

The Rhino Print

Winter 2011



**In Memory of
TORGAMBA**

The Rhino Print

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Welcome to the Winter 2011 Newsletter

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Sumatran rhino, Torgamba, after a long illness. As reported in our last edition, Torgamba has been very ill: thankfully his final days were spent with great care, and in good hands.

In other news, we include...

- an interview with Susie Ellis, who discusses steps being taken to ensure the viability of the Javan rhinos of Ujung Kulon National Park.
- a report from Aaranyak detailing educational activities for children undertaken around Kaziranga National Park.
- articles and information about Geoinformatics and its application on Biodiversity Conservation.
- our regular collection of news briefs from the Asian rhino world.

And, of course, we have our local updates and more.

Kerry Crosbie
Project Director ARP

Colin Campbell
Secretary ARP



RPU with Forest Rangers of Bukit Barisan Selatan NP and Police Authorities Catch Armed Wildlife Poachers

Yayasan Badak Indonesia

A joint team of Rhino Protection Units (RPU), forest rangers of Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBSNP), West Lampung district police, and police of Pugung Lambar has arrested two wildlife poachers who often use the assembled long-barreled firearms (senjata locok) in their hunting activities.

The two suspects, Darwin bin Aliyun (55 years) and Aliyurdi bin Watar (54 years) are local residents of northern coast of Baturaja of West Lampung regency. Both suspects were arrested by the joint team on May 12, 2011 at their residence.

Along with the suspects, the team also confiscated

some of evidence such as eight assembled long-barreled firearms, four pieces of sambar deer head stuff, a piece of forest goat horn, a piece of barking deer head stuff, three pieces of air rifle butts, a box of gunpowder, a bar tin trunk to make a projectile, two pieces of 5.56 mm caliber ammunition active, three pieces of pipe iron, and ten units of wire snares.

The arrestment of the two suspects is a result of activities undertaken by the team of Intelligence and Law Enforcement Unit (ILEU) Yayasan Badak Indonesia a few months earlier. According to the intelligence observation, the two suspects is a specialist of homemade long-barreled firearms and frequent hunting and setting snares within the area BBSNP. Poaching targeted animals are deer, tigers, bears and other wildlife.

Now the two suspects are held at the West Lampung district police for further investigation. If the two suspects are proved to have committed crimes of armed hunting with within the region BBSNP, they will have violated article 1 paragraph (1) Act No. 12/DRT/1951 about firearm ownership and or article 21 paragraph (2) letter a and d Jo article 40 paragraph (2) Act No. 5 / 1990 about Conservation of Living Resources and Their Ecosystem with the threat of 15 years imprisonment.



Mourning the Loss of Sumatran Rhino Torgamba

Torgamba, an elderly male Sumatran rhino (estimated to be 32 years old), died Saturday at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Indonesia, following a long illness which appeared to be associated with chronic renal disease.

"The SRS staff is deeply saddened," said Widodo Ramono, Executive Director of local NGO Yayasan Badak Indonesia, which operates the facility. "It's difficult to put into words and describe the attachment that has developed over the past years. This is a terrible loss, especially for the rhino keepers and veterinary medical staff who cared for Torgamba during his time with us."

Torgamba was one of the first wild-born Sumatran rhinos to become part of an international Sumatran rhino breeding effort.

In November 1985, Torgamba was rescued by an organization working to capture displaced rhinos using sophisticated pitfall traps constructed so as to avoid any possible injuries to the animals.

Torgamba was the first displaced rhino to become part of a joint program between the Indonesian government and international zoos and non-profits to study and breed Sumatran rhinos in captivity, with the ultimate aim of reinforcing populations in the wild.

Soon after his rescue, Torgamba was moved to Port Lympne Wild Animal Park near Kent, England, where he lived for 11 years. Torgamba was much loved by staff and visitors of the zoo, and was the subject of a book, *The Rhinoceros*, by zoo owner John Aspinall. Torgamba was paired with two different female Sumatran rhinos in England, but unfortunately both suffered health problems and Torgamba never successfully reproduced.

In early 1998, Torgamba was transferred back to Indonesia, where the newly-opened Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS) had been constructed in Way Kambas National Park, to manage an intensive research and breeding program aimed at increasing the Sumatran rhino population.

At the Sanctuary, constructed by the International Rhino Foundation in partnership with the Indonesian government, the rhinos reside in large, open forest areas where they can experience a natural habitat



while still receiving state-of-the-art veterinary care and good nutrition.

Like Sumatran rhinos in the wild, Torgamba was able to spend most of the day in his 25-acre enclosure feeding on the twigs and leaves of trees and shrubs growing in the forest understory. Although he bred numerous times with two female rhinos at the SRS, Bina and Ratu, neither became pregnant.

Despite several years of treatment for his chronic illness, and the best efforts of the Sanctuary's keepers and veterinary staff in consultation with international rhino experts, Torgamba passed away at approximately 7:30 EST Saturday 23 April 2011. SRS vets and staff worked around the clock for several months to make Torgamba's last month's comfortable.

The SRS is still home to one captive born male (Andalas) and three female rhinos. Female rhino Ratu conceived twice in 2010 after mating with Andalas, but later lost the pregnancies. There are high hopes for another pregnancy soon.

We are extremely grateful to all friends and donors who have helped support Torgamba and the SRS over the years, and especially to his "adoptive parents" who have provided funds for Torgamba's care.

Sumatran Rhino Conservation Program Update

Maggie Moore, International Rhino Foundation

The Critically Endangered Sumatran Rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) is the closest living relative of the woolly rhinoceros of the Ice Age. It is considered the most "primitive" rhino species, with hairy, reddish-brown skin revealing its ancient past. The Sumatran Rhino is also generally considered the most endangered rhino species (CITES Appendix I). Sumatran rhino numbers have declined more than 70% over the last two decades due to poaching for its horn as well as increasing destruction of its habitat. Fewer than 200 Sumatran rhino survive in very small and highly fragmented populations in Southeast Asia, with Indonesia and Malaysia the only significant range countries. The largest populations of wild rhinos are found in Bukit Barisan Selatan (BBS), Gunung Leuser, and Way Kambas National Parks in Sumatra, Indonesia; there is also a small population in the Tabin Wildlife Reserve in Sabah, Malaysia.

ARP funding assists our major local partners, the Indonesian Rhino Foundation (YABI) and the International Rhino Foundation to operate a comprehensive program aimed at protecting and increasing the populations of Sumatran rhinos in Indonesia. The multi-faceted approach includes protection of Sumatran rhinos and their habitat (through their Rhino Protection Units), research on and captive breeding of the species at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, and outreach to local communities (including both education programs and alternative income development).

Wildlife Protection and Community Outreach

Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBS) and Way Kambas National Park (WK) in Sumatra, Indonesia, are two of the three major habitats for Sumatran rhino, and are also two of the highest priority areas for other threatened megafauna, including the Sumatran tiger and Sumatran elephant. Approximately 50 rhino, 40-50 tigers, and about 500 elephants inhabit BBS. Way Kambas is home to 25-35 Sumatran rhino. The main cause of the initial decline of Sumatran rhinos was poaching for horn, which is used in traditional Chinese medicine. Now, the populations are also limited by available habitat, which is continuously being encroached by human populations. IRF and YABI, operate 7 Rhino Protection Units in BBS and 5 Rhino Protection Units in Way Kambas.

Rhino Protection Units (RPUs) are highly-trained, four-person anti-poaching teams that intensively patrol key areas within Indonesia's national parks. They monitor threatened wildlife, deactivate traps and snares, identify and apprehend illegal intruders, including poachers, and investigate crime scenes, thus preventing or reducing the loss of wildlife. The goal of the RPU program is to prevent the extinction of Sumatran rhinos and other threatened species and to protect critical habitats Sumatra through proactive prevention of poaching and habitat destruction.

