

**NORTH AMERICAN
SAVE THE RHINOS
CAMPAIGN**



E-Newsletter

May-June 2006



 eckō unltd.



In Memory of Thomas John Foose (1945–2006)

With great sadness, the International Rhino Foundation (IRF) announces the loss of its most beloved ambassador for rhino conservation. Dr. Tom Foose, 61, IRF Program Director, died on May 17th at his home in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania. Tom was one of the founders of IRF, which embodies his lifelong passion for rhino conservation, both in zoos and in nature. He dedicated his life to bridging gaps among people with diverse interests and perspectives, as well as using science to foster national and global collaborations for threatened species management.

Author of numerous scientific publications. Tom received a BA from Princeton University in 1969 and was awarded a PhD in biology from the University of Chicago in 1982. He served as the Conservation Director for the American Zoo and Aquarium Association (AZA) from 1981 to 1990, and along with Dr. Ulie Seal developed the first Species Survival Plan program for Siberian tigers in 1983. Species Survival Plans now are a cornerstone for captive species management for the AZA as well as other regional zoo associations. From 1990 to 1992, Tom served as Executive Officer of the IUCN/SSC Conservation Breeding Specialist Group, shaping its programs and focus to include using computer simulation modeling to examine the risks for species extinction, as well as global risk assessments of broad taxonomic groups including identifying species management and research recommendations. Over the past 20 years, his tireless efforts to facilitate cross-organizational and truly international conservation efforts resulted in integrated action plans for species groups ranging from primates to rhinos to tigers, involving zoo experts and field biologists from around the world.

Throughout stints as Program Officer of the IUCN/SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group and the International Black Rhino Foundation, as well as through his work with AZA, CBSG and IRF, Tom touched people across the world and inspired them to set aside their personal, national and institutional agendas to focus on preventing species extinctions. Over the past ten years, his primary focus was leading development and implementation of global and national conservation strategies and action plans for rhinoceros in Asia and Africa. Most recently, Tom initiated the North American Save the Rhinos Campaign with the goal of doubling the number of critically endangered rhino populations in select protected habitats in the wild within ten years.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, contributions in Tom's memory may be made to the International Rhino Foundation and will be designated for this Campaign.

We will miss Tom's many unforgettable characteristics – his sporty safari attire, his penchant for bow ties, his mischievous smile, and the twinkle in his eye whenever a rhino came into view. We will miss his dry sense of humor, and his love for the smelly-but-delectable durian fruit (which got him politely ejected from many Asian hotels), as well as many other things. Memories abound – many long-time colleagues can't see a Coca-Cola can without remembering the early days (before globalization) when Tom brought several suitcases filled with Coke wherever he traveled overseas.

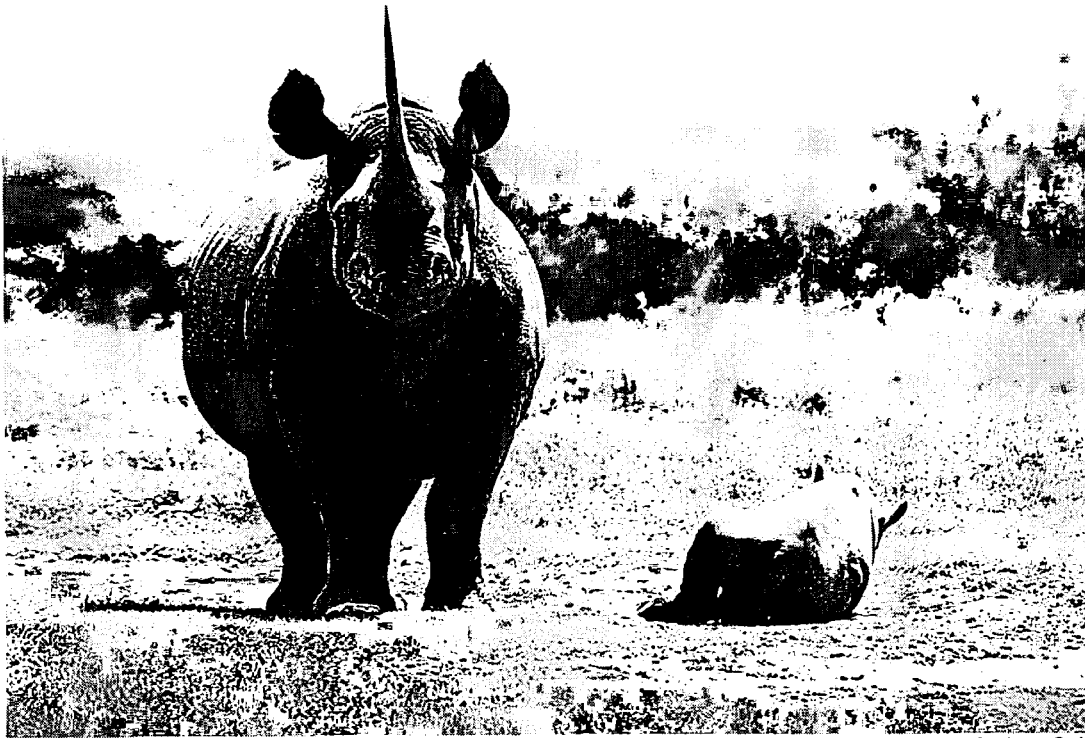
Tom is survived by: his children, Rebecca Foose Nesmith and Thomas John Foose, III, and their mother Virginia Foose; and his children Susan Foose and Michael Foose and their mother, Ellen Foose.

