

# The Rhino Print



November 2008



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## CONTENTS

Indian Rhino Status Moved From Endangered to Vulnerable	3
Floating Anti-Poaching Camp Support in Kaziranga National Park	3
A Sumatran Rhino Story	4
Rhino Rembrandts	4
SOS Rhino Borneo Activities	5
WWF Camera Traps	6
Well-filling Project Update	7
Auckland Zoo Conservation Fund	8
Committee Updates	9
Rhino News	11
Corporate Donors and Pro-Bono Supporters	14

## Asian Rhino Project



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## Welcome to the November 2008 Newsletter

You will find a fantastic report on the Indonesia visit from Auckland Zoo keeper Nat Sullivan and good news about the funding for the Well Filling Project in Way Kambas.

Funding for another exciting project has been approved by ARP to the Rhino Foundation for Nature in NE India. These funds will be used to purchase a generator for their floating anti-poaching camp in Kaziranga.

Also included in this edition, just in time for Christmas, is a great opportunity to purchase "Rhino Rembrandts" - paintings done by Sumatran and Indian rhinos at the Cincinnati Zoo. Be sure to get in early as we only have limited stock!

Finally it was an absolute pleasure to meet with those members who were able to attend the ARP AGM last month. A special thanks to all who made it. I look forward to seeing you again next year!

A safe and happy festive season to all,

Kerry Crosbie  
Project Director

## AGM Meeting Minutes

Minutes for the AGM were sent out to members via e-mail and should be included with this newsletter for mailing members. Should you not have received a copy please advise us at [info@asianrhinos.org.au](mailto:info@asianrhinos.org.au)

*Cover image: Indian Rhino  
By Brooke Squires*

## Indian Rhino Status Moved From Endangered to Vulnerable

The status of the Indian Rhinoceros has recently been downgraded by the IUCN from Endangered to Vulnerable due to an overall increasing population trend – particularly in India. Whilst this news may seem encouraging there is no room for complacency! Some Indian rhino populations have actually declined due to increasing poaching pressure, habitat destruction and encroachment – particularly in Nepal.

The Indian rhino population estimate is now estimated at a total population of 2,575 individuals, with approximately 378 in Nepal and 2,200 in India (Asian Rhino Specialist Group 2007).

Not such great news for the Sumatran and Javan Rhinoceros. They remain classified as Critically Endangered with their population estimates dropping from 300 Sumatran rhino to 220-275 and the Javan rhino population estimates from between 40-60 rhino.

For more information visit the IUCN Redlist website:

Indian Rhinoceros <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/19496>

Sumatran Rhinoceros <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/6553>

Javan Rhinoceros <http://www.iucnredlist.org/details/19495>

## Floating Anti-Poaching Camp Support in Kaziranga National Park

The Rhino Foundation for Nature in North-east India is providing a floating anti-poaching camp to Kaziranga National Park in Assam to patrol the river areas.

Kaziranga National Park is a world renowned protected area. The park is the most important habitat for the Great Indian One-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) in the world. For the endangered Asian Elephants, Kaziranga supports a very large population, which often exceeds a thousand animals. This makes the park and its adjacent forest habitat a vital area for the long-term survival of these pachyderms.

The northern boundary of the park is marked by the Brahmaputra River, the fourth largest river in the world according to its annual flow. In view of vital importance of the river to the park, an area of 350 square kilometers of the riverine tract has been included in the park as 6th Addition in 1999. Even before becoming a part of the park, the river was a known route for the poachers. Although Kaziranga is among the well guarded protected areas of India, poaching of different species is still going on although in a reduced number.

Thus there is urgent need for the protection of the riverine tract. Floating anti-poaching camps on large boats seem to be the only answer in such terrain. The riverine areas are used by poachers as movement

route, escape route as well as temporary shelter.

The objective of this project envisages provision of one floating anti-poaching camp on boat with the goal of protection of the park and its endangered species including the Asian elephant and rhinoceros. Subsequently, one more camp would be provided.

The boat with camps will be constructed at Guwahati, the capital city of Assam where there are reputed builders who have the experience of providing vessels to the Inland Water Transport Department of the Government of Assam as well as private companies.

The floating camp will protect the riverine tract of the Brahmaputra, which forms about a third of the total area of Kaziranga National Park. The poachers who use the river as their route will be apprehended and checked.

