The Rhino Print

Summer 2010-11

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Asian Rhino Project

ABN: 75 509 849 802 ARBN: 116 937 627
Email: info@asianrhinos.org.au | Website: www.asianrhinos.org.au

Head Office
PO Box 6
Batchelor NT 0845

Western Australia & Memberships
PO Box 163
South Perth WA 6951

Welcome to the Summer 2010-11 Newsletter

Welcome to the summer 2011 newsletter. All be it slightly late.

The ARP committee hopes that you all enjoyed a safe and Happy New Year, spending valuable time with loved ones and special friends.

Now that the great expense of Christmas, and summer vacations, has passed we ask you to consider a rhino adoption. In fact, would you be happy to consider recommending an adoption to your friends? Later in this newsletter, we profile one of our special rhinos who has fallen upon hard times.

In this edition, we also report on progress in the resettlement of rhinos in Assam, India, including the difficulties faced in achieving this. Strengthening conservation measures in Assam has also been an emphasis, and we have a special report from the Aaranyak organisation.

During November just past, Sophie Lourandos attended a board meeting of the International Rhino Foundation, and she reports on this meeting.

ARP Director Kerry Crosbie and Vice President Clare Campbell visited Indonesia projects in February. A full report is also enclosed.

And, of course, we have our regular rhino news shorts from our Asian neighbours, local updates and more.

Kerry Crosbie
Project Director ARP

Colin Campbell
Secretary ARP

Two female Indian rhinos were translocated from Pobitora to Manas NP on Dec. 27, followed by four more rhinos on Jan. 17. (Photo by Dipankar Ghose, WWF)

Indian Rhino Vision 2020 Project Update

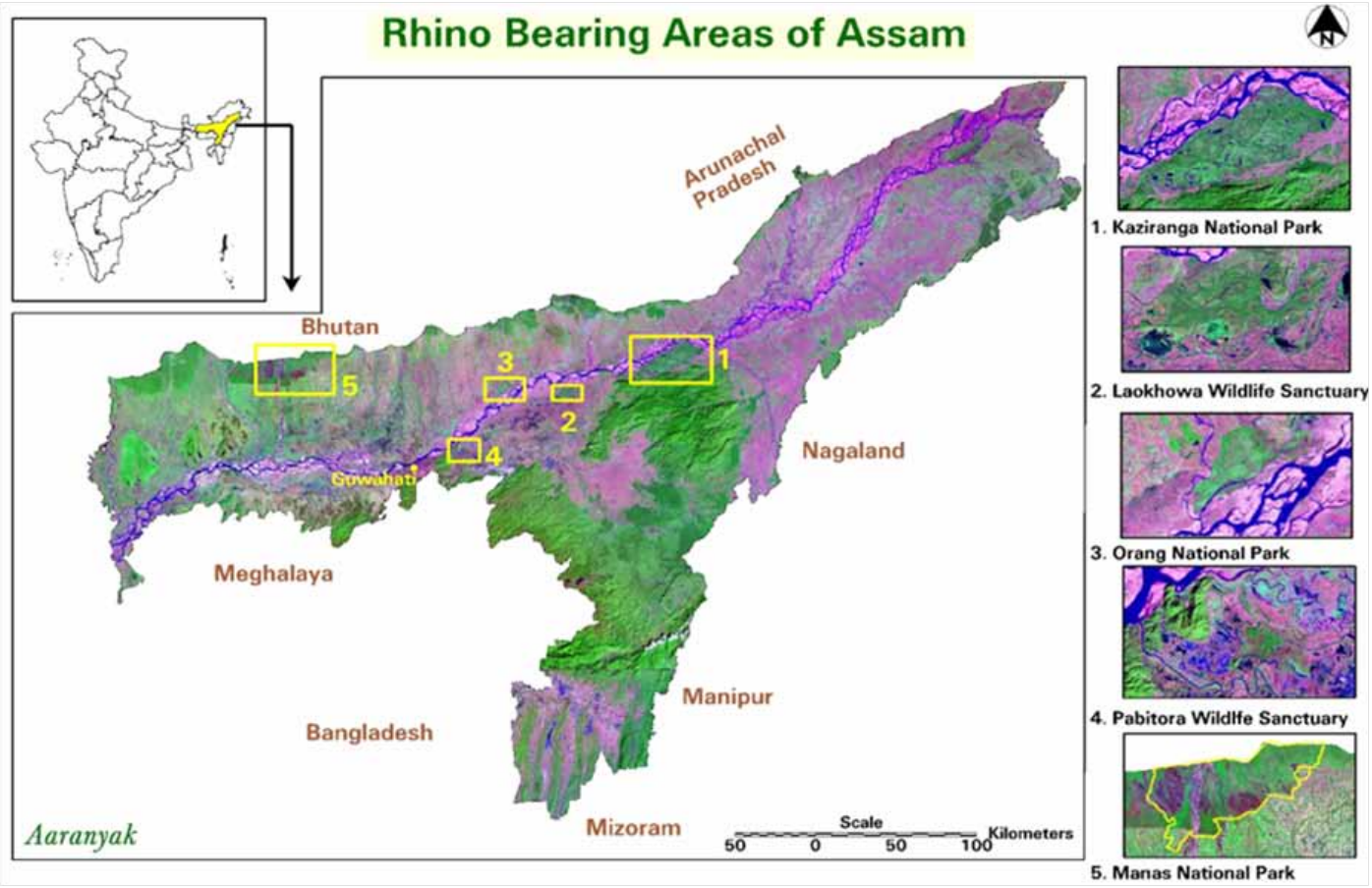
By Susie Ellis, International Rhino Foundation

The Indian Rhino Vision (IRV) 2020 is a partnership among the government of Assam, the International Rhino Foundation, the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Bodoland Territorial Council, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that aims to attain a population of 3,000 wild rhinos in seven of Assam's protected areas by the year 2020. Thanks to the Taronga Conservation Society Australia, ARP was able to forward $10,000AUD to this project to contribute to moving the first round of rhinos.

