

The Rhino Print

Winter 2012



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Welcome to the Winter 2012 Newsletter

Welcome to another ARP newsletter jam packed with project reports and other interesting stories.

ARP is proud to support four new projects this past six months. Two are DNA population studies (one in India and the other with the Sumatran and Javan rhino in Indonesia). Also supported is an Educational Tool Kit in Nepal and a Mega-fauna Camera Trap Survey in Way Kambas National Park, Indonesia.

Exciting news to report with the birth of 'Andatu', a male Sumatran rhino calf born to Andalas and Ratu at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. Also of Greater one-horned rhino population surveys reporting an increase of rhino populations in both India and Nepal.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia declared the 5th of June 2012 as the start of the International Year of the Rhino. The government also made commitments to establish a high-level rhino task force of national and international experts; allocate sufficient resources to enforce protection of remaining rhino populations, and ensure that there is regular and intensive monitoring of all rhino populations in Indonesia.

Wildlife Asia is holding an event for ARP on the 1st August at the Sydney Botanical Gardens. Tim Flannery and Peter Hall, Patrons of the Asian Rhino Project, will be talking about the global biodiversity crisis and the role of Australian conservationists in Indonesia. Please see more of this in our committee report and let anyone know who may be interested in attending.

The AGM is booked for 16 October this year. We hope many of you will be able to attend.

Kind Regards,

Kerry Crosbie
Project Director





It's a Boy!

By Susie Ellis, International Rhino Foundation

We are delighted to announce that on Saturday 23 June, at 12:45 am, Ratu gave birth to a healthy male calf, weighing between 27 and 32 kilograms.

The arrival of the calf, named "Andatu" (meaning "Gift from God" in Bahasa, and also a combination of the name of his parents), is an auspicious beginning to the President of Indonesia's declaration of 2012 as International Year of the Rhino earlier this month, supported by numerous other rhino range countries.

I'm pleased to be able to share here my own 'bird's eye view' of the blessed event here at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. For me, this has been an incredible career highlight.

Friday Night/Saturday Morning

At about 11:00 pm on 22 June, it became clear that Ratu had entered second-stage labour, with the embryonic sac just starting to emerge. It had been a long week up to this point.

On Monday, Ratu was confined to a small boma area within the forest, with access to two maternity stalls. (For Ratu, it might have been the equivalent of moving from a four or five-bedroom house with acreage to a studio apartment...)

She very much wanted to go back into her larger rain forest pen, but for her safety and that of the calf, she needed to be in a smaller area so that the birth situation could be managed in case she got into trouble.

Ratu was exceedingly restless in the boma, pacing, chewing up rubber water bins, breaking up plywood barriers with her horn (barriers have been put up to make sure the tiny calf can't slip through the maternity stall rails).

To keep her occupied, Ratu's keepers devised a variety of enrichment 'toys' ranging from logs to placing bananas in tree crevices and hanging browse in different areas of the boma, which worked like a charm.

As delivery got closer, Ratu's appetite waned, and there was a noticeable difference in her behaviour with her restlessness seeming to be more self-than environmentally-focused.

One thing she did repeatedly was put her front legs up on trees or on the stall barriers, as if she were stretching. Perhaps this behaviour is one way the mother helps get the calf into position for delivery, who knows?

Because we wanted Ratu to be as calm as possible, only two keepers, Dr. Dedi Candra, SRS veterinarian and collection manager, Dr. Benn Bryant, veterinarian at Taronga Conservation Society Australia and Cincinnati Zoo keeper Paul Reinhart, who attended all three births at that facility, were allowed to be in the birthing area when the big moment arrived.

IRF had invested in a closed-circuit television system to allow continuous monitoring of the birthing area, placing four moveable cameras

around the birthing area, as well as hand-held cameras.

The rest of the SRS keepers, Inov (our Indonesia Liaison) and I watched the whole event together over the monitors at their quarters. It was an anxious few minutes when the calf emerged and before we could clearly see it moving about. But Dr. Candra later assured us that the calf had been breathing and moving right away, which we weren't able to immediately see in the darkness.

After the placenta was passed, it was whisked to the lab where I stood ready to process and freeze cells, as I was trained to do at the San Diego Zoo Centre for Conservation Research a few weeks ago. These cells hopefully can be used to generate stem cells in the future, which may have a number of potential uses from curing diseases to helping promote reproduction. This is another way in which this birth can contribute new knowledge and tools potentially important to sustaining the future of the species.

By 8 am, the samples were safely preserved in liquid nitrogen and I headed back to the main building – at about the same time the vets returned with ear-to-ear smiles that haven't left their faces since.

Baby Rhino Found

After the absence of regular monitoring and patrolling activities in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park for two years, in November 2011 the Rhino Protection Units (RPU) have finally found signs of a rhino baby in the upper area of Way Krui.

The signs of the existence of a baby rhino were in form of footprints and fresh dung. Larger footprints were also found next to the baby tracks.

Apparently, the RPU encountered a female and infant rhino on this occasion. Based on the size of the footprint, the age of the baby rhino was estimated between 1 and 1.5 years.

Ivory Trade and Tiger Skins

By Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI)

Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam (BKSDA) Lampung confiscated 85 pieces of tiger skins and 8 cigarette pipes made of elephant tusks and whale fish bones from two local residents of Kotaagung, Tanggamus. Tanggamus is the district where the Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park is

A Critical Milestone

The story of this calf truly is an international success, in addition to a terrific 'girl-meets-boy' tale. This milestone has been achieved with the support and advice of numerous rhino experts across the globe.

Andalas, the father, was born at the Cincinnati Zoo in 2001 and brought over to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in 2007.

Ratu wandered out of the forest in 2005 and was brought to the Sanctuary to keep her from harm. After many introductions, and two pregnancy losses, the pair finally has produced a calf.

This birth is another step forward in ensuring the future of the world's most endangered large mammal.

The Sanctuary costs about \$225,000 to operate annually of which ARP assists to fund. Please consider helping to support the rhinos, keepers and vets at the SRS to keep the momentum moving forward to secure this species' future.

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located as home to many rare and endangered mammals such as sumatran rhinoceros, tigers, and elephant.

The confiscation operation performed by joint forces between BKSDA Lampung, the YABI Rhino Protection Units and the Intelligence Law Enforcement Unit (ILEU) team of Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park. Particular recognition must go to the members of the RPU: Saptono, Hendra Wijaya, Uga Yogaswara, Mad Nurzen, Zulkifli and Ujang Suryadi from the ILEU team.

Intelligence operations took place mid February to early March 2011 leading to the arrests taking place on 3 March 2011. The suspects and physical evidence were brought to BKSDA II Tanjung Karang office for preliminary investigation. The next day both suspects and the evidence were brought to Police Resort of Lampung. According to the Act No. 5 of 1990 concerning Conservation of Living Resources and Their Ecosystem article 21 paragraph (2), suspects will be sentenced to 5 years in prison and have fines of at least 100 million rupiahs.



The IRV 2020 veterinary team and tranquilized rhino. Photo by IRF

Indian Rhino Vision 2020 Program Update

By the International Rhino Foundation

Two more female greater one-horned rhinos have been moved from Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary to Manas National Park by the IRV 2020 teams.

The rhinos have been closely watched by the highly-trained monitoring team as they adjust to their new home.

Each rhino was fitted with a radio collar that allows the teams to determine where they are, how they are moving, and with which other rhinos they may be associating. WWF-India will oversee long-term monitoring of the animals.