This project is supported by US FWS. However, there was no provision for generator (due to oversight) which is essential part of such a camp. ARP has agreed to fund the generator to the value of \$1,000USD.

Article: Dr A Choudhury, Honorary Chief Executive, The Rhino Foundation for Nature in NE India



## A Sumatran Rhino Story

by Nat Sullivan, Asian Rhino Project Supporter and Keeper at Auckland Zoo

Asian Rhinoceros.... Until just a few short years ago I didn't even know there was a species of rhino in Asia, let alone three!

Whilst attending an Australasian Zoo Keeper's conference Kerry Crosbie from Perth Zoo/Asian Rhino Project gave an inspirational talk about the plight of the Asian Rhino and from the moment I saw photos of these extraordinary secretive critters I too was hooked on helping with their survival.

All three species of Asian Rhino are endangered, two critically and without help may be extinct in the next decade.

Greater One Horned Rhino inhabit parts of Northern India and Southern Nepal are considered along with Africa's White rhino a conservation success. With numbers dropping as low as 200 in the early 20th Century Greater One Horned rhino numbers are now thought to be as high as 2600 although poaching is again rearing its ugly head in many areas.

Sumatran Rhino are critically endangered and inhabit small fragmented areas in Indonesia and Malaysia. The Sumatran rhino is one of, if not the most endangered mammal on earth with more than 50% of the species having been

wiped out in the last 10 years. Numbers may be as low as 250 individuals and due to poaching, Sumatran rhino can only be found in heavily protected areas of jungle.

Javan Rhino are the rarest of all rhino species with only between 40-60 individuals left on Earth. Highly secretive animals they can be found only Indonesia's Ujung Kulon National Park and a small group of 1-5 animals in Vietnam. Without intervention soon, the world may soon lose these beautiful solitary beasts.

Auckland Zoo's Conservation Fund (AZCF) have committed to the fight to save both the Javan and Sumatran rhino from extinction. As part of that commitment, I was fortunate enough to have been invited by Asian Rhino Project director Kerry Crosbie to join her in Indonesia and experience first-hand the issues surrounding the rhino and the best way in which AZCF can help.

Arriving in Indonesia I joined staff from International Rhino Foundation, Save the Rhino International, Asian Rhino Specialist Group as well as two zoo keepers from America.

The next two weeks were very possibly the best two weeks of my life. Not only was I networking with rhino colleagues from around the world, I met a very special group of people who I can honestly say I consider to be true heroes. Rhino

Protection Units or RPUs as they are affectionately known put their lives on the line every day to protect both the rhino themselves but also the habitat they live in. These mostly quiet unassuming men work in groups of four and trek off into the dense Indonesian jungle for 20 days at a time.

A typical day in the jungle includes monitoring for any sign of rhino, looking for illegal poachers, loggers and removing snares set for wildlife including tiger, sun bear and deer. Out of the jungle the RPUs work with local villages to educate and build partnerships to empower the villagers to earn money and support their families without the need for encroachment on the jungle or conflict with the local wildlife. The RPUs in parts of Sumatra are so respected that local villagers have voluntarily given up their traditional poaching guns to the RPUs!

The RPUs took us on a number of jungle walks which in 40o heat and humidity beyond belief made me admire the RPUs even more. Zoo keeping keeps me relatively fit and at times I was really struggling with the jungle environment. The jungles varied from sometimes dense jungle other times swamps and at times open woodland jungle showing us the diverse range of habitats the rhino lived in. Unlike their African cousins Javan rhino are at ease in the water and often cross deep rivers in their travels.

A very special part of my trip was meeting my first Sumatran Rhino. In the middle of Way Kambas National Park is the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS), a 100 hectare area of

native forest, set up to house a small captive population of Sumatran Rhino as part of a breeding program with state of the art veterinary and nutritionalist expertise. SRS is currently home to five Sumatran rhino and I was able to meet all rhino individually. Being used to Auckland Zoo's White Rhino weighing in at around 2000kgs I was amazed at the sight of these pygmy pint sized rhino weighing in at only 600-950kgs. Covered in hair these vocal prehistoric animals sounded more like whales or dolphins than any other rhino I've ever met.

