

– Plenary presentation: Rhino conservation –

Save the Rhinos, EAZA Rhino Campaign 2005/6

– Closing words at the campaign launch –

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I am sure from the presentations you have just heard you are already thinking of ways in which you can use the EAZA Rhino Campaign to raise awareness and funds for the conservation of rhinos in the wild. I am confident that we have a tremendously exciting package of projects which we will support. Through this, we will demonstrate very clearly to the many organisations involved, that zoos are committed to this work. By using expertise within our staff and with the support of the many millions of visitors to our zoos each year, we can make a significant impact now and in the future. As we have seen in previous campaigns, I am sure that a few zoos will continue to work with some of the projects over a longer period developing strong and effective partnerships for years to come.

I would like to thank in particular Save the Rhino International for their commitment to the campaign and to the many individuals in zoos and other organisations who have contributed to the Information Pack and to the process leading to the launch of the campaign. As ever, the EAZA Executive Office has been incredibly supportive, particularly Corinne Bos and Martijn Los, and I would like to thank members of the core group Kristina Tomosova, Friederike Von Houwald, Suzanne Toft, Jake Veasey and Cathy Dean for their incredible hard work in getting things ready for today's launch.