



The Rhino Print

Winter 2010

CONTENTS

Loss of a Second Critically Endangered Javan Rhino	
Points to Dire Need for Conservation Action	3
Javan Rhino Survey Using Video Traps	5
Update on Rhinos in Sabah, Malaysia, and BORA	6
Protection for Javan Rhino in Vietnam Improves	8
Javan Rhino Conservation and Habitat Expansion	9
A Rough Road for Rhinos	14
Committee Update	16
Rhino News	18
Corporate Donors and Pro-Bono Supporters	23
Merchandise Order Form	24

Asian Rhino Project



ABN: 75 509 849 802 ARBN: 116 937 627

Email: info@asianrhinos.org.au | Website: www.asianrhinos.org.au

National Committee

Chairperson/Project Director	Kerry Crosbie
Vice Chairperson	Clare Campbell
Secretary	Ursula Beaton
Treasurer	Lorraine Dunn
WA Branch Manager	Sophie Lourandos
NSW Branch Manager	Kristy Garard
General Member	Carly Palmer
Fundraising	VACANT

Board of Management

Kerry Crosbie, Andrew Thompson, Nicholas Duncan

Western Australian Branch Sub-committee

Chairperson/Branch Manager	Sophie Lourandos
Secretary	Martina ter Steeg
Treasurer	Petra Hancock
Merchandise	Holly Thompson

New South Wales Branch Sub-committee

Branch Manager	Kristy Garard
Secretary	Addy Watson
Treasurer	Pascale Benoit
Events Co-ordinator	Debbie Haesler
Merchandise Co-ordinator	Rebecca Jones

Head Office

PO Box 6
Batchelor NT 0845

Western Australia & Memberships

PO Box 163
South Perth WA 6951

Welcome to the Winter 2010 Newsletter

A special welcome to our new members: Robert Green, Inuk Designs (Stacey Holmwood), Ellis Zilka, Warren Hillman and Karen Manton.

Very sadly, poaching rears its ugly head for the Javan rhino, a highly endangered species. But there is also good news for them – an expansion of their habitat.

In Borneo action is in hand to establish a rhino sanctuary, and to find a female so that, hopefully, a reproduction program may be affected.

Ian Anderson reports on his trip to India earlier this year, associated with IRV 2020.

Ursula Beaton, ARP Secretary

Loss of a Second Critically Endangered Javan Rhino Points to Dire Need for Conservation Action

By Susie Ellis, International Rhino Foundation

Indonesia – The world's most threatened large mammal species, the Javan rhino, suffered another devastating setback when a carcass was discovered in Indonesia's remote Ujung Kulon National Park last week. Ujung Kulon holds the only viable population of the critically endangered species; no more than 48 Javan rhinos remain on the planet, and at least 44 of those are found in Ujung Kulon. Fewer than four animals of unknown sex and age may remain in an isolated population in Cat Tien National Park in Vietnam, where the carcass of a poached Javan rhino, with its horn removed, was found last month. This recent loss reinforces the critical need for bold action to save this species.

"These two deaths represent a loss of four percent of the global population," said Dr. Susie Ellis, executive director of the International Rhino Foundation. Javan rhinos persist in Ujung Kulon because they are carefully monitored and guarded by Rhino Protection Units, elite anti-poaching teams that patrol the park every day. While the loss of this rhino was tragic, the fact that its head and horn were intact suggests that it died from natural causes rather than poaching."

Shy, secretive creatures living in dense rainforest, Javan rhinos are difficult to find, even for seasoned rhino protection teams. Over the past 14 years, Rhino Protection Units have tracked the rhinos daily, usually by following signs such as dung and footprints. This intense monitoring and protection has essentially eliminated losses from poaching. Even though poaching has been eradicated in Ujung Kulon, Rhino Protection Units remain vigilant. Rhino poaching in



Africa has reached a 15-year high, and last month's loss of a Javan rhino to poachers in Vietnam is of grave concern. Rhinos are killed for the sole intention of selling their horns on the black market, which are used in traditional Asian medicine to reduce fever. Rhino poaching is a high-stakes, organized endeavor undertaken by well-organized crime networks that sometimes include corrupt government officials and foreign diplomats. .

Although the rhino population in Ujung Kulon has remained relatively stable over the past 20 years, the overriding problem facing the species is that there is 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, one of the most violent volcanic events in modern times. Anak Krakatau ("son of Krakatau") is still active, and the risk of another eruption, and the possibility of a resulting tsunami, still exists. There also have been a handful of rhino deaths as a result of diseases introduced by domestic livestock living in villages near the park.

"The death of even one animal represents a significant loss for this critically endangered species," said Widodo Ramono, executive director of the Rhino Foundation of Indonesia.

"The last photographic record of this animal, a male that had been frequently seen at a nearby wallow, was in March. Forensic evidence suggests that it died shortly after that time. The decomposing but intact



skeleton was found along a densely forested wildlife trail."

According to Agus Priambudi, director of Ujung Kulon National Park, "Scientists and park officials are working hard to learn as much about the population as possible. In December 2008, a track analysis census, part of a long-term effort to monitor the population, estimated the population to be between 37 and 44 rhinos. Another survey is now underway, using on-the-ground counts backed up by 60 camera-traps. This effort is collaboration between the park, the Rhino Foundation of Indonesia, and WWF Indonesia. Together, these data will verify population numbers and guide our management decisions."

"Because the park has no buffer zone, human encroachment has been increasing significantly in recent years," said Priambudi. "We are doing everything within our power to protect this fragile population. Along with our partners the International Rhino Foundation, the Rhino Foundation of Indonesia, WWF Indonesia, and the local and provincial governments, we are in the process of raising funds to establish a new conservation and research area on the eastern side of the park. This will expand the usable habitat for rhino and hopefully give the population room to expand."

"Rhino experts agree that expanding the usable habitat in Ujung Kulon is an important first step," said Ellis. "The next priority will be to establish a second

viable population of Javan rhino at a suitable site elsewhere in Indonesia as an 'insurance' population. This will be essential if we are to safeguard it from natural and human-caused disasters and to ultimately prevent its extinction."



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.



Photo courtesy of Karen Payne



Raising Awareness and Support for the Three Asian Rhino Species
www.asianrhinos.org.au

Sumatran Rhino Adoption Program

Certificate of Appreciation

This certificate is awarded in appreciation of and to certify that:

Name

Has adopted

"Ratu"

Estimated to be born in 2000, Ratu is an important part of the global captive breeding program for the critically endangered Sumatran Rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*). Ratu resides at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra. The Asian Rhino Project and partners are committed to this fundamental breeding program working to save the species with science. This magnificent rhino is a valuable ambassador for her species!

Thank you for playing such an important role in this program!

Adoption Manager Emma Galbraith Date

Javan Rhino Survey Using Video Traps

By Adhi Rachmat S Hariyadi – Project Leader WWF Indonesia.

