for Indian Rhinos, which is based on successful translocations carried out in Nepal between 1986 and 2003.

Animals will be monitored daily for overall behaviour and well-being by a team of biologists using radio-collars



Indian Rhino. Photo: Taronga Conservation Society

and direct observation. The team will also monitor the behaviour and habitat use of the rhinos over the long-term. Location data will be transformed onto a GIS domain with layers of vegetation mapping and other management parameters. These analyses and conclusions will provide critical data for improving management practices and identifying other needs for making the program successful, in addition to providing information and experience for further translocations, and management of protected areas. Measures undertaken include building a number of new camps and making operational old camps for protection patrol teams to use, in addition to recruiting and training 150 new guards from local communities. A wireless network for communication and vehicles for transportation also have been provided to quickly foil illegal incursions into the Park. A fence has also been constructed along the southern border of the park to prevent park encroachment and to keep translocated rhinos from wandering out of the park and into unsafe areas. Effective translocation, monitoring and survival of these first 20 rhinos to Manas National Park will be the key indicator as to the probability of success for subsequent phases of IRV 2020.

The program will be carried out in partnership with WWF-India, the Assam Forest Department, and the IRF assisted by the ARP. All partners will continue to assist the Assam Forest Department in the IRV 2020's implementation, first in Manas and then in other National Parks.

World Wide Fund for Nature India (WWF India) was established in 1969 and over the last 36 years has been working to conserve wildlife and wild lands in India. With its network of state/divisional and field offices across India, WWF-India is the largest and one of the most experienced conservation organizations in the country.

WWF-India staff have worked diligently with local community organizations and government and park authorities to implement recommendations from a formal security assessment, including boosting Manas' security force by around 150 people, the majority from local communities. The Bodo Territorial Council, leaders of the regional ethnic majority, now has completed 11 guard posts as recommended by the security report, from which the guards will work.

In addition to training more than 150 community members as guards and monitors, the IRV 2020 team

has coordinated with the local political and civil leadership to organize public meetings and other activities to cultivate community involvement in and support for the rhino conservation program. There has been a long history of conflict between wildlife and people in Assam. To cultivate public support in favour of rhino conservation in particular and wildlife conservation in general, the IRV 2020 team has employed a two-pronged strategy of providing local employment and training, combined with regular public meetings and communications, to build an atmosphere that favours conservation in and around Manas National Park. At least three large meetings per year are held with local parties, including the Bodo Territorial Council, to continue to engender support for IRV 2020. Additionally, local community members are hired for any employment opportunities that arise, including construction of the fence along the southern border of the park.

With a program as significant as the rhino translocations in Assam, it is critical to communicate the correct information on the program to all constituencies, in particular, via the media. The IRV 2020 has a Communications Strategy which will guide these interactions, with a short-term aim of at least three major stories per year about post-translocation events. Because of the sensitivity of the moves, the Government of Assam will closely manage media coverage of the first translocations, and will organize press conferences for releases of print and photographic coverage.

Additional funding for the translocations is being provided by the IRF through US and European zoos, as well as private donors, who have made pledges to support IRV 2020 as part of their commitment to in situ conservation. WWF is also providing funding through its extensive network. Partial funding has been provided by the US Fish & Wildlife Service for guards and monitors for the translocated population in Manas.

Thanks to a successful grant application to the Taronga Conservation Society, ARP has been able to contribute \$10,000 to this important project. Taronga Zoos hold the only Indian Rhino population in Australia and have contributed greatly to our Indian Rhino programs. Thank you so much!

India National Parks Visit and AsRSG Meeting February 2010

In February 2010, I was invited to attend the AsRSG Meeting at Kazaringa National Park, Assam, India. Prior to the meeting I had the opportunity to visit some of the projects that ARP support in Manas National park and Kaziranga National Park.

Accompanying me on the trip were: Susie Ellis (IRF), Lucy Boddam-Wetham (Save the Rhino), Bibhab Kumar Talukdar (IRF), Sectionov (IRF Indonesia), Rob Liddell (Woodland Park Zoo Board) and Ian Anderson (Western Plains Zoo).

Manas National Park



The crew at Manas National Park.

The visit to Manas National Park began with a ceremony with some of the members of the local forest guards, park staff, local NGO staff and volunteers as well as the Manas NP Field Director and Assistant Director. We were given tea and lunch (finished nicely with some betel nut!) and welcomed with a traditional ceremony in which brightly coloured woven scarves were placed around each of our necks.



Welcoming ceremony.

We were then taken on a tour of the park and inspected many of the forest guard stations. There are approximately 40 of these stations throughout the

park with 13 guard towers constructed so far. With approximately 200 armed guards working within the park, there certainly appeared to be adequate protection for the five rhino that currently inhabit the park.



Two examples of forest guard towers.

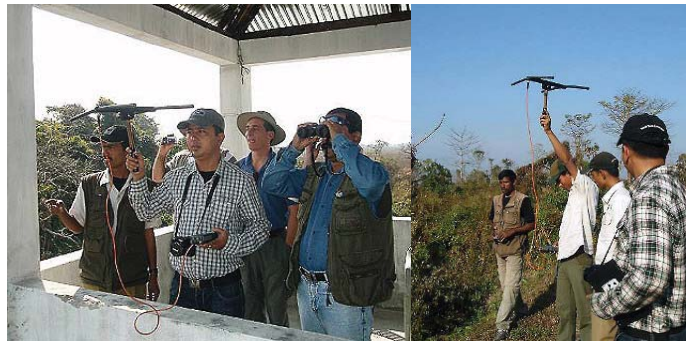
Whilst poaching does not appear to be a problem in Manas at this stage, with the planned translocations of many more rhino, it certainly has the potential to become an issue. The security level currently in place should certainly help to ensure poaching does not become a concern for this area.

One of the most positive aspects of activities in Manas was the evidence of genuine involvement from local NGOs. They were assisting with park activities, education and awareness programs and trying hard to establish viable ecotourism facilities. We were treated to a cultural evening where some of the youth from a local village performed traditional dancing. They had recently received training for these activities in preparation for increased tourism.



