



INTERNATIONAL
RHINO
FOUNDATION



ANNUAL REPORT | 2016

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LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

This year marks the International Rhino Foundation's 25th year of working to conserve the world's rhinos. Since 1991, we have protected and conserved rhinos in areas where they are most in need of attention and where conservation resources will have the greatest impact. We do this by maintaining a hard-working presence in rhino range countries, and by partnering with like-minded organizations to meet our mutual goals. All of us at the International Rhino Foundation passionately believe that our commitment will help save these magnificent creatures from extinction.

This report features some of the results of the connections and partnerships aimed at saving the world's rhinos. We are on a long, long journey together. Lines have been drawn, battles have been fought, and the war to save rhinos rages on. The International Rhino Foundation works in some of the most difficult places in the world, and we intend to go the distance. We don't shy away from a tough situation. We know you don't either.

There has been a myriad of challenges over the past 25 years, and the International Rhino Foundation has a good track record on two continents. We've established a new greater-one horned rhino population in Manas National Park in India, as well as a new black rhino population in Botswana's Okavango Delta. We saw the demise of the last wild population of northern white rhino in Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where despite investments of millions of dollars, we had to pull out when the volatile political situation made it unsafe for our staff to work there. Very sadly, the northern white rhino subspecies is now down to fewer than three animals, and is considered functionally extinct.

We firmly believe in maximizing options and minimizing future regrets for all rhinos. We need to tackle the challenges using multi-faceted approaches, including basics like 'boots on the ground' protection along with 'high tech' science. There is no easy answer – and, we can never let what transpired with the northern white rhino happen again.

We've made tremendous strides in Indonesia, where International Rhino Foundation-funded Rhino Protection Units continue to safeguard the last populations of Sumatran rhinos. This year, we celebrated the birth of the second calf at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. Beginning in 2007, we began consolidating the US-born and Sumatran population in Indonesia, which has paid off with the birth of these calves. While two births can't save the species, it is two more critically endangered Sumatran rhinos added to the approximately 100 left on Earth.

The Javan rhino population appears to have stabilized at around 60 animals. We've created roughly 100 new hectares of rhino-friendly habitat in the Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area that previously was unusable, and purchased camera traps that allow us to document the use of that area and the rest of the park by Javan rhinos.

In Africa, we've seen Zimbabwe's Lowveld move from holding 4 percent of the country's black rhinos in the early 1980s to holding 90 percent today. In addition to providing long-term core support to the Lowveld Rhino Trust, your generosity in supporting OPERATION: Stop Poaching Now has allowed us to distribute more than \$750,000 to fund anti-poaching activities in areas holding significant rhino populations in southern Africa. Every dollar we raise allows us to do more to support the brave men and women on the front lines of the poaching wars.



Despite the challenges, rhinos are better off in the areas where the International Rhino Foundation works than they would be without our presence. Over our 25 years, one message rings clear. We can't do it alone. The importance of working with like-minded, fiercely-committed people and organizations to meet the challenges can't be over-emphasized.

As we look ahead to our next 25 years, our success will come because you share our vision, at the heart of which is the belief that these magnificent species should endure for future generations, and that protecting rhinos ensures the survival of many other species that share their habitat, including people.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, thank you for your ongoing support of the International Rhino Foundation. The connection you feel to rhinos and the places in which they live creates real impact. We hope you'll continue to be inspired to support our work.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susie Ellis".

Susie Ellis, PhD
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Lukas".

John Lukas
President

STATE OF THE RHINO

JAVAN RHINO

(*RHINOCEROS SONDAICUS*)



CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

61-63

POPULATION POSSIBLY STABLE

The single largest threat to Javan rhinos is that the world's only population exists in one location, Indonesia's Ujung Kulon National Park, making it susceptible to catastrophic losses from disease or natural disaster. The population is also limited by available habitat. Yet despite these threats, the population is breeding; extensive camera trap data verified by the Ujung Kulon Park authorities and the IUCN Asian Rhino Specialist Group have confirmed the growth. Recently, suitable Javan rhino habitat was expanded through the creation and completion of the Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area – involving the removal of an invasive palm species that chokes out rhino food plants from the forest floor.