Photos: Ujung Kulon NP Authority – WWF Indonesia

Rhino Population Survey 2010

In April 2010, the Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation (PHKA) within Indonesian Ministry of Forestry received 75 Bushnell Video traps as a donation from the Aspinall Foundation. Fifty of these were sent to Ujung Kulon National Park to complement existing video traps made available through support from the Asian Rhino Project (ARP) and the International Rhino Foundation (IRF). In order to ensure optimal use of the new equipment in the field a team consisting of Ujung Kulon National Park rangers, WWF field staff, and local people conducted field tests to determine the sensitivity of the Bushnell cameras to animal movements in the forest, and their durability in humid forest conditions. All tests produced satisfactory results, leading to the plan to use the new video traps along with the previous in the next official Javan rhino survey in Ujung Kulon National Park.

The Rhino survey in 2010 was the first attempt to use video cameras (60) for official estimates of Javan rhino populations, after more than twenty years of using the footprint/track count method. Unlike the footprint count, relying on transects to collect the data, the video trap survey used 1 km² grids for each camera location. Experts from Bogor Agriculture University (IPB) were involved in designing the survey method to ensure validity of the video traps for a rhino survey conducted in a short time (approximately one month

of camera placement in the field). Mark-recapture analysis that required a long period of video trap survey was modified to accommodate a significantly shorter observation period, so a stratified sampling method was implemented. This method divided the rhino habitat in the peninsula of Ujung Kulon National Park into areas with low, medium, and high density of rhino inhabitation. These stratifications were determined using records obtained in the last 5 years of rhino presence (footprint, faeces, sightings/camera trap data, wallow holes, feeding grounds, etc); camera locations were then based on this information. The numbers of cameras were determined according to the levels of rhino density in each area, i.e. areas with lower densities of rhino presence received fewer video traps than the medium and high density areas. Each of the thirteen teams was assigned trips to install and to retrieve the video traps from the field.

Unexpected Findings

During the trip to install the video traps, one unit encountered the skeleton of a dead rhinoceros in one of the northern grids (Nyur block). Based on the condition of the skeleton, it was estimated that the demise of this adult male rhino occurred approximately three months before the finding. The position of the skeleton suggested that this male rhino had not died as a result of poaching, but also that the death may not have been due to old age. Further investigations and observations made by a team of veterinarian



An adult male rhino (tagged as no 20) showing prominent rib marks on its left side, as captured using video trap. Other than the visible rib marks, there are no other unusual behaviours exhibited by this individual.



An adult male (tagged as no 16) that shared wallows with another rhino and showed excess salivation in one of the video clip data. Another rhino that shared the wallow hole (tagged as no 19) also showed excess salivation in one of the video clips.

suspected that the death was quick, and occurred while the animal was walking toward a water source (a small creek) along the path. Based on all facts from the site, some possible causes of death were compiled. To everyone's surprise, a second skeleton of an adult male rhino was found in one of the southern grids (Cikeusik block). Unlike the first, the location of the second finding was in a small creek, causing some bones to have drifted downstream, possibly during heavy rain. Since the southern grids (including the Cikeusik block) contain the highest density of rhino populations, a thorough investigation was needed to determine the cause of death in order to prevent more deaths in this key rhino population area.

A part of the investigation was the use of previous video trap data to track the video clips containing the animals prior to their deaths. This information was expected to reveal anything unusual about these rhinos that might help narrow down (or even determine) the most likely cause of death. Some video

clips show mildly skinny individuals (with prominent ribs), and two rhinos showing excess salivation or hypersalivation. These types of observations allow the use of video trap surveys to be extended for detecting clinical signs for assessing the health of rhinoceros within the population.



An adult male inhabiting the northern blocks of Ujung Kulon peninsula recorded in a small wallow hole.

Update on Rhinos in Sabah, Malaysia, And the Work of Borneo Rhino Alliance

Borneo Rhino Alliance (BORA; www.borneorhinoalliance.org), formerly SOS Rhino Borneo, a non-governmental organization (NGO) established as a not-for-profit company, continues to work with the government authorities and WWF in Sabah, Malaysia, in a last ditch effort to save the Bornean form of the Sumatran rhino from extinction.



Tam in his interim forest paddock at Tabin Wildlife Reserve, Sabah.

Estimated at less than 40 remaining individuals, with only a small proportion being breeding females, BORA and the government of Sabah now consider that just patrolling to protect remaining wild rhinos is unlikely to be sufficient to save the species in Borneo.

Key remaining rhino habitats at Tabin Wildlife Reserve (1,200km²) and Danum Valley Conservation Area (438 km²), both established in the 1980s, and with protection patrols active for most of the time over the past decade, have not seen a clear increase in rhino numbers.

In fact, rhino numbers seem to have stagnated and probably declined overall, an indication of a

phenomenon known as the Allee effect.

As numbers of individuals of a species decline to a very low level, the various factors associated with very low numbers (such as narrow genetic base, locally skewed sex ratio, difficulty in finding a fertile mate, reproductive pathology associated with long non-reproductive periods) conspire to drive numbers even lower, to the extent that death rate eventually exceeds birth rate, even with adequate habitat and zero poaching.



BORA staff James Sandiyang and Indra Buana gather food for Tam (leaves of Nauclea and Merremia lianas) from a nearby oil palm plantation.

Without specific actions to bring fertile female and male rhinos together to boost production of offspring, there is a strong possibility that the rhino may become extinct in Borneo, even if protection of rhino habitats and rhinos can be maintained and improved.

The government of Malaysia, through its Sabah Development Corridor programme in 2008, identified a rhino rescue programme in Sabah as an important conservation priority. The plan is to continue guarding wild rhinos and simultaneously developing within Tabin Wildlife Reserve, a managed, fenced rhino sanctuary, named Borneo Rhino Sanctuary, modelled along the lines of the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Indonesia.

Saving the Bornean rhino has become a classical conservation programme, like those developed to save such species as the Arabian Oryx, and Indian and African rhino species a century ago.

Working with the Sabah Wildlife Department, BORA's target during 2010 is to capture a specific female rhino, which has been monitored for the past three years and which appears to lead a solitary existence in an extensive forest area, as a mate for Tam, a male that was caught in an oil palm plantation in August 2008.

BORA is based in University Malaysia Sabah, at the Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation, whose director, Dr Abdul Hamid Ahmad, is also BORA's chairman. BORA has a strong team which includes executive director Junaidi Payne, field manager Dr Zainal Zahari Zainuddin (one of the world's most experienced Sumatran rhinos veterinarians), board members Cynthia Ong (www.leapspiral.org) and Dr Isabelle Lackman of the NGO HUTAN, and more than twenty full time staff, all but two working full time in the field.

Apart from the government, the biggest financial backer of development of Borneo Rhino Sanctuary is the Sime Darby Foundation (www.yayasansimedarby.com), which has committed to providing major support for the period 2009-2012.

Sime Darby, a company listed on the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange, is one of the major oil palm plantation companies. Other oil palm plantation companies contribute towards rhino conservation at Tabin. For example, PPB Oil Palms has a law enforcement unit active near the Tabin boundary, while the Tradewinds Plantation Bhd has assisted with materials for a rhino paddock.