Lucy and I (back) with the traditional dancers.

On the second day of our visit to Manas we visited the area where the rhino can be found. We were able to track one to within a few hundred meters, however he was sleeping in the grass and unfortunately not really visible.



Tracking the rhino in Manas National Park.

Manas National Park historically had a reasonable population of rhino. The entire population was virtually wiped out during the political conflict that occurred within the last 10 years. The park is approximately 500sq km which is smaller than Kaziranga at 800sq km. The carrying capacity is estimated at about 500 although this may also be too high given the relative dryness of the area compared to Kaziranga. Development of dams in china and changing weather patterns pose a significant threat to both areas, reliant on their river systems for a balanced ecosystem.

The first rhinos were translocated into the park on 13 April 2008. One of these rhino strayed from the park, travelled a considerable distance and was returned to the park on 15 September.

Electric fence construction is well underway in the southern boundary of the park. So far 8km has been constructed which seems to be effective in ensuring rhino do not enter the villages.

Local NGOs are also assisting with an awareness program in which 12 schools have been covered so



Electric fence on southern boundary of Manas National Park.

far. 5000 students from 20 villages have participated in the program.

Other community welfare activities have been initiated such as vaccination programs for cattle. These kinds of activities have assisted in generating community support for the overall protection of Manas and the return of rhino to the area.

We were fortunate to be able to visit the border of Manas National Park between Bhutan and Assam. This idyllic location certainly presented a diversity of wildlife that we had not seen in other areas of the park.

I spent a week in Bhutan after the trip and it was truly a remarkable place. From an environmental perspective it was incredible to see a country where people instinctively protect their wildlife and habitats for future generations. Unfortunately much of Bhutan is simply too mountainous for rhinos!



Top: A Capped Langur. Above: Clare at the Bhutanese border.

Kaziranga National Park

Kaziranga National Park was quite a different experience to Manas. Catering for large numbers of tourists, the park is bordered by bustling villages and

any road travel involved a death defying experience. Upon entering the park on our jeep safari it certainly created the illusion of an open range zoo, with rhino, other ungulates and diverse birdlife in abundance. The day after I left, our group even managed to sight a tiger.

other identified protected areas.



Indian Rhino in Kaziranga National Park. Photo: Rob Liddell



Indian Rhino in Kaziranga National Park. Photo: Rob Liddell

We also experienced the wildlife of Kazaringa on the back of an elephant which enabled much closer encounters with the rhino. Although it was only a one-hour trek, we managed to find about six different rhino and watch them graze within metres.

AsRSG Meeting

The meeting was attended by many delegates from India, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia as well as representatives from Australia, USA, UK, Europe and Vietnam.

In summary, updates were provided from all regions and working groups had in depth discussions about threats facing each of the species. It is hoped that these analyses will form the basis of Conservation Action Strategies for all Asian rhino species.

Overall the trip was very beneficial and was an excellent opportunity to see first hand the projects that ARP supports in India. It was also an excellent opportunity to meet some of the key players in rhino conservation efforts for all Asian species.

There are certainly some successful projects underway in India and Nepal, and it was heartening to see such genuine involvement from local NGO's and communities.



Touring by elephant. Photo: Rob Liddell

Overall the situation in Kazaringa seems quite good. The rapid translocations of rhinos to other key areas in India should result in the successful repopulation of these important parks. Significant protection measures need to be in place before this occurs though and this currently only exists in Manas NP. With a successful model in place however, it should be relatively simple and cost effective to expand these strategies into the

IUCN SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group



I would like to thank ARP for the opportunity to travel to India. It was an incredible experience and I feel significantly motivated to assist further with ARP development and operations.

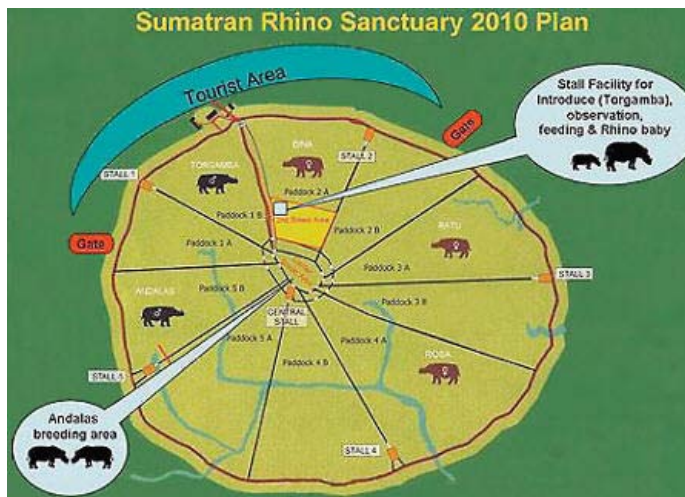
Clare Campbell

RCMP Indonesia Trip Report 6–21 January 2010

Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, Way Kambas National Park, Lampung and Bogor, Indonesia (Submitted by Robin W. Radcliffe, DVM, DACZM Rhino Conservation Medicine Scientist, IRF, FRWC, CUCVM)

Review of SRS Reproductive Program

The Global Management and Propagation Board (GMPB) met in January of 2010 in order to update the breeding plans for the Sumatran rhino captive breeding institutions of which the SRS holds the largest number of animals (n=5). Recommendations were revised given changes in the captive population in the last year and new progress with Andalas at the SRS.



SRS Animal and Facility diagram showing current animal locations and proposed designation of tourist area to limit disruption to SRS work.

Andalas breeds with Ratu!!

On December 5 of 2009, Andalas mated successfully for the first time with Ratu after a period of courtship that included much running and fighting. This was followed by repeat matings on December 25 and January 13.

