

RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

www.rhinoresourcecenter.com

NEWSLETTER #48 SEPTEMBER 2017

Dear colleagues and friends,

This is the 48th issue of the quarterly e-newsletter of the Rhino Resource Center. Edited by [Dr Kees Rookmaaker](#).

The total number of references in the collection of the RRC now stands at **21,550**. This is an increase of 260 items in the last quarter. Over 21,265 references are **available** as PDF on RRC website

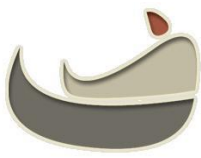


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The Rhino Resource Center is a Charity (Registered KvK Utrecht 30185802)
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THE RHINO RESOURCE CENTER NOW 12 YEARS

This newsletter is number 48 in the series. Every quarter for the past 12 years it has provided details of all the new publications written by authors around the world, in all types of publications and in a wide variety of languages. The website is used daily by hundreds of people interested in some aspect of rhinoceros biology or conservation issues. We are a small team, but we work daily to improve the extent and quality of our coverage. I wish to thank all our volunteer collaborators as well as all authors or editors who help us in improving the offerings of our website. All material is available for free to all users around the world, including all the range states of the rhinoceros.

Kees Rookmaaker, 31 August 2017

RHINO KEEPER WORKSHOP IN DENVER

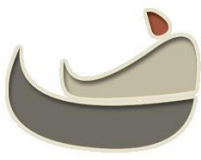
From 6 to 11 August I was happy to attend the bi-annual workshop organized by the International Rhino Keepers Association. Attended by some 150 delegates, it provided a platform to discuss all kinds of issues relating to rhino management in captive facilities as well as rhino conservation in Asia and Africa. Excursions took us to the zoos in Denver and Colorado Springs, as well as the USFW Arsenal in Denver where confiscated parts of endangered species are stored and distributed. I am sure we all look forward to the next meeting in 2019.

The abstracts (powerpoints) of the talks and posters can be [accessed](#) on the RRC.



ZOOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

The Board of [ZAA](#) has invited the RRC to share its commitment as a Conservation Partner. The ZAA promotes responsible ownership, management, conservation, and propagation of animals in both privately funded and publicly funded facilities through professional standards in husbandry, animal care, safety and ethics.



THE KILLING OF A ZOO RHINO

On 7 March 2017 the world was shocked to hear about the killing of a white rhino “Vince” in the Thoiry zoo, France. Poachers had entered the enclosure, killed the animal and sawn off the horns. In previous years, there had been a number of (attempted) thefts of rhino horns from museums. But the killing of a live animal in a well-run zoo was as unexpected as unacceptable. Many zoos and museums have now reviewed their security measures to protect their rhino horn from danger.

It has been argued that rhino horn thieves and rhino poachers could use the internet to select their next targets. While this is true, most museum specimens were stolen from collections of which information about their holdings would not have been found online. At the same time, most zoos and similar facilities want to attract visitors and often have at least a general list of species on their websites. It will remain a hard task to decide which information might potentially endanger rhinos or their products while still attracting visitors to our establishments. The RRC will continue to monitor the situation.

THE MAIN QUESTION: WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO CONSERVATION HISTORY

This leads to a serious question. The IUCN/SSC Specialist Groups for African and for Asian rhinos provide very little data of rhino stock in the range states, often only releasing country-wide estimates or other general information. This is done to avoid attracting the attention of potential poachers to existing populations. There certainly appears to be good reason for this procedure.

There is however a flipside to this. It is assumed that much information is gathered by the specialist groups and similar bodies, which is not released in any published form. It would seem logical that at some point this information becomes so old and dated that it can no longer be a threat to the remaining animals. But where would anybody be able to find this out-of-date information, which could help reconstruct conservation history and historical distribution.

As far as I am aware, neither the AfRSG nor the AsRSG keep formal archives. Where would the next generation of scientists and conservationists in the year 2075 go to explore what happened in our lifetime? There would be no published data. And maybe there will be no manuscript data either.

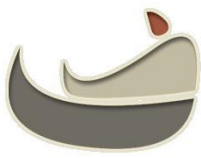
We may be in danger to lose the history of an entire era in conservation.

I would be interested to hear if this problem has been addressed for any other endangered species.

Kees Rookmaaker

AUCTION OF RHINO HORN IN SOUTH AFRICA

At the end of August, John Hume went ahead to auction some rhino horn online to registered users. Trade in rhino horn was made legal within South Africa, but any international trade governed by CITES remains illegal. No details of the sales were made available on the auction website: <https://rhinohornauction.com/web/>. One wonders why anybody in South Africa would want to buy a piece of rhino horn – unless of course it is ultimately destined to illegal international trade. The shipment of the sold items should be carefully monitored.



