



# The Crash

Newsletter for rhino professionals

June 2018

## President's Perspective:

There are many exciting events happening within the IRKA and this issue of the CRASH is a great representation of what is about to come. The IRKA Board of Directors held our annual meeting in April with Fossil Rim Wildlife Center serving as an excellent host. During this meeting we had our first strategic planning session lead by one of our advisors, and executive director of the International Rhino Foundation, Dr. Susie Ellis. Susie did an amazing job leading our group, setting up our short term and long-term goals for the future of the IRKA. The BOD worked together to establish the new mission statement which states that IRKA aims to "Promote professional expertise, to develop and share the best practices for managed rhino care and contribute to conservation." We will be staying true to our values and the vision of the IRKA moving forward to make the best organization possible for our members. However, you will notice some changes such as a new user-friendly website format, building a more international presence to serve our members around the globe, starting up a new merchandise line, increasing professional development opportunities, and boosting our conservation support for field programs!

Soon you will also notice the IRKA increasing our messaging and support for the Sumatran rhino. As an organization, we recognize the Sumatran rhino is the most critically endangered large mammal on the planet and faces extinction. I know none of us would like to see this happen and we need to work together to help this species that is in great need. The Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary should be finishing the first phase of their expansion by November of 2018 to provide the space for more animals. This is a huge effort that has been made possible due to the support from the International Rhino Foundation. We hope to follow the IRF's lead and assist with the conservation efforts of the Sumatran rhino. During the 2019 Rhino Keeper Workshop at Disney's Animal Kingdom, we will be highlighting much of the work being done in Indonesia and will be inviting keepers from the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary to join us in learning about rhino management.

Make sure to check out all the important Rhino Keeper Workshop information in this issue of the CRASH! Registration and scholarships for the RKW are now available, so please take advantage of these opportunities. We also have an excellent collection of member written articles in this issue. Charlie Hyde, from the San Diego Zoo Safari Park, gave us a great head start highlighting the Sumatran rhino by writing an article about her experience over in Indonesia on the "Bowling for Rhino" trip. I know I am one of the very jealous people of her, but I hope many more of our members will get the chance to experience what Charlie did some day. In a facility focus, Amber Berndt, one of our dedicated board members, wrote about the exciting assisted reproduction work the Indianapolis Zoo has done with Dr. Monica Stoops from the Center of Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW). We wish Amber and

her team the best of luck for a successful birth of a white rhino from artificial insemination! Jade Tuttle tells us about the first IRKA Training and Enrichment Regional Seminar, which was hosted by the North Carolina Zoo. It was a huge success for the members that participated. Jade and her team did an excellent job putting that workshop together and gave the IRKA members a chance to further their professional knowledge on rhino management. Another hard-working board member, Sara Wunder Steward, tells us about her life changing experience being able to visit Sudan, the last male northern white rhino, and his keepers last year. Sara is raising funds to help get the proper gear to the rangers over in Africa because she was so touched at how hard they worked and how much they cared for the rhinos. I encourage you to donate to Sara's cause by going to the link under her article!

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# 11th Biennial International Rhino Keeper Workshop

Disney's Animal Kingdom®  
Orlando, Florida, USA

**Saturday, February 2nd – Wednesday, February 6th, 2019**

“Leading international network for connecting rhino keepers.”

The 1st Rhino Keeper Workshop was held in 1999 at the newly opened Disney's Animal Kingdom®. In 2019, IRKA only found it appropriate to go back to Disney's Animal Kingdom® for our 20th Anniversary of Rhino Keeper Workshops. We hope to see you there!

## **Important Dates**

Early registration ends Sept. 1st

Scholarship deadline Sept. 15th

\*\*Book accommodations for discounted rate Oct.

2nd

Regular registration Sept. 2nd-Nov. 1st

Cancel before November 1st: 100% refund

Cancel up to November 30th: 50% refund

Call for papers deadline Dec. 1st

Cancel after December 1st: no refund

Late Registration Nov. 2nd-Jan. 2nd



**REGISTRATION FEES in USD:** Sara Steward (sara.wunder@buschgardens.com)

FULL REGISTRATION FEES Includes icebreaker, refreshments, DAK zoo visit, and banquet night. Please note that all Behind the Scenes Tours at DAK & will be for IRKA Professional & Supporting Professional Members ONLY!

