

Asian Rhino Project

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About the Asian Rhino Project

The Asian Rhino Project is a non-profit, volunteer organisation with the intent to raise awareness and support for the three Asian Rhinoceros species.

- The Indian Rhino (population 2400)
- The Sumatran Rhino (population 300)
- Javan Rhino (population 60)

All are seriously endangered due to habitat loss and poaching. These elusive animals are a flagship species of Asian rainforests and wetlands. They are one of many of Asia's native species facing extinction – some in the very near future. Asian Rhinos need some serious help!

The organisation originated a year ago from a dream and passion of a small group of individuals to enhance awareness of these endangered species. Kerry Crosbie (a rhino keeper at Perth Zoo) first founded the project after a discussion with visiting zookeeper Matt Hunt from Port Lympne in the UK. Matt had had the privilege of working with a Sumatran Rhino (Torgamba) at Port Lympne before the rhino was exported back to a sanctuary in Sumatra (Way Kambas). His passion and despair for the Sumatran Rhino situation triggered Kerry to learn more about these animals. She was taken by these intriguing species yet horrified that so little was known about them. If anyone knows Kerry, they will understand the headstrong, determined personality she bares - AND SO THE PROJECT BEGAN!

Our team now –

Committee

Chairperson	Kerry Crosbie
Vice Chairperson	Clare Campbell
Treasurer	Petra Hancock
Secretary	Martina Ter Steeg
Merchandise	Holly Thompson
Website Maintenance	Belinda Bastow

Trustees

Nicholas Duncan
Andrew Thompson
Kerry Crosbie

Patron

Peter Hall

With the support of four fellow keepers and three other individuals, the Asian Rhino Project started out with the aim to increase awareness of the three Asian Rhino species with a direct focus on the Sumatran Rhino.

Zoo signage was first on the agenda. Perth Zoo holds four Southern White Rhino (one of the two species of African Rhino). Kerry approached the Zoo to assist in this quest by using the rhino at the Zoo as a tool to educate visitors on all five species of rhino. Most people are aware of the African species, but few were aware of the Asian Rhino who are the rarest of all species of rhino. Perth Zoo was very supportive of this quest, and now has one of the world's most educational displays of rhino signage.

Not long after that, Kerry and fellow Zookeeper Brooke Squires attended the International Rhino keepers Conference in Denver. Both girls had planned to take part in a two-week volunteer program in Borneo assisting the Rhino Protection Units (RPUs) in the Tabin Wildlife Reserve survey for signs of Sumatran Rhino. A month before their departure the girls were shied away due to the outbreak of SARS and the war in Iraq at the same time. A friend who was aware of their disappointment encouraged Kerry to attend the Borneo Rhino Challenge instead – a fundraising event set out to raise funds and awareness for the Sumatran Rhino of Borneo. And so another challenge began.

In November 2003, a devastating event occurred. One of the four captive breeding program centers (Sungai Dusun Sumatran Rhino Breeding Center) lost their whole population of captive Sumatran Rhino due to a devastating illness which wiped them out within two weeks. The current captive population of this species now stood at 8 with only one successful breeding in 112 years, a birth in 2002. Not a great record from a population of 40 founding individuals.

After hearing the news of this terrible disaster and learning more about the plight of the Sumatran Rhino, Peter Hall from Hunter Hall Investment Management Limited contacted us and wanted to help. He donated \$10,000 immediately to assist us in our mission and has continued to contribute to Sumatran Rhino conservation ever since. Hunter Hall Investment is now our major corporate sponsor. With them on board, the Asian Rhino Project has been able to grow and we have not been able to stop the ball rolling since.

We would be lost without the guidance and support of the SAVE Foundation of Australia. Nicholas Duncan and his crew provided us with contacts and advice on running an organisation like this. Dianne Gates from the Silvery Gibbon Project and Leif Cocks from the Australian Orangutan Project have also been very supportive – without the experience and assistance of

these people, we would have been lost! This assistance is a great example of organisations working together towards reaching the same goals – something we are very proud to be a part of and are keen to continue.