The first few days showed a poor response by the pair, but resulted in success on 5 December with Andalas mounted 17 times. On the 22nd an ultrasound showed no pregnancy, but a new follicle developing, so further mating was attempted, but response was not good. Ultrasound on the 24th indicated that the peak of Ratu's cycle was approaching. Ratu must have known what it was about as she was receptive to Andalas and presented for him; he chose to chase her instead, however they later fed happily together. Later still they mated again and a small semen sample



SRS keepers observe as Andalas and Ratu mate in the SRS. The team is waiting close by in preparation for post-breeding semen sample collection.

was collected which showed motile sperm. Andalas was learning how to take a good position and gaining experience. On 13 January, success was achieved with their breeding.



Andalas and Ratu mate for just the third time on January 13. All matings have taken place after dark in the early morning hours (close to 3 am).

GMPB Recommendations Specific for SRS

The recommendations stemming from the January 2010 GMPB meeting are specific for each animal at the SRS. The primary goal of the GMPB is to maximize the production of offspring to increase numbers of the very limited captive population.

These recommendations were made for a 2-year period, but we will review each on a 6-month basis to ensure we are meeting this goal.

Sumatran Rhino Radiotelemetry Solution



Measuring Andalus for a neck radiotelemetry collar – just one possibility.

In preparation for developing a proposal for testing radiotelemetry ideas in the Sumatran rhinoceros, Steve Shurter and I worked with the SRS team to collect preliminary information about methodology for transmitter attachment. We suggest acquiring basic information through preliminary testing at the SRS in preparation for submission of a full grant proposal that would fund this work. Preliminary testing will help provide a reasonable comfort level that what we ultimately propose is possible, safe and reliable. We took basic measurements of each rhino neck circumference (in case collars are considered) as well as horn base dimensions and molds for both the front and rear horns. In general, the male rhinoceros have a larger horn base and neck circumference than the female rhinoceros.



A Telonics TGM-4310 marine transmitter placed next to Rosa's posterior horn.

GPS Testing in Rainforest of Way Kambas

In order to test the suitability of acquiring GPS signals

from under the canopy of a tropical rainforest we tested two GPS units made by Garmin. The GPS 60 was unable to acquire satellite fixes under the forest canopy whereas the newer GPSmap 76CSx was effective in all cases in securing at least 4 satellites in various locations even from a cold start under the tall canopy inside Way Kambas National Park. Therefore, we are hopeful that the incorporation of the newer GPS technology into a hybrid GPS/ARGOS/VHF telemetry system might be a suitable approach to work towards with the Sumatran rhinoceros.



Dr. Dedi Candra obtaining a GPS fix using a Garmin GPSmap 76CSX unit in the rainforest of Way Kambas.

Review of SRS Iron Levels and a Plan to Monitor Hemochromatosis

Given the recent loss of Emi (Andalus' mother and the breeding female at the Cincinnati Zoo) related to hemochromatosis (iron storage disease) we agreed at the GMPB meeting that a more comprehensive iron monitoring program would be useful for the global management of Sumatran rhinoceros. A regular iron monitoring program for captive browsing rhinoceros may help us better understand the disease. At the SRS, we have been measuring serum iron on a regular basis and banking samples since 2005. Because assay of serum iron in itself is an relatively inaccurate measure of body iron loads we feel it is important to plan a CITES importation of Sumatran rhinoceros serum from all Southeast Asian breeding sites for assay at the Kansas State University. Testing for serum iron stores of

the Sumatran rhinos at the SRS do not show a trend in iron loading, however, it will be important to conduct further testing, including assay for serum ferritin, transferring saturation, and iron-binding capacity to determine if hemochromatosis is a problem in this population and for comparison to US zoological animals.

General Rhino Health Update

All of the rhinos are healthy and in excellent body condition. Rhino body weights are steady other than Torgamba who shows a minor decline in weight over the past twelve months.

RPU Activities and Performance

The Critically Endangered Javan and Sumatran rhinoceroses are two of the rarest and most threatened mammal species in the world - only around 200 Sumatran rhinos and 55 Javan rhinos exist in the wild. Both species could easily become extinct within our lifetimes if we do not take proactive measures to protect them. The viable Javan rhino population is essentially confined to one national park in Indonesia, while the viable Sumatran rhino population is spread across three major parks. These national parks contain some of the most critical remaining tropical forest habitats in Indonesia – they are each home to numerous threatened species and provide critical ecosystem services for local populations. Each of these parks is also under extreme threat – up to 30% of their area has already been lost to illegal encroachment and conversion of land for agriculture. And the unique species living within these parks, including Javan and Sumatran rhinos, are declining due to poaching and habitat loss.



Through Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI), ARP partner the International Rhino Foundation (IRF) funds and operates Rhino Protection Units (RPUs) in these parks, to prevent poaching and encroachment, and to monitor and protect threatened species and the overall habitat. RPUs are highly trained four-person anti-poaching teams (made up of local community members) that intensively patrol key areas within national parks, deactivating traps and snares; identifying and apprehending illegal intruders, including poachers; and investigating crime scenes, thus preventing or reducing the loss of wildlife. The RPU program has essentially helped put a halt to rhino poaching in these three parks. The successes of these units have kept Javan and Sumatran rhinos

from extinction and remain critical for their continued survival. Eight anti-poaching units now operate in Barisan Selatan National Park (BBS), and regularly patrol the entire Park. Way Kambas National Park (WK) five rhino protection units have been fully functional since 2001, and there are now four RPUs active in Ujung Kulon National Park.

Each park has a RPU coordinator, and each RPU is led by a wildlife ranger who has qualifications of a civil investigating officer. The rangers have the authority to carry firearms and arrest suspected poachers; the other three members of the RPU are armed only with pepper spray for subduing uncooperative suspects. Other members are recruited from local communities. Recruits undergo a rigorous selection process that includes running, swimming, hiking, and other physical activities, followed by an intensive training course. Each RPU spends at least 15 days per month, every month, on patrol. RPUs use standard field data sheets and record detailed data on: all rhino tracks and sign encountered, other endangered or important wildlife, and on human disturbance encountered. Any traps or snares discovered during patrols are removed immediately and any illegal activity is investigated. If appropriate, evidence is collected, arrests are made, and a crime report prepared. This work is augmented by a law enforcement and advocacy program (Intelligence and Law Enforcement Unit or ILEU) that facilitates prosecution of poachers. Perpetrators are taken to the National Park headquarters for further processing by a civil investigator from the Park or the police. Beyond this point the RPUs have no further role, but are called as witness if the case is brought to court. The National Park and the police are the two bodies responsible for preparation of a case and formally charging suspects.

