

The Rhino Print

Summer 2012



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Welcome to the Summer 2012 Newsletter

2011 was a devastating year for rhinos across the globe. We saw the extinction of two subspecies of rhino - the Javan rhino in Vietnam and the Western black rhino of Africa. Both species lost to poaching! Poaching in Africa has reached astronomical levels with over 440 rhinos poached and the trade in rhino horn is out of control with rhino horns even being stolen from museums in the UK. In this edition we cover the above issues as well as how you can help to combat the trade.

There has been reason for celebration however, with the safe capture of an isolated female Sumatran rhino in Borneo named Puntung around Christmas. Puntung has been safely transported to the Borneo Rhino Sanctuary to join Tam, a male rhino rescued in 2010. This is incredible news and we wish the Sabah Wildlife Department and Borneo Rhino Alliance all the very best with introductions between the pair. See page 6.

We are happy to introduce a new DNA project for the Sumatran rhino in Indonesia, funded by ARP and IRF. This important project will enable better conservation management of the rhino populations in Way Kambas and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Parks providing authorities with a real insight to population sex ratios and individual identification and genetic analysis. See page 4.

Another exciting development includes ARP joining with Australian Orangutan Project (AOP), Free the Bears (FTB), and Silvery Gibbon Project (SGP) to form a new umbrella organisation called 'Wildlife Asia' (WA). The aim of WA is to elicit support for the protection and conservation of Asian wildlife through the field programmes of the four partner organisations. This holistic approach will give us access to financial support and resources that are currently not available to us and allow us to explore efficiencies through 'shared services'. See page 10.

And finally ARP has a new look and is planning a few operational changes. We have completely revamped our website and created a new logo. Check us out at www.asianrhinos.org.au In other news, ARP plans to work towards going paperless in 2012.

All of the ARP team would like to extend our best wishes to you all for 2012 and hope for a better year in rhinoceros conservation.

Regards,

Kerry Crosbie, Project Director

Thanks to Hunter Hall

ARP would like to forward our sincere gratitude to the Hunter Hall Charitable Trust for another year of support, with a generous donation of \$17,052 at the Hunter Hall Charitable Trust afternoon tea in November.

Project Director Kerry Crosbie attended on behalf of the Asian Rhino Project, stated: "I was once again humbled to be in the presence of so many fantastic people working for so many important programs all drawn together through the generosity of such a philanthropic company such as Hunter Hall, their staff and their shareholders".

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 \$92,631 to the Asian Rhino Project. Hunter Hall continues to be one of our major corporate donors and we are so very grateful for their support.

On behalf of the ARP and the rhinos, thank you!

New Project Funding

ARP is happy to announce that we have committed \$24,015AUD of a \$34,200AUD project titled "Conservation genetics of Sumatran Rhinoceros: Non-invasive Assessment of Population Status in Indonesia" which is being implemented in collaboration with our partners the International Rhino Foundation, Yayasan Badak Indonesia and Aaranyak.

Sumatran rhinos have experienced a severe decrease in the past few generations. Approximately, 90% of the global population of no more than 200 Sumatran rhino occurs in three protected areas of Indonesia: BBSNP, WKNP and Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP). In BBSNP, no juvenile footprints have been seen in at least three years, which may indicate breeding failure. The proposed project focuses on two of the three primary populations - WKNP and BBSNP, where an estimate of population size and sex ratio, coupled with other population genetics parameters will enable understanding of the threats to the population (excluding poaching threat), including breeding status. We will use DNA obtained from dung samples to:

1. genetically identify individual Sumatran rhinos and their gender,
2. estimate the fraction of the population that may be contributing to breeding, and
3. estimate the level of inbreeding in these populations. From those data, we will make recommendations for genetic management.

Although effective protection from poaching is in place through Rhino Protection Unit patrolling, protection alone is not sufficient. The genetic consequences of a low population size and skewed sex ratio may be a critical emerging threat to the survival of the species. This necessitates immediate evaluation of population size and sex ratio of the species in situ.

Appropriate management interventions can only be developed if we have a good understanding of number of rhinos present and the percentage of the population that is actually contributing to breeding. Other factors that call for immediate attention is possible reproductive failure due to inbreeding, coupled with a skewed sex ratio. In absence of knowledge-based interventions, the species has a very high risk of extinction over the

next few generations.

The project is due to start in January 2012 and will be implemented in collaboration with Yayasan Badak Indonesia (Rhino Foundation of Indonesia). Members of Rhino Protection Unit teams will be trained to collect genetic samples, which will enable undertaking long term population genetic monitoring of the species. The Wildlife Genetics Program of Aaranyak, who successfully developed markers for Indian Rhinos in India, will provide technical assistance to implement the project in Indonesia. All laboratory work will be conducted in Indonesia at the Eijkman Institute. All work will be conducted under the policies of and with approval of the government of Indonesia.

We would like to acknowledge and specially thank Perth Zoo for a grant of \$9,555 from its Wildlife Conservation Action fundraising program for this project.

Donations to Perth Zoo's Wildlife Conservation Action support the conservation of threatened species in the wild. More than \$1.3 million raised through WCA since 2007 has supported Sumatran Orangutans, Sumatran Tigers, African Painted Dogs, Sun Bears, Tree Kangaroos, Australian native species and now Sumatran Rhinoceros. This is addition to Perth Zoo's other leading edge and, at times, world-first conservation work including breeding animals for release into the wild, research into the reproductive biology of threatened fauna, wildlife rehabilitation services, wildlife medicine training, support for habitat protection and conservation projects in the field, and community education.

Bi-Annual Newsletters

In order to reduce the administration pressure on ARP and our partners, ARP newsletters will now be sent out twice a year rather than each quarter.

For those who would like to be updated more regularly, you can keep up to date with the latest news by registering for e-news updates or on facebook.

E-news update registration can be accessed from the home page of our website www.asianrhinos.org.au.

ARP Has a New Look

The ARP team is very excited to introduce our new logo and website. Still incorporating the three Asian rhino species, the new logo presents a more modern image for the project. In conjunction with the development of the new logo, we have also taken the opportunity to revamp our website. As well as modernising our look, we have added some new content. The site is currently still under construction and will be updated regularly as rhino news comes in, thanks to the new user friendly design implemented by Peter Walker of Imagineer (www.imagineer.net.au).