Some of the other wildlife I encountered while in the jungle were monitor lizards, deer, hornbills, siamangs, macaques, various reptiles and signs of tiger, sun bear and panther. The most abundant of animals was one I wouldn't mind not encountering again. The leech. For some unknown reason the leeches found me the tastiest person in our group and on average I was targeted five times more often by these blood suckers than anyone else!

Of course for me the signs of wild rhino activity was a highlight. Although we didn't catch a glimpse of any wild rhino our RPU guides told us that at times we had only missed the rhino by one day. We came across fresh mud wallows, eating spots, defecation sites, male courting markings and of course numerous rhino hoof prints preserved perfectly in the swampy substrate.

The race is now on to find a way to fully protect and maintain viable populations of the endangered Asian Rhino.

## Rhino Rembrandts

ARP is proud to present the fantastic and rare "Asian Rhino Rembrandts". The artists are Indian and Sumatran rhino from Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, USA.

Painting is a special activity that has become one of many ways to enrich their day. For the keepers working with them, this exercise strengthens their bond and broadens their spectrum of operant conditioning.

As an enrichment activity, painting adds to the animal's choices of engaging activities with their keepers. Not only are they receiving a stimulating activity but this type of enrichment

seems to benefit everyone with proceeds from the paintings going to conservation projects to help the rhino in the wild.

You can own one of these rare and exciting forms of art! ARP has these paintings available for a special price of \$475 each. Each painting comes framed with a photo of the artist and a certificate. First in best dressed, so act now!

Contact [kerry.crosbie@asianrhinos.org.au](mailto:kerry.crosbie@asianrhinos.org.au) or call 0419015286 to place your order.





## SOS Rhino Borneo Activities: 1 July to 30 September 2008

This has been a busy and exciting period for SOS Rhino Borneo, with several important happenings.

Most significant of all, on 3 August, a lone Sumatran Rhino, one of the very few remaining isolated individuals trapped in Sabah's fragmented jungles, wandered out of its small patch of forest and made its way into an adjacent oil palm estate.

Sabah Wildlife Department veterinarians and rangers, together with field staff from SOS Rhino Borneo and WWF-Malaysia, rushed to the estate to find and then continuously monitor the adult male rhino, who was in his prime and sporting a magnificent front horn, but who had a snare injury on his front ankle.

After ten days, it was clear that Kretam or 'Tam' (named after Kretam Forest Reserve where he lived) had no intention of returning to the forest, was slightly lame, and had no fear of humans. The wildlife authorities made the decision that, since there was no end in sight to monitoring Tam, and it was unsafe to ever abandon him, the only course of action was to move him to a safer site.

On 13 August, Tam was successfully coaxed into a crate and taken by road to Tabin Wildlife Reserve where he is being kept in a small paddock. He is receiving veterinary care and round the clock monitoring. A 2 hectare extension to the paddock is being built, under natural forest cover.

Helping with this vital work are SOS Rhino Borneo staff Alexter, Hardi, Janice, Rajimah, Norita and Augustine, who are working alternate day and night time shifts to guard him, as well as help with gathering food from the forest, and assisting government staff with

monitoring, feeding, cleaning and data recording.

The hope is that Tam can be transferred as soon as possible to a more natural enclosure in nearby forest at Tabin, where SOS Rhino Borneo will continue to play a critical role in monitoring and protection. Given Tam's background now, it is considered too risky to allow him to be released into the wild. Plans are being developed for a long-term program involving a large fenced sanctuary well inside the Wildlife Reserve.

Also in August, SOS Rhino Borneo hosted Dr. Susie Ellis and Dr. Robin Radcliffe of International Rhino Foundation during their trip to Tabin, where they saw firsthand the hard work SOS Rhino Borneo staff is putting into looking after Tam in his enclosure, while Dr Radcliffe was able to give veterinary advice on Tam's injured foot.

Dr. Dedi Candra from the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas, Sumatra then visited Tabin in September and provided the benefit of his eight year experience of caring for Sumatran rhinos under forest conditions, not only to SOS Rhino Borneo staff but also government staff and WWF working at Tabin.

Patrolling and monitoring of Tabin Wildlife Reserve and its wild rhinos continued to be carried out during July - September, with the sighting of a (probably female) rhino by one of the Rhino Protection Unit (RPU) teams on August 20th. The team succeeded in taking photos of the Rhino as well as obtaining dung samples and footprint measurements. The area inhabited by this rhino is under regular and frequent monitoring.

