

Asian Rhino Project

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August 2007

Welcome to the August Newsletter

It's been another busy quarter! ARP Committee members Emma Gatehouse and Daniel Scarparolo both visited projects. Emma visited the Javan rhino project in Vietnam, attending a workshop and seeing first hand the rhino habitat and meeting the people working hard to protect them. Daniel visited the Sumatran rhino program in Borneo where he met with the SOS Rhino Borneo team and participated in the volunteer program that we support. Daniel also visited a few other places of interest while in Borneo with the prospect of developing Eco tours for the ARP Stay tuned – we hope to run one in the near future!

The ARP Veterinary Assistance program was also utilized. With the support of the Western Plains Zoo, veterinarian Benn Bryant visited the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Sumatra for an introduction to the facilities, rhino and staff. Not long after the visit Benn was called upon for emergency assistance when one of the male rhino (Torgamba) had some health issues. Thankfully Torgamba regained his health and is back to normal. During Benn's first visit a veterinary exchange was organised and the ARP funded SRS Veterinarian Dedi Candra to attend a series of rhino reproductive procedures at Western Plains Zoo.

The ARP had its first major fundraiser in June held by Joan Pearson. Joan's function raised a whopping \$17,500!!! Well done Joan! A further \$2,500 was raised from merchandise sales, raffles and door takings at two other presentations given by Kerry for Taronga and Western Plains Zoo. Also during this visit a NSW branch was formed. More in our committee updates.

Another exciting new project was also funded last quarter titled "Empowering People for Rhino Conservation" managed by Mr. Deepak Acharya of the Media Consultancy, Nepal. This group will be working with local people in the buffer zone areas of Chitwan National Park to raise awareness on the plight of the rhino and to empower them to conserve their amazing rhino. The 6 month project has been partly funded and will be reassessed mid way for potential further funding.

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: Shelley Craig, Sharon Negus, Sam Taylor, Jonathan Rabinovitz, Jodie Kasatchkow, Cheryl Erkelens and Alex Tonkin.

Asian Rhino Project Annual General Meeting

7.30pm, 31 October 2007
Perth Zoo Theatre

New Project: Empowering People for Rhino Conservation - Nepal ARP project launched in Nepal

The poaching of one horned rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) has been a big problem in Chitwan National Park, a major rhino habitat of Nepal. The devastating decrease in the rhino population needs to be reversed urgently to save this species. In every rhino count, the numbers have dwindled greatly in Chitwan National Park. In 2000, a rhino count found 544 rhinos in the park, whereas a count down in 2006 found only 372 (in Nepal it was 446). Since 2005, 62 rhinos have died with poaching being a major cause. Forty-five of these rhinos were brutally killed by the poacher and the remaining died of natural causes.

Chitwan National Park officials have caught 40 people in the last year and have accused them of being involved in poaching. However, rhino poaching is not going down. The local people's Involvement in rhino poaching is a significant threat to conservation efforts. Chitwan National Park records reveal that more than half of the detained individuals in rhino cases are the bufferzone people.

The buffer zone management program has been operating in the buffer zone area of Chitwan National Park for about a decade. However, due to inadequate awareness, local communities are unable to understand the theme and essence of the program and the park authorities are unable to deliver adequate initiatives due to different constraints. Furthermore, buffer zone people are not getting adequate compensation for the crop and livestock damaged by wild animals,

mainly rhinos. This has led to increased conflict between the park and people and distances them from conservation. How can conservation efforts succeed without buffer zone people's active participation? It is a challenging question that needs to be addressed urgently.

Therefore, with the objective of changing the situation, Empowering People for Rhino Conservation (EPRC) project was launched on 1 August 2007. The project is supported by Asian Rhino Project and implemented by Media Consultancy Nepal.

EPRC aims to educate, empower and involve the buffer zone community of Chitwan National Park in conservation along with initiating grassroot to policy level discourse on several contentious issues.

EPRC will work to consolidate the human-rhino relationship through conservation education, increase participation of buffer zone, community-based organisations on conservation advocacy, influence practice and policy of governmental and non-governmental organizations on rhino issues, strengthen local and national co-ordination and widely disseminate the information on rhinos and conservation.

EPRC hopes these efforts will ultimately help to improve the condition of Nepalese rhinos.



EPRC personnel talking with local villagers about rhinoceros conservation issues. Photo by Media Consultancy Group.

Vietnamese Javan Rhino Workshop – Vietnam

By Emma Gatehouse

The Asian Rhino Project was invited to attend the Vietnamese Rhino Conservation Workshop, held at Cat Tien National Park, 27 – 29 April, 2007. WA Branch manager Emma Gatehouse attended the workshop – which discussed the local short, medium and long-term goals and revised the Vietnamese Rhino Conservation strategy. The long term goal is 'To re-establish viable populations of the Vietnamese rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus annamiticus*) in Vietnam and in other secure habitats throughout its historic range'.