RHINO IMAGES - ART AND THE RHINOCEROS

Lorraine and Robert Fildes, two retired professionals from Australia, have assembled an amazing array of rhino images in all kinds of art forms. It has over 300 examples with much background information from many sources.

The book has been published as a Kindle eBook and is available for download via <https://www.amazon.com> at a cost of \$US20.00. Follow [this link](#). Part of the proceeds will be returned to rhino conservation.

DEATH OF HUNGARIAN RHINO ECOLOGIST



Krisztián Gyöngyi

On 7 June 2017 Krisztián Gyöngyi was sadly attacked by a black rhinoceros in Rwanda. He had worked on rhinos in Malawi, and had recently travelled to Rwanda to assist in the re-introduction of the animals. He leaves a wife and young child.

The journal *Pachyderm* will soon publish his observations of black rhino in Malawi. He was an active conservationist.

We were very sad to hear about the accident.

FLOODING IN INDIA AND NEPAL

This year the monsoon has been exceptionally heavy in many areas inhabited by rhinos. National parks like Kaziranga in Assam as well as Chitwan in Nepal have been flooded. These floods occur annually and the rhinos usually take refuge on higher ground. But the floods have been persistent putting strains on the rhino populations.

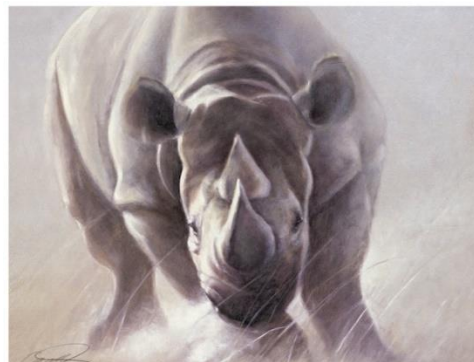


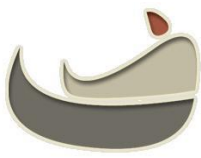
Pabitora flooding 2017 – from facebook post



ROBERT CAMPBELL – AN ARTIST PASSIONATE ABOUT RHINOS

At the IRKA workshop in Denver I met Robert Campbell, an artist based in South Carolina, whose enthusiasm for anything about rhinos was a real treat. He showed me some of the prints of the African and Indian rhinos, as well as cups and other souvenirs. He has been interested in rhinos for many years, and his art is very decorative. His website <http://www.unleashed.rocks/> has more information and offers the option to purchase his works. Some proceeds will be donated to the RRC.





OUR SPONSORS

The board and staff of the Rhino Resource Center gratefully acknowledge the support of our main sponsors:



[SOS RHINO](http://www.sosrhino.org)



[INTERNATIONAL RHINO FOUNDATION](http://www.internationalrhinofoundation.org)



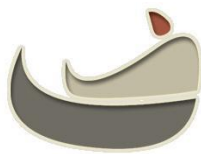
[SAVE THE RHINO](http://www.savetherhino.org)



[RHINO CARHIRE](http://rhinocarhire.com)

We are grateful to all individuals who show their appreciation by their donation.
Thank you very much.

*The Rhino Resource Center is a registered charity.
We need your assistance to provide our service to all rhino lovers worldwide.*



CONTENTS OF THE RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

The development of the Rhino Resource Center is shown in the table here.

RRC	2016 Sept	2016 Dec	2017 March	2017 June	2017 Sept	ANNUAL INCREASE
References	20,511	20,810	20,920	21,290	21,550	+ 1039
PDF files	20,209	20,487	20,600	20,990	21,265	+ 1056
Images	3,831	3,900	3,910	3,966	3,995	+ 164
Members	3,016	3,108	3,300	3,389	3,516	+ 500

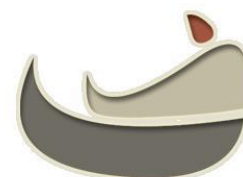
I thank everybody who has helped us by sending copies of books and papers.

All contributions are [acknowledged on the website](#).

DONATIONS TO THE RRC

It is really very easy. No problem to the audience of the RRC. To show appreciation of our work and to make future contents even better, a small donation goes a long way. Visits to libraries are no longer necessary, just think of the expensive time gained and research results improved. The button leads to a page with instructions.

