

The Rhino Print

Spring 2010



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Asian Rhino Project



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Welcome to the Spring 2010 Newsletter

ARP would like to wish all a safe and happy festive season. In this time for giving why not consider the perfect gift for that person who has everything by purchasing them:

- a rhino adoption – see page 3 and page 14
- ARP membership – form included on page 22
- Rembrandt painted by the rhinos themselves or perhaps a great coffee table book "Rhinos in Art" which is a great read! See merchandise form on pages 23 & 24

This edition reports on a new Indian rhino project in the Orang National Park in Assam, India. ARP is proud to support another Aaranyak project there. See more on page 12.

Work has begun on the Javan rhino habitat expansion project in Indonesia. This very important project will be the major focus for the ARP over the next year. Page 6.

Also reported in this edition is the closure of the Javan rhino project supported by ARP in Vietnam. Sadly this project was not as successful as was hoped. Read more on page 4.

WA Branch manager Sophie Lourandos has just returned from the International Rhino Foundation's board meeting held in Houston, USA. You can read her report on page 16.

You can also find a story provided by Sectionov in Indonesia on rhino horn and a RPU report on the arrest on tiger poachers (page 5). Be sure to read the updates also provided by our partners at Yayasan Badak Indonesia (page 3).

Kerry Crosbie
Project Director

Rhino Protection Unit Update

By Yayasan Badak Indonesia (Indonesian Rhino Foundation)

The Rhino Protection Program of Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI) provides protection from poaching and habitat disturbance for viable nucleus populations of Sumatran and Javan Rhinos through the establishment and operation of Rhino Protection Units (RPU), and supporting management, coordination and supervisory structures.

Seven RPUs operate in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBS NP), five RPUs in Way Kambas National Park (WK NP) and 4 RPUs in Ujung Kulon National Park (UK NP). Below is a summary of the quarterly report provided by YABI this month.

The Way Kambas Rhino Protection Units (RPU) have been actively evolved in a successful collaborative operation with Park Authority to remove old encroachment in Sekapuk and Kuala Kambas areas, and arrest suspects to bring to police station.

During the implementation of this activity such as surveys and patrols the RPU/RMPU achieved numbers of surveys. The Team also encountered many cases of illegal activities in the National Parks and the rhino conservation areas, into which prosecution had been made through filing the cases and hand the cases to local Police Stations.

Intelligence and Law Enforcement Unit (ILEU) has been operating to identify the threats which come from surrounding people or outside of the Park; its operations also covers identifying possible facilitations for raising local's alternative income in order to reduce threats to the park and its rhinos.

There are only three personnel in this unit. They work in collaboration with informants, RPUs, Park Rangers

and Police, in the case that they have a confirmed case and need to apprehend the suspect/s for further law enforcement efforts. ILEU's base operation is in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park and the surroundings, hence they also available to assist ILEU operation in both Way Kambas and Ujung Kulon NPs.

RPU Bukit Barisan Selatan were involved in collaborative operation to remove encroachments and investigations of cases and in wildlife-human conflict resolutions (elephant conflicts).

There was no direct sighting of rhino in BBS, WK and UK but, for Ujung Kulon, the RPU encountered the largest number of rhino signs (74 footprints and 75 of other signs).

Based on the patrol and survey in Ujung Kulon, it was found that poaching of non mammals (2 cases of fishing), 1 trap for mouse deer and three cases of tree felling were signs of serious threats to the park. Those infractions of regulation had been anticipated by RPU together with Park Authority.

While in Way Kambas, 30 illegal activities encountered were mostly located within encroachment area, which are all non rhino poaching.

In BBS, mostly was non mammals poaching (fishing and bird trapping) encountered when RPU undertook patrol/survey. Meanwhile the Program must help to keep an eye and be aware of the abandoned encroachment areas in Way Kambas and Bukit Barisan Selatan from which people will usually do poaching on this or its adjacent area. Further, wildlife trade indications in both surrounding areas of WK and BBS are still occurring.

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.



Patrolling project comes to an unsatisfactory end in Cat Tien National Park

ARP through WWF, supported joint enforcement patrols of local community members and national park staff, to provide improved protection to Javan rhinoceros and other wildlife in Cat Loc, Cat Tien National Park. Over 12 months the teams removed over 450 snares from the park, about 10% of which were large snares targeted at catching animals such as Gaur, Sambar and perhaps even rhino.

Snaring was thought to be one of the main, immediate threats to the small Javan rhino population at the inception of the project in 2009. By increasing patrolling presence (which had declined since the closing of the WWF Cat Tien Conservation Project in 2005), with a strong focus on snare removal, we hoped to provide protection to this beleaguered population of Javan rhino.

Unfortunately, the implementation of the project by Cat Tien National Park left much to be desired. Patrolling was often not conducted every month and was implemented poorly, with little coverage of the core rhino habitat. The total number of snares removed by the project was only a fraction of the snares remaining in Cat Loc, and therefore a poor measure of the massive hunting pressure this part of the park is under.

Despite several discussions with Cat Tien National Park to try to improve patrolling frequency and coverage, WWF met with little success. Capacity and resources were not the issue; we had the funding and we provided training in patrolling methodology, GPS use, snare removal and data collection. Whilst under the supervision of WWF staff, the rangers performed very well. However, this performance was not maintained without direct supervision from WWF, and patrolling frequency continued to decline over time. In total, only a third of the amount of patrolling originally agreed was actually conducted.

In April 2010 a dead Javan rhino was found, with a bullet in the left forelimb and the horn removed. Although the rhino was not killed outright by the bullet, it probably eventually died as a result of the injury. We are waiting for the results of DNA analysis following a survey for Javan rhino faecals from October 09 to April 2010, but we suspect that this rhino may have been the last surviving individual of the annamiticus subspecies, therefore possibly



Photo courtesy of WWF Vietnam.

representing the extinction of the Javan rhino from mainland Southeast Asia.

What WWF are faced with now is to try to understand how Cat Tien National Park failed to protect its population of Javan rhinos, in the part of the park that was established for this very purpose. Millions of dollars of international (and national) investment has been spent in Cat Tien NP, with no demonstrable effect on the populations of species it is there to conserve. Hunting pressure appears to be increasing rather than declining and actions to remove these threats on the ground are grossly inadequate or inappropriate. This is not unique to Cat Tien but is a national problem throughout Vietnam's protected area system.

WWF are determined to learn lessons from our experiences in Cat Tien NP, to evaluate and adapt our approach to species conservation, to try to ensure that other globally threatened flagship species do not go the same way as the Vietnamese rhino, surviving perhaps only as the logo of Cat Tien National Park, and a symbol of Vietnam's inadequate management of protected areas.