RPU patrols increase the risks for potential poachers, while their chances for a good 'take' are decreased.

This deterrent has worked well over the past years, and once an area is regularly patrolled, normally no more poaching is detected and all wildlife benefits from the presence of the RPUs. In the parks where the RPUs operate, there have been no Sumatran rhinos poached in more than 3 years, and no Javan rhinos poached for over a decade. Thanks to community development activities, the RPUs have also been successful in halting and even turning back encroachment in some areas of the parks. By preventing encroachment and thus keeping the forests intact, RPUs also help ensure that these critical forest habitats can keep providing important ecosystem services (clean water, clean air, reduced erosion, carbon removal) for local communities.

The RPU program is strongly supported by local communities, because it provides a source of employment and income – all RPU members are recruited from local communities. IRF works to ensure that local communities living in closest proximity to the parks serve as active partners in wildlife protection and reap direct benefits from conservation efforts. With partners, we also conduct alternative income generation and education programs for local communities living near rhino areas. These activities are essential to obtaining a sense of ownership by local communities of their rich biological heritage, and to providing incentives for local people to help prevent encroachment and other illegal activities.

2009 RPU Results in Bukit Barisan Selatan NP

In the calendar year 2009, RPUs averaged over 15 days/person/month on patrol and walked more than 3,600 kilometres on patrol and surveys. Specific results of patrolling during this 12-month period include:

- 207 rhino footprints identified.
- 7 instances of illegal logging encountered.
- 61 instances of encroachment encountered.
- 8 instances of fish, bird, deer and / or pig poaching encountered.
- 16 snares removed.
- 40 individuals arrested for illegal hunting, trading, fishing, logging or encroachment.

2009 RPU Results in Way Kambas NP

In the calendar year 2009, RPUs were on patrol for nearly 17 field days/person/month, and walked more than 3,200 kilometres on patrol or conducting surveys. Specific results of patrolling during this 12-month

period include:

- 90 rhino footprints identified
- 19 instances of illegal logging encountered
- 121 instances of illegal encroachment encountered
- 15 instances of illegal poaching (bird, fish, pig and / or deer) recorded
- At least 26 deer and pig traps encountered and removed
- 21 individuals arrested for illegal hunting, trading, fishing, logging or encroachment

Compared to data from 2007 and 2008, there has been a slight increase in illegal activity in Way Kambas. We believe that a poaching network previously active in Kerinci Seblat National Park on the mid-western side of Sumatra (where Sumatran rhinos were poached to extinction in the early 2000s) is now trying to gain access to Way Kambas, evidenced by an increase in non-rhino and other traps in 2008 from 2007, and an increase in rhino traps encountered thus far in 2009. These traps seem to be precisely modelled on the traps previously found in Kerinci Seblat. RPU vigilance in Way Kambas has therefore been intensified. Earlier this year, a Way Kambas RPU arrested three poachers armed with machine guns.

2009 RPU Results in Ujung Kulon NP

RPUs have improved and intensified the protection of Javan rhino in Ujung Kulon in essence by creating an Intensive Protection Zone (IPZ) in the areas occupied by rhino. Since the RPU program was established, the rhino population has been stable. However, because the park has no buffer zone, human encroachment has been increasing significantly in recent years.

We are in the process of establishing a new IPZ along the east side of the peninsula where encroachment is slowly turning park land into rice fields. In late 2008, a fourth RPU was hired to provide additional protection for rhinos that have been wandering into this area, where they face increased threats from poaching.

Additionally, IRF and its partners are in the process of establishing a new Intelligence and Law Enforcement Unit in Ujung Kulon, to investigate and arrest encroachers, and also to work closely with local communities to build closer relationships and support for rhino conservation.

The Critically Endangered Sumatran rhinos declined at

a rate of 50% in the 1980s and 1990s from deforestation and habitat fragmentation. BBS and WK in Sumatra, Indonesia, are two of the three major habitats for them, and are also two of the highest priority areas for other threatened megafauna, including the Sumatran tiger and Sumatran elephant. Approximately 50 rhino, 40-50 tigers, and about 500 elephants inhabit BBS. WK is home to 25-27 adult rhino, not including juveniles.

The Javan rhino is also Critically Endangered, with fewer than 55 animals believed to exist in two known populations. The only viable reproductive population lives in Java's Ujung Kulon National Park (UKNP) (between 38 and 50 animals). This National Park - Indonesia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site -- is the largest remaining lowland forest site in Java. In addition to holding the world's only viable population of Javan rhino, UKNP is home to a number of other endangered species, including the Javan gibbon, ebony leaf monkey, Javan leaf monkey, leopard, fishing cat, and the banteng, a species of wild cattle.

Indonesian national parks do not have resources to adequately fund proactive measures to prevent harm to its unique and at-peril biodiversity. Therefore, as human populations increase and the threats from illegal activities such as encroachment and illegal logging grow, the protection provided by the RPUs remains crucial for the survival of Indonesian megafauna and their habitat.

The goal of the program is to prevent the extinction of Sumatran and Javan rhinos and other threatened species and to protect critical habitats in Java and Sumatra, Indonesia. Proactive prevention of poaching and habitat destruction is the main objective of the RPU program.

This is an ongoing program. RPU program efforts are long-term, and with increasing human populations and decreasing resources, will likely need to be expanded. If anti-poaching and other direct protection and prevention efforts of rare and endangered species with a high economic value cannot be sustained for as long as necessary, it will only give a temporary respite and will not prevent the target species becoming extinct.