Together, India's Kaziranga National Park and Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary currently hold about 75% of the world's greater one-horned rhino population, and thus serve as a source of animals for repopulating other protected areas. Poachers killed the last remaining rhinos in Manas National Park in the 1990s and it wasn't until a few years ago that a return could be attempted. Recently Manas was restored as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and since 2008, ten rhinos have been released into the area - four male and six female rhinos. Four of those translocations were assisted with funding by ARP donors.

Ten more rhinos will be moved from Kaziranga

National Park before the end of the year to create a founder population of 20 animals. Translocating rhinos from the two sites will help create a viable population of this threatened species that has recovered from fewer than 200 animals in the early 1900s to more than 2,850 today, approximately 80% of which are found in India and 20% in Nepal.

In addition to Manas, greater one-horned rhinos from Kaziranga will eventually be sent to Laokhawa Wildlife Sanctuary and Dibru-Saikhowa National Park to increase and disperse the number of wild populations as insurance against extinction. For Indian Rhino Vision 2020 to meet its goal, Assam's rhino population will have to increase by about 800 animals over the next eight years, representing a growth rate of approximately 4% per year. This is certainly realistic if translocations and ongoing protection efforts continue to be successful.

Indian Rhino Vision 2020 is a long-term project of the government of Assam, IRF, WWF-India, the Bodo Territorial Council, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The aim is to build the Indian rhino population up from approximately 2,320 that survive today in Assam to 3,000 spread among seven of its protected areas by the year 2020.

New Project: Non-invasive Genetic Study for Javan and Sumatran Rhino within Indonesia

There is a serious global concern over the rapidly dwindling Sumatran rhino population. One of the most threatened species in the world, it has been listed as Critically Endangered by IUCN (IUCN 2011). 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 the 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 present status of Sumatran rhinos in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBSNP) and Way Kambas National Park (WKNP) in Indonesia is not clearly known, which is hampering the process of conservation planning. Moreover, there is a concern regarding a possible breeding failure of Sumatran rhinos in BBSNP, which may expedite the process of species extinction. Through our partners the International Rhino Foundation we are proud to support this project which is implemented by our on the ground partners Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI).

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. And finally, all work will be conducted under the policies of and with approval of the government of Indonesia.

Dung samples are being used as a source of DNA for non-invasive genetic analysis of Sumatran rhinos in BBSNP and WKNP, and determine individual "genetic profiles" and sex. This will be achieved through selecting and using a panel of highly polymorphic microsatellite markers for individual identification and sex chromosome

linked markers for sex identification. Using individual and sex identity data from dung samples, the team will estimate population size and sex ratio of Sumatran rhinos in BBSNP and WKNP. This information, coupled with a genetic estimate of the fraction of a population that is contributing to breeding and levels of inbreeding, will allow investigation of the possible causes and threats to the declining trend of the species *in situ*. This work is expected to contribute significantly to population management planning, which is critical for a species nearly at the verge of extinction.

ARP has provided \$24,015 to support this \$34, 200k project with thanks to Perth Zoo's Wildlife Conservation Action for their contribution of \$9,555.

PROJECT UPDATE

Provided by YABI

Samples used are taken from feces, urine, hair and the remains of rhino bone samples collected from the field. The Rhino Protection Units play a pivotal role to collect sample from Way Kambas and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, meanwhile ROAM (Rhino Observation And Monitoring) team for Ujung Kulon National Park. Sampling method in the field (BBS and UK) using a survey method called Captured Mark Recaptured (CMR) which is technically supported by Mr. Arnaud R. Lyet PhD from WWF US, meanwhile in Way Kambas National Park the RPU's using Transect Line Method that usually applied by the RPU's.

Project Activity

Phase 1 – Training on sample collection

The training was held in SRS, Way Kambas National Park, on June 23, 2011. A total of 21 participants of RPU's of Way Kambas, Bukit Barisan Selatan, and Ujung Kulon National Park, also SRS staff.

Training was opened by the YABI Executive Director, Mr. Widodo S. Ramono, the material of "Wildlife Conservation Genetics" was presented by Prof. dr. Herawati Sudoyo, MS, Ph.D., the field expert of molecular biology from the Eijkman Institute, and then the presentation of "Feces Sampling Procedures" by Tri Cita Hutama, S.Si from the Eijkman Institute.

Phase 2 – Collecting reference samples from both species (Javan and Sumatran Rhino).

Reference samples for the Javan and Sumatran rhinos were collected in July-August 2011, comprises samples of blood, hair, feces, the remains of bones, teeth and horns. Samples were collected from the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, Ujung Kulon National Park, RPU's basecamp, and Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of Bogor Agriculture Institute.

From all of the collected reference samples we chose four of blood and feces from the same individual rhino.

Phase 3 – Samples collection in the field by RPUs in Way Kambas (5 teams) and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (5 teams) and ROAM (3 teams) in Ujung Kulon National Park.

Training on CMR method, samples collection, and basic patrol was carried out on 21 – 24 November 2011 in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBSNP) office.

Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park – The first field survey using Capture Recapture Method (CMR) method in BBSNP was held on 27 November – 7 December 2011, second field survey on 18 – 28 December 2011, the third on 9 – 19 January 2012, and the fourth on 28 January – 7 February 2012. Total samples that had been collected by the RPUs were 17 samples of feces and 1 sample of urine (dried).

Way Kambas National Park – Sample collection in the field in Way Kambas National Park (WKNP) was carried out by 5 teams of RPU. Unlike the RPUs of Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park the RPU of Way Kambas National Park used a line transect method in order to collect the samples (samples collected by chance in the survey area). This method is regularly applied in every patrol and survey activities of RPU WKNP. Total samples collected by the RPUs was 17 samples of feces, 4 samples of urine (all dried and moldy), and 1 sample of hair of Sumatran rhino.

Ujung Kulon National Park - The first field survey using CMR method to collect samples in UK was carried out on 18 – 29 December 2011, the second was on 6 – 13 January 2012, and the third was on 1 – 7 February 2012. Total samples collected by the ROAM teams were 22 feces, stain in leaves and 1 urine sample.

Phase 4 – DNA typing was performed in The

Eijkman Institute for Molecular Biology

Capacity building: In Collaboration between Eijkman Institute and Aaranyak, India, for the genetic study of Javan and Sumatran Rhino, on 5-9 December 2011, the Head of Wildlife Genetics Programme, Aaranyak, Mr. Udayan Borthakur, M.Sc., trained two of the Eijkman Institute research assistants and one researcher from YABI. The training was focused on DNA typing using microsatellite markers for Javan and Sumatran Rhino.

Preliminary study of Javan and Sumatran Rhino using non-invasive sampling

The DNA of 4 reference samples from Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS) was extracted, and followed by genotyping of 24 microsatellite loci using labeled primers specific for Sumatran and Indian Rhino. 18 of 24 microsatellite loci have showed good result. We need to define 12 of the 18 microsatellite loci for Javan and Sumatran Rhino population study.

The sex determination study will perform using SRY labeled primers and zinc finger gene (ZFX/ZFY).

The Eijkman Institute has received 56 feces samples, the detail as follows:

- 22 Samples from Ujung Kulon National Park
- 17 Samples from Way Kambas National Park
- 17 Samples from Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park

Currently, Eijkman Institute is extracting all feces samples.



Indian Rhino Numbers are on the Rise

By Aaranyak

India

A rhino census was carried out earlier this year in Assam with very positive outcomes. It revealed that in 2012 the total number of Indian Rhino in the Assam area now totals 2505. Assam populations are as follows:

- Kaziranga National Park = 2290 rhinos
- Orang National Park = 100 rhinos
- Pabitora National Park = 93 rhinos
- Manas National Park = 22 rhinos

That is an increase of 301 rhino since early 2009, when approximately 2204 rhinos were estimated.