Other participants included; Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Forest Protection Department, Dong Nai Peoples Committee, Lam Dong People Committee, Netherlands Embassy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, WWF, IUCN, Birdlife, Conservationists and Rhino experts.

BACKGROUND

The main concern for the Vietnamese Javan Rhino in Cat Tien National Park is the lack of breeding in the last 10 years. In December 1998 there was a half grown calf (footprint plaster cast collected), but since then there have been no signs of calves, despite continuous patrolling and monitoring. DNA faecal analysis suggests that both sexes are present and there are at least four individuals. This number also coincides with footprint analysis.

WORKSHOP

There were a number of issues raised at the workshop including, the protection of the Rhino from poachers, the high disturbance from people, traffic and agriculture, the relocation of isolated hamlets to acquire more land for Rhino, and the need for more research into these secretive animals.

WHAT ARP CAN DO

We are awaiting a possible project proposal from further discussions. This proposal will involve funding a project to continue to collect data on the Javan Rhino in Cat Tien NP.



Above: Conference delegates
Below: Villagers in Vietnam

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.

Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary Update, Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra

RCMP MAY-JUNE SRS TRIP REPORT

Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, Way Kambas, Indonesia, May 25 – June 11, 2007

Submitted by Robin W. Radcliffe, DVM, DACZM Rhino Conservation Medicine Scientist, IRF, FRWC, CUCVM

All of the SRS rhinoceros are doing well. In fact, the health of the collection remains excellent.

Andalas has adapted well to the facilities, staff and new habitat at the SRS. Significantly, he has suffered no significant disease since arrival despite exposure to numerous new parasites and organisms. It is too early to tell if the vaccine given was responsible for his good health. Andalas was released into the SRS 10-hectare rainforest enclosure on May 30, 2007 and he now should be able to exercise on a regular basis. In just 3 months, Andalas's foot problems have completely resolved in the rainforest environment of Way Kambas.

Torgamba looks extremely fit, both physically and in terms of his clinical parameters. Torgamba actually looks FAT for the first time in several years. His stamina is excellent and the staff has regularly identified both normal and abnormal spermatozoa in post-breeding semen samples collected from the female. It is interesting that Torgamba's health has improved markedly in response to floating his teeth and careful management of his renal disease via nutritional balancing of calcium and phosphorus ratios. However, another possible reason for his vigor and health may be the daily natural dietary herbal medicines provided by Dr. Dedi and his keeper, Sunar. Together, Dedi and Sunar developed a daily program of oral herbal therapy for Torgamba that involves feeding (3-4 kg daily) of Noni or *Morinda citrifolia*. Noni is harvested from the fruit of a tree. In late July and early August of this year, Torgamba suffered another episode of anorexia and lethargy. Assistance in managing Torgamba's health was provided by Dr. Benn Bryant in collaboration with the SRS team. At the time of this writing he has improved and is doing well.

We were able to follow Ratu's cycle closely during my visit and once her follicle reached 21 mm in diameter (on Wednesday June 6, 2007; Day 20 of her cycle) we made the decision to mix Ratu with Torgamba. The mixing was conducted in the central circle area and excellent courtship and breeding behavior was observed.

Staff Professional Training and Development

Considering the importance of field capture and anesthesia as a tool for the safe relocation and management of Sumatran rhinoceros, the staff of the SRS have been given instruction for suggested capture protocols. The recent capture of Ratu highlighted the rather urgent need to develop capacity in rural Sumatra and, in particular, at the SRS which is recognized as a regional center for rhinoceros conservation. Therefore, techniques and applications of field anesthesia are being discussed and developed for use in this region.

SRS Visit – ARP Veterinary Support Team

Dr Benn Bryant; Senior Veterinarian Western Plains Zoo

Recently I spent 5 days at the SRS arriving on Monday the 4th June 2007. My visit was in response to an invitation from the ARP as part of the Veterinary Support Team project. It had been proposed that Australian wildlife veterinarians with rhinoceros experience be on standby to lend assistance to the SRS in the contingency of a rhino medical or translocation emergency. The Zoological Parks Board of NSW has agreed to support the SRS by making myself and my veterinary colleague Dr Tim Portas, (both of Western Plains Zoo) available to fulfill this role. The aims of this initial visit were to establish contact with staff at the SRS, familiarise myself with the facility and its operation and participate in discussions with Dr Radcliffe and SRS staff directed towards planning for the contingency that another wild rhinoceros needs capture and translocation in the future.