Indian rhinos are a conservation success story. The species has recovered from about 200 animals in the early 1990s to more than 2,850 today. Resembling living armored tanks, the species is a popular zoo animal – about 175 Indian rhinos live in 66 zoos around the world. As a result of increasing commitment to conservation, zoos and NGOs from Europe, Australia and the United States have joined forces to support the Indian rhino translocations and have contributed more than half a million dollars to the program over the past three years.

Translocations are the backbone of the IRV 2020 program. More than 85 percent of the world's Greater one-horned rhino population inhabits Kaziranga National Park in Assam, India. Having most of the animals in one population puts it at risk from catastrophes such as floods or disease outbreaks, which could lead to a serious population decline. Pobitora National Park holds about 90 rhinos -- the park's carrying capacity has been exceeded, which leads to an increased risk of rhino-human conflict as animals move out of the park and into agricultural areas to forage for food. The goal of Indian Rhino Vision 2020 is to reduce risks to India's rhino population by ensuring that the animals are spread throughout multiple parks with enough habitat to encourage population growth.

Manas National Park has been selected as the first site to receive translocated rhinos. Manas National Park, once an icon among India's many spectacular wildlife reserves, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985. (As of 2010, only 911 sites in the world have been named as a place with special cultural or physical significance.) Manas is home to the tiger, pygmy hog and golden langur as well as elephants, wild buffalo and Indian bison. Rhinos were



once common in the park, but violent civil conflict beginning in 1989 caused massive damage to the park's infrastructure, including destruction of anti-poaching camps, roads and villages. Until recently, the last rhino seen in Manas was in 1996.

Now, the IRV 2020 team has been able to radiocollar the translocated rhinos so that the released animals can be adequately monitored. Their work over the past few years has focused on rebuilding the park's anti-poaching camps and repair roads and bridges in preparation for the park's repopulation of rhinos. They have also hired, trained and equipped guards from the local communities, some of whom are former poachers now committed to saving wildlife. The arrival of the new rhinos is heralded by local communities, who had been blamed for the demise of the park. But now, local people, under the leadership of the Bodoland Territorial Council, are committed to bringing Manas back to its former glory, and increasing and protecting the rhino population.

The first round of IRV 2020 translocations occurred in April 2008, when two male rhinos were moved from Pobitora to Manas. (The two males joined three rescued females that had previously been released into the park.) 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. Planned rhino translocations were delayed in 2009 because of difficulties in importing the highly-controlled tranquilization drug of choice, etorphine.

The drugs finally reached Assam in May 2010, at the start of the monsoon season, and so translocations had to be postponed until the weather improved. The dry season commenced in earnest in December, and so, after months of meticulous planning, the IRV 2020 Translocation Core Committee decided to begin translocations from Pobitora to Manas. Pobitora has been chosen as a high-priority translocation site because it boasts the highest density of rhinos in the world, with more than 90 rhinos in less than 18 square kilometers (4,450 acres) of rhino habitat. Translocations will lessen pressure on Pobitora's rhinos for food and space, and hopefully reduce the number of rhinos straying into nearby villages. The Translocation Core Committee also recommended that female rhinos be captured for this round of tranlocations, as the last round included only males.

On December 28th, the translocation team, comprised of officials from the Forest Department,

veterinarians from the College of Veterinary Science, the Assam State Zoo and local NGO Aaranyak, staff from WWF-India and IRF, and other related technical experts, set out on elephant-back at 5:30 am to begin the first translocation operation in Pabitora. It was an extremely foggy morning with low visibility, but the capture team was able to dart a mother and her juvenile calf, also female, around 11:45 am. Both animals were radio-collared and loaded into specially designed crates which were then lifted onto trucks for transport by around 3:00 pm. (Although the IRV 2020 general protocols call for four animals to be translocated at once, because it was getting so late in the day, further captures were called off to enable to the females already tranquilized to be transferred to Manas NP and released within 24 hours of darting.)

The rhinos started their 250 kilometer journey towards Manas from Pabitora in the evening and reached Manas in the early morning of December 29th. They were released in the Bansbari range in the central part of the park around 6:30 am.

On January 17th, the translocation team began another operation in Pabitora. They successfully darted four rhinos in that operation – one single female, one single male, and one mother with a male juvenile calf. Again, all four were immobilized, radio-collared, transferred into crates and lifted onto the trucks. The Assam police escorted the trucks during the journey to Manas to provide additional security. The four rhinos were released in the Bansbari range of Manas early the next morning, again within 24 hours of being darted.

Along with the rhinos previously translocated to Manas, the six newly translocated rhinos are continuously monitored by WWF and park staff, using radio tracking. All six rhinos are doing well; they seem calm and are adjusting well to their new environment. Four have stayed in the central Bansbari range, while two are moving towards the eastern Bhuyanpara range of Manas National Park.

Current plans call for the translocation of another 10 rhinos to Manas National Park in 2011. The translocation committee hopes to hold the next operation in Kaziranga National Park in late February. Exact timing will depend on government approval and weather-related issues. Road conditions in Kaziranga are still very poor after the heavy monsoons this past year, and so the translocations cannot be scheduled until the roads are dry enough to support large trucks and heavy crates. Our team is currently repairing crates and making other logistical arrangements in anticipation of the next rounds of translocations.

The translocation team immobilizes and radio-collars each rhino before they are loaded into crates.