ARP would like to thank Peter for his kind support and generosity in developing this new site and

logo. He has contributed a great deal of his own time pro-bono to support our cause and has done a great job. We would also like to recognise and thank Rhishja Larson from Saving rhinos.org for allowing us to utilise her rhino design which was the inspiration for the new logo design. Thanks also to ARP WA Branch Manager Sophie Dentrinos who has been instrumental in data input and who continues to update the site regularly!

We hope you can visit us online soon and please, share us with your friends and family.

www.asianrhinos.org.au



Merchandise Manager Wanted

ARP is seeking a volunteer Merchandise Manager to manage the ARP stock and records.

If you think you might be able to help, please contact Kerry at kerry.crosbie@asianrhinos.org.au or by phone at 0889760952. The person would need to be located in Perth as this is where most of our operations are at the moment and we envisage that it would take up no more than ½ hour/week to 1 hour/month.



Christmas Miracle – Healthy Female Rhino Found in Tabin

Lahad Datu, 24th December 2011: There is Christmas joy in the jungle today as a healthy young female Sumatran Rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis harrissoni*) has been safely translocated within Tabin Wildlife Reserve (TWR) on the East Coast of Sabah, Malaysian Borneo.

The Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD), Borneo Rhino Alliance (BORA) and the SWD's special Wildlife Rescue Unit (WRU) captured the rhino, named Puntung, in a joint operation.

"This is a fantastic gift for our uphill battle in ensuring the survival of this truly unique species and wonderful timing with Christmas, a time to give thanks for our blessings," said an elated Dr Laurentius Ambu the Director of the SWD.

Capturing and translocating Puntung was done after months of observation and careful planning to ensure her safety by the dedicated field staff of SWD, BORA and WRU.

"We have monitored her since 2007, and there is no sign that any other rhino has entered her range

in the past five years. This is a stark indication that so few rhinos remain that they are simply not meeting for reproduction," elaborated Dr. Junaidi Payne the Executive Director of BORA.

Puntung had been specifically targeted since early 2010 as the mate for a middle-aged, lone male rhino named Tam, who was rescued from an oil palm plantation in August 2008 and cared for since then in the Borneo Rhino Sanctuary (BRS).

"We know all too well that the Sumatran Rhinoceros is on the brink of extinction with only definite signs of breeding in the wild over the past decade here in Sabah and on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. However, this rate is still far too low to ensure its survival which is why we have initiated this captive breeding programme," said Payne.

A key component of the State Action Plan to ensure the continued existence of the Sumatran Rhino in Sabah includes captive breeding of the rhinos within a large enclosed area covering 20 hectares of natural forest located within TWR. This area is

now known as the Borneo Rhino Sanctuary (BRS) and is managed by the State Government.

The BRS Programme is also in touch with a similar programme underway in Sumatra, Indonesia. While all possible efforts are being made to ensure that natural breeding is prioritised, advanced reproductive technologies, some yet to be developed, will be needed to boost the number of Sumatran rhinos being born as well.

“This is now the very last chance to save this species, one of the most ancient forms of mammal. We need collaboration and support in our efforts to prevent the extinction of this unique species that was once found in abundance,” said Laurentius.

The Director also commended, Sime Darby Foundation and WWF for providing funding support and the Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (Berlin) for technical assistance on rhino reproduction.

He also praised the commitment of all three teams as they are expected to be working throughout the holidays to ensure that Puntung’s safety and well-being as she adjust to her new surroundings.

“The Wildlife Rescue Unit Rangers are also here in Tabin working tirelessly with BORA and SWD Rangers in making sure that Puntung is well taken care of and remains in good health,” said Dr. Laurentius.

Laurentius also thanked the Malaysian Oil Palm Council and the Shangri-La Rasa Ria for funding and supporting SWD’s WRU which acts as the rapid action force his Department.

“The success of this undertaking today was a small part of the bigger group of government, non government and institutes working together to ensuring the survival of the Sumatran Rhino. This cannot be done alone by one agency and we are thankful to have such support,” said Laurentius.

Since 1996, the Sumatran Rhino has been listed as being Critically Endangered, which is one step away from extinction in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)’s Red List.



Congratulations, Aaranyak

Aaranyak, a society for biodiversity conservation in NE India and a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (SIRO) as recognized by the Government of India, has been awarded the prestigious RBS 2011 Earth Guardian Award on 31st October 2011.

The Award ceremony was held at the Global Art Village in Delhi and organised jointly by Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) N.V. and Ranthambore Foundation. The function was graced by Union Minister for Rural Development Mr. Jairam Ramesh and Dr. Karan Singh, member of Parliament. Aaranyak was chosen for award for its outstanding contribution in the field of wildlife research, conservation and awareness generation in NE India.

This year’s awardees are RBS ‘Earth Guardian’ Award for Aaranyak ; RBS Protect the Tiger’ Award for Dr. K. Thulsi Rao and Shri Daulat Singh ; RBS Inspire Award for NDTV ; RBS Green Warrior Award for Shri Nanda Kishore Bhujabal.

The award was received at Delhi by Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, Secretary General of Aaranyak. Dr. Talukdar shared the sustained efforts put up by Aaranyak in the N-E India region with the audience present at the function and expressed his gratitude to Royal Bank of Scotland N.V. and the Ranthambore Foundation for choosing Aaranyak for this prestigious Award.

ARP is proud to support Aaranyak and their projects and congratulate the team in receiving this award. Well done guys!

Update from the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary

Sumatran Rhino Conservation Program

The Critically Endangered Sumatran Rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) is the closest living relative of the woolly rhinoceros of the Ice Age. It is considered the most “primitive” rhino species, with hairy, reddish-brown skin revealing its ancient past. The Sumatran Rhino is also generally considered the most endangered rhino species (CITES Appendix I). Sumatran rhino numbers have declined more than 70% over the last two decades due to poaching for its horn as well as increasing destruction of its habitat. Fewer than 200 Sumatran rhino survive in very small and highly fragmented populations in Southeast Asia, with Indonesia and Malaysia the only significant range countries. The largest populations of wild rhinos are found in Bukit Barisan Selatan (BBS), Gunung Leuser, and Way Kambas National Parks in Sumatra, Indonesia; there is also a small population in the Tabin Wildlife Reserve in Sabah, Malaysia.

With funding support from the Asian Rhino Project, the International Rhino Foundation operates a comprehensive program aimed at protecting and increasing the populations of Sumatran rhinos in Indonesia through our major local partner, the Indonesian Rhino Foundation (YABI). Our multi-faceted approach includes protection of Sumatran rhinos and their habitat (through our Rhino Protection Units), research on and captive breeding of the species at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (the program funded by your grant), and outreach to local communities (including both education programs and alternative income development).