Other results include:

- Gorumara National Park of West Bengal, India the rhino population stands at 42
- Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary in West Bengal the population stands at about 140.
- Dudhwa National Park in India the population stands at 29

This brings the total number of rhino in India to approximately 2,716 rhino.

Nepal

In 2011 an Indian rhino population increase was also recorded in Nepal thanks to strong protection. Chitwan National Park numbers increased from 408 in 2008 to 503. While in Bardia National Park, the rhino population has increased to 24 in 2011 compared to 22 in 2008.

Other results include Suklaphanta Wildlife Reserve in Nepal where the rhino number stands at 7.

The total estimated rhino numbers in Nepal now stand at 534.

Together this brings the total Indian Rhino population estimate to 3,250 rhinos.

Well done to all the local and international teams working hard to conserve these majestic creatures!

While the population surveys have come back positive we need to remain vigilant. Rhino poaching is on the rise and poaching gangs are becoming more organised.



New Project: Way Kambas National Park Endangered Megafauna Inventory and Ecological Study

The overarching vision of this project is in line with The Rhino Century Program and is to provide the vital needs required to support an increase in the population of Sumatran rhinoceros in Way Kambas National Park. The goals of the project are:

1. To expand habitat suitable for Sumatran rhinoceros.
2. To monitor the rhinoceros, build a population profile and identify vital needs.
3. To develop community conservation awareness.
4. To deliver a report on the security and viability of the Sumatran rhinoceros population and to make recommendations for providing for the vital needs essential for population expansion.

The population within the Park is dangerously low and given their solitary nature, dependence on specific fruit and leaves and need for a homing range, restoring habitat is the most pressing priority for wild Sumatran rhinoceros.

The project aims to expand the rhinoceros habitat in Babakan Bambang area, a severely degraded but previously significant rhinoceros area, by establishing a reforestation site and natural regeneration zone.

Monitoring and studying the rhinoceros will provide essential information on the status of the current population and their vital needs. The data will enable better informed management decisions about how best to conserve this critically endangered species.

Conservation Outcomes

Expansion and protection of rhinoceros habitat, will better provide for their needs and support population growth as well as benefiting all wildlife within the Park.

Knowledge about natural resources essential for their survival together with an understanding of the viability of the rhinoceros population will lead to improved decision making, improved protection, more informed responses to threats and further conservation actions.

Involvement of the community in the project and

improved income will lead to partnership building as a result of "working together" and help to develop community conservation awareness and deter destructive illegal activities.

ARP has funded \$5000 towards the purchase of cameras for the survey aspect of this project.

Update, June 2012 by Way Kambas National Park (WKNP), ALERT - Aliansi Lestari Rimba Terpadu and SIES (Save Indonesian Endangered Species)

This project is currently in the Pre-study phase which started in December 2011 and will continue until August 2012. The Pre-study phase is the stage of initial camera/video trap set up to identify strategic camera locations and positions relative to the ground.

As different animals use different habitats the camera trapping is divided into 5 areas of focus, namely, the Sumatran rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*), Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*), Sumatran elephant (*Elephas maximus sumatranus*), Malayan tapir (*Tapirus indicus*), and Malayan sun-bear (*Helarctos malayanus*). Although information about all species can come from any camera location.

The project uses video camera traps to take mega fauna and other important wildlife pictures. Based on the experiences of similar projects in other National Parks, the use of video traps enables both the clear characteristics of the animal, and the patterns of behavior and activities to be captured.

The Camera Trap

The project started with 10 camera traps with video (no-sound) mode in December 2011 donated by the Aspinall Foundation to the Director General of the PHKA Ministry of Forestry. For the first three months, funds to cover the logistical support for the field team were donated by SIES (Save Indonesian Endangered Species)-Australia and Mr. Andri Rukminto from Jakarta.

In the period up until February 2012, some interesting footage of key species was captured. All of the target mega fauna were captured with the most frequent pictures being of sun bear, then in decreasing order of frequency elephant, tiger, tapir and lastly rhino. Except for the footage of

tiger, the Bushnell cameras were not able to take clear enough images of the characteristics of the other species to enable identification. After some discussion and consultation with projects in other National Parks, it was decided that the project required video traps with a higher resolution.

New Camera Donations

Between February and March 2012, the project received new donation commitments for the purchase of new cameras and to help cover operation costs. The new cameras are had better resolution and sound recording. Twelve cameras were purchased - two cameras were donated by Yayasan Silvagama, an NGO based in Bogor and the other four cameras and operational costs were donated by SIES-Australia.

In April 2012, a further donation commitment for the project came from the ARP (Asian Rhino Project) and WWF-Areas. High Definition camera traps were purchased using funds provided by the ARP. These cameras which have just recently been set up in the field. Similarly, the same High Definition camera traps are in the process of

being purchased with funds from the WWF-Areas donation.

Preliminary Results

In the first 5 months of phase 1 some interesting footage was captured. This includes video of the five mega fauna, taken by cameras located along wildlife track lines during the first 3 months. Of special note was film of a rhino mother and calf, a tapir mother and calf and the presence of a large, new, young male tiger, who seems to be challenging for dominance in crucial tiger territory. In the last two months, it has been difficult to find specific locations where the megafauna activities can be readily captured. As the team continues to place and check camera locations along wildlife track lines, special locations such as rhino wallows and other locations from which to film behaviour are being surveyed. As it is easier to achieve results with camera trapping of tiger, elephant and sun-bear, the project is currently focused on: capturing footage of rhino and tapir; establishing the best camera locations and on commencing a rhino population census.



Left: Snapshot of the footage of Sumatran tiger captured in December 2011.

Above: Snapshots from footage of mother Sumatran Rhino with calf, captured on 8 January 2012.

Below: Snapshots from footage of mother Sumatran Rhino with calf, captured on 10 January 2012.



“Rhino Conservation: Educational Tool Kit” Publishing Project

By Suman Bhattarai, Partnership for Rhino Conservation PARC/Nepal

The Asian Rhino Project has just funded an Educational Tool Kit through PARC/Nepal to the value of \$2,500AUD.

Below is an excerpt from the project proposal outlining the project which is expected to be completed by September 2012.

All five species of Rhinoceros including Asian One Horned Greater (Rhinoceros unicornis) are globally threatened fauna whose populations are crisis.

Rhinos have been playing a vital role directly and indirectly on ecological balance as well as economic and community development.

The Asian rhino has provided many opportunities in the region i.e. ecosystem, employment, community development and revenue through tourism.

Although the rhino has played a vital role not only in ecological balance but also socio-economic development, people and children here know little about the importance of the rhino and their conservation.

Several institutions publish sound information to educate people about the rhinos through their websites and publications, however many local people and children of rural areas do not have access to these websites and publication.

Many people are not aware about those organizations so there is huge gap between publishers and real readers/target groups in sharing and gaining rhino conservation message.

Additionally, most publications and websites are written in English but local people prefer their own language.

Because of limited information in the local language, local conservationists are also experiencing difficulty conducting rhino conservation education.

Teachers do not have enough information in context of rhino conservation.

They are unable to teach their students about rhinoceros even though the Asian species is the most important fauna and whose population status is on the verge of extinction in Nepal.

It is due to this the Rhino Conservation Tool Kit was developed.

This publication will cover detail information about Rhino in Nepalese language and it will be quite helpful to young children, teachers, conservationists, planners, design makers, rhino lovers etc.

When local people/children get the chance to know about rhino and its importance, it obviously generates motivation for contribution and increases participation for conservation.