Tam's food is dipped in a solution of minerals and vitamins before he is fed.



BORA team Justine Sagunting, Junaidi Payne, Rasaman Jaya, Andrew Ginsos and Tinrus Tindok on recce for potential rhino capture sites.

Protection for Javan Rhino in Vietnam improves, but unfortunately too late for one individual, which may be the last

By Sarah Brook WWF Vietnam

In response to the somewhat poor recent implementation by Cat Tien National Park and the Forest Protection Department of the snare removal patrolling in Cat Loc, WWF agreed with CTNP to send an enforcement consultant to the park, to provide training for the rangers in GIS use, data collection and snare removal methodology and to supervise patrolling in the field.

This was a great success, with far greater patrolling effort and coverage achieved, with more than 30 large snares removed from the park during this monthly patrol and several long snare lines destroyed.

The rhino survey, conducted at the same time as the snare removal, really helped to determine the level of threat to wildlife within Cat Loc. Extensive long lines of snares were found in some locations within the core zone, with animal remains in some.

In addition to this, large snares were fairly frequently found strategically positioned along large animal trails, including a trail leading to a wallow used predominantly by rhino. Hunting camps were encountered on each visit to some of the wallow and swamp areas, where animals will visit more frequently during the dry season and hence attract professional hunters to the area.

Hunting camps were destroyed by patrols and the survey teams with each encounter, but unfortunately were always re-erected before the next visit, with patrolling effort currently not being high enough to



Snares removed from Cat Loc during one day's survey by the rhino survey team, including one large snare, for Gaur and other large mammals

afford complete protection to Cat Loc's wildlife.

Nothing emphasises this more by the tragic find of a rhino skeleton in late April. Local villagers found the skeleton of a large mammal when in the forest harvesting seasonal nuts. They reported this to a friend who called the Forest Protection Department, who went to the site to retrieve the remains. The skeleton was confirmed as a rhino, a bullet was found in the lower leg and the horn had been forcibly removed, pointing to poaching being the culprit.

WWF are now working with the authorities to ensure that a full criminal investigation is undertaken, to try to bring the perpetrators to justice.



Remains of a mousedeer found in Cat Loc, victim of snaring.



CTNP rangers destroying a recently used hunting camp

Javan Rhino Conservation and Habitat Expansion

Update on Projects supported through ARP partner International Rhino Foundation by Maggie Moore, IRF

We are working hard to learn as much about the Ujung Kulon population as possible. In December 2008, a track analysis census, part of a long-term effort to monitor the population, estimated the population to be between 37 and 44 rhinos. Another survey is now underway, using on-the-ground counts backed up by 60 camera-traps. This effort is collaboration between the park, the Rhino Foundation of Indonesia, and WWF Indonesia. Together, these data will verify population numbers and guide management decisions."

Though the Ujung Kulon population is stable, it is believed to have reached its carrying capacity in the current habitat and probably cannot grow any larger without intervention. Expanding the habitat available to Javan rhinos in Ujung Kulon should allow the population to increase, which in turn would allow us to eventually translocate some animals to establish a second population at a separate site, further helping to expand the species' population and prevent its extinction.

In 2009, Dr. Andy Gillison, world-renowned rapid habitat assessment expert was commissioned to evaluate potential translocation sites in Java. The small team was co-led by Widodo Ramono, Executive Director of Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI), and included representatives from the Indonesia Scientific Authority, Ujung Kulon National Park, the RPUs, and WWF-Indonesia. The team first collected baseline data on a series of representative transects in Ujung Kulon National Park, followed by intensive data collection on transects in the adjacent Gunung Honje area and in Gunung Halimun National Parks. Other team members conducted parallel work including socio-cultural assessments and geo-referencing of transect data.

Taking into account various biophysical elements, including the influence of human activity, the study concluded that while conditions in peninsular Ujung Kulon National Park and adjacent Gunung Honje may not be entirely optimal for sustained management of the Javan rhino, they nonetheless are considerably better than those offered in the other areas surveyed in Java, where translocation would almost certainly lead to failure.

Short-term recommendations are to establish a 4,000

hectare Javan rhino research and conservation area inside the Gunung Honje area with intensified active management, including replanting natural forest vegetation with rhino food plants in some areas, carefully implementing controlled slash and burn patch management in designated and closed forest areas to promote regeneration of rhino food plants, and continuing and increasing anti-poaching protection, including establishing new patrol paths and additional guard posts in Gunung Honje. Infestation by Langkap (Arenga) palm, an invasive species that poses a serious threat to rhino food plants, also will be reduced.

Work to establish the Javan rhino study and conservation area is progressing well. IRF has already received a significant portion of the funds required for phase one of this initiative, thanks to generous donors like you.

On June 21, 2010, the Government of Indonesia formally launched the Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area. This ground-breaking initiative will expand the habitat available to Javan rhinos in Ujung Kulon, which should allow the population to increase. This in turn would allow us to eventually translocate some animals to establish a second population at a separate site, further helping to expand the species' population and prevent its extinction.

Our initial activities include: clearing the site for an electric fence and adjacent patrol road, constructing small bridges and the electric fence, habitat management such as clearing and planting rhino food plants and providing for a water supply and saltlick, constructing new guard posts, hiring guards and other staff, and socialisation work with local communities.

Finally, working with local communities will be key – an increase education programs in areas adjacent to Gunung Honje will be carried out, as well as a more comprehensive study of socio-economic issues associated with establishing a research and conservation area, so that local peoples' livelihoods can be linked to active rhino management through activities such as wildlife tourism, cottage industries, and agriculture intensification outside the designated conservation area.



Indonesian Minister of Forestry and Governor of Banten Province launch the Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area and Declare June 21st Javan Rhino Day in Indonesia. (Photo courtesy of IRF.)

Indonesian Rhino Protection Units

Fewer than 200 Critically Endangered Sumatran rhinos are believed to remain on Earth. The population declined at a rate of 50% in the 1980s and 1990s from deforestation and habitat fragmentation. Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBS) and Way Kambas National Park (WK) in Sumatra, Indonesia, are two of the three major habitats for Sumatran rhino, 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. Way Kambas is home to 25-30 Sumatran rhino. The Javan rhino is also Critically Endangered, with fewer than 48 animals believed to exist in two known populations. The only viable reproductive population lives in Java's Ujung Kulon National Park (between 37 and 44 animals). Ujung Kulon 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, Ujung Kulon 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.

The initial decline of Javan and Sumatran rhinos was poaching for horn now, the populations are also limited by available habitat, which is continuously being encroached illegally by human populations and converted to agricultural land. The rate is now declining in some areas, where in partnership with national park authorities, RPU's are helping implement community development schemes to reduce encroachment. In one area bordering BBS, encroachment has decreased by as much as 60%, and – a first for Indonesia – farmers turned over 87 illegal guns to the RPU's.