SUMATRAN RHINO

(*DICERORHINUS SUMATRENSIS*)



CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

<100

POPULATION DECREASING

Fewer than 100 Sumatran rhinos survive on Earth, with three small populations

on Sumatra in Bukit Barisan Selatan, Gunung Leuser, and Way Kambas National Parks, plus a handful of animals in central Kalimantan. Sumatran rhinos are being lost at a rapid rate – the species was extirpated from Malaysia within the past decade. Poaching for horn for use in traditional Asian medicine caused the initial decline of these species and still remains a threat. The threat from poaching is exacerbated by small population effects, human encroachment, the potential for catastrophic events, and invasive plant species. Priorities for the species include continued protection by anti-poaching units and capture and translocation of isolated animals to captive breeding facilities.

GREATER ONE-HORNED RHINO

(*RHINOCEROS UNICORNIS*)



VULNERABLE

>3,550

POPULATION SLOWLY INCREASING

Thanks to ongoing protection, the greater one-horned rhino population now numbers more than 3,550 animals in India and Nepal. Most of India's rhinos – more than 2,625 individuals -- are found in Kaziranga, Manas, and Orang National Parks, and the Pobitora Wildlife Reserve in Assam, with more than 280 individuals

in protected areas in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. There are also more than 640 greater one-horned rhinos in Nepal. Poaching remains a significant threat to Greater one-horned rhinos, particularly in Assam, although the number of rhinos lost to poaching has decreased annually for the past five years, thanks to intense protection.

BLACK RHINO

(*DICEROS BICORNIS*)



CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

5,042-5,455

POPULATION POSSIBLY STABLE

Black rhinos are at continued risk from poaching, particularly in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. Despite this, thanks to intensive anti-poaching efforts, black rhino numbers remain relatively stable as reproduction slightly offsets both natural mortality and poaching losses. The species occurs in nine countries: South Africa, Namibia, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Swaziland, and Botswana. The highest priorities for safeguarding this species are to bolster anti-poaching activities and to maintain intensive monitoring and active management of wild populations.

WHITE RHINO

(*CERATOTHERIUM SIMUM*)