[DONATE HERE](#)

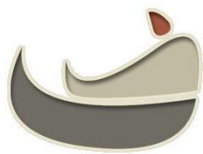


The Rhino Resource Center is an essential tool for

- 🐘 Information and image supply to media
- 🐘 Academic research in biology, conservation studies, art history
- 🐘 Education in primary, secondary and tertiary levels
- 🐘 Conservation of rhinos both *in-situ* and *ex-situ*
- 🐘 Latest information supply of all rhino-related projects
- 🐘 Information on all the latest conservation efforts
- 🐘 All the historical and most current literature.

YES, YOU CAN HELP:

- 🐘 Authors of books, papers and reports can send us a copy after publication.
- 🐘 We are always looking for images of all rhinos in books and in the wild
- 🐘 We aim to include a picture of every rhino ever kept in captivity
- 🐘 Contribute a message to our blog and get into contact with others
- 🐘 Place a link on your website to the RRC which will be reciprocated
- 🐘 Give us a DONATION when you feel the RRC has helped your work.



NEW LITERATURE

(finalized 31 August 2017)

In this quarter (June to August 2017), we have added 260 new references, to bring the total number of items in the database to **21,550**.

Of these, 21,265 or 99 percent are available as PDF and searchable.

Below I have listed new entries published in the 21st century in four categories: General (all species), African rhinos, Asian rhinos and Fossil rhinos.

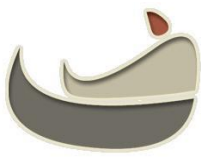
Most additions are available on the website.

Search for them on the RRC, it's easy.

Always check the [RRC website](#) first, many papers are available there.

NEW GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

- Cotterill, F.P.D; Groves, C.P.; Taylor, P.J., 2017. Taxonomy: refine rather than stabilize. *Nature* 547 (7662): 162 .
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White rhino in Zoo Duisburg. Photo Sylvie Horakova 27 05 2017 (Thanks to Jan Robovsky).

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- Charlton, R.W., 2017. Death and destruction: insight into the rhino poaching epidemic in South Africa. Dissertation presented to Illinois State University, pp. 1-193.
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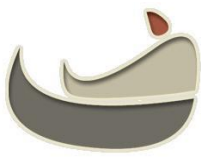


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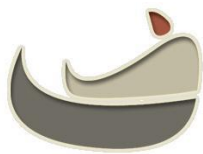


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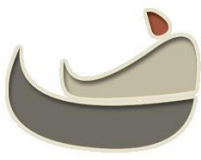


African Rhinos – continued

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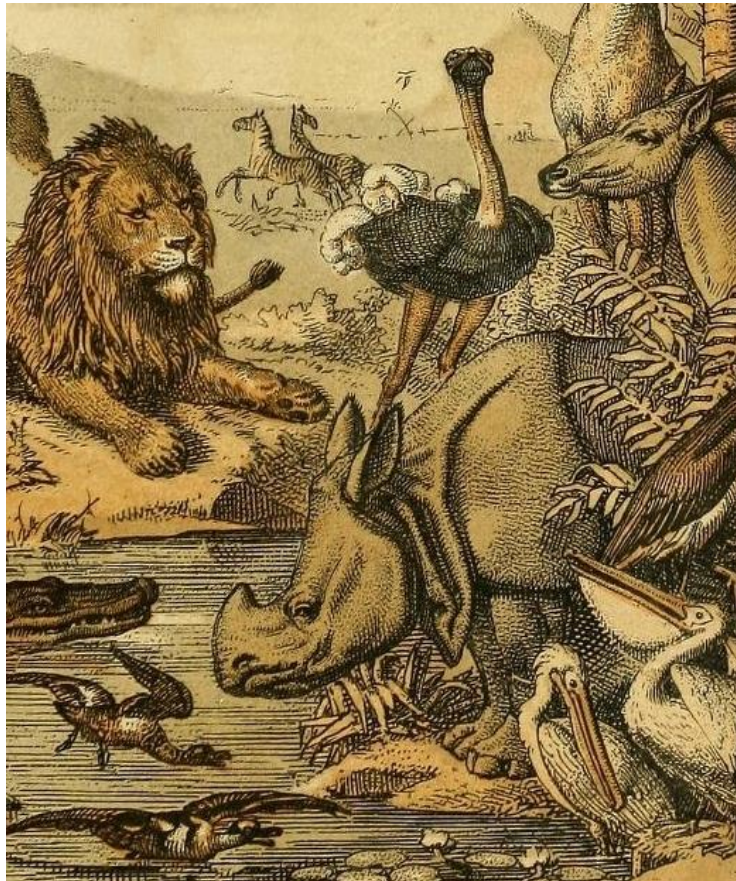
NEW PUBLICATIONS ON ASIAN RHINOS

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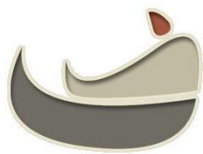


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