This tool kit will also work as a guideline for teachers, conservationists and interested parties who want to conduct rhino conservation education programs with the local children and people.

At least 250 kits will be published and widely distributed to schools in the Buffer-zone of the protected areas where rhino are found.

Kits will also be provided to concerned organizations, eco-clubs/conservation clubs, Buffer-zone User Committees, Parks, Department of Wildlife and National Parks.

Rhino Conservation Tool Kit objectives

- Document information of ecology, conservation history, lessons learned in context of Rhino conservation
- Publish an educational tool kit to transfer conservation knowledge to strengthen rhino conservation action

The Rhino Conservation Tool Kit is a 6 month duration project which starts in March to be completed in September 2012.



Genetic census of Greater One-horned Rhino in Gorumara National Park, West Bengal, India

By Udayan Borthakur, Pranjal Kumar Das & Bibhab Kumar Talukdar - Assam, India

Effective management and long term conservation of Greater One-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) may in future take benefits of a multidisciplinary approach, including the use of molecular tools in genetic monitoring of natural populations. For the first time in the history of Greater One-horned Rhino census, advanced genetic tools have been used in Gorumara National Park of West Bengal, India. As part of a project undertaken by Aaranyak with financial support from Asian Rhino Project, Australia, dung DNA analysis based techniques have been used to determine minimum number of rhinos present in Gorumara and to understand the contemporary extent of genetic diversity in the population.

Gorumara National Park is one of the two rhino bearing protected areas in the state of West Bengal in India. Gorumara is situated in Northern West Bengal and is a part of the Eastern Himalayan submontane Terai belt and falls into the Indomalayan ecozone. The Park with 79.99 km lies in the floodplains of Mukti and Raidak rivers. The major river in the Park is Jaldhaka, a tributary to the Brahmaputra. Gorumara has a known small population size of rhinos (42, according to the census conducted by the Forest Department in the year 2012), with a reported skewed sex ratio with higher number of males than the females. Moreover, According to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India, in the year 2009, Gorumara is one of the best managed National Parks in the country.

Aaranyak conducted a field survey for dung collection in April 2011, with active support from the Gorumara Forest Department. The area was surveyed using elephants, by a team of two Researchers from Aaranyak accompanied

by the staff of Gorumara Forest Department. Laboratory work was carried out in the Wildlife Genetics Laboratory of Aaranyak situated at Guwahati, Assam, India. Unique "genetic profiles" of individual rhinos, popularly known as DNA fingerprints were determined from dung DNA extracts using a set of polymorphic microsatellite markers. In this process, candidate markers were tested on rhino samples of known individual identity, in order to determine the minimum number of such markers needed for identifying individuals from unknown samples. Through this process, the total number of individuals present in the collected dung samples was determined, which shows 43 individual rhinos in the area in April 2011.

Further, sex identity of all the individuals was determined using genetic markers developed by Wildlife Genetics Laboratory of Aaranyak and Centre for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, USA. Results show a male to female sex ratio of 4:1, confirming earlier reports of the skewed ratio. Further, this study reveals low genetic diversity of Gorumara population in comparison to what has been observed in other rhino populations in India.

This study exemplifies how genetic analysis of dung can successfully be used for identification of individual rhinos and their sex, which can be used for long term monitoring of the natural populations. Aaranyak is working further in generating genetic information from the rhino population in Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary and to understand spatial distribution of genetic diversity to assist genetic management of the species in future.

Hope for the Survival of Sumatran Rhino in Leuser

By Adhi Rachmat Hariyadi

Leuser ecosystem in Aceh has been long forgotten by most due to the heavy tsunami that struck in 2004, where all of the attentions had been directed towards the reconstruction of this province. Eight years later the reconstruction has been completed and the life returns to the normal pace, but how about the fate of the Sumatran rhinos?

Since Nico van Strien's study in 1985 in Mamas valley, within Gunung Leuser National Park in the southern side of the Leuser ecosystem, there has been very limited information regarding the distribution and the numbers of Sumatran rhinos in this location, let alone the information on the overall distribution of this species within Leuser ecosystem in Aceh.

Obtaining this information is an important step for conserving the Sumatran rhino population in Aceh; thus creating an important step for the global Sumatran rhino conservation efforts, as Indonesia hosts the remaining viable population of the Sumatran rhinoceros in the wild.

Leuser ecosystem is located next to the boundary between provinces of Aceh and North Sumatera, and with the size of 2.6 million hectares it is probably the biggest protected area in the province that hosts tremendous biodiversity.

The topography of Leuser ecosystem consists of mountain area with some plateaus and valleys in certain locations, and most of these areas are very remote with difficult access. The location of Leuser ecosystem is presented in Figure 1.

The initiative for developing a robust and more accurate methods for surveying the rhinoceros in such difficult terrains starts with a multi stakeholder process discussion to modify existing grid system –used for tiger surveys- to suit the needs for Sumatran rhino surveys. The step consists of modification of grid size from 17x17 km² into a smaller 8.5x8.5 km² knowing that rhinoceros has smaller home range size compared to the tiger.

The grid was divided into sub-grids with the size of 2x2 km² each, and occupancy survey is done to determine the presence of rhinoceros in each sub-grid. The presence of rhino is defined as the presence of rhino signs such as: foot prints, browse marks, active wallows, or even direct



Figure 1: The Leuser ecosystem of Aceh is displayed as the green area (source: marzuki.blogspot.com)

encounters. To evaluate the advantages and the disadvantages, the new method is tested in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park with known rhino population. The test survey results in a more accurate identification of rhino 'hot spots' compared to the existing survey method.

This result shows that this method will be applicable in any areas with rhino population, and will provide initial information on the distribution and population density of the rhinos in a particular survey area. The method is ready for try out in Leuser Ecosystem in Aceh.

Sumatran rhino survey in Aceh is based on the multi-stakeholder collaboration between BPKEL (authority of Leuser ecosystem) with many conservation institutions and NGO including WWF Indonesia.

Two surveys have been carried out since October 2011. The initial findings are still far from conclusive, however, the indications of the presence of Sumatran rhinoceros in the Leuser

ecosystem provide hope for Sumatran rhino conservation. It is important to find out the status of this rhino population: are they isolated? How many are there? Are there males and females? Is the habitat threatened in any way? However, one thing is certain: the current habitat in the areas surveyed is still suitable for rhino inhabitation due to the presence of water, wallow holes, and food plant. Further study and investigation needs to be done in order to answer the above questions;

thus providing valid information for developing rhino conservation program in Leuser ecosystem.

The surveys also confirmed the presence of other charismatic species such as: tigers, elephants, orangutans, Thomas' Langur (*Prebytis thomasi*); thus strengthening the importance of Leuser ecosystem as a stronghold not only for plant biodiversity, but also for flagship species conservation.

Operation Javan Rhino

There are fewer than 44 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 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.



ARP is assisting to fund partners to create 4,000 hectares of expanded habitat for Javan rhinos in Ujung Kulon, which should encourage population growth. This will then allow us to eventually move some animals to establish a second "insurance" population at a separate site, further helping to expand the species' population and prevent its extinction.

We currently need \$311,000 for this ambitious effort and are asking for your help in raising these additional funds. Funds will be used to plant rhino food plants, create water sources and wallows, construct guard posts and patrol routes, and hire anti-poaching units to patrol the area.

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

To donate e-mail info@asianrhinos.org.au, call 0889760952. Donate online www.asianrhinos.org.au or Directly Deposit to Asian Rhino Conservation Fund BSB: 016 263 Account: 498419844.

Adopt-a-Rhino Fundraiser

Help us save the Critically Endangered Sumatran rhino by adopting one today.