These aims were achieved during my visit. I was able to observe all of the resident rhinoceros in their holding yards being attended by keeping staff. All the female animals underwent transrectal reproductive ultrasound examination by SRS veterinary staff during my visit and, on the basis of these findings, a breeding introduction

between 0.1 Ratu and 1.0 Torgamba was undertaken. This resulted in a series of courtship behaviors and a mating. Torgamba is currently being managed for compensated renal failure.

Dr Radcliffe observed that Torgamba's body condition has improved significantly in recent times, particularly since having his teeth rasped. This animal's exercise tolerance during a prolonged courtship chase was impressive! The captive born 1.0 individual 'Andalas' has recently been removed from post arrival quarantine and appears to be settling into the SRS routine. Dr Radcliffe observed that, although Andalas' body condition remains lean, his foot health has improved significantly since arriving at the SRS.

Dr Radcliffe is currently supervising a project aimed at defining the prevalence of trypanosomiasis and the tick borne haemoparasitic diseases in ungulate animal species dwelling within and adjacent to Way Kambas National Park. These insect borne diseases have been identified as posing a significant potential risk to the rhino held in the SRS, particularly captive born animals with less historical opportunity to develop resistance to these pathogens. During my visit I observed and assisted with blood sampling from domestic water buffalo and elephant for this project. Elephants held in the Way Kambas Elephant Training Centre were sampled for this project and it was interesting to visit the ETC and learn of some of the challenges inherent in managing the approximately 60 ex-wild elephant held there.

Productive discussion was had between Dr Radcliffe, the SRS vets, the SRS site manager, Marcellus Adi, and myself over the general approach for managing future free-ranging rhino translocation contingencies. A focus of this discussion was the potential for the use of appropriate chemical restraint for the capture and movement of wild rhinoceros. It was agreed that it would be useful for the SRS veterinary staff members to observe rhinoceros anaesthesia procedures in a conventional western zoo to become familiar with the use of chemical restraint in this taxonomic group.

Thanks to the ARP, the IRF, all the staff at the SRS and especially Dr Radcliffe for the opportunity to be involved with this exciting project. We at Western Plains Zoo look forward to further involvement in the SRS and lending support in any way we can.

Rhino Anesthesia Experience in Australia for SRS Vets

As Mentioned above, one of the outcomes from Dr Benn Bryant's visit to the SRS (Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas NP, Indonesia) was a discussion about how beneficial it would be for the SRS veterinarians to visit Western Plains Zoo (WPZ) during a series of scheduled rhino procedures in the coming months. The ARP was more than happy to assist with the funding of such a visit in the form of airfares. SRS veterinarian Dr Dedi Candra was identified by the SRS team to attend.

The scheduled rhino procedures were planned over a 3 day period where a number of black and white rhinoceros anesthetics were carried out for reproductive research and analysis. A variety of specialists came together from around the world for the event which also provided Dr Candra with a great



SRS staff with Torgamba. Photo by Dr Benn Bryant.

opportunity for networking within his specialist field. Seven rhinos were involved in the procedures involving anesthetics, ultrasounds, electro ejaculation semen collections, follicle extractions and the use of different and dangerous drugs which Dr Candra had not been exposed to before. "This training is very important for me because on September DR. Robin will bring dart gun for SRS" says Dr Candra.

Even upon his arrival Dr Candra and the Western Plains Zoo staff were straight to work with a Sumatran Tiger procedure! Being a Zoo environment other species were also attended to by the veterinary team during his visit such as:

- Kangaroo (anesthetic and X-ray)
- Hippopotamus (post mortem procedure)
- Galapagos turtle (ultrasound examination)
- Cavy (surgery)

Dr Candra was also able to visit and experience the veterinary and zoo facilities as well as research the Zoos procedures and protocols. Other areas visited by Dr Candra was:

- Veterinary Quarantine Center
- Quarantine service for African and Asian elephant.
- Indian Rhino facilities which Dr Candra noted were very good rhino facilities and the first time he has been able to 'touch' an Indian Rhino.
- Bird, Siamang, African small animal, Emu, Antelope, Mongolian Horse exhibits and more
- WPZ education center

Dr Candra and the Asian Rhino Project would like to thank the following:

- Western Plains Zoo – especially Drs Benn Bryant and Tim Portas and staff for giving him the opportunity to attend and new experiences. "I think WPZ very good facilities to training, there complete facilities (laboratory, Quarantine, equipment and good peoples), very organize and on time. WPZ very good site to training especially rhinos anesthetic. Thanks for all in WPZ for hospitality and everything".
- Mr. Effendy Sumardja and staff from the Yayasan Badak Indonesia (Indonesian Rhino Foundation) for facilitating and funding support.
- Dr Robin Radcliffe and Marcellus Adi for their support and assistance organising the trip
- International Rhino Foundation and Mrs. Susie Ellis for support and funding.