Research and Captive Breeding

There are only 9 Sumatran rhinos in captivity in the world - two at the Cincinnati Zoo, one at the White Oak Conservation Center in Florida, two in Malaysia, and now four at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS). The Asian Rhino Project and International Rhino Foundation participates in the Global Propagation and Management Board, an international group that brings all stakeholders together to manage this small and dispersed captive Sumatran rhino population at a global level. And, with our local partner, YABI, we also manage the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary.

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

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

In February 2011, in Sabah, Malaysia, the Sumatran Rhino Global Propagation and Management Board met to make decisions concerning future collaborative management of the nine Sumatran rhinos in zoos and breeding centers. Big decisions emerging from the meetings were the agreement that the different countries would 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 – time is short and international collaboration is essential if the captive population, a key element of our robust species conservation strategy for Sumatran rhinos, is going to survive long-term.

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

Unfortunately, in April 2011, Torgamba, the elderly male Sumatran rhino (estimated to be 32 years old), died at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, following a long illness which appeared to be associated with chronic renal disease.

Despite several years of treatment for his chronic illness, and the best efforts of the Sanctuary's keepers and veterinary staff in consultation with international rhino experts, Torgamba passed away. SRS vets and staff worked around the clock for several months to make Torgamba's last months comfortable. A necropsy (an animal autopsy) was conducted, involving Indonesian pathology experts.

A basic health screen of all rhinos at the SRS including routine hematology and serum chemistry remains normal. However, fecal parasite examination has again revealed a persistent infection with intestine flukes (*Paramphistomum* sp) and liver flukes (*Fasciola* sp). At first, just Rosa has flukes but screening results in September 2011 showed all the rhinos have been infected with flukes. *Fasciola* is a known pathogen of domestic ungulates and therefore should be eliminated by appropriate therapy if possible. Albendazole has already been used to treat Rhinos; however, this medication has not eliminated the infection. The recurrence of liver fluke infection suggests

that either re-infection from a contaminated environment has occurred or that all forms of the parasite were not eliminated by Albendazole therapy. Other Trematode treatments are being considered including a trematocide combined with a program of strict fecal removal from the environment. As we look into safe and effective treatment and control options for liver fluke infection at the SRS, we will also continue routine evaluation of liver function tests in the rhinos to determine if any symmetric effects from the infection develop.

Beginning in August, the SRS has experienced significantly higher temperatures than normal, and this dry season has been a particularly difficult one. Keepers are monitoring the rhinos very carefully to ensure that they are not suffering from dehydration or foot pad problems as a result of the hot, dry weather. They have also changed the rhinos' normal schedule and wallowing times to avoid the high heat. (Having noted that most of the swamps around the SRS have dried up during this unusually dry season, SRS staff are providing water buckets for wildlife that live in the areas surrounding the SRS, especially birds, sambar deer, barking deer, wild pigs and lizards.)

Over the past several months, in response to increasing illegal encroachment in Way Kambas National Park (where the SRS is located), and increasing rhino poaching rates worldwide, the SRS requested that our Rhino Protection Units begin routine patrols around the SRS borders. The Rhino Protection Units are elite anti-poaching teams that patrol the area of Way Kambas that is home to wild Sumatran rhinos. They monitor the rhinos, remove snares and traps, and apprehend poachers and encroachers. They have not previously patrolled the SRS, but due to increasing human presence in the park and near the sanctuary, staff believe the patrols are



an important preventative measure. A number captive or semi-captive rhinos have recently been poached in Africa, and though poaching in Indonesia is not nearly as severe, we still must be proactive in protecting our rhinos, especially when rhino horn is fetching such high prices on the black market.

Finally, SRS staff also conducted a disease survey in areas surrounding the SRS, looking for occurrence of *Trypanosoma evansi*. With such a small population remaining, it is vitally important to evaluate all the risks towards the species, especially when concentrating them at breeding facilities as one large die off could doom the species to extinction. *Trypanosoma*

evansi, which causes the disease Surra, is a blood parasite of many mammals in Southeast Asia and is a significant threat to the Sumatran Rhino. In November 2003, five Sumatran Rhinos died in an outbreak of *Trypanosoma evansi* over a period of 3 weeks at a breeding facility in Malaysia. Staff tested the rhinos at the SRS, wild rhinos in Way Kambas, wild and captive elephants, and buffalo, cows and other livestock grazing in and near the park. Surprisingly and happily, we found no positive *Trypanosoma* infections. Of course, it is possible that they are infecting with another species of *Trypanosoma*, but at least we know that *Trypanosoma evansi* does not appear to be endemic in the Way Kambas Park area that is good news for the rhinos!

Introducing Wildlife Asia

ARP has joined three other premier conservation organisations: Australian Orangutan Project (AOP), Free the Bears (FTB), and Silvery Gibbon Project (SGP) to form a new umbrella organisation called 'Wildlife Asia'.

The aim of Wildlife Asia is to elicit support for the protection and conservation of Asian wildlife through the field programmes of the above four partner organisations. The primary objective of the Wildlife Asia is to increase: conservation contribution, capacity, efficiency, and development of each of the partner organizations.

This holistic approach will give us access to financial support and resources that are currently not available to us. It will also allow us to explore efficiencies through 'shared services', to ensure that even more of every dollar raised can go straight to the field.

The heads of the other Wildlife Asia partners organisations are: Clare Campbell (SGP) who is also one of ARP's Conservation Fund Managers and Vice Chairperson of the ARP, Leif Cocks (AOP), and Mary Hutton/Matt Hunt (FTB). All of us have been working closely with for many years, assisting each other when we can. Matt Hunt was in fact my inspiration for becoming involved with the Asian rhino species, Leif and Mary were and have continued to be mentors for myself and the ARP and Clare is one of the founders and key members of the Asian Rhino Project.

SGP, ARP and AOP have already run several joint

fund-raising events together and have shown that these partners - can and do, work well together. With all of us working so closely to help each other, it was perhaps predictable that one day we would want a more formal way to increase our mutual goals to conserve Asian Wildlife. This does not mean that ARP and the other partner organisations will disappear - it just means that now we will be part of something much bigger. We plan to publicly launch Wildlife Asia in March 2012.

Wildlife Asia Walkathon

A Call For Helpers (All States)

Asian Rhino Project, Australian Orangutan Project, and Silvery Gibbon Project are joining forces with Free the Bears this year and officially launching the newly formed group WILDLIFE ASIA at the annual Walkathon in March 2012.

