

Asian Rhino Project



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November 2007

Welcome to the November Newsletter

Another quarter has come and gone. This quarter saw the hosting of the AGM at Perth Zoo in late October and the completion of the ARP Annual Report for 2007. The minutes from the AGM and the Annual Report will soon be available from the website for those that enjoy a little light reading! I was also able to attend the IRF annual meeting recently in Florida, USA which was a valuable experience.

Zoo staff in Monarto (South Australia) and Auckland have been working hard to spread the word of ARP with two exciting new projects up and running – Planetkeeper for Rhinos at Monarto Zoo and Concerts for Conservation at Auckland Zoo. We are grateful for such great support; thank you!

We are also proud to be funding two more projects in the field – a continuation of the RPU support for WWF's 'Last chance for the Vietnamese Rhino', and the Way Kambas National Park Elephant Sanctuary. Funding also continues for a number of our ongoing projects and updates on these are detailed below.

Once again, thank you all for your kind and generous support.

Kerry Crosbie.

A Warm Welcome to New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members: Jo Corney, Rebecca Jones, Timothy Portas, Anton K Benz, Deb Hoesler and Kim Carlow.

Asian Rhino Project Adopt-a-Rhino Fundraiser

You can help us help save the Sumatran rhino by adopting a rhino today – and its tax deductible!

All funds raised through the Asian Rhino Project rhino adoption program will be used to support the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS) in the Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra.

With each adoption you will receive an attractive adoption certificate including information on your rhino and the program – great for the wall!

You can also choose to receive quarterly updates on your rhino as well as an A4 sized photograph for your wall (extra costs apply for photos and updates).

More information on the rhinos and the program can be found on our website.



New Project: Last Chance for the Vietnamese Rhino Securing Required Steps to a Recovery Programme

ARP has previously allocated \$8,000 to the WWF, US FWS, and Netherlands Government Javan rhino conservation project, towards rhino patrolling and monitoring to safeguard the remnant Javan Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus annamiticus*) population in Cat Tien National Park – Vietnam.

In addition to this, we have recently agreed to fund another \$9,590.00 USD to support a new proposal "Last Chance for the Vietnamese Rhino – Securing Required Steps to a Recovery Programme".

This project is led by WWF and again based in Cat Tien National Park, Vietnam. The long-term goal of the project is to re-establish viable populations of the Javan rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus annamiticus*) in Vietnam and in other secure habitats throughout its historic range. The short-term goal is to assure that the rhino population remains stable within its current habitat of ~5,000 ha.

Rhino Conservation Fund Component Objectives are:

- To provide effective protection to the current rhino population and its habitat.
- To collect high quality scientific data on the rhino population to advise future management of the rhino population.

Specific project activities are to:

- conduct research on the rhino population, doing occupancy surveys based on DNA profiles;
- improve the rhino population and its habitat by stepping up enforcement and reducing pressure from cattle grazing;
- increase the rhino habitat through negotiating with villagers living inside Cat Tien National Park on a resolution to stop encroachment and disturbance of the rhinos;
- communicate project results to the scientific and conservation community as well as to the national and international public.

The project will run for another 12 months with funding being provided from a number of sources including US Fish and Wildlife Service, WWF, Cat Tien NP, French Global Environment Fund and of course ARP. Funding provided by ARP is specifically to cover Rhino Protection units during the year, the salary for a Rhino conservation officer, provision of a Vietnamese research student and the costs of some of the research consumables.

We are very happy to be involved in this exciting project and look forward to updating our supporters with progress reports.

Concerts for Conservation – Auckland Zoo

In January and February 2008 Auckland Zoo will be hosting a series of five concerts featuring local kiwi artists, including Evermore. Each of these concerts will be a fundraising event with the proceeds going to nominated conservation organizations. Thanks to the persuasive powers of ARP member Nat Sullivan, ARP is lucky to be one of the five chosen organizations to receive funding from the concerts. We are very grateful for this opportunity and look forward to hearing how the concerts go in early 2008.

Nat has also been working hard promoting ARP with a number of good funding opportunities due to come to fruition shortly. Thanks to Nat for her tireless work – it is people like this who help to spread the word about Asian rhinos beyond our local borders.