NEAR THREATENED



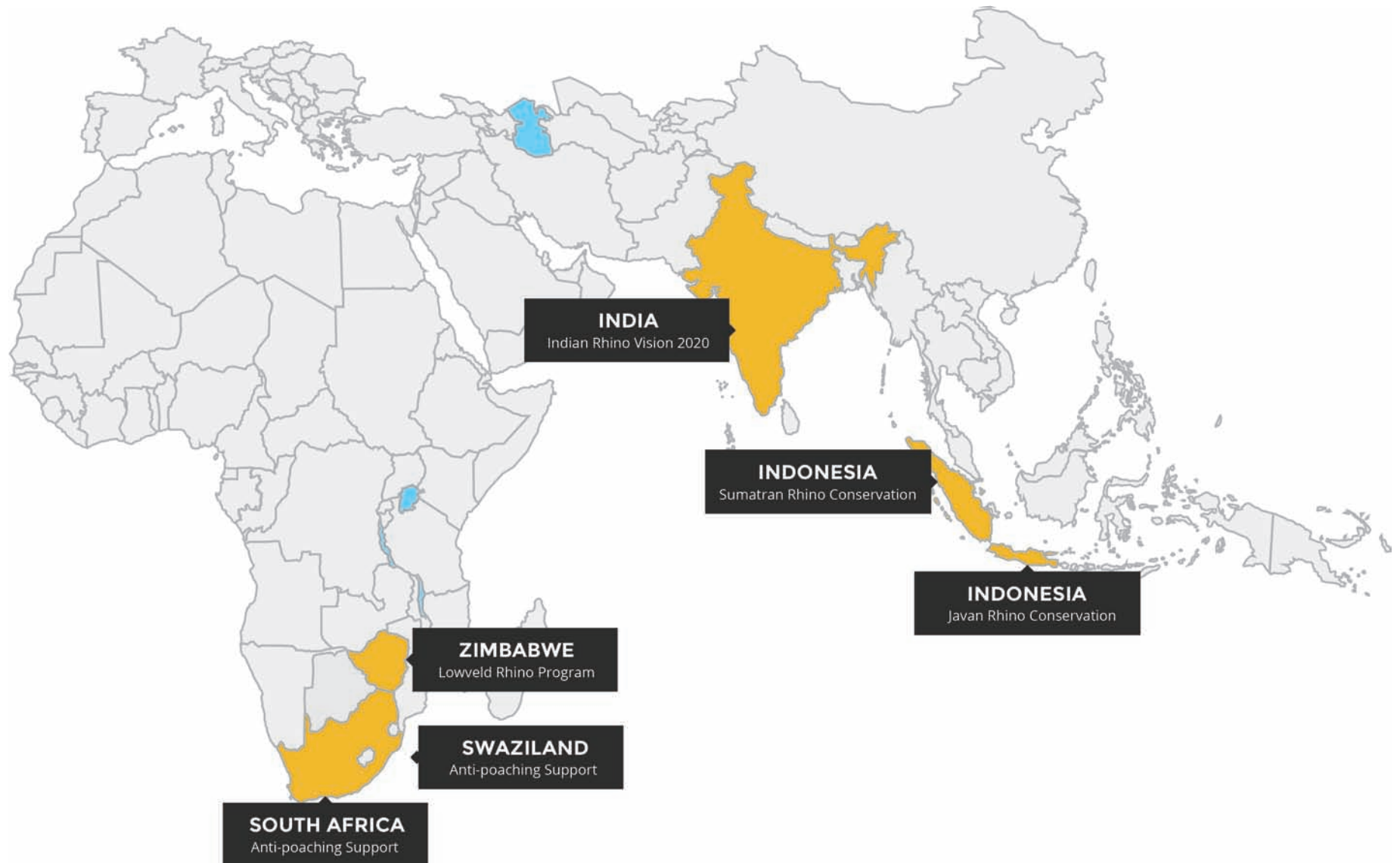
19,682-21,077

POPULATION POSSIBLY STABLE

After many years of slow growth, the white rhino population is now barely stable due to the poaching crisis. White rhinos occur in eight countries - South Africa, Namibia, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Swaziland, Uganda, and Kenya, with South Africa holding more than 90% of the world's population. The highest priority for ensuring this species' survival is to step up protection efforts, especially for the largest populations, and to increase international pressure on range country governments to enforce their wildlife crime laws.



WHERE IRF WORKS



HOW IRF WORKS

Throughout its 25-year history, the International Rhino Foundation has supported and managed rhino conservation projects in Africa and Asia. Our small, US-based staff works hard to make sure that every donation counts, **with more than 92 percent of contributions going directly to field programs**. We're proud of our 4-star rating this year for fiscal accountability and transparency from Charity Navigator. In addition to fiscal responsibility, IRF's core values - hard work, optimism, partnership, and passion - are at the heart of everything we do.

HARD WORK

Successful conservation takes hard, sometimes back-breaking work. Anti-poaching and monitoring teams on the ground give their all to make sure that their charges survive. In Zimbabwe, for example, Lowveld Rhino Trust trackers may walk for a week through thick, thorny brush to make sure a missing rhino is alive and well. In Indonesia, Rhino Protection Units carry 50-pound packs, containing all their food and supplies, for a minimum of 15 days straight, every month, through the dense rainforest. These men also brave dangers posed by many wild animals, including predators like tigers.