Funds remaining unspent from the patrolling project will be put towards other activities or returned to ARP.

Arresting Tiger Poachers

By Ujang Suryadi, Intelligence and Law Enforcement Unit, Rhino Protection Unit Program Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia

We know that rhinos are a key species and protecting rhinos and their habitat is our main task. That means we also protect tigers, elephants, and other species. Patrolling and monitoring is our main job, but developing and maintaining relationships with the community and local people surrounding the national park is also another key to success in our program. They will help keep us informed about illegal activity in BBS NP and poaching activity as well. We always try to maintain a good relationship with them because they supply most of our information.

Recently, on 22 October 2010, according to information from our local informant, there was a tiger poached in BBS NP by a poaching gang. Based on our investigation, we were able to identify the suspects and learned their location. Collaborating with the National Park and police, we developed a plan for how to arrest the suspects. The plan was that we would pretend we wanted to buy the tiger skin. One of the RPU members would be an undercover buyer, and the others would handle the arrest when the suspect showed our buyer the tiger skin.

Four hours before the transaction, the suspect and their group cancelled the meeting and they wanted to us to make a new meeting. We agreed and made a new meeting at a new location. The next day at 1:00 am we were waiting at the location like they instructed. We made a deal among all our team members that we would start to arrest the suspects

after they showed the tiger skin. All of us were in position before the suspect came. I saw the suspect coming with his group of about 4 people. The location where the meeting was taking place was near a big village and there were a lot of people living there. We knew we needed to make this operation smooth and quick. We didn't want to disturb the local people so early morning in the morning.

After the suspect showed us the tiger skin, all teams (RPU, forest guards and police) arrested the suspect and the group. There was a lot of fighting between our team and the suspects, and they tried to run away, but we successful in catching all of them. We collected all the evidence such as the tiger skin and teeth, and elephant tusk, as well. We also collected three guns, seven bullets, and a knife. It looked like they were professional poachers and had been successful in killing many animals, for a long time.

After we finished collecting all the evidence, taking photographs, and inputting all the data that we needed, we moved from that location to the police department. We could not take a rest at the police office because we had to make a report and list all the evidence step-by-step. It was very tiring, we stayed for 2 days at the police office and after finishing all the steps, we were able to go back to the RPU camp. Hopefully in the future there will be no more poachers at the BBS NP and all animals can live without the threat of being poached.



Javan Rhino Conservation Program

Report submitted by the International Rhino Foundation, 27 October 2010

The goal of this program is to expand the habitat available to Javan rhinos in Indonesia. Over the long-term, this habitat expansion should lead to an increase in the species' population, which will eventually allow us to translocate rhinos to a second habitat, creating an "insurance" population to help protect the species from extinction.

Our primary objective is to establish a 4,000 hectare Javan rhino research and conservation area with intensified active management inside the Gunung Honje area of Ujung Kulon National Park. Specific objectives for 2010 - 2012 include:

- Facilitate change in park zonation and obtain all required permits for construction and habitat management activities.
- Improve habitat for Javan rhinos by clearing invasive species and replanting areas with rhino food plants, and by creating a permanent water supply, permanent wallows, and saltlicks.
- Enhance rhino protection by installing electric fence, creating a patrol path, and constructing guard posts.
- Conduct awareness and socialization activities with local communities to build support for the new conservation and study area.
- Hire and train new Rhino Protection Unit to monitor and protect the expanded population and the overall habitat.

Project Activities

Facilitate change in park zonation and obtain all required permits for construction and habitat management activities.

On June 21, 2010, the Government of Indonesia formally launched the Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area (JRSCA). Minister of Forestry, Zulkiefli Hasan, and Banten Province Governor, Ratu Atut Chosiyah, presided over the launch.

Our staff then held a workshop with government agencies, NGOs and local communities to begin the process of obtaining a change in park zonation and other required permits. Staff have already met with Ministry of Forestry and Park staff, along with other

stakeholders, multiple times to discuss and propose the re-zoning of Ujung Kulon NP as necessary to legally allow all activities related to the construction of the JRSCA.

The government requested another Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA) prior to recommending re-zonation; this was conducted by WWF-Indonesia, with input from our staff on the ground. Initial results have been presented to PHKA (Perlindungan Hutan dan Konservasi Alam, the Forest Protection and Nature Conservation directorate of the Ministry of Forestry) and other stakeholders; a formal report will be issued soon. We received governmental permission to begin work on constructing the JRSCA while the ERA is being finalized and while the process of obtaining park re-zonation is underway. (The Ministry of Forestry and Park staff are particularly concerned about the continued spread of invasive arenga palm and want habitat management activities to begin as soon as possible.)

On October 1, 2010, PHKA officially instructed the Director of Ujung Kulon National Park to begin work on the habitat management activities necessary to create the JRSCA. From October 7 – 11, 2010, our staff met with the Director of Ujung Kulon National Park to review the workplan for project start-up. Director Agus Priambudi approved the JRSCA Work plan, organizational chart, project personnel, and terms of reference. (Our local partner has now begun recruiting for the approved new staff positions.)



The Minister of Forestry and Governor of Banten Province check the first piece of electric fence, erected during the official launch of the JRSCA.

After the ERA is finalized, we will hold another workshop with the appropriate government staff and will provide all materials necessary, including maps and satellite photos, to obtain the final PHKA decree for re-zonation and permits.

Improve habitat for Javan rhinos by clearing invasive species and replanting areas with rhino food plants, and by creating a permanent water supply, permanent wallows, and saltlicks.

There are already two–four Javan rhinos living in the Gunung Honje area. To ensure that this area can support a larger rhino population, we must actively manage it to increase/improve rhino “necessities” – water, wallows, saltlicks, and appropriate food plants. This will include replanting natural forest vegetation with rhino food plants in some areas, and carefully implementing controlled slash and burn patch management in designated and closed forest areas to promote regeneration of rhino food plants. Infestation by Langkap (Arenga) palm, an invasive species that poses a serious threat to rhino food plants, will be reduced.

Last month (September 2010), IRF’s Asian Rhino Coordinator, Dr. Bibhab K. Talukdar, and Indonesia Coordinator, Sectionov, travelled to Gunung Honje, accompanied by a GIS Specialist from Indian NGO Aaranyak, Pranjit Sarma. While surveying Ujung Kulon NP with the RPU’s there, they found that there are several locations in Ujung Kulon where Langkap (Arenga obtusifolia) grows dominantly. Langkap, or arenga palm, is an invasive species that now exists in nearly all areas of Ujung Kulon. The spread of langkap in Ujung Kulon National Park has been responsible

for killing other vegetation, especially vegetation that the Javan rhinos feed on. Where Arenga palm dominates, nothing else grows. The palm covers vast areas of forest; these areas cannot now provide suitable food for rhinos. In order to increase rhino food plant availability, we will conduct eradication trials of Arenga palm on a medium-sized scale, as an experiment to monitor rhino food plant development in these treated areas.

