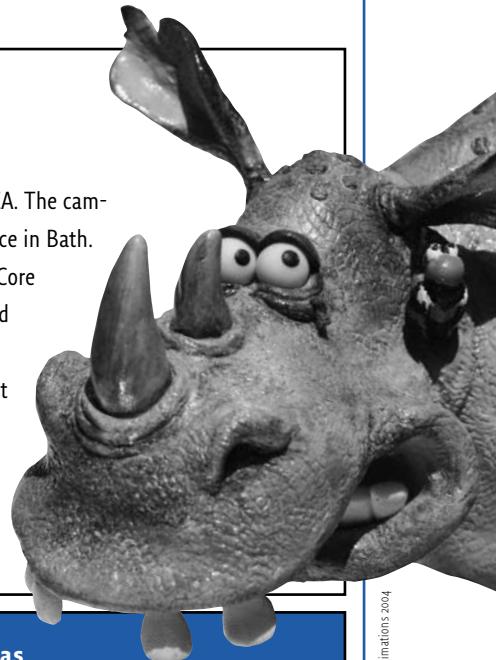


Compiled by Martijn Los

Launch of Save the Rhinos

'Save the Rhinos', the EAZA Rhino Campaign 2005/6, is the fifth conservation campaign organised by EAZA. The campaign was officially launched during a plenary session on 7 September 2005 at the EAZA Annual Conference in Bath. The campaign was introduced to the EAZA members by Nick Lindsay, chair of the EAZA Rhino Campaign Core Group. The goals of the campaign are similar to the previous campaigns: fundraising (target €350.000) and raising public awareness. During the launch session, two experts involved in rhino conservation, Richard Emslie (IUCN/SSC African Rhino Specialist Group) and Nico van Strien (IUCN/SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group and International Rhino Foundation), reported on the status of the different rhino species in the wild and their urgent need for conservation efforts. Cathy Dean and Renaud Fulconis of Save the Rhino International (SRI), an NGO that supports EAZA in the organisation of the campaign, also gave presentations on SRI and on the contents of the campaign info pack.



© Ardman Animations 2004

Campaign info pack

As always, a campaign info pack is available for all EAZA member institutions. The info pack contains a tremendous amount of information for participants, including natural history and current status of the rhino species, registration information, samples of educational activities, information on campaign merchandise and much more. A campaign CD-ROM with many rhino(-related) images, official campaign logos, images of Douglas, the campaign mascot, sample press releases etc. is also included in the pack. EAZA members that did not pick up their campaign info pack in Bath will receive a copy by mail.

Douglas

Meet 'Douglas the Rhino', the official Save the Rhinos campaign mascot. Douglas is the successor to the hugely popular 'Oscar the Turtle', the official mascot for Shellshock. Douglas was created especially for Save the Rhino International, in honour of SRI's Founder Patron, Douglas Adams, author of 'The hitchhiker's guide to galaxy'. Hopefully Douglas will become as popular as his predecessor and raise lots of funds and public awareness for rhino conservation.

Beneficiary projects

All funds raised through the Save the Rhinos Campaign will directly benefit *in situ* rhino conservation projects. Initially 13 projects have been selected, another eight are on the waiting list and may receive funds if the campaign target of €350,000 is exceeded. Participants can choose to support the campaign as a whole or state preferences for one or more specific projects. A broad spectrum of projects was selected to allow participants to choose the species (black, white, greater one-horned, Sumatran or Javan) or type of project (e.g. with a focus on anti-poaching, monitoring or environmental education) of their preference. The amounts of money needed for the different projects can vary from €1.00 for the printing of an educational book to €506,000 for the funding of all Rhino Protection Units in Indonesia.

Detailed information on the 13 projects is available in the campaign info pack.

Rhino facts

The prehistoric-looking rhinos were relatively abundant only fifty years ago, but in recent decades tens of thousands of animals have been slaughtered for their horn. Rhinoceros horn is in great demand in some east Asian countries. It is still used in traditional medicine in China and is carved into traditional ornamental daggers in some other countries.

Five rhinoceros species presently survive: the black and white rhinoceros in Africa, south of the Sahara; and three other species, the greater one-horned, Sumatran and Javan rhinoceros in Asia. Four of these rhino species are critically endangered. Only the white rhino still exists in reasonable numbers; nonetheless even this species is still considered vulnerable. Two of the four critically endangered rhino species, the Javan and Sumatran rhinos, are close to extinction with fewer than 400 animals in total remaining in the wild.

Rhino species surviving Individuals Status

Rhino species	surviving Individuals	Status
Javan	60	Critically Endangered
Sumatran	300	Critically Endangered
Greater one-horned	2,400	Critically Endangered
Black	3,100	Critically Endangered
White	11,100	Vulnerable

All EAZA members are invited to join the Save the Rhinos Campaign: please sign up via the registration form included in the info pack or download it from the EAZA website member area.