We are proud to be working closely with other rhino organisations such as the International Rhino Foundation (IRF), SOS Rhino and SAVE the Rhino International – three major international rhino organisations. Also a Memorandum of Understanding has been implemented between the ARP and Perth Zoo. Together we can achieve so much more!

PROJECTS

Sumatran Rhino

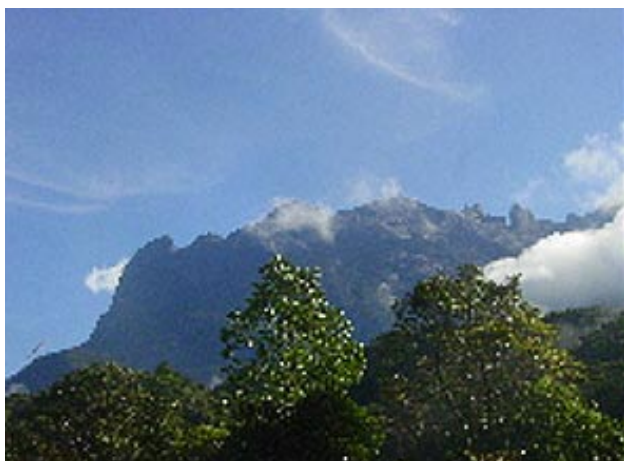
SOS Rhino Borneo Rhino Challenge 2004

They made it! Thank-you to all for the ongoing support and interest in the Borneo Rhino Challenge we sincerely appreciate it. Clare and Kerry have returned safe and well and are pleased to say that they both made it to the summit of Mt Kinabalu.

In our efforts to assist the endangered Sumatran Rhino, Kerry Crosbie and Clare Campbell participated in the inaugural SOS Rhino Borneo Challenge. 12 participants from around the world to attended the two-week 'Challenge' (May 1-15, 2004). Participants were required to climb to the summit of Mt Kinabalu (13,422 feet), cycle around the Kudat Peninsula (85 miles) and trek through the jungle of the Tabin Wildlife reserve searching for signs of Sumatran Rhino (two days).

The Mountain

Mt Kinabalu



This proved to be the toughest part of the challenge, but all 12 participants made it to the summit. Both Clare and Kerry struggled with the mountain though and managed to be the last up and the last down, though their sheer determination got them there eventually.

Clare suffered from slight altitude sickness on the way up from Laban Rata rest house to the summit on day 2. They were required to be up and ready to go by 2.30am after a night full of noise and anticipation – not one of

them got any sleep! I don't think this helped at all. However they were rewarded with the amazing views of the sunrise from the summit that totally blew them away. For a moment their life was grand and things couldn't have been better. Oh what a feeling!

Two hours later – back at the Resthouse, things were starting to look shaky. Kerry lost the use of her high muscles 500 meters from the Resthouse with 6km left of decent down the steep mountain. The steps were more like cliff faces (slight exaggeration, but that's how we felt at the time) and she was suffering from the effects of lactic acid. Memories of the summit were soon turning grey! With limited rest and no food – the perfect recipe for fatigue and exhaustion, the descent made this day one of the toughest, longest days either of them has ever encountered! No respectable word can be used to describe how they felt about that part of the challenge – fun was far from a good explanation! Both of them feel very proud of their achievement though, and are proud to say they have been to the top.



The Cycle

This part of the challenge began the very next day after the mountain climb. The schedule was to ride 100km to Kota Belud from the mountain. Due to the fact that most of the participants were physically unable to walk after the mountain climb, the ride was reduced to 40 km (a wise move). This day presented with extreme humidity from rain build-up and the 34° heat. Two participants were unable to complete the day's cycle. Kerry and Clare both made it and although Kerry suffered from heat stroke after completion, both found this part of the challenge the most enjoyable. The scenery was amazing – they passed through several villages where the local people and school children came out to greet them. Fantastic views and the fact that it was easier to cycle than to walk was a great boost after the horrific struggle of literally crawling out of bed that morning.