Javan Rhino foot print

Kerry Crosbie Travel Report February 2011 – Borneo and Indonesia

Between 7–21 February, I travelled to Borneo (Malaysia), Sumatra and Java (Indonesia) to attend the Sumatran Rhinoceros Global Management and Propagation Board Meeting (Sabah, Borneo), Way Kambas Project Visit (Sumatra), YABI Board Meeting and Ujung Kulon Project Visit (Java). ARP Vice Chairperson Clare Campbell attended the Indonesian side of the visit along with our partners Susie Ellis, Bibhab Talukdar and Terri Roth from the International Rhino Foundation and Cameron Kerr, CEO of the Taronga Zoos Society. As usual our Indonesian and Borneo partners were great hosts and I especially thank the government of Sabah, Borneo Rhino Alliance, Yayasan Badak Indonesia and the local National Park Authorities for their hard work and coordination in facilitating our journey.

Sumatran Rhinoceros Global Management Propagation Board Meeting

The Sumatran rhino captive breeding programs around the world are at crisis point! Only ten rhinos remain in four different locations (three rhino in two institutions in the USA, five rhino in Indonesia and the remaining two in Borneo). Of these 10 rhino, four animals are old (one not expected to live long at all) and two are considered post reproductive or not reproductively viable. Sadly, the only breeding female in the program died last year due to liver disease (resulting from an iron overload disorder that is common to browsing rhino species in captivity). This leaves only father and daughter together at Cincinnati now and all rhino in the USA related. Some positive progress has been made, however. Indonesian, Malaysian, and US institutions agreed that they would allow exchange gametes (sperm and eggs), and that the two different subspecies (numbering ~ 20-30 animals for the wild Sabah population and ~150-170 for Sumatra) would be managed as one species in captivity.

Andalas (the first captive bred rhino from the USA returned d to Indonesia in 2007) has produced two pregnancies with female Ratu at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Indonesia. Sadly, both pregnancies were miscarried, as is commonly seen in Sumatran captive programs (in the USA Emi miscarried many times before finally carrying three full term and healthy calves). Scientists around the world are also working on artificial insemination with rhino and seem to be making good headway. Facilities are working on collecting sperm which will be made available for all facilities to utilise easing the need to transfer animals

providing the program is successful. Gamete rescue protocols have also been formalised and put in place to rescue vital reproductive tissue in the case of death securing the genetics of these animals for future use. IVF programs are also being researched and have been attempted in the white rhinoceros already.

Regarding the iron overload issue in the captivity – Scientists are working hard to find out exactly why this is occurring and how to avoid it. Blood samples have been taken also from the Indonesian animals to assess their iron loads. It is hard to provide exact food diets these browsing rhinos ingest in the wild – especially in countries without direct access to the food plant of the rhino.

In the end it is recognised that the global Sumatran rhino captive breeding programs need more animals if they are to succeed. Captive breeding programs are designed to be 'backup' populations for their counterparts in the wild. With the current status of Sumatran rhino population in the wild, it is vital that this program succeeds if the species is to survive. All parties agreed that 'isolated' rhino are good candidates for these programs. They are rhino that are known to exist in a habitat that is not frequented by other rhino of the opposite sex and are therefore considered doomed. A major factor in this scenario is the well known fact that if a female rhino does not breed before a certain age – reproductive pathology develops and the rhino will no longer be able to contribute her genes to the population. No matter what their status, each rhino's genes are valuable to captive populations. One female has been identified for capture and teams have been working hard to capture this animal in Sabah. No other animals have been identified or targeted; all captures require full governmental approval from the range country.

After the meeting, we travelled to Tabin Wildlife reserve and visited the Borneo Rhino Sanctuary and the two Sabah captive rhinos 'Tam' and 'Gelogob'. Both rhino look in good condition. Sadly though, Gelogob is now blind due to long term corneal scarring and ulceration complications and is also considered post-reproductive.

Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra RPUs

Our first destination in the park was to visit a former encroachment area which has been seized and is currently being regenerated. This is a major achievement for the national Parks, RPUs (Rhino Protection Units) and all parties working in this area.

Top to bottom: River base camp Way Kambas NP; Kerry planting a tree at the Way Kambas regeneration area; Clare showing small token of appreciation with ARP magnets WKNP RPU; Group at the Way Kambas River Base Camp.

I was advised that around 500 people were relocated and 300 houses demolished. The area is being regenerated with a big focus on planting rhino and elephant food plant. A new guard station has also been constructed in the area. On the other side of the park, an illegal fishing village was relocated from the Way Kanan River mouth resulting in 100% of the park's encroachment now removed! The Way Kambas Sumatran rhino population is currently estimated to have grown to 33 animals and there has been sign of new rhino calves, which is great news.

RPUs are working with the communities bordering the parks to show alternate farming practises. Upon entering Way Kambas, we saw large pineapple, cassava and watermelon plantations. A special grant is made available to RPU members from the Wildlife Conservation Network to use for alternate agriculture. This provides not only another source of income, but provides an example to the community of alternative and more sustainable plantations. Local RPU members have planted small crops of wood trees and rubber trees outside the park. These crops take longer to bring in money (7 yrs before the first harvest) but show that if the owner can find a way to sustain life for this time the yearly returns are far greater in the end e.g. US$500/hectare for rubber plants. Cassava (currently more widely used) brings in far less though has more immediate returns.

On the second day, we travelled by RPU boat to a river base camp where we had lunch with RPU team and presentations of rhino distribution and tracking maps in the area. After lunch we walked along one of the trails with RPU ..... I have never seen so many leeches in my life!!!!!!!!!! The ground was crawling with them! While we danced about like idiots trying to avoid the leeches and listen at tentatively to the information attempted to be passed on; the RPU team ducked and dived around us trying to remove any that attached to us. Man, these guys work in tough conditions!

