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Welcome to Rhino Review!

Welcome to The Rhino Trust! This is the beginning of an effort that we hope will mark a turning point in the tide of pessimism concerning the survival of one of earth's most incredible land mammals. After 60 million years of peaceful survival, some predict that we are facing the final decade of sharing life with the magnificent wild rhinoceros.

Let us not allow this doom and gloom to deter our commitment to save the rhino. Founded in 1993, The Rhino Trust was born out of the inspiration of one individual's resolve to prevent the extinction of Africa's black rhinoceros. Anna Merz has spent the last decade in this relentless effort, and the formation of The Rhino Trust will assist in her commitment. The sanctuary she initiated - The Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary - has protected both black and white rhinos, and has seen them reproduce and prosper. And the sanctuary itself has grown - from 5,000 to more than 64,000 acres.

Five species of rhinos survive worldwide, and all face varying degrees of pressure. Working in conjunction with other rhino protection groups, The Rhino Trust will focus its

efforts in directions we believe are critical if rhinos are to live into the next century.

HABITAT - We believe that protecting a species' habitat is crucial to its survival. Therefore, one of the Trust's primary goals is conservation through in-country habitat conservation. On-site sanctuaries prove to be a very successful option for saving native animals. A result of this, especially with large mammals like the rhino, is that the vast amount of habitat required insures that countless other species of animals and plants will also be protected. As has been the case at Ngare Sergoi, the 64,000 acres reserved for rhinos also protects a thriving arid thornscrub ecosystem replete with giraffe, elephant, kudu, cheetah, leopard, reptiles, over 200 species of birds and even subterranean communities of the bizarre naked mole rat (from which exhibits at U.S. zoos were created).

In addition to Ngare Sergoi, The Rhino Trust will support the Ujung Kulon National Park in Indonesia - home to the Javan rhino, and plans to expand its efforts to habitats for all five species of rhinos.

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Ngare Sergoi Protects Black, White Rhinos

Founded in 1983, the private Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary is a place often cited by conservationists when discussing rhino success stories.

Located just north of Isiolo, Kenya, Ngare Sergoi is perfect example of the often-heard quote "one person can make a difference."

That person is Anna Merz. A determined and dedicated conservationist, Anna has focused her life on saving the black rhinoceros from extinction. After returning to Kenya in 1976 and seeing the drastic decline in the rhino population, she decided to start a reserve. Not allowed to purchase land in Kenya, she turned to the Craig family, who owns and operates a 45,000-acre cattle ranch. Anna and the Craig family have created a remarkable reserve. Together with the Kenyan government and donations from supporters around the world, they have enclosed 64,000 acres, employed local people, purchased and translocated both black and white rhinos, and have seen the birth of several babies. Guards patrol the reserve, and no rhinos have been lost to poachers.

As a privately funded and ever expanding sanctuary, support of Ngare Sergoi is a priority of The Rhino Trust. Contributions to this highly successful reserve are always needed and appreciated.



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Assistance Needed to "Keep Anna Mobile"

Anyone who's been to Kenya knows what it's like to bump and bounce your way along the roads. It's miserable. And it's incredibly difficult on the vehicles, let alone your aching body. And that's on the paved roads!

Imagine what it's like, then, to drive along unpaved roads, day after day after day. Well that is exactly what Anna Merz and the staff at Ngare Sengoi must do in their relentless pursuit to protect the rhinos and other animals on the reserve. Small 4WD units don't stand much of a chance on those roads!

So to keep maintenance costs

rhino preservation, we're raising funds to retrofit a bigger vehicle - a Landrover - and to get the reserve's road grader back in operation.

The used Landrover needs a roof hatch, power steering and a host of small repairs. The grader will maintain the sanctuary's 240 miles of roads, which are critical to security.

Close to \$70,000 is needed to do the job. Any donation, no matter how small, will be sent directly to the reserve. Please help! Mark your donation "Keep Anna Mobile", and we'll see to it that our dear friend stays on the road to rhino preservation!



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Habitat conservation accomplishes other goals, too. Employing local workers develops community goodwill and reinforces the economic value of species survival. And, as in the case of Ngare Sengoi which allows for planned migratory routes for all species but rhinos, local villages and farms are protected from hungry elephants and other species.