All funds raised through the ARP's adopt-a-rhino program will be used to support the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas National Park, Indonesia.

Rhino Adoptions make a great gift for the person who "has it all" or is passionate about conservation. ARP has two new Adoption Packages on offer!

"Basic Package" AUD\$75.00 - Includes an Adoption Certificate and Asian rhino information folder.

"Deluxe Package" AUD\$95.00 - Includes an Adoption Certificate, Asian rhino information folder, six monthly update on the adopted rhino and either a t-shirt or soft toy. Tremendous package and great value!

More information on the rhinos and the program at www.asianrhinos.org.au.

Asian Rhino Specialist Group Meeting: Assessment Status of Sumatran and Javan Rhino in SE Asia

By Clare Campbell



Delegates at the AsRSG Meeting, Taman Safari.

The AsRSG meeting was held on 13 and 14 March 2012 as Taman Safari in Bogor, Indonesia. This meeting focused entirely on the Indonesian rhino species. The meeting was attended by 40+ key personnel from relevant government departments, NGO's and field staff. Clare attended on behalf of ARP Director Kerry Crosbie.

Sumatran Rhino Conservation Assessment

Susie Ellis opened this session with some information on the current issues with poaching of African rhino and frightening comparison with Asian species. At the time, 97 African rhino had been poached this year alone (current numbers suggest more than 251). If this poaching pressure was applied to Javan rhino they would be gone by the end of April, Sumatran would be gone by September.

Whilst this level of poaching has not been experienced in recent years for Asian species, this is a global crisis that we need to be aware of and be on guard for any potential increase in poaching in this region. Clearly the Asian species cannot withstand ANY increase in poaching.

Even in the absence of significant poaching, the Sumatran and Javan rhino remain in a critical situation. We have lost 11% of the population in the last 2 years and they face potential extinction within the next few years. It is essential that we reduce mortality, increase breeding and resolve the habitat issues impacting the wild rhino populations.

One of the most positive outcomes from the meeting was information provided from staff working within the Leuser ecosystem indicating

population numbers for Sumatran rhino to be as high as 80 individuals in this area. Camera trap data shown by Leuser International Foundation identified at least 25 individuals from 700 frames of footage.

Significant habitat remains in the Gunung Leuser NP however infrastructure development in this region presents a major threat to the future of this population.

On a negative note, the general consensus amongst delegates was that the Sumatran rhino should be considered extinct in Kerinci NP, and mainland Malaysia. There are possibly very small numbers of rhino remaining in Taman Negara and Belum Forest however these remain doomed and unviable. Forest Restoration projects appear at this stage to be the most effective way of securing forest, with the most effective project currently in operation, the Harapan Project in Jambi. This requires funding to purchase forest but then secures the area for conservation purposes.

In Sabah, the situation is even more dire with the wild population now considered doomed and only three animals currently housed in captivity. Only 1.0 of these animals is considered reproductively viable and semen is currently being collected and stored. There are currently 51 straws stored. The Sabah project currently receives significant funding from both the Malaysian Government and the Sime Darby Foundation.

Captive breeding also remains to be a vital element in the protection of the Sumatran rhino population. With Ratu's pregnancy it would appear that the technology and expertise may finally allow more effective propagation of rhinos in captivity. This presents an exciting opportunity for population expansion and this success is credit to many years of perseverance and disappointment by the WK team aided by Cincinnati.



An Aceh rhino with a typically long horn. Photo by Mike Griffiths.



Javan Rhino images from UKNP. © Dodi Sumardi

Javan Rhino Conservation Assessment

Ujung Kulon National Park now has a new Director, Pak Mohammed Haryono, taking over from Pak Agus who has been relocated to Gunung Halimun National Park.

Pak Haryono presented along with Dodi Sumardi, senior staff member from UKNP the results of their camera trapping survey. They presented some outstanding video trap footage identifying 35 individual rhino. In several snippets the rhinos are observed in courtship behaviour as well as mothers with calves.

As of December 2011, 22 male and 13 female rhino were identified in UKNP. Of these, 5 were calves, 3 of which were males and 2 females.

These video camera traps have only covered 20% of UKNP so it is likely that the population may well be higher than 35. Of the remaining 80% habitat, probably only half of this is suitable for rhino and much of this area could also be significantly impacted by invasive plant species.

More video trapping equipment is urgently required to ensure effective survey of the entire area. The NP currently has 44 cameras; another 120 are required as soon as possible.

The current threats facing the Javan rhino population include;

- Inbreeding-small population causing immune and genetic problems
- Space and food competition-occupying same niche as Banteng

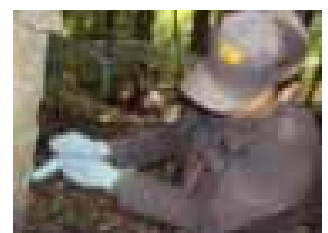
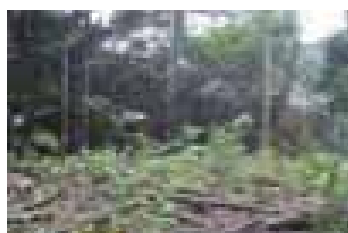
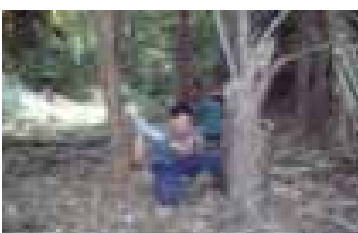
- Parasitic-transmission of infectious diseases from livestock
- Langkap and other invasive plant species
- Human activities- illegal hunting, encroachment and agriculture
- Natural disasters such as tsunami, volcano, earthquake
- Global warming-rise in sea level will result in habitat loss

The current protection strategies include;

- Maintain and then expand the wild population in UKNP by 20%.
- Establish one additional wild population elsewhere through translocation after identifying and securing adequate (> 400,000 ha) additional habitat.
- Establish one Javan rhino sanctuary to back up the *in situ* conservation program.

To conclude, delegates prepared a series of recommendations to range country government and non-government agencies and international donor agencies.

These included an increase resource allocation towards active protection, management and monitoring rhinos, rapid surveys of remaining small populations, further development of the JaRhiSCA project, harvesting and exchange of gametes from captive rhino, improved habitat and invasive plant management and intensifying conservation awareness amongst local people.



Removing Arenga Palm.© Dodi Sumardi

Global Propagation Management Board Meeting

By Clare Campbell

The GPMB Meeting was held at the Ministry of Forestry offices on 15 March, 2012. The meeting was attended by board members and visiting guests.

Two new board members were officially invited to join the GPMB, Christy Williams from WWF and a representative from the Institute for Zoo and Wildlife, Berlin (IZW).

The most significant outcome from this meeting was the development and signing of a Letter of Intent outlining an agreement to share reproduction and biological materials between countries. This significant agreement will allow the transfer of gametes between captive rhinos, enhancing the genetic outcomes should breeding prove successful.

A presentation was provided by Sabah delegates on the rescue operation of Puntung and representatives from the Sime Darby Foundation were also in attendance to confirm their ongoing financial support of this project. A fantastic YouTube clip has been produced which should generate extensive awareness of the serious plight of the rhino in Borneo and it is expected to go live in the near future.

Puntung has significant reproductive pathology however it is hoped that this may be resolved as she has possibly bred prior to capture.

IZW is also working on developing a prosthetic limb for Puntung, whose foot was considerably damaged in a snare. She is completely mobile however.

BORA agreed to send 20 straws of semen from Tam to the US for artificial insemination with Suci.

An update was also provided on the SRS with all staff enormously excited over the pending birth in June 2012.