Traditionally the walkathon has been held in Perth but this year we are planning to make it a country-wide event. If you think you can get together a bunch of volunteers to organise a walkathon in your town or city, we would love to hear from you. It need not be a big affair but we can assist with advertising and stalls. Last year we raised over \$6,000 in Perth alone!

For more information please contact Sophie Dentrinos at sophie.dentrinos@asianrhinos.org.au or info@asianrhinos.org.au.

The Javan Rhinoceros is Extinct in Vietnam

By WWF and the International Rhino Foundation

WWF and the International Rhino Foundation have confirmed the extinction of the Javan rhinoceros from Vietnam.

Genetic analysis of 22 dung samples collected by a Cat Tien National Park and WWF survey team from 2009 - 2010, confirmed that all of the samples belonged to 1 individual rhinoceros; the same individual that was found dead in the national park in April 2010 shortly after the survey was completed.

The WWF report concluded that as the rhino was found dead with a bullet in its leg and the horn removed, it was a clear case of poaching.

Furthermore, the genetic analysis conducted by Queen's University, Canada, revealed that there were at least 2 rhinos alive when dung samples had been collected in 2004.

"The last Javan rhino on mainland Asia mainland has gone," said Tran Thi Minh Hien, WWF Vietnam Country Director.

"It is painful that despite significant investment in the Vietnamese rhino population, we were not able to conserve this unique animal. We have lost part of our natural heritage."

The rhinoceros was believed to be extinct from mainland Asia until 1988 when an individual was hunted from the Cat Tien area and a small population was confirmed.

From the mid-1990s a number of organizations were heavily involved in efforts to conserve the Javan rhino population in Cat Tien National Park, but the report highlights that ineffective protection was ultimately the cause of the extinction. This is a common problem in most protected areas in Vietnam that threatens the survival of many other species, says WWF.

Illegal hunting to supply the wildlife trade has reduced many species in Vietnam to small and isolated populations. The tiger, Asian elephant and endemic species like the Saola, Tonkin snub-nosed monkey and Siamese crocodile are on the verge of extinction in Vietnam.

"The tragedy of the Vietnamese Javan rhinoceros is a sad symbol of this extinction crisis", said Nick Cox, Manager of WWF's Species Programme in the Greater Mekong.

"The single most important action to conserve Vietnam's endangered species is protection in their natural habitat to deter poaching and illegal wildlife trade".

Furthermore, WWF recognises the role that habitat loss played in sealing the fate of the rhino in Vietnam. They warn that along with inadequate law enforcement and ineffective protected area management in Vietnam, encroachment and infrastructure development occurring within and close to Vietnam's protected areas will only exert additional pressures on these already fragile populations.

"Reintroduction of the rhinoceros to Vietnam is not economically or practically feasible. It is almost certainly gone from Vietnam forever", said Christy Williams, WWF's Asian Elephant and Rhino Programme Coordinator.

The Javan rhinoceros is now confined to one population in a small national park in Indonesia. The species is critically endangered and with demand for rhino horn for the Asian traditional medicine trade increasing every year, protection and expansion of the Indonesian population is the highest priority.

"We must make sure that we learn lessons from what happened to the Javan rhinoceros in Vietnam, to ensure that we do not face a similar situation in Indonesia a few years down the line" said Susie Ellis of the International Rhino Foundation.

ARP supported WWF programs in Cat Tien and we are devastated at the loss of this sub-species. 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 a period of 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.

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.

Funds were withdrawn from the project and the unspent portion (approx \$2,500AUD) has now been allocated to preserving the remains of the last standing Vietnamese Javan Rhinoceros.

ARP is Going Paperless

ARP is planning to become a 'paperless' organisation to assist in doing our bit for the environment. We will be removing the 'receive newsletters by mail' option from our membership forms and ask that members who receive newsletters by mail (currently only 12 members) consider changing to email too.

We will also need to make changes to our constitution to enable ARP to notify members of Special and Annual General Meetings by e-mail which we will propose in our next AGM. All receipts and general notices will be sent by e-mail and we will encourage registration forms to be sent via e-mail also.

Should you have any concerns or input please contact us at info@asianrhinos.org.au.

Have you ever felt that you want to help
save a species or a precious piece of land?

You can.

Drop us an e-mail on info@asianrhinos.org.au or phone Kerry on 08 89760952.

We are awaiting your call!

Any help no matter how small is extremely worthwhile, even attending our events or talking to your friends about the rhinos is directly helping the Asian Rhino Projects quest to save the three Asian rhino species, the Sumatran, Javan and Indian rhinos.



Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area

International Rhino Foundation

Indonesia's remote Ujung Kulon National Park holds the only viable population of the Critically Endangered Javan rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*). No more than an estimated 44 Javan rhinos remain on the planet, and surveys and other data suggest that only 4-5 females are still breeding. The breeding population of Javan rhinos occupies primarily the western half of Ujung Kulon National Park (UKNP), and thus is susceptible to catastrophic losses from disease or natural disasters. Although the population is believed to be stable, it likely has reached its carrying capacity in the current habitat and probably cannot grow any larger without intervention.

The species faces significant risk of extinction from a single natural disaster or introduced disease. Ujung Kulon and surrounding areas were decimated by the eruption of Krakatau in 1883, one of the most violent volcanic events in modern times. Anak Krakatau ("son of Krakatau") is still active, and the risk of another eruption, and the possibility of a resulting tsunami, still exists. There also have been a handful of rhino deaths as a result of diseases introduced by domestic livestock living in villages near the park.

The Government of Indonesia's Strategy and

Action Plan for the Conservation of Rhinos in Indonesia, 2007-2017, commits to expanding the habitat available to Javan rhinos in Ujung Kulon, which should allow the population to spread out and increase. This in turn would allow us to eventually translocate some animals to establish a second population at a separate site, further helping to expand the species' population and prevent its extinction. IRF is now working in partnership with Yayasan Badak Indonesia, WWF-Indonesia, and the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry to implement this strategy.

Per an agreement among the members of the Javan Rhino Task Force, in 2009, IRF commissioned Dr. Andy Gillison, world-renowned rapid habitat assessment expert, to evaluate potential translocation sites in Java (with a small team). Short-term recommendations of this assessment were to establish a 4,000 hectare Javan rhino research and conservation area inside the Gunung Honje area with intensified active management, including replanting natural forest vegetation with rhino food plants in some areas, carefully implementing controlled slash and burn patch management in designated and closed forest areas to promote regeneration of rhino food plants, and continuing and increasing

anti-poaching protection, including establishing new patrol paths and additional guard posts in Gunung Honje.