We have selected a site within Gunung Honje for the initial eradication and re-planting plot which is home to Gunung Honje’s current rhino population (2 - 4 animals) and has the most suitable rhino habitat to start. Accompanied by national park and government staff, our team recently completed a site survey of the proposed rehabilitation area.

When assessing the most appropriate site for the Javan rhino habitat expansion program, we had to determine how many people were living in the area, and work with government authorities to come up with a possible solution. We found that there were a number of families living within the Gunung Honje boundaries (but there were far fewer families there than in other possible protected areas we also assessed). After the Indonesian government and NGOs working on the project determined that Gunung Honje was our best option for a number of reasons, we began working on a plan to fairly relocate families living inside the park boundaries so that we can make the area as safe as possible for Javan rhinos. The Ujung Kulon National Park authorities successfully negotiated with people living in the Gunung Honje area. To date, they have concluded agreements with 51 families. These families agreed to relocate to outside the park boundaries,



Javan rhino wallow in Gunung Honje.



RPU members, with park staff, surveyed the selected pilot site for habitat management to determine where they will need to remove invasive species, plant rhino food plants, and create/expand wallows.

and they will be eligible to participate in various job opportunities, including construction/development of the Javan rhino conservation and study area. Now that these families have moved, we will work to improve 40 hectares of the previously-settled areas as a rehabilitation plot.

(Javan rhinos require large amount of young growth, normally most abundant in places where the vegetation has been disturbed by natural forces or by man. A large part of their food is collected in places where new growth is within reach, for example, on forest edges, river banks, tree falls, landslides, regenerating forest and abandoned fields.)

To create a plot with appropriate food plants, we are now in the process of recruiting and hiring workers from local villages surrounding Ujung Kulon, to provide an additional source of income to local communities and to help spread awareness and support for Javan rhino conservation. Project and National Park staff will train the local workers and will provide regular and direct supervision. The workers will manually uproot stands of Arenga palm, using basic equipment including chain saws, manual saws, shovels, hoes, and pruning shears.

After the Arenga removal is completed, the Rhino Protection Units and National Park staff will begin regular monitoring of the cleared areas, using geo-spatial technology and direct visits. Effectiveness of new growth of food plants and whether rhinos use these new feeding areas will be determined. We will use this data to provide management recommendations for further habitat improvement throughout the JRSCA.

Our RPU's have already collected data on the areas

that rhinos prefer within Gunung Honje, and know the locations of wallows and water. This data was backed-up by information collected during the initial habitat assessment and the subsequent government survey. Based on this data, we have chosen appropriate locations where we will create 5 permanent wallows at appropriate locations using check dams, and where we will install 5 salt lick boxes near those wallows. We will survey and redirect some of the waterflow from the main water source to the wallow complex using a water supply duct, to ensure a permanent supply of water for the wallows. Finally, we will build 5 small, submersible bridges to help rhinos access areas of improved habitat.

Enhance rhino protection by installing electric fence, creating a patrol path, and constructing guard posts.

In partnership with park and government authorities, we conducted a preliminary survey to determine the most appropriate track for the electric fence, which will be about 28 km in length. Our small survey team looked at accessibility, topography and position to determine the final fence track (see map). They also identified a site for the initial base camp and guard post that will allow us to monitor the area closely during construction.

Once again, we hired local workers to clear enough land to construct an electric fence around the borders of the JRSCA, and to erect the fence. (A small, sample piece of electric fence was already erected during the official ceremony for the launch of the conservation and study area.) The electric fence will help prevent contact between Javan rhinos and cattle from surrounding villages. The fence (see design below) will also keep the rhinos who have moved into Gunung



Survey team determining electric fence track.



Survey team determining electric fence track.

Honje in the area, making it easier for our biologists and veterinarians to study them.

Workers have already begun clearing a small, unpaved road along the fence placement. They will construct a 10 meter wide by 20 kilometer long path to enable construction of the fence and regular patrols. We will also build 5 guard posts that RPUs will use to monitor rhinos and to search for illegal poachers or encroachers. These posts will be located near wallows and "high-traffic" areas.

All construction activities will be closely managed by the project's Supervisor for Civil Engineering, who is responsible for ensuring that all activities comply with government regulations and the recommendations of the Environmental Risk Assessment.

Conduct awareness and socialization activities with local communities to build support for the new conservation and study area.

Project staff have already begun holding community meetings in both of the sub-districts in which the JRSCA will be located. They will continue to hold meetings and workshops to educate local community members about the construction of the JRSCA and its importance, and to hear and address community concerns. Working with Ujung Kulon National Park authorities, we are also reaching out to the local government in Pandegelang District and Banten Province, to help ensure their support. Recently the Banten Government invited the Director of Ujung Kulon NP and the Executive Director of Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI) to a meeting to discuss making the Javan rhino the official mascot and icon of Banten province, to generate public awareness and pride. We anticipate that work on that campaign will begin soon.

Hire and train new Rhino Protection Units to monitor and protect the expanded population and the overall habitat.

Rhino Protection Units (RPUs) are highly trained four-man anti-poaching teams that intensively patrol key areas within the national park. RPUs deactivate traps and snares and identify and apprehend illegal intruders, including poachers, and investigate crime scenes, thus preventing or reducing the loss of wildlife. Each RPU is

led by a wildlife ranger who has qualifications of a civil investigating officer (Penyidik Pegawai Negeri Sipil). 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. Training includes classroom instruction and field exercises, including navigation, record taking and law enforcement practices. Only candidates that pass the final test are recruited – and competition is fierce. A refresher course is conducted periodically, and a special team of trainers has been formed to provide field training for guards, both from the program and from protection programs in other areas.

During the initial construction phase of the JRSCA, the Gunung Honje area is being patrolled by the 4 RPUs currently operating in Ujung Kulon. After we complete the initial construction phase, we will hire a new RPU to patrol the improved habitat. (Additional RPU manpower will be needed both because the RPUs will need to cover more ground in the improved habitat and monitor more rhinos, while also continuing to patrol the current rhino habitat at the same level, and also because Gunung Honje is surrounded by 19 villages and there is significantly more human pressure there than in other rhino habitats within Ujung Kulon.



RPU member measures rhino footprint identified during regular patrol in Gunung Honje.