Day two of the cycle was a non-event for around half of the participants including Clare and Kerry. With only one day to recover and the persistent excruciating pain of damaged muscles, the thought of entering a jungle which experiences regular sightings of wild elephants

scared them into self-preservation. Instead they took the opportunity to be a support crew for the other half of the participants and brush up on some Malay from their guides.

The participants' first experience of the jungle was a visit to a nearby volcano, which resulted in a massive mud fight and complete soaking from torrential downpours. They did not come across any animals, which was not surprising with the amount of noise 12 people make tramping through the bush! They did however find elephant footprints and fresh dung, which was quite exciting.

The next day the majority of the group was off into the jungle. SOS Rhino had arranged for Kerry and Katy from SAVE the Rhino International to go out into the plantation areas on the other side of the reserve to visit the community programs and SOS river base camp of the Rhino Protection Unit. This was a great opportunity for them to gain a more in depth understanding of where funds are being spent and how.

The crew in the jungle



Clare's trek took them through thick jungle making their own tracks following GPS readings in search for signs of Sumatran Rhino with the Rhino Protection Units. Sadly all they found were leeches, a wasp nest and came dangerously close to walking into a herd of wild elephants. Although they didn't see any signs of rhino, the RPU that went out the following week found two separate tracks in a new area which is quite exciting. It is estimated that there may be about 30 Sumatran Rhino left in Tabin Wildlife reserve, so things are getting pretty desperate.



Kerry's journey visited two small villages, one of which had a population of 200 people living in 10 houses on the river at the entrance of the Tabin Wildlife Reserve. The smaller village is where SOS Rhino plans to re-locate their river base camp. There they will have a better chance of detecting any movements of illegal produce such as wildlife and logging. SOS also plans to construct two new buildings – one for the ongoing research programs and the other a kindergarten for the village children. English is not well spoken in this village, and the villagers are very keen to use this kindergarten as a resource to teach their children English while they are young.

Sepilok Sumatran Rhino Breeding Center

The participants were rewarded with a visit to the rhino at Sepilok at the completion of the 'challenge' which was the highlight of the event. They spent ½ hour with the female rhino behind the scenes, and then went and visited the male in their amazing forested enclosure.



They felt so privileged to have been able to meet these amazing creatures in the flesh. There are now only 8 Sumatran Rhino left in captivity.

This fundraising and awareness event required each participant to raise a minimum of \$2,000 (US) for the conservation of the Sumatran Rhino of Borneo. The Asian Rhino Project are proud to announce that with the help of our sponsors, we raised a total of \$7,000. A large contributor also donated a whopping \$10,000 to assist in this and other Asian Rhino Conservation projects we support. In total \$7,297.05 was given to this particular event. To ensure our funds were being directed solely towards the conservation of this critically endangered species, we were able to liaise with SOS Rhino and arrange for us to present the funds by purchasing valuable equipment for the Rhino Protection Units (RPUs) in the Tabin Wildlife Reserve.

The items purchased are:

- **Five handheld GPS systems** – these will be used in the reserve by the rangers to enable them to trace their positioning in dense forest, record rhino sightings and tracks as well as and encroachment and signs of illegal poaching activities.
- **Two digital cameras** with waterproof casing and upgraded memory sticks – to capture rhino sightings, record findings, and identify species of both flora and fauna in the park.
- **Two Satellite phones** – a very important purchase for the safety of the rangers and their volunteers

that are on patrol in the jungle. Trekking through these jungles is dangerous. These people face the possibility of crossing illegal poachers, wild elephants, cobras and sun bears as well as crossing very rough terrain. Communication with the base camp and emergency services is vital for their safety.