A recent development has been the revival of a Staff Improvement Program, so that field staff will be better



*Sumatran Rhinoceros translocation*

able to communicate with researchers, scientists and visitors to Tabin Wildlife Reserve. Subjects include basic English, Maths, Science and General Knowledge, including learning about rainforest biology and ecology.

Collaboration with other organizations involved in Rhino conservation in Sabah continued to prosper and on August 28th, Alexter and France (one of the RPU leaders) represented SOS Rhino Borneo at the opening ceremony of a law enforcement base, built and manned by Sabah Forestry Department on the south side of Tabin Wildlife Reserve.

Meanwhile SOS Rhino Borneo RPU staff benefitted from capacity building at the Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Project (KOCP) in Sukau in eastern Sabah, where they received training in environmental education and awareness, wildlife research techniques,

and wildlife warden activities.

Support from ARP has helped to enable SOS Rhino Borneo to recruit three new staff for the RPU teams, who reported for duty on 5 October. This now brings the total of SOS Rhino Borneo staff in the field to 15, and allows us to not only do routine patrol and monitoring of wild rhinos, but also play a significant role in caring for and guarding Tam.

Although such duties were never planned or imagined just a few months ago, SOS Rhino Borneo takes the view that we have to do absolutely everything possible to help save the Bornean sub-species from extinction. Tam seems healthy and alert, and he represents a bird in the hand, which may indeed in the future prove to be worth two in the bush.

*Article and photos: Sylvia Yorath*

## WWF Camera Traps, Ujung Kulon NP, Indonesia

The suitable cameras for the Javan rhino survey using camera traps operation have been ordered and should arrive before the end of November.

The WWF team decided to purchase video trap cameras also which will be capable of capturing movie clips as well as still captures for analysis of behavior of the Javan rhino in addition to identification.

Unfortunately, the installment of these cameras will take much longer than anticipated, as the cameras need to be assembled prior to the shipment. It is anticipated that the Javan rhino survey will commence mid-December 2008.

## Stuck for that last minute Christmas present?

**Don't know what to buy the person who has everything?**

**Why not give a membership to Asian Rhino Project or an adoption as a gift?**

**Memberships and adoptions help us continue our work saving the three Asian rhino species in the wild.**

**Details on adoptions or memberships in this newsletter or on our website.**

## Well-filling Project Update

We are pleased to inform that the funds have been raised for this project. Below are some excerpts from the reports forwarded to ARP by Claire Oelrichs.

### 1 September 2008

I have received this report from Sukatmoko. You will be interested to see the photos he sends. The conditions for finding wells are very difficult indeed.

Dear DR. Claire,

Here is I send the new well closure report. Our team worked for six days and got 49 wells. Our team got elephant bones in the well, I think the accident was more than 1 year.



### 1 November 2008

The work has temporarily ceased at Way Kambas due to the dry season. There is a high risk of camp fires starting a wildfire and with no fire trucks or helicopters etc it can become a very serious and widespread problem very quickly. Thus the men decided it was wise to cease till the rains come again and decrease the risk. The wells are getting harder to find and they are hoping to start more teams to improve speed of work.



### 5 November 2008

The closing wells team that initiated By WCS since June 2007 has closed more than 1600 wells. The closing of the wells has also slowed due to the lack of current information able to be gathered from the local village or hunters who frequently visited these areas. As a result grid reference methods based on WCS patch occupancy surveys in 2007 will be put in place to ensure that no well is left behind.



*Top photo: One of the elephant calves rescued earlier on in the year.*

*Middle and bottom photos: Searching for wells.*

## Donations

Just \$5/week goes a long way and donations over \$2 are tax deductible!

If you would like to set up regular small donations to the ARP, please don't hesitate to contact us for easy, hassle-free options.

[info@asianrhinos.org.au](mailto:info@asianrhinos.org.au) or phone 08 89760952.



## Auckland Zoo Conservation Fund

Conservation is the driving force behind almost every staff member and volunteer at Auckland Zoo. From the person who sells admission tickets through to the maintenance team, a culture of conservation underlies all that we do.

However, to enable us to really support in-situ projects both here at home and overseas, a great level of fundraising occurs.