The Bukit Barisan Selatan and Way Kambas RPUs and the Intelligence and Law Enforcement Unit gave formal slide presentations at the main RPU office upon our departure. This year saw more arrests and actual sentences due to professional evidence gathering and surveillance which could be properly used in a court of

Top to bottom: Group at the SRS - Kerry Crosbie, Clare Campbell, Sumadi Hasmaran, Bibhab Talukdar, Terri Roth, Susie Ellis, Cameron Kerr, Dedi Candra; WKNP RPU Team Leader Hartoto with adult and calf footprints from the park; Group Outside the WKNP Head Office with BBSNP, WKNP RPU and ILEU leaders; Group at Ujung Kulon NP Headquarters - Bibhab Talukdar, Widodo Ramono, Kerry Crosbie, Agus Priambudi, Clare Campbell, Waladi Isnan, Cameron Kerr.

law. Elephant and tiger products were seized and major players arrested. The RPU team's professionalism and dedication continues within the parks and together these teams are working closely with communities outside the parks to promote more sustainable and profitable farming practices providing incentives for people to assist the teams in their work also (providing intelligence, reducing encroachment etc).

Unfortunately, encroachment is increasing in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park) and it seems that the rhinos are being pushed further to the central and northern regions of the park. A new road constructed in the Southern part of the park, combined with an invasive weed, Matangan, appears to have caused this shift in location. Matangan is forming a blanket cover over existing vegetation which if left will eventually destroy rhino habitat. Rhino numbers in the park are still under discussion as different survey methods have resulted in different population estimates. All of this is of course major concern and will be a focus for this year.

Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary

We visited all the SRS rhinos and all look in good health (even Torgamba the old male who is not expected to live much longer due to renal disease and is currently receiving 24hour care). Introductions are continuing between Andalas and Ratu and we are hopeful that this year is going to produce a third and hopefully full term pregnancy between the pair. Semen collection is also a focus for this year at the SRS with collections planned from Andalas before June. These collections will be via electro ejaculation which requires anaesthetic. Thanks to Taronga Conservation Society Australia support, we will likely send over Dr. Benn Bryant to assist.

Rosa continues to show distress with pairings for mating – although all her behavioural signs are indicate receptivity in the yards, once introduced to a male she retreats and goes to all lengths to escape, which is dangerous and undesirable. The SRS team have reduced the amount of human contact she is getting in case this is due to imprinting and are considering getting professional behaviourist involved.

The older female 'Bina' is being paired with Andalas and seems to be cycling regularly again since December 2010. Although we are hopeful for a natural conception this year, Bina has been identified also as a good AI candidate.

Blood samples have been taken from SRS rhino to the US for testing of iron levels and the SRS team are working on getting required permits for sending faeces to Borneo for stimulation of the male 'Tam'. BORA (Borneo Rhino Alliance) are interested in seeing if introducing dung from other male rhino and reproductive female rhino excrement will stimulate testicular growth and sperm production. The SRS team are also planning to analyse faecal samples from the SRS rhinos for hormone analysis research.

Ujung Kulon National Park Visit

A major focus of Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI), Ujung Kulon National Park, Asian Rhino Project and the International Rhino Foundation this year has been on the Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area (JaRhiSCA pronounced ja-rhis-ka). This is essentially expanding the useable rhino habitat in the with the idea that improving the habitat in the Gunung Honje area (the eastern part of the park) will draw more rhinos and thus enable the population to expand. (There are already several rhinos in the area.) Only 48 Javan rhino are estimated to survive today and all of them are in this park. It appears that the population

Left to right: Guard post at start of JaRhiSCA boundary fence line UKNP; Kerry and Clare at Javan rhino wallow site.

has reached carrying capacity – although the park was once thought to have a capacity of 100 rhinos, human disturbance, reduction in food availability has taken its toll. Natural forest growth has seen rhino food plants grow either too high to access and Arenga palm dominance is blanketing the forest floor making plant regeneration virtually non-existent. The rhino are susceptible to disease from wandering cattle and buffalo and, of course, poaching is also a serious threat if the rhino enter encroached areas.

Human settlements are being relocated from within the park to other areas by national park authorities. A total of 52 families have already voluntarily relocated. Electric fencing is being constructed to run from shore to shore (approx 28km of fence) along the boundary to protect the park. Already the rhino have been observed in areas they have not inhabited for some time and where human disturbance has been removed. Habitat improvement projects are being implemented including weed eradication programs, forest regeneration, and the creation of further water holes, wallows and salt licks. Guard posts are being erected and another RPU team has been employed. Local communities are also benefiting from this program with employment in the fence construction, weed eradication program and RPU team work forces. The fence construction is expected to be completed before the monsoon season this year.

Having the total population of Javan rhino in one area is dangerous - like having all your eggs in one basket! Natural disaster or a disease outbreak could wipe these animals of the face of the earth forever. Longer term, we hope to be able to study the rhino in this area and eventually identify individuals for a relocation program to other parks where the rhino once inhabited before.

We were honoured to meet with the Head of Ujung Kulon NP – Pak Agus Priambudi and his teams working so hard on the relocation of the local people from within the park. We also met one of the village chiefs who was very supportive of the work being done to save their rhino and their park. It was quite a touching moment!

Canoe Cigenteur River UKNP

Most of our time was spent with the Ujung Kulon RPU team who have been working tirelessly on moving forward the JaRhiSCA project. The team also gave us a formal presentation on the work they are doing as well as escorted us around the park to see progress for ourselves. Our first destination was to the study area of Gunung Honje where we met with engineering team, National Park Community Liaison Officer and Chief of local village. The team showed us the starting point of the fence line and the first guard post construction. We were then escorted to an area where the Arenga palm had taken over a 100ha part of the park. The devastation caused by this weed was obvious – nothing grows under it and it was easy to see how the rhino carrying capacity of the park has been reduced.