- **One 15hp outboard engine** – SOS Rhino have a base camp at the base of the river that enters into the reserve. Using patrol boats they are able to monitor activities on the river and detect suspicious activities such as transport of illegal trade particularly wildlife and timber.
- **One diesel generator** – to power the river base camp at night.

Once again, the Asian Rhino Project would like to thank our sponsors for their support in this project. A special thanks goes to Hunter Hall Associates, our key contributor, for their support of Rhino Conservation. Thank you to the SAVE Foundation of Australia for their generous contributions and ongoing support. The Asian Rhino Team would also like to acknowledge the support provided by the Perth Zoo Docent Association, Silvery Gibbon Project, Australian Orangutan Project and SOS Rhino, the Byford Volunteer Bushfire Brigade as well as our individual contributors for this event.

Ongoing Support for SOS Rhino Borneo

The ARP is looking into possibilities of providing further assistance and equipment for the RPU's in Borneo. They are still in need of uniforms, computers, 4WD parts and ultimately a new 4WD.

In-situ Conservation of Sumatran Rhino in Peninsula Malaysia Colloquium

Kuala Lumpur 15-16th March 2004

Invited by the International Rhino Foundation, Peter Hall, Nicholas Duncan and Kerry Crosbie from the ARP attended this very important Colloquium. Approximately 40 people from both inside and outside of Malaysia took part in this two-day event reassessing the current dismal situation the remaining wild population of 60-80 Sumatran Rhino in the Malay Peninsula.

The colloquium came in the wake of the disaster of the Sumatran Rhino deaths at Sungai Dusun on the peninsula's West Coast. What do we do with the dwindling population of the Sumatran Rhino? Captive breeding has proved to be a costly experiment! Between 1985 and 1995, 40 Sumatran Rhino were captured from the wild and placed in captive breeding centers. Out of these 40 animals, 7 remain and only 1 animal has reproduced in captivity in the past 112 years, holding the world captive population at 8. But, if left in the wild, scattered tiny populations of 1 to 4 rhino in small pockets of isolated

habitat are doomed to poaching and isolation. As a result they are unable to breed!

With captive breeding proven to be unsustainable due to the lack of knowledge of these animals' nutritional and reproductive requirements, it was agreed that in-situ conservation is the only way we are going to save this species. There are 11 sites where the 80 rhino are found in Malay Peninsula – of these 11 sites, there are only 4 sustainable populations! The other known sites only hold populations of 1-4 rhino which inhabit jungle separated by villages, farms and estates.

As always, funding is also an issue, the local Government and IRF contributions cannot accommodate protecting all 11 rhino populations. Much of the support for field activities derives from non-governmental sources outside Malaysia, which is not desirable or sustainable long term. With these smaller populations deemed 'doomed', the only options left is to relocate them to safer patrolled areas.

Scientists feel they have learnt a lot more about this species now and with the understanding that the traditional ex-situ conservation is no longer an option for these non-viable populations, the possibility of creating a 'rhino sanctuary' similar to the rhino sanctuaries in Africa is very real. This idea is not without caution – it was recognised that rhino relocation is risky. The animals may not fit into their new environment and there is risk of mortality throughout the process. A feasibility study would first be required to assess the age, sex, reproductive status of the 'doomed' rhino and the relocation area would need to be large enough and well protected to ensure success.

Endau-Rompin, amongst others was favored as a possible sanctuary site. This area once sustained a large population of 25-30 rhino in one of the country's best rhino habitats. Now the population is estimated to be a dismal 3-4 rhino due to habitat destruction and poaching. Scientists are convinced that the Sumatran rhino can survive well in forest re-growth and this area is the most promising for a sanctuary.

More assistance is required for the RPU's! They require assistance from law enforcers to assist them with arrests. Poachers now carry guns – the rangers do not. Training and assistance from law enforcers is a must to build confidence in RPU's. More up-to-date, sophisticated equipment such as lighter handcuffs, GPS systems, satellite phones, 4WD's is required to assist the rangers to penetrate further into the jungle where the rhino inhabit.