EVERMORE 20 JAN
LIAM FINN 3 FEB
HOLLIE SMITH 9 FEB
THE PHOENIX FOUNDATION 17 FEB
KATCHAFIRE 29 FEB

TICKETS: Adults \$27, Children \$12 (under 4 free)
Auckland Zoo 09 360 3805 or www.aucklandzoo.co.nz
Ticketmaster 09 970 9700 or www.ticketmaster.co.nz
Service fee applies.

ZOO
MUSIC



New Project: Way Kambas National Park Elephant Sanctuary Sumara, Indonesia

ARP has recently donated \$5000 for in kind support of the veterinary team at the Way Kambas National Park Elephant Sanctuary. The elephant sanctuary is located in the same National Park as the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary and is currently developing an eco-tourism project with the aim of providing education about conservation as well as providing suitable care for the elephants at the centre and protecting the future of the wild elephants within the park.

Projects like this help to protect the park as a whole and this will therefore benefit not only the elephants but also the rhinos of Way Kambas.

Following is the vision statement for the Way Kambas Elephant Sanctuary provided by Claire Oelrichs of Ecolodges Indonesia:

1. To create the WKES, a world class sanctuary.
2. To design an elephant facility which will ensure good health, nutrition, lifestyle, with provision for exercise, rest, relaxation and socialisation among elephants..
3. To create a tourism and education destination which aims to earn adequate income to provide all the needs of the Sanctuary and support the conservation of the wild elephants of Way Kambas National Park.
4. To create a tourism destination where elephants can be observed behaving in a natural way at play, with young, and in the water.
5. To create a breeding centre with the aim to release families groups if required to ensure the preservation of the wild population.
6. To create a small business model with transparent money management and quality assurance, which will attract international investment and support.



Currently there is a team of local people and Vets working as volunteers to develop the Way Kambas Elephant Training Centre into a proper sanctuary with all the benefits of tourism income for locals, and elephants. Progress is slow, but the new Park Director, Mr Hudiono, has embraced the concepts and the team is moving again.

On the tourism side, the Satwa Sumatra Elephant Ecolodge is developing its business and tourists are coming to the park to see the spectacular wildlife, birds, elephants and rhinoceros.

A baby orphan elephant 'Pepi' (about 6 months old) is doing well and a female elephant, Karitjah, has shown interest in adopting her. Of course the mahouts must still give Pepi milk, but an adoptive mother can lead her into the park during the day and teach her how to eat good food. The Satwa Sumatra Elephant Fund will be paying for motor bike fuel so that the mahout can reach the elephants every 2 hours with fresh milk. Raising a baby elephant is a big commitment!

The Fund pays a small reward to 2 Veterinarians at the Elephant Centre. Dr Wiewik works with the elephant health program and Dr Ahmad works as coordinator of the Sanctuary development. Dr Ahmad has unfortunately resigned and we are seeking a new committed person to continue with the development of the Sanctuary.

All funds donated to this project were received from a single donor who was keen to support the project.

Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary Update, Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra

Dr Robin Radcliffe heads off to Way Kambas again in December accompanied by veterinarian Dr Tim Portas of Western Plains Zoo. This visit will act as the first familiarization visit to the sanctuary by Tim, who is one of the ARP supported Veterinary Support team initiated in 2006. Tim has an impressive resume of experience with rhinos, particularly in the field of anaesthesia. Having worked at both Werribee and Western Plains open range zoos, he has performed a large number of anaesthetic procedures in white, black and greater one horned rhinos in the captive setting.. He has also participated in the chemical restraint of free-ranging white and greater one horned rhino in South Africa and Nepal respectively and has visited Sumatran rhino facility at Sungai Dusun in Peninsular Malaysia with Zanail-Zahari Zainuddin whilst rhinos were still held there. He has also presented many lectures on rhino anaesthesia and published a number of articles on the topic.

In addition to anaesthesia, Tim also has significant experience in a number of areas of captive management including reproduction and nutrition as well as general health management. He is currently completing a Masters research project on environmental effects on testosterone production in captive rhino bulls. Not bad hey!

