

Asian Rhino Project

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AUGUST 2005



A Warm Welcome to our New Members

Rebecca Vaughan
Russell Andrew Holyoake
Nicole Buckingham
Claire Stratford
Olga Christine Karstvo

Total number of members now stands at 107.

Membership Renewal Reminder

It is vital that we keep up our membership to meet the requirements of the Register of Environment and Heritage to obtain Tax Deductible Gift Recipient status. Your support over the past year has helped us in our mission to raise awareness and support for the three Asian rhino species. We value this support and without it we would not be able to continue the great work we are doing. You really are making a difference! For that, we sincerely thank you.



Members who joined up for one year in July, August and September last year will have received a membership renewal letter in the mail recently. The committee has agreed to renew memberships from the date the member first joined to ensure that the members receive full benefit from their support. A big thanks to the members who have renewed their membership - especially to those who renewed for multiple years – not only does this save you and the organisation valuable money, but it saves us the administrative time as well. Long term memberships also aid us in planning longer term and ensure that we are able to continue to reach the requirements as a tax deductible recipient furthering the benefits for all.

**Have you ever felt that you want to help save a species
or a precious piece of land? Well you can.**

**Drop us an e-mail on info@asianrhinos.org.au or
phone Kerry on 041 901 5286 - we are awaiting your call!**

Any help no matter how small is extremely worthwhile, even attending our events or talking to your friends about the rhinos is directly helping the Asian Rhino Projects quest to save the three Asian rhino species, the Sumatran, Javan and Indian rhinos.

Project Updates

ARP, Peter Hall and the International Rhino Foundation – Sumatran Rhino Project, Sumatra

Kerinci Seblat Rhino Rescue

Three specialised rhino traps have been constructed and the rescue team is waiting for the first rhino to step in. Traps are generally constructed around mud wallows and tracks that are thought to be frequented by the rhino, however trapping one of the remaining 2-3 rhino in this park is not going to be easy and may take 6 months or more depending on where the rhino are.

Rosa Update

Forwarded by Dr Nico van Strien, IRF

Rosa is reported to be doing fine, after she was out of sight for about one month. There is another rhino further up the road that is getting more and more out of the forest as well. BBS probably has the highest population density of rhino of all areas, and there are indeed signs of population pressure. With its stretched out shape this primarily leads to animals moving more and more into the fringes, East and West of the Park, rather than moving through the narrow corridor into the uninhabited parts further North. Northern migration will take much more time, but I am confident that it will happen eventually. Our population estimate for BBS is 60-80, but there may be a few more in under-explored areas. I have ordered the RPU to cover some of these areas before the end of this year.

Faecal collections of Rosa have started. The RPU has been collecting these samples in order to carry out a hormone assay which will enable Dr Muhammad Agil from the Department of Clinic, Reproduction and Pathology and his veterinary team at Bogor Agricultural University to detect a suspected pregnancy. Several samples will need to be collected over a period of time before any results can be determined.



Rosa. Photo courtesy of Terri Roth



RPU Assistance, Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park

The satellite phones requested during Kerry and Peter's visit to Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBS), Sumatra in March have been purchased for the Rhino Protection Units (RPU). These are on trial at the moment and the RPUs are keeping a logbook of all calls. After a few months they will be evaluated to see whether the use of the phones is cost effective under BBS conditions.

Photo: Rhino Protection Unit in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park. Photo by Kerry Crosbie

ARP and SOS Rhino Borneo – Sumatran Rhino Project, Borneo

SOS RHINO (BORNEO) RHINO PROTECTION UNITS OR RPUs

By Dr. Edwin Bosi (Program Officer)

The Rhino Protection Unit (RPU) is the pillar of Sumatran rhino conservation in Sabah, Malaysia. When rhinos are found in a habitat, it must be protected at all cost. Poaching is a problem but it can be controlled by having strong, dedicated, committed and responsible persons. The Sabah Wildlife Department is going to train and appoint our RPU members as Honorary Wildlife Wardens. To tackle rhino poaching is indeed a very challenging task as the horns are lucrative and valuable trophies.

Presently, SOS Rhino (Borneo) has three RPUs consisting of 15 persons. Each RPU is led by a Team Leader and four Field Assistants. They must know jungle survival, map reading, rhino behavior, data collection, collecting and preserving samples, take photographs and the use of GPS and compass. They must also know how to drive or motor a boat, repair and maintain engines and other field equipments. On top of this, they take care of the volunteers and researchers. To effectively protect the 120,000 hectare Tabin reserve, at least 9 RPUs are required.

