



Nature Conservation is now paying people on a regular basis to collect information as well as giving reward money (raised from individual donors and a collection at Chitwan).

Though higher budgets have been allocated to improve park management in India, more financial aid must be given to the neighboring villagers because rhinos damage crops and even kill people. Success should not fall prey to complacency. In Assam, nine rhinos were killed in Orang Wildlife Sanctuary in 1995 due to mismanagement and lack of adequate patrols. In Manas National Park there are presently only 20 out of 90 rhinos left due to political disturbance in the area. According to Deb Roy, formerly Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) Assam, "The rhinos will be gone in 25 years if there is not the political will to save them". The same exists for Nepal now that the King, a supporter of rhinos, no longer has so much power with the advent of multiparty democracy.

Rhinos can be saved if adequate funds are provided for their protection and if there is effective leadership in the field: the situation in both India and Nepal has improved and will continue to do so in the future as long as there is significant support from senior politicians and bureaucrats and YOU!

New breed of shooters hunts the endangered Javan rhinoceros

Timi Dugga-Dunn/Indonesia, April 11, 1996, A-20

A hundred years ago Europeans came to Ujung Kulon, an isolated peninsula on the tip of Java to hunt endangered Javan rhinos. Today, increasing numbers of tourists come to shoot the shy beast, not with a gun but with a camera.

Park rangers estimate only about 60 rhinos still live in the thick undergrowth of the park that 60 years ago was a game reserve and, in 1992, was declared along with the Komodo Islands, one of Indonesia's first world Heritage areas.* Rangers say there is no evidence of poaching of the rhino, which fetches a high price in the illegal wildlife trade.

A new breed of eco-tourists trek below the lush and humid jungle canopy in hopes of seeing a rhino even though the chances of actually seeing one is slight. "It's very difficult to see a rhino," Sumanta, a forest guide who has worked in the Ujung Kulon park for 31 years, said recently while guiding visitors on a jungle hike. "You need to spend much time, at least a month, here, to be sure of success."

Ironically, in the 18th century rhinos were so numerous and damaging to plantations in Java that the government paid money to have them killed;



500 were bagged within two years. Despite its proximity to a big population center (the most densely populated island on Earth), official figures show only about 3,000 people stayed overnight last year on Peucang Island. conservationists say one of the reasons Ujung Kulon remains an untouched island of wilderness on Java is the 1883 eruption of the Krakatoa volcano.

The rhino is just one jewel in a sparkling crown of natural wealth only 124 miles from Indonesia's heavily polluted capital of Jakarta. The 296,520-hectare park, which includes a number of islands, is home to five species of primates, of which three are endemic to Java, and the endangered Javan wild dog. Population pressures remains one of the greatest threats to the park as people living in adjacent villages violate the park to cultivate crops, gather wood and hunt animals.

* It is reported that Javan rhinos have been sighted in Vietnam.

Horning in on the Web

The 21st century is fast approaching. Like it or not, technology is the bellwether of the new millennium. If you don't already have or even know about the Internet, call 911 immediately! Seriously, there is no way to escape this information highway. All detours and backroads eventually lead to the Internet. If you have a phone and electricity, there is no excuse not to sign up. Below are some sites, called URLs (uniform resource locators) which relate to rhinos specifically and conservation in general. Check them out and bookmark them on your computer (or the one you are going to run out and buy!) If you find any other sites of interest, please let R,R! know. Now, let's **C H A R G E** into cyberspace!