Earlier this year ARP supported the first familiarisation visit from the Veterinary Support team by Dr Benn Bryant, senior veterinarian from the Western Plains zoo. Not long after that visit Benn was called upon to return to the sanctuary and provide medical assistance to the older male, Torgamba, and was able to assist in his return to good health (see August newsletter for full details). We are grateful to the Western Plains Zoo who have been so co-operative with this project, not only supporting the SRS visits, but also supporting the visit by SRS Indonesian vet Dedi Candra to WPZ in July to observe a number of rhino procedures and anaesthetics (see August newsletter for full details). With both Tim and Benn on board it is hoped the Veterinary Support Team will be a valuable supplement to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary's existing team.

Indian Rhino Update - Manas National Park Rhino Rehabilitation Project

The two rhinos that were translocated in January are doing well in their *boma* along with the rhino that was translocated in February 2006. All three rhinos can now be found actively feeding during the early morning and late evening. During midday they either wallow in the watery area or lie in the thick tall grass.

The older rhino which was translocated in 2006 always roams alone in the *boma* while the other two rhinos which were translocated in 2007 are always together. The older rhino was once seen chasing the other two rhinos in the *boma*.

Supplementary concentrates to the rhinos have been stopped as fresh green grass has come up in the *boma* after the rains.

SOS Rhino Borneo Visit Update

ARP secretary Daniel Scarparolo visited Borneo to visit the SOS Rhino sites as reported in last newsletter. Daniel managed to save \$1000 of the approved visit budget and requested that this money be put towards the SOS Rhino projects.

The funds have since been used to buy some special jackets for the RPU teams. Thank you Daniel for helping to make our valuable donation dollars go that little bit further.

Planetkeeper – Monarto Zoo

Monarto Zoo is running a pro-active education program called "Planetkeeper" for students who wish to really make a difference. We only launched the program at Monarto Zoo this year and have already had 4 schools take on the challenge of becoming Planetkeepers for the Rhinos.

The students come to Monarto Zoo for an overnight experience and get up close and personal behind the scenes with our white rhino family. They meet the keeper and help feed the rhinos and watch the movement of rhinos in the raceways. They explore their day and night quarters, find tracks and skin patterns in the dirt and help improve/maintain their habitats i.e. – picking up rocks so they don't hurt their hooves and even help in cleaning up the dung pile. They spend time observing behavior and even get to pat these amazing creatures.

We believe that giving the students a 'hands on' experience will engage their hearts and in turn help them to form a personal connection to the rhino. We use the white rhino as our ambassadors for all 5 rhino species, sharing insight into the plight of rhinos around the world.

When back at school, the motivated and inspired students continue their Planetkeeper role and raise awareness to friends, family, local and school communities and raise funds in many innovative ways e.g. – sausage sizzles, quiz nights, casual days, recycling, art/craft/cake stalls etc. which they then send to Asian Rhino Project directly. This gives them a sense of belonging and knowing that they are taking positive steps to really help save rhinos in the wild. They are making a difference!

We hope in 2008, many more schools will become Planetkeeper Rhinos.

Emma Still
Monarto Zoo Education Officer



Empowering People for Rhino Conservation (EPRC) Update, Nepal

As detailed in the Annual report, ARP has recently begun funding an important project in Nepal in conjunction with Media Consultancy Group of Nepal. The EPRC program aims to educate, empower and involve the buffer zone community of Chitwan National Park in conservation along with initiating grassroots to policy level discourse on several contentious issues. Following is a report from program co-ordinator Deepak Acharya on the recent progress of the EPRC group

Empowering People For Rhino Conservation (EPRC) project has successfully completed its three months. EPRC has been implemented by Media Consultancy Nepal in five bufferzone VDCs of Chitwan National Park, Nepal with the support of Asian Rhino Project, Australia. EPRC was launched at the time when the core bufferzone areas of CNP are in dire need of empowerment and community based conservation activities are very rare. EPRC activities have intervened both grassroot level and at the level through which existing policies and practices can be leveraged and ultimately rectified.

Grassroot activities are targeted to the most vulnerable communities of core bufferzone areas which bear grudges and grievances towards park authority, bufferzone committee and to the entire rhino conservation initiatives.

Activities like focus group discussions with poaching prone communities, family members of imprisoned individuals on rhino case, interactions with mother and farmer groups have at one hand drawn their views, aspirations and problems and has been relayed to the concerned authorities through EPRC reports and publications. At other hand, community people are being informed and educated on how conservation efforts are important for biodiversity, how they can get direct benefit from successful conservation and how the contentious issues should be resolved. EPRC has provided ToT on conservation education to 18 CBOs members from project covering 5 VDCs who would conduct conservation awareness programs in their respective community during next phase of the project.