The IRF sends its most profound condolences to the family of our beloved colleague, and know that all of his colleagues and friends around the world share in our sadness. Tom's dedication and integrity, his love for his family and colleagues, and his beloved rhinos – as well his unabashed appreciation for the contributions of all people with a love for wild species - will live on through all of our future endeavors.

Field Program Updates

In each bi-monthly issue of the North American Save the Rhinos Campaign E-Newsletter, we will provide updates from the field and captivity regarding projects focused on the three focal species: the Black; the Indian; and the Sumatran rhinoceroses.

Black Rhino Update



Andrew Gell

Since March 2006, rhino management operations supported by IRF in Zimbabwe have involved the immobilizations - through drug-darting - of 40 black rhinos. Of these, four required treatment for snare injuries to the rhinos' legs, and three others were for veterinary interventions necessitated by fighting injuries or other health problems. Immobilizations also allowed the implantation of horn transmitters (which are used to facilitate the monitoring of rhinos in unsafe areas or in the post-translocation dispersion phase), dehorning of some rhinos, and for ear-notching, which also facilitates monitoring by allowing field staff to recognize individual animals.

The bad news since March is the loss of two black rhinos from the region of southern Zimbabwe in which IRF operates, but poaching pressure is actually worse in the central part of the country. Intensive operations to dehorn some rhinos and implant transmitters

in others are part of the overall response to this renewed pressure, and a search is now underway locally for teams of poachers who have been identified through investigatory work by the IRF/WWF rhino monitoring unit.

Good news over this same period is that the number of rhino births in southern Zimbabwe has significantly exceeded poaching losses. Conservancies in this region now contain 330 black rhinos. So, despite the major political, financial and logistical problems that can complicate the management of these populations, black rhino numbers in southern Zimbabwe are still growing faster than anywhere else in Africa.

There have also been encouraging developments in regional cooperation over rhino management. With funding from IRF, negotiations are now well underway for the translocation of a male black rhino from Zimbabwe to the Khama Rhino Sanctuary in Botswana. This is a test case for the translocation of additional rhinos from Zimbabwe to Botswana, which has been difficult to arrange because of Botswana's veterinary restrictions. Another positive move has been the agreement by wildlife management authorities in Zimbabwe and South Africa to proceed with a feasibility study for a proposed rhino intensive management facility in the Shashe-Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area. This facility will be designed to enable a phased reintroduction of zoo-bred black rhinos to protected areas of natural habitat in their native Africa.