Thanks to the Rhino Protection Units, there have been no incidences of poaching of Sumatran rhinos in Bukit Barisan and Way Kambas National Parks in Sumatra for the past 6 years. The RPUs also protect numerous other threatened species, including tigers, elephants, tapirs, monkeys, leopards and fishing cats.

During the first quarter of 2011, the RPUs operating in Bukit Barisan Selatan and Way Kambas destroyed 91 traps (primarily intended for birds, deer and wild pigs) and made a total of 15 arrests. Six suspects were arrested for illegal logging and two were arrested for bird poaching. In partnership with park rangers and local police in BBS, the Rhino Protection Units there undertook joint intelligence operations resulting in the arrests of 7 suspects for trade in illegal wildlife parts. Two of these suspects were arrested in possession of small pieces of ivory and tiger and leopard skins; five were arrested in possession of spears, deer antlers, and two large pieces of ivory (which they had advertised for sale at US \$5,000 each).

The Sumatran rhino RPUs averaged 17 days per month on patrol during the first three months of the year, walking a total of 759 kilometers (472 miles). They conducted 6 investigations on illegal logging and 26 investigations on illegal encroachment, and destroyed 8 illegal camps or cabins within the parks. The Way Kambas RPUs also destroyed 2 bridges built to provide illegal access into the park, and halted three illegal fishing operations.

Last month, thirty of our RPU members attended a week-long training in MIST (Management Information System), led by staff from the Wildlife Conservation Society. MIST is a simple, user-friendly database for ranger-based law enforcement monitoring. This

methodology has great potential for the RPU work, particularly in putting the rhino data in a central database for the parks, which will be accessible to the park authorities. MIST provides a standardized format for recording movements of patrol teams and recording observations of illegal activity and carcasses, and so will be useful for identifying gaps in patrol coverage, emerging threats and problems, and for surveillance of known crime hotspots. MIST also provides a way of producing important status and distribution information on rhinos, elephants, tigers and other key species, which can also feed into national monitoring programs set up for these species. We believe implementing this system will further improve our intelligence and law enforcement activities, resulting in even more arrests and successful prosecutions of poachers and others committing illegal activities.

Research and Captive Breeding

The SRS is a 250-acre complex located within Way Kambas National Park in Sumatra, Indonesia funded primarily through the International Rhino Foundation and the Asian Rhino Project. Its four rhinos – 'Andalas', 'Rosa', 'Ratu', and 'Bina' – are part of an intensively managed research and breeding program aimed at increasing our knowledge about the Sumatran rhino with the ultimate aim of increasing the population in the wild. At the SRS, the rhinos reside in large, open areas where they can experience a natural rainforest habitat while still receiving state-of-the-art veterinary care and nutrition.

Sumatran rhinos are difficult to breed in captivity, and we have not yet had a successful pregnancy at the SRS. Female Ratu became pregnant by young male Andalas twice in 2010, but unfortunately miscarried both pregnancies, which is not uncommon. SRS staff are using all the tools at their disposal (including a

hormone supplementation protocol developed at the Cincinnati Zoo, the only facility to successfully breed Sumatran rhinos within the past century) to help ensure that Ratu will be able to bring her next pregnancy to term. Ratu and Andalas have continued to breed over the past several months, and we are hoping for another pregnancy soon. Rosa, the other young female rhino at the SRS, is also being regularly introduced to Andalas. Although they have not yet successfully bred, Rosa is becoming more acclimated to Andalas.

Unfortunately, in April 2011, Torgamba, the elderly male Sumatran rhino (estimated to be 32 years old), died at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, following a long illness which appeared to be associated with chronic renal disease.

Despite several years of treatment for his chronic illness, and the best efforts of the Sanctuary's keepers and veterinary staff in consultation with international rhino experts, Torgamba passed away. SRS vets and staff worked around the clock for several months to make Torgamba's last months comfortable. A necropsy (an animal autopsy) was conducted, involving Indonesian pathology experts.

The SRS is still home to one captive born male (Andalas) and three female rhinos, and these animals are in good health, although one of the females (Bina) is nearly post-reproductive. All animals are monitored on a daily basis by the Sanctuary's two veterinarians and are immediately treated for any health problems that may arise.

During the coming months, in partnership with the Cincinnati Zoo, the SRS will also begin working on an artificial insemination program, to help increase the likelihood of pregnancies, and to help bank sperm for global conservation and breeding efforts.

Adopt-a-Rhino Fundraiser

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

All funds raised through the ARP's adopt-a-rhino program 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.

Strengthening Conservation Measures of Greater One-horned Rhino in Orang National Park, Assam, India

Pranjit Kumar Sarma, M.Sc, Aaranyak

The overall goal of this project is to provide GPS devise to all the forest camps of Orang NP and train the forest staff on handling handheld GPSs for monitoring of rhino and other wild animals.

This project also aims to generate a GIS based spatial database on rhino monitoring in Orang NP at regular interval and to generate a socioeconomic database of the fringe villages of Orang NP.

It intends to prepare land use map of the fringe villages across the park using satellite imagery and also to assess the changes in land use pattern during a course of 30 years using historical and current satellite imagery.

Project Background

Though the Greater One horned rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) is considered as vulnerable by IUCN but still it is in high risk for its survival in Assam because of severe threats from poachers, wildlife trafficking, fragmentation and degradation of its habitat in past couple of decades.

Assam is one of the last strongholds of the Indian rhino. Orang National Park, with an area of 78.8 sq. km. is an important rhino bearing area having 64 wild rhinos as estimated by Assam Forest Department in 2009. The rhino population in Orang National Park is fluctuating from 35 rhinos in the year 1972 to 97 rhinos in the year 1991 and which is again reduced to 64 rhinos in the 2009.

This fluctuation of rhino population in Orang National Park is mainly due to the severe intensity of poaching in comparison to other rhino bearing areas of Assam. From 1983 to 2009, 122 rhinos were poached in Orang National Park. During the period from 2006 to 2009 approximately 30 rhinos were poached in the park.

The major factors attributable to the increased poaching are lack of awareness among the local stakeholders about the need to conserve rhinos, unscientific monitoring system of rhino and lack of socio-economic database of the fringe villages of the park.

Objectives

This proposed project intends to achieve the following objectives.

- Provide GPS (Global Positioning System) device to the forest camps of Orang NP
- Training and capacity building of forest staff on handling GPS, GIS and rhino monitoring techniques.
- Mass awareness along the fringe villages of the park through posterizing.
- Identification of landuse pattern and land use changes of the fringe villages over a period of 30 years.
- Generate a socio-economic database of the fringe villages and spatial representation of collected information in the form of maps.

Creation of Village Database

Preparation of village maps in and around Orang National Park was one of the major objectives of the current project.

A GIS based database of villages at 10km buffer zone of Orang National Park is under process and 75% of the work is already completed. After completion of the map a socio-economic survey will be done in the villages to understand the socio-economic condition of the villagers.

The final village map with socio-economic attributes will be quite useful for the forest department for protection and management of rhino and its habitat in Orang National Park.

Land Use change assessment in the fringe villages of Orang National Park

Land use change assessment in the fringe villages of Orang National Park is a major objective of the current project.

Satellite imageries of 1987, 1999 and 2010 were used to estimate the land cover change at 10km buffer of Orang National Park. The land use status of the fringe areas of Orang National Park for the years 1987 and 1999 are completed and the 2010 is under process. For the years 1987 and 1999 Result shows that agricultural land in the fringe areas has increased from 42.78% to 46.08% during the period from 1987 to 1999. Interestingly the agriplantation and settlement area

of the fringe villages has decreased from 14.93% to 12.00% from 1987 to 1999. The causes of this decrease will be identified during the socio-economic data collection period.

Aquatic vegetation has also decreased from 43.72 km² in the year 1987 to 16.2 km² in the year 1999. Similarly forest areas have also decreased from 8.35 km² in the year 1987 to 5.56 km² in the year 1999. The marshy and swampy areas has also decreased from 30.08 km² to 11.03 km² during the period of 1987 to 1999.