EPRC has conducted workshops, interactions on various issues of conservation such as with science and environment teachers, chairpersons of Village Development Committee of bufferzone areas, chairpersons of bufferzone user committees etc and extensively discussed on pitfalls, imperatives of conservation efforts and how their

roles could be bolstered for rhino conservation. School level activities through rhino clubs, CBOs led awareness activities, cultural programs, rallies have augmented momentum and motivation towards rhino conservation. The website www.onehornrhino.org is on the verge of completion which is focused on updated information on one horned rhino.

EPRC team members are more excited and vigorous with the inspiring feedback that most of it's activities are 'for the very first time' implemented around CNP bufferzone areas. Chairpersons of project covering Village Development Committees have committed to



Meeting with Mr. Shyam Bajimaya (centre), director general of DNPWC about the EPRC project development along with Mr. Megh Bahadur Pandey (left), chief warden of CNP. Mr. Deepak Acharya, program co-ordinator of EPRC, is briefing on project activities.)



Discussion program with VDC chairpersons on practice and challenge of VDCs towards conservation been built up from locals and conservation related organisations to finally end up their operation..

add support beyond the contribution of EPRC for the establishment and continuation of information desk on rhino conservation.

During the short course of project implementation, EPRC has been able to comprehend concerned authorities to address imperative gaps of conservation. Prominently, on different programs of EPRC, CNP officials have committed to promote multisectoral dialogue eventually to amend prevalent practices and enhance people participation on conservation. They Likewise, grassroot people are being realized to seek for pacific solution of the problems rather through irrational ways.

EPRC has regularly provided project reports and publications to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC), CNP officials and key stakeholders. On November 26th, EPRC held meeting with Mr. Shyam Bajimaya, Director General of DNPWC and brief him about the project development. During the meeting, Mr. Bajimaya praised on EPRC's community outreach programs and attempts to turnaround the situation. He said rhino poaching is the biggest threat on Nepal's conservation efforts. He exerted on the need to intensify community oriented programs and utmost co-ordination among conservation actors. Mr. Deepak Acharya, program co-ordinator of EPRC handed over the EPRC reports and publications to Mr. Bajimaya.

According to the CNP record, 25 rhinos died in 2006 among which 17 were brutally killed by the poachers. However, rhinos death totaled 9, till the date this year. More community and policy level interventions would pull off rhino conservation efforts in Nepal.

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 or phone 08 89760952.

Committee Updates

National Committee - by Kerry Crosbie

The AGM was held in October and included the election of committee positions for the National committee. The following positions were confirmed for the period 2007 – 2008:

Project Director	Kerry Crosbie
Vice Chairperson, National Committee	Clare Campbell
WA Branch Manager	Emma Gatehouse
NSW Branch Manager	Kristy Garard
National Secretary	Daniel Scarparolo
National Treasurer	Lorraine Dunn
General Member	Carly Palmer
Fundraising Officer	Vacant (Kerry to continue until position filled)

The minutes of the AGM are included below and the Annual Report should be available on the website shortly.

On behalf of ARP, I would like to extend a big Thank You to Perth Zoo for the use of the theatrette and equipment once again during the AGM and for their ongoing support through their MOU. Thanks also go to Tony Alcock and the Docent Association for setting up tea and coffee and locking up again. Thanks to Emma and her WA team for organising the event – they organised the BBQ, food, and booking for Zoo. And of course thanks to all the members and everyone for coming along on the night and for their great support throughout the year.

Only a week after the AGM it was off to the US for me to attend the annual meeting of the International Rhino Foundation (IRF) held at the White Oak Conservation Centre in Florida. Although a whirlwind visit this was a very productive meeting and well worth attending. It was a great opportunity to get updated on the various projects underway in the field of rhino conservation and to strengthen ties with other organizations. There are a number of projects identified in this meeting that ARP is keen to pursue and provide funding for in the near future.