Our RPU members are very young boys. They are employed from the local communities around rhino habitat, and from villages where the pastime is hunting. One of the most rewarding tasks has been to convert them into conservationists, not just in theory but practicing it. They are already a master of the jungle.

The RPUs have now started the rhino survey to re-assess the population density of rhino in Tabin reserve. They have six long transects to be established and the target is to cover at least 70% of the reserve. With help from a local plantation owner, Tam Brothers RPU 3 is also involved in constructing a base camp on the southeastern part of the reserve. The expected time of completion is in October 2005. During the month of July and August, the 20-person Trekforce team, a UK-based organization is assisting with the transect. The Outlook Expedition from UK comprising of 9 persons will be joining a RPU in rhino tracking in mid August. These volunteers not only raise awareness of global conservation in local community, but also provide the foundation for our growing ecotourism concession. Thus local community gains a sense of being part of a larger mission and an economic cause for saving wildlife.

Karen's Trek Funding

The remaining funds from Karen's Trek Sponsorship will be allocated to purchasing 15 rucksacks for SOS Rhino's 3 Rhino Protection Units. The total funds raised from this sponsored walk amounted to \$2397.35. Other equipment purchased from this fundraising event was a diesel generator and six sets of emergency lights.



Tragedy Strikes

In June SOS Rhino and their Borneo team tragically lost one of their own. A man who was known as Opop was tragically killed in a car accident while out on a mission to recruit more rangers to the program. Our hearts go out to his family and friends and to SOS Rhino for their loss.

SOS Rhino RPU team at the river base camp in Tabin Wildlife Reserve. Photo courtesy of Dr Edwin Bosi.

Feature Story

Indian Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*)

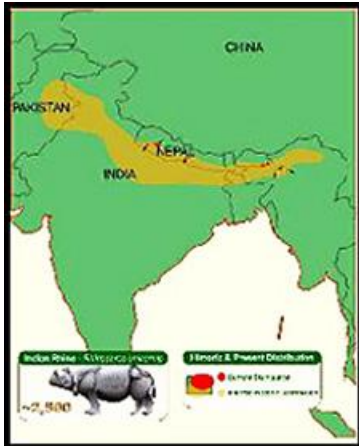
The Indian rhinoceros is one of the largest of the five species of rhino. This single horned rhino stands at 1.75 – 2 meters tall at the shoulder and weighs in between 1.8 to 2.2 tonne. Their appearance is quite prehistoric looking with dark grey skin that has distinct folds at the neck, shoulders and legs, giving it the appearance it is wearing a plate of armor. Other distinguishing features are tubercles or hard lumps that look like rivets holding their armor together. They have one single horn that can grow as long as 61cm but is usually is stubby and blunt. Despite its fearsome appearance, the Indian rhinoceros is basically very gentle-natured...except when it comes to breeding!

The large size and strength of these prehistoric looking animals leaves them with few natural predators however, this species is classified on the IUCN Red List as Endangered. Poached for their horn, used in ancient Chinese medicine remedies and as dagger handles in Yemen, man kind is again the primary enemy.



Indian Rhino.
Photo courtesy of Alain Compost

Past and Present Distribution Map.
Source: International Rhino
Foundation www.irf-rhinos.org



Historically the Indian rhino were found from the foothills of the Hindu Kush, Pakistan across the sub-Himalayan region, to the India-Myanmar border. Extensive land clearing and hunting eliminated the Indian rhino from everywhere except the Chitwan Valley in Nepal; lowland Bhutan; the Teesta Valley in west Bengal, India and the Brahmaputra Valley in Assam, India by the late 19th century. For most of the 20th century, known populations have been concentrated in protected sanctuaries southern Nepal and northeastern India.

Also known as the greater one horned rhino is regarded as one of the worlds more successful rhino conservation programs thanks to the Nepalese and Indian conservation programs. This species has come back from the brink of extinction from a population of less than 200 to an estimated 2,400 today. However, due to political unrest within Nepal, the Nepalese rhino's future, it seems, is again at stake. Guards who once were stationed in 32 posts across the parks have been reduced dramatically to 7 posts to deal with the unrest in

the communities. Poachers are making the most of this situation and it's not just rhinos being affected - the Bengal tiger, Indian elephant, musk deer and snow leopard are also targets.