THE RHINO INTERNATIONAL
<http://www.cm-net.com/rhino/>

ZOO NET
<http://www.mindspring.com/~zoonet/>

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ZOO KEEPERS
<http://aazk.ind.net/>

NATIONAL ZOO
<http://gopher.american.edu/1/dc/zoo>

SAN DIEGO ZOO
<http://www.sandiegozoo.org>


THE ENVIRONMENTAL MAGAZINE
<http://www.emagazine.com>

WORLDWIDE WILDLIFE LINK NETWORK
<http://www.wnvironlink.org>

AFRICAN WILDLIFE UPDATE
<http://www.afircanwildlife.org>

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND
<http://www.wwf.org>

RHINO RECORDS
<http://pathfinder.com/@55cMLAQAFRWale2q/Rhino/>

Through the Internet download (save to your own hard drive) rhino pictures, fonts (like this one) -  even how to say black rhino in other languages. Here's how in some Zibabwean dialects:

CHIMPEMBERE (Shona)
MHEJANE (Ndebele)

ELECTRONIC ZOO (Great for children.)
<http://netvet.wustl.edu/e-zoo.html>

CHRISTIAN RHINO (Rhinophile in Germany!)
<http://www.cs.tu-berlin.de/~dourhino>

ROCHESTER RHINOS
<http://www.frontiercorp.com/field/rhinos/>

SAN JOSE RHINOS
<http://www.batnet.com/rhinos/>

BOWLING FOR RHINOS
<http://www.aazk.ind.net/bfr/BFR-home.html>

RHINOCITY
<http://www.open.org/mikesell/rhinocity.html>

VIRTUAL SAFARI (Listen to rhino vocals!)
<http://www.period.com/safari/animal06.shtml>

AFRICAN RHINO FOUNDATION
<http://www.rhinochasers.com/awf/index.htm>

AFRICAN IMPORTS
<http://www.africa-imports.com>

and Japanese!

Two Matches Found

sai

犀 rhinoceros

usai-kaku

烏犀角 black rhinoceros horn

(Remember: The URL is case-sensitive. Write it *exactly* as you see it here.)

Tony's Turn

TO KNOW HER IS TO LOVE HER

What is it about *dicerorhinus sumatrensis* that so enthralles us? It isn't just the rarity, the fire red hair, or the audible vocalizations. Each of the Sumatran rhinos brought to the U.S. through the Species Survival Plan has left an impression on their keepers and the public. Emi, last housed here, was the subject of the February meeting of L.A. Zoo's AAZK. Emi's move from L.A. to Cincinnati in August last year was documented in video and lecture with Michael Dee narrating. When she was ten months before to join the last male in America, Ipuh, she left many "friends". The concern for her future was shown by the keepers who had taken care of her as well as dozens of regular zoo-goers who miss that fuzzy whiner and wonder how she is.

To report old news: Emi's trip to Ohio was smooth. She calmly entered her crate that day and moaned/hummed that Sumatran song we all know by now. The end was stuffed with kefir plums so she was anxious. "Her crate training was easy," said veteran keeper Marilyn Fackler-Gray, "She's always very cooperative." Her bags were packed (10 boxes of kefir and ficus browse) and she was forklifted onto a truck and driven away to the well-wishes of all. Emery Worldwide took good care of the 1,800 lb cargo on a 737 jet. The designated keeper at Cincinnati is Steve Romo and he was completely prepared for her arrival. The mandatory 30-day quarantine at Cincy Zoo was noisy. Emi's weight and spirits up. Then on September 12, 1995, Ipuh got his first introduction to this female. On theory is that the other females were too mature. The Charlie Chaplin of rhinos? He definitely likes her, on his second look at her he got...um...excited.

Now 14 boxes of leaves and branches are sent to Cincinnati twice per week. L.A. Zoo keeper Briscoe collects and packs it. AAZK-LA has volunteer "parties" to assemble the browse boxes. "We get a lot of help because she is remembered by so many people," says Fackler-Gray. "Emi was very talkative. She recognizes voices very well, even the gardeners used to say 'hi' to her." Emi's youthful days included playing with the 3-foot diameter Boomer Ball provided for her. She'd repeatedly push it into a concrete drainage channel only to have it roll straight back to a frustrated rhino! All Sumatran rhinos like water and Emi would splash and snorkel in her pool frequently.