Since its inception in 2000, Auckland Zoo Conservation Fund (AZCF) has raised in excess of \$460,000 and has contributed to a large variety of projects including (just to name a few) Turtle, Orang-utan, Rhino, Cheetah, Tiger as well as many local native projects here in New Zealand. Whilst some of the fundraising can take months of planning, others can be as simple as a collection box.

One of our most recent large fundraisers was an art exhibition held on World Conservation Day by artist and fellow carnivore keeper Justine Woosman. Justine's impressive display of art including pencil sketches, river stone paintings and three large canvas paintings attracted huge interest both within the zoo community and outside and raised over \$4500 all of which went to AZCF.

In the past black tie cocktail evenings and African nights have raised similar amounts of money and have been well received by those attending them. Staff, volunteers and the Zoological Society donate time, resources and 100% of

the profit to these events.

Most of the fundraising is done on a smaller scale and include things like gold coin donations to participate in a lorikeet nectar feed, elephant painting raffles, touch and learn animal tables with donation boxes, selling of AZCF wristbands and a variety of coin collection boxes located throughout the zoo grounds. Night presentations are also held on site with guest speakers raising money for conservation.

Auckland Zoo on top of these efforts also contribute with a percentage of money from gross revenue adding to the fund, and partnerships are being made with the corporate business community to broaden the awareness.

Auckland Zoo Conservation Fund is proud to support Asian Rhino Project in its quest to save asian rhino from extinction.

To date the Auckland Zoo Conservation Fund has donated \$20,000NZD to the ARP. These funds have been used to support the SOS Rhino Borneo Rhino Protection Program in Sabah (\$15,000) and the Well Filling Project in Indonesia (\$5,000). Our sincere gratitude to the AZCF! Well done!

## **Committee Updates**

The AGM was held on 16 October 2008. Meeting minutes have been distributed to all members however, if you have not received them, please advise and a copy will be sent immediately. Also forwarded to members on the ARP e-mail list was a copy of our annual report. If you would like a copy of the report please e-mail [info@asianrhinos.org.au](mailto:info@asianrhinos.org.au) call 0419015286.

Emma Gatehouse and Daniel Scarparolo stood down from their National Committee positions as of 16 October, however, both are still active members of the ARP. Daniel is continuing to volunteer his expertise and time in web design/management, branding, and newsletter formatting and Emma is continuing to manage the Rhino Adoption Program and remains on the WA Sub-committee. Thanks guys!

ARP welcomes Sophie Lourandos as ARP WA Branch Manager. Sophie is a Zoo Keeper at Perth Zoo working on the Exotic Mammal section. She started her career at National Zoo and Aquarium, Canberra in 2005. Sophie left Canberra with her fiancé to work at Perth Zoo on in 2007. "I have had a passion for rhinos ever since doing work experience at Western Plains Zoo in high school. The opportunity to work with rhinos at Perth Zoo was the major draw card for me, as well as being the hub for ARP". Sophie first became a member in 2007 at the Rhino Keepers Workshop. ARP is proud to welcome Sophie into this position and thank her for her commitment to the rhinos!

ARP would also like to welcome our new Secretary Olga Karstvo. Olga became a Docent at Perth Zoo in 2005 which she says opened her eyes to the amazing and urgent plight of endangered species worldwide. She is passionate about educating herself and others on the important role the animal kingdom plays on this diverse planet. Olga first became passionate about the rhino and the ARP's role in Asian rhino conservation with the birth of Perth Zoo's second rhino calf Bakari. Since then she has been an active member of the ARP. She understands that financial assistance is needed from all levels and has hit the ground running brainstorming fundraising activities and seeking new members. Olga plans to bring to the ARP a positive outlook on what can often be perceived as a bleak situation. In all she wrapped up her outlook in the lines of a Paul Kelly song "from little things – big things grow". Well done Olga and thanks so much for coming on board!

We still have positions available on the National Committee. If you have been thinking of becoming a more active member, come and join the team! It requires no more than 2 hours of your time per week and all work is carried out via the internet and phone. We meet in person only once a year – just prior to the AGM. The rhinos need your help!

The National Committee met for their annual meeting on 15 October. Thanks to the Balmoral Hotel we were able to use their meeting room free of charge. A large emphasis on fundraising was placed and the committees are working on new strategies for generating more income. Should you have any recommendations or feel you would like to become actively involved, please don't hesitate to contact [info@asianrhinos.org.au](mailto:info@asianrhinos.org.au). New ideas and experience is always welcome.