Generally solitary, these territorial rhinos can be found in flood-plain grasslands and woodlands in Nepal and India. Sub-adults are often be found in groups of two to three animals but it is thought that perhaps this is a safety in numbers tactic as they are often found on the outskirts of a dominant rhino territories. The Indian



rhino will however be found in numbers when sharing a communal wallow. This communal gathering generally consists of only one dominant bull accompanied by cows with calves and subordinate sub adults. The Indian rhino is actually one of the most aquatic of the five species of rhino – they can be found fully submerging themselves in rivers and waterholes feeding on aquatic grasses under the shade of over hanging trees, escaping from the heat of the day.



Indian Rhino Calf.
Photo courtesy of Brooke Squires

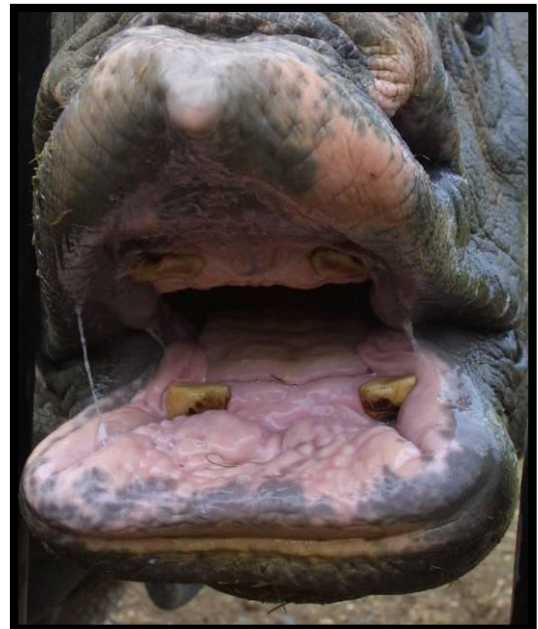
Captive breeding programs are in place for the Indian rhinoceros with a world wide captive population of approximately 140 animals. Captive breeding of this species can be difficult due to the aggressive nature of the solitary animal. They are generally housed separately and only paired for breeding when certain that the rhino is on oestrus. Even then, peak oestrus only lasts 24 hours and the optimal conception chances are between 8 and 12 hours. Larger facilities such as the San Diego Wild Animal Park have successfully housed this species in mixed species exhibits with numbers of rhino – space and escape opportunities such as visual barriers and strategically designed landscape is a vital key to the success of such facilities.

The female Indian rhinoceros is sexually mature at 5-7 years and the male at approximately 10 years. The gestation is the same as the other rhinoceros species at 15-16 months and

the interbirth interval is between 3-4 years. Rhinos generally have quite a long life span of 30-45 years.

Using their wide bottom lip, the Indian rhino feed primarily on grasses however a part of their diet also consists of browse. A semi-prehensile top lip caters for this foraging enabling the rhino to pluck twigs, leaves and fruit from trees. Unfortunately the rhinos versatile diet sometimes results in human/rhino conflict when the rhino stray from the safety of the national parks into surrounding crops. These encounters can be disastrous to the conservation of the species as on occasion local villagers have been killed by the spooked rhino who will attack if frightened or threatened.

Unlike the African species, all 3 species of Asian rhino have incisors. These incisors play a large part in the Indian rhino's life, used for fighting over females and territories the dominant males can sometimes be distinguished by their elongated lower incisors which can inflict deep serious wounds. Other forms of Rhinoceros communication comes in a less aggressive form of vocalizations, scent and scrapings. It is believed that there are ten different vocalizations rhinos make, ranging from a whistle to attract a males attention, a warning off snort or huff, an excited squeak-pant to a defensive or aggressive roar. Urine marking is common, squirting urine as far as 3-4 meters behind them. Communal faecal piles serve as notice boards and often a rhino can not pass a new pile without contributing to it. Foot scrapings and horn rubbing on nearby trees can be associated with the scent marking as an added form of advertising.



Indian Rhinoceros Mouth.
Photo by Brooke Squires

Eco tourism is a great part of rhinoceros conservation. The Indian rhinoceros is your best bet at experiencing an Asian rhino in the wild. Rhino and tiger tracking is often carried out on elephant back in the Royal Chitwan and Bardia National Parks of Nepal and the Kaziranga National Park in India. A must do for any visit to that area!