For the foreseeable future, intensive protection by RPUs will need to be continued while the threats from poaching, habitat degradation and habitat loss are resolved by means of public education, economic development and other long-term civil processes. The

IRF remains committed to continuing this program as long as needed.

The RPUs also interact intensively with local communities, including intelligence gathering. In BBS, RPUs have aided farmers living next to the Park in improving environmentally friendly crop production, which has resulted in a decrease in encroachment and an overall increase in income for the farmers.

Farmers have switched a portion of their crops to cacao, which allows harvest monthly, as opposed to coffee, which provides only an annual harvest and subsequently improves the farmers' income. Two farmers' cooperatives have been formed as well, and have created their own 'credit' system by developing an account from which farmers can borrow money (the account now holds \$2,000).

In exchange for participation in this program, farmers sign a pledge not to encroach into the Park, and also to provide information to RPUs regarding potential poaching events. In some areas, encroachment has decreased by as much as 60 percent, and – a first for Indonesia – farmers turned over 87 illegal guns to the RPUs.

With increased income, the need for incursions into the forest to hunt wildlife decreases. All of these activities are a "win-win" situation, combining to protect the Sumatran rhino and its ecosystem more effectively and efficiently and to improve people's livelihoods.

This year, at the request of the Head of the National Park, the Way Kambas RPUs participated in a large integrated effort (in partnership with national government authorities and the police) to reduce encroachment in the Park. During this reporting period, RPUs destroyed three bridges used by local villagers to encroach into the Park for illegal activities such as cutting timber, fishing, and hunting.

After conducting trainings for local communities in 2008 about the importance of not grazing their livestock in the Park, in May 2009, the RPUs (with the Park authorities) began an operation to drive domesticated buffalo out of the Park and back into local villages. Finally, RPUs have also responded to reports about elephants destroying crops, and have driven these elephant herds back into the Park to prevent incidences of human-wildlife conflict, which can easily lead to poaching.

Over the past 14 years, RPUs have essentially eliminated losses of Javan rhino to poaching. The successes of these units have kept Javan rhinos from extinction and remain critical for their continued survival. The overriding problem now is that although the Javan rhino population in Ujung Kulon has stabilized, this species has only one viable population in one location. Thus there is still significant risk of extinction from a single natural disaster or introduced disease. Ujung Kulon and surrounding areas were decimated by the eruption of Krakatau in 1883. Anak Krakatau (“son of Krakatau”) is still active, and the risk of another eruption, and the possibility of a resulting tsunami, still exists. There have also been a handful of rhino deaths as a result of diseases introduced by domestic livestock living in villages near the park.

In early 2009, IRF’s Dr. Susie Ellis, Dr. Bibhab Talukdar, and Kerry Crosbie (Asian Rhino Project), and others visited Ujung Kulon and then convened with about 40 members of the IUCN/SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group to identify priority actions for both Javan and Sumatran rhinos in Indonesia. The group agreed that a major priority was to establish a second viable



Rhino Protection Unit. Photo: <http://aazkbfr.org/images/indonesia/>

population of Javan rhino in Indonesia as an ‘insurance’ population, to prevent the extinction of this critically endangered species.

This program will be implemented by IRF, YABI, WWF, the Government of Indonesia, and other partners.

With funding from IRF, WWF and ARP, IRF hired Dr. Andy Gillison, a world-renowned rapid habitat assessment expert to co-lead the survey with Widodo Ramono from YABI.

Article: Maggie Moore

Rhino Protection Unit Funding

Special Thanks Peter Hall, Auckland Zoo & Hunter Hall Investment Management Limited

Peter Hall

ARP Patron Peter Hall pledged \$180,000AUD to our partners the International Rhino Foundation for rhino projects in Indonesia. This generous donation has come through and will be used primarily to support Sumatra RPUs but also:

- Rhino Conservation Medicine Program
- Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary
- Program development/communications
- Administration/programs.

Auckland Zoo

Auckland Zoo’s Conservation Fund (AZCF) have committed to the fight to save both the Javan and Sumatran rhino from extinction. Continued support from Auckland Zoo has seen a further \$20,000NZD donated to the ARP bringing total donations to the ARP to over \$40,000 which will also be used to fund the RPU program in Indonesia.



Peter Hall on right.

Hunter Hall

Hunter Hall has kindly donated another \$9103.00 to the Asian Rhino Project from their Charitable Trust. The



Ethical
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National Committee Update

ARP Vice Chair Clare Campbell visited our India projects in February 2010 and attended the Asian Rhino Specialist Group meeting on behalf of Kerry. Ian Anderson of Taronga's Western Plains Zoo accompanied Clare to see first hand the projects they have funded through the ARP. Both seemed to get a lot out of the visit. Please see Clare's report on page 8.

ARP Adoptions manager Emma Gatehouse is leaving us to pursue her passion for wildlife working in Cambodia on the Free the Bears project. Although she will be sorely missed we wish her all the very best on this adventure and thank her deeply for her commitment to the ARP. Emma has served on National Committee, WA Committee as Branch manager and has looked after the Rhino Adoptions since it's conception. Thanks Emma!

Perth Zoo keeper Tam Lee-Steer has kindly offered to take on the adoptions role. We welcome her back to the position – Tam covered the position while Emma was on leave last time she spent time on the bear project.

The Western Australia Branch have been working hard with the Silvery Gibbon Project and Australian Orangutan Project for the walkathon held on 14th March.

A special thanks to WA Branch Manager Sophie Lourandos for assisting in grant applications. ARP has a few more opportunities available and Sophie has been fantastic in assisting us get the applications together – well done!

ARP is about to run a membership drive and we need

your help. Currently the ARP has 136 members and we are looking to increase this to 200 by the end of the year. You should soon receive a pamphlet on the ARP including a membership form. We are asking that each member might be able to recruit one additional member which would result in doubling our membership.

Memberships are important for the organisation not only to ensure that we can operate as a Deductible Gift Recipient, but also to raise awareness on the plight of not only the Asian rhinoceros species, but all species within its habitat. It may also bring in more assistance for the ARP and the important work we do.