Infestation by Langkap (Arenga) palm, an invasive species that poses a serious threat to rhino food plants, also will be reduced.

Our Rhino Protection Units have found that between 2 and 4 rhinos are already regularly utilizing the Gunung Honje area. If we modify this habitat to make it more suitable for rhinos, more individuals should move into the area.

Spreading out the Javan rhino population should allow it to increase, providing extra individuals who could eventually be moved to a second habitat altogether. Scientists, veterinarians and researchers will also be able monitor and gather information on the Gunung Honje population. Because we have so little data on the Javan rhino, this "study area" will help us gather critical information necessary for creating translocation protocols and for better protecting and managing this species.

Work to establish the Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area in Gunung Honje is progressing well. Our team on the ground worked very hard to gain the official approval required from all levels of government – village, provincial and central. And, with participation from IRF and YABI, the government of Indonesia formally launched the Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area on June 21, 2010, with full support of the provincial government as well as the Ministry of Forestry.

Project Goals and Objectives

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 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.

Progress to Date

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. 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.

There are already 2 – 4 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.

As one of the first steps towards establishing the JRSCA, park authorities 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 the rhinos. UKNP authorities successfully negotiated with people living in two villages inside the park (Ranca Pinang and Ujung Jaya) and to-date have helped moved 80 families living illegally in the park. These families agreed to relocate outside park boundaries, and thus became eligible to participate in various job opportunities, including construction/development of the JRSCA.

The relocated villagers also requested training for alternative income opportunities, and YABI staff in working with park officials to identify development needs and facilitate training.

Other early steps include building one base camp and four new guard posts to provide for the security of the area. Construction of the guard posts is underway; one has been completed in the Cilantang area of the park (see photo below). The rest will be completed soon.



At the same time, we are working on constructing a fence on the eastern part of the park to keep domestic cattle, which carry disease to which rhinos are susceptible, from entering the park. The map to the right shows the eastern half of UKNP, with the Gunung Honje/Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area shown between the two black/red lines.



The fence will also make it easier for biologists and veterinarians to study the rhinos. Working with a team from the national park and Ministry of Forestry, our staff surveyed the area and determined the most effective fence path. The fence will be around 23 kilometers in length, and the fence path will be around 10 meters in width

(to allow for patrols along the path). The fence path will follow along two abandoned plantation areas (Aer Mokla and Kuta Karang), which reduces the need for land clearing (pictured at right).

Workers have already begun clearing a small, unpaved road along the fence placement; they have currently cleared around 1/3 of the planned fence path. At the moment, land clearing has been temporarily halted so that project staff and government officials can respond to some complaints and misconceptions published in the local press.

YABI staff, working closely with Indonesian government officials, have held a number of community meetings and socialization activities (see description below) to explain the need for the fence and the safeguards they have put in place to reduce environmental impact. We expect land clearing to resume very soon, and fence construction will begin after the Detail Engineering Design has been finalized.

Another major focus has been restoring good habitat for the rhino in the JRSCA area. Much of the park has been taken over by the invasive Arenga palm (*Arenga obtusifolia*). The JRSCA area has to be re-zoned as a 'research zone' in order to accommodate our work to eradicate Arenga palm. A supporting environmental risk assessment was carried out prior to beginning the work.



Using transect grids, staff have mapped the entire JRSCA area. They have measured the amount of Arenga infestation (around 1,300 hectares), and have also mapped water resources and vegetation types.

The Aer Mokla area was selected as the site within Gunung Honje for the initial eradication and re-planting plot. We have hired local workers, including people who were relocated from inside the park, and have formed 4 teams of workers for arenga mitigation. We have developed 38

trial plots, totalling around 30 hectares and did a vegetation analysis of each plot.

Workers created the pilot sites in June and July, where we are testing two different methods for removing Arenga palm and regenerating rhino food plants. Half of the plots have been cut, with leaf debris removed so that the soil is clean, and the other half have been cut with the leaf debris remaining so that emerging plants have some protection from the hot tropical sun.



After just 3 weeks, many of the plots began showing a good outgrowth of rhino food plants where the palm had been cut. After the Arenga removal was completed, the Rhino Protection Units and National Park staff began regular monitoring of the cleared areas, using geo-spatial technology and direct visits.

Over a three-month period, 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.



Local workers have also developed a nursery area, where they are collecting seeds of rhino food plants. They have already collected nearly 15,000 seeds from 99 different species of food plants, and have started growing seedlings (photo at right).

These seedlings will be used to replant the former Arenga infestation areas with rhino food plants. (Although, as mentioned earlier, we were pleased to see that the cleared pilot sites are already showing good regeneration of rhino food plants without us even planting seedlings.)

Staff have also mapped the five rivers in the area, and detected 7 potential water resources. They have also identified potential water resources for the dry season. This data will be used during the next stage of the project to develop/enhance water sources and wallows for the rhino population in Gunung Honje.

Project staff have worked hard to socialize the project with local communities and stakeholders, and to address any concerns raised about the environmental impact of the project.

We have launched an awareness program for the two villages closest to the project area, and more broadly within the two sub-districts that contain the park. Staff distributed leaflets and posters, held community meetings, and have done radio broadcasts.

We have also met with and made presentations to local government officials, Ministry of Forestry officials, local NGOs, the local police departments, universities, and journalists.

Although there have been some environmental concerns raised in the media, the project has the full support of the government of Indonesia and local communities, and all project activities are being implemented according to the recommendations of a detailed, independent environmental risk assessment.

Over the next few months, we expect to complete clearing the fence path and begin construction of the electric fences and bridges, and finish construction of the guard posts. (These construction activities will be dependent on the severity of the upcoming rainy season, however.)

We will complete analysis of the habitat management pilot sites and expand the habitat management activities, and will begin work on wallows and water sources.

Every single day, another rhino is killed in South Africa...

International Rhino Foundation

Poachers are exterminating rhino after rhino, solely for their horns. Rhino horn, made of keratin (the same material that makes up your hair and fingernails), sells on the black market for prices equivalent to diamonds and gold, for use in traditional Asian medicine.

As the demand for rhino horn in China, Vietnam, and other Asian countries increases, poaching rates in southern Africa have soared sky high. More than 440 rhinos have been lost during 2011 in South Africa alone.

Responding to high demand and high prices, poaching gangs are becoming more sophisticated, more vicious and much harder to catch.