Early Registration until September 1st:	Prof & Supporting- \$275	Associate- \$325	Non-member- \$350
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Registration from September 2nd- Nov. 1st:	Prof & Supporting-\$300	Associate- \$350	Non-member- \$375
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Late Registration from Nov. 2nd - Jan. 2nd;:	Prof & Supporting- \$325	Associate- \$375	Non-member- \$400
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\*Note: Day rates available. Please check the website for more information. The Zoo Day behind the scenes tours & Workshop round tables will only be open to Professional & Supporting Professional IRKA members. You cannot purchase a one-day registration for the DAK Zoo Day

**“Call for Papers”** (<https://www.rhinokeeperassociation.org/submit-an-abstract>)

Christopher Tubbs (ctubbs@sandiegozoo.org) or Jonnie Capiro (JCapiro@sandiegozoo.org)  
(for questions ONLY)

\* Deadline Dec. 1st, 2018 10pm PDT.

\* Presentation types: a poster, a 10-minute oral Facility Focus talk, or a 20-minute oral presentation.

\* Delegates will be notified no later than Dec. 15th

**Scholarships:** Amber Berndt (aberndt@indyzoo.com)

See IRKA website. Deadline Sept. 15th



**Silent Auction:** Chris Bobko (cbobko@denverzoo.org)

Please bring in items to donate to the RKW Silent Auction that will be held during the 11th RKW. Funds raised from the silent auction will go towards scholarships for the 12th RKW.

**Accommodations:** Robyn Johnson (Robyn.L.Johnson@disney.com) (for questions ONLY)

Please note delegates are responsible for making their own bookings for accommodation. Rooms at the recommended Resorts below are subject to availability until blocks are full. Delegates are advised to book before October 2nd, 2018.

**Conference Venue:** Disney's Coronado Springs Resort \$195/night

[www.mydisneygroup.com/rhino2019](http://www.mydisneygroup.com/rhino2019) or call (407) 939-4686 to book, refer to the International Rhino Keeper Association 2019 Event.

**Nearby accommodation:** Disney's All Star Music Resort \$135/night

[www.mydisneygroup.com/rhino2019](http://www.mydisneygroup.com/rhino2019) or call (407) 939-4686 to book, refer to the International Rhino Keeper Association 2019 Event.

Free transportation available to event venue

Pre & Post Workshop accommodation at conference rate is subject to availability. Refer to [www.mydisneygroup.com/rhino2019](http://www.mydisneygroup.com/rhino2019) or call (407) 939-4686 to book additional days.

Discounted park tickets will be available for guests staying in the provided Disney Resorts when they book your hotel stay. Discounted park tickets cannot be offered to those not staying on Disney property.

Complimentary transportation available from Orlando International Airport (MCO) via Disney's Magical Express to RKW Resorts. Register at time of booking accommodations. See more at [www.mydisneygroup.com/rhino2019](http://www.mydisneygroup.com/rhino2019) > Plan your visit > Transportation.



**Pre & Post RKW Trips:** Sara Steward (sara.wunder@buschgardens.com)

Pre-Trips:

- Thursday, January 31st – Jacksonville Zoo
- Friday, February 1st – White Oak Conservation Center
- Saturday, February 2nd – Central Florida Zoo (Note: Same day as the RKW Icebreaker.)

Post Trips:

- Friday, February 7th – Busch Gardens OR Lion Country Safari
- Saturday, February 8th – Zoo Tampa at Lowry Park OR Zoo Miami

Facebook Event Page for 2019 RKW: <https://www.facebook.com/events/174508713249696/>

Visit [://www.rhinokeeperassociation.org/workshop](http://www.rhinokeeperassociation.org/workshop) for more information

## BFR Trip: Way Kambas Edition by Charlie Hyde

On the 22nd of April 2018, I left my home in Southern California to embark on an adventure that would change my life. Myself and fellow Zookeeper, Mandi, headed to Indonesia where we would meet up with 8 more people all interested in saving the world's most endangered rhinos. CeCe, Kelly and Inov represented International Rhino Foundation. Angie, Christine, Melissa, Toni, Wanda, Mandi and I represented Bowling for Rhinos. We would be referred to by everyone as "the bowlers" for the entire trip. For 10 days we travelled through Java and Sumatra hoping to get a glimpse of either species of rhino. However, anyone who has travelled in the jungle can tell you, wildlife viewing there is extremely difficult. In short, we saw none. But we all knew we had an ace-in-the-hole because one of our last stops was the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (referred to as the SRS), home to seven Sumatran Rhinoceros.



01 May 2018, 7:30pm: We had been traveling in our van for over 7 hours. It was dark. I felt like a rhino crashing through the jungle (for real, wait until you see our sweet ride). The road was bumpy and unpaved. The only thing visible were the trees flying by at high speed. Occasionally, I could make out the moon. It was almost full and a beautiful shade of pink, presumably from the large amount of smoke from the rice paddies. The anticipation was exhausting in itself, let alone we had just done a significant amount of traveling in less than two days. But we all rallied for the destination to come. We were in Way Kambas National Park on the island of Sumatra and about to enter the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. Folks, we were gonna see some rhinos!

