

# REALLY RHINOS!

5:4, Winter, 1991

## RAMBUNCTIOUS RHINO

No, I did not make up this headline. There is a new but growing mail-order company that uses this name. Even I don't have some of the things advertised. Besides some carvings, there are rhino mugs, pins, swizzle sticks, stationery, "t" shirts, letter opener, bookends, napkin rings, magnet and a rhino made from pecan shells. The owners will also donate a portion of the proceeds to rhino conservation. Send for your catalogue today. Your satisfaction is guaranteed. The Rambunctious Rhino, 1221 N. Florida Avenue, Tampa, FL 33602. (800) 393-1135.

## RHINO QUIZ

Where will you find Macho, Tombi, Chula, and Toto (and the answer is not in Kansas or Oz). They are owned by McAllen, Texas rancher Calvin Bensten who used to be a big game hunter but now spends his time trying to save the black rhino. Each of these ranch rhinos has a 1-acre corral. McAllen is near the Mexican border. Six years ago, Bentsen started his ranch with two rhinos. Since then a baby has been born and another female has been sent from Africa. Someday, Bensten hopes, all the rhinos will be returned to

Africa.

"Out of Africa", a black rhino sculpture issued by the Franklin Mint, is still available from the Rhino Connection. It's not cheap but it is a limited edition and has already gone up in price. Call Debbie Byrne for current price but I know it's more than \$250. Rhino Connection, 800-423-2066.

If you collect rhino business cards, I've got a novel one for your stash. Write to Rob McGinty, general manager of Rhino Linings (sprayed polyurethane van and truck bed linings). The back of the card is actually a sample of the lining. Rhino Linings of Cleveland, 986 Broadway, Bedford, OH 44146. Thanks to Bob Neillie for reminding me of this business.

them from extinction. The author has described these events through the eyes of fictional characters. Although the situations described are based on fact, the people and the events described are fictitious."

An excellent introductory text for elementary and middle school children about the plight of the African rhino. Each page has a photograph or drawing with captions that extend the text. The fictional characters, a young African boy who's uncle was a poacher, a game warden, a zoologist weave a true-to-life story about the overhunting, habits and habitat, translocation and future of the rhino. The map at the end vividly depicts the population depletion of the black rhino over the last one hundred years. An excellent contribution to conservation education as well as to any rhinophile's library.



*Rhino: The Story of the Rhino and the People Who Control Its Future. From the S.O.S. (Save Our Species Series). Written by Jill Bailey. Illustrated by Alan Baker. Gallery Books, 112 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10016. 1991. 46p. (\$4.98). Publisher's note: "This series is concerned with the world's endangered animals, the reasons why their numbers are diminishing, and the efforts being made to save*

P.S. An eerie note. When Michael Werikhe visited me, he mentioned the Laikipia Ranch which he felt was worthy of conservation dollars. This ranch is mentioned in the book but sadly it is exhibiting rhino skulls. I will have more information on Laikipia in the next issue of *Really, Rhinos!*

## MORE OF ASSAM

Thanks to Esmond Bradley Martin for the following, excerpted from *Oryx*, 25(4):215-221, Oct, 1991.

"Assam, in northeast India, is the main stronghold for the great Indian rhinoceros *Rhinoceros unicornis*, with most of the 1500 or so individuals that live there concentrated in parks and sanctuaries. Despite valiant efforts to protect them, the forest guards are poorly equipped and no match for poachers armed with automatic weapons or those who make use of high-voltage power lines to electrocute the animals. Poachers can now get 2.5 times the price for a horn compared with the \$6250 per kg obtained in 1986, because demand in Hong Kong, Singapore and Taiwan for Indian rhino horn has pushed up the price there to over \$18,000 per kg wholesale. Based on discussions with wildlife officials in Assam, the following recommendations have been made:

- More equipment, staff & domesticated elephants
- External sources of money and equipment
- IMPROVE MORALE OF FIELD STAFF
- Increase efficiency of staff, including better training
- Intelligence-gathering network is urgently needed and more money to pay for informers
- Reform the legal system to get poachers and traders jailed.
- Patrol camps should be

increased, strategically placed, and their locations reassessed as necessary.

