

BRF, Inc. Benefit Raises Big Dollars for Kenyan Rhino Sanctuary

Winnetka, IL - The BRF, Inc. is proud to announce this year's annual fundraiser held September 25th at the Kenilworth Club, Kenilworth, IL was a great success, raising \$6,500 from over 100 people.

The benefit played host to Anna Merz, founder of the Lewa Downs Conservancy (formerly Ngare Seroi Rhino Sanctuary) who lectured on her vast experience with rhinos and her personal relationship with Samia, a black rhino she hand-raised who had been orphaned at birth.

Proceeds from the benefit were donated to Lewa Downs Conservancy to assist in daily upkeep of the facility's 45 rhinos and a host of other species who are guarded 24 hours a day behind 12 foot electric fences which encompass the nearly 60,000 acres of reserve.

Anna has devoted the past 15 years of her life to the rhino's survival. Her lecture focused on the immediate need for intervention on the part of all five species of rhino, some of which may disappear by the turn of the century. She also noted that the community needs to be apart of the formula for saving the rhino as well, if the village receives a benefit via tourist dollars and related jobs then a live rhino becomes more valuable in the long run. Her detailed account of what life was like raising Samia was incredible. The immense amount of behavioral information she



Karen Kane of the Rhino Trust, John Marcinek, Anna Merz, Maggie Heydt

gained will definitely benefit the species for years to come. Anna went on to describe the unfortunate death of both Samia and Samuel, her calf, one year ago due to a run in with her mate which chased them over a cliff in the middle of the night.



Guests at the benefit line up for Anna to sign copies of her new book!

Thank you!!

BRF, Inc. thanks the Rhino Trust for sponsoring Anna's N.A. Tour, Sidney & Natalie Ashmore, Arthur & Fairfield Duffola, Dr. Nan Schaffer, Julie Kreiner and Dima Elissa for the extensive work done on this year's planning committee.

Taiwan de-listed as Trafficker of Rhino, Tiger Parts

Washington (AP) September 11, 1996

Taiwan formally ended three years on a U.S. conservation blacklist and was welcomed into "the world community of those fighting to halt illegal trade" in rhinoceros horns and tiger parts. A major wildlife group endorsed the action.

Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt announced that an effective crackdown by Taiwan against trafficking in products from rhinos and tigers has prompted him to end its

The U.S. government cited both Taiwan and mainland China in September 1993 as traffickers in ivory and tiger bones and other parts valued for use in ornamental and in traditional Oriental medicines.

President Clinton followed in 1994 by ordering trade sanctions against Taiwan, banning U.S. imports of its fish and other wildlife products. The sanctions were lifted after a year of close consultation between U.S. officials continuing to monitor efforts by Taiwan. Both China and Taiwan remained on the list, however.

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designation under U.S. law as a country undermining international efforts to protect endangered species.

The World Wildlife Fund also praised Taiwan for "significant progress in stemming illegal trade through strengthened legislative and investigative measures."

WWF policy director Ginette Hemley urged in a statement that Taiwan "continue the progress it has begun and establish a permanent wildlife protection and trade enforcement program."

Meanwhile, Hemley added, "the United States must remain vigilant in its efforts to protect these imperiled species and must closely monitor the actions of other key nations - notably the Peoples Republic of China and South Korea."

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Taiwan de-Listed Cont'd...

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"We have achieved the outcome we had hoped for in 1994 when President Clinton, for the first time in history, imposed trade sanctions on Taiwan" in an endangered species case, Babbitt said. These sanctions have proven effective and we can now know that trade sanctions imposed on behalf of endangered species work."

Sanctions have not been ordered against China, which remains designated as a trafficker in tiger and rhino parts, officials said. Eileen Claussen, assistant secretary of state for oceans and environmental and scientific affairs and some experts of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service expect to discuss conservation issues during forthcoming visits to Beijing.

Wildlife experts say global tiger population has fallen 95% this century, to about 5,000 in the wild and rhinoceros 90% to fewer than 10,000.

Japan, another country cited by the United States under the 132-nation Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, has halted trade in sea turtles to which Washington objected, said Interior Department spokeswoman Stephanie Hanna.



White Rhino eating an apple! Open Wide

Spotting Rhinos (no, not spotted rhinos!)