02 May 2018, 7am: Breakfast was quick and then "the bowlers" loaded into a pick-up. First on our list to see was male Sumatran rhino Harapan. I had the pleasure of meeting Harapan when he lived in the States, as did some of the other bowlers. I never thought I would get the chance to see him again. The excitement in his little paddock area was so charged I think we could have lit up the entire island. I have never been happier for an animal. Clearly, he was thriving! His color was changed, and his demeanor was enthusiastic. Next stop was the miracle rhino, Andatu. This little male rhino was the first captive born Sumatran rhino in Indonesia. In fact, the last Sumatran born in captivity in Asia was almost 124 years ago in Calcutta, India. He is the posterchild of hope for his species. After Andatu was Bina. I refer to her as the queen. Between 1988-1992 a program was conducted to save the Sumatran rhino. 18 rhinos were captured, and Bina is the last surviving rhino from that program. Unaware of her place in history, she happily ate her fruit salad prepared by her keepers. Lastly, we met Ratu and Delilah, the mother/daughter pair. But don't be fooled, at two years of age, Delilah is much larger than her mother. These two were a riot! Their keepers were taking them out of the paddock area and into the jungle but Ratu didn't want to leave her admirers. You could hear Delilah calling for her mom in the jungle. Ratu turned a deaf ear. If only Delilah had any idea the role she is playing in the survival of her species.

After we came down from our "rhino high" we were given a presentation from the Rhino Protection Unit. They explained their role and goals moving forward. Way Kambas is protected by nine RPUs. Because of them, there have been no known poaching incidents in almost 10 years. They shared stories of the rhinos under their protection and they are grateful for our support. We got a quick tour of the expansion project that is currently under construction. It holds a lot of opportunity for the Sumatran rhino.

That afternoon we travelled by boat up Way Kanan river for a jungle hike. We were given a demonstration on snares from the RPUs. First, they set up a snare and asked if we could find it. It was a great example of the challenges they face while on patrol. They showed us how the snares were constructed and dismantled. We made our way back to the boat for the return trip to the SRS. The river was lined with exotic birds, primates, crocs and even a few Sambar deer! That night Dr. Zulfi, one of the veterinarians on staff, gave us a presentation on the work they are doing to care for this critically endangered species. Footcare, ultrasounds and bloodwork are always a topic among professionals no matter the location.

**03 May 2018, 8am:** It's our last day at this amazing facility. We were able to squeeze in some more rhino viewing this morning before we departed the island for good. There were two rhinos we didn't get to meet the day before because they were being introduced for breeding. As rhino keepers, we fully understood the importance of their task at hand and had no problems giving them their privacy. However, with the deed done, that allowed us for a quick visit. First up was Andalas, the proud papa. His name is the original name for the island of his species, Sumatra. Son of Ipuh and Emi, Andalas was born at the Cincinnati Zoo days after the fall of the World Trade Center. He is a proven ray of light in a time of darkness, that he has proven. He is the sire both Andatu and Delilah. We joked that he was too tired to be spunky because of the previous day's activities. He happily chowed down on his browse while we all stared in admiration. Keepers cut browse daily for all the rhinos, even though they spend their days foraging in the jungle.

After Andalas we headed to Rosa. If Bina is the queen, then Rosa is certainly the diva. The story of her arrival to the facility is a spectacular one. RPPUs were contacted from a village near Bukit Barisan National Park on the western side of the island. They said they had a rhino that was eating all of their fruit and disrupting their quiet life. RPPUs convinced Rosa to walk with them for 4 days up a mountain to Camp50 so she could be transported to the SRS. Full of character and charisma she charmed us all and we gave her positive vibes of a successful pregnancy. We were on a limited time schedule, so we swung by one last time to see Ratu and Delilah. It's always a thrill to witness a success story and they are the start of it. My heart was full as we loaded up in the van to depart the SRS for Jakarta, our exit from this amazing country full of wonderful people doing extraordinary work to save the Indonesian rhino.

*Huge thanks goes out to Bowling for Rhinos and AAZK. Because of them I was able to participate in this once in a lifetime experience. Another huge thank you goes out to the International Rhino Foundation and Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI, Rhino Foundation of Indonesia). They are fully committed to saving the Indonesian rhino and without their hospitality this trip would not be possible. They have charged my drive and shown me that we, as rhino keepers, can make a difference. Sumatran rhinos are in great need and we must deliver. A species is depending on us.*



## Facility Focus on Indianapolis Zoo—by Amber Berndt

In 2001, the Indianapolis Zoo was chosen to receive 1.2 Southern White Rhinos from Kruger National Park in South Africa. They made their debut in 2003 after a trial period at the Fort Worth Zoo. Due to unsuccessful breeding attempts it was recommended we rearrange our rhinos in 2007. Our male Ongava was moved to Disney's Animal Kingdom and their proven male Spike moved to Indy. One of our females Jao also moved to DAK where she still resides. Unfortunately Spike and our remaining female Mambo did not have a successful reproductive pairing, so Gloria, a proven female from Fort Worth, moved to Indy in 2008.