Every effort is being made to mate Emi. She'll live in Cincinnati with Ipuh and the other female, Rapunzel. "I'll miss her terribly," said Fackler-Gray, who took care of Emi for 5 years. "She was so special. All the keepers adored her. I'll tell you one thing, when Emi gets pregnant, there will be an airplane full of 6 nursemaids on it."

RHINO RODS

Did you all go buy Matchbox toy car #53? It is a "rhino rod". A mutation of nature and technology, it is still cute and just a buck (or so). They aren't fast but do come with headlights, seats and... horn. Booooo.

By now, you've seen the two television car commercials that use rhinos to advertise. Mercedes-Benz has computer generated rhinos running through city streets with their agile luxury car avoiding the crowd. Surreal dull tones and music with a stampede beat.

The Nissan Pathfinder spot is better (made on location in Africa). It seems a Pathfinder is "needed to avoid the black rhino of Northern Kenya". The driver nimbly swerves to evade the charging rhino seen through the back window. Who is the pursued and who is the pursuer is obvious. Connected to the promotion is an eye-catching option. Purchasers of brand new Pathfinders can order a decal of a black rhino to put on the truck. The huge rhino decal goes from door to tailgate with horns pointing forward. The quality is photo-like and highly visible, almost life-size. Part of the "Stampede Series", proceeds benefit Pediatric Aids foundation.

Send your feedback directly to Tony Nichols, 428 16th St. #8, Huntington Beach, CA 92648-4252

Black Rhino



Principal Investigators

Dr. Sky Alibhai, *University of London*
Zoë Jewel, *University of London*

Research Site:

Hwange National Park, Zimbabwe

Share of Costs

US\$1,995; £1,275; A\$2,660; ¥199,500

Team Size

Minimum: 3 • Maximum: 6

Team Dates in the Field

- IV: July 11 - 22, 1996
- V: July 25 - August 5
- VI: August 8 - 19
- VII: August 22 - September 2
- VIII: September 12 - 23
- IX: September 26 - October 7
- X: October 10 - 21
- XI: October 24 - November 4

Research Objectives

The threatening beauty and scarcity of the black rhino no doubt accounts for its value. Almost as mystical as the unicorn, the rhino is sought out for the medicinal and decorative use of its prestigious horn. Led by Sky Alibhai and Zoë Jewell, EarthCorps teams in Zimbabwe are working to reverse the declining black rhino population.

The decline of the black rhino from an estimated 65,000 in 1970 to about 2,000 today has been one of the most dramatic for a large mammal species in modern times. Since their origin about 50 million years ago, rhinos have been an extremely diverse group with some 60 genera and hundreds of species. Today, only 5 species remain, all with

critically low populations. The black rhino, which once covered most of sub-Saharan Africa, has certainly suffered from loss of habitat, but the main reason it is on the verge of extinction is because of unrelenting poaching for its valuable horn.

While efforts are being made to stop the rhino-horn trade, countries like Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, and Zimbabwe are fighting to conserve black rhino populations in their countries. In 1992, Zimbabwe adopted a policy of concentrating black rhinos in protected areas called Intensive Protection Zones. In the Sinamatella zone, which is the largest and most significant of these areas, teams are monitoring radio-collared rhinos to gather behavioral and ecological data and to monitor activity

patterns so that anti-poaching efforts can be more effective. Earthwatch efforts in 1994 and 1995 seem to have stabilized black rhino populations; many team members were lucky enough to see young calves.

Research Area

Hwange National Park lies on Zimbabwe's western border with Botswana, about 100 kilometers (66 miles) southeast of Victoria Falls. It is a vast, 14,000-square-kilometer (5,000-square-mile) area and harbors some of the densest concentrations of wildlife in Africa. The Sinamatella Intensive Protection Zone covers approximately 10 percent of the northwest of Hwange National Park. Supplied with year-round watering holes, wildlife populations of formerly rare or sparsely distributed species like elephant, giraffe, wildebeest, and buffalo are flourishing. Teams will likely spot these animals as well as zebra, impala, kudu, lion, leopard, hyena and wild dog. In the evenings, time permitting, teams will drive to the watering holes. Sinamatella is vegetated predominantly with thorn scrub and mature Mopane woodland. Winter temperatures (May through September) can swing below freezing, while summer temperature can reach 28°C (80°F).