Dr Candra says "Fantastic! Western Plains Zoo procedures very organised; all people know about job description and good experience for me".

First Call out for ARP Veterinary Assistance Team

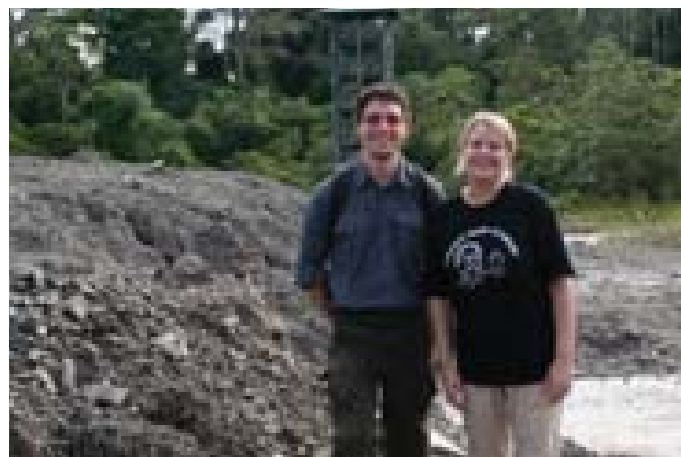
In early August WPZ Senior Veterinarian Benn Bryant was asked to attend to a sick rhinoceros at the Sumatran Rhinoceros Sanctuary (SRS) in Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra. The animal is 'Torgamba', a 27 year old adult male and one of 4 male Sumatran rhino in captivity in the world. Torgamba was diagnosed with chronic renal failure about 2 years ago. Despite his kidney problems Torgamba had been reasonably bright until he presented with appetite loss and depression at the end of July. This raised fears that Torgamba's illness might exacerbate his kidney problems so the SRS were keen to enlist help in defining the problem further, formulating a prognosis and designing a supportive treatment regimen for the animal. During his stay Benn and the SRS team sedated the animal on a number of occasions for clinical examination, blood sampling, ultrasound exam, xrays and fluid therapy. A monitoring and treatment plan was formulated and implemented. At the time of writing Torgamba is showing some response to treatment and we are hopeful that, despite his ongoing kidney problems, he will live to a ripe old age.

Visit to Borneo Projects by Daniel Scarparolo

From 11 to 24 June 2007, I was lucky enough to visit Sabah, Malaysia to meet with representatives of SOS Rhino Borneo (SOSRB) as part of a site visit and to see the progress made by the Volunteer Coordinator position, which Asian Rhino Project had helped fund. The trip was also to explore the possibility of setting up an eco-tour in Sabah as a fundraiser for ARP and SOSRB.

For those of you who might not be aware, SOS Rhino Borneo was set up separately from the US-run SOS Rhino to focus completely on the state of the Bornean subspecies of the Sumatran Rhinoceros. There are believed to be between 28 and 50 of this subspecies left in the wild, with only one female in captivity.

The largest population of this subspecies is found in Tabin Wildlife Reserve in the south-east of the state. SOSRB set up Rhino Protection Units (RPU) which continually survey and patrol the 120,000 hectares of rainforest. The reserve is surrounded on all sides by oil palm plantations but, despite this, relations between SOSRB and surrounding plantations are good. This is especially important, not only because SOSRB must use the plantation's roads, but also when a sighting of a rhino is made by plantation workers, SOSRB is contacted straight away.



I spent the second week of my trip at Tabin and got a good indication of how the organisation runs on the ground. The RPUs spend seven days in the rainforest, trekking through the jungle and down rivers in search of signs of rhinos—and it's no easy feat. The terrain in most parts of the reserve is far from forgiving and with all the rain it makes it that much harder. Rhino signs are hard to come by though and one American volunteer who'd spent a month in the jungle hadn't seen any. There was an unusually high amount of rain at the time, despite it supposedly being the dry season, and so signs—if there were any—were washed away.

The RPUs patrol the borders of the reserve as well, looking for signs of encroachment, something that occurs on a regular basis.



Above: Daniel with Cindy Salopek at the Mud Volcano in Tabin Wildlife Reserve.
This photo: Entrance to Tabin Wildlife Reserve

The position ARP helped fund, the Volunteer Coordinator position, has now been incorporated into the Community Outreach Program Coordinator position. This position, as its name implies, seeks to involve the communities around the reserve in rhino conservation. The three communities that are of importance to the project are surrounding villages, schools and oil palm plantations. Dagat Village has the most involvement with SOSRB and is home to one of the organisation's base camps.