OPTIMISM

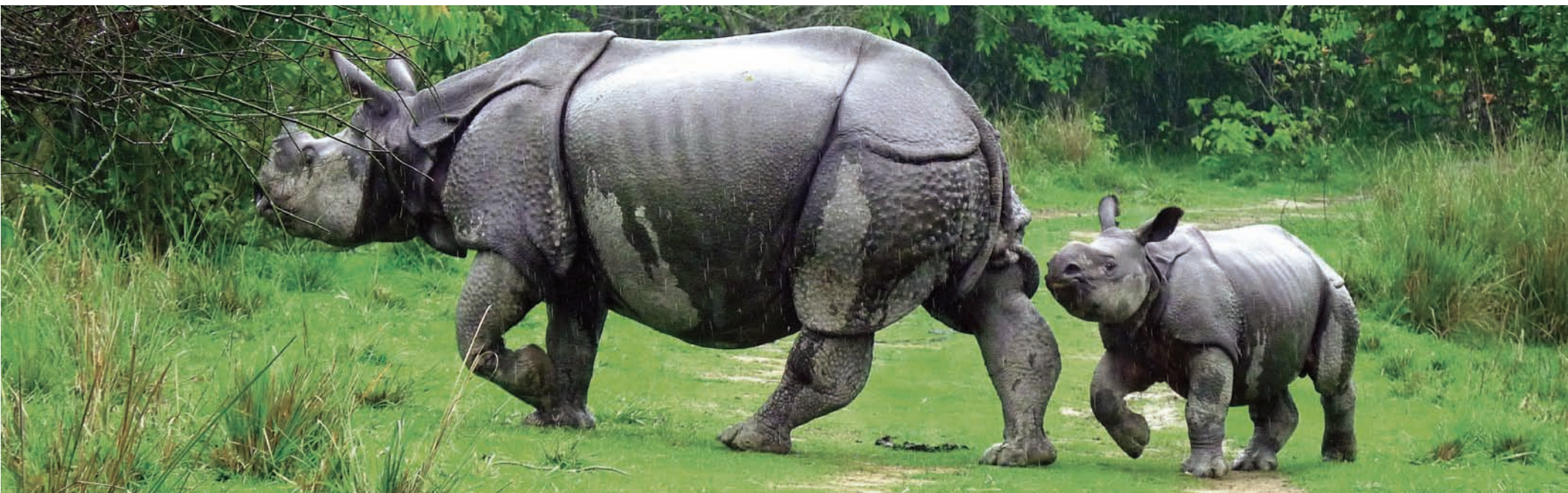
Our teams couldn't achieve what they do without being optimists at heart. Through good days and bad days, we believe that together, through hard work, partnership, passion, and careful investment of precious resources where they are most needed, we will ensure that rhinos survive for future generations.

PARTNERSHIP

IRF recognizes that there is more work to do to save rhinos than one person or organization can ever accomplish in a lifetime. Therefore, we partner with like-minded people and truly exceptional organizations to work together towards our mutual goal of saving rhinos. Every group with which we work has different strengths and something to offer – if we can build on those strengths, together we can get the job done.

PASSION

We love what we do. Period. All of us at IRF are passionate about rhinos, with a 25-year track record of helping them survive under some of the most difficult circumstances on Earth. We stand strong in our belief that our work makes a difference.



WORKING WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO PROTECT ZIMBABWE'S RHINOS

IRF's longest-running program in Africa is managed by the Lowveld Rhino Trust (LRT), our partner in southeastern Zimbabwe. The black rhino population in Zimbabwe's Lowveld has grown from 4% of the national total in 1990 to 90% at end of 2016 (about 8% of Africa's total).

The Lowveld Rhino Trust provides hands-on rhino protection and management in Save and Bubye Valley Conservancies, and management support in Malilangwe Conservancy. By tracking individual animals, the LRT ensures that the rhino population is safe, secure, and growing. Activities also include snare or bullet wound treatment, placing tracking transmitters, de-horning as a preventative measure to discourage poaching, and ear notching, which allows for individual rhino identification from a safe distance.