Volunteer Tasks

Equipped with Global Positioning System (GPS) units, volunteers will rise at dawn to track and observe radio-collared rhinos. Teams will also walk to high vantage points to pick up rhino radio signals and trace and photograph rhino trails. Teams will be accompanied by an armed scout at all times.

■ *Volunteers will walk about 23 kilometers (15 miles) a day in exposed hot and dry conditions with packs. They must be able to run and climb a tree if encountered by a wild animal.*

Field Logistics

Participants will meet in Victoria Falls on the first day of their team; it is best to arrive in Zimbabwe a day earlier to acclimate. The principle camp will be in Sinamatella (with satellite camps in the bush when needed). Teams will sleep in two-person tents equipped with sleeping pads. Volunteers must bring their own sleeping bags and solar shower bags and assist with meal preparation. Daily work begins at dawn and breaks for the heat of the day in the afternoon.

Principal Investigators

Dr. Sky Alibhai is a Lecturer in Zoology at the University of London. His research background is in mammalian ecology with particular emphasis on population dynamics. He has carried out research in other parts of Africa. Zoë Jewel is a veterinarian with degrees in zoology and medical parasitology. She has worked on the black rhino project since it started in 1992. This is the third year Sky and Zoë have worked with EarthCorps volunteers.



To Sign up for a Team—

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Earthwatch prides itself in supporting valuable field research, bringing the public together with the scientific community, and offering a unique way to spend your vacation. A US\$250 deposit (check or credit card) holds your place. Call today to speak with Kris Johnson at the 800 number listed above or at 1-617-926-8200 x188; fax 1-617-926-8532; internet: kjohnson@earthwatch.org

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please wait to receive your EarthCorps Briefing before purchasing airline tickets.

Africa's Rhinos Need YOUR Help Right Now!

Yes! I want to seize this opportunity to support the kinds of practical rhino protection efforts you have described in your letter. Here is my special wildlife-rescue contribution of:

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** Please put this tax-deductible donation to immediate use!*

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WWF is proud to carry all the fundraising guidelines of both the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and the National Consumer Information Bureau (NCIB).

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Did You Know...

❖ Unlike those of cattle, sheep, or antelopes, rhino horns have no bony core. Instead, they are composed of hairlike keratin fibers perched on a roughened area of the skull. Like hair, the rhino's horn keeps growing

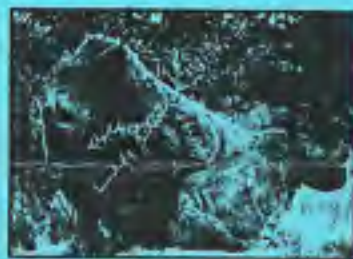


Photo © 1995, WWF. Photo courtesy WWF.

— as much as 3 inches every two to three years. If a horn is broken off, a new one will grow in its place.

❖ Except for females with their young, most rhinos are solitary creatures that prefer to live alone.

❖ Rhinos are slow breeders, only giving birth to one calf every two to four years. The gestation period is between 15 and 16 months.



WWF Rhinos and their Herds • Photo © WWF

❖ Rhinos have poor vision and are unable to detect a motionless person at a distance of more than 100 feet. The rhino's eyes are located on either side of its head. To see forward, the animal must peer first with one eye, then with the other.

❖ These awkward-looking creatures are surprisingly agile and quick. They can jump, twist, and turn quickly. One species, the greater one-horned rhino, can charge at speeds of up to 30 miles per hour!



Photo © 1995, WWF. Photo courtesy WWF.