"Look down there!" said Hari, our guide, pointing to a pawprint in the soft mud at the edge of the Narayani River. "Those are the tracks of a tiger!" What he was pointing to looked just like the pawprint of your average housecat, except it was about as big as your shoulder which made you wonder what they ate for break-

fast. It was about 7:00am at the Royal Chitwan National Park in southern Nepal. We had just taken a canoe ride upriver and now were beginning to walk back to our starting point via the thick grass and trails of the northern edge of the park. Along the way we were hoping to spot a number of animals including the elusive Royal Bengal Tiger, and of course, one of the 400 rhinos that inhabit this preserve of over 1400 square kilometers.

As we began walking Hari gave us instructions on how to run from rhino as did the 3 other guides with their crew. Apparently their eyesight is poor and the trick is to run zigzags. With this added bit of tension Hari stopped us and cupped a hand to his ear. Deep in the dense, tall grass we could hear something very large pulling up and chewing the dry grass and taking very slow steps. As quietly as 20 tourist can we made our way into the grass. Kati, a tall German girl who was part of my group, pointed into the brush. "There it is!" she said but all I could see was thick beige grass. "All you can see is kind of a shadow" she told me. Sure enough, after staring hard I could make out a vague greyish blur behind

all that beige and I had indeed seen my rhino!

As we made our way deeper into the grass there was a sudden commotion. Something very large was starting to run and within moments there so were 20 tourists. As we ran in zigzags falling hopelessly into one another I glanced back through

bugged eyes and saw Hari standing placidly where he was. I stopped and then realized the only stampede that was going on was a stampede of people. The rhino, of course had run the OTHER way! So much for not disturbing the wildlife.

Upon regrouping we made our way along the edge of the grassy plain. After another 10 or 15 minutes we again heard the sound of a rhino in the grass and began quietly searching for it. Having learned a valuable lesson we made our ways to nearby trees and observed from the safety and enhanced viewing height of the branches. Eventually, the majestic animal came to within about 30 yards of us where we could see it perfectly. As luck would have it we were soon joined by a second rhinoceros and

were able to watch for about 45 minutes. The trick, one learns, is to lean way out holding onto the tree branch with one hand while balancing your expensive camera with the other hand all the while avoiding falling off the tree directly into the path of what would be a very startled, very large horned animal; bad eyesight or not!

Story by Dr. Al Stain

Royal Chitwan National Park

Information:

Southwest of Kathmandu

Best time of year to go:

Anytime except May through August monsoon season

How to get there:

Most people arrive Nepal via air into Kathmandu

In Kathmandu there are innumerable travel agents to sell you a package for 2 nights, 2 day packages all inclusive. These packages are nice in that all is arranged for you including being picked up at the "bus station" at Sauraha

Great Indian Rhino Threatened by Renewed Poaching

Geneva, Switzerland *World Wildlife Fund* - The greater one-horned rhinoceros faces a continuing poaching threat in India, where killing methods that include electrocution are being used, according to a Species in Danger Report released September 10, 1996 by TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring arm of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and IUCN-The World Conservation Union.

The report Under Siege: Poaching and Protection of Greater One-horned Rhinoceros in India says that only two viable populations of rhinos survive in India, with a total population of around 1,500 - approximately half that of tigers. The Javan rhino is believed to have become extinct in India as early as 1900, while the Sumatran rhino disappeared in about 1935.

Greater one-horned rhino numbers in India have been increasing steadily since the turn of the century, when only a handful remained. However, resurgence of poaching in the 1980's saw the loss of 483 rhinos.

Illegal killing accelerated again in the early 1990's, which resulted in a further loss of 209 rhinos (or 13.8 per cent of the country's total population) between 1990 and 1993.

The IUCN Species Survival Commission's Asian Rhino Specialist Group estimates that 31 Indian rhino were lost in 1994 and at least 35 in 1995. Poaching for horn has re-

duced the country's second largest population in Manas National Park from between 80 to 100, to only 12 today. Shooting remains the most common method of poaching rhinos in India and in 1995 the first

recorded incident involving a silencer was reported. Poachers also electrocute rhinos by dangling wires connected to high tension powerlines across rhino paths. Pit traps are also employed in areas of suitable terrain.

