



Issue 1: March 2006

Save the Rhinos! Campaign Newsletter

Save the Rhinos Newsletters

This is the first issue of the Save the Rhinos Campaign Newsletter in its new lay-out. There are now two regular Save the Rhinos Newsletters; an E-newsletter for the general public and this newsletter which focuses on campaign participants.

The E-newsletter is sent monthly to people that have subscribed via the campaign website <http://www.rhinocampaign.net>. The newsletter for participants will be sent bi-monthly to all registered participants and relevant contacts.

We hope that you enjoy reading this first issue of the Campaign Newsletter. Updates on the campaign activities in your institution for the Newsletter, the campaign website or EAZA News are highly appreciated and can be sent to Martijn Los (martijn.los@nvdzoos.nl) at the EAZA Executive Office.

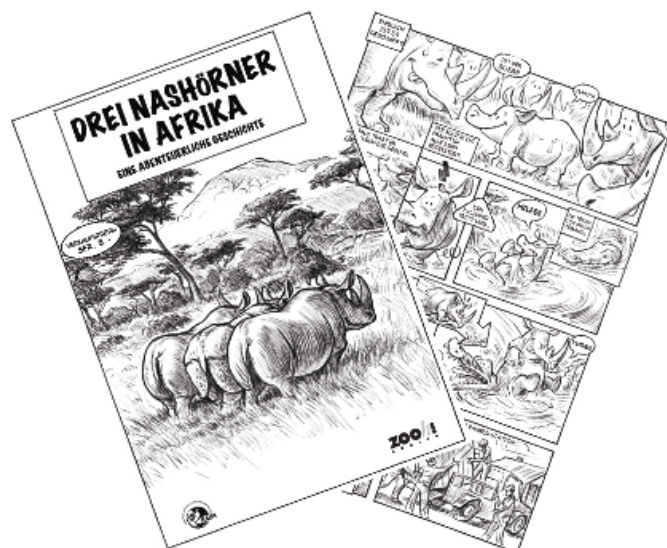
Zurich Zoo, Switzerland

Roger Graf

A new and very original campaign initiative has come from Zoo Zurich. The zoo has developed a special Save the Rhinos comic, called "Drei Nashörner in Afrika" ("Three rhinos in Africa"). The idea of a comic was born during a brainstorm session at the EAZA training seminar for Zoo Educators that was organised in Copenhagen in August 2005.

The comic tells the story of Indi, an Indian rhino that travels to Africa. The comic is not only fun to read but also highly educational. During her trip Indi meets her African counterparts and the difference between the three species is explained. Furthermore the threats to rhinos in the wild and other interesting facts of rhino biology, behaviour and ecology are tightly woven into the comic. The

work of rangers and nature conservationists is mentioned as well.



The comic is sold in the Zurich and Basel zoos for 5 Swiss francs (approximately €3) and can be ordered from the zoo websites. The production of the comics was funded by a local bank and therefore all sale incomes of the comic will benefit the campaign.

The full comic in pdf can be downloaded on the EAZA website (www.eaza.net/rhino/activities.html). Please contact Roger Graf (roger.graf@zoo.ch) for more information, e.g. if you want to translate the comic into your own language for use in your own campaign activities.

Kings House School, UK

Gill Blackgrove

Kings House School in Richmond-upon-Thames, United Kingdom selected Save the Rhinos as subject for their half term mufti day. At the mufti day, school children are permitted to wear casual clothes rather than uniforms, as a fundraising exercise. The school assembly that day was a

power point presentation by the Head of Science on the Save the Rhinos campaign.



A total of 190 Save the Rhinos t-shirts were sold, not only for school children but even for parents and younger siblings. £2 was added onto the price of the t-shirts to raise money for Save the Rhinos. Those who did not buy a t-shirt brought a £2 contribution to the campaign. A total of £600 (approx. €900) was raised through the multi-day at Kings House School. This amount is excluding the 10% of sales proceeds from the T-shirts donated to the campaign by commercial company Something Different.

Sumatran rhino population plummets

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The population of the Sumatran rhinoceros dropped by around 50% over the last ten years due to poaching and deforestation which destroyed the animals habitat. The population of the Sumatran rhinos in 1993 was around 215 to 319, while previously the number was estimated at between 420 and 875.

Sumatran rhinos are found in four locations in Sumatra's national parks, and maybe in other areas as well.

The habitats of the Sumatran rhino, the only two-horned rhino in the Asian region, are the Leuser, Kerinci Seblat, South Bukit Barisan and Way Kambas national parks. The endangered animal is now on the brink of extinction due to poaching activities, deforestation and the fragmentation of their habitats.

In the past, their habitats were connected to each other. But now, they are totally fragmented due to the opening of forest areas for farming, plantations and human settlements. The Indonesian Forestry Ministry plans to restore the endangered animal's habitats in an effort to boost their reproduction and population.

The ministry will conduct scientific study, which will include genetic analysis (DNA) and distribution monitoring especially among female and offspring in order to find out about their reproduction cycle.