Also on the national front, Rae Joy who has been the Memberships Co-ordinator for the past 2½ years has resigned from this position due to other commitments. I can not emphasise enough how helpful and how very dedicated and professional Rae has been and would like to thank her for her commitment to ARP. Rae took on the membership's role at the time when we were growing very rapidly and I was struggling to keep up with the influx of members and administration. The membership file as a result was in a bit of a mess. Rae has played an important role in not only organising a procedures and system for the ARP memberships, but she has been extremely efficient at chasing up renewals and ensuring that member queries and issues are dealt with effectively. Just the printing and mailing of the quarterly newsletters is a big job on its own! I am very grateful to her for her unwavering support in this very important role and wish her the best in her new endeavors.

We have recently employed an administrative officer to assist me with all things administration. ARP member Karen Payne has kindly jumped into the role at a time when things were really banking up. Karen has been responsible for the compilation of the 2007 Annual Report as well as the current newsletter and a number of other administrative tasks. She has also taken on the membership role for Rae. Thank you Karen for your help.

Kerry Crosbie
Project Director

Committee Updates continued...

WA Branch

WA hosted the AGM at Perth Zoo on the 31st of October. The night started with an informal BBQ and catching up with Kerry and then got into the formal part of the evening with the annual report and some report updates from Kerry Crosbie, Carly Palmer (on behalf of Daniel Scarparolo) and Emma Gatehouse.

We have a new committee member to the WA branch. Sophie Lourandos is one the Rhino Keepers at Perth Zoo, and is keen to contribute to the conservation of Asian Rhinos. Welcome Sophie!

NSW Branch

The NSW Branch is still in the process of negotiating with the Zoological Parks Board of NSW for financial and logistical support. The ZPB Conservation Committee is also interested in supporting us in this bid. The NSW branch will continue to function without ZPB support at this stage.

This September the NSW Geography Teachers Association gathered at Western Plains Zoo. NSW branch manager, Kristy Garard showed the group around the Asian Wetland area at WPZ. Through familiarising them with our Asian Wetlands, she encouraged them to focus on the importance of this region in terms of its close proximity to Australia and the impact that political, financial and social issues have on the fauna of

this region. The teachers were invited to utilise our expertise, graphics and animals as educational tools and were encouraged to participate in fundraising efforts with the ARP team.

Pascale Benoit has kindly donated a service from her male Black Overo horse. Named 'Blue Gums Cloud Dancer', he is PHAA champion 115 and a service from this stud is valued at \$1200. The service has been advertised in "The Painthorse Journal" and will be auctioned at Paint Week, which is held during the week prior to Easter. All funds received will be donated to the ARP. Pascale is also speaking to other horse breeders to encourage them to make similar efforts to raise money for the ARP.

VIC Branch

Unfortunately the Victorian branch of ARP has dissolved with the Branch Manager Brooke Squires not renominating for the position at the recent AGM due to other commitments. We are very grateful for all the efforts of the Victorian branch in recent times, including the organising of the Rhino Keepers workshop in May of this year. With Asian rhinos close to Brooke's heart she has promised to hold some fundraising events and talks in the next year. Thanks to all the Victorian team for your dedication and help.

National Committee

Chairperson & Project Director

Vice Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

WA Branch Manager

NSW Branch Manager

General Member

Fundraising

Board of Management

Kerry Crosbie

Clare Campbell

Daniel Scarparolo

Lorraine Dunn

Emma Gatehouse

Kristy Garard

Carly Palmer

VACANT

Kerry Crosbie, Andrew Thompson, Nicholas Duncan

Western Australian Branch Sub-committee

Chairperson & Branch Manager: Emma Gatehouse

Secretary: Martina ter Steeg

Treasurer: Petra Hancock

Merchandise: Holly Thompson

General Member: Dean Main

New South Wales Branch Sub-committee

Branch Manager: Kristy Garard

Secretary: Addy Watson

Treasurer: Pascale Benoit

Events Co-ordinator: Debbie Haesler

Merchandise Co-ordinator: Rebecca Jones

In The News – Asian Rhino Stories

Waiting for a male rhino at Delhi Zoo 4 September 2007

A male rhinoceros at Delhi Zoo died of snakebite over the weekend. It was four years old and the only male rhinoceros in the zoo.