The sandy areas in and around the Orang National Park has increased from 109.37 km² to 154.52 km² during the period from 1987 to 1999. Tea gardens of the fringe villages have increased from 14.4 km² in the year 1987 to 17.07 km² in the year 1999.

Water body of the fringe villages of the park has

decreased from 114.46 km² to 112.77 km² during the period from 1987 to 1999. The land use change in the fringe villages is shown in the figure 2, 3 and table 2.

Poster Generation

A poster for mass awareness in the fringe villages of Orang National Park has been developed.

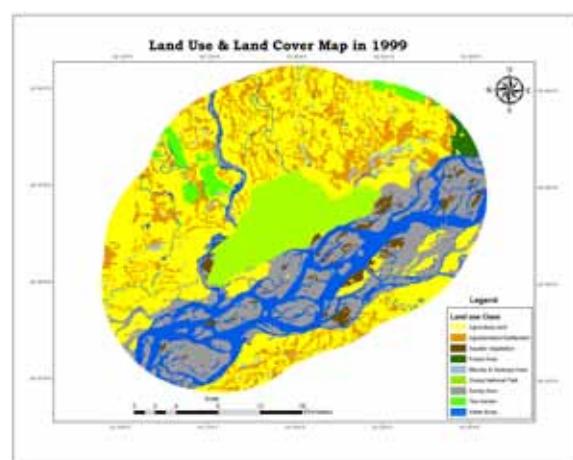
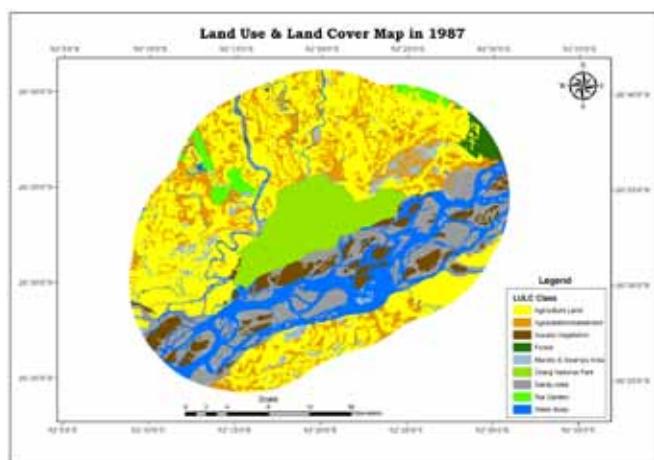
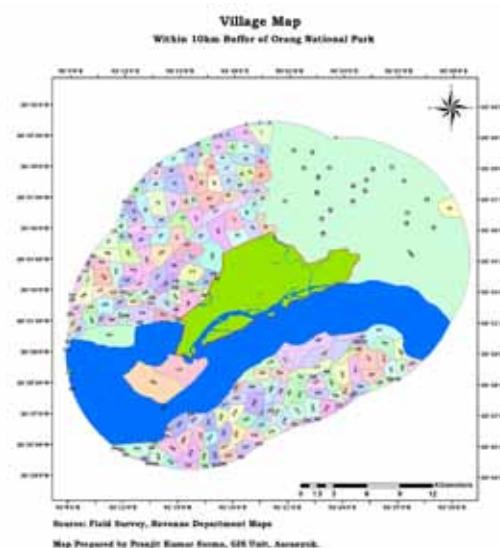
Mass awareness campaign will be done during the period from June to August, 2011.

Congratulations!

Principal Investigator Mr. Pranjit Kumar Sarma, Ph.D. has since advised us that he has been awarded Ph.D. degree by North Eastern Hill University, Shillong, Meghalaya, INDIA for his thesis "Habitat Suitability for Rhino (Rhinoceros unicornis) and its utilization pattern in Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park, Assam, India."

Land use change in the fringe areas of Orang National Park

Class Name	1987	1999
Agriculture land	324.24	349.22
Agriplantation & Settlement	113.13	91.38
Aquatic Vegetation	43.72	16.2
Forest Area	8.35	5.56
Marshy & Swampy Area	30.08	11.03
Sandy Area	109.37	154.52
Tea Garden	14.4	17.07
Water Body	114.46	112.77
Total	757.75	757.75



Nature Orientation Around Kaziranga National Park

Aaranyak

Aaranyak received a financial grant from Taronga Foundation through the Asian Rhino Project on Rapid Action Initiatives to strengthen anti-poaching measures in and around rhino bearing areas in Assam.

An amount earmarked for One Speed Boat Engine budgeted at \$3500 could not be processed as the Kaziranga NP received additional funding from the Government to buy the equipment. As such we proposed in October 2009 that the remaining funds be used towards community orientation towards rhino conservation.

Accordingly one community orientation camp was organized for school children of fringe areas around Kaziranga National Park (KNP) at campus of Western Range, Bagori on the other hand another one was organized in North East Region Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute (NERFMTTI) campus near Northern Range, Biswanath Ghat of Kaziranga National Park.

About 90 school students were provided intense orientation. Eminent conservation experts, senior officials Kaziranga National Park interacted with the children in both the camp.

The children were engaged in various environment related activities everyday throughout the camp under the guidance of Bibhuti P Lahkar, Firoz Ahmed, Soumen Dey, Namita Brahma and Jayanta Kr Pathak of Aaranyak and Uttam Saikia of Bhumi. The children participants also staged five dramas that focused on conservation of environment and various species.

A detail audio-visual presentation on the KNP presented by the Divisional Forest Officer Dibyadhar

Gogoi covering conservation initiatives, floral and faunal resources, management and flood time emergency response was instrumental in educating the children on various aspects of the magnificent rhino abode. More audio-visual presentations were made on different topics by other resource persons working on different subjects.

Children were provided with stories and scripts of five dramas with conservation messages by the organizers for staging plays in five different groups. The children had prepared and staged those plays with their own efforts in both the camps.

An interesting interaction session with a panel of experts on different conservation topics was organized where students participated actively.

Kaziranga National Park (KNP) is one of the most important protected areas in India. Spread over an area of 860 Sq. Km. in the flood plains of the river Brahmaputra, it harbors the World's largest population of one horned rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), wild buffalo (*Bubalus bubalis*) and the swamp deer (*Cervus duvauceliranjitsinghi*). Its conservation value was much recognized when it became one of the Natural World Heritage Sites notified in India by UNESCO in the year 1985. Although the Kaziranga World Heritage Site has been recognized as century's greatest conservation success story in India, in-terms of protecting wildlife, however community participation is still lacking and which resulted in killing of more than dozen of rhinos and elephants every year. Considering the complexity of Kaziranga landscape, current elephant status and level of conflict, this Nature Orientation Initiative is organized at Kaziranga to create awareness and



D.D. Gogoi DFO, KNP, giving a presentation about KNP.



Children were taken for a nature trail.

involve the local community in conservation.

Community Orientation Initiative – I

The orientation activities started on 31st January 2010 at around 11 am with the registration of all the participants. After that each student had to go through a medical check up where free medicines were also provided to the students after the check up.

The camp was formally inaugurated by Sri Sambhu Saikia, an eminent retired local teacher in presence of Sri S. N. Buragohain, Director, KNP and Sri D. D. Gogoi, Divisional Forest Officer, KNP. After the inauguration, students were formally introduced to each other through an ice-breaking session. During the three day residential camp, children were engaged in various environment related activities everyday throughout the camp under the guidance of Bibhuti P Lahkar, Firoz Ahmed, Namita Brahma and Jayanta Kr Pathak of Aaranyak and Uttam Saikia of Bhumi.

A detail audio-visual presentation on the KNP prepared by the Divisional Forest Officer Mr. Dibyadhar Gogoi covering conservation initiatives, floral and faunal resources, management and flood time emergency response was instrumental in educating the children on various aspects of the magnificent rhino abode.