With our partner, the Indonesian Rhino Foundation (YABI), the International Rhino Foundation with funding assistance from ARP operates a comprehensive program aimed at protecting and increasing the populations of Sumatran and Javan rhinos in Indonesia – the RPU's are the backbone of this program.

Thanks to the RPU's, there have been no incidences of poaching of Sumatran rhinos in Bukit Barisan and Way Kambas National Parks in Sumatra for the past 5 years, or of Javan rhinos in Ujung Kulon National Park in Java, for the past 14 years. The RPU's also protect numerous other threatened species, including tigers, elephants, tapirs, gibbons, monkeys, leopards and fishing cats.

During 2009, the RPU's operating in Bukit Barisan Selatan, Way Kambas and Ujung Kulon destroyed 36 traps and made a total of 52 arrests. The majority of these arrests were for illegal fishing and poaching of deer or small mammals. In 2009, 6 suspects that had previously been arrested by the RPU's were successfully prosecuted for poaching. Sentences ranged from 8 to 16 months of jail time and up to around USD\$275 in fines per offence.

At the request of the Head of the National Park, the Way Kambas RPU's are participating in a large integrated effort (in partnership with national government authorities and the police) to reduce encroachment in the park. Over the past year, RPU's worked with local communities to facilitate reforestation efforts in previously-encroached areas. The RPU's helped local villagers plant more than 10,000 new trees.

Already in 2010, RPU's have arrested 9 people for illegal logging and encroachment, and have investigated and reported another 40 suspects to the police and

park authorities for a variety of offences, including poaching, illegal fishing, illegal logging, illegal wildlife trade, and encroachment. During their investigations, the RPUs confiscate any evidence of illegal activity and turn it over to the police and park authorities. This year, they have confiscated 4 motorcycles, 2 bicycles, 3 traditional guns, 4 chainsaws, several spears and knives, pieces of tiger skin and elephant ivory, pangolins, poached deer, and illegal harvested timber.

The RPUs have also removed 23 snares – most of these snares were designed to catch deer and other small mammals, but at least 2 tiger traps were found and destroyed.

As part of their continuing efforts to turn back encroachment, in partnership with park authorities, the RPUs have removed over 100 cattle from inside the parks; destroyed 2 bridges built by illegal encroachers to create access to Way Kambas National Park, and destroyed 7 cabins illegally built by squatters inside park boundaries.

Finally, we've also planned several new initiatives for 2010/2011 to help improve the effectiveness of the RPU program. Several Sumatran RPU members will attend a MIST (Management Information System) training sponsored by the Wildlife Conservation Society, where they will be trained on utilising this simple, user-friendly database for ranger-based law enforcement monitoring. This methodology has great potential for the RPU work, particularly in putting the rhino data in a central database for the parks, which will be accessible to the park authorities.

Additionally, a new opportunity has arisen with the Leuser International Foundation (LIF) for enhanced information exchange, cross-training, and enhanced protection of Sumatran rhinos across the island. Estimates of Sumatran rhinos in the Leuser Ecosystem range from 35 – 80, with the population being perhaps the largest on the island. For a variety of reasons, information exchange between the staff working in Leuser and in other Sumatran rhino areas has not been optimal in the past. IRF has secured a commitment from the LIF to implement an exchange between the protection staff in the Leuser Ecosystem with RPU staff in Way Kambas and BBS, with visits from the LIF staff to Way Kambas and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Parks, and a mutual exchange with up to twelve RPU members to Leuser. We believe this will help us to begin the necessary dialogue to

standardize methodologies for protection, tracking, and survey methodologies on a Sumatra-wide basis, and in general, build a more solid and collaborative effort for Sumatran rhino conservation.

Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary

The Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS) is a 250-acre complex located within Way Kambas National Park in Sumatra, Indonesia. Its five rhinos – 'Andalas', 'Rosa', 'Ratu', 'Torgamba' and 'Bina' – are part of an intensively managed research and breeding program aimed at increasing our knowledge about the Sumatran rhino with the ultimate aim of increasing the population in the wild. At the SRS, the rhinos reside in large, open areas where they can experience a natural rainforest habitat while still receiving state-of-the-art veterinary care and nutrition.

Given its Critically Endangered status, we need to learn as much as possible about the Sumatran rhino – including its basic biology, disease risks, and food and habitat requirements – to help it survive. The five rhinos living at the SRS serve as ambassadors for their wild counterparts, and as instruments for education for local communities and the general public. The population also is an 'insurance' population that can be used to re-establish or revitalize wild populations that have been eliminated or debilitated, an invaluable resource for biological research, and hopefully, in the future, could be a source population for reintroductions, once threats have been eliminated in their natural habitat.

All animals are monitored on a daily basis by the sanctuary's two veterinarians and are immediately treated for any health problems that may arise.

Because there are so few Sumatran rhinoceros managed in captivity around the world, a group called the Global Management and Propagation Board (GMPB) for the Sumatran rhino was formed in order to bring all stakeholders together to truly manage the small and dispersed population at a global level. Per the GMPB recommendations, Andalas (a 7-year-old male born at the Cincinnati Zoo, raised at the Los Angeles Zoo, and transferred to Indonesia in 2007) has been exposed to as many of the female rhinos as possible over the past year so he could learn to communicate with the rhinos long before they are put together for breeding purposes. In December 2009, Andalas began successfully mating with Ratu. The breeding followed months of gradual introduction, ultimately resulting in

a pregnancy after their third mating.

Ratu became pregnant in January 2010 – the first pregnancy at the SRS! Unfortunately, Ratu later miscarried, which is not unusual for a rhino's first pregnancy. While all of us were saddened by the loss, achieving a pregnancy confirms that the Sumatran rhino breeding program is progressing. Emi, Andalas' mother, lost a number of pregnancies early in gestation before she carried one to term at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Experience and information gained with Emi will be used to help Ratu sustain her next pregnancy. Ratu has recovered very well from the miscarriage with no negative health issues. She has already begun breeding with Andalas again, but her cycle is not yet regular and thus she has not yet become pregnant again.

Torgamba, the sanctuary's older male, has mated with both Ratu and Bina several times over the past year. Torgamba is still producing sperm, though on an erratic basis. He is still being mated routinely with Ratu and Bina to help keep them on a regular cycle. (Sumatran rhinos are induced ovulators, which mean that the females only ovulate after they've mated. Most animals mate before or near the time of ovulation.) Rosa is also being introduced to Torgamba, to help teach her how to mate, but to date, she usually runs away when they are introduced.

The regular exposure of male and female rhinos

described above also helps the team look for behavioural signs of oestrus that may help them choose the proper timing for breeding. The regular use of ultrasound will also continue as it has proven quite successful in predicting the appropriate time for mixing.

During the next year, in partnership with the Cincinnati Zoo, the SRS will also begin working on an artificial insemination program, to help increase the likelihood of pregnancies, and to help bank sperm for global conservation and breeding efforts.

Captive breeding is one part of IRF's integrated conservation strategy for the Sumatran rhino, which is now down to no more than 200 animals in the wild and 10 in captivity. Saving Sumatran rhinos will require a balance of caring for the wild population and trying to breed as many animals as possible in captivity in order to boost population numbers.

