

## Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary Rhino Updates

### BINA

Bina is the oldest female at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary and is the third oldest living captive Sumatran rhinoceros after Torgamba and Ipuh (the latter rhino resides at the Cincinnati Zoo). Both Bina and Torgamba have been at the SRS since its inception in 1998.

Of all the rhinos at the sanctuary, Bina is the most shy and solitary, but she does get along well with people, and with the other rhinos. Because of her advanced age, Bina is now nearly post-reproductive, although she is still very interested in the male rhinos at the sanctuary. She often becomes aggressive and begins snorting loudly if she sees or hears another female with one of the male rhinos. Although she unfortunately has not been able to produce any calves, Bina has made important contributions to the breeding program and continues to help educate people about Sumatran rhinos.

### TORGAMBA

The oldest male at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, Torgamba is also the oldest surviving captive Sumatran rhinoceros! Torgamba is doing quite well despite some complications of old age, including kidney disease and anemia. Because he gets worn out easily (which can affect his health issues), Torgamba now resides in a smaller boma, but his keepers still take him for regular walks in the forest.

Like most Sumatran rhinos, Torgamba loves lounging in mud wallows to cool off – in fact, he often causes his keepers to miss their lunch break because he refuses to get out of the wallow! Although he is no longer

the primary breeding male at the SRS (now that the young male Andalas has become sexually mature), Torgamba remains in high spirits and still likes to interact with the sanctuary’s female rhinos whenever the opportunity arises.

### RATU

At nine years of age, Ratu is the second youngest female Sumatran rhino living at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. Unlike the other rhinos at the sanctuary, Ratu (whose name means “queen”) was actually born in Way Kambas National Park, the protected area where the sanctuary is located.

Because she presumably had some experience with male rhinos while living in the wild, Ratu was chosen to be the primary breeding female with the sanctuary’s young male, Andalas. In December 2009, Andalas began successfully mating with Ratu. The breeding followed months of gradual introduction by scent, sound, sight, and finally, physical proximity.

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, and she has already begun breeding with Andalas again.



Bina



Torgamba



Ratu

## ROSA

Rosa had adapted well to her life at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, and still exhibits all of the behaviours that make her so unique. Because she is so habituated to humans, Rosa regularly takes long walks in the forest with sanctuary staff. She is a particularly loud rhino, and often vocalizes, especially when people are close by, or when her regular feeding time is approaching. Rosa also likes to “sing” when she is happily wallowing in her mud holes.

Unfortunately though, because she is so habituated to humans, it seems that Rosa often prefers the company of her keepers to the company of other rhinos, even after she became mature. Rosa’s keepers have encouraged her to become more independent by giving her more time alone in the forest, and now she often chooses to remain in the forest even when they come near (rather than always standing at the fence and “calling” for her keepers as she used to do). Rosa is still sometimes afraid of the male rhinos and often tries to run away when they approach her in the breeding area, even trying to knock down the fence to get away. The SRS staff continues to work hard to socialize Rosa with the other rhinos at the sanctuary, so that she will begin breeding soon.

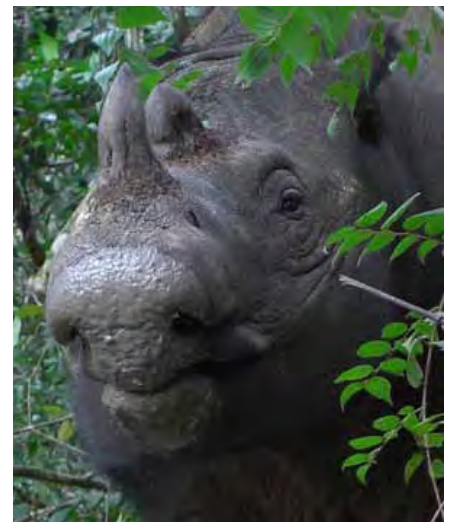
## ANDALAS

Andalas, the first Sumatran rhino born in captivity in more than 112 years, is the living, breathing result of a groundbreaking research and breeding effort undertaken by American zoos, the Indonesian government, and the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. He is the first in a long line of Sumatran rhinos that hopefully will be bred in captivity and eventually introduced back into the wild to help bolster wild rhino populations.



Andalas. Below: Rosa

Andalas now weighs over 1,600 pounds and has fully adapted to his life in the jungle at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. He loves making his own mud wallows to cool down, and has started foraging for plants and twigs himself, rather than always waiting for his keepers to feed him. Andalas has also grown into his role as the sanctuary’s primary breeding male, having reached sexual maturity sometime in early 2008. Because Andalas’ early interactions with female rhinos were quite aggressive, the SRS staff worked hard to socialize Andalas to the female rhinos by feeding the rhinos their daily diets together through a fence in the central breeding area. After he learned to communicate well with the female rhinos, the keepers and vets began gradually introducing Andalas and female Ratu during appropriate times for breeding. Andalas finally began breeding with Ratu in December 2009, and after only three matings, Ratu became pregnant. Unfortunately she later miscarried the pregnancy – not an unusual occurrence with rhinos – but she and Andalas have already resumed breeding and we are hoping for another pregnancy soon!



To learn more about the rhinos at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, or to adopt one of the five rhinos for yourself, or as a gift for a friend or loved one, please visit [www.asianrhinos.org.au](http://www.asianrhinos.org.au)