The Indian one-horned rhino had been brought to Delhi Zoo from Patna a few years ago.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/09/04/stories/2007090450750200.htm>

Zoo's sole male rhinoceros dies of snake bites 4 September 2007

Sole male rhino at the Delhi Zoo Raja (10) died on Saturday evening after receiving snake bites. He received around five snake bites on his mouth and neck region. The post-mortem revealed that most of the body organs had been damaged or 'digressed' due to presence of high volume of snake venom. The entire mouth and neck region of the rhino was reportedly swollen.

Raja died at 6.32 pm, two and a half hours after zoo authorities found him, Zoo director D N Singh said. He added, "Our efforts to provide first aid relief to the rhino failed because the CPWD had not repaired electrical connections in both the rhino enclosure and the medical storeroom."

<http://cities.expressindia.com/fullstory.php?newsid=254664>

Floods create havoc in Pobitora 15 September 2007

The Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, which has the highest concentration of the one-horned rhinoceros, has been reeling under flood for the past six days. As much as 95 per cent of the rhino-bearing habitat of the 38.8-sq km sanctuary is under floodwater. This has forced the animals – mostly rhinos, buffalos and wild boars – to take shelter on the roads running inside and along the sanctuary.

"The situation is grim with 95 per cent of the rhino habitat under water for the fourth day today. The situation has been compounded by the absence of highlands in the tiny sanctuary," Surajit Dutta, DFO, Guwahati Wildlife Division, told The Assam Tribune.

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/details.asp?id=sep1607/at09>

Poachers kill one more Kaziranga rhino 17 September 2007

Poachers killed a rhino that moved out of the flood affected Kaziranga National Park (KNP) for taking shelter at highland, in the Hatikhuli tea estate late on Saturday night. The total number of rhinos from the national park killed by poachers this year has gone up to 13. Of them, ten have been killed by poachers inside the park area while three have been killed near tea estates.

Divisional Forest Officer (Kaziranga) Bankim Sarma told The Hindu that poachers killed the rhino around 12.25 p.m. at Hatikhuli but failed to take away its horn as forest guards who were camping nearby rushed to the spot. He said that more than 40 rhinos have moved out of the flooded park area and have entered the nearby tea garden across the national highway in search of food and shelter.

The park authorities have been facing acute shortage of frontline staff manning this world heritage site while the area falling under its jurisdiction has increased to 1,000 square kilometres after it was declared a tiger reserve. There has been a shortage of about 100 frontline staff when its area was only 430 square kilometres, the DFO said. Moreover, 36 of the existing frontline staff have become physically invalid to carryout the assigned duties. Over the past one and half month the park authorities have apprehended nine poachers and recovered a .303 rifle used in poaching activities.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/09/17/stories/2007091755881300.htm>

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<http://www.hindu.com/2007/09/17/stories/2007091755881300.htm>

Rhino sanctuary flooded in Assam, animals out for food, shelter 17 September 2007

Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, having the highest concentration of the one-horned Indian rhino in the world, has been badly hit by the current wave of floods, forcing the animals to move out for food and shelter imperilling their safety.

The carcasses of two wild boars were recovered inside the park yesterday and other causalties, if any, due to the floods could be ascertained only after the water ebbed, forest department sources said.

Over 95 per cent of the 38.8 sq km sanctuary, near here, was under water for the past one week compelling its rhinos, wild boars and buffalos to come out on the roads inside and alongside the sanctuary, they said.

As there was no food due to the floods and no highlands within the small rhino habitat, the sources said, the animals were coming out in search of food and shelter imperilling their own safety.

<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/002200709171864.htm>

Fascination or superstition: Rhino poaching still rampant in Kaziranga 18 September 2007

POACHERS ON SATURDAY night killed one more rhino in the world famous Kaziranga National Park. The Kaziranga National Park (KNP) is believed to be world's largest habitat of one horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) with a population of around 1885 rhinos. The last rhino census was done in 2005.

Altogether 17 rhinos have been killed by poachers or have drowned in floodwaters since January 2007. Poachers killed two more rhinos near world famous KNP, on 6 August. Poachers shot dead a one-horned rhino near Bonkowal and escaped with its horn, nail, tail and ear. Few hours later another rhino was killed near Paharline, under Dolamara range. On 9 August, a carcass, suspected to be that of a rhino which drowned in floodwaters, was recovered from the Brahmaputra near Jakhelabandha in Nagaon district. On 3 August, one rhino was drowned at the Kohora Range. This is the first reported death of any big animal in the park after floods submerged more than 60 per cent of the park area. Suspected Karbi poachers on the night of July 17 killed another rhino at KNP. On 3 July, another rhino was killed in the Burapahar range. Five rhinos were poached in 2006, while seven were killed in 2005 in Kaziranga. According to a departmental source poachers in KNP killed nearly seventy rhinos since 1985.