Indian Rhino Vision 2020

Greater one-horned, or Indian, rhinos now number about 2,850 and the population slowly continues to increase. This year, IRF co-funded a census in Kaziranga National Park which confirmed that the park now holds 2,049 rhinos – more than any other area in India or Nepal.

Indian Rhino Vision 2020, implemented in partnership with the government of Assam, IRF, WWF-India, and the Bodo Territorial Council, is partly funded by the ARP



thanks to the generous donation from the Taronga Conservation Society Australia. It aims to increase the rhino population in India to 3,000 by 2020 by moving animals from concentrated populations to areas where rhino populations are not as dense. Getting a rhino ready for translocation is no easy feat, and it must be carried out in a way that provides maximum safety for the animals as well as the people involved. Rhino translocations were delayed this year because of difficulties in importing the highly-controlled tranquilisation drug of choice, etorphine.

Nevertheless, we are still making progress! Last year, one of the male rhinos previously translocated to Manas National Park wandered outside of the park for more than 2 weeks, travelling more than 60 km before he could be safely immobilized and returned to the park. As a result, IRF, and Save the Rhino funded construction of an 8-km (about 5-mile) electric fence along the southern boundary of the park to keep the rhinos in. As a side benefit, the fence also protects local communities from elephants that previously raided their crops, reducing incidents of human-elephant conflict and increasing farmers' incomes. The hope is to eventually provide another 8-10 km of fencing so that all communities along the Manas National Park border can benefit.

Over the past year, they have continued to successfully protect and monitor the two rhinos translocated into the park in 2008, and to prepare for the additional rhinos that will soon arrive. The program has hired 50 "Home Guards" to monitor and protect the translocated rhinos and other wildlife in Manas NP. Guards are recruited from local fringe villages and are trained by the Assam Forest Department on wildlife conservation and combating poaching. Home guards are on patrol 24 hours a day; units alternate patrols in three-hour blocks.

They patrol all areas of the park, either on foot, or using bicycles, cars, elephants and boat as necessary. Patrols are heavily concentrated along the southern boundary of the park, which is the direct contact zone with the fringe villages. The home guards keep daily field records and assist the park authorities in conducting the wildlife census.

The program also conducted enforcement training for 20 frontline park staff from Manas NP. The curriculum included: basic first aid, basic navigation, weapon handling, patrolling operations, hostile engagement,

arresting securing and searching suspects, and basic laws.

After months of hard work, negotiations and eventual appeals to the Prime Minister of India and the Central Minister for Environment and Forests, the 2020 team was finally able to get all the required permits and certifications in place to import etorphine from South Africa for the translocations. Unfortunately though, the rainy season began early this year, and the unusually heavy flooding and monsoons have made it too dangerous to translocate rhinos at this time.

The team is now planning to translocate at least eighteen rhinos into Manas once the dry season begins in late 2010. These will likely include four male and four female rhinos from Pabitora and three male and seven female rhinos from Kaziranga.. The methodologies outlined in this document have been approved by the Government of India and the provincial Government of Assam.

Up to four selected rhinos per translocation effort will be immobilized with etorphine hydrochloride (M99) from elephant back. Rhinos will be monitored by a team of veterinarians during transportation and prior to release. Post-release, animals will be monitored using radio-collars and direct observation, both from elephant back and on foot. 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.

Monitoring of a translocated rhino will begin immediately upon arrival by a team of biologists with all necessary equipment organized to track the rhino using its radio collar and visually. Initially, the rhinos will be monitored for properly settling in at the new location. Once this phase is over, long term monitoring will ensue, with behavior of the rhinos and their use of the habitat monitored carefully.

A team of at least two biologists will locate each rhino on a daily basis and observe them over the course of the day for overall behavior and well-being. 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.

A Rough Road for Rhinos

Ian Anderson, Senior Keeper, Taronga Western Plains Zoo

In February 2010, I was invited by the Asian Rhino Project to travel with a group of people to Assam India to visit Manas National Park and witness the work being carried out there by IRV 2020. The aim of the IRV 2020 is to increase the population of Greater one horned rhino to 3000 individuals across seven protected areas. Currently 2000 rhinos reside in Kaziranga which is more than 85% of the current population; this exposes the population to stochastic events such as flood or disease.

The Taronga Conservation Society, Australia, allocated field grants to the ARP in 2008 and 2009 for projects in Manas and Kaziranga National Parks. The ARP and Aaranyak used these grants to assist Anti-poaching patrols in Kaziranga and to assist translocations of GOHR to Manas National Park.

I met up with members of our team in Guwahati. The team members were Susie Ellis (IRF Executive Director), Bibhab Talukdar (IRF Asian Rhino Coordinator), Inov (IRF Indonesian Liaison), Clare Campbell (ARP Vice President), Lucy Boddam-Whetham (Fundraising Manager, Save the Rhino) and Rob Liddell (Board of Directors, Woodland Park Zoo). We travelled to Manas National Park by vehicle. It's - a 4 hour trip which tests your physical and mental well being.

You have to let go of your fears and watch it unfold in front of you, you are constantly air-bourn, mostly on the wrong side of the road, near misses are frequent and the cacophony of car horns is ever present. When you arrive at your destination and check that all your parts are intact, "you know you have had an experience".

Manas National park has faced many challenges; from the late 1980's through to 1996 the park has been seriously impacted by social, racial unrest and political instability in the region that saw the destruction of most of the park's infrastructure and the loss of much of its wildlife including the local extinction of GOHR. The situation is now stable and all stakeholders are working hard to return the park to its former glory.

Manas National Park was granted World heritage status in 1985, it is an Elephant Reserve, a Biosphere Reserve and a "Project Tiger Reserve", and is geographically linked to Royal Manas National Park in Bhutan.



Much of our time at Manas was used to inspect the infrastructure being constructed or repaired within the park. We visited many of the guard posts throughout the park; the guard posts are at the centre of operations for the guards that protect the park. We travelled to the southern boundary of the park to see a recently constructed electric fence. The fence has helped by preventing rhinos from straying out of the park and has reduced the crop raiding of elephants in the area. Local villages have been able to improve their crop yields and are keen to see the fence extended. Much of the fence construction was carried out by local villagers.

During our visit, the field staff were able to take us to the areas where the radio collared rhino are known to be, but despite everyone's best efforts we were unable to see them due to the very high elephant grasses. We were able to track them via radio telemetry. There were 5 resident GOHR in Manas at the time of our visit from 2 previous translocations.

As a Zoo keeper I am often a participant of fundraisers for conservation projects and as a part member of an organisation such as the Taronga Conservation Society, Australia, I use terms like "in situ" and "conservation value" and many other wonderful words and catch phrases to capture peoples' attention, it was not until I experienced all those things that I gained a real understanding of what they mean and how important the work is.