Note: many of the staff involved in construction of this base camp building have contracted Malaria. Nine of a team of ten to be exact! This is an unfortunate risk working in this area and it affects our RPU teams as well. Issues like these will also impact on construction progress.

It was not all trekking – we canoed up the Cigenteur River to a known rhino wallow where we observed old rhino scrapings, footprints and vegetation that had been fed upon by rhino. We also visited the banteng feeding ground, however, no banteng were seen. We travelled by sea to Peucang Island where we were shown habitat which has been unchanged since Krakatau erupted over 100yrs ago – an example of why rhino don't do so well in primary forest (no saplings to feed on and trees to high to reach). From there we went to the mainland opposite and walked into cascade area of UKNP which is the parks primary spring and water source. Three rhino had used the track we followed in the past month in both directions. One of the rhino tracks were only 2 days old. Interestingly, rhino had not stopped to feed on the track – seemed to be on a mission to get from point A to B.

While in Ujung Kulon we stayed at two separate accommodation facilities. One was Handeleum Island where we have stayed before and the other was a local home stay set up by a local family with assistance from WWF – another example of how the park benefits local people.

YABI Board of Trustees Annual Meeting

Sixteen RPU teams and one Intelligence and Law Enforcement (ILEU) team operate through YABI in Sumatra and Java as well as the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS). These teams are vital to the rhino conservation programs and they are on the front line working to remove snares, encroachment, illegal activities, monitor the animals and the habitats as well as work with communities to educate and motivate them to protect their valuable parks and animals.

The board and visitors were given an overview of RPU, SRS, ILEU and YABI office achievements, outcomes, and plans for 2011. Most outlined in the report above. Budgets, fundraising initiatives and organisation planning were also covered. Most of the YABI budget is covered from international donors with ARP and IRF funding at least 97%. A focus also this year will be to seek local funding sources and opportunities to provide further support and continued security within projects.

A small group was invited to meet with the Ministry of Forestry Director General 'Pak Darori' afterward to update him personally on the progress of YABI operations and concerns. He seemed impressed with our progress and promised government funding to rhino programs for 2012. We felt most honoured as it turns out that Mr. Darori left his wedding anniversary celebrations to meet with us!

Silvery Gibbon Project

Clare and I travelled to Gunung Gede for the last two days to visit the Javan Gibbon Centre. Aside from Clare's dedication to the ARP and her work at Perth Zoo, she is also the president of the Silvery Gibbon Project – an Australian NGO who raises funds for gibbon conservation programs in Indonesia. As a partner in fundraising and awareness programs in Australia, it was good to visit their project and brainstorm on ways we might be able to collaborate projects in Indonesia and Australia further.

Thank You, Hunter Hall Investment Management

ARP would like to thank Hunter Hall for another generous donation with their 2010 contribution being a whopping $13,690.00! The Hunter Hall Charity Scheme allows each Hunter Hall shareholder to nominate recipients of charitable contributions on a basis proportional to the number of shares they own. I was thrilled to accept this generous donation which sees Hunter Hall donations reach over $73,000 to the Asian Rhino Project. Hunter Hall continues to be one of our major corporate donors.

These important funds will contribute to funding Rhino Protection Unit operations in Sumatra and Java. The Rhino Protection Unit (RPU) program in Indonesia is the front line of defence in securing Sumatran rhinos in Bukit Barisan and Way Kambas National Parks in Sumatra, and Javan rhinos in Ujung Kulon National Park. This program has essentially helped to put a halt to rhino poaching in these three parks. As human populations increase and the threats from illegal activities such as encroachment and illegal logging grow, the protection provided by the RPUs will remain crucial for the survival of Indonesian mega fauna. Once again thank you for your generous contribution.

HUNTER HALL
Ethical Managed Funds

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.

Video Trap Monitoring the Birth of Javan Rhinoceros in Ujung Kulon National Park

Adhi Rachmat Sudrajat Hariyadi, WWF – Indonesia

One of the most important aspects of wildlife monitoring is to determine the birth rate within a population to further assess if the population is increasing, stagnant, or declining.

Similarly for the javan rhinoceros (Rhinoceros sondaicus) population in Ujung Kulon, the birth rate is an important indicator that shows the capability of this small population to replenish.

Unfortunately, monitoring such aspect for javan rhinoceros is not an easy task, as the animals spend most of their time hiding and avoiding encounters with humans.

After identifying this challenge, a team consisting of Ujung Kulon National Park authority and WWF Indonesia sets out a special procedure for monitoring the birth of rhino in this National Park.

Based on previous experiences, it is generally agreed that the newborn rhino calf will have a foot print size in the range of approximately 14-17 cm wide that is usually accompanied by the mother's foot print, while foot print larger than 17 cm is normally considered as young or juvenile rhino that has been separated from the mother. Therefore, finding a new small footprint size always gives excitement for the rhino observation and monitoring team (ROAM team), as it indicates that a new member in the rhino population has just been born.

This was the case from the previous rhino survey activity conducted last year where the team detected a foot print size of 14cm wide, but the automatic cameras used in that activity did not manage to record the presence of this newly born rhino.

This finding was followed up by designing video trap camera placement specifically for monitoring the newborn rhino.

This required special modification to the existing video trap monitoring method to allow detection of the mother and calf pair without creating unnecessary disturbances to them. This was achieved by carefully identifying the blocks where the footprints are detected and placing video trap equipments such that these devices were concealed from possible detection by the rhinos. The video trap devices were placed at the height of 2.5 meters with a down angle so that the rhino path would be covered within the field of vision of these video camera units. The angle was checked using digital pocket camera to ensure that this was an appropriate angle for recording the rhinos, as well as ensuring that this angle would allow identification of the individual rhinos.