A young and budding herpetologist Joydeep Mondal entertained the participants with his scintillating presentation on "Reptiles of North-East India". Mr. Robin Sarma, research officer KNP, a nice presentation of "Mammals of the world". Last but not the least Mr. Somen Dey of WWF interacted and played some EE games with the students.

On each morning the participants field activities like Nature trail and Jeep Safari. In the first morning on 1 February 2010, children were taken for a Natural Trail

to Kukurakata Reserve Forest adjacent to KNP. During this trail participants saw capped Langurs and Hoolock Gibbon for first the time ever in their life. In the next morning on 2nd February 2010, children enjoyed the beauty inside KNP in Jeep safari. The Jeep Safari was also very special for student participants as some of them had seen the Indian one-horned Rhinoceros for first time.

Since it was a World Wetland Day, we also observed it with the children on the bank of Dunga Beel inside KNP. The Range officer of Baguri range was present during the programme and he addressed the students about "Importance of wetlands in our ecosystem in general and Kaziranga in particular". In addition, Firoz Ahmed a biologist of Aaranyak briefed about the "World Wetland Day and why it is observed". Dr. Bibhuti Prasad Lahkar also a biologist of Aaranyak had described "What do we mean by wetlands and its value". Finally we ended up with bird watching activity from the tower adjacent to Dunga beel. Students were provided with binoculars and a spotting scope and were fortunate to see large number of migratory water fowls and other birds. The bird watching programme was volunteered by Namita Brahma, Jayanta Kumar Pathak and Joydeep Mondal of Aaranyak.

On the evening of 2 February 2010, the children played four dramas that focused on conservation issues of environment and various species. The story and script was provided by organizers and children prepared themselves and acted superbly.

After the drama performance an interaction with a panel of experts on different conservation topics was organized where students participated actively with many interesting question. In addition, a number of Environment Education games were conducted among the students.



Children taken to Dunga Beel to observe the "World Wetland Day"



Students participating in a EE game title "Ecolocation of bats"

After the drama, certificates were distributed among the participants by Sri D. D. Gogoi, Divisional Forest Officer of KNP, Mr. P. Kalita, Range Officer of Bagori Range of KNP, Dr. Bibhab Kr. Talukdar, Secretary General, Aaranyak, Anupam Sarma & Pranab Bora, WWF – India. On the evening of 2nd February the camp formally came to an end with a camp fire were children entertained everyone with poetry, song and dance.

Community Orientation Initiative - II

The COI – II started on 1 April 2010 at around 10 am with the registration of all the participants. After that each student had to grow through a medical check up where free medicines were also provided to the students after the checkup. The NOI-III was inaugurated by Sri Bhaskar Phukan, SDO (Civil) Biswanath Chariali, in presence of Sri M. K. Vishwakarma, Director of NERFMTTI and Sri S N Buragohain, Director of KNP. DFO Sonitpur East Forest Division, A. K. Das also graced the inaugural function.

A detail audio-visual presentation on the KNP presented by Sri Robin Sarma, Research Officer, KNP about sixth addition of Kaziranga National Park and its importance in greater interest of KNP and species conservation. In addition, a number of presentations on different topics were conducted. An interesting interaction session was organized with Ms Parbati Barua, elephant queen of Assam on Asian elephants and its conservation. Mr. Soumen Dey of WWF interacted and played some EE games with the students. An interesting presentation on Turles and Tortoises of North East India was presented by Rajeeb Basumatary. Abhijit Das, renowned herpetologist of North East India entertained the participants with his scintillating presentation on "Reptiles of North-East India. During his interaction participants also got an

opportunity to touch non-poisonous snake.

In the morning of 2 April, participants were taken to a farm named Lakhimi Multipurpose Farm Project. This Farm belongs to a young entrepreneur Neelam Dutta who doing vermicompost and organic farming. The basic idea of taking young participants to that farm is to give them an exposure as to how to can also undergo farming avoiding harmful chemicals and going for organic farming that is environment friendly.

On 2 April 2010 evening, the children had played four dramas that focused on conservation issues of environment and various species. The story and script was provided by organizers and children prepared themselves and acted superbly.

On 3 April 2010 in the morning, children were taken to visit inside Kaziranga National Park in a Jeep Safari. The Jeep Safari was also very special for student participants all of them had visited the core area of KNP for the first time and above that had seen the Indian one-horned Rhinoceros for first time. During this Jeep Safari participants also saw a herd of elephants with calf. A huge tusker and a Makhana elephant, a herd of Swamp Deer, number of hog deers, bar-headed Goose, Spot billed Pelicans, Grey headed fishing eagle and also number of other birds.

In the evening on 3 April a cultural night was hosted for the participants. The participants performed Bihu dance and song, some of them sung songs of different ethnic languages and also few hindi songs. The participants were also encouraged by the Director of NERFMTTI who himself also sung a nice hindi song.

The camp came to end in morning of 4 April 2010 with the certificate distribution ceremony by Sri S. N. Buragohain, Director KNP.v



Students participating in an EE game title "Resource Run".



Participants seen enjoying during Camp Fire.

Down to 50, conservationists fight to save Javan Rhino from extinction

Mark Szotek, special to mongabay.com

Earlier this year, the International Rhino Foundation launched "Operation Javan Rhino" to prevent the extinction of the critically endangered Javan Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*), formerly found in rain forests across Southeast Asia.

Operation Javan Rhino is a multi-layered project which links field conservation, habitat restoration, and management efforts with the interests of local governments and communities.

The following is an interview with Susie Ellis, Executive Director of the International Rhino Foundation.

An Interview with Susie Ellis

Mongabay: Please tell our readers about Operation Javan Rhino and the goals of this project.

Susie Ellis: "Operation Javan Rhino" is a project to further conserve the Javan Rhino, which is considered among the most endangered large animal species on the planet. The species now exists only in one area, the Ujung Kulon National Park of Indonesia.

There was a smaller population of Javan Rhinos "rediscovered" in South Vietnam in the early 1990s, but we believe that this population has recently gone extinct due to widespread local poaching. Now there is a population of no more than 50 rhinos in one location, Ujung Kulon National Park in West Java. The rhinos currently only use two-thirds of the park, and Operation Javan Rhino's goal is to expand the rhino's "usable habitat," in the hopes that they will move into the expanded, restored areas, leading to an increase in numbers.

Mongabay: Is there other habitat available beyond Ujung Kulon that might be suitable for a second, relocated population of Javan Rhinos?

Susie Ellis: We held extensive habitat assessments and looked at multiple locations across Java to see if there were other workable sites where we might establish a second population in the short-term. Currently there really isn't anyplace else on Java that is suitable; locations lacked either appropriate food stuff for the rhinos and/or appropriate altitude. The Javan Rhinoceros is a low-altitude species and most of the remaining forests in Java are in the mountains of that island and not ideal for this species. Our long-term

goal, though, is to use the expanded and managed habitat at Ujung Kulon to further study the Javan Rhino, encouraging reproduction, and as a staging area to establish additional populations in Indonesia.

Mongabay: It's a prevailing thought in conservation circles that habitat restriction is what has limited Javan Rhino numbers at Ujung Kulon; what are your thoughts in this matter?

Susie Ellis: Right now we have reason to believe that without additional changes to park management, the park is at carrying capacity for the rhinos. By expanding the usable habitat, through replanting rhino food items, creating additional water sources, and decreasing human encroachment, we are hoping that the carrying capacity for the park will increase.

This effort will only augment the rhino population incrementally, and our long-term goal is to establish a second population at a yet to be determined site, probably on the neighboring island of Sumatra.

A large part of the current effort also focuses on getting rid of an invasive, non-native palm species, the arenga palm, which growing unchecked, is displacing rhino food sources at Ujung Kulon.