How Long Can a Rhino's Horn Grow? Fast Facts About Rhinos and Their Horns

By Sectionov, Indonesia Liaison, International Rhino Foundation

The horn on a rhinoceros is very different from that of a sheep or antelope. A rhino's horn is not attached to the skull. Rhino horn is made of compressed keratin fibers, the same material that is found in fingernails and hair! Some people believe that rhino horn has powerful medicinal uses, ranging from stopping nosebleeds and headaches to curing diphtheria and food poisoning, but there is no scientific evidence that this is true. The use of rhino horn for medical purposes has been illegal since 1993. Trade continues, however, and is driving the illegal poaching of endangered rhinos. Asian rhino horns are more highly prized than African horns; consumers believe that their smaller size means that they are more concentrated, and therefore more potent. One repeated misconception is that rhinoceros horn in powdered form is used as an aphrodisiac in traditional Chinese medicine. It is, in fact, generally prescribed for fevers and convulsions. The horns are also valued as dagger handles in Middle Eastern countries like Yemen, where they are known as "jambiyas."

To prevent poaching in certain areas, rhinos have been tranquilized and their horns removed. Many rhino range states have stockpiles of rhino horn, which needs to be carefully managed.

The African and the Asian rhinoceroses have some distinct characteristics. Morphologically, one obvious difference is that both African varieties have two horns in tandem, while the Sumatran rhino has two horns, but one typically is a stub, and the other two Asian types, Greater one-horned and Javan rhinos, have a single horn. Behaviorally, it has been found that African rhinos are more aggressive than Asian rhinos. African rhinos fight with their horns, using them to impale and throw their adversaries, while the Asian rhino fights with its bottom teeth, using them in a slashing motion. Their feeding habits vary as well. African rhinos feed low to the ground, whereas the Asian rhino browses on leaves that are higher.

The White Rhino has an immense body and large head, with a short neck and broad chest. This rhino can exceed 3,500 kg (7,700 lb), has a head-and-body length of 3.5–4.6 m (11–15 ft) and a shoulder height of 1.8–2 m (5.9–6.6 ft) The largest White Rhinoceros on record was about 4,600 kg (10,000 lb). On its snout it

has two horns. The front horn is larger than the other horn and averages 90 cm (35 in) in length and can reach 150 cm (59 in). The White Rhinoceros also has a prominent muscular hump that supports its relatively large head. The colour of this animal can range from yellowish brown to slate grey.

An adult Black Rhinoceros stands 150–175 cm (59–69 in) high at the shoulder and is 3.5–3.9 m (11–13 ft) in length. An adult weighs from 850 to 1,600 kg (1,900 to 3,500 lb), with particularly large rhinos weighing up to 1,800 kg (4,000 lb), and the females are smaller than the males. Two horns on the skull are made of keratin with the larger front horn typically 50 cm long (20 inches), but sometimes up to 140 cm (55 inches). Sometimes, a third smaller horn may develop. The Black Rhino is much smaller than the white rhino, and has a pointed mouth, which it uses to grasp leaves and twigs when feeding.

The Greater One-Horned (or Indian) Rhinoceros has thick, silver-brown skin which creates huge folds all over its body. Its upper legs and shoulders are covered in wart-like bumps, and it has very little body hair. Fully-grown males are larger than females in the wild, weighing from 2,500–3,200 kg (5,500–7,100 lb). The Indian rhino stands at 1.75–2.0 meters (5.75–6.5 ft). Female Indian rhinos weigh about 1,900 kg (4,200 lb). The Indian Rhino is from 3–4 metres (10 – 14 feet) long. The record-sized specimen of this rhino was approximately 3,800 kg (8,377 lb). The Indian Rhino has a single horn that reaches a length of between 20 and 100 cm (8 – 39 inches). Its size is comparable to that of the White Rhino in Africa.

The Javan rhino's body length reaches up to 3.2 m (10 ft), including its head, and is 1.5–1.7 m (4 ft 10 in–5 ft 7 in) tall. Adults are variously reported to weigh between 900–2,000 kg (2,000 – 4,400 lbs). Male horns can reach 26 cm (10 inches) in length while in females they are knobs or are not present at all.

Typically a mature Sumatran rhino stands about 130 cm (51 in) high at the shoulder, with a body length of 240–315 cm (94–124 in), and weighs around 700 kg (1,500 lb), though the largest individuals have been known to weigh as much as 1,000 kilograms (2,200 lb). Like the African species, it has two horns; the largest is

the front (25–79 cm or 10 – 31 inches) and the smaller is second, and is usually less than 10 cm (4 inches) long. The males have much larger horns than the females. Hair can range from dense (the most dense hair is in young calves) to scarce. The color of these rhinos is reddish brown. The body is short and has stubby legs. They also have a prehensile lip.

World Record Rhino Horns

According to a study by Dr. Nico van Strien in 2006, the longest rhino horn ever recorded was a 150 cm (59 inch) white rhino horn. This means the rhino's horn alone was longer than the average adult pig!

This horn was found before 1900 in South Africa and it was owned by Sir William Gordons Cummings, but according to the most recent information, the horn was stolen and its whereabouts are unknown.

The longest black rhino horn on record was 130 cm (51 inches) long; it was found in Kenya in 1928. The world record rhino horn for the Greater one-horned rhino is 57 cm (23 inches), and was found in Assam in 1909, and the world record Sumatran rhino horn is 60 cm (23 inches). Both of these horns are currently housed at the British Museum, which also has several Javan rhino horns.



Strengthening conservation measures of Greater one-horned rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) in Orang National Park, Assam, India.