Stronger law enforcement is required. The laws are weak when it comes to rhino poaching in Malaysia. 13 Thai and Cambodian poachers were caught in 2003 – the maximum sentence they received was 1 year in gaol and 2whips. In a country where drug trafficking faces the death penalty!

And finally, it was recognised that for this flagship species to survive, it needs to be declared as a part of the National Heritage of Malaysia, thus considering any attacks on the rhino as an attack on Malaysia! Without this pride and recognition, the whole population may as well be considered 'doomed'. The extinction that they are faced with will sadly be inevitable!

Hunter Hall Investments

Through Peter Hall's commitment to Sumatran Rhino conservation, Hunter Hall International have donated a whopping \$55,000 to the ARP. He is very excited about the ARP and wanted to support us to get us up and running. A three-year commitment has been offered by the company with the intention to see the ARP launched Australia wide and set up to be self-sufficient. He donated a further \$85,000 directly to the IRF after the Malay Peninsular Colloquium to aid the desperate situation of the rhino there. A further \$55,000 has recently been donated to the IRF providing his continued support there. Peter and his company continue to support Sumatran Rhino conservation and plans to play a big part in their future. It is inspiring and comforting to know that there are people out there that are willing to share their generosity.

So who is Hunter Hall?

Hunter Hall International Limited are an ethical investment company and owner of ethical investment manager Hunter Hall Investment Management Limited. Hunter Hall manages three ethical equity trusts – the Value Growth Trust, Australian Value Trust and Global Ethical Trust. The trusts restrict investment in businesses, which are harmful to people, animals or the environment.

Hunter Hall is committed to donating 5% of pre-tax profits to charities or charitable purposes. The charities their shareholders choose to support deal with environmental, social and humanitarian problems in today's world. Their aim is to make the world a better place now and for future generations.

Sumatra Projects

We are currently looking into a possible joint project with other conservation organisations. In particular the Australian Orangutan Project and their associates. Stay tuned for more!

The existing Way Kambas Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary is another focus of which we hope to be involved in. A proposal has come forward to upgrade their facilities – another project that Peter Hall is interested in supporting. Kerry and Peter have been invited to attend the International Rhino Foundations board meeting at the White Oak Conservation Center in the USA to discuss these options further.

Karen's Bibbulmun Track Walk

Karen Rotherham a member of the Asian Rhino Project is planning to do the Bibbulmun Track in October this year. This track runs from Kalamunda, on the outskirts of Perth, to Albany on the south coast (a whopping 960-km!). The track is set out in sections, a days walk apart, with a shelter, water tank and drop loo at most campsites. The walk should take about eight weeks - this includes stops in the towns the track passes through to wash up and pick up supplies.

In the past Karen has done an Outward Bound standard course and several bush walking trips in Victoria so she

has some idea of what she is in for but no doubt the experience is going to be interesting. Karen walked a small section of the track in March this year, from Conspicuous Beach back to Walpole, as a trial run. She says this was quite demanding in sections but the Franklin River campsite was well worth the effort. Currently she is setting off on the first part of her walk, which will take six days from the Brookton Hwy to Albany Hwy. She will probably not repeat this section due to time constraints (her employer has allowed her to take annual leave combined with leave without pay so that she could be away for such a long period of time). Karen will start the main walk in early October this year. The track can be walked in sections and is just as demanding, but for some reason she wants to do the whole lot in one go!

Karen will be raising money for the Asian Rhino Project by encouraging people to sponsor her for every kilometre that she walks, or by giving a straight donation. She has requested that the money raised will go towards providing equipment for the Rhino Protection Units working in the field in Indonesia and Malaysia, so come on guys – lets give her some support!