South African authorities estimate that only 3% of rhino poachers are convicted – they are literally getting away with murder. But there are thousands of dedicated, passionate rangers in South Africa and Zimbabwe, standing in between the rhinos and the poachers.

Try to imagine that you are one of the brave rangers committed to protecting these beautiful animals. You've agreed to spend weeks at a time on patrol in the bush, away from your home and family, to monitor rhinos and to protect them from poachers. You're tasked with tracking and arresting poachers, often without even basic equipment like binoculars, radios, GPS, flashlights, or tents. And you're facing well-organized criminal gangs armed with machine guns, sophisticated animal tracking equipment, and even small planes.

It's an unbelievably difficult and dangerous job, and yet, every day, hundreds of rangers in Zimbabwe and South Africa put their lives on the line to protect rhinos – and they need our help.

IRF has partnered with security experts in South Africa to improve anti-poaching operations in eleven highly threatened rhino habitats in South Africa and Zimbabwe. Our security experts will assess the current operations in each protected area, and will then provide targeted training and basic equipment to rangers. Rangers will be trained in investigative techniques, intelligence gathering, evidence collection, communications, and rhino identification and monitoring, among other topics. They will also receive scene-of-crime kits containing basic investigation equipment including a camera, metal detector, GPS, finger-

printing materials, and sealable evidence bags.

The impact is big.

One of our partners has already conducted training on rhino crime investigation and prosecution for law enforcement officials in several hard-hit provinces of Zimbabwe. Just six months after the training, we've seen a marked increase in successful convictions and more severe sentences, with nine poachers already sentenced to between 10 to 20 years in jail each. With provision of equipment, training and advocacy, the rate of poaching convictions in Zimbabwe has risen from just 3% two years ago to 22% today. With just a little more help, we can make that rate much higher.

The poaching losses in Africa are heartbreaking. Every day, we see pictures of rhinos with their horns cut off, left to bleed to death on the ground. But there is hope.

Rhinos are resilient, and the tireless rangers working to protect them will not give up. With just a little help, we can paint a different picture – of healthy rhino moms with newborn calves, and of rhino populations growing and spreading out across southern Africa.

2011 was a tough year for rhinos, but 2012 doesn't have to be.

Help us make 2012 "The Year of the Rhino," and create a safer world for African rhinos.

Two subspecies of rhino have been declared extinct in the past three months: the Vietnamese Javan rhino and the western black rhino, which was last found in Cameroon. Even though both of these announcements were, sadly, expected, this alarming news makes everything else we are doing to save the remaining rhinos on Earth all the more important.

In the wake of this news, many folks have sent inquiries as to whether we have lost these species (and our battles) altogether. Both the Javan and black rhino species still exist – but we have lost a genetically distinct unit of each of them (a subspecies), which can never be replaced. For those of you who aren't familiar with taxonomy, a subspecies ranks immediately below a species. Subspecies designation is usually based on characteristics that result from

geographic isolation; subspecies are genetically distinguishable from other populations of the same species but can interbreed successfully with them if/where their ranges overlap.

These recent announcements are sobering reminders that despite their reputation for being tough, rhinos are quite fragile. In 1998, the first images of Vietnam's Javan rhinos (*Rhinoceros sondaicus annamiticus*) were captured by WWF camera traps. From that work, we learned that there were no more than 3-5 Javan rhinos remaining in Vietnam's Cat Tien National Park – and only one sighting was recorded in Vietnam after 2008. In 2008, in partnership with WWF, IRF funded a project to try to learn the size of the population. "Sniffer" dogs, trained in the US and Vietnam, were deployed to find rhino dung, which was then dried and sent to Queen's University in Canada for DNA analysis to determine the sex and number of animals. Unfortunately, it turned out that all of the samples were from the same animal. This male was found dead in May 2010 with a bullet wound in its leg and his horns removed – the last of his kind.

Like most rhinos in Africa, at the beginning of the 20th Century, the western black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis longipes*) was heavily hunted. By the 1930s, the population seemed to be recovering, but later, protection efforts declined and by 1980 only a few hundred were left. By 2000, only 10 were estimated to survive. In 2006, investigators (including our own Jackson Kamwi, one of the world's best rhino trackers) mounted an intensive survey of northern Cameroon, where the species was last sighted. No rhinos – or rhino signs like dung, tracks, or signs of feeding - were found. The subspecies was officially declared extinct in 2011.

In the face of these losses, Javan rhinos and black rhinos still persist. Javan rhinos are now in a particularly perilous position. Found only in Indonesia's Ujung Kulon National Park, no more than 44 are thought to remain. The IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group recognizes three remaining subspecies of black rhino: the south-central black rhino (*Diceros bicornis minor* – the most numerous subspecies), the south-western black rhino (*Diceros bicornis bicornis* - adapted to dry climates and occurring in arid savannas) and the East African black rhino (*Diceros bicornis michaeli* – which prefers highland forest and savanna habitat).

So what are we doing to save Javan and black rhinos?

Javan rhinos. In addition to on-the-ground protection by Rhino Protection Units which have prevented poaching for more than 16 years in Ujung Kulon National Park, IRF's main push is to establish the ~3,000 hectare Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area with intensified active management inside the eastern part (Gunung Honje) of the park. Expanding the habitat available to Javan rhinos in Ujung Kulon should allow the population to increase, which in turn would allow us to eventually translocate some animals to establish a second population at a separate site, further helping to expand the species' population and prevent its extinction. We have raised all but \$100,000 for this \$650,000 project, called Operation Javan Rhino.

Black rhinos now number about 4,838, with the largest populations in South Africa, Namibia, Kenya and Zimbabwe. Over the past 3 years across southern Africa, rhinos have been particularly hard-hit by well-organized gangs of poachers. In South Africa alone, more than 370 rhinos have been poached this year. Despite losses, however, intensive protection and proactive management actions are allowing black rhino populations to continue to slowly grow across their range. IRF focuses its black rhino work in Zimbabwe, where protection efforts through the Lowveld Rhino Trust have led to a marked decrease in poaching over the last 2 years: from 87 animals in 2009 to no more than 30 so far this year. Even with this decrease, 30 poached rhinos is 30 too many and we are not by any means complacent.

We cannot lose sight of the positive news either – that thanks to concerted efforts by conservationists around the globe, rhino populations have increased by 60% since 2003. We've won and lost some battles since then, but we will not give up until rhinos, and other species sharing their habitat, have a secure future.