If you can help, please be sure to include your name on the bottom of the membership section on the pamphlet for your new member and you will be placed in a draw to win an ARP merchandise pack. A free ARP shirt will be automatically posted out to anyone who brings in:

- a). 5 single year memberships or more
- a). 3 or more 3yr memberships
- a). 2 or more 5yr memberships

Should you wish to become more involved in the important work we do we would love to hear from you! Any contribution big or small is important to us.

Please contact us at info@asianrhinos.org.au and join our team working hard to assist rhino conservation projects in 5 countries.

5 May 2010 is Rhino May Day

Once again Save the Rhino International is organising the 2010 Rhino Mayday, which will be held on Wednesday 5 May in London. ZSL has once again very kindly agreed to provide the venue free-of-charge. Usually, audiences number between 50-100.

The Rhino Mayday is not intended as a fundraising event in itself (although if there is a small profit it will be retained by us to help cover our time involved in

organising the event), but as an awareness-raising and networking day. They anticipate having 8-12 speakers to talk about a range of subjects of interest to rhino project field staff, conservation charities, zoo staff and students.

If you are interested in participating please contact Fiona at Save the Rhino International (fiona@savetherhino.org).

In The News – Asian Rhino News Stories

Elephant Killed, Rhino Injured by Poachers 7 March 2010

An elephant was killed and a rhino injured by poachers in Assam. The carcass of the pachyderm was found inside the Dibru Saikhowa reserve forest in Upper Assam's Tinsukia district. The tusks were removed by the poachers after killing the elephant a few days back. A full grown male rhino was found in an injured state inside Agratoli range of the Kaziranga national park today.

More: <http://ow.ly/1fjWz>

Traditional Medicines Containing Wildlife Parts Worth RM46 Million Seized 6 March 2010

NEW DELHI: In a well-orchestrated operation to clamp down illicit trade in traditional medicines across the globe, Interpol seized medicines containing illegal ingredients from animals ranging from the tiger, bear to rhinoceros.

More: <http://ow.ly/1fk2j>

Friends of Kaziranga - a Film on Unsung Heroes of the Park

They toil hard and unsung with minimum bare facilities to protect the endangered rhino along with other animals and it is their conservation efforts that have brought fame and glory to Assam's Kaziranga National Park. Forest guards of the Park have been long neglected but a 21-minute documentary film '...and the Friends of Kaziranga' by Assam's noted film editor Kaju is a humble effort to pay tribute to these guards who work against all odds to protect animals.

More: <http://ow.ly/1fkak>

Rhino Killed In National Park 3 March 2010

A rhino was reported dead at the Kaziranga National Park last week, becoming the fifth rhino so far this year to be killed by poachers at the world heritage sight. The carcass of the female rhino was found near the Benga anti-poaching camp. An axe that was used to gouge out its horn was found at the incident site.

More: <http://www.goallover.org/?p=5468>

Release of rhino poachers exposes widespread enforcement failures

Gland, Switzerland - The release of six alleged rhino poachers from custody two weeks before a meeting of the largest wildlife trade convention is emblematic of the chronic lack of political will to enact enforcement efforts required to save this endangered species. A Zimbabwean court last week granted bail to six men arrested at Buby Valley Conservancy, home to Zimbabwe's largest remaining rhino population, in connection with rhino poaching. Charges included illegal possession of firearms and illegal possession of a rhino horn.

More: http://www.panda.org/wwf_news/?189943/WWFTRAFFIC-Release-of-rhino-poachers-exposes-widespread-enforcement-failures

Poachers have killed a female rhino inside the Chitwan National Park 28 February 2010

The rhino, aged around 15, was killed by the poachers for its skin.

More: http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=15723

Forest officials began 2010 census at Jalpaiguri Wildlife Division-II.

The West Bengal Forest Department, with the aid of 23 non-governmental organisations dealing with wildlife conducted the census. The team surveyed the region for two days in search of the rhino and Indian Bison,

species for which the region is noted. The survey is being conducted through the forestlands of Gorumara and Chapramari.

More: <http://buzz7.com/news/rhino-bison-census-conducted-in-west-bengal.html>

A desperate forest department today turned to the BSF for help to check poaching of rhinos in Kaziranga National Park. 25 February 2010

A co-ordination meeting at the park today decided to take help of the BSF "as and when" required in view of the rising incidents of poaching. The BSF will provide all help to the park authorities including sharing of intelligence. Senior officials of the forest department, park authorities, police and security forces attended the meeting. This is the first time that help from the BSF is being taken.

More: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1100226/jsp/northeast/story_12151720.jsp

Another rhino killed in Kaziranga

Another full grown one-horned rhinoceros was shot dead by poachers yesterday at the Kaziranga National Park in Assam, sixth such incident in the past one month, an official said today. According to the park authorities, the incident occurred near Tenga forest camp at the Agartoli range of the wildlife park. Unlike the previous incidents, poachers this time managed to cut the horn and escaped unchallenged. At least 18 rhinos were killed in 2008 and 14 in 2009. So far, six rhinos have been killed this year, five in Kaziranga and another at the Orang National Park in northern Assam.

More: <http://www.centralchronicle.com/viewnews.asp?articleID=27992>

Poachers kill rhino, take horn 24 February 2010

Poachers struck again last night at Kaziranga National Park, killing a rhino and taking away its horn. This is the fifth rhino to fall to poachers at Kaziranga this year. Three of these incidents took place outside the park, when the rhinos strayed out in search of food or to avoid infighting. Last night's killing comes barely a week after the All Assam Students Union had staged a dharna in front of the Kaziranga director's office demanding adequate measures to stop the rampant killing of rhinos at the national park.

More: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1100225/jsp/northeast/story_12147218.jsp

Rhino horn burning to bust a myth - Move aimed at telling poachers that body part has no medicinal value 22 February 2010

Assam is fighting fire with fire. Nearly 1,500 rhino horns — lying in different treasuries and strongrooms across the state — will be burnt next month, possibly in the presence of members of international conservation agencies. The public burning of such a huge quantity of rhino horns — which ironically is the biggest enemy of the pre-historic and endangered mammal — was aimed at sending the message that the state "was fully committed" to rhino conservation. The most important message will, however, go out to the clandestine wildlife traders and believers of traditional medicines: the rhino horn really does not have any value in monetary terms and does not have any medicinal values as believed.