EDUCATION - Critical to survival is understanding. Without knowledge and appreciation for species, especially those in grave danger of extinction, animals like the rhinoceros will not survive. This much-maligned creature is still a mystery to many, and basic facts about their lives, habits and habitats are clouded in myth and superstition. The Rhino Trust aims to develop an understanding about these marvelous creatures. Educational materials for general use and for schools, the quarterly newsletter *Rhino Review*, and supporting materials such as reprints of articles, book reviews, and a video lending library will aid in this endeavor. A special treat will be The Samia Club - a fun, learning group for kids only.

Working with schools and zoo educators, The Rhino Trust is looking to develop a Global Rhino Education Program. Initially created from existing video, photo and text materials, the program will be made

available to educators throughout the world.

FUNDRAISING - Money is the primary force in propelling the rhinoceros towards extinction. Mature black or white rhinos, for example, may fetch upwards of \$200,000 for the horns on their nose. With such high stakes, the price of survival is equally as high. Sanctuary needs, animal purchase and translocation, educational materials, research support, field equipment - all require substantial funds to keep the conservation effort moving forward.

The Rhino Trust will see that financial support is being used in a fruitful way. To lower the amount of cash needed for administration, volunteers assist in providing such services as graphic design, video editing, photography, printing, legal counseling and accounting. When possible, donations of products are also appreciated.

We hope that this first issue of *Rhino Review* provides you with a good understanding about our efforts. Quarterly issues will keep you updated on our efforts and work at the sanctuaries. Those who have donated to The Rhino Trust or to Anna Merz through this organization will receive our newsletter for one year. If you have not had the opportunity to donate, please use the form on page 3. Thank you for your support!!!



RHINO REVIEW

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Logo design - Maria Winner - Maria's design (see front page) will be used on The Rhino Trust's letterhead and other correspondence. Like the rhino itself, the design reflects the animal's bold lines, distinctive shape and fragile place on the earth.

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Ujung Kulon Park Shelters World's Last 47 Javan Rhinos

Closer to extinction than any other rhino, the Javan species has but one tiny area in which to live. Once ranging from northern India throughout Indochina, it was pushed into the far corner of Java, Indonesia by the turn of the century. The Rhino Trust will support Ujung Kulon in its efforts to save this endangered species. Rhino Trust board member Patty Peachtree, who is also the national coordinator for the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) Bowling for Rhinos Program, recently visited Ujung Kulon. The following is her report.

As a keeper, I have dedicated my life to caring for animals while our communities learn they are worth saving in the wild. It is every keeper's dream to see animals in the wild, and my dream was about to come true. In May, I visited Ujung Kulon National Park. My companions were Ron Tilson, Ph.D., - Conservation Director for the Minnesota Zoo and the person responsible for the zoo's "Adopt-A-Park" program which assists Ujung Kulon, two Minnesota Conservation Officers - there to establish working relationships and future projects, and my husband Herbie - our "unofficial" photographer. I was invited there to investigate the park's funding needs for AAZK, as zoos throughout the country participating in "Bowling for Rhinos" are raising money for this and other on-site conservation projects.

Ujung Kulon covers 300 square miles on the western tip of Java. A World Heritage Site, this isolated park is home to the rare Javan rhino and hundreds of other rare plants and animals. Beyond the risks of natural disaster, genetic problems and disease that all

small, isolated populations face, the threat of poaching looms large at Ujung Kulon (the Javan tiger was poached to extinction only 30 years ago).

The Javan rhino is very elusive; researchers have spend years in the field with only a few brief glimpses of them. No zoos exhibit these rare animals.

The Javan rhino has become the official symbol for the park. Efforts to protect this flagship species and its habitat will do much more than safeguard a living symbol of this wilderness, they will help preserve an incredibly diverse ecosystem. Over 40 mammal, 250 bird, 50 rare plant and several reptile and amphibian species inhabit the rainforests of Ujung Kulon. It is an extremely valuable conservation area, and first priority is given to the protection and preservation of everything that occurs naturally within the park.