Karen says that she is looking forward to starting and she has promised to write up a summary at the end to cover the highs, lows and every thing in between. She looks forward to meeting new people, sharing stories and just getting away to beautiful natural places, which she predicts, will be the greatest reward! She also encourages anyone wanting to walk the track to join the Friends of the Bibbulmun Track as they provide a great range of information, discounted products and track planning. To find out more about the track – visit www.bibbulmuntrack.org.au

The Asian Rhino crew plan to provide support to Karen on her journey by taking turns in visiting her at certain town destinations and dropping off supplies. We wish her the best of luck and are proud and very thankful for her support. Good luck Karen!

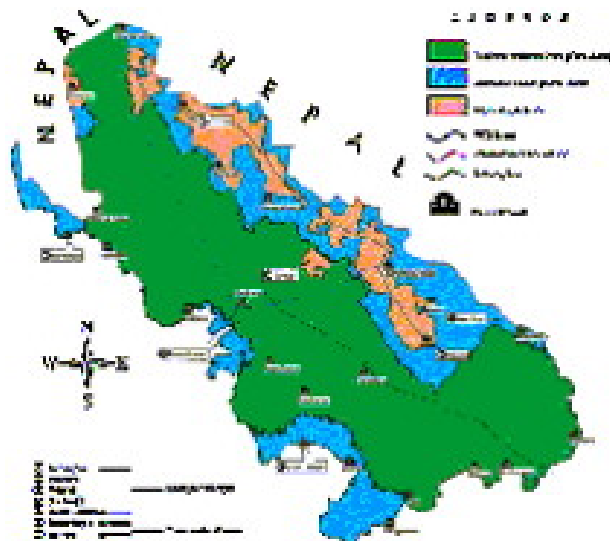
If you are interested in supporting Karen and the ARP, please fill in and forward the pledge form attached to this newsletter. Why not make copies and forward them to your friends? To find out more and to receive regular updates on Karen's adventures, visit our Website – www.asianrhinos.org.au.

Indian Rhino

The Asian Rhino Project is currently looking into assisting SOS Rhino with an Indian Rhino project in the Dudhwa National Park situated on the Indo-Nepal border.

The objective of this project is to facilitate conditions for the development of Dudhwa National Park as a secure home to a population of around 90 Greater one horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) as well as a popular tourist destination. Included in the objective is to achieve this with the support of the local community and academic institutions and sustained by the government, national and international NGO's and tourism.

Dudhwa National Park was established in 1977 and was declared as a Project Tiger site in 1987. This park is reputedly the last remaining tract of the Terai Sal (*Shorea robusta*) grassland/-wetland ecosystem in north central India. 66% of National Park is woodland while 19% is grassland.



A colorful tribal community (Tharu tribe) resides within the northern buffer forests of the park. In the west and north, Nepali villages surround the park, while in the south and east, Indian villagers have agricultural fields almost right up to the park boundary. In all, these villages total around 100.

In 1979, the ARSG (Asian Rhino Specialist Group) of IUCN called for the establishment of additional viable Indian rhino population units in suitable areas, preferably in the rhino's former distribution range. As a result, seven rhinos (2 males and 5 females) were translocated from Assam (Pobitora Sanctuary) and Nepal (Chitwan) between 1984 and 1985, forming the park's founder population. Since then the rhino population has grown to 18 animals. Currently only one dominant male is servicing six adult females - this population is in need of fresh blood!

Other wildlife inhabiting the park:

Tigers (*Panthera tigris*): In 2001 there was estimated to be a population of 70 tigers within the park. These tigers are one of the major tourist attractions to the park.

Barasingha (*Cervus duvauceli duvauceli*): The Barasingha or otherwise known as Swamp deer, number around 2000. They are one of 5 deer species found in the Park. The other deer species are **Barking Deer (*Muntiacus muntjak*)**, **Hog Deer (*Axis porcinus*)**, **Sambar (*Cervus unicolor*)**, and **Spotted Deer (*Axis axis*)**.