I was pleasantly surprised by what I saw at Manas N.P. To see the level of cooperation between so many organisations working on projects within the park and on its fringes was great. Organisations such as WWF India, Project Tiger, Aaranyak, Department of Forests and many others are stakeholders in Manas N.P. The organisations working at Manas have fostered partnerships with the local people and there is a high level of involvement by many local NGOs.

On our last evening at Manas we were invited by the Manas Ever Welfare society to their recently constructed Eco- Lodge for some local entertainment. Funding from IRV 2020 allowed boys and girls from local villagers to be trained in traditional dance and song. This troupe will regularly perform for the guests at the Lodge. Members of our team were encouraged to join in the dancing; a lot of fun was had by all.

Our next destination was Kaziranga National Park, this involved another exciting road trip to Guwahati and then onto Kaziranga National Park. At Kaziranga we attended the biennial Asian Rhino Specialist Group workshop. Over 50 delegates from India, Nepal, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam and various

overseas NGOs and zoos attended.

The aim of the meeting was to establish a new strategic plan for all Asian rhino species. A large part of the workshop was to carry out a threat analysis for each species and their habitat. The common thread through the analysis was the problem of increased poaching and habitat loss. Other problems included inbreeding depression for Javan and Sumatran species, natural disasters, climate change and invasive species. Information from this meeting will assist members in the formulation of policy and gaining government support to protect rhinos and their habitats.

During the meeting a number of scientific papers were presented by field biologists and scientists covering a diverse range of subjects such as translocation, animal diets and habitat protection and restoration.

After the meeting concluded we were able to visit the park. The last census put Kaziranga's GOHR population at 2,048. As soon as we entered the park we were able to see rhino. I was amazed at how many rhino, elephant, deer, water buffalo and boar I saw. Members of our group saw tigers on two occasions and got the have photos to prove it. Kaziranga is a marvellous place for wildlife and needs our help.

Anyone who is even remotely interested in rhinos knows that the road ahead is going to be rough. The upside is that there are a lot of very dedicated people out there doing a great job to protect and conserve the rhinos in Asia.

I came away from this trip knowing that the work being supported by ARP and the Taronga foundation have a solid conservation value and are worthy of our support.



Committee Update

By Kerry Crosbie

I can't believe it is the end of another financial year already!!! The ARP committee is gearing up for all the audits, reports and stocktakes once again. Our AGM is being planned and will be held in Perth on Thursday 30 September at the Perth Zoo theaterette. The usual sausage sizzle will start at 6pm and the meeting at 7pm. Please if you can attend we would appreciate your support. We need as many people to come as possible. We will send out a notice including an agenda closer to the time. Friends and family are of course more than welcome.

ARP is running a membership drive and we need your help. Currently the ARP has just over 135 members and we are looking to increase this to 200 by the end of the year. You should have received a pamphlet on the ARP including a membership form in the mail or by e-mail. We are asking that each member might be able to recruit one additional member each 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
- b. 3 or more 3yr memberships
- c. 2 or more 5yr memberships

NSW Branch

The NSW Branch recently organised a Rhino May Day Weekend over the 14, 15 & 16 May at Taronga Western Plains Zoo.

The team made and sold over 120 rhino cookies, and held a staff BBQ where we sold over \$200 worth of ARP merchandise. The Keepers also helped us out by doing extra rhino keeper talks at the three species, where we also had donation buckets for the public. 'Dora' the male Greater One-horned Rhino also donated a

painting that he painted using his top lip, which we raffled off and it alone made over \$300.

It was a great success supported by the zoo, keepers and visitors alike. We raised over \$1200 which will go to sponsoring a Sumatran rhino through the International Rhino Foundation.

For more information you can also look online at: <http://www.dailyliberal.com.au/news/local/news/general/artwork-from-onehorned-rhino-helps-zoos-cause/1830542.aspx>





WA Branch

On 14 March 2010, the Asian Rhino Project together with the Silvery Gibbon Project and the Australian Orangutan Project hosted our first joint Walkathon for Endangered Asian Animals.

This was held at Lake Monger Reserve, and was a great success! We had over 200 people join us for the 3.5km walk, which raised just over \$3000 for the Asian Rhino Project. A sausage sizzle, coffee van, kids face painting and the UWA Juggling Club kept people entertained. A big thank you to the following businesses for kind donations of prizes: Fremantle Prison Tours, Adventure World, Windsor Hotel and Beach Head Wines. Also a huge thanks to AOP, ARP and SGP volunteers, Suzi Greenway for her fabulous face painting skills, and to all our participants, including Tranby College, St Brigids College, Blue Gum Montessori and John Curtin College of the Arts. We hope to run this event as an annual fundraiser, so stay tuned for next year's details!

WA Branch Manager Sophie Lourandos was invited to present a talk to the staff of the Water Corporation and



their families on 19 May 2010, at Perth Zoo. This was a great opportunity to inform people of the plight of the Asian Rhinos, using Perth Zoo's White Rhinos as ambassadors for their Asian cousins. Thanks to Perth Zoo for this opportunity.

The Asian Rhino Project is now on Facebook! Please become a member and stay up to date for the latest rhino news and fundraising events in your state. You can find us at www.facebook.com and search for the Asian Rhino Project.

Apologies to Hunter Hall

Last edition ARP thanked Hunter hall for kindly donating another \$9103.00 to the Asian Rhino Project from their Charitable Trust. However, the special thanks got cut off in the formatting for which we sincerely apologize.

The Hunter Hall Charitable Trust has a policy of donating 5% of its pre-tax profits to charitable purposes and activities that support social or environmental causes.

This is their fourth donation from the charitable trust bringing their contributions to just over \$60,000. Thank you so very much!

Find out more about Hunter Hall Investment and their fantastic charitable giving program at www.hunterhall.com.au/group-profile/charitable-giving-program



**Ethical
Managed Funds**

In The News – Asian Rhino News Stories

Rains affecting rhino translocation programme (18 May)

First it was official incompetence, now it is the weather. The already delayed rhino translocation programme could be further affected by frequent rains in the areas where the animals are located and their proposed destination in Manas National Park. A senior official of the Forest Department told The Assam Tribune that the project is long delayed and cost-over runs are expected. "The exercise that is to be carried out involved substantial costs spread over a long period. It is natural that expenses would increase with interruptions."

Conservation workers also agree that the weather would have to be conducive for the complex translocation process to begin. They say that collecting the animals and transporting them over a great distance in a stress-free environment can only be done when there are no rains. What is equally a matter of concern is that the population of rhinos in the source areas is increasing which has put pressure on the habitat. In the source area of Pobitora, recent rhino births have been reported.

More: <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=may1810/state05>

Four rhino poachers killed in gunfight in Kaziranga (21 May)

Four poachers were killed in a gunfight with wildlife rangers at the famed Kaziranga National Park in Assam Friday, three days after seven poachers were arrested on the fringe of the sanctuary, officials said. A wildlife warden said a group of six poachers entered the park early Friday and fired at an adult rhino near the Mihimukh range, although they failed to hit the target.