<http://www.merinews.com/catFull.jsp?articleID=126454>

Cash to catch rhino poachers 30 September 2007

The Kaziranga National Park authorities are chanting "cash to catch" mantra to contain the spurt in poaching. The move followed after 17 rhinos fell prey to poachers this year. Officials of the game reserve today announced cash awards for providing information on poachers.

The categories include recovery of rhino horns, arms and ammunition and arrest of poachers.

"We have not fixed the amount yet but it will not be less than Rs 5,000," the director of the national park, Surendra Nath Buragohain, said.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the Wildlife Trust of India have come forward as sponsors, he said.

According to Buragohain, the aim behind the move is to build an intelligence network the absence of which is one of the main reasons for a sharp rise in incidents of rhino poaching.

"Introduction of cash awards will act as an incentive that will attract more people to provide information on poaching. This is just an effort to collect details."

Buragohain stressed the need to set up an organised intelligence network by involving more people. "Otherwise it will be difficult to curb poaching in such a vast area," he said.

"Though several NGOs are helping the park authorities to curb poaching, it does not seem to be enough. Since the area of Kaziranga has increased from 450 square km to 1,000 square km after it was declared a tiger reserve, the task has become more difficult."

The park authorities have information that some villagers, residing on the fringe areas of Kaziranga, are providing logistical support to poachers.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1071001/asp/northeast/story_8380995.asp

Manas home for rhino 3 October 2007

A rhino calf, rescued by the forest guards of the Kaziranga National Park after its mother was shot dead by poachers a fortnight ago, will be shifted to the Manas National Park under the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 by the end of this year.

The forest guards had launched a massive hunt for the calf after its mother was shot dead at Hatikhuli tea estate near Kaziranga on September 15 night. They found it five days later, about a kilometre from the place where its mother had been killed.

"The calf was taking shelter in a ditch. Our guards managed to locate it by mimicking its mother," divisional forest officer Bankim Sharma said.

He said the calf was suckling when the poachers shot the rhino. "Milk was oozing out of the rhino's nipples when we found the carcass. We started our search operation soon after," he added.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1071004/asp/northeast/story_8391970.asp

Angry mother rhino kills poacher in Kaziranga 5 October 2007

A poacher responsible for killing several rhinos in Assam's Kaziranga National Park met his end when a female rhinoceros with a calf gored him to death when he went on another hunting mission in the protected area.

Gaonbura Ronfar, alias Babu, a resident of Koliabor sub-division of Assam, was killed by a female rhino on Sep 23 inside the Kukurakota forest range on the fringe of Kaziranga, an official disclosed Friday.

'It took almost 10 days to conclusively identify the person,' range officer of the park Ekramul Muzid said.

Gaonbura Ronfar reportedly entered the Kukurakota reserve forest at night along with an accomplice, who belonged to the Paite community of Nagaland, to hunt rhinos, a protected animal.

<http://www.earthtimes.org/articles/show/119300.html>

Rhino Poachers Arrested with Explosives in Chitwan 8 October 2007

Two persons have been arrested for poaching and smuggling rhino horns by Chitwan National Park officials.

Two weeks ago, the CNP officials arrested Rana Bahadur Kumal of Meghauli-3 and Hom Bahadur Lama of Tamaspur from the house of Santa Kumal in possession of live bullets, explosives and a motorcycle.

"The two were also arrested on similar charges earlier," protection officer at CNP Megh Bahadur Pandey said.

Earlier, Lama was sentenced to 15-year jail but the Heatuda Appellate Court gave him a clean chit in 2004, while Rana Bahadur walked out of the jail after completing his punishment in June 2006, assistant protection officer Ananath Baral said.

The motorcycle seized from Santa Kumal's house was seized earlier as well, he said.

Santa Kumal has been absconding and his wife was detained for interrogation, the CNP officials said.