In 2016, the LRT rescued four rhino calves orphaned by poaching. Although one was unable to recover from a badly broken leg, the other three were treated and released back into lion-free areas on Bubye Valley. Five adult rhinos with bullet or snare injuries were also treated and monitored; all survived.

Rhino poaching continued to be serious in the Lowveld, with 28 rhinos killed in 2016, but losses were fewer than in 2015. Four different poaching gangs were intercepted and arrested in Save Valley Conservancy this year; they were released on bail and their court cases have not been concluded. Bubye Valley faced considerable poaching pressure in 2016 with multiple gangs operating in the area. Although several poachers were arrested, judges released them on bail and most went back to poaching.

To decrease poaching pressure, the LRT has created a community incentive program to encourage local communities to actively participate in rhino protection. Communities surrounding the Bubye and Save Valley Conservancies receive benefits linked to the rate of rhino population growth – this new program is very popular. This year, the LRT constructed a pre-fabricated community hall for the Mlelezi community. As part of its "Rhinos for Schools" program, LRT worked with 54 primary schools around Bubye Valley and 91 schools around Save Valley, delivering over 175,000 exercise books and 2,500 science textbooks, and hosting talks, film shows, and rhino quiz competitions.







FIGHTING POACHING IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

Driven by demand from growing markets in Vietnam and China, the poaching crisis in Africa continues. Well-equipped, highly-organized, and dangerous poaching networks killed at least 1,160 African rhinos in 2016. Since 2010, IRF has funded targeted projects to mitigate rhino poaching in the highest-priority locations in Southern Africa. These interventions include equipping and training rangers for rhino protection, working to strengthen relationships with local communities, and trying to stem demand for rhino horn in consumer countries.

GREAT FISH RIVER NATURE RESERVE, SOUTH AFRICA

The majestic Great Fish River Nature Reserve holds one of the continent's most significant south-central black rhino populations. IRF funded a new secure digital radio system in the reserve to enhance rangers' deployment tactics while also preventing sensitive information about rhinos' whereabouts from falling into poachers' hands. With our support, Great Fish is also building four new ranger posts in locations identified as poaching hotspots.

PHINDA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE, SOUTH AFRICA

In 2016, Phinda management decided to dehorn a significant proportion of its black and white rhinos, particularly those in higher risk areas. Following dehorning, poaching incursions dropped dramatically. With IRF funding, the reserve has hired 18 Community Field Rangers and strengthened coordinated anti-poaching responses among neighboring villages and reserves. Phinda is also enhancing security measures within the reserve and at its entry points, and continuing to operate anti-poaching units to coordinate rapid responses to poaching incursions.

STOPRHINOPOACHING.COM

IRF provides operational support to StopRhinoPoaching.com, a South African NGO that focuses on rangers, anti-poaching units, security, and managers – the people on the front lines that stand between the poachers and the rhinos. In addition to providing core support for StopRhinoPoaching.com, IRF supports Operation: Embrace, providing counseling for rangers who have been engaged in front-line encounters. The program also provides counseling for the families of rangers, who in addition to seeing husbands, wives, fathers, or mothers off to a dangerous job each and every day, are themselves often intimidated and physically threatened by poachers who sometimes live in the same communities.



SWAZILAND'S BIG GAME PARKS

The past few years have brought the worst drought Southern Africa has seen in recent memory. Rhinos were quite literally starving to death. IRF provided an emergency relief grant to Big Game Parks in Swaziland to deliver hay, alfalfa, and water to animals too weakened by the drought to be moved.