Mongabay: Tell us about the invasive palm species; was it introduced by man and is it a symptom of degraded habitat?

Susie Ellis: No one is in agreement about how this palm came to Ujung Kulon. We do agree that, unchecked, this palm species is a direct threat to the rhinos, as it is an aggressive species which displaces the native rhino food items. We have been experimenting with different ways of getting rid of this palm from herbicides to physically digging up this palm when found. The latter method (manually digging up the palms) is proving most effective and the least damaging to the area.

Mongabay: Can this be done large scale and cost effectively? It seems like digging up widespread invasive plants requires a lot of work?

Susie Ellis: This is where our close working relationships with the local communities bordering the park has come into play. Our plan is to work with the local villagers and employ them in the campaign to clear the new habitat of this palm. This employment, of

course, enhances their lives and creates direct local benefit from the rhinos.

Mongabay: Is there outreach with the local communities about this rhino?

Susie Ellis: There is a great deal of regional pride in regard to the fact that this is the only place on earth where the Javan Rhino exists. We have had to work closely with the local government and communities to foster this understanding. This has been a little bit difficult at times because there was so much encroachment on the park. The government has actually moved 50 families to make way for more adequate management strategies. By creating direct, local benefits from the rhino through habitat management, employment, eco-tourism revenues, and educational outreach, the local people are now valuing the Javan rhinoceros as a local resource.

Mongabay: It sounds like the local communities and governments have stepped up. Has the National Government of Indonesia supported this project?

Susie Ellis: The National Government of Indonesia formally launched the expanded study, habitat restoration, and conservation project for the Javan rhinoceros last year. We now have the support of the provincial government as well as several district governments that are involved. We have worked hard to have government support at all levels. Now valued as a local resource, the various government branches are seeing "constituent benefits" from the Javan rhinos.

Mongabay: Are there any thoughts to further manage the Javan Rhino by developing a captive population?

Susie Ellis: There are no Javan rhinos in captivity currently, and there are no plans to develop a captive population. That may be something we change to offer further insurance for this species. And, though we now know how to keep Sumatran rhinos in captivity, which have similar requirements and diets, this was developed by a trial and error process that was initially very costly, in terms of captive rhinos. There are too few Javan rhinos left to work with in the process of "building a captive population management learning curve." Conserving the Javan rhinoceros in the wild is a much more practical approach.

Mongabay: Do you think there is a viable population at Ujung Kulon? Is there real hope for this species?

Susie Ellis: We think so. Every year we conduct annual

surveys of the area and last year we found footprints from at least four juvenile rhinos. We have multiple video footage from camera traps of moms and calves, so we know that the population at Ujung Kulon is actively reproducing.

Mongabay: There are many people who would argue that it's a lot of effort for one species. Why save the Javan Rhino?

Susie Ellis: My personal thoughts are that I would not want to look into the eyes of my children or my grandchildren and say "we could have saved the Javan rhino, if we had just tried a little harder."

People of this generation are now realizing that we are indeed the "stewards of this planet," and we have a responsibility to preserve the planet's biodiversity for the next generations. The Javan rhinoceros represents a flagship species and symbolizes a whole swath of lost lowland rainforest habitat in Indonesia. Healthier local environments mean better lives for people.

In the process of saving species like the Javan rhino, we are really bringing our own human world into order, to the benefit of all.

Asia Pulp and Paper's Javan Rhino Announcement

As this interview went to press, Asia Pulp & Paper (APP), a paper products brand now headquartered in China but with operations in Sumatra and other places, announced a \$300,000 contribution over five years to Javan rhino conservation efforts. Mongabay.com asked Susie Ellis about APP's pledge.

Mongabay: Asia Pulp & Paper, a controversial logging firm with a somewhat notorious record of greenwashing, recently announced it is supporting Javan Rhino conservation. What are your thoughts on this initiative? Do any Javan rhino conservation groups work with APP at present?

Susie Ellis: The Javan rhino exists in Indonesia because of the commitment of the central government to conserving the species, and also because of long-term financial support from the International Rhino Foundation, WWF, and the Asian Rhino Project. These three NGOs have contributed nearly US\$10 million to operate on-the-ground rhino protection in Java and southern Sumatra since 1999. With the Ujung Kulon National Park authority, these groups, along with a local NGO, Yayasan Badak Indonesia, have developed and are implementing the Javan rhino

project in question. The project is well underway and the majority of funds are in place. A relatively small donation (especially in comparison to their billions of dollars in annual revenue) from APP to the Indonesian government does not mean that they play a role in the on-the-ground conservation of this species. From the NGO perspective, this contribution appears to be truly an attempt to greenwash the company's image.

Many of the major wildlife conservation NGOs, both in Indonesia and internationally, have publicly come out against APP and their methods, with well-documented claims of illegal logging and habitat destruction as well as legally questionable road construction through important wildlife habitat. There also have been accusations of human rights violations by indigenous communities. APP has broken signed agreements with several major international

environmental organizations, including the Forest Stewardship Council and the Rainforest Alliance. Many major international companies, including WalMart, Office Depot, Staples, Tiffany & Co., Hugo Boss, and H&M, have stopped buying APP paper products due to their negative environmental practices. I think this speaks volumes.

And as they are making the donation we are discussing, Asia Pulp & Paper and their parent company, Sinar Mas Group, have permits pending to clear a significant part of central Sumatra's Bukit Tigapuluh forest landscape, an ecosystem that provides vital habitat for more than 30 Sumatran tigers, 150 Sumatran elephants, and 130 orangutans, which have recently been reintroduced. The area is also home to two indigenous tribes.

http://news.mongabay.com/2011/0517-szotek_javan_rhino.html

Special Thanks to Peter Hall

ARP Patron Peter Hall has continued his support for Sumatran and Javan rhino conservation by donating a whopping \$140,000. This brings his personal contributions to \$1,595,000!

Peter remains committed to rhino conservation and plays an active role in securing their future. His hard work and dedication is appreciated by ARP and it is thanks to Peter that we are able to support great projects in Indonesia through partnership with the International Rhino Foundation and Yayasan Badak

Indonesia. These funds are a part of a larger pledge Peter made at the IRF Board meeting last November.

The funds will be used to support the Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area (JaRhiSCA) project, Sumatran and Javan Rhino Protection Units, an Intelligence and Law Enforcement Unit, Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, Veterinary Advisor Support, as well as Yayasan Badak Indonesia and IRF administration.

Thanks so much Peter!

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

You can.

Drop us an e-mail on info@asianrhinos.org.au or phone Kerry on 08 89760952.

We are awaiting your call!

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



Tam and Dr Zainal in the
Tabin rhino facilities.

Update on Rhinos in Sabah and the Work of Borneo Rhino Alliance

Our Winter 2010 issue provided an update on the Sumatran rhinoceros in Sabah, Malaysia and the work of Borneo Rhino Alliance (BORA; www.borneorhinoalliance.org), formerly SOS Rhino Borneo, a non-governmental organization (NGO) established as a not-for-profit company, which continues to work with Sabah Wildlife Department and WWF in Sabah.

The status of the Sumatran rhino in Borneo has for many years been even more dire than that of the species in Sumatra, with just a few scattered individuals remaining in a few localities, and infrequent breeding. There is now great concern that most remaining individuals are old or infertile.

Apart from protecting wild rhinos, the emphasis in Sabah is on forming a fenced, managed facility in Tabin Wildlife Reserve, similar to that at Way Kambas, Sumatra, Indonesia, to which rhinos are to be brought and treated individually to maximize the chances that every remaining individual can contribute towards saving the species.

Tam, about 18 years old, is being cared for, currently with the main aim of obtaining and freezing sperm. A specific wild female rhino has been targeted since early 2010 for capture, to provide a mate for Tam, but the extensive forest on steep hilly terrain which forms her home range has been a major challenge to fulfilling that aim.