Mambo has a history of anovulatory reproductive cycles. We therefore teamed up with Cincinnati Zoo's Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) in 2012 primarily with Dr. Monica Stoops. For about the first year we focused on tracking her progesterone via blood and transrectal ultrasounds to track follicular development on her ovaries. We found she would develop follicles however they would regress before they would ovulate. She was prescribed a hormonal treatment involving a progesterone injection followed by administration of GnRH once a follicle was ready. We have performed eight artificial inseminations on her including the opening of her intact hymen. She was pregnant for the first time last year, however her progesterone dropped and she reabsorbed the embryo around day 100. We are continuing procedures on her and are hopeful for the future.



Gloria has had 8 natural calves and in fact has numerous generations in the current population. Spike bred Gloria fairly quickly, however the 2010 pregnancy resulted in a stillbirth. She seemed to then have sporadic estrus cycles and Spike only bred her couple of other times without any confirmed pregnancies. We started monitoring her progesterone and follicles as well to see what the issue may be. To our surprise she was cycling monthly however we were not seeing any physical signs from her and minimal from Spike. An AI was performed on her one time in 2017 and it resulted in a successful pregnancy with an expected birth date from Memorial Day to end of June 2018. Our assisted reproduction research involved some in depth husbandry training with both of our females. Without this training we would not be where we are today. Some examples of these behaviors are becoming comfortable in the chute, blood draws from both front legs, transrectal and transabdominal ultrasounds, vaginal desensitization/palpation, IM injections in the neck area and the artificial insemination procedures. Just like any other new training behavior, we had some bumps in the road that we had to adjust to. In addition, our females have opposite personalities so they had their own pace and acceptance that we had to respect. Our first AI took over 2.5 hours and today it takes us about 45 minutes.



Most of us know that the reproduction of white rhinos in captivity is minimal compared to the amount of facilities who have them. We rearranged our animals and we changed our diets but it still wasn't enough. We chose assisted reproduction in order to contribute to the captive population in North America along with hopefully adding the genetic diversity of our wild caught female.

## 2018 TERS

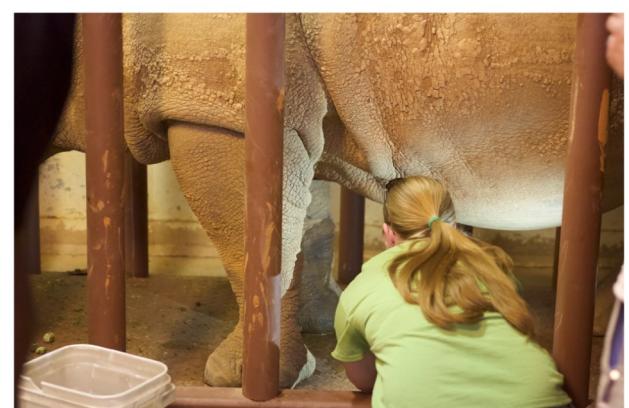
The first Training and Enrichment Regional Seminar (TERS) was held at the North Carolina Zoo on May 4th. Five keepers representing Virginia Zoo, Denver Zoo, Zoo Knoxville, and White Oak Conservation Center, spent the day working side by side with the North Carolina Zoo's Plains department staff.



In 2006 the North Carolina Zoo expanded the elephant habitat and moved the SWR herd onto the Watani Plains where they have 40 acres of natural pasture to share with the antelope in an attempt to increase breeding. Although we have yet to produce a calf, our efforts to do so have created an incredible crash of calm and accommodating rhinos. Hosting the first TERS was a great opportunity for us to share our stories with all the trials and triumphs along the way. I'd like to thank everyone who came to visit us, and my support team that helped make it happen.



We started the morning with a few lessons from Susan Freeman's Behavior Works website that have inspired the way NC Zoo keepers work through training with our herd of 2.5 SWR. From there we traveled to our "E/R barn" where we work with our breeding herd on habitat. Natalie rhino demonstrated how we conditioned the rhinos to wear a sling as a precaution for sedation procedures, and allowed the group to watch her teeth being cleaned with a water pick. Kit rhino modeled for us as we explained our vaccination protocol and blood collection techniques. Our experiences with assisted reproduction was a lengthy topic, and everyone there had the chance to practice a rectal palpation as well.