VIETNAM

IRF's partner in Vietnam, Education for Nature (ENV), works to decrease demand for rhino horn in Vietnam at all levels. Through public events, mass media (TV, radio, media articles, and internet), and consumer-targeted initiatives, ENV seeks to persuade Vietnamese consumers to stop using rhino horn by affirming that it does not have any medical value and that money spent to buy horn supports the killing of rhinos in other countries. ENV also works with Vietnamese law enforcement and the judiciary to ensure that rhino horn consumers and traders are punished to the fullest extent of the law.





PROTECTING JAVAN AND SUMATRAN RHINOS FROM EXTINCTION

Through our on-the-ground partner, Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI or the Rhino Foundation of Indonesia), IRF funds 25 Rhino Protection Units (RPUs), highly-trained, four-person anti-poaching teams that intensively patrol key areas within Indonesia's national parks.

Over the past year, YABI hired four additional units for Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, where 11 RPUs now safeguard the park. Another four new units were hired in Way Kambas National Park, where nine RPUs protect both the wild Sumatran rhinos in the park and guard the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary.

In Ujung Kulon National Park, five RPUs protect the world's only population of Javan rhinos – approximately 61 – 63 animals. The fifth unit in Ujung Kulon primarily patrols the recently-established Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area (JRSCA). Only about 40% of Ujung Kulon National Park is considered suitable habitat for Javan rhinos, and the park is believed to be close to carrying capacity. YABI's program of controlling the growth of the invasive Arenga palm in the JRSCA has successfully made room for nine new rhinos using this area.

In both Sumatra and Java, RPUs patrol and survey several thousand kilometers per year, both on foot and by boat, all the while monitoring rhino and other megavertebrates like tigers, elephants, and tapir, through direct sightings, and evidence of footprints, feces, wallows, and feeding. The RPUs also gather evidence of illegal activities, including dismantling snares for large and small mammals, breaking up traps for birds, and apprehending illegal fishers and loggers and those who illegally collect non-timber forest products. They also set managed fires to burn off old vegetation and create fresh browse for game animals such as sambar deer, and stop encroachers attempting to build hunting camps and to establish illegal, small agricultural plots within the parks.

Poaching and other illegal activities are ever-present threats in all three parks. Although the RPUs have successfully deterred any instances of rhino poaching for many years, they regularly encounter snares set for large mammals such as rhinos and tigers, encounter encroachment, illegal hunting and fishing, and forest theft.





INTRODUCING DELILAH

In the early hours of May 12, 2016, the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary team celebrated the birth of a new rhino calf, the female weighing a healthy 45 pounds. Indonesia's President Jokowi announced the calf's name: Delilah (named after the Biblical character as well as a Bahasa Indonesia word roughly translating into "Gift from God"). Mother Ratu previously gave birth to a male calf, Andatu, in 2012. Although this one birth does not save the species, it is one more Sumatran rhino on Earth – a small and critical step in saving the species from extinction.

There are nine Sumatran rhinos in captivity in the world: two non-reproductive animals in Sabah, Malaysia, and seven at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS) in Indonesia. The IRF built the SRS in 1996, and has since funded and co-managed the facility with YABI.

The SRS now is at capacity. Thanks to a generous anonymous donation of \$2 million dollars, we are in the process of doubling the size of the facility. Our vision is to see the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary become a Center of Excellence for Sumatran Rhino Propagation and Research.



A "BIG" BABY SHOWER

In preparation for Delilah's birth, the IRF launched an online "baby shower" to help raise funds to cover the costs of building and staffing a maternity pen at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. Items on Ratu's "baby registry" included baby food (Ratu was eating 75-100 pounds of food during her pregnancy!), medical supplies, a new closed-circuit television system that would allow keepers and vets to keep an eye on Ratu and the baby without disturbing them, and a new radio system to ensure the whole medical team was in touch throughout labor, delivery, and care.