The COP position has eased pressure put on the Field Coordinator as the COP Coordinator handles community programs and volunteer programs. SOSRB receives about 50 to 70 volunteers each year. While I was there, a Scout group from Singapore had raised funds to build an additional base camp at the southern border and helped build the structure. Other volunteers spend time in the reserve patrolling or surveying. They obviously have greater stamina than me as one night in the jungle was about all I could take. It was a highlight to see monitor lizards, macaques and hornbills in the wild. I didn't see any elephants, sun bears or orang-utans but that's probably a good thing. The COP Coordinator has also implemented a staff skills improvement program for the RPUs.

During my trip I was also able to visit other sites in Sabah such as Mt Kinabalu (a world heritage site) and Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary, should we go down the path of setting up an eco-tour fundraiser. There are other sites that would have been worth a visit but unfortunately time wasn't on our side. Sabah has a lot to offer to eco-tourists.

After my trip, SOSRB hosted the fourth conference on the Sumatran Rhinoceros which was held in Sabah on 6 and 7 July. The conference looked at the future of the Bornean subspecies. Captive breeding and wildlife corridors look to be the way forward. With so few individuals remaining, however, it will be a hard journey ahead to save this species from extinction. I was also lucky enough to be part of SOSRB's first lobbying effort to the Sabah Government. A group of us met with the Minister of Tourism, Culture and the Environment Sabah (MTCE) to ask the minister to give the keynote address at the conference.

I'd like to thank Cindy Salopek and Dr Thaya from SOS Rhino Borneo for their hospitality during my stay and making it such a memorable experience. Without their help, the trip wouldn't have been possible.

For more information on SOS Rhino, visit their website at www.sosrhino.org.



Top: Marikus (RPU member), Lynn (Field Coordinator) and Min (COP Coordinator)
Middle: Palm Oil Fruit
Bottom: Campsite in Tabin Wildlife Reserve

Committee Updates

National Committee - by Kerry Crosbie

June saw the ARP hold its first major fundraising event – a dinner and auction night held by the lovely Mrs Joan Pearson. Joan hosts several of these fundraisers in her home in Mosman, Sydney NSW. The functions are completely catered and prepared for by Joan herself (venue, food, wine and beer) with the help of a small group of friends ensuring that 100% of funds raised goes to the project. It was a great turnout even though Sydney was experiencing some horrific weather and an incredible \$17,500 was raised.

A special thanks go to the fantastic volunteers who helped us set up and assist throughout the night serving dinner, assisting the auction, selling merchandise and cleaning up. The entertainment was also kindly donated by Brook T Jones and almost all the auction items were donated thanks to the following:

Alwyn Scott	Jill Wedgewood	Robyn Cosgrove
Anna Merz	Jimmy Saunders	Ross and Sheryl Hanley
Aunty Elsie	Joan Pearson	Sorrento Beach Resort Perth
Broadwater Resort Perth	Lorraine Hawkes	SOS Rhino Borneo
Chris Jones	Mary Norris	Sue Scott
Cincinnati Zoo	Matt Hunt	Tabin Wildlife Resort
Colin Groves	Melbourne Zoo	Taronga Zoo
Debra Noske	Nat Sullivan and Auckland Zoo	Werribee Zoo
Dieter Ammerman	Nico van Strien	Western Plains Zoo
Elizabeth Morgan	Perth Zoo	
Emma Gatehouse	Petra Hancock	

I presented on the ARP and our projects. Patron Peter Hall got up and said a few words also which was fantastic as he is absolutely inspirational. The support from Joan, her guests and all supporters was truly overwhelming and a great night was had by all.

Taronga and Western Plains Zoo Presentations

While in NSW, I was kindly invited to present to the staff and volunteers of Taronga and Western Plains Zoos. Organised by keepers Renae Zammit, and Kristy Garard, the events raised an extra \$2,500. There was a great turn out of Zoo staff and volunteers with door prizes, raffles and games. The Zoos fully catered for the events providing venues and opportunities for drinks and socialising afterwards. Benn Bryant also gave a great presentation at Western Plains Zoo on his visit to the SRS – a great opportunity to see more of what they got up to over there. We have great support from the staff and volunteers of the two Zoos for which we are deeply grateful for. Thank you!

WA Branch – by Holly Thompson

Rock-climbing for Asian Rhino conservation: *Aim high, climb high, everyone can make a difference*

On 31 August the Perth ARP committee held a fundraiser at the new rock-climbing facility 'Urban Ascent' in Bassendean (www.urbanascent.com.au). The night was a huge success and all participants enjoyed a sausage sizzle and climb with all gear included.