Kristy Garard gave a presentation on her visit to Nepal and India to the Taronga Western Plains Zoofriend volunteers last month. Great feedback was received on the work being done in these countries however they did express a bit of concern over the dangerous nature of the trip! It is great to see the support for Kristy and the ARP.

Great news from Hunter Hall International Ltd (HHL). ARP has been advised we have been nominated as one of the selected organisations approved for the Hunter Hall Shareholder Nominated Charitable Donations Scheme. This scheme allows each Hunter Hall shareholder to nominate recipients of charitable contributions on a basis proportional to the number of shares they own. HHL has a policy of donating 5% of its pre-tax profits to chari-

table purposes and activities that support social, environmental or animal welfare causes. For the year to 30 June 2008, HHL will be able to make donations totaling approx \$1.32 million! This will bring the total amount donated by HHL to charity over \$5.49 million! If the ARP is chosen by the shareholders to receive a donation, it will be presented at the Hunter Hall Charity Scheme Afternoon Tea on Friday 28 November. I have made arrangements to attend this morning tea on behalf of ARP at my own cost. Peter Hall and the Hunter Hall team have been so very generous not only through donations but also through commitment and pro bono expertise. I really look forward to meeting with their team again!

Kerry Crosbie, Director

## National Committee Position – Member Required

One position is available on our National Committee team – Fundraising Officer. This position requires an average of 2 hours/week and can be held in any state of Australia. Committee corresponds via e-mail and meets in person once per year. Committee members will be entitled to their own official ARP e-mail account however, access to the internet will be required. It is vital we fill this position shortly to enable us to operate effectively. If you feel you may be able to assist, please contact Kerry Crosbie on [kerry.crosbie@asianrhinos.org.au](mailto:kerry.crosbie@asianrhinos.org.au) or by phone 08 89760952 for more information.

## Big Thanks to Our Pro Bono Donors

Evelyn Wong and Meranti Consulting for assisting the ARP with the preparation of our 2007-08 financial statements. The ARP saved \$1,500 thanks to their kind pro bono assistance! This is the second year Evelyn has assisted the ARP with our statements and auditing process and her dedication to rhino conservation goes a lot further supporting SAVE Foundation projects as well. Thank you so very much Evelyn!

Judge Constable Chartered Accountants for completing the ARP audit for the 2007-08 accounts. This assistance was to the value of \$3000!

Balmoral Hotel, East Victoria Park, WA for kindly allowing the ARP National Committee to use their meeting room free of charge for our annual committee meeting.

## ARP Branding and Logo

ARP is looking for a new look, starting with a new logo. Below are some of the logos already put forward. We seek your input, inspiration and imagination. If you have an idea for a design, please forward your feedback along with information, sketches, font and/or text to [info@asianrhinos.org.au](mailto:info@asianrhinos.org.au).



## In The News – Asian Rhino News Stories

### **Kaziranga submerged, wild animals flee park in Assam 1 September 2008**

Floodwaters of the mighty Brahmaputra Monday entered the Kaziranga wildlife sanctuary in Assam forcing scores of endangered animals to flee the park to safer areas, officials said. "More than half of the Kaziranga National Park is under water. Animals are migrating from the sanctuary to an adjoining hill for safety," park warden S.N. Buragohain told reporters.

The 430 sq km park, 220 km east of Assam's principal city Guwahati, is home to the world's largest concentration of one-horned rhinoceros. There are an estimated 1,855 rhinos at Kaziranga, out of a world population of some 2,700.

More: [http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/PoliticsNation/Kaziranga\\_submerged\\_animals\\_flee/articleshow/3432012.cms](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/PoliticsNation/Kaziranga_submerged_animals_flee/articleshow/3432012.cms)

### **Second Borneo rhino caught on camera 12 September 2008**

An image of a second wild Borneo rhino has been captured by scientists in Malaysia using a motion-triggered camera. Only 25-50 Borneo rhinos, a subspecies of the critically endangered Sumatran rhino, are thought to exist. They are found in the interior Heart of Borneo forests of Sabah, Malaysia.