After lunch we went to our “Annex barn” to meet Stanley (48) and Olivia (50) with a discussion about husbandry and modifications for geriatric care. NC keepers were excited to hear tales of Dolly and Polly, two rhinos at Zoo Knoxville also at 50 years old! From there we loaded the back of the truck and went out to see the rest of our breeding herd grazing among their antelope neighbors and show case some of our habitat design features. It was great to give a tour with people who understand the distinct personalities of each individual rhino and share stories of the big characters they care for back at their own zoos. I had a great time over the weekend and sincerely hope everyone else did too. Thanks for coming to visit the NC Zoo!



Members of the IRKA asked for more opportunities to meet with fellow keepers and have hands-on learning, and the Board of Directors listened. The concept of one day regional seminars hosted by a few zoos each year seemed the best answer. Participants are limited in number to allow for more depth in the conversation. This also allows hosting facilities a lot of flexibility in what they may want to feature because you can move a smaller group more easily. As long as management is supportive and informed, a TERS can be developed and implemented by just a handful of keepers. With the diversity of species, habitat design, and husbandry practices every zoo has something to share about their training and enrichment programs. If you and your zoo might be interested in creating a TERS day, please let us know and contact any of our Board members.



# RHINO KEEPERS WORKSHOP

**7<sup>TH</sup> AND 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2018**  
**FOTA WILDLIFE PARK, CORK**

Join us at Fota Wildlife Park in Cork, Ireland for this two day workshop covering the training and husbandry of all species of Rhino. This will include a facility tour and practical session, as well as the chance to network with other Rhino keepers from across Britain and Ireland.

There is also an optional evening event on 7<sup>th</sup> July.

Book now for £40 for ABWAK members or £80 for non-members at [www.abwak.org](http://www.abwak.org) (speakers are free to attend). For more information on this workshop contact Vicky Snook on [victoriasnook@ymail.com](mailto:victoriasnook@ymail.com). Don't forget, ABWAK offer workshop grants to help fund attendance – see the members' area of the website for applications.



Behind the  
scenes tour

Practical  
session

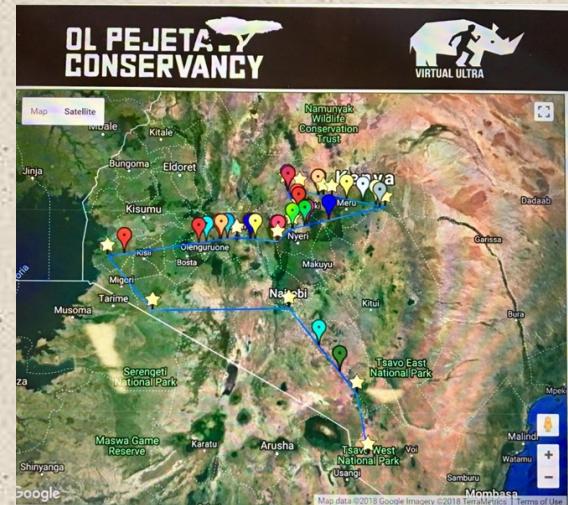
Member  
discount

Workshop  
grant  
available for  
professional  
ABWAK  
members

**BOOK NOW**  
**ABWAK.ORG**

## Virtual Run For Rhino Conservation By Sara Wunder Steward

In March of 2017, I had the opportunity to take what I would consider, a life-changing trip with family & friends to Kenya. Like many rhino keepers my dream was to see a rhino in their natural environment just being...well a rhino! We visited 4 different conservancies & parks over the span of 2 weeks & I was lucky enough to see many rhinos- 57 to be exact! One of those rhinos was Sudan, the world's last male Northern white rhino at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy. If truth be told, I had mixed feelings about meeting Sudan due to the debate that surrounds this subspecies fate. Sudan was supposed to be the star of the tour & I was appreciative to meet him, but I was honestly completely humbled to meet Sudan's rangers.



Now I'm not sure what I was personally expecting from this experience, but I do know that the only thing I saw & felt from the rangers was devotion. Sudan's rangers knew he was a valuable animal- a "celebrity" in his own right, but to them he was just Sudan, their boy, their rhino. These rangers were just like the many zookeepers I have met throughout the years, but I felt that they had much more at stake than most of us. These rangers were extraordinary and Sudan's were the first of many I would meet throughout my trip. I met rangers who patrolled countless acres generally on foot- some with little to no weapons to protect themselves and others who appeared to be outfitted for war. These gentlemen spend several weeks away from their family & friends while on duty and often they are working alone for hours. When they are at home they take the time to educate others in their village the importance of rhinos & conservation. I had the fortune to visit one of the rangers' village & it was wonderful to see just how proud they are of him.