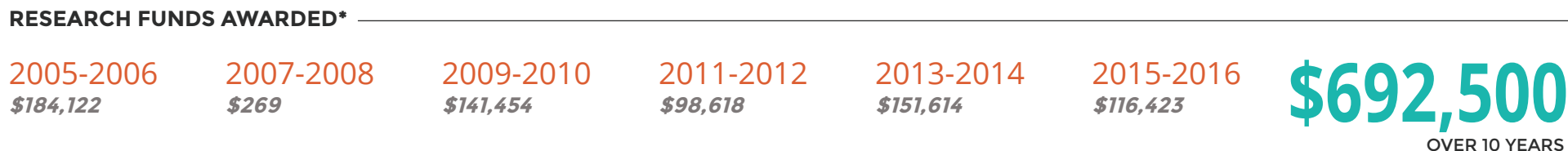
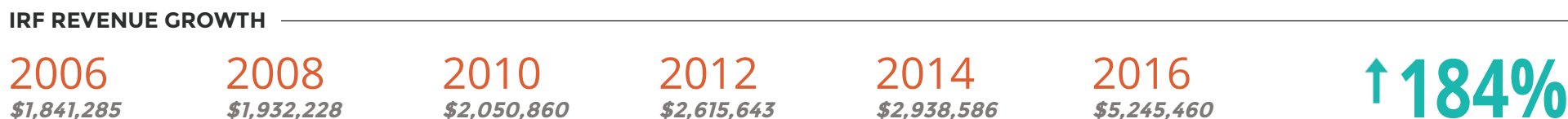
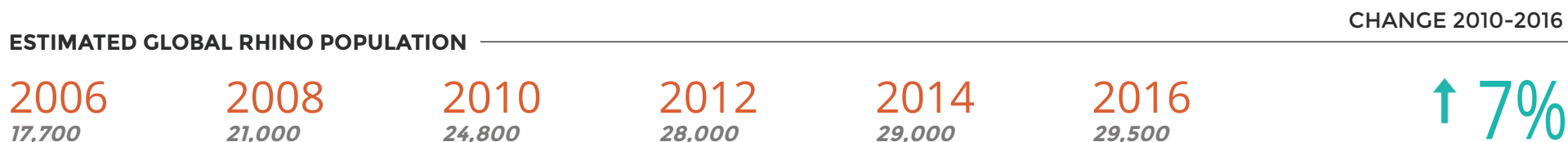
Over the course of the two-month campaign, 45 supporters hosted virtual baby showers, asking friends and family to support IRF. The campaign raised over \$7,000.00 for Delilah, who was born on May 12, 2016. This campaign was our first foray into peer-to-peer fundraising; based on its success, we hope to have more similar events in the future!



MAPPING OUR PROGRESS

Your support and belief in IRF's work has allowed us to conserve rhinos in Africa and Asia for more than 25 years. Despite the challenges, all five rhino species are in better shape than might be expected, thanks to our efforts and the work of our partners. We remain optimistic that together, through hard work, partnership, passion, and optimism, we will ensure that rhinos survive for future generations.

As an organization, IRF has grown and expanded over the past 10 years. Looking forward, we hope that you will continue to be inspired to invest in our work. We pledge to continue to use your gifts wisely – where they are most needed and where they will do the most good for these magnificent species.