Raoul du Toit
Southern Africa Development Community
Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation

Indian Rhino Update

The exchange project of the Indian Rhino Program is progressing well. By the end of this year, three female rhinos from San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park are scheduled to be transferred to the quarantine facility at India's Delhi Zoo. Also included in the exchange will be three reticulated giraffes and three Burchell's zebras that have been collected from several U.S. zoos and private institutions. After the three female rhinos clear quarantine, two will be taken to the Sanjay Gandhi Biological Park in Patna, and one animal will remain at the Delhi Zoo. In exchange, two captive male rhinos from Patna and one from Delhi Zoo will be transported to the United States. All three males are young animals that are destined to play an important role in this international effort, which seeks to maximize genetic diversity and the global breeding potential of captive populations.

IRF's Indian conservation partners have been working very hard to accomplish all of the tasks required to start the relocation project of the Indian Rhino Program, which has been laid out in Indian Rhino Vision 2020. Assessments of areas destined for rhino reintroduction have been undertaken, and the issues highlighted in the assessment reports are now being addressed, including infrastructure needs within the parks designated for

the first rhino relocations. Efforts also are being made to involve local villages in relocation activities, with personnel being trained to undertake various aspects of the project. Experienced rhino relocation teams from Nepal are helping to train new teams from Kaziranga National Park and the Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary.



Jorg Hess

In all, a flurry of activity, involving many partners in the Indian Rhino Program, is well underway, funded by the North American Save the Rhinos Campaign.

Randy Rieches, Curator of Mammals
San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park

Sumatran Rhino Update

Early this year on Sumatra, six of the Rhino Protection Units (RPU) stationed in Bukit Barison Selatan National Park traveled to Kerinci Seblat National Park in an effort to trap the last rhinos – perhaps one or two - thought to exist in that area. The objective was to translocate any remaining animals from an area where poaching still constitutes a significant threat to Bukit Barison Selatan, where the rhino population is both substantial, stable, and perhaps even increasing, and no new traps set by poachers have been found in recent months. After surveying a large section of the park without finding fresh signs of rhino, however, the rescue attempt was abandoned and the RPUs returned to their base camps.

This month, two senior Indonesian RPU rangers will travel to Sabah, Malaysia to work with SOS Rhino personnel, attempting to upgrade the effectiveness of RPUs currently operating in the Tabin Wildlife Reserve and to improve monitoring of the resident rhino population. Then, in July, a team of WWF and Sabah Wildlife Department RPUs from Danum Valley will travel to Way Kambas National Park, Indonesia, for two-weeks of training. These exchanges and training will lead to more consistent and reliable information regarding the status of wild populations and poaching in both countries.



Nico Van Strien

At the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas, two young female rhinos are settling in well after having wandered into villages outside the protected area. Both females appear to be prime breeding age and there is hope that they soon will be mated with the sanctuary's resident male. A team of US scientists, veterinarians, and animal staff will visit the site in July and join with sanctuary staff on a wildlife disease study in the Way Kambas area. They also plan to discuss pending rhino imports/exports between Indonesia and US Zoos, tentatively scheduled to be undertaken by the end of the year. These exchanges are critical to the success of the captive breeding effort.

At the Cincinnati Zoo, a third pregnancy has been confirmed for the only proven breeding pair of Sumatran rhinos in captivity. The pregnancy appears to be progressing well, with the female expected to give birth to her third calf in April 2007.

**Terri Roth, Vice President for Animal Science
Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden**

Campaign Results

Welcome New Zoos!

The following institutions have joined the 33 zoos and aquariums pledging support to the North American Save the Rhinos Campaign in 2006, bringing the total to 40 of the 90+ zoos with rhinos that are the focus of the Campaign:

- **Basel Zoo** (multi-year commitment) – PATRON
- **Busch Gardens Tampa Bay** – PLATINUM
- **Saint Louis Zoological Park** – GOLD
- **Sedgwick County Zoo** – SILVER
- **Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens** – *Contributor*
- **Maryland Zoo in Baltimore** – *Contributor*
- **Oregon Wildlife Foundation** – *Contributor*

Special Events

Host an Event for the Rhino!

Raging for Rhinos, Rhino Rampage, Return of the Rhino, Rockin' for Rhinos... these are ideas for names of events that zoos can hold to commemorate the North American Save the Rhinos Campaign. Whatever the occasion - activity days, concerts, festivals - IRF can help! Electronic copies of the Campaign poster and brochure are available for customizing with a zoo logo. They can be ordered through the Campaign publisher or through one of your own. Zoos can also order Campaign magnets of varying sizes for sale or as giveaways at rhino events.