For many of them the tourism from these animals have provided jobs, schools, & health clinics that may not otherwise be accessible. These rangers are really making a difference in both the species & their own families future. In fact, some conservationists say rhino rangers may be the ONLY thing that is really making an impact in the war against rhino poaching! That's why I have decided to join the 'For Rangers Ol Pejeta Virtual Run'.

My goal is to raise \$1,000+ for the rangers in Kenya by running/walking the entire distance between all of Kenya's rhino conservancies & parks within 1 year- that's 774 miles! The funds raised will go towards providing rangers in Kenya with the equipment they need in order to continue the crucial work they do in conserving wildlife. I started on February 1<sup>st</sup> & as of May 31<sup>st</sup> I have completed 392 miles & I have raised \$406. That means I am officially at the half way mark & I have 382 miles left to go. Thus far, I have already virtually run through Ol Jogi, the Borana Conservancy, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, & the Meru National Park. On March 20th, 2018 almost exactly 1 year from when I met him, Sudan passed away. I can empathize with Sudan's rangers & the overwhelming grief they must be feeling after caring for him for so long. This race & fundraiser has become even more meaningful to me as I truly want to give back to those rangers for all that they do. Please donate to the Rangers at

<https://donate.olpejetaconservancy.org/fundraisers/sarasteward-virtualultramarathon>.

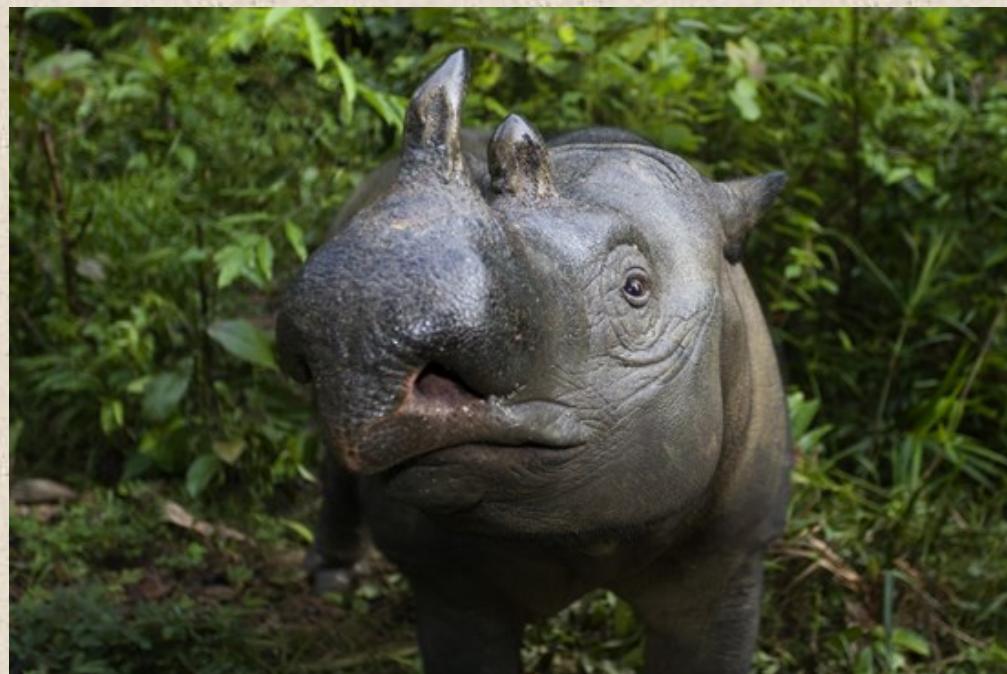
Thank you for your support! For more information about the Virtual Ultra, For Rangers or Ol Pejeta Conservancy, please get in touch with [virtualultra@olpejetaconservancy.org](mailto:virtualultra@olpejetaconservancy.org).

@Laszlo Szilyagi



## Conservation Corner

Of the five living rhino species, three – the black, Sumatran and Javan rhinos – are classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The Red List is maintained by IUCN, the World Conservation Union. “IUCN” stands for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the world’s first global environmental organization, founded in 1948. The world’s oldest and largest global environmental network, IUCN is a democratic membership union with more than 1,000 government and NGO member organizations, and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists and experts in some 160 countries. IUCN’s work is supported by more than 1,000 professional staff in 60 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world. IUCN’s headquarters are located in Gland, near Geneva, in Switzerland.