You can help by donating to IRF through their website www.rhinos-irf.org/support/ or for Australian residents wishing to make a tax deductible donation you can contribute to Asian rhino programs through ARP www.asianrhinos.org.au or African rhino programs through SAVE Foundation of Australia www.savefoundation.org.au.

Committee Updates

Meetings: The ARP had their annual Committee Meeting and Annual General Meeting on 5 and 6 October, 2011.

Project Director Kerry Crosbie presented the ARP 2010-2011 Annual Report outlining all projects supported through the year as well as general operations and audited accounts.

Elections for National Committee were carried out and stand as:

Project Director	Kerry Crosbie
Vice Chairperson	Clare Campbell
Secretary	Colin Campbell
Treasurer	Lorraine Dunn
WA Branch Manager	Sophie Dentrinos
NSW Branch manager	Kristy Garard
General Member	Carly Holyoake
General Member	Shae Holden

The ARP Board, who manage the Asian Rhino Projects Conservation Fund (Public Fund), remained the same for financial year 2010/2011 however, Andrew Thompson resigned in August 2011 and has been replaced by Carly Holyoake and Clare Campbell.

Rhino Adoptions: Frances Ingall accepted the position of managing rhino adoptions and is in the process of evaluating the program and implementing exciting new changes. Welcome Frances!

Memberships: ARP would like to welcome Denise Vincent as the new Membership Co-ordinator from November 2011. Denise is a retired primary school teacher who is keen to assist ARP with administration of memberships.

A very special thank you to Eveline Read for all the hard work she has done managing the memberships until now. Eveline is an active ARP member who not only assisted with the management of memberships but continues to offer her extensive experience managing volunteer organisations wherever she can. A busy grandmother and Docent at the Perth Zoo, Eveline has assured us that she is keen to assist wherever she can for which we are very grateful. Thanks to you both.

ARP Administrator: ARP is pleased to introduce Shae Holden who has been contracted to ARP to assist with administration and operations. Shae is

an Animal Behaviour & Training Consultant whose dedication and commitment to helping animals has led her to work throughout the Australasian region as well as USA, China, Vietnam and Jordan.

Shae has worked with a number of animal facilities, institutions & film production companies, but primarily focuses her efforts on working with animal welfare organisations and rescue centres.

Her animal training experience has encompassed working with a variety of animal species including marine mammals, elephants, bear species, big cats and various domestic animals.

Shae is contracted as Administrative Officer to the ARP for two days a week and has recently been accepted to join the ARP Committee.

WA Branch: On September 22 (World Rhino Day), the WA Branch celebrated by hosting a Rock Climb for Rhinos. The night was lots of fun and raised \$526.99 for the rhinos. Thanks to all who helped on the night, and to Urban Ascent for use of their climbing gym.

Pencil 18 March 2012 into your diaries for our annual walkathon at the Shelley River Foreshore in Perth. It's sure to be even bigger next year in collaboration with three other NGO's: the Australian Orangutan Project, Silvery Gibbon Project and Free the Bears, as part of our launch of Wildlife Asia.



In the News

Raiders steal fake rhino horns in Britain – 27 August 2011

Two rhinoceros horns were stolen from a British museum on Saturday - only the horns were fake and worthless.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hhkkbNqt5-jP7XBsHnneilE43gnQ?docId=CNG.b8c6206079ef2416b87f96a4bc571f48.b1>

Poachers kill rhino in Kaziranga, second in 4 months – 31 August 2011

Kaziranga National Park on Tuesday lost a full-grown female rhino when poachers not only managed to sneak into the Park to shoot down the animal but also escaped with its horn, official sources said.

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/Poachers-kill-rhino-in-Kaziranga--second-in-4-months/839416/>

Rhino poachers' toxic shock – 8 September 2011

Some game owners, desperate to save their endangered rhino from poachers, have resorted to cutting their horns off.

But the Rhino Rescue Project has come up with a kinder, but equally radical proposal - injecting the prized horns with a parasiticide that is extremely toxic to humans.

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/2011/09/08/rhino-poachers-toxic-shock>

Rhino found dead in Chitwan – 9 September 2011

A rare one-horn rhino has been found dead in Megghauli of Chitwan last night.

The rhino was found dead in Bethari Community Forest in Megghauli VDC-8, according to Chitwan National Park.

No organs of the rhino have been missed. It seems the rare wildlife was killed in a struggle between the two rhinos, informed Chitwan Police.

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Rhino+found+dead+in+Chitwan&NewsID=302199>

Human DNA trap set for deer poachers – 9 September 2011

Criminals who poach deer and other animals could be tracked through tiny samples of their DNA, researchers say.

Scientists in Scotland have shown it is possible to retrieve human DNA from the carcasses of dead animals in quantities that can identify the perpetrator.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-14811134>

Legalise the sale of rhino horns? – 19 September 2011

LEGENDARY conservationist Dr Ian Player has once again called for a debate on legalising the sale of rhino horns in a bid to combat the poaching crisis.

But he stressed that trading should be confined to horns from rhinos that had died naturally, rather than by dehorning live rhinos.

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/kwazulu-natal/legalise-the-sale-of-rhino-horns-1.1140347>

South Africans, Vietnamese meet on rhino poaching – 28 September 2011

More needs to be done to dispel the myth among the Vietnamese that rhinoceros horn can cure cancer, Vietnamese officials said Wednesday after meeting with their South African counterparts

about curbing rhino poaching.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/09/28/south-africans-vietnamese-meet-rhino-poaching_n_984814.html

Nepal villagers use camomile to scare off rhinos – 29 September 2011

It can soothe a troubled mind and calm a rebellious gut, but a remote Nepalese forest community has discovered another unlikely use for camomile -- it scares away unruly rhinos.

<http://www.mysin Chew.com/node/64394>

Pobitora steps up guard to thwart poachers – 19 October 2011

With the calm of the serene Pobitora grasslands shattered by poachers' bullets after a lull of over five years, the forest authorities have been sent into a tizzy as they are desperately trying to augment security arrangements and intelligence gathering in the tiny wildlife sanctuary that boasts of a very high concentration of the rhino.

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct2011/at096>

Spurt in rhino poaching at Kaziranga – 22 October 2011

Kaziranga National Park has an international fame for its rich biodiversity in flora and fauna and fame especially for one horned rhinos. KNP is also a famous tourist spot.

It is to be mentioned that every country of the world has been trying to create awareness among the natural lovers to protect, preserve and to conserve the forest wealth, flora and fauna. But it is matter of grave concern that the rhinos of Kaziranga National Park have been facing great trouble. The poaching in KNP is increasing extensively.