More: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1100223/jsp/northeast/story_12137928.jsp

New Conservation Area Planned for Javan Rhino

Ujung Kulon National Park is planning to develop a 3000 hectare conservation area for the endangered Javan rhino next year in an effort to boost the population of the endangered species by 2015. The conservation area is also expected to become a world-class wildlife park that could also help to boost the number of domestic and foreign tourists.

More: <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/new-conservation-area-planned-for-javan-rhino/360301>

Baby rhino born on Scottish soil 18 February 2010

Ailsa, a baby rhinoceros made a surprise entrance at a Scottish safari park. Staff at the Blair Drummond safari park in Stirlingshire received an early Christmas present in the shape of Ailsa, a baby rhino. Born on December 21 in one of the coldest winters in 30 years, Ailsa surprised one and all with her appearance. It's been a great achievement for the park to have its second white rhino born in the last three years."

More: <http://living.stv.tv/travel/days-out/158391-baby-rhino-born-on-scottish-soil> See also: <http://news.stv.tv/scotland/west-central/155153-surprise-rhino-birth-spotted-on-webcam/>

Follow Ratu's pregnancy updates by checking this page regularly - <http://ow.ly/18cUx>

First ultra sound pics were posted on 17 February.

Cincinnati Zoo Rhino Soon To Be A Dad 17 February 2010

Andalas, the first captive Sumatran rhino born in 112 years, has produced the first pregnancy in Southeast Asia for the global captive breeding program. He successfully mated with Ratu, a native Indonesian, and the calf is expected in May 2011. Both live at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. It gives hope to biologists, as this is one of the world's most endangered species. Today, there are only 10 Sumatran rhinos living in captivity worldwide and fewer than 200 animals exist in isolated pockets of Sabah, Malaysia and the island of Sumatra in Indonesia. "A combination of sound science, international collaboration among government, non-profits, and zoos, as well as timing and personal chemistry, has led to this groundbreaking event," said Dr. Susie Ellis, IRF executive director.

More: http://www.local12.com/guides/petcare/story/Cincinnati-Zoo-Rhino-Soon-To-Be-A-Dad/d1csFqLN5kSg_5gQizM5mw.csp

See also: <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/rare-rhino-pregnancy-gives-hope-to-species-84595487.html>

Zimbabwe could face punitive sanctions at the upcoming March CITES Conference 12 February 2010

This action could be taken as a result of its failure to control poaching of wildlife, especially of the endangered rhino. Punitive measures include suspension of trade in wildlife, which would hurt Zimbabwe where hunters still come in large numbers, such visits generating millions of dollars in revenue. Willem Wijnstekers, Secretary-General, said that a country could be given time to address poaching and other violations before sanctions are imposed. His meetings with senior government officials had been positive and highlighted the lack of capacity and resources to cope with poaching. Whilst CITES cannot help financially, it is in touch with donors who can.

More: <http://www1.voanews.com/zimbabwe/news/economy/Zimbabwe-Faces-CITES-Censure-84231592.html>

Zimbabwean security forces accused of poaching 11 February 2010

Zimbabwean security forces are spearheading poaching of elephants and rhinos. Willem Wijnstekers, secretary-general of the U.N. CITES, said security forces had killed about 200 rhinos over the past two years, putting that population on the verge of extinction in Zimbabwe. "Questions are now being asked on whether the Zimbabwe," Wijnstekers said. "This leaves us with no option but to recommend that the country be brought before the CITES board to explain the poaching. If they fail to do that they risk being banned to trade in ivory."

More:

More: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/02/11/AR2010021102151.html>

Rhinos 2 February 2010

Very few rhinos now survive outside protected areas. They are located in these areas: Southern Africa, Central

Africa, Eastern Africa, Western Africa, South Asia, South East Asia. They once roamed throughout Eurasia and Africa, and were known to early Europeans who depicted them in cave paintings. Within historical times, rhinos were still widespread in the African savannas and the tropical forests of Asia. The Javan and Sumatran rhinos are listed on IUCN's Red List as critically endangered and the Indian rhino is listed as endangered. The southern white rhino is now most abundant rhino in the world and is listed as endangered. The northern white rhino is critically endangered as is the black rhino. WWF attempts to tackle these threats from all angles: strengthening protected areas in Africa and Asia, lobbying to halt the illegal timber trade, and stamping out the illegal trade in horn.

More: <http://www.worldwildlife.org/species/finder/rhinoceros/rhinos.html>

Kaziranga trains kids for rhino conservation 1 February 2010

"Catch them young" is the new mantra being adopted by the authorities of Kaziranga National Park to save the endangered rhino. Nearly 50 schoolchildren from 17 villages located on the fringe areas of the park are being imparted training on conservation at the Bagori range from today. The three-day programme includes trekking inside the park, interaction with experts and documentary on wildlife conservation. The students will stay inside the park during these three days.

More: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1100202/jsp/northeast/story_12053373.jsp

Injured rhino found, forest guards exchange fire with poachers 24 January 2010

An injured male rhino was found with horns removed by forest guards who later exchanged fire with poachers in Orang National Park of Assam's Udalguri district today. Eight rounds of fire have been exchanged with the poachers who are yet to be apprehended. The officials said the poachers removed the horns after tranquilising the rhino and left it in a bleeding state in Jhaoni area of the vast Park. The rhino was still alive and doctors rushed to the spot to treat the bleeding animal. As forest guards launched search operation inside the Park, the gun battle erupted.

Cops lay trap in Orang for rhino horn buyers - Revelations of a linkman lead police to national park to track down smugglers from Bhutan 22 January 2010

A missing rhino horn has led an Assam police team to Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park in Mangaldoi where the men in khaki are waiting to trap a group of notorious wildlife buyers. A joint team of police and forest department personnel has already launched a manhunt for the buyers who are believed to have arrived in Mangaldoi town a few days ago to buy a horn.