The staff at Urban Ascent deserve a huge thank you for their help, especially; Simon, Anna, Chris, Jason, Madeline and the whole Paull family. Their hospitality, expert climbing tuition and friendly approach did not go unnoticed! Their generosity along with all climbers and those that came along on the night to offer their support has greatly benefited Asian Rhino conservation.

Stay tuned for our next fundraiser. All funds go towards helping Asian Rhinos in their native habitats.

Committee Updates continued...

NSW Branch – by Kristy Garard

A NSW branch has been formed and is based in Dubbo. The new sub-committee members are as follows:

Branch Manager:	Kristy Garard
Secretary:	Addy Watson
Treasurer:	Pascale Benoit
Events co-ordinator:	Debbie Haesler
Merchandise co-ordinator:	Rebecca Jones.

Kristy, Addy, Rebecca and Pascale are keepers and Debbie is an education officer. We believe that we are not just responsible for the animals in our care but for the survival of species as a whole. Western Plains Zoo is currently the only institution to hold three of the five species of rhinoceros in Australia, and the only one to hold the Greater One-horned Rhino. We hope to be able to work with the ARP to not only support in-situ conservation but to educate and inform visitors about the plight of these rhino species.

In The News – Asian Rhino Stories

New Initiative To Save The Endangered Rhinos 1 June 2007

The alarming spate of rhino killings in recent times has prompted the conservation agencies, both governmental and non-governmental, to design a special programme to save the threatened animals. The recently announced initiative called Rhinoceroses, Grassland and Public Engagement Project aims to re-establish effective capacity building systems and motivation for the conservation of the endangered one-horned Asian rhinoceros (*rhinoceros unicornis*) and its grassland habitat in Chitwan, Bardia and Shuklaphanta national parks.

<http://www.gorkhapatra.org.np/content.php?nid=20117>

Rhino population declining in western Nepal 1 June 2007

A recent census of the endangered one-horned rhinoceros in western Nepal has confirmed that the animal is slowly declining in the region. Wildlife experts who were involved in the mid-May census Friday told reporters in Kathmandu that the once viable population of the one-horned rhino had declined to alarming levels in just a matter of years.

http://news.monstersandcritics.com/southasia/news/article_1311959.php/Rhino_population_declining_in_western_Nepal

Rhino death puts keepers on hunt for new breeder 6 June 2007

The International Rhino Foundation will be asked to find another female greater one-horned rhinoceros for a breeding program at Dubbo's Western Plains Zoo. Four-year-old female rhino, Kua, who had been brought in from San Diego for the new program died at Sydney's Taronga Zoo on Monday from a blockage in the gut.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/200706/s1944695.htm>

Crime Syndicates Smuggling Wildlife 7 June 2007

It could be ivory concealed in a container, cans of caviar in a suitcase or baby chimpanzees in a crate. The smuggling of wildlife goods is a low-risk, high-profit enterprise proving increasingly attractive to crime syndicates. Exports of wildlife, including fisheries and timber, are estimated at \$150 billion to \$200 billion a year. The illicit side of the business is likely worth tens of billions of dollars, experts say.

<http://www.kstp.com/article/stories/S106644.shtml?cat=172>

Convention calls for border controls to protect rhinos 9 June 2007

The rise of organised criminal gangs trading in rhino horns has boosted poaching in some African countries,

putting the endangered animals at risk, conservation groups and a UN wildlife pact say. Although international trade in rhino horns is banned to protect the species from extinction, many in Asia and the Middle East will pay high prices for the horns, considered a powerful medicine and aphrodisiac, as well as a status symbol.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/section/2/story.cfm?c_id=2&objectid=10444433

Northern white rhinos in danger 11 June 2007

The recent death of Nadi, a northern white rhinoceros at the San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park, highlights the bleak outlook for a species conservationists call the most endangered large mammal on earth. Only a handful of northern white rhinos remain, including the Wild Animal Park's elderly female, Nola, and a male named Angalifu.

<http://www.nctimes.com/articles/2007/06/11/news/inland/61007190722.txt>

Speed limits on national highway as animals escape floods 21 June 2007

Speed limits were imposed on a national highway in northeastern India to prevent vehicles from hitting scores of wild animals fleeing the Kaziranga National Park to escape the rising flood waters. Officials said the order prohibiting people from driving their vehicles above a speed limit of 40 km per hour along the national highway that surrounds the famous wildlife sanctuary in eastern Assam, home to the famous one-horned rhino, was enforced because scores of wild animals have started moving to highlands as the park was getting flooded.

http://www.indianmuslims.info/news/2007/jun/21/speed_limits_national_highway_animals_escape_floods.html

Increasing number of Chitwan villagers involved in rhino poaching 24 June 2007

Chitwan National Park has expressed concern over the increased involvement of local villagers in poaching rhinoceros and smuggling their hides and parts for immediate gains. The park officials said that since the local residents themselves are involved in poaching wild animals instead of conserving them, it has posed a more serious challenge in checking poaching of rhino.