Sixteen video trap units were used to identify the newborn rhinos, and the survey area covered an area in the south coast of Ujung Kulon national Park (Cibunar to Citadahan blocks) where the footprint was first detected. These video trap cameras were placed for 30 days and the data was collected afterwards. Using this method the team managed to record two mother-calf pairs, as well as identifies the sex of the

Top: Mother and calf pair recorded in the second occasion at precisely the same location in Citadahan Block Ujung Kulon National Park.
Bottom: Mother and calf pair recorded in the first occasion in Citadahan Block Ujung Kulon National Park.
Photos: Ujung Kulon NP Authority – WWF

newborn calves. This finding confirms that with minor modifications on camera placing and sample site selection these equipments can be used for detecting and identifying the newborn rhinos in the wild. Advance sampling methodology is being discussed in order to allow long term monitoring of the calves that will yield information on the population growth, as well as the growth rate of the individual calf. Current data shows that the calf can grow from 13-cm foot print size to 18-cm size in a period of 18 months.

Strengthening Conservation Measures of Greater One-horned Rhino in Orang National Park, Assam, India

Pranjit Kumar Sarma, M.Sc, Aaranyak

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 traficking, fragmentation and degradation of its habitat in the 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 intesity 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.

Progress till 10 January, 2011.

Purchase of GPS60 device:

One of the major objectives of this current project was the purchase of GPS devise. Aaranyak has purchased 33 number of GPS 60 devise in the month of December, 2010, which was funded by Asian Rhino Project to provide support to the frontline staffs of Orang National Park.

GPS training to the frontline staffs:

Two training programmes on GPS devise has been given to the frontline staffs of Orang National Park in the month of January, 2011 for regular monitoring of rhino and other animals and also to map the distribution pattern of invasive species like Mimosa invesa in the park.

A questionnaire is developed to do the socio-economic survey of the fringe villages of the park.

Rhino Baby in Way Kambas National Park

By Nurbasuki (RPU Way Kambas) and Inov

Recently on the last survey in the end of November 2010, my team and I surveyed and monitored the central areas of Way Kambas NP. We are familiar with the location. According to data base that we have, this area is rhino habitat and RPU's often directly see the rhino although only for a few second. We always find foot print, scratch marks, feces and wallow as well. At the time, we found foot print and feces of rhino. As usual we collected the data and try to find other data along the track. The foot print we found was almost the same with data that we have previously. After four days patrol and monitoring we found a different foot print it was a small foot print and still fresh.

I was enthusiastic to measure the foot print. I believe it was the foot print of baby rhino. It was not far away from an adult foot print, it may mother of baby rhino. Indication that there have baby rhino was also seen from small dung as well not far away from the location we find foot print. Look like the dung still fresh. We can see from the structure of the dung, look fresh and still in ball. I have seen fresh dung at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS), make me know the difference fresh and old dung. We were more enthusiastic to follow the foot print. We believed the mother and baby rhino not far away from us. After one hour following the foot print and track, we found a fresh wallow. We predicted about the mother and baby rhino 100% correct. We found two wallows side by side, normal wallow and small wallow. I predicted that the baby rhino start to learn how to wallowing and any kind rhino behavior from the mother.

Unfortunately we did not see directly the mother and baby rhino at the time because almost dark and impossible to meet at night time. At least we have found the new foot print baby rhino and very happy to know about it. We were surprised after along time we didn't get a foot print a baby rhino, finally in the last 2010 we found it. This evidence makes us very happy and gives more spirit to us RPU Way Kambas NP. Hopefully there still have more baby rhino in Way Kambas NP.

Walkathon for Endangered Animals

On Sunday 6 March 2011, ARP along with Australian Orangutan Project & Silvery Gibbon Project held our second annual Walkathon for Endangered Asian Animals.

This year we had over 250 people join us for the picturesque 3.5km walk around Lake Monger Reserve to help us raise funds for these endangered species. A total of over $6500 was raised through participation, sponsorship, children's entertainment, sausage sizzle and raffle!

A big thank you to our highest fundraiser- Khwaja Mohiuddin who raised $570! Khwaja is a phenomenal supporter of ARP, and won himself a Behind the Scenes tour of the Crocodiles at Perth Zoo. Well done Khwaja! Second and Third highest fundraisers went to Matt Lambie with $340.00, who won 4 Perth Zoo Passes, and 3 year old Ruby Chai who raised $130 and won an AOP adoption pack! Tranby College participated again this year, bringing in over $560! Well done to all!!

Thanks to all our committee members and volunteers who helped out on the day! Suzi Greenway and Amanda Dawe did an amazing job painting faces, Cheeky Monkey Entertainment for providing the bouncy castle free of charge, Steve Witzand for being a fantastic rhino, Michelle Fleming for designing our walkathon logo, The Bean Runner for donating all profits from the coffee van on the day, and Perth Zoo, Adventure World, AOP and SGP for providing prizes.

We hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did, look forward to seeing you all again next year!

Committee Update

By Kerry Crosbie

In November last year I was honored to attend the Hunter Hall Charity Afternoon Tea where ARP was nominated to receive funding from 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. I was thrilled to accept a generous donation of $13,690.00. Hunter Hall has donated over $73,000 to the Asian Rhino Project and continues to be one of our major corporate donors.

ARP Secretary Position: We are pleased to advise that the ARP secretary position has been filled and the ARP committee would like to welcome Colin Campbell to the team. Colin is a teacher who has taught Bahasa Indonesia, and other subjects, for more than 30 years. He is currently teaching English to migrant and refugee children. Colin's interest in rhinos and their protection has developed ever since learning about the plight of the Javan rhino in Indonesia. His educational input and expertise will come in handy for sure and has been put to use straight away in producing this newsletter. Welcome and thanks so much Colin.