IRF is seeking a few good zoos to host high-dollar benefit dinners organized by zoo volunteers from which proceeds can be shared as a recognizable zoo contribution to the Campaign. IRF can help secure a speaker from the field to talk about real rhino conservation efforts on the ground. IRF can also supply educational material focused on rhino characteristics and conservation programs to help generate contributions from individual donors. For more information, please contact Julie Dunn, Campaign Manager, at NASavetheRhinos@rhinos-irf.org.

Ecko Unltd. Gets a Good Rap for Rhinos

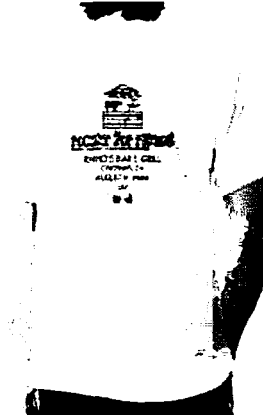


Marc Ecko's Save the Rhinos 2nd Annual Benefit Concert was held June 8, 2006 in Central Park. The evening event starred Common and Rakim - the two most heralded up-and-coming rap acts of 2006 - plus the popular Lupe Fiasco, DJ Z-Trip, Rhymefest, and DJ Kid Capri. This summer's concert follows up last year's sold out inaugural benefit, which featured The Roots, De La Soul, and MF Doom and raised \$150,000. Graphics this year prominently featured "Save the Rhinos" and drove attention to the cause. Ecko Unltd. founder, Marc Ecko, announced the Campaign to the audience before Common took the stage, and dedicated the concert to Dr. Tom Foote. Following the concert, Common was interviewed by MTV News and commented on his admiration for Marc's commitment to saving threatened rhinos. Common later remarked to AllHipHop.com news that he thinks it's important to use Hip Hop to raise awareness, especially among inner city kids. The concert raised an

unexpectedly high level and diversity of media coverage, ranging from the New York Daily News to Vibe.com. To view footage of the concert, visit spinemagazine.com and click on June 12, 2006/Save the Rhinos Concert.

Rockin' for Rhinos in Cincinnati

The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens is proud to announce a benefit concert for rhinos, to be held at the Rhino's Bar & Grill on Wednesday night, August 9th. Raven Moon is the featured attraction and proceeds from the event will benefit the Campaign.



The Last Page

Update on the EAZA Rhino Campaign

The EAZA Save the Rhinos Campaign started in September 2005 and, so far, 125 zoos from 21 countries have registered. The strongest representation comes from the United Kingdom, France, Germany and The Netherlands. Each zoo has committed to a minimum goal and, based on these commitments, EAZA should be able to reach its Campaign goal of 350,000 Euros. Zoos' fundraising pledges range between 200 euros to more than 32,000. Most do not state preferences for projects to which their money should be sent. However, the favorite funding targets are anti-poaching, monitoring, education, and community-based conservation. There are a multitude of activities developed by zoos demonstrating how motivated they all are. Many of them have used the ideas that are presented in the Campaign's Info Pack, but some others are working on their own very successful events. Some individuals, schools and organizations are also contributing to the Campaign by making donations and raising awareness. For more information, please visit the following websites: www.rhinocampaign.net; www.eaza.net; and www.savetherhino.org.

Get Ready for AZA's August *Communique*

Feature articles in the August issue of *Communique*, the magazine of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), will focus on rhinos, including programs supported by this Campaign. Be sure to check it out.

Reminder about the Campaign Info Pack

Don't forget! The CD included with your North American Save the Rhinos Campaign Info Pack contains a variety of useful tools for educational and fundraising purposes. The rhino photos featured in this e-newsletter, for example, are available on the CD and may be used as needed to promote rhino conservation initiatives at your institution, providing proper credit is given to the photographer.

Tell Us What You've Got Planned!

Hey, you zoos out there...please be sure to let us know when rhino events are on the calendar and the results of rhino conservation events that have been held by your zoo! We're happy to help publicize Campaign-related events on the IRF website as well as in this e-newsletter. Send rhino news to Julie Dunn, Campaign Manager, at NASavetheRhinos@rhinos-irf.org.