References:

Dinerstein E. 2003. The Return of the Unicorns – the Natural History and Conservation of the Greater One-horned Rhinoceros. Columbia University Press, New York.

Penny M. Rhinos Endangered Species. Facts on File Inc, USA

Massicot P. 2005. Animal Info - Indian Rhinoceros
<http://www.animalinfo.org/species/artiperi/rhinunic.htm>

International Rhino Foundation
<http://www.rhinos-irf.org/rhinoinformation/indianrhino/>

Cincinnati Zoo
<http://www.cincy zoo.org/Conservation/GlobalConservation/IndianRhino/janfebcrew/janfebcrew2.html>

Events

Lectures, Seminars and Conferences

It has been an eventful past 5 months with the Asian Rhino Project being represented in many seminars, conferences and lectures.

Volunteers in Zoo's Conference

Perth Zoo, 30 March 2005

Invited by the Perth Zoo Docent Association, the host of the conference, Kerry represented conservation projects that the Zoo's volunteers and staff had founded and are heavily involved with being the

- Asian Rhino Project
- Painted Dog Conservation Inc
- Australian Orangutan Project
- Silvery Gibbon Project
- Zoo Peru

A brief overview of all five projects was given along with a special tribute forwarding special thanks to Perth Zoo's Docent Association for all their support. The association has played a large part in fundraising and support to all five organisations. Their motivation, passion and dedication through strong membership representation, attendance at events and networking has greatly assisted the Asian Rhino Project in particular in achieving the great work that we do.

Australasian Society of Zoo Keepers (ASZK) Conference

Melbourne, 29 April – 1 May, 2005

Kerry attended this conference along with 56 other delegates from a variety of zoo's, parks, aquariums, conservation organisations and associated businesses. She represented both the Asian Rhino Project and Perth Zoo and was awarded best paper for her presentation on Perth Zoo's rhino training manual. This fantastic achievement saw her awarded with free registration and accommodation for next years International Congress of Zookeepers in Queensland.

The Asian Rhino Project was greatly received and supported by all who attended the conference and as a result the ASZK has announced that they will be supporting us in this years major fundraising event – ASZK Bowling for Asian Rhinos. Last year they held the event and supported Bilby conservation raising a grand total of \$20,000. \$10K went to the Save the Bilby fund in North Queensland which will be used towards purchasing a vehicle to monitor and maintain a fox proof fence constructed to stop the predation

on bilbies. The remaining \$10K went to the ASZK to aid in hosting the International Congress of Zookeepers.

We are very grateful for their support and look forward to this exciting fun fundraiser. If you are interested in attending this event or one close to you, please contact Kerry direct through the contact details provided at the end of this newsletter. More details on the event also to follow below.

The 2nd Joint Annual Conference of South East Asia Zoo Association (SEAZA) and the Australasian Region of Zoos Parks and Aquariums (ARAZPA)
Melbourne, 1-5 May 2005

Back to back with the ASZK Conference, Kerry also presented both papers at this conference. The Asian Rhino Project paper was similar to the one presented at the ASZK which focused on keepers in conservation and the formation of the organisation. It too had focus on the rhinos, our projects, and keeper involvement but also had a particular focus on our structure, partnerships and funding. The aim of this presentation was to provide the 250 delegates of this conference who were CEOs, Directors, Managers and Keepers as well as conservationists from other non-profit organisations and zoo industry businesses with a better understanding of the Asian Rhino Project and the great work we do in the hope that we may gain further support similar to the support we receive from Perth Zoo.

Needless to say Kerry came home thoroughly exhausted, enriched and hopeful that we have made a great impression on all who attended.

SOS RHINO Community Based Conservation of the Sumatran Rhino of Borneo
Perth Zoo Lecture Theatre, Perth, 14 May 2005

Dr Nan Schaffer founder and president of SOS Rhino visited Perth after attending both the ASZK and ARAZPA conferences in Melbourne on a whirl wind promotional tour in Australia. Up close and personal, presenting from her lap top screen after many disastrous technical difficulties, Nan discussed SOS Rhino's work in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo as well as the conservation efforts focusing on the protection and expansion of Sumatran rhino populations in Borneo. Nan discussed the importance of community based projects and awareness events to the sustainability of conservation programs. She thanked the participants in the audience of the 2004 Borneo Rhino Challenge and invited others not only to the 2006 event, but to join the volunteer program. It was a great night for all who attended and shared in Nan's experiences in rhinoceros conservation. A big thanks to Perth Zoo for allowing us to use their facilities once again to hold this special lecture. For more info on the challenge or volunteering, please visit www.sosrhino.org.