- The local attitude towards wildlife must be improved. Until help is given to improve their standard of living, rural people, who should be the target group for wildlife publicity, will continue to consider rhinos as a threat.

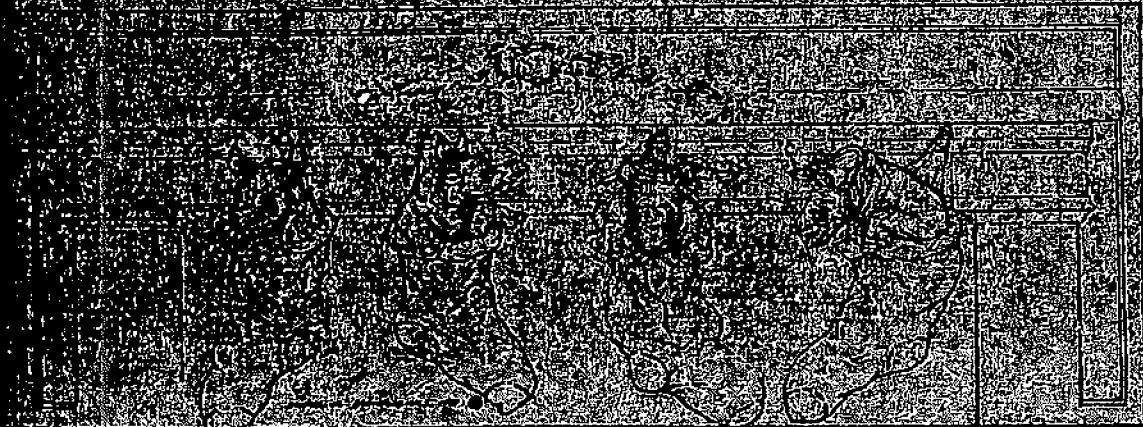
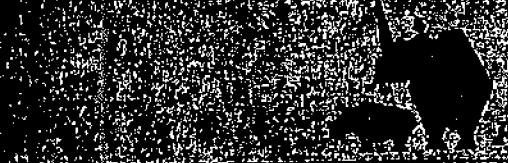
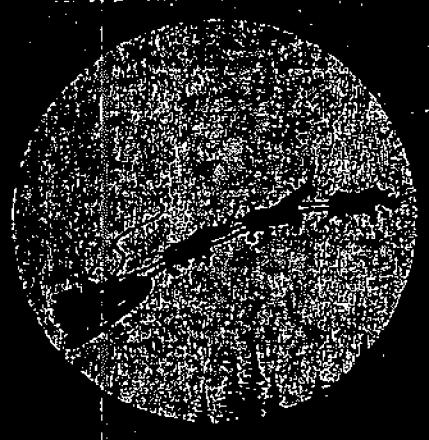
Assam's wildlife officials continue to do a remarkable job in protecting rhinos, and numbers of rhinos in Assam are increasing. However, as demand for rhino horn by Assamese traders rises and poaching becomes a more efficient commercially organized operation, the job of protecting the rhinos will be that much harder. Assam wildlife employees now need all the help they can get from the Central Government, the State Government and non-governmental organizations."