"The worse rhino crisis is now in Asia, where all three surviving species are endangered," said Elizabeth Kempf, Species Policy and Information Officer at WWF International. "Despite increased protection, the Sumatran rhino is still declining. The Indonesian Government itself says illegal killing of the rhino in Sumatra is 'uncontrollable' and 'overwhelming'. In 1995 between 390 to 540 Sumatran rhinos survived, but that number is believed to have dropped to between 250 & 450.

Rhino horn is used in traditional Oriental medicine. Horn from Asian rhinos is believed to be more potent and is far more valuable than horn from African rhinos. The new report identifies trading routes going from India through Butan, Nepal and Bangladesh, from where it is sent by air to markets in South East Asia.

Rhino Horn is NOT an Aphrodisiac

Western conservationists have often attributed the Chinese demand for rhino horn to supposed aphrodisiac properties. The penis of the rhino still has limited use as an aphrodisiac in Laos, Thailand, and India, and genital tonic pills are still on the market in China, but the horn is generally used as a fever-reducing remedy.

Scientists of the Swiss pharmaceutical firm, Hoffman-La Roche, have declared that they found that rhino horn has no effect on the human body, good or bad. Some Chinese scientists in Hong Kong published in medical journals that they found the horn did have some cooling effect on fever, but only in massive doses served to laboratory rats.

Rhino Linings USA Charges Forward in Fight to Save Endangered Black Rhino

Rhino Linings, the world's leading manufacturer of sprayed-on truck bed liners, is proud to announce their support of the Black Rhino Foundation.

"We feel strongly about protecting this endangered species that has represented our company so well for many years," says Lou Frank, Vice President of Marketing & Communications. "We know that along with providing protection for truck beds and hundreds of the specialized applications, protecting the endangered rhino helps preserve a balanced world for generations to come."

John Marcinek, Marketing Director of BRF, Inc. added, "From the moment we approached Rhino Linings, specifically, Jennifer Gifford, they were more than interested in getting behind our Foundation and supporting our efforts in one way or another.

With over 250 distributors around the world there exists a great potential for reaching thousands of people with the message of saving the rhino.

We decided on using our kids t-shirt, "The Last Dinosaur" as a vehicle with which both Rhino Linings and BRF, Inc. would benefit. We added the Rhino Linings USA logo on the back of the shirts which the distributors purchase for giveaways to people who buy their product. The promotion has been very successful to date.

We wish to thank Jennifer Gifford, & Lou Frank for their time & effort put into this project. We are off to a tremendous start!

Thank you!





1250 Cherry Street
Winnetka, IL 60093

**Eat a Cookie...
Save a Rhino!
Black
Rhino Cookies
an Excellent gift for
the holidays!!**

☞ Contact us at
BRFinc@aol.com

Membership Drive 1997!

It's that time of year! A lot of you became members last year at this time and your memberships will expire in December. Please renew your commitment to helping the rhinos for another year. Your support helps the Foundation in raising awareness with the general public and without mass support the government will think the issue of protecting endangered wildlife isn't important to the American people.

There is power in numbers! BRF, Inc. currently has over 500 people who have signed up saying, "YES!, I want to help the rhinos!" If each of you would sign on as a member or renew your membership, together as a group, we could raise over \$12,500. And all you need to do as

your part is donate \$25.00.

Our second anniversary is coming up in April, 1997. To date, the BRF, Inc. has donated \$5,000 directly to the Lewa Downs Conservancy in Isiolo, Kenya. Let's make a goal of donating another \$5,000 by the anniversary date and extend the support to the International Rhino Foundation as well as SOS Rhino.

☐ **YES**, count me in for the anniversary vision. Please accept my donation for:

\$ _____

Black Rhino Foundation

Safari to Kenya!

The Black Rhino Foundation, Inc. is planning a safari to Kenya in October 1997 and would like to hear from members interested in joining us for a trip of a lifetime. We will be visiting a number of sanctuaries and reserves including, Lewa Downs Conservancy to see rhinos and a whole assortment of wildlife. The 13 day trip will include all transportation, meals and guide fees and cost approximately \$3,600.00 per person.

If you are interested in joining us, please call by January 30, 1997 at the following #. 847-295-9690.

Thank you.