Asian Rhinos on the Brink of Extinction Lecture
Murdoch University, Perth, 25 May 2005

Presented in the Kim Beazley Lecture Theatre, Kerry presented to interested students on the plight of the Asian rhinos, the conservation efforts to save them and how they can help. This was a great opportunity to promote our joint PhD opportunity in rhinoceros research as well as provide the students with the tools to help these critically endangered animals. A great deal of interest was shown towards SOS Rhino's volunteer program in Borneo. The Volunteer program in Borneo is a great opportunity for students to not only contribute their expertise and time to a worthy project, but also for them to gain valuable experience in in-situ conservation which will assist in their studies. The SOS Rhino volunteer program is a program we plan to promote in a market stall held at the Murdoch University's Thursday Markets during the next few months. Stay tuned for more!

Wildaid's Running For Wildlife – 17th – 27th November, 2005

Running for Wildlife is the first ever WildAid challenge, offering supporters the chance to take part in the Angkor Wat Half Marathon Race whilst raising money to support some of our crucial field projects in South East Asia.

As well as helping numerous species such as Asian Elephants, Indo-Chinese Tigers and Malayan Sun Bears, you will be offered the opportunity to visit the ancient Khmer capital of Angkor, explore old colonial hill-stations at Bokor National Park and even bathe with a rescued Elephant at Phnom Tamao Wildlife Rescue Center.

For a few lucky participants, there will even be the opportunity to take part in a helicopter flyover of the Cardamom Mountain Range, keeping an eye out for illegal loggers and hunters as part of the program to protect one of the largest remaining protected areas in mainland South-East Asia.

For more information please contact:

kouprey@online.com.kh or jeffh@wildaid.org



SOS Rhino's Borneo Rhino Challenge – May 14th - 28th 2006

Climb to the Summit of Mt Kinabalu, cycle "round the Kudat Peninsula at the Northern tip of Borneo, and help SOS Rhino search for the elusive Sumatran rhinoceros of Borneo. You'll see an astonishing variety of rare and endemic plants, primates and birds during your trek and cycle along white, sandy beaches in some of the most beautiful areas of Sabah, Malaysian Borneo. As part of the challenge you will join SOS Rhino's field staff deep in the jungles of Tabin Wildlife Reserve, in search of the last remaining small, shy forest rhinos of Malaysian Borneo.

There will be guides, rangers and medical and mechanical support close by at all times. Most meals are included.

For more information, visit www.sosrhino.org or email info@sosrhino.org

Meetings

Asian Rhino Project Annual General Meeting Perth Zoo Lecture Theatre, Perth, 30 June 2005

A big thanks all members who were able to attend the Asian Rhino Project's very first AGM. For those who were unable to attend, an Annual Report was presented and will be up on our website shortly for your interest.

The meeting was opened with a special screening of the history making birth of Cincinnati Zoo's second Sumatran rhino calf (the second to be born in captivity in 114 years). Once the official points were covered, special certificates of appreciation were handed out to members and supporters who have contributed outstandingly over the past two years, followed by amazing footage of the great rhino conservation efforts in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park in Sumatra and a special rhino there called Rosa.

All changes to the constitution were accepted and have been incorporated into the document and processed by DOCEP. We are pleased to say after resubmitting our application for registration on the Registrar of Environmental Organisations with the Department of Environment and Heritage, we have been advised that we reach the requirements and our application is now being processed. As a result, we should receive tax deductible status before the end of the year.

Also discussed at the AGM was the expansion of the Asian Rhino Project and the opening of branches in other States. Brooke Squires, a mad rhino enthusiast and head rhino keeper of Werribee's Open Range Zoo in Victoria has put her hand up to open a Victorian Branch. Structural changes to the operation of the Asian Rhino Project have been made and we are currently seeking legal advice to ensure we reach the Australian requirements for such branches to operate.

All committee members were re-elected to their previous positions with the addition of two new positions and members – Carly Palmer as Fundraising Officer and Brooke Squires as Branch Officer. The committee would like to welcome our two newest members and look forward to the next year ahead.