"A six-member team of forest guards upon hearing the gunshots gave the poachers a chase and soon there was a gunfight between the two sides," park warden D. Gogoi said. The encounter continued for about 30 minutes in which four poachers were killed, while two more managed to escape taking cover of the thick undergrowths. A rifle along with a large quantity of ammunition, jungle boots, food stuff, and raincoats, were recovered from the dead poachers.

"A massive hunt is on with forest guards riding on elephant backs on the trail of the two poachers," the warden said. "We believe the two poachers who escaped might have fled with the weapons carried by their colleagues," the warden said.

This is the second major success by forest rangers this week. On Tuesday, seven poachers were arrested while they were coming in a car to sell a rhino horn to an international animal organ smuggling syndicate close to the park. A rhino horn and cash amounting to Rs.345, 000 were seized from the gang.

"We are happy with the way our forest guards are fighting an organised poaching syndicate active in the park area. We cannot ignore the help from local villagers living on the periphery of the park in our fight against poachers," Assam Forest Minister Rockybul Hussain told IANS. "Along with forest guards, we are also taking the help of the Border Security Force, the army and local villagers to combat poachers," the minister said.

More: http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/enviornment/four-rhino-poachers-killed-in-Kaziranga_100367261.html

National park surveys Javan rhinoceroses (21 May)

Ujung Kulon National Park (TNUK) has launched a joint team consisting of 80 officers from the TNUK, the Indonesian Rhino Foundation and the Bogor Agriculture Institute (IPB) to Ujung Kulon, which is located on the western tip of Java and is one of only two remaining natural habitats of the Javan rhinoceros.

TNUK head Agus Priambudi told journalists the team would start counting the rhinos in the area by using capture, mark and release (CMR) methods, which is more accurate than the previously used Schenkel method.

"We estimate that there is a total of 50 to 60 Javan rhinos in the past 15 years," said Agus. The CMR method is conducted by placing camera traps in certain spots at the rhino's habitat to capture images of the rhinos. "With the CMR method, we can directly see the animals through the video recordings and pictures, the age ratio and the sex of the rhinos," he added. The sampling of images would be used to predict the actual number of the population.

During the last survey of the species, which was held in 2008, a team of researchers discovered the foot prints of four baby rhinos allegedly younger than one year. Agus said the finding proved the rhinos are still procreating and regeneration is still possible. "Natural conditions may have also contributed to the baby rhinos' foot prints that were found," he said, referring to the fact that foot prints of the same individual could be printed differently due to external factors.

More: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/05/21/national-park-surveys-javan-rhinoses.html>

Vietnam world's largest consumer of rhino horn; changes needed at top levels to save species, says WWF (24 May)

The Javan Rhino whose skeleton was found recently in Cat Tien National Park in the Central Highlands province of Lam Dong, may have been the same animal that the World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) field workers were tracking for a conservation project, before it died possibly at the hands of poachers. "It is quite possible that the dead rhino was the one being documented by the field workers," said Julianne Becker, WWF Vietnam communication manager. In a grim statement she added, "The WWF's official line is we don't know how many, if any, rhinos are left in the park."

Forensic tests show the time of rhino's death in January around Tet, which coincides with the time when the field workers stopped finding fresh evidence of rhinos, Becker said.

Becker said the two field workers, WWF species officer Sarah Brook and her husband Simon Mahood, who had been carrying out a rhino dung tracking program in the park using specially trained dogs, had worked in the same area that the rhino's remains were found on April 29.

Brook and Mahood kept a blog that provides a chilling account of how much of threat wildlife in the park is under from poaching. "Hunters set snares to catch animals. These snares were removed on one day's survey in November. Even if not intended for the rhinos, these snares could mortally wound one," on our last visit to the forest we found a large cable snare...positioned over a trail close to a popular rhino wallow," the blog said.

Becker said 22 samples of rhino dung were collected during the six month project. The dung has been sent for DNA testing and the results would not be available for at least four months, she said. The tests would show how many rhinos produced the dung.

Head of Science and International Relation Office at Cat Tien National Park, Nguyen Van Thanh, told Thanh Nien Weekly on May 18 that he did not agree that there was large scale poaching in the park. He said that the cause of the rhino's death was still being investigated by police and that he believed there were still three to five rhinos left.

One blog entry posted online from Cat Tien National Park on April 25, four days before the rhino's bones were found, tells how close the researchers were to poachers who may have killed the rhino. "In the last three months we found and destroyed a new hunting camp each time we visited one particular wallow, which the rhinos had been regularly using before the hunters moved in." The blog also showed the effect human encroachment has had on wildlife, in Cat Tien through river dredging, cashew nut farming, fishing and tree felling for timber, honey, fruit and leaves.

Compelling blog

Brook and Mahood were uploading their findings regularly on Twitter, making it possible for 68 followers on the social media site to see the snares and fences that poachers use in almost real time. "At times we would feel

it was truly remarkable that any rhinos still remain here," the April 25 entry said. "The results of the survey will be so important for determining how to truly conserve this unique animal, if indeed it is not already too late..." "Along some rivers we found hunting and fishing camp every 500 meters..., this fire was still smoking," the blog said. On one day they removed over 100 snares from a trapping line on a ridge

There was no evidence of the rhino being snared or struggled to death due to hunting, however, there was evidence the horn had been removed, the WWF said in a statement released last week. Therefore, it is suspected that the rhino was killed by poachers, it added. WWF's tests have shown the rhino wasn't snared.

Big business

Becker said, "When you see evidence of huge numbers of snares, it is not traditional, but large scale organized hunting. When you see it on that scale, it is for the trade." She said wildlife traders go into villages in Vietnam and place orders for particular species.

She said rhino horn fetches US\$40,000 a kilo in the end deal on the black market, adding that the Cat Tien rhino's horn would fetch a lot more because it was smaller and believed to be more potent. At this time Vietnam is the highest consumer of rhino horn in the world, she said.

The blog describes one of the problems for conservation efforts is that poachers can easily avoid authorities or researchers in the forests because the rangers' movements are widely known and they don't patrol every day. To save Vietnam's natural heritage, the field research showed patrols need to be stepped up and done more secretly.

"Rangers responsible for protecting this part of the national park only patrol for up to five days in each month. In the part of the park where rhinos definitely persist, the Asian Rhino Project and the WWF fund an additional five days of patrol effort each month, to reduce the risk to the rhinos. Although we have found snares in the rhino area, the numbers of snares there were much lower than in the area where we have just been," the blog said. Becker said the WWF began funding the extra patrols after Brook and Mahood reported the huge extent of poaching at the beginning of the project in October.

She said the death of one animal should not be such big news because it should never get to this point. Big changes need to be made at top levels, she said. "It's going to even more sad and horrible if we don't learn from this rhino's death."

More: <http://www.thanhniennnews.com/2010/Pages/20100521232429.aspx>

Javan rhino probably killed by poachers (30 May)

The rare Javan rhino found dead in the central highlands of Vietnam last month was very likely shot by poachers, according to the World Wildlife Fund's latest press release. Physical and photographic evidence showed that the female Javan Rhinoceros found buried at a muddy riverbank in Cat Tien National Park on April 29, had been shot dead and its horn had been removed, WWF said.

