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# The Jungle Express

June 2008

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## WELCOME!

After a couple of months of silence, JUNGLE EXPRESS is back again. This newsletter is aimed at bringing out news and events related to species conservation work of WWF-India.

We are also in the process of setting up a mailer system so that the JUNGLE EXPRESS could be sent by e-mail. Therefore, we would very much appreciate if you could pass on the e-mail addresses of anyone for whom, the JUNGLE EXPRESS might be of interest.

I hope you find this issue of JUNGLE EXPRESS interesting and any feedback, comments and suggestions are, of course welcome.

Sujoy Banerjee  
Director, Species Conservation

WELCOME

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our fold  
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## hunting the hunters

EFFORTS OF WWF TO SAVE THE  
WILDLIFE FROM ORGANIZED CRIME.

### RHINO EMERGENCY IN ASSAM

WWF-India has been extremely concerned with the recent incidents of Rhino poaching in Assam and Nepal. Five Rhinos have been poached in Assam and one in Nepal within a short period (from end of February and early March). Three of the Rhinos poached in India are from the Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park while two were poached from Kaziranga.

The situation of the Indian Rhino remains precarious as global market pressures continue to push the demand for Rhino horns.

Kaziranga National Park, as per official records, lost 16 rhinos in 2007 to poachers and another four Rhinos were poached till February 2008. After a lull, the poachers hit again, killing a calf along with its mother on April 28 '08. This disturbing news came soon after the incidents of poaching in Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park which seems to have become a soft target for poachers.

This spate of killing has not left Nepal alone either - where 5 Rhinos have been poached since January '08.

According to reports available, the first attempt to remove a horn in Orang (in the middle of the night on 20th April '08) failed because of the quick response by forest guards. A rhino was lost though. As this attempt was 'unsuccessful', the second poaching event took place the very next day which also failed due to the

swift action of the forest guards. After a breather, the poachers struck again on April 28 '08, and took away the horn. This shows the determination of poachers and the organisational support that is enabling them to carry out such strikes in quick succession.

Worried, WWF's Secretary General and CEO, Ravi Singh wrote to the Government of India and the Government of Assam. An elaborate press release was also made on 1st May '08 urging the government to react quickly to the increased threat of Rhino poaching. (contd.)



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## STRATEGIC SUPPORT PROVIDED TO SATPURA-MAIKAL LANDSCAPE

Tigers of the Satpura-Maikal landscape might just feel a little less heat after WWF provided much needed support to the Forest Department, for their protection. Vehicles including motorbikes and wireless equipment and metal detectors (to detect traps laid by poachers) were given. To strengthen the patrolling efforts of the forest guards, essentials like bicycles, iron beds and mosquito nets were also provided.

Cutting the water shortage short, seventeen bore wells were dug in the extremely important tiger habitats and corridors of Seoni and Balaghat districts. Cemented troughs to serve as water holes are also being constructed.



(contd.)

Following this appeal, in the second week of May, funding commitments were secured from the WWF network for meeting the challenge. The government of Assam responded by bringing in a new Park Warden with experience in anti-poaching work in Kaziranga and four additional range officers were posted in Kaziranga to assist the park management. Later WWF India provided search lights, one anti-poaching vehicle, essential emergency supplies, clearing tracks and improving patrolling efforts, temporary camps for the monsoon period and one four wheel drive vehicle. After this effort, on 25th May one poacher was apprehended in Orang and on the 30th May seven poachers were apprehended in the North Bank after a person was apprehended in Kaziranga. On the 1st of June, two more poachers were caught with a 303 rifle in Orang. More leads on poachers are being tracked. With funding available for anti-poaching activities, TRAFFIC is now in action. The only bad news is about the natural death of a Rhino in Kaziranga. Its carcass was found in Agartoli range and cause of death was established after autopsy.