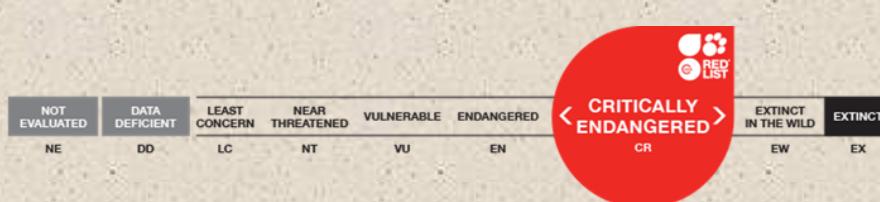


*Sumatra Rhino*

Critically Endangered is the most threatened conservation status assigned by IUCN to a species that still exists in the wild. Decreasing levels of threat are assigned to species classified as Endangered, Vulnerable, Near Threatened and Least Concern. Extinct in the Wild means that only captive populations remain, and Extinct, well ... that's obviously the end of the line. When a species is classified as Critically Endangered, the experts are telling us that it faces an extremely high risk of extinction. Key to this assessment is the status of the species' remaining populations – their sizes, trends, extent of occurrence, degrees of fragmentation, numbers of locations, and numbers of mature individuals – all of which factor into the threat equation.

Category of threat is assigned based on more than just population numbers. The IUCN Categories of Threat were first developed and tested in the early 1990s, and the final criteria under which species are evaluated was adopted in 1994. A number of factors can be used to determine level of threat, including: a) Declining Population; b) Small Distribution and two criteria pertaining to population decline, fluctuation, or fragmentation; c) a small Population Size and a population decline; d) a very small population; or e) a quantitative analysis such as a Population Viability Analysis that demonstrates

a very high probability of extinction.