The priority might be to increase the population of Sumatra rhinos in Way Kambas National Park. The Way Kambas National Park, which is located in Lampung Province, on the southeast coast of Sumatra, is believed to have four two-horned rhinos; one male and three females.



The Sumatran hairy rhino, *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*, is the second most endangered of all rhinoceros species in the world. There is no indication that the situation is showing any signs of stabilizing.

Rhino Protection Units (RPU) for Javan and Sumatran rhinos

Project K

Over the past months the RPUs in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park have covered the whole park area transect-wise, to inspect the most remote areas of the park. Regular patrols take place in the most vulnerable areas, near roads and settlements, and in places where intelligence indicates that people may have entered. This carries the risk that patrols into other parts become too infrequent, encouraging poachers to try their luck there.

Fortunately no signs of poaching were found anywhere in the park: the fear that poachers could have come in through the backdoor was proven to be unfounded. Nevertheless this type of coverage is very useful to monitor wildlife and human activities in all areas of the park, and it will be continued in the future.



© Kerry Crosbie

The RPU's had a significant role in the rescue and evacuation of two young female Sumatran rhinos that got out of the park and were in acute danger of being hurt or killed. In September 2005 a rhino, later called Ratu, was rescued in a heavily populated area south of Way Kambas NP, and in November another rhino, called Rosa, was moved from Bukit Barisan Selatan NP, because she had lost all fear of humans and was venturing ever further out of the safety of the park.

Both rhinos are now in the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas, and are doing very well. It is hoped that they will be fully mature in a year or so and will then be able to contribute significantly to the Global Sumatran Rhino Captive Breeding Program.

To honor everyone involved in the successful evacuation of Ratu and Rosa, a big party was organized in Way Kambas NP on 5 February. Everyone that assisted in the operations; villagers, local dignitaries, police, boy scouts, local NGOs, RPU's, SRS staff, National Park staff, staff of the Tiger and Elephant projects, etc were invited and awarded. The Secretary of the Director General for Forest Protection and Nature Conservation, and many other dignitaries were present to express their appreciation for the successful operations.



© Kerry Crosbie

The 'Ratu and Rosa festival' was a great success and has certainly helped to tighten the relations between the National Park and the local communities.

News from the Regional Representatives

The Campaign Regional Representatives have several important functions, e.g.:

- Encourage campaign participation in their region.
- Initiate/organise joint activities in their region.
- Liaison with the EAZA Executive Office.
- Point of contact for national media attention.

Several Regional Representatives already actively picked up their role and started working on the campaign. A few examples are listed below.

France Some twelve zoos are working together to organise a rhino week in July, during which many activities will be developed, such as rhino talks, drawing competitions, educational activities and games.

The Netherlands The national Save the Rhinos campaign was launched on 18 March 2006 by TV-celebrity Anniko van Santen and young rangers of the Dutch World Wildlife Fund. At the launch special campaign information panels were revealed and plans for the coming year were announced. One of the plans is a sponsored rhino run between several rhino keeping zoos in The Netherlands.

Hungary Nine Hungarian zoos (including four non-EAZA members) are participating in the campaign initiated by the regional representatives. A

remarkable fact is that only two of these zoos actually have rhinos in their collections. A joint campaign launch is planned for and a leaflet and poster are in preparation.

Campaign merchandise

Several commercial companies have prepared special Save the Rhinos campaign merchandise that can be sold in your zoo shops. Please have a look at the online Save the Rhinos shop on the EAZA website (www.eaza.net/rhino/shop.html) to see the latest product sheets and order forms.



Many companies supplying campaign merchandise to EAZA members have agreed to donate 10% of their sale prices to the campaign funds. Ordering these products is therefore a great way to collect funds for the campaign and at the same time draw attention to the campaign and the importance of rhino conservation.

Campaign sign-up figures

The number of registrations for Save the Rhinos is close to 100: a total of 99 institutions have officially registered as of 15 March 2006. Ninety of these official participants are EAZA members. The Campaign target is 150 registered participants, so many more registrations will hopefully follow the coming months. We do know that many more of you are still planning to participate and have not yet registered, so please send in your official registration forms as soon as possible.

First fundraising results!

The Save the Rhinos campaign has got off to a flying start thanks to several EAZA members that were already able to transfer money to the Save the Rhinos account:

EAZA members

Blackpool Zoo £1500 = €2,250 (Bronze)
Parc Zoologique d'Amneville €2,000 (Bronze)
Marwell Zoological Park €2,000 (Bronze)
DierenPark Amersfoort €1,799.38
CERZA €1,000
Parc Zoologique de Lille €760

Non-EAZA members

Total: €2,922.50

Next issue

The next issue of the Save the Rhinos Newsletter will be in May. We need your ideas, suggestions, articles and photographs. Tell us what you are doing at your zoo or aquarium towards the Save the Rhinos campaign. Articles and other newsletter material should be sent to Martijn Los (martijn.los@nvdzoos.nl) at the EAZA Executive Office.

**Save the Rhinos is the 2005/6
Conservation Campaign of EAZA,
The European Association of Zoos &
Aquaria, www.eaza.net**

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