It was noted that pairings between Bina and Andalas at the SRS have also been quite positive so in spite of her age staff are hopeful of a pregnancy in the near future.

Also discussed was the preparations for Ratu and her new enclosure which had been especially prepared for her and her calf. CCTV cameras and monitors were installed to allow round the clock monitoring of Ratu.

Yayasan Badak Indonesia Board Meeting

By Clare Campbell

The meeting held on 16 March began with YABI's annual report presented by Pak Widodo Ramona, chair of YABI.

A more detailed discussion was held around the delayed progress of the JaRSCA project, outlining a compromise in the area to be fenced. The fence will now only be built across the northern area and the south east corner rather than from shore to shore. The peninsula and entire eastern boundary will no longer be fenced.

A management plan and site plan need to be developed before construction can continue.

YABI presented their annual finances, highlighting a deficit in some areas. This was in part due to an increase in staff salaries after the government recently reviewed minimum wages. Some of this is expected to be regained from a reduction in fence

costs however YABI still hoped to source some additional funds to support existing projects.

I presented a gift certificate to YABI for \$500 for the purchase of mosquito nets. These funds were provided by the International Rhino Fund of New Zealand.

In summary, both the Sumatran and Javan rhino situation is dire. There are however some solid initiatives underway to preserve remaining populations and habitat. These meetings highlighted an increasing realisation from all parties that collaboration is no longer optional.

The birth of Ratu's calf is both an exciting and significant step and will demonstrate the real potential of maintaining at least some of these rhino in a captive situation.



Take a Picture – Save a Rhino

The International Rhino Keepers Association is sponsoring a rhino photography contest. 12 winners of the contest will be featured in the IRKA/IRF 2013 Rhino Conservation Calendar. Funds raised from the sale of the calendar will go to the Sumatra Rhino Project.

Please only 1 photo per photographer (less than 5mb). Email photos to IRKACalendar@gmail.com.

Contest details can be found at: www.rhinokeeperassociation.org.

Hurry – contest ends 31 July.

Mother's Day Saturday at National Zoo and Aquarium

By Shelley Russell, National Zoo & Aquarium Conservation Team

Mother's Day Saturday was held at the National Zoo & Aquarium, Canberra, on 12 May 2012, we believe mums deserve a weekend! The Day was a special day for all mums, including our animals. It also highlighted some very important conservation messages.

Throughout the day there were special talks and present time for all the mum's at the zoo, some of these included; Millie the lioness, Otay the sun bear, Winnie the wombat, Lilly the ring-tail lemur, Zahra and Kike the zebra's For the human mums; kids tours, massage, yummy brunch, yoga and of course shopping. It was a fun-filled action packed day.

There were however important conservation messages. People strolled through the zoo passing conservation stalls along the way. There were 15 different stalls which included the Asian Rhino Project. People loved the Rhino stall especially those gorgeous rhino teddies and while

they browsed the merchandise, we were able to talk about the project.

Mother's Day Saturday was a big success, we were able to send lots of conservation messages to people in a fun and relaxed way. The day was about awareness not fundraising though we did this as well.

Thanks to the Asian Rhino Project and members for dedicating your time and effort to these incredible animals.

ARP would like to thank the National Zoo & Aquarium Conservation Team for their efforts and support. The team kindly approached us and offered to hold a stall on our behalf. They pre-purchased \$861 of ARP merchandise to sell at this event and offered their own volunteers to man the stall and talk about the plight of the Asian rhino. Well done guys!

Wildlife Asia Update

The primary objective of Wildlife Asia is the protection and enhancement of the natural habitat of orangutans, gibbons, Asian rhinos, bears and other Asian wildlife.

Our members are already providing cost effective programs for those species and with your help we can do more for Asian rainforests and all the species that rely on them.

Below is some of what we have been up to:

Launch Events

To celebrate the launch of Wildlife Asia walkathons and other events were held across the country.

In WA Shelley Beach Park was full of walkers, stalls a jumping castle as well as face painting and sausage sizzle on 18 March. There was even a visit from a rhino (suit). Over \$4,800 was raised and a fun time had by all.



The Torrens River was the site for the SA event on Sunday 18 March with families and dogs doing the walk and over \$1,600 raised.

In the ACT a wine night was held on the catwalk at the National Zoo and Aquarium, on 22 March 2012. Guests took part in feeding the big cats, lucky door prize, raffle silent auction, stalls and live classical music. Over \$3,880 was raised which will help save Asian rainforests and wildlife.

Garage Sale Appeal

5 May was Garage Sale Trail and we would like to thank our supporters who took part and donated the proceeds to Wildlife Asia. For example:

In SA a garage sale was put on by Free the Bears volunteers which raised over \$300.

In NSW the Cool Kids Car Wash raised funds for the cause.

In QLD Alma Park Zoo raised \$1,000 for the Wildlife Asia garage sale appeal:

“Participating in national events such as the Garage Sale Trail is a team effort that boosts morale and lends a sense of community with our Zoo visitors”.

Dr Hesterman thanked the public for their donations, support and involvement and congratulated Zoo staff and volunteers on their efforts.

June 2012, Wildlife Asia ‘Tax Appeal’ for Free the Bears

A month long tax appeal was carried out to raise funds for Free the Bears programs. \$2530 was raised and we are hoping the appeal will continue to raise funds throughout the year.



Coming up

Asian Rhino Project Appeal at the Sydney Tropical Centre, Royal Botanic Gardens – 1 August 2012

Tim Flannery and Peter Hall, Patrons of the Asian Rhino Project, invite you to a Wildlife Asia event at The Sydney Tropical Centre, Royal Botanic Gardens, via Morshead Fountain Gate, opposite the Library of NSW. 5.30pm to 7.30pm, Wednesday 1 August 2012 for:

- Drinks and light refreshments.
- An opportunity to wander the gardens and displays in the Sydney Tropical Centre.
- Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust talking about their Rainforest Seed Conservation Project.
- Tim Flannery talking about the global biodiversity crisis and the role of Australian conservationists in Indonesia.
- Peter Hall talking about the Asian Rhino Project including the recent birth of a Sumatran rhino and work undertaken for the Javanese rhino to expand its range and to combat the threat of the Arenga Palm.

In the presence of the Consul General of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr Gary Yusuf.

Thanks to the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust for the venue and to Coca-Cola Amatil for the drinks.

Tickets \$99 incl. GST available at www.wildlifeasia.org.au or call Scott Lyall on (02) 8188 0671 or 0499 773 303.

For more information please go to www.wildlifeasia.org.au.



Tim Flannery and Peter Hall

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.

Committee Updates

Meetings

ARP's next scheduled AGM will be on Tuesday 16th October 2012. For more information or to contribute please contact Kerry Crosbie kerry.crosbie@asianrhinos.org.au

Events

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For more information please go to www.wildlifeasia.org.au.

14 September 2012: Street Appeal

We will once again hit the streets of the Perth CBD to shake our tins for the rhinos! This is an easy way to help out for a few hours, with last year's efforts raising over \$1000 for one day's

work! If you think you can spare some time on the day, please email sophie.dentrinos@asianrhinos.org.au

22 September 2012: World Rhino Day

World Rhino Day celebrates all five species of rhino and highlights efforts to debunk the myths about rhino horn. www.worldrhinoday.org

New Merchandise Officer

ARP has a new Merchandise Officer! A big welcome to Olga Karstovo. Olga has taken on the role of managing all ARP's merchandising, stocks, sales and inventories.

A special thank you goes out to Lorraine Dunn, who not only works tirelessly as ARP's Treasure, but also filled this role while it was vacant. Thanks Lorraine for your diligence and hard work!