Meetings

Sophie Dentrinos: From 7–9 November 2010, I was invited to attend the International Rhino Foundations (IRF) Board Members Meeting on behalf of ARP Project Director Kerry Crosbie, in Houston, Texas. This meeting brings together rhino conservationists from all over the world, working in almost every area where there are rhino. It was a great opportunity to be updated on the rhino projects IRF and ARP support, and met people as passionate about rhinos as we at ARP are. As a major donor towards IRF, ARP play a role in key discussions about projects supporting the Asian rhinos, where they are heading, how funding is obtained and what else needs to be done. Over the course of the two days, I sat in on Asian Rhino workshops, where we discussed the progress and future planning of projects. I thank ARP for the opportunity to represent them at this meeting. As always it is inspiring and motivating to be surrounded by enthusiastic rhino conservationists, and I hope to put the ideas and contacts I made to great use.

Kerry Crosbie: 8–21 February 2011. I attended the Global Propagation and Management Board meeting held at Kota Kinabalu followed by a visit to the Tabin Wildlife Reserve where the Borneo Rhino Sanctuary is being constructed. From there I will travel over to Indonesia to visit projects in Way Kambas and Ujung Kulon National parks as well as participate in the Yayasan Badak Indonesia Board meeting in Bogor. Vice Chairperson Clare Campbell also attended the Indonesia section of the trip along with our partners from the International Rhino Foundation and Taronga Conservation Society Australia. Please see more on this trip on page 6.

WA Branch News

We had our annual Walkathon for Endangered Asian Animals on Sunday 6 March 2011 at Lake Monger Reserve, Perth. See story page15.

All funds raised will contribute towards the endangered Asian Rhinos, Javan Gibbons and Sumatran Orangutan programs in Indonesia and Borneo.

Mark your diaries for Saturday 28 May 2011! The WA Branch will be hosting a Murder Mystery Fundraiser, at the Perth Zoo Theatre. The theme will be Hollywood Scandal, so get your costumes ready for a great night of murder solving, nibbles and prizes! Tickets will be limited so stay tuned for further updates!

The WA branch will be running an Easter egg drive this year and we have a lot of chocolate to move so if you think you can sell or buy eggs for us, please contact Sophie at the address above.

Operation Javan Rhino

There are fewer than 50 Javan rhinos left on the planet. Unless we take action now to protect and expand the Javan rhino population, we could lose this species forever. The only viable population of Javan rhinos is confined to Indonesia's small Ujung Kulon National Park on the island of Java - and these animals are quite literally stuck between a rock and a hard place. With the species' entire viable population living in this one precarious location, Javan rhinos face a significant risk of extinction from a single natural disaster or introduced disease.

In The News - Asian Rhino News Stories

Poison plot aims to make rhino killers sick 4 December 2010

The controversial owners of a Joburg wildlife reserve who mooted the idea of injecting cyanide into the horns of their rhino to poison illicit Asian consumers are dabbling with a deterrent pesticide they believe could strike fear in the hearts of poachers.

The controversial owners of a Joburg wildlife reserve who mooted the idea of injecting cyanide into the horns of their rhino to poison illicit Asian consumers are dabbling with a deterrent pesticide they believe could strike fear in the hearts of poachers.

http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/gauteng/poison-plot-aims-to-make-rhino-killers-sick-1.950739

Manas awaits female rhinos from Pobitora 12 December 2010

The hunt for four female rhinos in Pobitora wildlife sanctuary is now in full swing.

Park officials in Pobitora are scouring the wildlife sanctuary for four female rhinos which will be translocated to Manas National Park in the first round of the process by the end of this month under the Indian Rhino Vision.

A senior forest department official said that December 22, is the scheduled date for translocation.

"We are looking for sub-adult rhinos as they have better adaptability and are perfect to breed..."

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1101213/jsp/northeast/story_13290854.jsp

Poachers killed in Kaziranga, rhino found dead 13 December 2010

Two poachers were killed in a gunfight with wildlife rangers at the Kaziranga National Park in Assam Monday after a gang entered the area and killed a rhino, an official said.

http://www.prokerala.com/news/articles/a187757.html

High-tech poachers threaten fight to save rhinos 26 December 2010

A booming black-market demand for rhinoceros horns is driving a lucrative new wave of high-tech poaching that threatens the fight to save the world's rhino populations from extinction.

The epicenter of the crisis is South Africa, which has lost nearly one rhinoceros a day to poaching this year.

But conservationists fear the problem could spill over into other regions, pushed by a surge in demand for rhino horn in Asia, notably in Vietnam, where it is used as a traditional medicine and sells for tens of thousands of dollars per horn.

http://politics.inquirer.net/politics/view/20101226-311020/High-tech-poac=hers-threaten-fight-to-save-rhinos

Four Pobitora rhinos for Manas 27 December 2010

The world famous Manas National Park cum Tiger Project is soon going to add another feather to its cap when four more rhinos would be brought to the park on December 29. According to official sources a team of experts has already moved to the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary from where the rhinos would be translocated.

According to information available a team of fourteen forest personnel had undergone training at Pobitora early this month as a prelude to the translocation process .

http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=3Ddec2810/at09

Translocation team nets two - Squad targeted four female rhinos 28 December 2010

A 10-hour operation today at Pobitora wildlife sanctuary in Morigaon district to capture four female rhinos for translocation to Manas resulted in netting only two.