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=oct2311/state05>

Poachers Drive Javan Rhino to Extinction in Vietnam – 25 October 2011

Sad news coming out of Vietnam today: the Javan rhinoceros subspecies (*Rhinoceros sondaicus annamiticus*), once endemic to Southeast Asia, has been confirmed as extinct, according to WWF International. There are now officially no rhinos left in Vietnam.

<http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/extinction-countdown/2011/10/25/poachers-drive-javan-rhino-to-extinction-in-vietnam/>

Survey of Rare Javan Rhinos Finds Few Females – 28 October 2011

A survey of endangered Javan rhinos in an Indonesian park has found far fewer females than males, a potential setback in efforts to save the species.

Video cameras set up in the eastern half of Ujung Kulon National Park recorded 17 rhinos this year. Just four were female.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/10/28/javan-rhinos-survey-few-females_n_1063924.html

Malaysia must take action to avoid extinction of its last rhinos – 5 November 2011

Malaysia must take immediate action to prevent the extinction of the handful of rhinos that survive on the island of Borneo, says a coalition of environmental groups.

In a statement issued today, the Borneo Rhino Alliance, Land Empowerment Animals People, Resources Stewardship Consultants, the Malaysian Nature Society, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, and WWF-Malaysia said it is too late to save Malaysia's rhinos by simply leaving them to on their own scattered across remaining forest areas in the state of Saban.

http://news.mongabay.com/2011/1105-malaysian_rhino.html

Two rhino species bite the dust: Red List – 9 November 2011

Several species of rhino have been poached into extinction or to the point of no return, according to an update of the Red List of Threatened Species, the gold standard for animal and plant conservation.

All told, a quarter of all mammal species assessed are at risk of extinction, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), which compiles the list, said on Thursday.

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gGITNHR_p6CG5EzAQiRGfkgWZ5FQ?docId=CNG.4f0c63687383f92d2e2672061cd48532.781

Hong Kong seizes record haul of rhino horns – 15 November 2011

Hong Kong customs officers have seized a record haul of 33 rhino horns along with ivory chopsticks and bracelets hidden inside a container shipped from South Africa, officials said on Tuesday.

Officers found the horns along with 758 ivory chopsticks and 127 ivory bracelets in a haul worth a total of about \$2.2-million during a search Monday of a container declared as containing "scrap plastic".

<http://mg.co.za/article/2011-11-15-hong-kong-seizes-record-haul-of-rhino-horns/>

Rhino Crisis Round Up: Four Rhino Killers Arrested in India & More – 23 November 2011

The good guys prevailed in this week's battle to protect the world's rhinos from medicinal myths about rhino horn: A rhino killing gang was busted in India, while another suspected rhino killer was arrested near South Africa's border with Mozambique.

<http://planetsave.com/2011/11/23/rhino-crisis-round-up-four-rhino-killers-arrested-in-india-more/>

Mutilated body of male rhino recovered – 30 November 2011

Lakimpur - Mutilated body of a male rhino, suspected to have been killed by poachers for its horn, was recovered in Sonaripur range by the Dudhwa Tiger Reserve (DTR) authorities.

<http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/mutilated-body-of-male-rhino-recovered/919783.html>

Rhinos given fake horns – 22 December 2011

A Swiss museum has taken the drastic step of replacing the horns of its rhinos with fakes to deter thieves fuelling a lucrative global trade.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/world/news/article.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=10774696

No rhino poached in past one year – 23 December 2011

There was a time when poachers would kill one-horned rhino in Chitwan National Park (CNP) every week but in the past one year not a single rhino has been killed in the whole country.

The last time poachers had killed a male rhino was on January 3 in the Dhoba Post area of CNP. "We have decided to celebrate Zero Poaching Year on Januray 3, 2012," said Chief Conservation Officer at CNP Jhamak Bahadur Karki.

http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=39893#

Search on for Sumatran rhinoceroses – 29 December 2011

The number of Sumatran rhinoceroses in the peninsula has dwindled to a level where one rhino might never meet another of its kind in its entire lifetime.

Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan) conservation division senior assistant director Mohd Samsudin Mohd Suri said it had been more than 15 years since a Sumatran rhinoceros had been seen in the wild.

<http://news.asiaone.com/News/AsiaOne%2BNews/Malaysia/Story/A1Story20111229-318854.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.



Ethical
Managed Funds



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.

MALLESONS STEPHEN JAQUES



Join Up or Renew Today

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

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

I would like to support Asian Rhino Project by becoming a member for: (please tick)

- 1 year = AU\$30 3 years = AU\$80 5 years = AU\$130 Life = AU\$400

Please ensure your e-mail address is included above OR provide an alternative e-mail address we can send your newsletter to on your behalf. Please use this alternative e-mail for my newsletters and notices _____

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.



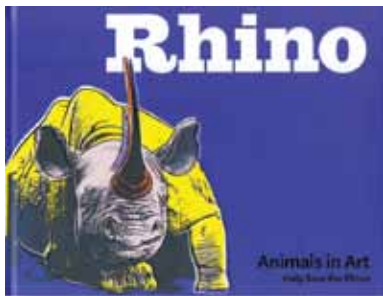
Rhino Earrings – \$20



Pens – \$4



Coloured Earrings – \$8



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



ARP T-shirts – \$19



Rhino Hand Puppet – \$15



Magnets – 50c



Stickers
FREE with purchase of sale items. While stocks last.



Rhino Soft Toys – \$20ea



SALE

Wine Cooler – \$9.50



SALE

Drink Bottles – \$3.50



SALE

Thermal Mug (350ml) – \$5.50
Thermal Mug (750ml) – \$8.00

Merchandise Order Form

Item	Cost	Colour (please circle)	Quantity	Total
Rhino Rembrandt	\$475	N/A		
Rhino – Animals in Art	\$22	N/A		
ARP T-shirts	\$19	black white Women's sizes: 10-14 Men's sizes: S-XL		
Rhino Hand Puppet	\$15			
Rhino Soft Toy	\$20	sitting up or standing		
Coloured Earrings	\$8	yellow (long) red yellow (short) blue black/orange		
Rhino Earrings	\$20	gold silver		
Pen	\$4	red blue black		
Sticker	Free	N/A		
Magnet	50c	N/A		
Wine Cooler	\$9.50	terracotta		
Thermal Mug (350ml)	\$5.50	purple pink green blue black		
Thermal Mug (750ml)	\$8	green black khaki		
Drink Bottle	\$3.50	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: _____