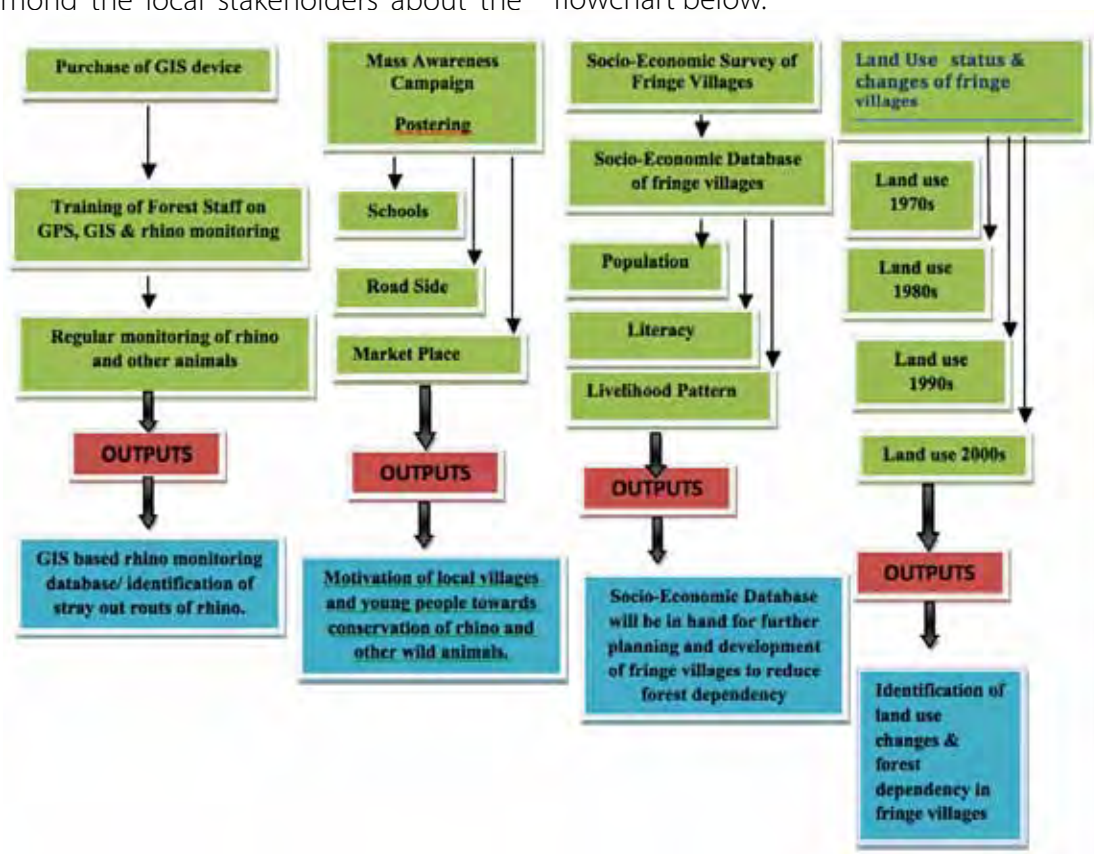
By Pranjit Kumar Sarma, M.Sc, Aaranyak

ARP is proud to support another Aaranyak project in Assam. Though the Greater One horned rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) is considered as vulnerable by IUCN it is still in high risk for its survival in Assam because of severe threats from poachers, wildlife trafficking, fragmentation and degradation of its habitat in past couple of decades. Assam is one of the last strongholds of the Indian rhino with a total population of 2201 as estimated by the Assam Forest Department in the year 2009. Orang National Park, with an area of 78.8 sq. km. is an important rhino bearing area having 64 wild rhinos as estimated by Assam Forest Department in 2009. The rhino population in Orang National Park is fluctuating from 35 rhinos in the year 1972 to 97 rhinos in the year 1991 and which is again reduced to 64 rhinos in the 2009. This fluctuation of rhino population in Orang National Park is mainly due to the severe intensity of poaching in comparison to other rhino bearing areas of Assam. From 1983 to 2009, 122 rhinos were poached in Orang National Park. During the period from 2006 to 2009 approximately 30 rhinos were poached in the park. The major factors attributable to the increased poaching are lack of awareness among the local stakeholders about the

need to conserve rhinos, unscientific monitoring system of rhino and lack of socio-economic database of the fringe villages of the park.

The overall goal of this project is to provide training on handheld GPS to the ground staff of the Orang National Park which will be useful for monitoring of rhino and other wild animals in the park. The GPS devices will be under the custody of Aaranyak and it will be given to the Orang National Park authority for regular monitoring of rhino in the park. Aaranyak will be responsible for maintenance of the GPS devices and these will also be in use in other rhino bearing areas of the state. This project also seeks to generate a GIS based spatial database on rhino monitoring in Orang NP at regular interval. This project also intends to generate a socioeconomic database of the fringe villages of Orang NP. It intends to prepare land use map of the fringe villages across the park using satellite imagery and also to assess the changes in land use pattern during a course of 30 years using historical and current satellite imagery.

The methodology of this project is shown in the flowchart below.



Long lasting conservation outcomes of the project

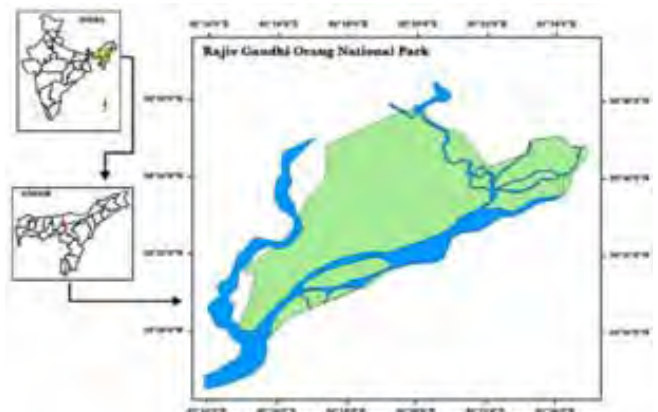
The proposed project will make a significant contribution to the nature conservation arena through strengthening conservation of rhino in Orang National Park.

- This proposed project seeks to provide training to the forest staff on Global Positioning System (GPS) and GIS application. This training will make the staff eligible to handle the GPS receivers that will help the forest department in monitoring straying rhinos both inside and outside the park. This scientific method of rhino monitoring will help the conservation of rhino and also other important species in the park. The handheld GPS receivers will be handed over to the park authority, which will be an asset for the park managers for the conservation of wildlife in the park.
- The mass awareness campaign along the fringe villages will have a long lasting impact on rhino conservation in Orang National Park. Local communities residing at the fringe of the Park are unaware about the conservation value of rhino and most of the time they help poachers in return for small amount of money. This mass awareness drive with posters will help in motivate people to conserve wildlife in general and rhino in particular in the Park.
- The land use pattern and socio-economic information of the fringe villages will have a very long lasting impact on conservation of rhino and other wildlife in Orang National Park as it will provide the settlement pattern, cropping pattern, population structure and population density of the fringe villages. This will be the first initiative of creating a GIS based digital database of the land use pattern and socio-economic condition of fringe villages of Orang National Park and it could also be treated as base line information for further conservation of Orang National Park.

- The GIS based spatial layers of the fringe villages of Orang National Park will be fed in to the spatial decision support system (SDSS) of the park, which was already prepared through a project supported by Asian Rhino Project, Australia.
- Last but not least the proposed project will encourage conservation initiatives by the State Government of Assam, like translocation and restocking of rhino in Orang National Park from Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary and Kaziranga National Park.