I found a very primitive people in a young park with unlimited potential. In Sumatra, the island directly to the west, the Sumatran rhino population has

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Clinton Imposes Wildlife Sanctions

President Clinton in early April ordered sanctions against Taiwan for trafficking in endangered tiger and rhinoceros parts. While China was spared similar sanctions, Clinton said its case would be reviewed in December to determine if enough actions towards enforcement were being taken.

"The world must know that the United States will take strong actions to protect the earth's natural heritage," Clinton said.

Both countries were certified in September, 1992, meaning that they were put on notice that importation of all wildlife products may be banned. Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, though, asked then that trade sanctions be put on hold until it was determined how China and Taiwan were moving towards compliance.

Since then, China has made trade in rhino horn and tiger bone illegal, and destroyed some of its stockpiles. It also has directed information towards citizens and the media to discourage the trade. Clinton, however, said more progress in China is needed.

The sanctions against Taiwan will cover about \$22 million a year worth of snakeskin shoes, tropical fish, coral and shell jewelry and other wildlife products.

Conservation groups hailed the sanctions as an important and powerful step.

DONOR FORM

Donors to The Rhino Trust will receive Rhino Review on a quarterly basis. Donors also receive invitations to events, and discounts on books and merchandise offered by the Trust.

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The Rhino Trust
4045 N. Massachusetts Ave.
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_____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100

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_____ I can't donate financially, but may be able to help in ways. (Please tell us how you may be able to volunteer.)

The Rhino Trust is a non-profit organization. Your donation is deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Javan rhinos at Ujung Kulon

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dwindled from 500 to 150 over the last few years. Many fear poachers may soon turn to Java. Ujung Kulon park guards need to be trained to deal with poachers and guard posts must be built in strategic locations, such as on the beach, which will help to stop boats from entering. Guards also need communications, surveillance and survival gear. Close to \$15,000 is needed to build a fully-equipped guard post.

My visit allowed me to see how desperately money is needed there, and the vast potential it will bring to insure the survival of the Javan rhino. The relationship we began is extremely valuable. In cooperation with the park, the Minnesota Zoo and the Conservation Officers of America, we will work to fund three new guard posts, communications equipment, patrol boats and guard equipment.

After a grueling flight, we left Jakarta for park headquarters at Lebuan where we met with Park Chief Agoes and all the guards to discuss and prioritize needs. We then set off on a four-hour humpy ride through primitive villages and some of the prettiest countryside I have ever seen. The sites were so

brehtaking that we barely noticed that we had broken off the door handles in our attempts to stay in our seats! We arrived at Tamanjaya, a village and main guard post, at dusk. A dinner of rice, noodles, fish and SPAM would bring a close to each day for the next week. We would visit the park's five guard posts by boat and trekking through forest or along beaches.

At dawn we set off on a 38-foot wooden boat around the northern tip of Ujung Kulon to Peucang island, the site of another post. We were greeted by crab-eating macaques which lined the beach and watched our every move. The monkeys later raided our camp, stealing supplies and interrupting our dinner by leaping onto our plates and scattering the rice to a more acceptable location for them - the ground! As we watched the sun set over the rainforest, the rusa deer came out to feed, and soon we were among 100 deer and monkeys.

In the morning we trekked through lowland rain forest to Ciramea, the location of a future guard post overlooking a beach used by endangered green sea turtles. The next day we ventured up the Cigenyer River in dugout canoes. It is this type of habitat that the rhino visits, so we kept our eyes peeled as we

left the canoe for a hike. By the end of the walk, I was soaked with sweat, but my exhaustion was soon forgotten. We discovered day-old rhino tracks! They were from an adult and youngster, which could only mean one thing - the rhinos are still finding each other and breeding. Mud caked on trees indicated their height, and partially eaten vegetation was evidence of dinner. We considered ourselves lucky that day.

The rest of the trek took us through forest and coastline, visiting current and potential guard posts. At each post, we had the opportunity to speak with the guards about their problems and needs for the area. Our daily encounters included dense rain forests overfilled with animal songs, beautiful white coral or volcanic sand beaches, and wonderfully friendly people. Our journey brought us halfway around the world to see the home of one of the most endangered animals on earth. We met key people who would help us save these animals and their splendid habitat, and left with an overall excitement in the fact that people spanned by thousands of miles can work together to preserve a biological and ecological time capsule for future generations to enjoy.



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