<http://www.nepalnews.com/archive/2007/jun/jun24/news12.php>

Czech zoo in bid to save rhinos from extinction 27 June 2007

Two northern white rhinoceros, indigenous to southern Africa, have been artificially inseminated at a zoo in the Czech Republic in an attempt to rescue the sub-species from extinction. "Hope is always the last thing to die," said Jana Mysliveckova, spokesman for the Dvur-Kralove Zoo, adding that it should be known "in the next 30 or 40 days" whether the insemination had been successful.

<http://www.physorg.com/news102184218.html>

Unesco sees Manas still in danger, ignores Majuli 2 July 2007

Assam will want to forget the 31st session of the World Heritage Committee in a hurry. If the session at Christchurch in New Zealand opened without Majuli being even listed for discussion, it ended with the committee deciding to retain Manas National Park on the World Heritage Site in Danger list.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1070703/asp/northeast/story_8006051.asp

8 rhinos killed in Kaziranga this year 4 July 2007

In what should be a matter of concern to the Forest Department and conservation circles, poachers killed a rhino in the Kaziranga National Park – the eighth this year in the celebrated park – and decamped with the horn last

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.

evening. "The rhino, a big male, was killed around 5-45 last evening on a tapu (small river island) inside Kazi-ranga. The poachers also managed to take away the horn," Chief Wildlife Warden MC Malakar said.

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/details.asp?id=jul0507/at07>

Sexual problems could lead to rhinos' extinction 5 July 2007

Low sperm counts and other reproductive problems are preventing pregnancy among Malaysia's endangered rhinos, a worrying trend that wildlife experts say could hasten its extinction. Experts meeting on Borneo island this week to discuss ways to save the Borneo rhino said a major threat -- besides poaching -- was the animal's inability to reproduce.

<http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory?id=3346568>

Sabah To Consider Wildlife Corridor For Sumatran Rhino 5 July 2007

The Sabah government is exploring the feasibility of establishing a wildlife corridor linking Danum Valley and Tabin Wildlife Reserve in Lahad Datu to enable endangered animals, particularly the Sumatran rhino, to move freely within the protected area. State Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment Datuk Masidi Manjun said there was a need for such a corridor to protect the small population of the Sumatran rhino in the state.

http://www.bernama.com.my/bernama/state_news/news.php?id=271644&cat=sbe>

Why Sabah's rhino population may continue to decline 5 July 2007

Fragmentation of the forest due to alienation of land is believed to among the main reasons for the low reproduction rate of the endangered Sumatran Rhinos in Sabah. Wildlife Department Deputy Director, Laurentius Ambu said land alienation for agriculture is creating pocket areas of the animal's habitat and further isolating them, a solitary animal by nature.

<http://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news.cfm?NewsID=51123>

6 more areas to become Permanent Reserves 6 July 2007

MASIDI said in the past three months, the Cabinet had been working towards adding another six areas into the Permanent Forest Reserve list. The State Government was also taking over logging concessions even before they have expired, which is costing millions of ringgit, he said.

<http://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news.cfm?NewsID=51143>

Next five years crucial for rhinos in Sabah 6 July 2007

Sabah will end up as the graveyard of the Sumatran rhinoceros in Malaysia if there is no breakthrough in conservation efforts to save the remaining 30 to 50 in the wild within the next five years. It is a race against time, requiring money and efforts from all as well as commitment from the State Government to ensure the unique rhinos can thrive once again in the forests of Borneo.

<http://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news.cfm?NewsID=51144>

Report: Malaysia hopes to breed endangered Sumatran rhino in captivity 8 July 2007

Malaysia may try to breed Sumatran rhinos in captivity on Borneo island in an effort to rescue one of the world's rarest rhinos from extinction, a news report said Sunday. The rain forests of Malaysia's Sabah state are the last preserve of the Borneo Sumatran rhino, a subspecies of the bristly, snub-nosed Sumatran rhino. Scientists estimate only between 25 and 50 of the animals still exist in Sabah's jungles.

<http://www.iht.com/articles/ap/2007/07/08/asia/AS-GEN-Malaysia-Endangered-Rhinos.php>

The first step to saving rhinos 10 July 2007

The expedition team of 80 wildlife experts and researchers, WWF-Malaysia officials and academics will be searching for tracks of the Sumatran rhinoceros in seven blocks of forests in the Royal Belum state park. These blocks, measuring between 90 and 100 sq km, have been identified as areas where the Sumatran rhinos could be found.