About the study area

The Orang NP of Assam, located in flood plain region of the river Brahmaputra. The park has been often regarded as the man made forest that lies within the geographical limits of 26° 29' N to 26° 40' N latitude to 92° 16' E to 92° 27' E longitude (fig-2). Orang was earlier an abandoned village which later on transformed into a forest with sizable areas of grassland and wetland. The total area of the national park is 78.8 sq. km. Orang was declared as wildlife sanctuary in the year 1985 keeping in view the potential habitat of one horned rhino. In 1999, Orang was declared as Orang National Park. Figure 1 shows the location of Orang National Park. The average annual rainfall is between 2,000 to 3,000 mm, and average temperature in the winter season is 8° C which rises to 37° C in summer. Relative humidity varies from 60% in March to 95% in July.



Location Map of Study Area

MONARTO ZOO A GROOVY MUSIC CLIP

Check out this groovy music clip done by visiting school children and the Monarto Zoo.

www.zoossa.com.au/fun-stuff/zootube

ARP ON FACEBOOK

Asian Rhino Project is now on Facebook! Become a friend 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.



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.

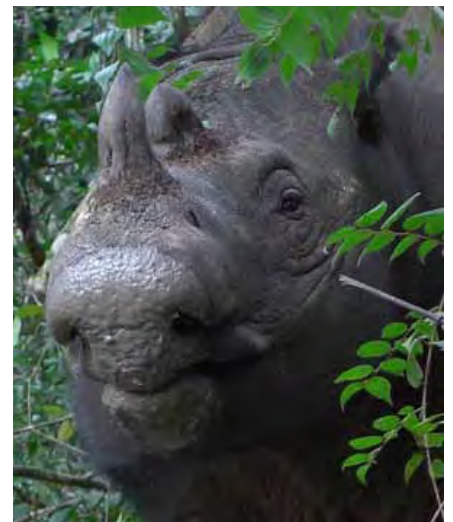
ANDALAS

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

Committee Update

By Kerry Crosbie

The AGM was held on 30 September this year. The committee would like to thank all members who attended and congratulate all members, donors and volunteers on another successful year.

WA Branch Manager Sophie Lourandos has just returned from the International Rhino Foundation Board Meeting held in Houston, USA. Kerry was unable to attend this year due to family commitments. The ARP team thank Soph for giving up her time and annual leave from work to be able to attend this important meeting. A full update will be available in the next newsletter. Stay tuned.

The ARP has been selected for the 2010 Hunter Hall Shareholder Nominated Charitable Donations Scheme. This scheme allows each Hunter Hall shareholder to nominate recipients of charitable contributions on a basis proportional to the number of shares they own.

Hunter Hall International Limited (HHL) is a publicly listed company and owner of Hunter Hall Investment Management Limited, an ethical investment manager formed in 1993. HHL is committed to the concept of 'responsible investing' and also has a policy of donating 5% of its pre-tax profits to charitable purposes and activities that support social, environmental or animal welfare causes.

It is estimated that for the year to 30 June 2010, HHL will be able to make donations totalling approximately \$1 million which will bring the total amount donated to charities to over \$7.4 million since listing on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) in 2001.

If the ARP is chosen by the Shareholders to receive a donation, it will be presented at the Hunter Hall Charity Scheme Afternoon Tea. Project Director Kerry Crosbie will attend on behalf of the ARP.

ARP would like to welcome ARP member Colin Campbell into the Secretary position. ARP committee sent out an appeal to members last month and had three offers for which we are very grateful for. Colin lives in NSW and is employed in education as well as having a keen interest in rhinos and life experience in Indonesia. Thanks Colin and welcome to the team!

WA Branch

On the 12th September 2010, ARP was invited to have a stall at Perth Zoo, to celebrate National Threatened Species Day. Despite the day having a strong national species conservation message, all NGO's with an MoU with the zoo were invited to attend. ARP sold merchandise and raffled off a foot print of Perth Zoo's resident male Southern White Rhino, Memphis. We raised \$165 on the day, thanks to ARP members Shelley Carroll and Michael Dentrinos for assisting on the day! Thanks also to Perth Zoo for the kind donation of Memphis's foot print!

On 1 October 2010, ARP's WA Branch conducted a tin shake day in Perth's CBD. This was the first time we had done this type of fundraising, and we were pleasantly surprised with the results, bringing in \$427.65 with 5 volunteers shaking tins for 5 hours. The Australian Orangutan Project & The Silvery Gibbon Project were also out in the CBD doing their bit for their organisations.

Thanks to ARP committee members & volunteers Michael Dentrinos, Rachel Penno, Martina Hart, Sophie Lourandos & Kristy Garard (visiting NSW Branch Manager who helped out prior to her flight home!) for their time and loud voices on the day!



Left: Sophie Lourandos, Rachel Penno, Kristy Garard.



Right: Shelley Carroll & Michael Dentrinos.

In The News – Asian Rhino News Stories

Three Arrested in Nepal for Smuggling Rhino Horn (14 July 2010)

Kathmandu police have made three arrests and confiscated a rhino horn. Police officers deployed by the Metropolitan Police Crime Division in Kathmandu have arrested three people involved in a rhino horn smuggling operation, and confiscated a rhino horn. The trio had attempted to sell the horn for Rs. 1.8 million (USD \$38,553). The arrested parties have been named in eKantipur as follows: Man Bahadur Lama, 50, of Nuwakot; Amrit Lama, 22, and Sameer Thapa, 24, both of Sindhupalchowk.

<http://www.rhinoconservation.org/2010/07/13/three-arrested-in-nepal-for-smuggling-rhino-horn/>

Displaced Rhino Calf at KNP Reunited With Mother (16 July 2010)

A displaced rhino calf at Haldibari Reserve Forest near the Kaziranga National Park has been reunited with its mother by the Assam Forest Department assisted by a team from the International Fund for Animal Welfare – Wildlife Trust of India (IFAW-WTI)-run Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC).

The calf, a 45-day old female was rescued from a tea garden trench adjoining Haldibari RF. The mother and the calf are presumed to have crossed the NH 37 towards the highlands of Karbi Anglong hills to avoid increasing water levels in Kaziranga. The calf was removed from the trench and released near the hiding place of the mother in Haldibari RF. Reunion was confirmed through grunts of the mother and calf emanating from the area of reunion.

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jul1710/state07>

Revealed: Location of China's Rhino Farm and 'Horn Harvesting' Experiments Troubling information indicates China is already farming rhinos for horn.