More: <http://www.sciencecentric.com/news/article.php?q=08091215>

### **Rhino spotted near Bhutan border 13 September 2008**

A translocated rhino, which strayed from the Manas National Park on September 1, was spotted at Bogamati in Lower Assam's Baksa district close to the India-Bhutan border on Friday. Rhino experts and park officials, who have been trailing the rhino for the past 12 days, hope to tranquillise it by Saturday and take it back to Manas. The rhino, which was spotted at a water hole at Bogamati, is one of the two rhinos that were translocated from the Pobitora wildlife sanctuary to Manas in April.

The radio-collared rhino has been tracked continuously with the help of telemetry devices using Global Positioning System. The park's field director, A. Swargiary, told The Hindu that the rescue team was looking for an ideal location to tranquillise it.

More: <http://www.hindu.com/2008/09/13/stories/2008091355620900.htm>

### **Rise in rhino number poses problem 13 September 2008**

The thriving rhino population of Pobitora that has already posed a problem of plenty for the tiny wildlife sanctuary is finding the going even tougher in the aftermath of the floods. Straying of rhinos in search of food and space is not uncommon in Pobitora, which shelters 81 rhinos within an area of just 38.8 sq km. But, following the floods that had inundated almost the entire sanctuary, the phenomenon has increased noticeably. Though the floodwaters have receded now, it put a layer of silt on the grassland, compelling the rhinos to look for greener pastures outside the sanctuary.

More: <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/details.asp?id=sep1408/at09>

### **Rhino on the rampage in Dooars 16 September 2008**

A full grown rhino went on the rampage on a full moon night and romped through five villages in Jalpaiguri in North Bengal feasting on paddy and generally smashing its way along lush green fields. It strayed from the Gorumara National Park and plodded 10km, then stormed into Aamguri village. With dawn giving way to early morning on September 15, villagers tumbled out of their homes. Forest officials were informed.

The rhino seemed to be having the time of its life. Later, hunger quenched, it trampled over a number of bicycles and tested its horn against a parked jeep. It wandered around for most of the day sending panicked villagers wondering what to do. With curiosity getting the better of them the villagers assembled with lathis and other assorted weapons when forest officials and police intervened.

More: <http://www.merinews.com/catFull.jsp?articleID=141455>

### **Rare Rhinos lose land to wild plants 19 September 2008**

South Asia's endangered Great One-horned Rhinoceros is being driven out of its natural habitat in search of food into the hands of illegal poachers, experts said on Thursday. A meeting of the Asian Rhino Specialist Group in Nepal said that the massive animal's feeding grounds were being invaded by "exotic species" of weeds and wild plants and the rhino could soon run out of natural fodder.

"Grassland is being invaded by weeds and other unwanted plants that are not suitable for rhinos," Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, co-chairman of the group said from the Chitwan National Park, home to 408 rhinos.

More: <http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/Story.asp?Article=229384&Sn=WORL&IssueID=31183>

### **Rhino strays over 60 kms in bid to return home 1 October 2008**

The "strong" homing instinct of one of the two wild rhinoceros which have been relocated early this year in Manas National Park, a world heritage site in Assam, is giving sleepless night to wildlife officials there. The five-year-old rhino had recently strayed as far as 68 kms away to Kalseni in Guwahati from his new home Manas, passing through villages on the way in his 14 days journey starting September 1.

More: [http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/Flora\\_\\_Fauna/Rhino\\_strays\\_over\\_60\\_kms\\_in\\_bid\\_to\\_return\\_home/articleshow/3549481.cms](http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/Flora__Fauna/Rhino_strays_over_60_kms_in_bid_to_return_home/articleshow/3549481.cms)

### **Forest officials recover Kaziranga rhino horn in city 7 October 2008**

Karnataka CID Forest Cell officials said on Tuesday that they have seized a rhinoceros' horn worth around Rs 5 lakhs in illegal wildlife market. The six-inch rhino horn was recovered from Arveshanahalli in Doddabalapur near Rajangunte Police Station limits, Bangalore. In another hunt, the forest officials recovered a leopard skin worth around Rs 1.50 lakhs in Bidadi. One-horned rhinos, listed under Schedule 1 of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, are in great demand in the Middle East for its putative aphrodisiac value.

