

Events:

Rhino Trek India: 10-24 March 2007

Neil Bridgland

Rhino Trek India Co-ordinator

Sikkim is one of the least known and visited parts of the Himalayas and is blessed with relatively unspoilt trails. The start point for the trek is the colonial hill station of Darjeeling. Trekkers will climb up to a maximum height of 3,700m, over six days with stunning views of Kanchenjunga, the world's third-highest mountain, as well as more distant views of Everest, Cho Oyo, Makalu and Lhotse. Other highlights will be the chance to see red pandas and, it being the start of summer, the rhododendrons and orchids should be in bloom.

After the trek, there will be an opportunity to visit Kaziranga National Park in the neighbouring state of Assam. Kaziranga, a world heritage site, is home to Indian rhinos, a large population of tigers and numerous other amazing animal and bird species. Views of the wildlife should be excellent from the traditional form of transport: elephant.



On top of the world!

CYCLIST ACTION TREKS

More Info

For information about the challenge, contact Zoe on +44 (0)20 7357 7474 or email events@savetherhino.org

Tom Foose: A global icon for rhino conservation

Cathy Dean
Director



Tom Foose at Cincinnati Zoo

CINCINNATI ZOO

The rhino world seems to have had more than its fair share of early deaths. In previous issues of this magazine, we have reported the losses of the wonderful Mike Hearn, Blythe Loutit, Douglas Adams and Michael Werikhe. And now another: Tom Foose, Program Director of the International Rhino Foundation (IRF), who died in May. He was 61.

Tom's professional contribution to rhino conservation is well known, and a short biography appears on the IRF's website, www.rhinos-irf.org

On behalf of Save the Rhino International, I'd like to say how very, very much we will miss Tom. During the five years that I've been at Save the Rhino, our relationship with the International Rhino Foundation has grown and deepened. This is, of course, partly due to the strength and importance of the projects we have co-funded over the years, but it has also been due to the pleasure in working with Tom himself.

I especially appreciated, and benefited from, his willingness to share information, to explain the issues involved to a newcomer to rhino conservation like me, and his putting so much time and energy into building networks of organisations that would provide financial and in-kind help for field projects. His communications and organisational skills were exceptional and have achieved so much.

I will miss Tom's sense of humour. We had got into a habit of almost daily phone calls and emails, with some long-running jokes that often made me laugh out loud. One of the things Tom enjoyed was the difference between "American" and "English" English, and we had funny times trying to outwit each other with the peculiarities of our respective forms: "two nations divided by a common language," as Tom liked to quote.

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American and English...
...Two nations divided
by a common language.

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I actually met Tom just once, in June 2005, when he came to London for a few days to attend an EAZA Rhino Campaign Core Group meeting, and to meet our Trustees to discuss a Memorandum of Understanding between our two charities. After three and a half years of email and phone contact, it was a joy to meet Tom in person. Tom's passing will not mean any less cooperation between SRI and the IRF. We share information, ideas and ideals; we speak the same language. But I wish so very much that Tom was still here.