A disturbing proposal from China reveals that "artificial propagation" of rhinos is under way, and the use of rhino horn as an "important raw material" in traditional Chinese medicine is being promoted and encouraged, indicating China is preparing for an attempt to have the ban on rhino horn trade lifted.

A proposal from the China Institute of Science and Technology Research, Beijing, entitled Proposal for Protection of the Rhinoceros and the Sustainable Use of Rhinoceros Horn – funded by the State Soft Sciences Project, Development for Traditional Chinese Medicine Research – contains troubling information indicating that China is already farming rhinos in order to use rhino horn in traditional Chinese medicine.

<http://missionrhino.za.org/2010/07/revealed-location-of-china's-rhino-farm-and-'horn-harvesting'-experiments/>

Man Imprisoned for Smuggling Rhino Horns Into Vietnam (31 July 2010)

A Ho Chi Minh City appeals court Friday handed down a three-year jail term to a Hanoian for smuggling rhinoceros horns from South Africa into Vietnam in 2008. According to the indictment, Tran Van Lap, 50, was found transporting five horns weighing 17,66 kilograms, without a license, at Tan Son Nhat Airport on January 3, 2008.

<http://www.thanhniennnews.com/2010/Pages/20100731104257.aspx>

Rhino Attack Prompts Alert (2 August 2010)

A day after a homeguard died in a rhino attack at Orang National Park, the authorities have issued strict instructions to rangers not to venture out unarmed and alone inside the park. The homeguard, Dejiram Deka, was on his way to a guard camp when a female rhino, which was grazing in the Kanchanbagan area along with its calf, charged at him.

Deka was shifted to Mangaldoi civil hospital where he died. This is the first time in 40 years that the park has witnessed such an incident. Orang divisional forest officer Sushil K. Daila said the park had witnessed a surge in the rhino population in recent times, following the birth of several calves. "Rhinos with calves become very aggressive and attack without any provocation," he added.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1100803/jsp/northeast/story_12760875.jsp

Nepal zoo opens 'honeymoon suite' for rhinos (13 Aug 2010)

Nepal's only zoo has opened a new "honeymoon suite" for its two one-horned rhinos in the hope of persuading the endangered pair to breed for the first time.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20100813/od_afp/nepalanimalconservationoffbeat_2

Three Poachers Held

Forest guards foiled an attempt to poach rhinos and apprehended three wanted poachers in Assam's Orang National Park when they were making an attempt to kill rhinos inside the park, official sources said. The three poachers were attempting to enter the park late last night when the patrolling forest guards spotted and an encounter followed with the three poachers later apprehended. The poachers have been identified as Md Joynaluddin alias Junu, Md Abbas Ali and Alen Khangsai.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/Three-wanted-poachers-held-/articleshow/6388181.cms#ixzz0xLO0QkNr>

Female Rhino Found Dead in West Chitwan (18 Aug 2010)

An adult female rhino was found dead in Gyaneshwar Community Forest located in Mangalpur area of west Chitwan, Wednesday. District Forest Office, Chitwan said, the rhino could have been electrocuted as naked wire was found near the rhino's body.

<http://www.nepalnews.com/main/index.php/news-archive/8-news-in-brief/8459-female-rhino-found-dead-in-west-chitwan-.html>

'Stop poaching by legalising' (25 Aug 2010)

Animals Cultures Wildlife An association of 1,500 private landowners with an interest in wildlife in South Africa today called for controlled legal trade in rhino horns as a way to help address the country's rhino poaching crisis. The notion of legalizing trade in rhino horn is likely to be as controversial as calls to legalize and control the trade in elephant ivory. Proponents of opening formal trade argue that it allows for more transparency and profits that can be used for conservation.

<http://www.news24.com/SciTech/News/Stop-poaching-by-legalising-20100825>

Baby rhino will be one for record book (30 Aug 2010)

The mother-to-be, who has gained 60 pounds since June, opens her massive mouth and begs for a snack. Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden keepers oblige with apple-oat biscuits, and the 4,120-pound Indian rhinoceros named Nikki happily chomps away during her monthly ultrasound procedure.

Nikki, 432 days into a 480-day gestation, is poised to make history in October by giving birth to the world's first Indian rhino calf conceived by artificial insemination; it will also be the first such rhino produced with frozen-thawed sperm.

<http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20100830/NEWS01/8290373/Baby-will-be-a-record>

Nepal Celebrates the Birth Of Baby Rhino (3 Sept 2010)

Animal lovers in Nepal are celebrating the first rhino calf to be born in the Bardia National Park since poaching was stopped almost two years ago. Conservationists riding on elephants spotted the greater one-horned rhino calf with its mother during a patrol of the park.

http://news.sky.com/skynews/Home/Nepal-Celebrates-Birth-Of-Baby-Rhino-As-Poaching-Observation-Brings-hope/Article/201009115711696?lpos=Home_First_Home_Page_Feature_Teaser_Region_0&lid=ARTICLE_15711696_Nepal_Celebrates_Birth_Of_Baby_Rhino_As_Poaching_Observation_Brings_Hope

Focus on Security for Rhino Shift (4 Sept 2010)

Security needs to be ensured for translocation of rhinos in Manas National Park, Assam's chief wildlife warden Suresh Chand said today. Perspectives from Manas and Kaziranga National Parks, Assam, the forest official said though there had been definite improvements in the last two years, lots remained to be done. "We are ready to translocate but one needs to ensure the security of the rhinos," Chand said. As many as 18 rhinos will be moved to Manas this winter under the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 programme.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1100905/jsp/northeast/story_12898155.jsp

Tiger tracker turns to rhino poaching

Mark Tennant - one of the trackers who help find Panjo the tiger - has turned his attention to rhinos. He collected a cheque for R65,000 on Friday raised by pupils at Alberton High School. He said on Friday the money will be used in the fight against rhino poachers and that the children raised the cash by selling R20 raffle tickets.

<http://www.eyewitnessnews.co.za/articleprog.aspx?id=47230>

\$300,000 Needed to Help Save Last of Javan Rhinos (8 Sept 2010)

Jakarta. An international partnership is seeking to raise \$300,000 in a race against the clock to ensure the survival of the last estimated 48 Javan rhinoceroses in Indonesia — all found within Ujung Kulon National Park in Banten. Operation Javan Rhino started on June 21 and is an initiative of the International Rhino Foundation and Indonesian Rhino Foundation (YABI). Its goal is to create 4,000 hectares of expanded habitat to encourage population growth in the national park, a rare patch of wilderness on the western tip of one of the world's most densely populated island.