New Rhino Adoption Packages

ARP now has two new Adoption Packages on offer!

We are excited to share with you two new adoption packages, designed to give our supporters greater choice and options with adopting a rhino.

"Basic Package" – includes an Adoption Certificate and Asian rhino information folder. New discounted price of AUD\$75.00.

"Deluxe Package" – includes an Adoption Certificate, Asian rhino information folder, six monthly update on the adopted rhino and either a t-shirt or soft toy. Tremendous package and great value at AUD\$95.00.

These adoption packages are not tax deductible, however they are now offered at a reduced cost with a variety of extras which is a wonderful gift idea for friends and family!

Update from ARP WA Branch:

The Asian Rhino Project was again invited to Tranby College's Asian Market Day in March. Committee member Lorraine Dunn was on hand to sell a range of merchandise to the kids, taking in sales of \$453.50 in just one hour! Thanks to Tranby College and teacher Brooke Steele for inviting us. Tranby have also renewed their rhino adoptions with us for another year, adopting a

rhino for each Year 1-7 class!

9 June saw our second annual murder mystery night, with this year's theme being Caribbean Cruise! We sold out this year, and raised over \$3500 on the night. A big thank you to the games host Leanne Kelman for volunteering her time to take on such an important role! Best dressed was awarded to Mitch Farrell, who was one half of a West Indie Cricketer duo! We were very impressed by the effort everyone went to get into costume!

Thanks to the following people and businesses for donating items on the night and assisting: The Orangutan Project, Free the Bears Fund, Karen Rotherham, Frances Ingall, Lorraine Dunn, Shae Holden, Dan Noble, Kate O'Connell, Tupperware, Saving Rhinos, Save Foundation, RARE BAGS, Perth Zoo, Jet & Ruby and Platters R Us.



Super Sleuths at Caribbean Cruise Murder Mystery night. Photo courtesy of S Dentinos.

2012 Marks the Start of the International Year of the Rhino

Increasing alarm for the fate of the two rarest rhinoceros species, and growing concern over the increased illegal hunting of rhinos and demand for rhino horn affecting all five species, has prompted President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia to declare 5 June 2012 as the start of the International Year of the Rhino.

President Yudhoyono took this step at the request of IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and other conservation organisations, because the future survival of both the Javan and Sumatran Rhinos depends on effective conservation action in Indonesia.

"Sumatran and Javan rhinos are among the most threatened species on Earth," said Dr. Susie Ellis, IRF Executive Director.

"Unprecedented threats such as habitat loss and poaching have pushed these species, which have walked the Earth for more than 50 million years, towards a very real probability of extinction within our lifetime.

"There must be concerted efforts among governments of range and consumer countries, such as Vietnam and China, to enforce laws and international treaties in order to stem this tide.

"We applaud President Yudhoyono for this call to action which we hope will help to ensure the survival of these magnificent animals for future generations."

The government of Indonesia has also made commitments to establish a high-level rhino task force of national and international experts; allocate sufficient resources to enforce protection of remaining rhino populations, and ensure that there is regular and intensive monitoring of all rhino populations in Indonesia.

During this International Year of the Rhino, it is hoped that all rhino range states in Africa and Asia will join Indonesia and give priority to securing their rhino populations.

There are ambitions to bring illegal hunting and trade, especially the illegal trade of rhino horn, under control by ensuring that effective deterrents are in place and enforced.

It is also hoped that measures that encourage a rapid growth in rhino numbers will be taken.

In Indonesia, extra action will be taken to translocate isolated individuals to actively managed protected areas and improve rhino habitats by removing invasive plant species and providing additional sources of water.

In the News

Women patrol to protect rhinos 5 January 2012

PARASI: Women in Agheuli VDC of Nawalparasi have been proactive in the protection and preservation of rhinos through formulations of local-level policies and patrolling.

Read more: <http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Women+patrols+to=protect+rhinos+&NewsID=315285>

Now dogs to the rescue of Kaziranga rhinos 22 January 2012

GUWAHATI: Humble dogs have come to the rescue of the famed one-horned rhinoceros in Assam's Kaziranga National Park. The authorities at the park, located about 240 km from Assam's main city of Guwahati, have decided to use the services of sniffer dogs to trace the movements of poachers and catch them.

Read more: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/Now-dogs-to-the-rescue-of-Kaziranga-rhinos/articleshow/11587176.cms>

Two rhino poaching bids foiled 24 January 2012

GUWAHATI/JORHAT: Officials of Kaziranga and Orang national parks successfully foiled two separate attempts by poachers to kill rhinos in the precincts of the parks.

Read more: http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-01-24/guwahati/30658850==_male-rhino-kaziranga-bagori

4 more rhinos translocated to Manas 12 March 2012

BARPETA Manas National Park-cum-Tiger Project welcomed another four rhinos to its fold this morning. With these four, the total number of these endangered species rose to 22 in the World Heritage Site.

Read more: <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=mar1312/state05>

More forest camps for animal protection in KNP 17 March 2012

GUWAHATI: The Assam government has set up 152 forest camps inside the Kaziranga National Park (KNP) to increase protection for the highly endangered Great Indian One-horned Rhinoceros and other animals there from poachers.

Read more: http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-03-17/flora-fauna/31204366_1_forest-guards-kaziranga-national-park-assault-rifles

93 rhinos now in Pobitora 20 March 2012

Guwahati: The Pobitora forest authorities will request the state government to conduct research to help them know how many rhinos Pobitora wildlife sanctuary can accommodate without overcrowding.

Read more: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1120321/jsp/northeast/story_15275164.jsp

Assam Wildlife Group Protests Removal of Rhino's Horn 25 March 2012

GUWAHATI: An Assam-based wildlife conservation group has questioned the legality behind the Assam forest department's recent move of 'dehorning' a one-horned rhino. "Nature's Beckon", a leading wildlife conservation group of Assam Sunday not only questioned the legalities of 'dehorning' the rhino but also demanded an inquiry into the whole incident that led to death of the adult rhino.

Read more: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/environment/flora-fauna/assam-wildlif=-group-protests-removal-of-rhinos-horn/articleshow/12403979.cms>

Rhino Crisis Round Up: Rhino Population Increase in India & More 12 April 2012

Fantastic news this week from India: The greater one-horned rhino population has increased in Kaziranga National Park, Orang National Park, and Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. The rhino population in Assam's Kaziranga National Park soared to 2290, up from the 2009 census which counted 2048 rhinos.

Read more: <http://planetsave.com/2012/04/12/rhino-crisis-round-up-rhino-population-increase-in-india-more/>

Javan rhinos now safer under closer scrutiny 20 April 2012

Jakarta – The only remaining population of Javan rhinos will be better safeguarded following the quadrupling of video camera traps to monitor the critically endangered animals in Ujung Kulon National Park, Indonesia.

Read more: <http://io9.com/5905845/rhino-cameras-will-help-watch-endangered-giants>

Four smugglers arrested in Nepal 24 April 2012

Nepal's Central Investigation Bureau has successfully nabbed another gang of rhino horn traders and confiscated a rhino horn.

Read more: <http://www.rhinoconservation.org/2012/04/24/nepal-four-rhino-horn-smugglers-arrested/>

Ringo Starr Offers a Supportive Drumstick to Endangered Rhino Species

In addition to promoting his new solo album, cleverly titled 'Ringo 2012,' former Beatles drummer Ringo Starr is lending his support to a worthy cause – the endangered rhinoceros species.