Others: 14 mammals, 9 birds and 10 reptiles find strict protection under Schedule-I of the national Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The **Hispid Hare (*Caprolagus hispidus*)** and the **Bengal Florican (*Eupodotis bengalensis*)** are endangered species also found here. In addition to Tiger, other cat species reported in the park are **Leopard (*Panthera pardus*)**, **Jungle cat (*Felis chaus*)**, **Leopard cat (*Felis bengalensis*)** and **Fishing cat (*Felis viverrina*)**.

What Does the Park Need to Achieve Its Vision?

As a viable home to Rhino:

- The park has approximately 100sq. km of viable rhino habitat. An upgrade of protection is required in terms of infrastructure and training/motivation of staff.
- An infusion of new blood along with a steady increase in numbers is required to reach a viable rhino population within the park.
- The rhino need to be used as the park's 'Unique Selling Point' (USP) for all stakeholders.
- Mitigation of Rhino/Man conflict situations (crop raiders) - 2 sub-adult males and one cow with calf have been involved in conflicts with local villagers. Three people have been killed by these rhino in the agricultural fields - so far there have been no ramifications, but it is only a matter of time!
- International cooperation / collaboration is vital for success.

As a popular tourist destination:

- Access to the park via good comfortable access - road, rail and air.
- Comfortable, tasteful and hygienic accommodation, with well trained, helpful and informed staff.
- Effective marketing and attractive USP (Indian Rhino). Also including the promotion of local handicrafts and local communities.
- Involvement and assistance of researchers and volunteers.
- Appropriate facilities for park visitation requirements.
- Park interpretation and conservation education.

The Asian Rhino Project is currently communicating with SOS Rhino on what equipment is required to assist in achieving this vision. We aim to offer \$2,000AUD worth of goods to SOS Rhino to assist in this worthy cause.

Javan Rhino

The Wanamedia Lestari Foundation, a non-profit organization producing educational audio-visual materials on environmental protection issues, is proposing a series of three video documentaries about the "flagship" Indonesian endangered species: the Javan rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*), the babirusa (*Babyrousa babyrussa*) of Sulawesi and the orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) of Sumatra and Borneo.

The aim of these videos is to raise awareness of the growing threat to Indonesia's biodiversity among three groups: primary schoolchildren, official policy makers, and the general public. The Asian Rhino Project is looking into assisting this worthy project by assisting with production costs.

Footage of these animals in their natural habitats will be used as the base for three versions of each film targeted toward a specific audience. These films will also serve as

'pilots' for a longer series which can be proposed to national and international television program distributors.

Wanamedia will distribute CDs in cooperation with regional institutions, non-governmental organizations, who will organize showings of the films in villages. These three films will also form part of a ten-episode series Wanamedia is preparing for broadcast on Indonesian television.

A Child's Perspective

These versions will introduce children to wildlife conservation issues by taking the viewers on a tour of the animal's 'home', showing the daily routine of an individual animal and explaining the function of other flora and fauna of that particular ecosystem. Hosted by a pre-teen (approx. 12 years) using informal language familiar to the target audience, the film will show how any disruption of the ecosystem will probably result in the extinction of the animal.

Threatened Habitats, Endangered Species

The versions intended for viewing by the general public will mix information and entertainment, using dramatic footage of animals striving to cope with a changing environment. As these films will focus on rare and exotic species, they can be used for Eco-tourism promotion.

A Case for Conservation

These films, intended specifically for viewing by policy makers, will present the case safeguarding biodiversity and protecting wildlife habitats through expert analysis and opinion. In all cases the films will propose workable solutions which can be examined and discussed by relevant policy makers.

Distribution

Distribution of these films will include an important, but often overlooked, population segment: people living in or near threatened habitats. These residents, who are generally marginalised populations with low educational levels, are often ignorant of the long-term impact of their daily activities on wildlife and the environment. Wanamedia will work with local NGO's and local Government to distribute CD's and organise projections followed by discussions in some of the most remote villages around protected areas, using portable video projection units.