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/300000-needed-to-help-save-last-of-javan-rhinos/395327>

Dead rhino found in Vietnam park was shot (11 Sept 2010)

A Javan rhino that was found dead in the Cat Tien National Park in April may have been shot in the leg, World Wildlife Fund experts told a meeting on Thursday. Park rangers found the endangered animal in an almost completely decomposed state and without its horn. John E. Cooper, a veterinary endoscopy expert, said tests showed a trace of a bullet injury at the leg but it is not known if the animal died on the spot.

<http://english.vietnamnet.vn/Environment/201009/Dead-rhino-found-in-Vietnam-park-was-shot-WWF-934833/>

Floods Affect an Assam, India Wildlife Sanctuary (14 Sept 2010)

Incessant downpours over the past few days have caused flooding at the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam on Tuesday. It is the third time in the year that a local river has inundated the sanctuary, famous for its one-horned rhinoceros. The animals have moved to higher ground in search of safer places and also food.

http://english.ntdtv.com/ntdtv_en/ns_asia/2010-09-14/642700983972.html

Flood Threatens Rhino Video

<http://www.care2.com/causes/animal-welfare/blog/rhinos-threatened-by-flood-video/>

Poachers vow to save rhinos (15 Sept 2010)

A group of poachers today pledged not to kill rhinos again and protect the prized animal of Assam in whatever way possible. The group of seven, involved in several incidents of rhino killings at Kaziranga National Park, surrendered before the forest department at a solemn function held at the Bonkowl forest camp, near the park.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1100916/jsp/northeast/story_12940516.jsp

Government bans rhino horn exports (20 Sept 2010)

You don't get many rhinos in the UK – so why is it so important to ban rhino horn exports? Let us explain...

http://www.wwf.org.uk/news_feed.cfm?4233/Government-bans-rhino-horn-exports

Govt striving to boost rhino population (27 Sept 2010)

Indonesia, home to two of the world's five rhinoceros species, is facing a hard time in conserving the endangered animals with a drop in birth rates, a pressing issue coupled with the long-standing threats of habitat loss and human pressures. The Forestry Ministry said the breeding program had still not boosted the rhino population despite the government's target to expand it by three percent per year.

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2010/09/27/govt-striving-boost-rhino-population.html>

China and Vietnam Should State its Opposition to Rhino Poaching

The FF Plus today urgently urged both the ambassadors of China and Vietnam to South Africa , Messrs. Zhong Jianhua and Nguyen, in which they appealed for their governments to clearly state their position and drastically take action in the struggle against rhino poaching in South Africa .

<http://www.politicsweb.co.za/politicsweb/view/politicsweb/en/page71654?oid=202405&sn=Detail&pid=71616>

Kaziranga National Park to be Extended

The Assam government is set to complete the legal process for extension of the Kaziranga National Park from the present 430 square kilometres to double the area. The state's forest and tourism minister, Rockybul Hussain, said the government was expeditiously trying to settle the land acquisition process for the extension so that animals, including the prized one-horned rhinos, were better protected. Although the park has already a more-than-800-square-kilometre-area, it was not legally sanctioned thus preventing the authorities from removing human settlements in the proposed extended area.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/Kaziranga-National-Park-to-be-extended/articleshow/6775324.cms>

A male Indian rhino calf died about 13 hours after its birth Tuesday at Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden.

For more than a year, zoo officials had been anxiously awaiting the world's first live birth of an Indian rhino calf conceived by artificial insemination; it was also the first such rhino produced with frozen-thawed sperm. But the 117-pound calf, which was born at 6:06 a.m., died about 7:15 p.m. Tuesday.

The 18-year-old mother, Nikki, was pregnant once before using the same assisted reproduction techniques. When that pregnancy ended in January 2008 with the delivery of a stillborn female calf, it was not unexpected;

stillbirths occur in about half of Indian rhinos that become first-time mothers over the age of 10.

<http://news.cincinnati.com/article/AB/20101026/NEWS01/310260047/Rhino-calf-born-at-zoo-dies>

Death Won't Halt Rhino Breeding Program (27 Oct 2010)

The death of a newborn Indian rhinoceros at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden won't halt its efforts to reproduce the endangered animals. "We will continue to work with Nikki. We'll give her a break, and regroup and move forward," said Monica Stoops, a reproductive physiologist at the zoo's Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife.

<http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20101027/NEWS01/10280322/Rhino-program-to-carry-on>

One-horned Rhino Killed in Kaziranga Park (28 Oct 2010)

An endangered one-horned rhino was killed and its horn gouged out by poacher gangs at the famed Kaziranga National Park in Assam, officials said Thursday. A wildlife official said the latest killing was reported from inside the sanctuary, 220 km east of Assam's main city of Guwahati.

<http://sify.com/news/one-horned-rhino-killed-in-kaziranga-park-news-national-kk2suwjged.html>

Rhino Calf Born in Bardia National Park, Nepal!

A baby rhino has been born in Nepal's Bardia National Park. Bardia National Park in Nepal has welcomed the second baby rhino in just three months, bringing the Park's population of greater one-horned rhinos to 25. According to Assistant Conservation Officer Ramesh Thapa, the new calf is a healthy male and was born in the Baghmachan area of the Park. Most of the rhinos in Bardia National Park have names – such as Thute Mau, Tikhe Pothi, Budhune, and Terrible Thito – and this baby rhino is expected to be named soon.

<http://www.rhinoconservation.org/2010/10/25/rhino-calf-born-in-bardia-national-park-nepal/>

Jail Terms for Indian Poachers Rise

Poachers can now be jailed for up to 10 years for killing rhinoceros, elephants and tigers in an Indian state which is also training a special force to protect its wildlife. Assam forest minister Rokybul Hussain said the north-eastern state received permission from the federal government to amend the 1972 Wildlife Protection Act to introduce a more stringent punishment for poachers. Mr Hussain said the enhanced punishment came into law in the state two days ago. Belinda Wright of the Wildlife Protection Society of India said that in the rest of the country, the Act permits prison terms of three to seven years for killing wild animals.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/ukpress/article/ALeqM5i9KAJmdG_q5B5uaxbMyidO3ioZZA?docId=N0033921287734265080A

Rare Rhino Caught on Camera (WWF)

<http://www.everythingindonesia.com/rare-borneo-rhino-caught-on-camera/>

Two men from Ireland are accused of flying to Colorado to buy rhinoceros horns (15 Nov 2010)

According to their arrest affidavit the men were arrested Saturday in Commerce City. They had paid more than \$17,000 to an undercover agent for the rhino horns. The men were allegedly going to use the horns as decorations inside an Irish castle.

<http://cbs4denver.com/news/Ireland.Rhino.Horns.2.2011007.html>

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.

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- 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: _____

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Signature: _____ Date: _____