❖ Powder made from rhino horn — poached and sold illegally — is used as a fever-reducing agent, and

in the treatment of headaches, heart and liver trouble, and skin disease. It is also used as an aphrodisiac in parts of North India, China, and neighboring countries in the Far East. Rhino horn is also used in the Middle East — primarily in Yemen — to carve traditional dagger handles known as jambias. These uses of rhino horn, and other rhino body parts, are grounded in tradition. The pharmacological basis for these uses is of questionable merit.

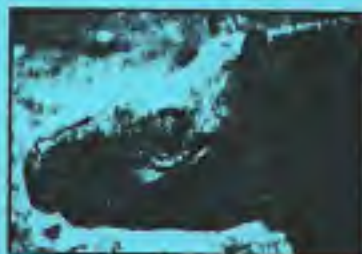


Photo © WWF. Photo © WWF.

** Without your membership support, critical rhino conservation projects, as well as WWF's global work to protect the Earth's endangered wildlife and wildlands, would not be possible!*



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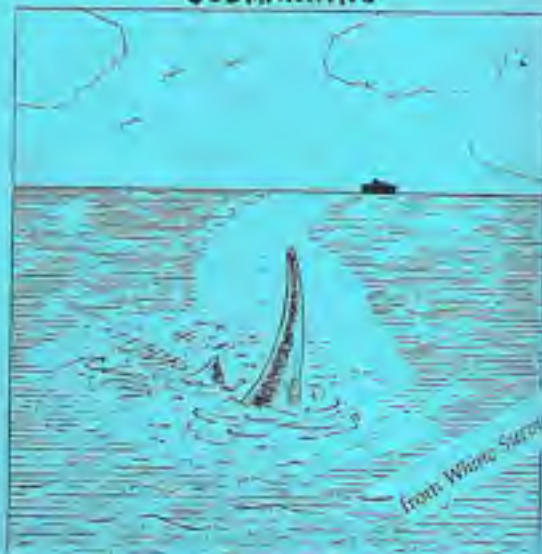
WHO IS BILLY RAY LUIGI? Billy Ray was on display at the Nature Connection (North Richland Hills Mall) Ft. Worth Texas last October. In less than 30 minutes I maxed out my Visa card and Billy Ray was put on layaway. The adoption papers were final this past spring. He now resides at the foot of my bed and he is roughly as large as a Harley-Davidson. Took me an hour just to get him out of the refrigerator box he was packed in. He's named Billy Ray 'cause I found him in Texas and Luigi because he is made in Italy. Soon as I can figure out how to work my QuickCam, I'll publish a picture of him. Yiiiiha! Esatto!

WHAT IS IT? *



Next issue. Review of *Russelas: A rhino in search of his horn*, a new children's book by Chryssee Perry Martin, who lives outside Nairobi National Park with her husband, Esmond Bradley Martin. (UN Envoy for Rhinos). Update on the Rochester Rhinos soccer team. More conservation news and finally, things you can buy for the winter holiday season.

SUBMARHINO



From *White Starboard* by Lessee

WHO WAS THAT MASKED RHINO

For only \$21.31 you too can have a unique face mask (made of fabric). I got Marcia Kluge create one for me on a visit to Laguna Beach this summer and she did a fantastic job. Halloween is just around the corner. Don't you want to be appropriately attired? Write or call Marcia: Kluge Creations, 157 Canyon Acres, Laguna, CA 92653 (714) 494-7966. Tel her I sent you!

(Anyone know exactly what the "rhino package" is a Land Rover?)

A one year quarterly subscription to *Really, Rhinos!* is \$20 (US and foreign). Make check payable to Judyth Lessee. 100% of each subscription is donated to rhino conservation projects. Send feedback or citations to: *Really, Rhinos!*, PO Box 40503, Tucson, AZ 85717-0503 (520) 327-9048. e-mail: rimophyl@rtd.com. (WWW cite coming)

If you find errors, please know they are printed by us and we'll work to fix them. We try to print some beautiful

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"Old rhino is frightened -
he fears man's axe and gun -
and, unless the world takes care of him -
One day there will be none!"