Gelugob prepares to be moved to Tabin.

In the mean time, an old, post-reproductive female named Gelugob, caught as a mature adult in 1994, which had been on public display at Lok Kawi Wildlife Park near the capital of Sabah, was moved to Tabin in September 2010.

In addition to rhino reproduction specialists and anaesthetists from the Leibnitz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife (IZW) Research, Berlin, University of Austria, and Malaysia, Australian embryo specialists Lisa McLellan (Melbourne) and Jennifer Kelly (Adelaide) were on standby at Tabin in January 2011 in case of any prospect for production of embryos. But after hormone treatments it was a disappointment to find no sign of ovulation. A further attempt to stimulate Gelugob to contribute to her species survival will be made during 2011, with the advice and technical support of the IZW specialists.

The emphasis at the interim rhino facilities Tabin is on providing excellent food, care and health monitoring, in the belief that such attention is an essential basis for the aim of production of gametes (ova and sperm) and embryos. Apart from the government of Sabah, the biggest financial supporters of development of Borneo Rhino Sanctuary programme are Sime Darby Foundation (www.yayasansimedarby.com) and WWF-Germany.



Sabah Wildlife Department senior ranger Herman Stawin with BORA staff.

Operation Javan Rhino

There are fewer than 50 Javan rhinos left on the planet. Unless we take action now to protect and expand the Javan rhino population, we could lose this species forever. The only viable population of Javan rhinos is confined to Indonesia's small Ujung Kulon National Park on the island of Java - and these animals are quite literally stuck between a rock and a hard place. With the species' entire viable population living in this one precarious location, Javan rhinos face a significant risk of extinction from a single natural disaster or introduced disease.

ARP, IRF and our partners are creating 4,000 hectares of expanded habitat for Javan rhinos in Ujung Kulon,

which should encourage population growth. This will then allow us to eventually move some animals to establish a second "insurance" population at a separate site, further helping to expand the species' population and prevent its extinction.

We have already raised \$350,000 of the \$650,000 needed for this ambitious effort. We are now asking for your helping in raising an additional \$250,000. 100% of your donation will be used to plant rhino food plants, create water sources and wallows, construct guard posts and patrol routes, and hire anti-poaching units to patrol the area.

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

To donate e-mail info@asianrhinos.org.au, call 0889760952 or Directly Deposit to

Asian Rhino Conservation Fund BSB: 016 263 Account: 498419844

Please be sure to reference it Operation Javan Rhino to ensure the funds are allocated correctly.



Murder Mystery 2011 "Hollywood Style"

On Saturday 28 May, the WA Branch hosted our very first Murder Mystery fundraiser, Hollywood Style!

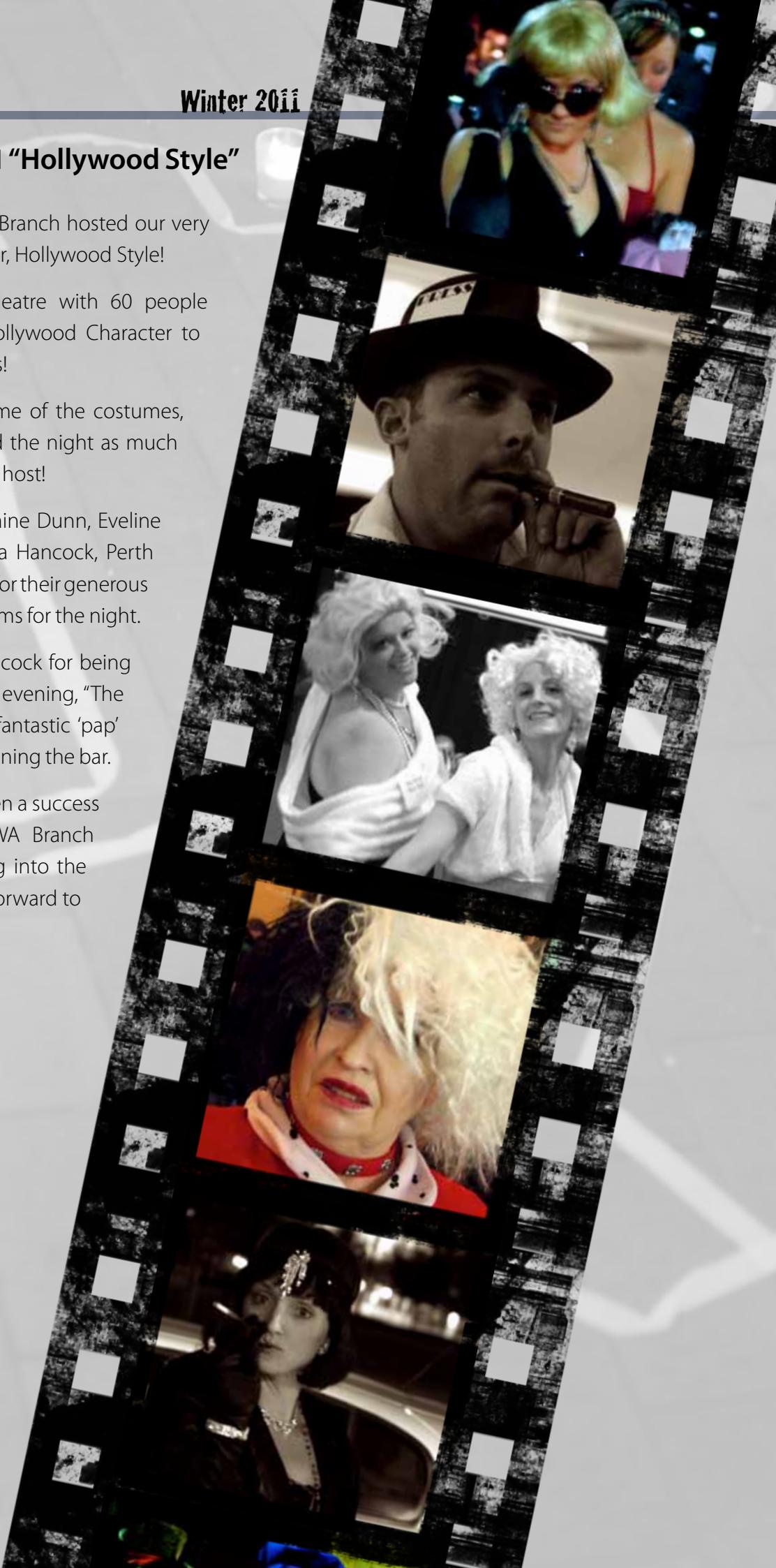
We filled the Perth Zoo Theatre with 60 people dressed as their favourite Hollywood Character to raise over \$4000 for the rhinos!

We were blown away by some of the costumes, and hope our guests enjoyed the night as much as we did, it was a pleasure to host!

Thanks to Jet and Ruby, Lorraine Dunn, Eveline Read, Karen Rotherham, Petra Hancock, Perth Zoo, Houston Zoo, and WASO for their generous donations of silent auction items for the night.

A big thank you to Petra Hancock for being our entertaining host for the evening, "The Paparazzi" Lee Hart and his fantastic 'pap' skills and Rachel Penno for running the bar.

The night would not have been a success without the effort of the WA Branch and all our guests for getting into the theme of the night! We look forward to planning next year's!



International Training on Geo-informatics and its Application on Biodiversity Conservation

15 to 27 September 2011, Organised by Aaranyak

What is this training all about?

This training is designed to disseminate knowledge about geo-spatial technology and its application in the field of biodiversity conservation for conservation biologist. The objective of this short term training course is to make the participants familiar with the technology and utility of geo-informatics in the field of biodiversity conservation. This course hopes to bring about a basic understanding of the relevant topics for new as well as middle level technical personnel, who are entrusted with the responsibility of planning, mapping and implementation of plans related to conservation of biological diversity.

Course Structure:

The course is modular in structure and provides a balanced treatment of theory, application and practical experience as follows.