More: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1100123/jsp/northeast/story_12019023.jsp

Rhino horns seized at Shannon 22 January 2010

Ten rhino horns, with an estimated value of €500,000, have been seized by Customs officials at Shannon Airport. Three people are likely to face court proceedings in connection with the haul. The items were seized during three separate searches in recent weeks by customs officers at Shannon airport. They were found in the suitcases of three people, all Irish, who were attempting to smuggle them through the airport.

More: <http://www.rte.ie/news/2010/0122/tusks.html>

Poachers kill two rhinos in Kaziranga 22 December 2009

Two endangered one-horned rhinos were killed by poacher gangs using automatic weapons at Kaziranga National Park in Assam, taking the toll slaughtered so far this year to 14. The animals, a male and female, had their horns removed. A senior forest guard said that the number of guards is far less than that required, and their weapons date from World War II.

More: <http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/Environment/poachers-kill-two-rhinos-in-kaziranga>

Rhino found dead in Kaziranga National Park 21 December 2009

Tourists on an elephant ride were excited at the brief sight of a rhino, but when closer discovered it was dead. Poachers had shot the rhino and removed the horn. This incident took place just 3km from the Agaratoli range office. The modus operandi was the same as that used in November when poachers killed another rhino. Ironically, a two-day legal training course began today for forest officials to book poachers under stricter laws.

More: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1091222/jsp/northeast/story_11892907.jsp

Czech zoo to return rare white rhinos to wild 19 December 2009

Four rare, northern white rhinos, half the known population left in the world, will leave Dvur Kralove Zoo for Kenya's Ol Pejeta conservation area in a last-ditch bid to save the species from extinction. It is hoped they will breed, however some conservationists feel the plan is too dangerous. All attempts to keep the species permanent as captive animals (also two in San Diego) have been unsuccessful with only one rhino being born in 10 years. Four rhinos living in the wild in Africa have not been seen since 2006, raising fears the animals in captivity are the last of their kind.

More: <http://www.blueplanetnews.org/2009/12/18/czech-zoo-to-return-rare-white-rhinos-to-wild/>

Also: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/LDE5BG11V.htm>

Zimbabwe faces expulsion from CITES 15 December 2009

This follows the loss of 160 rhinos over three years, representing 26% of its rhino population, due to rampant poaching. Numbers are expected to decrease by a further 14% if poaching is not controlled. The Department of National Parks and Wildlife has been warned and given six months to comply with CITES standards. It has banned all hunting activities in these sanctuaries. Poaching is allegedly rampant in Gonarezhou and Hwange National Parks. A further problem is farm invasions - in Gonarezhou a reported 720 families have moved in, refusing to move, claiming they are repossessing their land.

More: <http://www.thezimbabwetimes.com/?p=25867>

2 rhinos killed in Kaziranga (Dec 14)- Stray rhino returns to Orang National Park 9 December 2009

Two rhino carcasses were found at Kaziranga National Park, one inside the park and the other on its outskirts. Both carcasses bore bullet marks, but only one had its horn removed. Poachers have killed 12 rhinos in Kaziranga in 2009. The census carried out this year found 2,048 rhinos, an increase of 48 on the census 3 years ago. The female rhino which had strayed about 60km away from Orang National has returned to its habitat, ending a four-day-long drama.

More: <http://www.rhinos-irf.org/en/art/849/>

Strayed rhino charges curious onlookers 12 December 2009

A rhino that strayed out of Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park charged at a curious crowd of onlookers that ventured near it in Kharupetia town this afternoon, triggering a near stampede. A child was injured and police were forced to seek the army's help to control the situation. The female rhino damaged a police vehicle and a handcart in the town, 50km from Orang, in Darrang district.

More: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1091213/jsp/frontpage/story_11857779.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.



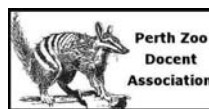
Pro-Bono Supporters

ARP would like to recognise the dedication and expert assistance of the following organisations for their professional pro-bono support. These organisations provide services free of charge assisting us to minimise our administration costs enabling ARP to focus funding on our important conservation projects.

Advant



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Join Up or Renew Today

Please send completed membership forms to: Memberships, PO Box 163, South Perth WA 6951.

Name: _____

Address: _____

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.

Would you like to receive this information as well (via email only)? Yes No

NB: Your personal details will not be made available to these groups.

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

I would like to include a donation of \$_____ to assist the Asian Rhino Project in its cause.

Please accept my payment by: Cheque Cash Credit Card Electronic Transfer

For electronic transfers our details are: Name: Asian Rhino Project Inc. Bank: ANZ Branch: East Victoria Park, Western Australia. BSB: 016 263 Account: 4984 19705 Transfer receipt number: _____

Please charge my: Bankcard Mastercard Visa

Card No: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



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



Pens – \$4



Coloured Earrings – \$8



Rhino – Animals in Art – \$22
Book by Joanna Skipwith and Silver Jungle



ARP T-shirts – \$20



Magnets – \$2



Stickers – \$2



Wine Cooler – \$20



Drink Bottles – \$7



Thermal Mug (350ml) – \$10

Thermal Mug (750ml) – \$15

Merchandise Order Form

Item	Cost	Colour (please circle)	Quantity	Total
Rhino Rembrandt	\$475	N/A		
Rhino – Animals in Art (Book)	\$22	N/A		
Asian Rhino Project T-shirts	\$20	black white Women's sizes: 10-14 Men's sizes: S-XL		
Coloured Earrings	\$8	yellow (long) red yellow (short) blue black/orange		
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 pink green blue black		
Thermal Mug (750ml)	\$15	green black khaki		
Drink Bottle	\$7	black silver		
SUB-TOTAL				
Add \$7 for postage. If order over \$75, postage is free.				
GRAND TOTAL				

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Signature: _____ Date: _____