

EAZA Rhino Campaign 2005/6: Save the Rhinos – Presentation of the Info Pack –

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Introduction

The Rhino Campaign Info Pack is now ready. This pack is available with three different covers, one for each of the three species kept in European zoos: white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*), black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) and greater one-horned rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*). The list of contents is on three pages and is divided into six different sections. The first section concerns the campaign guidelines.

Douglas is the campaign mascot, thanks to Aardman Animations. Douglas' picture appears on the back of the Info Packs, but also on a poster, which also comes in three versions for each species kept in European zoos. The campaign's logo is available in five colours on the CD-ROM, in low and high resolution. These can be used for any Campaign documents.

Representatives

We would like to thank anyone who agreed in being on the list of representatives. As for the previous campaigns, the representatives can help with e.g. translations or anything else related to the campaign.

Education

In the education section, you will find some activities that have been developed to help you create your own activities based on rhinos. And of course this section will be regularly updated as you all may have some great ideas to share with the other members involved. The rhino cards have originally been developed for Zimbabwe. Their aim is to educate local communities but also make them realise the very important role they can play in the protection of endangered species. We are sure that you will find them very convenient for being adapted for use by your education department.

"Become a rhino ranger" is another activity that has been developed thanks to the African Rhino Specialist Group, who designed the notebooks used in the field by real rhino rangers. This activity aims to make kids, and even adults, realise how hard it can be to be a good rhino ranger and what should be observed when monitoring rhinos in the wild. If you have rhinos in your zoo, the activity can take place in front of the enclosure where the "rangers for a day" have to do their own observations. If you do not keep rhinos, then you still can use the first part of the activity. Then, you can print your own certificate and sell it to the new rangers for a euro or two for the Campaign. Thanks to Givskud zoo for "make your own Savannah" that aims to give kids a lot of fun while learning about other species sharing the rhinos' habitat. Kids will have to read, cut, paste and colour.

Also silhouettes of the three species of rhinos kept in Europe and footprints are available on the CD, as are many pictures. Unfortunately not all pictures that we have been provided with are on the CD as space is limited, but they will be available on the website in low resolution.

On the CD, you will also find an example of what kind of leaflet can be done. Feel free to use it if you are an English speaking zoo or aquarium, or translate it if the information suits you. On this example, you can see that we have a list of items that can be bought for the field, depending on the amount, ranging from €1-€506,000. And if you want to have your own, just use the templates you like and fill it with your own text.

Information on rhinos

Section three is on rhinos. From the evolution of the rhinoceros to their discovery, details on the five remaining species and their subspecies, rhinos in the web of life, a list of sympatric species to both African and Asian rhinos, the threats to their survival, the work of *in situ* rhino conservation projects with details on translocations, environmental education programmes, community based conservation, and an open debate on rhino hunting and legal trade in rhino horn. Thanks to everyone who contributed in making this section so interesting.

Projects

Then, section four is on the selected projects. We have received 53 projects requesting a total of €2.6 million. The campaign aims to raise €350,000. Deciding which of those 53 projects would end on the short list has been hard. The factors we considered as being important were for example if the projects would deliver an increase in rhino numbers, if they demonstrated strong leadership and links with local governmental or non governmental organisations, if they had been endorsed by the African or Asian Rhino Specialist Group, or whether they would build local capacity. We also considered the fact that the EAZA Rhino Campaign's grant would make a significant impact and if it would deliver value for money. I would like to attract your attention to the last three projects that focus on Sumatran and Javan rhinos (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) for project K, and on Sumatran rhinos (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) for projects L and M. Those species are not as well known as not kept in European zoos but really require our attention as only 300 Sumatran and 60 Javan rhinos are left.

There are good reasons to be involved in the campaign, even if your institution does not keep any rhinos. The first one is that rhinos are sympatric to many other species and you will find the list of those species in the pack and on the CD-ROM. The second reason is that the threats affecting rhinos also affect other species as detailed in the previous EAZA campaigns.

Also, we think we have got something for everyone. You can focus on a continent, you can focus on one of the five species, you can focus on what the projects are aiming for and finally, you can focus on an amount of money. From €5,550 for the rhino horn fingerprinting that will help in identifying the species and source location of a rhino horn, to the Indian rhino vision in Assam in India that aims, with a request of €92,000, to increase the total rhino population by 1,000 individuals in the next 15 years.

We are sure that we will all do a fantastic job in the coming 12 months and hopefully, we will be able to raise additional funds. The money would be used to support a further eight projects, or even more.

All those additional projects are African and five of them focus on black rhinos, the three remaining ones on both species. Some of you have strong relationships with some rhino programmes in Africa and Asia but for those that do not, we really hope that you will consider developing long-term links with some specific projects after the campaign. I will be your contact for any additional information you may need about any of them and will keep you regularly updated with info from the field. At the same time, I will keep the projects updated on how the campaign is going on.

Campaign's website

As usual, use the EAZA website for information about the campaign. But we are also having another website (Thanks to Tomasz Rusek and Jakub Cielak) especially designed for your visitors and the general public. The campaign website is in English but hopefully, with help from some of the representatives, we will be able to provide translations in other languages. So please, mention the website on any of your documents about the campaign and come back to us with information about your own campaign.

Campaign's shop

We have a wide range of items to be sold in your zoo shops. All the companies supplying merchandise for the campaign donate 10% of the sale to the EAZA Rhino Campaign. We hope that you will allow part of the profit from the sales to the campaign. Bushmen in Namibia make little rhinos and the wood used to create them has been planted and grown at the farm. Also available the Rhino Poo Planter with a mimosa seed, rhino t-shirts, rhino soft toys, rhino stationery sets and much more.