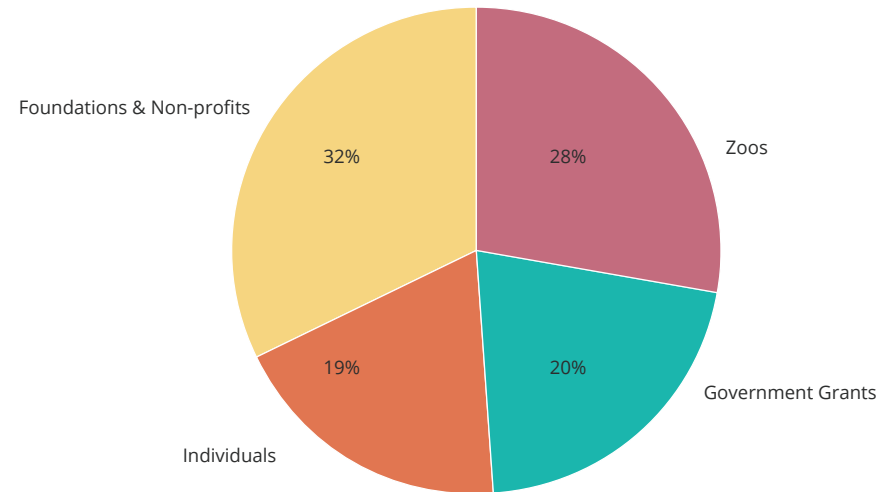


* IRF is the only source of dedicated funding for rhino conservation research in the world.
Research grants are funded on a 2-year cycle.

FINANCIALS

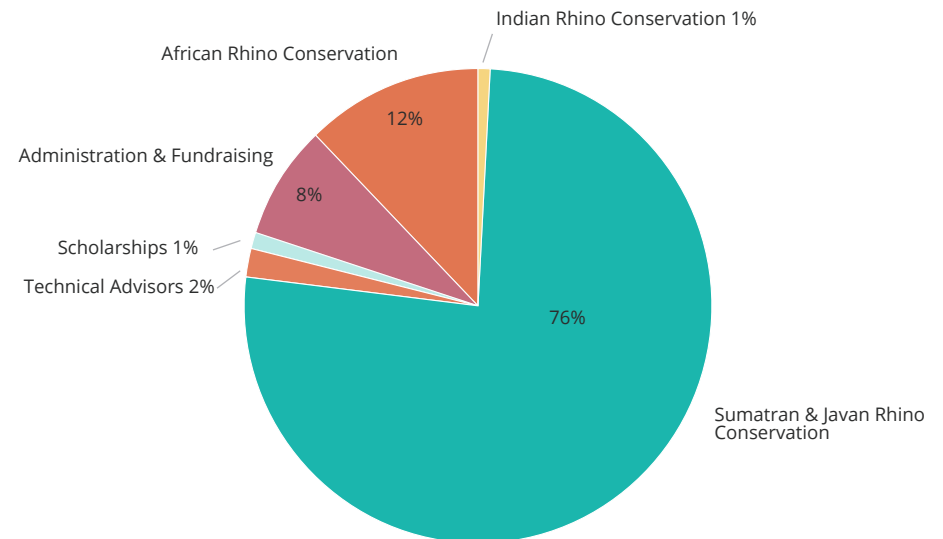
2016 REVENUE

Individuals	\$711,369	19%
Foundations & Non-profits	\$1,168,089	32%
Corporations	\$8,528	0%
Zoos	\$1,037,318	28%
Government Grants	\$749,997	20%
IRF Store	\$18,335	0%
Team Rhino	\$1,893	0%
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$3,695,529	
Accrued grants/pledges	\$1,548,914	
Interest Income	\$1,017	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$5,245,460	



2016 EXPENSES

African Rhino Conservation	\$553,372	12%
Zimbabwe Black Rhino Conservation	\$178,573	
Zimbabwe Black Rhino Special Projects	\$91,907	
Southern Black Rhino Sustainability Program	\$2,231	
Botswana Black Rhino Translocations	\$1,503	
Operation: Stop Rhino Poaching Now	\$279,158	
Indian Rhino Conservation	\$31,004	1%
Indian Rhino Vision 2020	\$31,004	
Sumatran & Javan Rhino Conservation	\$3,408,959	76%
Sumatran Rhino Conservation	\$3,141,664	
Javan Rhino Conservation	\$267,295	
Conservation Research	\$6,400	0%
Technical Advisors	\$82,102	2%
Scholarships	\$29,136	1%
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$4,110,973	
Administration & Fundraising	\$360,617	8%
Professional Services	\$36,085	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,507,675	



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IRF's work is only possible because of the generous support of our donors. Thank You!

\$500,000+

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US Fish & Wildlife Service

\$100,000-\$499,999

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