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullstory.asp?filename=aFanata0vcqzpba2a8a4pa.axamal&folder=aHaoamW&Name=Home&dtSiteDate=20071008>

Poacher killed by Indian rhino 25 October 2007

A poacher who is thought to have killed a number of rhinos in an Indian national park has been gored to death by a female rhinoceros.

The Indo-Asian News Service (IANS) reports that Gaonbura Ronfar was killed by an angry rhino in the Kaziranga National Park as he tried to illegally poach more of the creatures.

http://www.iar.org.uk/globalnews/articles/2007/10/poacher_killed_by_indian_rhino_640.html

"It could be easily five years, because he is just a little fellow and the males don't sexually mature in the wild until about 7 years old," Jay Christie, president and chief executive officer of the Racine Zoo said of the 2,200-pound rhino that stands 5 feet tall and is 9 feet long. "In captivity, it could be as early as 5 years and that's because they don't have the competition of other adult rhinos and the other stresses of the wild."

http://www.journaltimes.com/articles/2007/10/29/local_news/doc47269944f13b1321688816.txt

Zimbabwe: Suspected Soldiers Slaughter Endangered Black Rhinos 13 November 2007

In a tragic incident that occurred last Wednesday night, a gang of poachers armed with AK 47 rifles and dressed in camouflage, shot and killed 3 black rhinos, one of the world's most endangered species. The slaughtered group included a pregnant female, two weeks away from giving birth. A four-week-old calf was spared.

The black rhinos were part of an important project that hopes to provide a gene pool for this highly threatened species. It is believed the slaughter was meant to intimidate the farm owners into vacating their property, to make way for a top military official who wants the farm.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200711130834.html>

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ASIAN RHINO PROJECT INC. MEETING MINUTES Annual General Meeting

Held 31 October 2007 at Perth Zoo, 20 Labouchere Rd, South Perth, WA

PRESENT:

Kerry Crosbie	Chairperson/Project Director
Clare Campbell	Vice Chairperson
Carly Palmer	Fundraising Officer
Emma Gatehouse	WA Branch Chairperson
Lorraine Dunn	Treasurer

Evelyn Wong	Tony Alcock	Ursula Beaton	Valerie Hemsley
Jeff Beaton	Karen Payne	Khwaja Mohiunder	Arthur Ferguson
Leanne Anderson	R.A Read	Petra Hancock	John Lemon
Dianne Gates	Michelle Wild	Daniel Bennett	Sophie Lourandos
Dean Main	Holly Thompson	Yvonne Garnsey	Martina Ter Steeg

Apologies:

Andrew Thompson	Member of the Board of Management
Nicholas Duncan	Member of the Board of Management
Daniel Scarparolo	National Secretary

Proxies: Chair x 10

Meeting Opened: 7:00pm

DISCUSSION

- Welcome and Thanks to everyone for attending the AGM.
- KC put forward motion to accept last years minutes. Seconded by Dianne Gates.
- Proxy Votes: 10 received, all nominated the chair to vote on their behalf
- KC asked for any general business?

Election of Committee :

- Project Director - Kerry Crosbie - Uncontested
- Vice Chairperson, National Committee - Clare Campbell - Uncontested
- WA Branch Manager - Emma Gatehouse - Uncontested
- NSW Branch Manager – Kristy Garard - Uncontested
- National Secretary – Daniel Scarparolo - Uncontested
- National Treasurer – Lorraine Dunn - Uncontested
- General Member - Carly Palmer - Uncontested
- Fundraising Officer – Vacant (Kerry to continue until position filled)

Kerry noted that Victorian Branch will no longer be operating due to other commitments of Branch Manager Brooke Squires. Brooke has not renominated.

- Director's Report: Kerry read through 2007 Annual Report and gave a project overview. Copies of the report were made available for member's perusal. The report will be made available on the ARP website.
- Carly Palmer presented Daniel Scarparolo's report on his trip to Borneo as per annual report.
- Emma Gatehouse presented a report on her trip to Vietnam as per annual report.
- Kerry discussed in brief the remainder of the Annual Report.
- Treasurer's report: Lorraine Dunn presented treasurers report. Final audit was unavailable at the time of meeting. Basic financial statements were made available in Annual Report. Acceptance of reports were proposed by Clare Campbell, seconded by Dianne Gates and passed uncontested by members.

Meeting Closed: 8.10pm