Abnormal cut marks were found where the horn was attached to the skull, it said, adding that a large portion of the upper jaw bone had also been removed. A high calibre bullet was also found embedded in the front left leg of the skeleton, the press release said. Related agencies are conducting tests to find out more about the bullet.

Craig Bruce, a rhino expert for the WWF, said the rhino, which weighed nearly one ton and died some five months ago, was probably shot many times by poachers and was seriously injured before dying.

It is now uncertain how many, if any, Javan rhinos are left in Vietnam, the WWF said. Cat Tien National Park Director Tran Van Thanh, meanwhile, said between three and five Javan rhinos are living there. The species, which is perhaps the most endangered large mammal in the world, was first detected in Vietnam by a camera trap in May 1999. It was last photographed in December, 2005.

More: <http://www.thanhniennnews.com/2010/Pages/20100528113457.aspx>

55 rhinos killed in Kaziranga in last 4 years (30 May)

While wildlife lovers around the globe are rallying against rhino poaching, as many as 55 rhinos have been killed in the UNESCO's world heritage site Kaziranga National Park, in the last four years. According to insiders of Kaziranga National Park, a nexus between a section of forest guards and poachers is being suspected to be involved in rhino poaching.

And now, authorities of Assam's Kaziranga National Park, forest guard and security personnel are killing innocent people in fake encounters and producing them as poachers to cover up their failure, alleged by local people who reside near the park.

The incident came to light when villagers of Silveta under Bokakhat Police Station in Golaghat district, some 35kms from Kaziranga National Park, alleged that, a youth called Rahul Kutum was killed by forest guards in a fake encounter inside the Park on May 21, morning to cover their failure to protect rhinos.

Over 800 rhinos were killed during the last decade – it is enough to raise a loud alarm on Kaziranga national Park.

More: <http://www.indiablooms.com/EnvironmentDetailsPage/environmentDetails300510b.php>

Public Rhino Horn Burning (Assam) (12 June)

Wildlife authorities in Assam have made a radical decision that more than 1500 rhino horns will be burnt in this month, possibly in presence of members of International conservation agencies, sources in Assam Forest Department said. By public burning of a huge quantity of rhino horns, the state forest department wants to send a message to poachers that it is fully committed to rhino conservation.

The Assam government had issued a notification that each district has to dispose all rhino horns in possession of the forest department, sources added. At present 1,571 rhino horns are lying in different district treasuries and strongrooms of divisional forest offices across the state.

More: <http://assamreport.blogspot.com/2010/06/assam-ready-for-public-burn-of-1500.html>

Rare Javan rhino found dead in Indonesia (12 June)

The carcass of a critically endangered Javan rhino has been found in Indonesia, conservationists said Monday, bringing the world's scarcest mammal one step closer to extinction. The remains of the male rhino were found two weeks ago in Ujung Kulon National Park in West Java, home to the species' last viable population of less than 50, experts said.

Rhino Foundation of Indonesia head Widodo Ramono said the animal could have died during the rainy season around February to March. Its horn was intact, meaning it probably was not killed by poachers, he said.

More: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g6Z3tdAxJuXPcH1-Ths0Ux2vE>

Wanted: Female mate for rare rhino in Malaysia (12 June)

Malaysian authorities are trying to trap a female mate for Tam, a rare Borneo Sumatran rhino, in a last-ditch effort to produce an offspring in captivity and save his species from extinction, an official said. Laurentius Ambu, a top wildlife official, said Tam's current mate is too old to reproduce. Tam was rescued from the jungles of Sabah state on Borneo Island two years ago and is one of the handful of Borneo Sumatran rhinos believed to be alive.

Hopes for saving the Borneo Sumatran from extinction were raised following the recent spotting of a rhino believed to be a female, whose image was captured by a remotely controlled camera, Ambu said. The trap is in an area on Borneo Island where the solitary rhinos, indigenous to the island, are known to roam.

More: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5jJbwJW-5bhdXKCboXtXFB2suFT3wD9G879K00>

Eight rhinos die in two months (13 June)

Eight rhinos have died in the past two months as poachers have become more ruthless in their attack against the endangered one-horned species. A male rhino was found killed by poachers near Gaur Machan inside the Chitwan National Park on Friday taking the rhino toll to eight within the past couple of months. Deputy Conservation Officer Buddhi Raj Pathak claimed the latest death was also a result of poaching as the feet and horn of the rhino were missing.

A male rhino that was shot by poachers last month also died last Tuesday. Another male rhino was killed at the Kathar region of park on June 4 with the officials suspecting that it was drugged into unconsciousness before being killed. Four rhinos had died inside the park during the indefinite strike called by the Maoists. Three of them were killed by poachers while a calf had died after the death of its mother. The younger rhinos have also come under threat as poachers have started to target females.

Despite all these killings, the administration has not been able to nab the poachers. The national park has come under pressure as most of the rhinos have been killed around the park office with the Nepal Army patrolling all the time. "The poachers flee within 10 minutes. We have found fresh blood on many occasions. Those who complete the task within 10 minutes must be part of an organized outfit," said Pradhan. He argues the bushes that have grown around the forest have also provided cover for the poachers making it difficult for the security persons to track them down.

According to the census in 2008, there were 400 rhinos in the park. However, 42 of them have already died with 25 of them killed as a result of poaching activity. Park authorities claim limited resources and personnel have also proved a hindrance in its efforts to curb rampant poaching.

Govt calls emergency meeting on Sunday

The government has said that it is alarmed by the rise in the number of rhino killings in Chitwan in the last two months. Following the killing incident on Friday, the Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation has called an emergency meeting of the departments concerned, Chitwan National Park officials and the Nepal Army to discuss the matter. "The government is committed to saving the rhinos and we will do everything possible," Forest Minister Deepak Bohara said.

More: http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=19807

Trio Busted in West Bengal for Attempting to Sell Rhino Horn (30 June)

A rhino horn was recovered and three people were arrested in Siliguri, West Bengal, when they attempted to sell the horn to undercover police officers posing as rhino horn buyers.

More: <http://www.rhinoconservation.org/2010/06/29/trio-busted-in-west-bengal-for-attempting-to-sell-rhino-horn/>

Man Sentenced to 10 Years for Rhino Horn Smuggling (Vietnam) (5 July)

A Vietnamese man has been sentenced to 10 years behind bars for trying to smuggle 16kg of rhino horn out of the country. He was caught at Johannesburg's OR Tambo International Airport with 16.1kg of rhino horn in his luggage. It would have been worth about R2.2 million in Vietnam, reports Beeld newspaper.

More: <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/article527859.ece/Rhino-horn-smuggler-gets-10years>

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.

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



MALLESONS STEPHEN JAQUES



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				

Details and Payment

Please send completed order forms to: Asian Rhino Project, PO Box 163, South Perth, Western Australia, Australia 6951.

Name: _____

Delivery Address: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ Email: _____

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: _____