Remote Sensing:

- Fundamentals of Remote Sensing
- Principles of Remote Sensing
- Satellite Remote Sensing
- Sensors and platforms
- Visual and digital analysis of Remote Sensing data.
- Introduction to MSS, TM, LISS, Thermal Images, Radar Technology.

Aerial Survey:

- Introduction to aerial photography
- Types of aerial photos
- Handling and storage of aerial photos.

GPS:

- Basics of GPS
- Use of handheld GPS.
- Extensive hands on exercise of GPS application in field.
- Application of GPS in forestry and biodiversity conservation.

GIS:

- Introduction to GIS
- Basic principles of GIS
- Concept of GIS data
- GIS data types
- Method of GIS data generation
- Spatial analysis
- Digital cartography
- Analytical capability of GIS

Application:

- Application of Geo-informatics in biodiversity conservation.
- Three days live project will be assigned to participants to make them more understandable of the subject.

International Training on Geo-informatics and its Application on Biodiversity Conservation

15 to 27 September 2011, Organised by Aaranyak

How to Apply:

Interested participants should download the brochure and fill up the registration form and email the scanned copy of the registration form to course coordinator on or before 10th August, 2011. Short listed participants will be informed via email on or before 15th August, 2011. Mode of payment will be preferably wire transfer. However payments can also be made on the 1st day of the course, provided participants register online or via email. The course fee includes accommodation (twin share), food (breakfast,lunch & dinner), course materials, cost of field work/trip, etc.

Seat Capacity:

Seat Capacity is Fifteen (15)

REGISTRATION TYPE	REGISTRATION DEADLINE	REGISTRATION FEES
Early Bird	30th June, 2011	USD 1500
Regular Entry	1st August, 2011	USD 1750
Final Deadline	10th August, 2011	USD 2000
Announcement of Shortlisted Participants		15th August, 2011
Duration		15th - 27th September, 2011

CONTACT DETAILS:

Course Coordinator

Mr. Pranjit Kumar Sarma
 Programme Head
 Geo-spatial Technology Application Programme
 Aaranyak, a scientific and industrial research organization.
 50th Samanwoy Path
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 Guwahati -781028

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Aaranyak, a society for biodiversity conservation in N.E.India
 E-mail: info@aaranyak.org
 Phone. - +91 361-2228418 (Tele Fax)
 +91 361-2230250
www.aaranyak.org

Committee Update

By Kerry Crosbie

The WA team have been flat out with their Murder Mystery fundraiser last month (see page 17) which was a huge success.

Congratulations to Sophie and the team who worked hard to make the night a complete success and loads of fun – I only wish I was there too!

A massive \$4,000 was raised from the night through ticket sales, silent auction and drinks. A special thanks to the WA team, members and guests who made the night a success. Well done guys!

While Sophie has been flat out preparing for the murder mystery event while renovating a kitchen, working full time, she has also managed to organise the Easter egg drive, present to the Perth Zoo Docent Association and also to Tranby College (photos below).

Another very busy committee member has been ARP Treasurer Lorraine Dunn assisting Sophie in function preparations and the college presentation. Her constant eye on the ball is such a big help to me, thanks Lorraine!

Thanks also to Petra Hancock who worked extra hard to bring in many ticket sales for the mystery night and for hosting!

Congratulations to Save the Rhino International - for a successful grant application from the BBC Wildlife Fund. £40,000 was awarded to Sumatran rhino programs in Indonesia for Rhino Protection Unit operations in Way Kambas and Bukit Barisan Selatan

National Parks. ARP Project Director Kerry Crosbie was one of three referees for two proposals submitted by Save the Rhino for the Javan and Sumatran rhino programs. Well done guys!

WA Branch News

During the last week of March, the Asian Rhino Project was asked to participate in Asia Week at Tranby College. Asia week is run every year by the school, and covers all things Asian including endangered species!

ARP was honoured to be asked to give a presentation to 200 primary school children on the plight of the Asian Rhinos. The students were extremely enthusiastic and it was very inspiring to see the next generation so aware of the issues facing these animals.

Later on in the week, we were invited back again to run a stall at market day, a chance for the students and teachers to buy merchandise in support.

Thanks to committee member Lorraine Dunn for manning the stall, we made \$130 in an hour. A big thank you to teacher Brooke Steele for organising the events and inviting us along. (Photos attached)

The WA Branch Easter Egg drive sold out early raising \$160 for the rhinos. Thanks to those who bought the eggs!

Saturday 28 May was our first Murder Mystery Fundraiser! It was an exciting evening of entertainment, with guests dressing up to the theme of Hollywood Scandal! See the report and pictures on page 17.



In The News – Asian Rhino News Stories

Second poaching attempt in six days foiled at Orang 31 January 2011

Orang National Park saw its second rhino poaching attempt within a span of six days on Monday. Luckily for the animal, this attempt, too, was foiled by the authorities of the park, like the earlier one on January 26. Orang is located about 150 km from Guwahati.

A gang of four poachers sneaked into the park to kill a rhino in the wee hours of Monday. One of them was shot dead by the forest staff, but the other three members of the gang managed to escape. The slain poacher is yet to be identified. A .303 rifle left by the gang was recovered from the encounter site. "The poachers could not kill any animal," said Mangaldoi wildlife divisional forest officer Sushil Kumar Daila.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/Second-poaching-attempt-in-six-days-foiled-at-Orang/articleshow/7399695.cms>

Rhino rips apart forest guard at Kaziranga 6 February 2011

Kaziranga National Park JORHAT: Barely a fortnight after an official had been attacked and killed by a wild buffalo at the Kaziranga National Park, a young forest guard fell prey to a charging rhinoceros on Sunday afternoon. Caught unawares, Nitul Dutta of Kakodunga in Golaghat district died on the spot.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/Rhino-rips-apart-forest-guard-at-Kaziranga/articleshow/7438640.cms>

Ban on rhino horn comes into force immediately 21 February 2011

The ban on selling rhino horn trophies, scheduled for introduction over the next couple of months, has been brought into force with immediate effect.

<http://www.antiquestradegazette.com/news/7822.aspx>

Nepal police arrest 'most wanted' rhino poacher 28 February 2011

The Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) on Saturday arrested a notorious rhino poacher who killed more than 15 rhinos in Chitwan for the past few years. The rhinos, all from the Chitwan National Park, were killed for their horns that fetch high prices in the black market.

The poacher is Kajiman Praja, 32, of Korak-9 in Chitwan and he has killed six rhinos in less than a year. Praja has been listed by the World Wildlife Fund for Nature as the deadliest rhino poacher of the time. He was arrested by the CIB's virgin operation hunt. Praja's is a rags to riches story. He would employ his wives and two other female members of his family for rhino poaching and has so far earned at least Rs 15 million by selling rhino horns...

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/world/article940237.ece/Nepal-police-arrest-most-wanted-rhino-poacher>

Thieves target rhino horn at Sworders' sale 28 February 2011

A taxidermy rhinoceros head mount has been stolen Sworders auction house in Stansted Mountfitchet in what police believe was a raid planned by professional thieves.

<http://www.antiquestradegazette.com/news/7827.aspx>

Dilemma over sale of rhino head 7 March 2011

An auctioneer from Northumberland is on the horns of a dilemma – over the sale of a stuffed rhinoceros head worth at least £30,000 to Chinese herbalists.

http://www.bonesjournal.co.uk/news/dilemma_over_sale_of_rhino_head_1_1486826

Nepal to count one-horned rhinos in wake of civil war 11 March 2011

Nepal said Friday it will count how many one-horned rhinos the Himalayan country still has left after the rare animals were exposed to poachers during the country's deadly civil war.