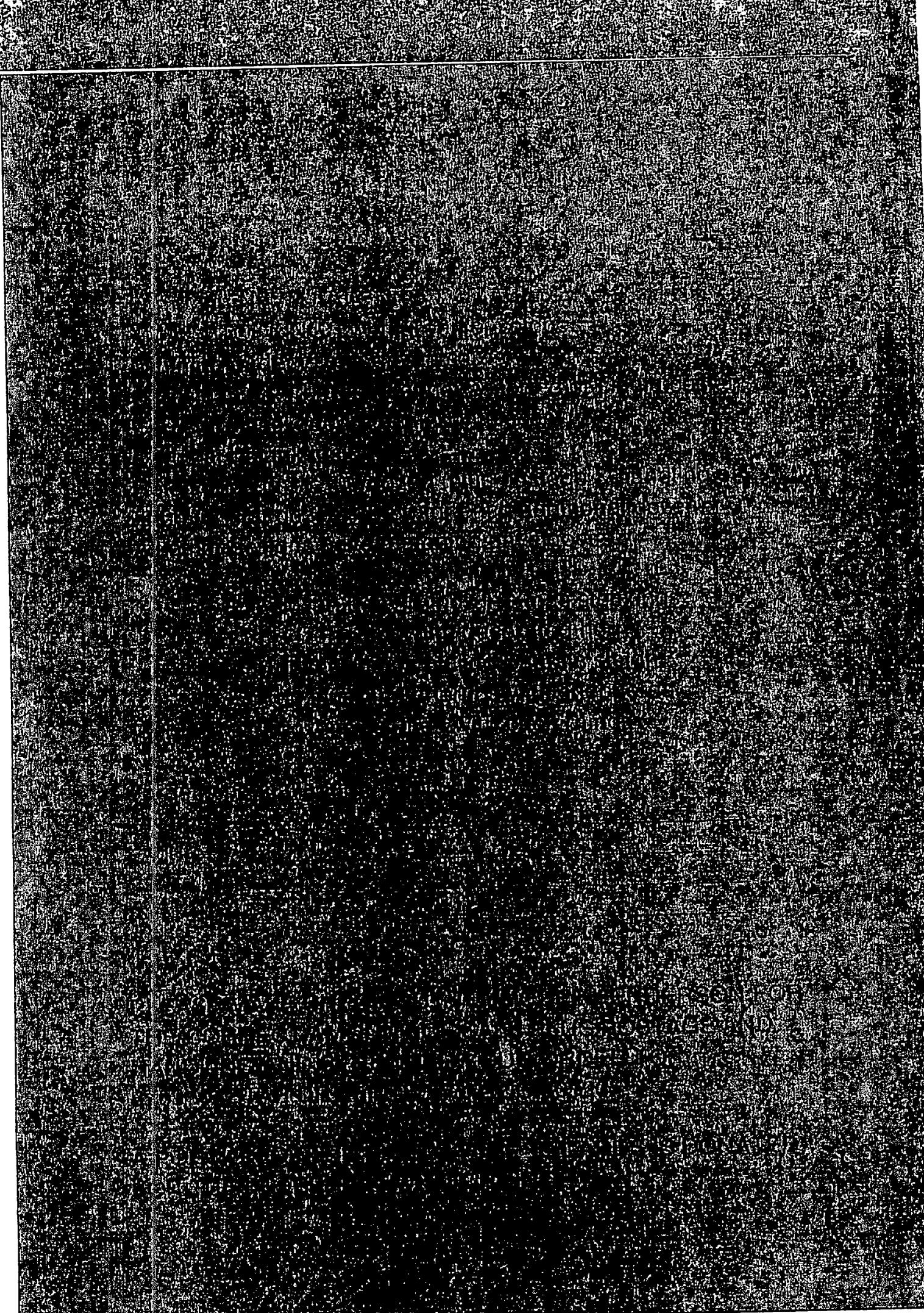
## WANT TO REDUCE YOUR TAXES? MAKE A DONATION!

CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement through which more than 100 nations are committed to work together to preserve wild animals, plants and our shared natural heritage - so that they will not be forced into extinction by uncontrolled exploitation. CITES uses a system of permits to regulate trade in wildlife. The treaty members issue permits allowing trade only after they are satisfied that it will not pose a threat to survival of the species. Commercial trade in the most endangered species including all apes and many monkeys, the great whales, elephants, tiger and many spotted cats, many birds of prey and parrots, all sea turtles and many other reptiles, the rhino, giant panda, certain plants, and other species, is prohibited. You can help stamp out poaching and illegal traffic by becoming aware of the potential for illegal trade. Be sure that wild plants and animals, or products made from them, that you buy are not endangered and are traded under proper permits. Keep an eye out for illegally imported wildlife and notify enforcement officials if you see any. Avoid

## IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR 1992!

Michael Henderson has come up with yet another delightful rhino Christmas card. A dozen cards cost \$14 (including postage and handling). You can order assorted or single design. Make your check payable to Michael Henderson, 8763 W. Star Drive, Littleton, CO, 80123. P.S. Michael donated a portion of his receipts to Michael Werikhe when he visited Colorado.