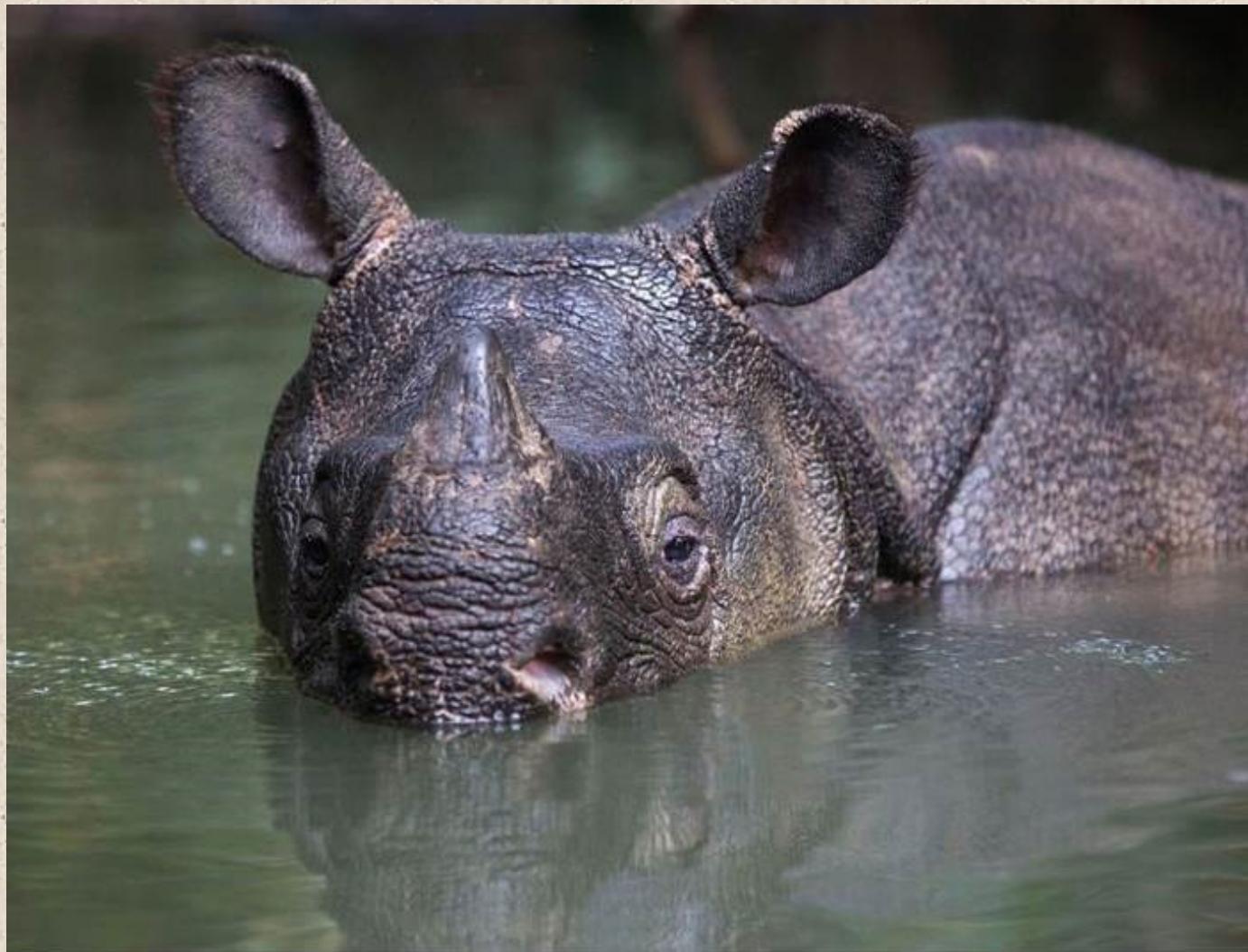


Photo by Steven Belcher

If we take a closer look at the three Critically Endangered rhino species, we see stories that are somewhat different but have the unfortunate potential of similar endings if conservation actions aren't successful. Black rhinos currently number around 5,000 animals and occur in nine African countries. The population, however, has undergone an observed decline of more than 80% in recent generations, which gives serious cause for concern. The same criteria hold true for the Sumatran rhino, but there are two important differences. First, the estimated world population of Sumatran rhinos is now fewer than 100, and no sub-population contains more than 50 mature individuals. The Javan rhino's situation is different as well. Its total population is well below the 250 threshold, but appears to have remained stable in recent decades. Unfortunately, only a single population of between 63 and 67 animals now exists, it likely includes less than 50 mature individuals, and there are no Javan rhinos in captivity anywhere in the world.

With the world's attention heavily focused on the African rhino poaching crisis – as it should be – we also must not lose sight of ongoing threats to species like the Sumatran and Javan rhinos, whose situations we refer to as being “under the radar”. Their numbers are orders of magnitude fewer than even the most endangered of the African rhinos, yet we're reasonably certain that many people – maybe most – are not even aware that these Asian rhino species exist.

## June Correspondence

### Births:

Port Lympne: Female black rhino  
Fossil Rim: Female white rhino  
White Oak: 3 whites rhinos  
Gulf Breeze Zoo: Female white rhino  
Chester: Male GOH rhino



### Transfers:

Fort Worth zoo welcomes Southern black rhino "Travis" from Tanganyika  
Kansas city zoo received Eastern black rhino male "Ruka" & female "Zuri" from The Oregon Zoo

Woodland Park Zoo opened a brand new GOH exhibit. They received a male GOH rhino "Glenn" from The Wilds and male GOH rhino "Taj" from San Diego Zoo Safari Park.

Toledo Zoo received a male GOH rhino "Aashish" from The Wilds.

Henry Doorly Zoo opened a brand new GOH exhibit.

## New and Renewing Members

Jonathan Moss	Erica Wiebe	Katherine Richter
Susan Hoss	Lexi Buchanan	Jason Strohkorb
Tess Stevens	Hennie Erwee	Susan Brace
Alissa Gottfreid	Lisa Fitzgerald	Dina Corrales
Diana Villafuerte	Jami Guernsey	Muhindo Nicholas
Dorothy Forman	Jennifer Sloat	Zulfi Arsan
Daniel Dembiec	Angela Binney	Vickie Steele
Jack Hetherington	Lindsey Kocincki	Jason Faessler
Ross Anthold	Robert Olmstead	Paige McNickle
Celia Falzone	Charles Moxley	Christy Nitz
Sarah Cassin	David Backus	Sean Ramsdell
Stephanie Reid	Deserrai Buunk	Tim President
David Rice	Tina Fess	Clarice Brewer
Lynn Rice	Kees Rookmaaker	Brian Hackett
Amanda Siegel	Paul Johnson	Yaraila Rodriguez
Lisa Moore	Amy Toman	Lara Metrione
Selenia Murillo	Courtney Lewno	Hayley Schuetz
Sara Steward	Kenneth Mackey	Brandon Speeg
Daniel Custar	Kim Anicito	

## Institutional Supporters

### Partners

The Supporting Institutional Membership is for any conservation organization , or zoological institution which supports rhino conservation in accordance with the objectives and purpose of the IRKA. These memberships are available for \$100, \$500 and \$2000. Why should your zoo be interested in joining on this level? If your institution contributes on the \$500 level then all rhino keepers membership fees at your zoo are waived! It is important that as the IRKA grows that we continue to garner the support from all facilities that are responsible for the protection and management of all species of rhinoceros. We would like to extend our appreciation for this substantial support to the following institutions, and hopefully we can add your zoo to this growing list! If you have questions about institutional memberships or any other questions please contact us at

[internationalrhinokeeperassoc@gmail.com](mailto:internationalrhinokeeperassoc@gmail.com).



### 2018 Sponsors at \$2,000 and Above



## 2018 Supporting Institutions