Volunteers and Members Needed

As a newly formed organisation, we are in need of members and volunteers. The ARP wishes to apply for a tax-deductible status, but to do that we need a minimum of 50 members. Please pass the word around. For more copies of our membership forms, visit our Website www.asianrhinos.org.au.

Qualified Accountant - We are also in need of a qualified accountant who would be willing to donate time to carry out auditing requirements and act as a support contact for our treasurer.

Marketing - the ARP are after assistance to make up flyers, banners and create posters.

If you know of or are someone who would be keen to assist, please contact Kerry on 041 901 5286 or by email at kerry.crosbie@asianrhinos.org.au.

ARP EVENTS

ROCK CLIMBING FOR RHINOS

Where The Hangout Rock Climbing & Abseiling Centre. 12 White St, Bayswater, WA

When 10th August 2005

Time 7 pm- 10pm (climb as long as you like)

Cost \$20/person - includes harness hire, lesson, sausage sizzle and soft drinks.

RSVP 5th August - Phone 9526 2060 or email info@asianrhinos.org.au

RSPCA "ALL CREATURES EXPO"

Where Ascot Racecourse, Grandstand Rd, Ascot, WA

When Sunday 19th September 2004

Time 9.30 am- 4 pm

Cost Adults: \$8.00

Children: \$5.00

Family (2+2): \$20.00

More Info www.allcreatureexpo.com.au

STOP THE PRESS!

Sumatran Rhino Birth at Cincinnati Zoo

IT'S A GIRL!

Cincinnati Zoo's Sumatran Rhino Makes History with Second Calf



The Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden proudly announces that Emi, a critically endangered Sumatran rhinoceros, today became the first Sumatran rhino in history to have produced two calves in captivity. Emi delivered a healthy female calf at 12:51 p.m. in her indoor stall.

"This is a historic birth. It is proof the science of breeding Sumatran rhinos has been developed at the Cincinnati Zoo and the first birth was not a one time wonder," said Dr. Terri Roth, Vice President of Animal Sciences. "Because Sumatran rhinos are on the brink of extinction, this calf serves as a lifeline for a species clinging desperately to survival."

Emi became restless early Thursday morning and started contractions at 12:04pm, Friday. Soon after delivery at 12:51pm, Emi began licking the calf. The calf first attempted to stand at 1:06 p.m. Emi and her calf will remain inside for the next few weeks to allow privacy during this bonding time.

Emi and her calf are doing great. Beginning at 10 am Saturday, visitors can get their first glimpse of mum and the new baby on the monitors in the public exhibit at the Zoo's Centre for Conservation & Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) and through Rhino Cam. The Rhino Cam, courtesy of Time Warner Cable, is a Web-controllable video camera accessible 24-hours-a-day (viewing hours subject to change) through the Zoo's Website at: www.cincinnati-zoo.org.

In September of 2001, Emi gave birth to a healthy 72.6 pound calf named, Andalas. This was the first time in 112 years that a Sumatran rhinoceros successfully reproduced in captivity.

Good news like this comes at a critical time in the conservation of Sumatran rhinos. Today less than 300 survive in the wild and only eight in captivity. Emi and the Cincinnati Zoo's male, Ipuh are on loan from the Indonesian government and are the only successfully captive breeding pair in the world. Only two other Sumatran rhinos are in the United States. Andalas currently resides at the Los Angeles Zoo and a fourth rhino, an older female, resides at the Bronx Zoo.

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Emi had a history of early pregnancy loss before carrying her first full-term calf. During that pregnancy, Emi was prescribed a daily dose of oral progesterone. None was administered throughout this pregnancy.

Sumatran rhinos are a flagship species for the Cincinnati Zoo's signature conservation programs. The Sumatran rhinoceros is considered one of the most endangered mammals on earth. In the last 15 years over 50% of the Sumatran rhino population has been lost because of poaching and habitat destruction.