Indonesian Rhino Conservation Strategy Meeting Jakarta, 28 & 29 September

IRF Board Meeting 2005 Florida, 11 October 2005

The Asian Rhino Project has been invited to attend the Indonesian Rhino Conservation Strategy Meeting being held in Jakarta late September as well as the International Rhino Foundations Annual Board meeting in Florida, USA.

The strategy meeting is to update the current conservation strategy and is carried out under the guidance of the Asian Rhino Specialist Group (AsRSG), organized by the Yayasan Mitra Rhino (Indonesian Rhino Conservation Program or YMR) and PHKA with funding from the International Rhino Foundation, WWF Asian Rhino and Elephant Action Strategy and the US Fish and Wildlife Society (USFWS). Attendance at this meeting will give us a better understanding of where our funds are being directed and give us foresight into the future of the conservation of rhino in Indonesia.

We are sending Kerry on another jam packed 2 week mission tying these meetings and others in together. To make the most of the travel and costs she will be on another whirlwind tour stopping off at several points around the world, and will also be visiting projects in India such as:

- The Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) in Delhi
- Kaziranga National Park
- The WTI Rehabilitation Centre, Kaziranga
- WWF India

The Asian Rhino Project will be subsidising the cost of the fare to the value of \$2750. Kerry has agreed to cover the remaining \$750 of the fare and all other travel costs herself as part of her commitment to rhinoceros conservation. A big thanks goes out to her family who will be traveling down from the NT to look after things at home in her absence.

Fundraising

Q-Zar



Three teams of 13 battled it out using laser weapons targeted at specially designed vests in a dark room shaped into a maze. It was lots of fun and a great night out. A special thanks to Carly Palmer and all her friends for their attendance. This resulted in the involvement of many non-members. A total of \$426 profit was made from the night.

ASZK Bowling For Rhinos

The Australasian Society of Zoo Keeping is holding it's 2nd national fundraiser. And has chosen to support the ARP this year.

Approximately 25 zoos and wildlife parks from around Australia will be ten pin bowling to raise much needed funds for Asian Rhino conservation and to aid the 2nd International Congress of Zookeepers in 2006.

Last year's Bowling for Bilbies raised an outstanding \$20,000 - 1/2 of that went to aid Bilby conservation in Northern Queensland. We are hoping that this is a bench mark for the event and that the same will eventuate from this years event. The 2nd International Congress on Zookeeping is scheduled for May 2006 on the Gold Coast in Queensland where Kerry will also be presenting as a result of being awarded best paper at the ASZK conference. Approximately 300 Zoo Keepers from all around the world will attend this conference.

PRESENTS
A NATION-WIDE EVENT

BOWLING FOR ASIAN RHINOS

When
7.30pm - 9.30pm
(can play longer if you wish)
Tuesday 25th October, 2005

Where
To Be Advised

Food & Drinks
available @ venue
Fully Licensed Café

Tickets On Sale Now
\$20 Members
\$25 Non-members
Contact Kerry on 08 9359 4400
or phone 34 013556
Bookings Essential

Event is a part of the Australasian Society of Zookeepers' 2nd national fundraiser.
Approximately 25 zoos and wildlife parks from around Australia will be ten pin bowling to raise much needed funds for Asian Rhino conservation and to aid the 2nd International Congress of Zookeepers in 2006.
Last year's Bowling for Bilbies raised an outstanding \$20,000 - 1/2 of that went to aid Bilby conservation in Northern Queensland.

WORLD RHINO NEWS

To keep up-to-date with current events and happenings in the world of rhino conservation, the Asian Rhino project searches regularly for updates on breaking rhino news. We will soon be able to keep members and interested people informed via e-mail updates. If you are interested, please let us know. The following is just some of the stories we have had in the past few months.

Zoo's Rare Rhino Turns One - Suci Celebrates Her First Birthday

One year ago, Emi, the Cincinnati Zoo's critically endangered Sumatran rhinoceros, became the first Sumatran rhino in history to produce two calves in captivity. On July 30, 2004, Emi delivered a healthy 34kg female calf, later named Suci (pronounced Sue-Chee). One year later, Suci weighs in at 408kg – 12 times her birth weight!

Her birth symbolizes another spark of hope for one of the most critically endangered mammals on earth. In 2001, the Cincinnati Zoo produced the first Sumatran rhino calf in captivity in 112 years. Three years later,

Suci's birth proved the science of breeding Sumatran rhinos had been developed at the Cincinnati Zoo's Lindner Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW).