The capture team, comprising wildlife personnel and veterinarians, carried out the operation in the Tamuliduba area on the eastern side of the sanctuary. The target for the day was four female rhinos as two male rhinos had already been captured.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1101229/jsp/northeast/story_13363153.jsp

WWF Helps Move Two Indian Rhinos to New Home in an Effort to Increase Population 30 Dec 2010

Two female rhinos translocated to India's Manas National Park as part of a plan to protect the vulnerable species

Two female Indian rhinoceros, one adult and one juvenile, were translocated to Manas National Park today from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam, India as part of an ambitious effort to increase their numbers in Assam to from 2,000 in 2005 to 3,000 by 2020.

http://www.prweb.com/releases/2010/12/prweb8040731.htm

Rhino attacks child at home - Animal strays out of Kaziranga into village 3 January 2011

A rhino strayed out of Kaziranga National Park this morning and attacked a seven-year-old girl who was playing in the courtyard of her house in a nearby village, injuring her grievously.

Kunti Mahali was moved to Jorhat Medical College and Hospital from Bokakhat sub-divisional hospital, where she was first taken.

"She is under constant observation," A. Neog, a doctor at the hospital, said.

The child's father, Shiva Mahili, blamed the forest department. "Wild animals from the park frequently strayinto human habitation but the forest department makes no efforts to protect us. And if we attack the wild animals in self-defence, they arrest us," he said.

The incident occurred close to a luxury resort which mostly hosts foreigners. The park is teeming with visitors during this peak tourist season.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1110104/jsp/nation/story_13388813.jsp

Poachers killed rhino in Chitwan 5 January 2011

Poachers have shot dead a rare one-horned male rhino in Chitwan National Park (CNP). The horn of dead rhino, which was killed in Dhobaha of Madi, was taken away by the poachers, informed Chitwan National Park (CNP). But its feet are found secured, the national park source said.

The rhino was found dead on Tuesday with its horn missing, said chief protection office of national park, Narendra Man Babu Pradhan. The rhino sustained bullet injuries on its right shoulder, informed Dr. Kamal Gaire, who was involved in the surgical examination of rhino.

http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Poachers+killed+rhino+in+Chitwan&NewsID=271977

Two rhinos translocated to Manas in Assam 6 January 2011

Two female Indian rhinos - a mother and a juvenile - have been translocated from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary to Manas National Park in Assam under the aegis of the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV 2020) programme, a statement here said Thursday.

http://www.sify.com/news/two-rhinos-translocated-to-manas-in-assam-news-national-lbgukpbghic.html

Domesticated cattle grazing in sanctuary pose threat to rhinos in Assam 6 January 2011

The one-horned rhinoceros of Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary in Assam's Marigaon district are under constant threat of fatal diseases from the huge number of domesticated cattle grazing in the fields of the sanctuary.

Biblab Talukdar, a wildlife activist, said apart from feeding on the grass, the cows could possibly transmit complex of bovine diseases to the rhinos.

"Definitely yes, Pabitora is regarded as (one having) the highest density of the rhinos, so, 3000 to 5000 cattle also grazing along with rhinos are definitely posing some sort of threat to the rhinos. Not only with regards to food but also in disseminating or the possible spread of the diseases from the domestic cattle to wild rhinos," said Talukdar.

http://www.sify.com/news/domesticated-cattle-grazing-in-sanctuary-pose-threat-to-rhinos-in-assam-news-national-lbcraefjihj.html

Wild Indian rhinos find new ground in Himalayan foothills 6 January 2011

A female Indian Rhinoceros (Rhinoceros unicornis) is released after being translocated to Manas National Park in Assam, India on 29 Dec 2010. The translocation is part of the Indian Rhino Vision 2020, a joint project that involves WWF.

http://wwf.panda.org/?uNewsID=3D198654

Poachers kill rhino at Orang 10 January 2011

Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park GUWAHATI: A rhino was killed by poachers at the Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, about 150 km from here, on Sunday night. The last incident of rhino poaching at the park, in which two rhinos were killed, was reported in January 2010.

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/Poachers-kill-rhino-at-Orang-/articleshow/7255922.cms

Four Pobitora rhinos caught 17 January 2011

Translocation of rhinos to Manas National Park will end by 2012 and the scene would then shift to Dibru-Saikhowa National Park and Laokhowa and Burhachapori wildlife sanctuaries.

Four rhinos were captured and tranquillised at Pobitora wildlife sanctuary today which is the highest in a day under the Indian Rhino Vision, 2020.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1110118/jsp/northeast/story_13453820.jsp

Rhino detained for killing man in Nepal to be released soon 28 January 2011

Kathmandu - A rhino detained in Nepal after it killed a man is to be released when a fence is completed around a national park in the next few months, local media reported Friday.

The blind rhino named Vikram was detained last year in Bardiya National Park in Nepal's west after it killed a 60-year-old Hindu priest, the Nagarik daily reported.

The one-horned rhino was transferred to Bardiya National Park from Chitwan National park in central Nepal, after it suffered severe injuries and went blind following a beating by locals in 2002.

http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/southasia/news/article_1615251.php/Rhino-detained-for-killing-man-in-Nepal-to-be-released-soon

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.

Hunter Hall Ethical Managed Funds · Monarto Zoo · Auckland Zoo Live Everyday. · Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden · Perth Zoo · Taronga Western Plains Zoo

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 · Australia Zoo · Judge Constable · Mallesons Stephen Jaques · Meranti Consulting · Perth Zoo · Perth Zoo Docent Association · Taronga Western Plains Zoo

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: _____

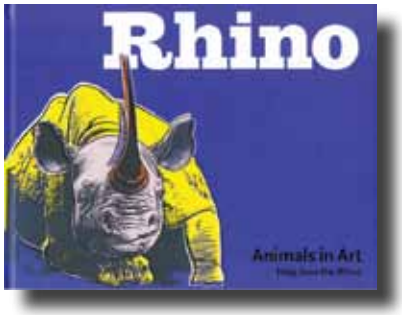
Rhino Rembrandts – $475

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: _____