Read more: <http://ultimateclassicrock.com/ringo-starr-rhinos/>

Nepal winning battle against one-horned rhino poachers 11 May 2012

Nepal has successfully increased its one-horned rhinoceros population thanks to tightened security against poachers and the introduction of conservation programs.

Read more: <http://india.nydailynews.com/newsarticle/4fad50a0c3d4cacb29000025/nepal-winning-battle-against-one-horned-rhino-poachers>

Orang Rhino killed by poachers 21 May 2012

GUWAHATI: After a gap of more than a year, a rhino lost its life to poachers at Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, about 150 km from here, on Saturday night. The poachers chopped off the tail of the rhino along with its horn. The tail was cut by the poachers so they can furnish it as proof that the horn is not fake.

Read more: http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-05-21/guwahati/31800428_1_poachers-gandhi-orang-national-park-camp

Humans Still the Biggest Threat to Indonesia's Endangered Rhinoceroses 4 June 2012

There are many challenges in protecting the one-horned Javan rhinoceros, but the biggest barrier comes from humans hunting the rare species into extinction. This was the position put forward by Novianto Bambang, director of conservation and biodiversity at the Forestry Ministry when contacted by BeritaSatu on Saturday.

Read more: <http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/news/humans-still-the-biggest-threat-to-indonesias-endangered-rhinoceroses/521822>

Javan rhinos in critical state as International Year of the Rhino begins 5 June 2012

Increasing alarm for the fate of the two rarest rhinoceros species, and growing concern over the increased illegal hunting of rhinos and demand for rhino horn affecting all five species, has prompted President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia to declare 5 June 2012 as the start of the International Year of the Rhino.

Read more: http://wwf.panda.org/wwf_news/?uNewsID=205086

Global rhino fight stepped up 5 June 2012

Indonesia has declared an international rhino “emergency” and urged SA and all rhino nations to join a global effort to prevent their extinction within the lifetime of the current human generation. At the urging of conservation groups worldwide, President Susilo Yudhoyono of Indonesia declared Monday to be the start of “International Year of the Rhino”, mainly to ensure the survival of two critically-threatened Asian rhino species.

Read more: <http://www.iol.co.za/news/crime-courts/global-rhino-fight-stepped-up-1.1311849#.UAI56VKvnyl>

Javanese Rhinos Exposed to Threats 7 June 2012

VIVAnews – President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono had launched International Rhino Year 2012 in a bid to mobilize global efforts to conserve and protect the wild animal from extinction. Many may not know the fact that Indonesia is home of two of the five species of rhino in the world, namely the Sumatran Rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) and the Javanese Rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*). The latter is on the brink of extinction if no rescue efforts are made.

Read more: <http://us.en.news.viva.co.id/news/read/322257-javanese-rhinos-exposed-to-threats>

Two poachers held near Pabitora 13 June 2012

Morigaon, June 13 (PTI) Two poachers were arrested and a rhino horn worth Rs eight lakh was seized from them near Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary in central Assam’s Morigaon district today. Police said the duo were arrested from Zargaon following a tip off. There are about 86 rhinos in Pabitora wildlife sanctuary, which is spread in a 36 sq km area. The sanctuary has the world’s highest density of the endangered one-horned rhinos.

Read more: <http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/two-poachers-held-near-pabitora/1011131.html>

Fathers and Heroes 13 June 2012

Rhino Protection Units (RPU) are highly-trained, four-person anti-poaching teams made up of local community members. They intensively patrol key areas within Indonesia’s national parks monitoring threatened wildlife, deactivating traps and snares, identifying and apprehending illegal intruders and poachers, and investigating crime scenes. They also work with local villages to conserve rhino habitats by teaching alternative farming practices so that local people living near the parks can earn income without encroaching in the parks.

Read more: <http://www.rhinos.org/>

Nepal launches conservation drones to combat poachers 20 June 2012

Conservationists in Nepal are to send drone aircraft into the skies in the battle to save the Himalayan nation’s endangered tigers and rhinos from poachers. WWF Nepal said it had successfully tested two unmanned “conservation drones” earlier this month in Chitwan National Park, in Nepal’s southern plains, the home of a number of the world’s rarest animals.

Read more: <http://india.nydailynews.com/newsarticle/4fe203f5b1e35d2f1a000008/nepal-launches-conservation-drones-to-combat-poachers#ixzz20eqt0tAC>

Cincinnati zoo-born rhino now has son in Indonesia 29 June 2012

The birth 11 years ago of a Sumatran rhinoceros at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden made international headlines and was hailed as a crucial step in saving the species from extinction. Now, another milestone: The rhino, named Andalas, has become a dad, thanks in large part to reproductive techniques pioneered by Terri Roth, director of the zoo's Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife, or CREW.

Read more: <http://communitypress.cincinnati.com/article/AB/20120628/NEWS/306280141/Cincinnati-zoo-born-rhino-now-has-son-Indonesia?odyssey=nav|head>

World Rhino Day Event Map

Add your World Rhino Day event to the World Rhino Day Event Map by completing and submitting the form on the following website link:

<http://www.worldrhinoday.org/world-rhino-day-event-map/>

Rhino killed at Pobitora wildlife sanctuary 6 July 2012

GUWAHATI: A female rhino was shot dead and its horn chopped off at Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, about 50km from here, on Wednesday night. With national parks and wildlife sanctuaries affected by the recent flood, rhinos have become vulnerable to poachers. Even though the floodwaters have receded from many parts of the protected areas, roads and anti-poaching infrastructure have badly been affected by the deluge.

Read more: http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-07-05/guwahati/32551228_1_rhino-pobitora-wildlife-sanctuary-kaziranga-national-park

Bid to save rhinos from poachers 10 July 2012

GUWAHATI: Forest officials have initiated steps to protect rhinos, which have left flooded Kaziranga National Park, from falling into the hands of poachers. An unspecified number of the one-horned pachyderms have entered the hill district of Karbi Anglong looking for shelter in elevated forest land.

Read more: http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-07-10/guwahati/32617345_1_kaziranga-national-park-pobitora-wildlife-sanctuary-target-rhinos

The hunted: Rhinos in Assam are not as safe as they should be 14 July 2012

Recently, a one-horned rhino was gunned down by poachers in Assam's Manas National Park. Does this spell a bigger doom, Urmi Bhattacharjee looks for answers. Not so long ago Manas National Park (MNP), the famous world heritage site in Assam, had welcomed six one-horned rhinos through translocation from Kaziranga National Park (KNP) that took its total count of rhino to 22. Even before the keepers at the park could celebrate the acquisition, a full grown female rhino lost its life to poaching on 23 May, 2012, leaving forest authorities bewildered.

Read more: http://www.tehelka.com/story_main52.asp?filename=Ws020612Wildlife.asp

Corporate Donors

ARP would like to recognise the following corporate donors working to help us help the rhinos. Funds or funds raised from donated items all go towards our valuable conservation projects. Thank you.



Pro-Bono Supporters

ARP would like to recognise the dedication and expert assistance of the following organisations for their professional pro-bono support. These organisations provide services free of charge assisting us to minimise our administration costs enabling ARP to focus funding on our important conservation projects.

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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.



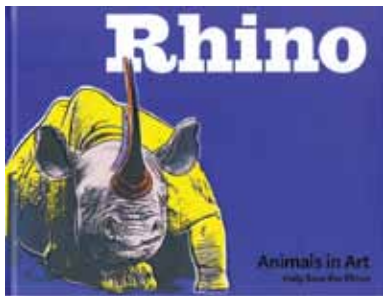
Rhino Earrings – \$20



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



Wine Cooler – \$9.50



Drink Bottles – \$3.50



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

SALE

SALE

SALE

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: _____