

Global Propagation Management Board Meeting

By Clare Campbell

The GPMB Meeting was held at the Ministry of Forestry offices on 15 March, 2012. The meeting was attended by board members and visiting guests.

Two new board members were officially invited to join the GPMB, Christy Williams from WWF and a representative from the Institute for Zoo and Wildlife, Berlin (IZW).

The most significant outcome from this meeting was the development and signing of a Letter of Intent outlining an agreement to share reproduction and biological materials between countries. This significant agreement will allow the transfer of gametes between captive rhinos, enhancing the genetic outcomes should breeding prove successful.

A presentation was provided by Sabah delegates on the rescue operation of Puntung and representatives from the Sime Darby Foundation were also in attendance to confirm their ongoing financial support of this project. A fantastic YouTube clip has been produced which should generate extensive awareness of the serious plight of the rhino in Borneo and it is expected to go live in the near future.

Puntung has significant reproductive pathology however it is hoped that this may be resolved as she has possibly bred prior to capture.

IZW is also working on developing a prosthetic limb for Puntung, whose foot was considerably damaged in a snare. She is completely mobile however.

BORA agreed to send 20 straws of semen from Tam to the US for artificial insemination with Suci.

An update was also provided on the SRS with all staff enormously excited over the pending birth in June 2012.

It was noted that pairings between Bina and Andalas at the SRS have also been quite positive so in spite of her age staff are hopeful of a pregnancy in the near future.

Also discussed was the preparations for Ratu and her new enclosure which had been especially prepared for her and her calf. CCTV cameras and monitors were installed to allow round the clock monitoring of Ratu.

Yayasan Badak Indonesia Board Meeting

By Clare Campbell

The meeting held on 16 March began with YABI's annual report presented by Pak Widodo Ramona, chair of YABI.

A more detailed discussion was held around the delayed progress of the JaRSCA project, outlining a compromise in the area to be fenced. The fence will now only be built across the northern area and the south east corner rather than from shore to shore. The peninsula and entire eastern boundary will no longer be fenced.

A management plan and site plan need to be developed before construction can continue.

YABI presented their annual finances, highlighting a deficit in some areas. This was in part due to an increase in staff salaries after the government recently reviewed minimum wages. Some of this is expected to be regained from a reduction in fence

costs however YABI still hoped to source some additional funds to support existing projects.

I presented a gift certificate to YABI for \$500 for the purchase of mosquito nets. These funds were provided by the International Rhino Fund of New Zealand.

In summary, both the Sumatran and Javan rhino situation is dire. There are however some solid initiatives underway to preserve remaining populations and habitat. These meetings highlighted an increasing realisation from all parties that collaboration is no longer optional.

The birth of Ratu's calf is both an exciting and significant step and will demonstrate the real potential of maintaining at least some of these rhino in a captive situation.



Take a Picture – Save a Rhino

The International Rhino Keepers Association is sponsoring a rhino photography contest. 12 winners of the contest will be featured in the IRKA/IRF 2013 Rhino Conservation Calendar. Funds raised from the sale of the calendar will go the Sumatra Rhino Project.

Please only 1 photo per photographer (less than 5mb). Email photos to IRKACalendar@gmail.com.

Contest details can be found at: www.rhinokeeperassociation.org.

Hurry – contest ends 31 July.

Mother's Day Saturday at National Zoo and Aquarium

By Shelley Russell, National Zoo & Aquarium Conservation Team

Mother's Day Saturday was held at the National Zoo & Aquarium, Canberra, on 12 May 2012, we believe mums deserve a weekend! The Day was a special day for all mums, including our animals. It also highlighted some very important conservation messages.

Throughout the day there were special talks and present time for all the mum's at the zoo, some of these included; Millie the lioness, Otay the sun bear, Winnie the wombat, Lilly the ring-tail lemur, Zahra and Kike the zebra's For the human mums; kids tours, massage, yummy brunch, yoga and of course shopping. It was a fun-filled action packed day.

There were however important conservation messages. People strolled through the zoo passing conservation stalls along the way. There were 15 different stalls which included the Asian Rhino Project. People loved the Rhino stall especially those gorgeous rhino teddies and while

they browsed the merchandise, we were able to talk about the project.

Mother's Day Saturday was a big success, we were able to send lots of conservation messages to people in a fun and relaxed way. The day was about awareness not fundraising though we did this as well.

Thanks to the Asian Rhino Project and members for dedicating your time and effort to these incredible animals.

ARP would like to thank the National Zoo & Aquarium Conservation Team for their efforts and support. The team kindly approached us and offered to hold a stall on our behalf. They pre-purchased \$861 of ARP merchandise to sell at this event and offered their own volunteers to man the stall and talk about the plight of the Asian rhino. Well done guys!