# RHINO QUESTIONNAIRE

Please include your name.

1. What is your birthdate (month / day / year is optional!)
2. How long have you been collecting rhinos and what got you started?
3. What was your first rhino and when, where, how, etc. did you get it?
4. How many rhinos do you have now (approximately)?
5. Which is your favorite rhino and why?
6. Where/how do you find the most rhinos for your collection?
7. Have you bought any rhinos mentioned in Really, Rhinos! newsletter?  
If so, would you say... all most some few (circle one)
8. What feature(s) would you like to see ADDED to R,R! newsletter?
9. What feature(s) would you like to see DROPPED from R,R! newsletter?
10. How many zoos have you visited that have rhinos? (please list them)
11. Have you ever seen rhinos in the wild? (please list when, where)

12. What is your favorite rhino conservation project/organization?
13. Do you have any duplicate rhinos you would like to sell or trade?  
(please list them with prices if applicable)
14. What type of rhino(s) are at the top of your wish list (limit to 5 please)
15. Do you prefer the BLACK, WHITE, SUMATRAN, GREATER ONE-HORNED, JAVAN, or NO PREFERENCE? (circle one)
16. Do you think there should be a rhino museum?  
Where would you like it to be?  
What do you think it should contain?  
Would you like to help see this museum established?
17. Do you know any other rhinophiles (or rhino-artists) who would like to know about the R,R! newsletter? Please list name/address or send business card.
18. Do you have any black & white photos of rhinos (any!) you can send for inclusion in a future issue of R,R! newsletter? Full credit will be given and original will be returned. If so, please send now.
19. Do you collect any rhino you can find or do you have guidelines? (e.g. only a certain species; a price limit; a specific medium, i.e. wood, bronze, crystal, fine art, etc., etc.) Please list any guidelines you have.
20. I am planning a "Save the Rhino" press package. If you would like to contribute anything to this package (usually going out to radio stations, colleges, nursing homes and schools), please send whatever to me no later than January 31, 1992. Full credit will be given and you will get a copy of the packet.

Please return this questionnaire by January 31, 1992.

In return, I will send you something for your rhino collection!

Thanks for your cooperation and hey - happy new year!

Judyth Lessee, Editor, Really, Rhinos!, PO Box 1285, Tucson, AZ 85702-1285

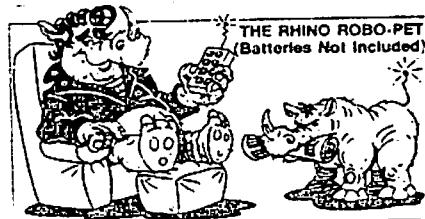
taking plants or animals from the wild which may not be able to sustain exploitation. Help educate others about CITES. For more information, write The CITES Senior Advisor, 3705 Cardiff Road, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

**Update on complying with CITES** from Esmond Bradley Martin and Lucy Vigne "From 1970 to 1985, the black rhino population in Kenya declined by 98 per cent. Since then, it has been expanding at about 5% a year and now numbers around 400 animals. One of the main reasons for this abrupt change is that government and private sectors have worked together to develop rhino sanctuaries. These fenced-in areas, often with electric wires, are guarded night and day by making it extremely difficult for poachers to kill the rhinos. However, in many parts of Africa, and Asia where rhinos still exist, poaching continues to be the major threat. Although most Asian countries have effectively banned the trade in rhino products, there are four main markets left: China, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand whose governments have been apathetic about implementing and enforcing laws against imports and exports of rhino products, and continue to allow domestic trade. Traditional medicine shops openly sell rhino products and derivatives to their customers to cure high

fever and other ailments in these countries. In 1990, however, the results of a scientific study carried out at the Chinese University of Hong Kong were published, revealing that saiga antelope horn reduces fever in rats as effectively as rhino horn, and that water buffalo horn and cow horn, when administered in large enough doses, also lower fever. WWF Hong Kong is arranging to have this paper translated into Chinese and Korean and circulated to the traditional doctors in the four offending countries. There is now no scientific nor ethical reason that doctors and pharmacists can give for prescribing rhino horn instead of substitutes to their patients. A major media and press campaign is now underway, criticizing the governments of China, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand for not complying with CITES which bans international trade in rhino products and urges member states to prohibit all internal trade. The world's conservation community has grown impatient with the bureaucratic inertia of these countries where traders continue to pay high prices for rhino horn so encouraging poaching. In Taiwan, people will pay over \$40,000 a kilo retail for Asian horn (ten times the price they pay for African horn as they believe Asian horn has more concentrated healing properties as it is smaller). Thailand has a greater variety of rhino products, including hide, nails and penises, for sale in Bangkok than anywhere else in the world.