More: <http://www.dnaindia.com/report.asp?newsid=1196306>

### **Ailing rhino calf dies in zoo 26 October 2008**

The mysterious disease which killed a rhino calf in Pobitora sanctuary nearly a fortnight ago, claimed another victim last night in the Guwahati zoo where it had been brought for treatment. The calf was brought from the Pobitora wildlife sanctuary for closer observation and medical care last week after it had shown symptoms similar to the other year-and-a-half rhino calf, which died there. The symptoms include paralysis of the posterior, fever, loss of appetite and weakness.

More: [http://www.telegraphindia.com/1081027/jsp/northeast/story\\_10023733.jsp](http://www.telegraphindia.com/1081027/jsp/northeast/story_10023733.jsp)

### **Removal of rhino from IUCN Red List surprises conservationists 26 October 2008**

The removal of the one-horned rhinoceros by an international NGO from its endangered species list will not affect the animals in Assam's Kaziranga National Park, their main home, park officials said, but conservationists warned of an impending doom. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) removed the one-horned rhinoceros from its Red List of endangered species at a meeting on Oct 6 in Barcelona, Spain, saying that the animal has shown signs of recovery in range countries following strict security measures.

More: [http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/uncategorized/removal-of-rhino-from-iucn-red-list-surprises-conservationists-with-image\\_100111678.html](http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/uncategorized/removal-of-rhino-from-iucn-red-list-surprises-conservationists-with-image_100111678.html)

### **Two apprehended with rhino horn in Dhading 8 November 2008**

Police arrested two people for illegal possession of rhinoceros horn from Dhading district on Friday. Ishwor Timilsina, 24, and Bidur Prasad Timilsina, 25, of Pagretar VDC-1 of Sindhupalchowk district were apprehended along with one set of rhino horn from Baireni-9 today. The rhino horn, which is prized for its medicinal purposes, was hidden in the motorcycle (Ba 26 Pa 2371) the detainees were riding. The police is carrying out further investigation into the matter.

More: <http://www.kantipuronline.com/kolnews.php?&nid=165956>

## Adopt-a-Rhino Fundraiser – You can now adopt Andalas!

Andalas was the first Sumatran rhino born in captivity in more than 112 years. He is the living, breathing result of a groundbreaking research and breeding effort undertaken by American zoos, the Indonesian government, and the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS).

Born at the Cincinnati Zoo, Ohio, Andalas moved to the SRS in February 2007 from his second home at Los Angeles Zoo. Now that he is sexually mature his keepers at the SRS have high hopes that he will soon breed with one of the

three female rhinos at the sanctuary, helping to ensure the future success of the SRS rhino population. Andalas has adjusted well to life in Sumatra. Adapting to the heat and humidity of the Indonesian rainforest, he shed some of the red-brown hair he had grown in the US.

Help us save the Sumatran rhino by adopting one today – and it's tax deductible!

All funds raised through the Asian Rhino Project's adopt-a-rhino pro-

gram will be used to support the SRS in Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra.

With each adoption you will receive an attractive adoption certificate including information on your rhino and the program. You can also choose to receive quarterly updates on your rhino as well as an A4 sized photograph (extra costs apply for photos and updates).

More information on the rhinos and the program is on our website [www.asianrhinos.org.au](http://www.asianrhinos.org.au).

## Join Up or Renew Today

Please send completed membership forms to: Memberships, PO Box 163, South Perth WA 6951.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to support Asian Rhino Project by becoming a member for: (please tick)

1 year = AU\$30  3 years = AU\$80  5 years = AU\$130  Life = AU\$400

Membership includes quarterly newsletters. We encourage members to receive newsletters by email – not only to save administration costs but also to conserve paper.

I would like to receive my newsletters by:  Email  Mail

Asian Rhino Project often receives information about fundraising events from other local conservation groups.

Would you like to receive this information as well (via email only)?  Yes  No

NB: Your personal details will not be made available to these groups.

Donations are warmly welcomed and should be made to the Asian Rhino Conservation Fund.

I would like to include a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to assist the Asian Rhino Project in its cause.

Please accept my payment by:  Cheque  Cash  Credit Card  Electronic Transfer

For electronic transfers our details are: Name: Asian Rhino Project Inc. Bank: ANZ Branch: East Victoria Park, Western Australia. BSB: 016 263 Account: 4984 19705 Transfer receipt number: \_\_\_\_\_

Please charge my:  Bankcard  Mastercard  Visa

Card No: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_