Wildlife experts riding elephants will comb the jungles of rhino sanctuaries in Bardia National Park, Chitwan National Park and Shuklaphanta National Park in the country's southern plains in the month-long survey.

http://www.terrardaily.com/reports/Nepal_to_count_one-horned_rhinos_in_wake_of_civil_war_999.html

60 rhinos died at CNP during three years: Survey 8 April 2011

A total of five dozen one-horned rhinos died at Chitwan National Park (CNP) during the last three years, revealed a survey recently.

According to Ganesh Pant, Assistant Conservation Officer at the CNP, 28 rhinos died of natural death while others were killed by the smugglers.

The population of the rhinos was 408 in 2008 census. A large number of rhinos were smuggled in between 2008 and 2009 while only two rhinos were smuggled this year, said the CNP.

In 2000, the population of one-horned rhinos was 544 while the population of the rhinos decreased to 372 in 2005. Most of the rhinos were killed by smugglers during insurgency, according to the statistics.

<http://www.rhinos-irf.org/en/art/1565/>

Goldman Prize: Zimbabwe's rhino rescuer honoured 11 April 2011

Raoul du Toit, a Zimbabwe-based conservationist who has taken a very direct approach to saving Africa's Critically Endangered black rhino, has been selected as one of the six winners of this year's Goldman Environmental Prize.

The prize, founded by American philanthropist Richard Goldman, is the world's largest award for grassroots environmentalists. One recipient from each of the world's six inhabited continents will receive the \$150,000 (\$A392,000) prize.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/earth/hi/earth_news/newsid_9451000/9451460.stm

Rhino kills mount after poachers exit jail 12 April 2011

Posing a serious challenge to wildlife conservation, a dozen poachers who were released four and a half years ago after their jail sentences were commuted, have now been ravaging wildlife at Chitwan National Park (CNP), investigations show. Ramsaran BK, one of the 12 poachers set free in August, 2006 after they had served just three and a half years of a 15-year sentence, was arrested again on poaching charges recently.

http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=3Dnews_details&news_id==3D30198

Mourning the Loss of Sumatran Rhino Torgamba 25 April 2011

Torgamba, a male Sumatran rhino whose estimated age is 32 years, died yesterday at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Indonesia following a long illness which appeared to be associated with chronic renal disease.

"The entire Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary staff is devastated," said Widodo Ramono, executive director of Yayasan Badak Indonesia, which operates the facility.

"It's difficult to put into words and describe the attachment that has developed over the past years. This is a terrible loss especially for the rhino keepers and veterinary medical staff who cared for Torgamba during his time with us."

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=3DSix+suspected+smugglers+held+with+rhin+o+horn&NewsID=3D284375>

Govt considers legal rhino horn trade 4 May 2011

Government is to consider legalising the trading of rhino horns in a bid to curb illicit trade of the ivory and protect the endangered species. The department will, as part of the outcomes of the Rhino Summit held in October 2010, commission a feasibility study on the viability of the legalization of the Rhino horn trade in South Africa, said Molewa.

Earlier this year, it was reported that 138 rhino have been killed for their horns by illegal poachers in the first quarter of this year.

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/Politics/article1049977.ece/Govert-considerst-legal-rhino-horn-trade>

Cops foil Kaziranga rhino poaching bid 10 May 2011

Police on Monday managed to foil a possible rhino poaching attempt at Kaziranga National Park by arresting three armed poachers in the Bihali area of Sonitpur district while they were trying to sneak into the only World Heritage Site of Assam.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/Cops-foil-Kaziranga-rhino-poaching-bid-arrest-here/articleshow/8210301.cms>

Vietnam may be behind rhino poaching 13 May 2011

A new demand for rhino horn in Vietnam could be stimulating the illegal poaching of rhinos in South Africa, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) says.

"There are allegations of rhino horn being used for medicinal use in Vietnam as a cure for cancer and other ailments," EWT CEO Yolan Friedmann told a briefing in Johannesburg. "This may explain the increase in investment into ways to access rhino and the technology involved."

Rhino poaching increasing sharply from 2008, thought to be mainly due to the use of rhino horn in traditional Chinese medicine and for dagger handles in Yemen and other Middle Eastern countries.

"Legal hunting of rhino, in which the country gets a quota, has been used as a way in which to access horn," Friedmann said. The quota was normally used for trophy hunting by amateur or professional hunters.

"When you see a Vietnamese client who has never pulled a trigger or a woman over 50, it becomes clear that it's not simply trophy hunting... the price of trophy hunting has also almost doubled," she said.

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/scitech/article1065878.ece/Vietnam-may-be-behind-rhino-poaching>

One-horned specimens easy to spot in India national park 15 May 2011

Seeing a rhino in the wild isn't exactly easy. I know. I have visited some of the best rhino haunts in Africa and have not had even a distant glimpse of one. But if you're willing to settle for one horn instead of two, there is a place in India where rhino sightings are almost guaranteed.

<http://www.mysanantonio.com/life/travel/article/One-horned-specimens-easy-to-spot-in-India-1377066.php>

Poachers kill rhino, chop off its horn 16 May 2011

Poachers killed a rhino at Assam's Kaziranga National Park barely six days after police foiled a similar bid in the same area. This is the fourth rhino killed in the only World Heritage Site of the state this year.

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Poachers-kill-rhino-in-Kaziranga-chop-off-its-horn/articleshow/8351415.cms>

Corporate Donors

ARP would like to recognise the following corporate donors working to help us help the rhinos. Funds or funds raised from donated items all go towards our valuable conservation projects. Thank you.



Pro-Bono Supporters

ARP would like to recognise the dedication and expert assistance of the following organisations for their professional pro-bono support. These organisations provide services free of charge assisting us to minimise our administration costs enabling ARP to focus funding on our important conservation projects.

MALLESONS STEPHEN JAQUES



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: _____



Rhino Rembrandts – \$475

The artists are Indian and Sumatran rhinos from Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, USA. Painting is a special activity that has become one of many ways to enrich the rhinos' day. Not only do the paintings enrich the zoo rhinos' lives, they also help their wild cousins with proceeds of painting sales going to Asian rhino conservation.



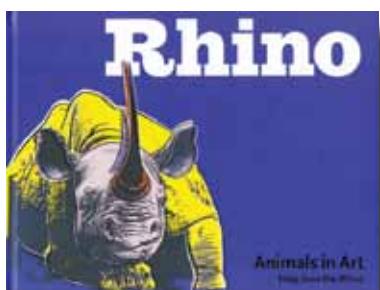
Rhino Earrings – \$20



Pens – \$4



Coloured Earrings – \$8



Rhino – Animals in Art – \$22
Book by Joanna Skipwith and Silver Jungle



Magnets – \$2



Stickers – \$2



Wine Cooler – \$20



Drink Bottles – \$7



Thermal Mug (350ml) – \$10
Thermal Mug (750ml) – \$15



Merchandise Order Form

Item	Cost	Colour (please circle)			Quantity	Total
Rhino Rembrandt	\$475	N/A				
Rhino – Animals in Art (Book)	\$22	N/A				
Asian Rhino Project T-shirts	\$20	black white Women's sizes: 10-14 Men's sizes: S-XL				
Coloured Earrings	\$8	yellow (long) yellow (short) black/orange			red blue	
Rhino Earrings	\$20	gold silver				
Pen	\$4	red	blue	green		
Sticker	\$2	N/A				
Magnet	\$2	N/A				
Wine Cooler	\$20	terracotta				
Thermal Mug (350ml)	\$10	purple green black	pink blue			
Thermal Mug (750ml)	\$15	green	black	khaki		
Drink Bottle	\$7	black	silver			
					SUB-TOTAL	
					Add \$7 for postage. If order over \$75, postage is free.	
					GRAND TOTAL	

Details and Payment

Please send completed order forms to: Asian Rhino Project, PO Box 163, South Perth, Western Australia, Australia 6951.

Name: _____

Delivery Address: _____

Phone: (H) _____ (W) _____ Email: _____

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: _____

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Card No: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____