China continues to manufacture packaged medicines containing rhino horn, which are mainly bought by overseas Chinese visiting China. In South Korea, about 85% of the Oriental medicine clinics, recently surveyed, sell rhino products and derivatives in the capital, Seoul. If we want the remaining rhinos to have a better chance of survival into the future, the demand for rhino products must be reduced in these four countries. Now that there is scientific back-up to support the use of substitutes for rhino horn, we have good reason to hope that the international media campaign pressurizing the last four main Asian markets to stop the trade in rhino products will work.

**Ngare Sergoi Support Group** is offering a new tote bag. Looks like black canvas. (\$10) and now an elephant t-shirt (\$10) or sweatshirt (\$20). Remember, they also have three rhino t-shirts (\$7) or sweatshirts (\$17): "Save a Horny Friend," "Keepers of Ancient Secrets", "On the Brink of Extinction". Write to: Ngare Sergoi Support Group, PO Box 29503, Columbus, OH 43229. By the way, Andy Lodge is available to give talks and a slide presentation on the Ngare Sergoi Wildlife Project. Contact him at (614) 885-0458.



## CONGRESSIONAL SCOREBOARD

From H.O.R.N. (Help Our Rhinos Now, 1(4):  
Summer, 1991

In this election year, how do your representatives to Congress really feel about the environment? Each year the League of Conservation Voters issues the National Environmental Scorecard which gives the voting record of all members on key environmental actions before Congress. The 1990 edition is available by sending \$5 to THE LEAGUE OF CONSERVATION VOTERS, 1150 Connecticut Ave, NW, Ste 201, Washington, DC 20036.

Remember: Your vote counts. Make your voice heard. Know before you go. Get rid of the bums who only pay lip service to conservation issues.

## JAVAN RHINOS

From Focus, 13(6):4, November/December, 1991

"One of five species of rhinos left in the world, the endangered Javan rhino occurs only in small numbers on West

Java, Indonesia (60 animals) and in Nam Cat Tien national park in southern Vietnam (5 to 15 animals). Even these few rhinos are threatened by poaching and habitat destruction. In Indonesia WWF (World Wildlife Fund) has funded a survey of the species by top ecologists and Indonesian park service staff. The survey's results will help the scientists recommend further conservation action. Determining the status of the species in the wild will lay the groundwork for further action to protect and manage the rhino's habitat in Java's Ujong Kulon. An added benefit will be the conservation of one of the last remaining blocks of lowland rain forest in Java with three endemic species of primates, many rare plants, half of all bird species in Java, and a number of threatened reptiles.



The endangered Javan rhino is one of five species of rhino left in the world.

**REALLY, RHINOS!**  
**PO Box 1285**  
**Tucson, AZ 85702-1285**



If there is a check mark in this box your subscription has expired. Please send your renewal check today! This is your last issue.

## SAVE THE RHINO DAY

**FEB. 29, 1991**

### RHINO

**Q** A rhino questionnaire is included in your newsletter. Just some general curiosity questions to learn more about my subscribers. I share some of the results in the next issue.

**O** Since there are no secrets among rhinophiles, please include your name on the questionnaire before you return it.

**E** Those who return the questionnaire by January 31st get a rhino!

*Really, Rhinos!* is published quarterly. Annual subscription is \$15 (\$19 overseas), of which \$5 is donated to rhino projects. Reader feedback and rhino sightings should be reported to Judyth Lessee, Editor, Really, Rhinos! PO Box 1285, Tucson, AZ 85702-1285, (602) 327-9111.

Note: If you find errors, please know they are printed for us who always look for them. We try to print something every issue.