In the last 20 years, over 70% of the Sumatran rhino population has been lost because of poaching and habitat destruction. Today, less than 300 survive in the wild and only nine in captivity. The Cincinnati Zoo is home to three of the nine Sumatran rhinos in captivity worldwide.

Story: http://www.cincinnati zoo.org/VisitorGuide/planyouradventure/SuciBirthday/suci_bday.html

Nepal rhino poachers snared

Friday 05 August 2005

Eight members of a rhino poaching gang have been arrested in Nepal following a long-running investigation into their activities, WWF has reported. The international conservation group has been supporting the Royal Chitwan National Parks and the Department of National Parks & Wildlife Conservation in their work to catch the gang.

Poaching has decimated rhino numbers, with Nepal's population dropping by more than 30% in just five years. A recent report placed the number of greater one-horn rhinos in Royal Chitwan at 372, from more than 540 in 2000. Park authorities were forced earlier in the year to reduce the number of guards assigned to protect the area, which exacerbated the poaching issue. "What was most alarming was the claim by the trader that in the past he had already sold 20 horns at \$4250-5700 a piece," commented Callum Rankine, Head of Endangered Species for WWF-UK.

"This remarkable result has come at the end of a long period of continuous investigation by WWF and the authorities. As so often happens in the work of conservation there is a substantial amount of background work done, but the rhinos should be safer now."

Story: <http://www.greenconsumerguide.com/index.php?news=2712>

The World Today - Black market animal trade threatens endangered species

Monday 1 August, 2005

ELEANOR HALL: Researchers who have been tracking illegal sales of wildlife in South East Asia for almost a decade are warning today that the lucrative black market trade is expanding unchecked, and that it's likely to force many endangered species to extinction.

In a book to be launched in Sydney today, Australian and Asian-based conservationists set out the findings of their seven-year long research project, which reveals that the trade in endangered animals is often conducted with the assistance of governments, and is usually closely linked to arms trading and drug running.

The international police organisation Interpol has valued the illegal trade in animals at more than \$US 6 billion a year, and describes it as one of the fastest growing areas of international crime, as Tanya Nolan reports.

More: <http://www.abc.net.au/worldtoday/content/2005/s1427351.htm>

Note from Kerry: **this book is recommended for anyone who is interested in learning more about the illegal trade in wildlife in Asia. I bought a copy from Dymocks for \$35.**

Rajasthan Police Gets Custody of Sansar Chand

New Delhi , 15 July, 2005 : After tightening the snare on Sansar Chand, a complex legal situation arose yesterday after the Rajasthan Police applied for his custody and transit to Jaipur. The Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) expressed his inability to grant the request because Sansar Chand case had been transferred to organised crime court (MCOCA court) which had not yet become operational in Delhi .

The situation became even more complicated since Central Bureau of Investigation did not want the custody of Sansar Chand any more and therefore the ACMM sent him to judicial custody which meant that he was incarcerated in Tihar jail of Delhi .

More: http://www.wildlifetrustofindia.org/html/news/2005/050715_sansar_chand_custody.htm

Rhino horn smugglers arrested

KOL Report

KATHMANDU, July 20 - Security personnel deployed in Royal National Chitwan Park have arrested three smugglers including leader Pemba Lama alias Yakche who were involved in illegal trade of rhino horn, Tuesday.

Twenty-six rhinos died in Chitwan in the fiscal year 2061-62 BS, out of which 15 were killed by the poachers.

Considered an endangered species, rhinos have depleted in number in the national park from 544 to 372 in the past five years. Their population further declined to 360 by the end of May 2005.

Source: <http://www.kantipuronline.com/kolnews.php?&nid=46260>

A Little bit of fun!

T	S	D	U	J	M	U	D
S	U	M	T	A	N	I	S
E	M	H	G	V	S	L	D
R	A	E	O	A	H	L	E
O	T	L	O	N	O	E	R
F	R	P	F	U	O	G	E
N	A	C	A	L	F	A	G
I	N	A	A	S	A	L	N
A	N	R	O	H	I	X	A
R	R	D	D	O	T	A	D
T	C	N	I	T	X	E	N
T	I	G	N	A	D	N	E

Hidden in this box are the following words:

ENDANGERED	RAINFOREST
EXTINCT	SUMATRAN
JAVAN	ASIAN
INDIA	HELP
CALF	MUD
HOOF	HORN
ILLEGAL	