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Tuesday/National/20070710080447/Article/index_html

Crushed to death 12 July 2007

In a few hours snatched away from an international conference on diabetes in Nairobi, some of the delegates ventured into the national park that begins on the outskirts of the city. It's no Whipsnade. It extends for countless miles into the bush. Migrating animals come in and out according to the seasons, and supplement the number of resident animals. Although there is usually a good stock of rhinos in the park, none was close enough to give the doctors a good view. I was able to stroll, accompanied by a ranger armed with what seemed to be a modified Lee-Enfield rifle from my youth, among giraffes, baboons, monkeys, ostriches, waterbucks and a host of other deer, but the hippos seemed fast asleep and hidden away.

http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/life_and_style/health/our_experts/article2059960.ece

Kaziranga facing serious poaching pressures 15 July 2007

Just past its centenary, the Kaziranga National Park, home to the largest population of the critically endangered Greater one horned rhinoceros, is facing serious poaching pressures, as high prices in the illegal international market for rhino horn are attracting supplies from what is being considered "an easy and well-stocked source".

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/India/Poachers_kill_rhino_in_Kaziranga_National_Park/article-show/2213747.cms

Flood displaces hundreds of animals in Kaziranga park 4 August 2007

Hundreds of animals in the Kaziranga National Park in Assam were displaced after flood waters of the Brahmaputra submerged about 80 per cent of the park area. A number of animals were run over by speeding vehicles when they were crossing the national highway to safer places, while several were drowned. The park authorities have rescued several animals from drowning.

<http://www.hindu.com/2007/08/04/stories/2007080455731200.htm>

Millions Homeless, Stranded In Monsoons 4 August 2007

Havoc from monsoon rains killed another 12 people in India, including two children swept away by floods and a man attacked by a rhinoceros forced out of its inundated habitat, officials said Saturday. Helicopters dropped food to hundreds of thousands of frightened villagers perched on rooftops.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,,6827077,00.html>

Zambian rhino poacher jailed 5 August 2007

A Zambian rhino poacher has been sentenced to 18 years imprisonment for attempted murder and other offences after a shoot-out with Zimbabwean game rangers, reports said on Sunday. A magistrate in the western coal-mining town of Hwange, close to the world-renowned Hwange national park, sentenced Morris Kakwe-zhi, 24, to 10 years in jail for attempted murder.

http://www.news24.com/News24/Africa/News/0,,2-11-1447_2159186,00.html

Asian Rhino Project Adopt-a-Rhino Fundraiser

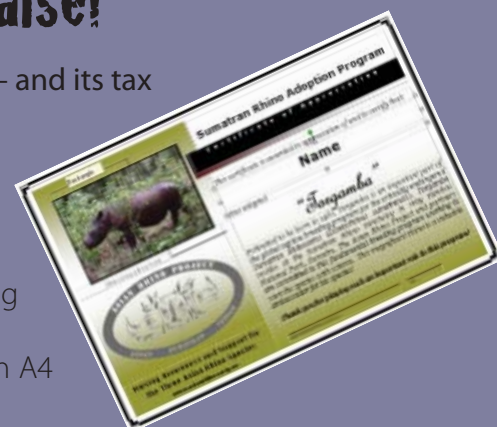
You can help us help save the Sumatran rhino by adopting a rhino today – and its tax deductible!

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.



Kaziranga gets back NGO saviour 7 August 2007

When two rhinos die in Kaziranga National Park on an average every month, Anwaruddin Choudhury is the last person to develop a thick hide. Choudhury's NGO, The Rhino Foundation for Nature in Northeast India, is going back to the rhino habitat it helped protect throughout the mid-nineties to assist beleaguered forest staff in combating the resurgence of poachers.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1070808/asp/frontpage/story_8165605.asp

Save the Rhino 9 August 2007

Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo NSW is working with scientists from Germany to perfect a technique, which could save the endangered Black Rhinoceros and perhaps the White Rhino. Dr. Tom Portas is a Vet at the Zoo and they recently achieved a world first by harvesting eggs from a one of Dubbo's female Black Rhinos. The next step was an attempt to grow an embryo in a test tube but the procedure failed.

<http://www.abc.net.au/westernplains/stories/s2000359.htm?nsw>

Horse flu scare stops rhino tour 31 August 2007

Victoria's Werribee Open Range Zoo has cancelled its rhinoceros tour, in an attempt to reduce the threat of equine influenza. The Zoo has also banned human contact with its zebras, while the zoo's Przewalski horses and donkeys have been removed from public display. The zoo's spokeswoman Leah Grinter says other steps have been taken to prevent infection.

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2007/08/31/2020242.htm>

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