

the first rhino relocations. Efforts also are being made to involve local villages in relocation activities, with personnel being trained to undertake various aspects of the project. Experienced rhino relocation teams from Nepal are helping to train new teams from Kaziranga National Park and the Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary.



*Jorg Hess*

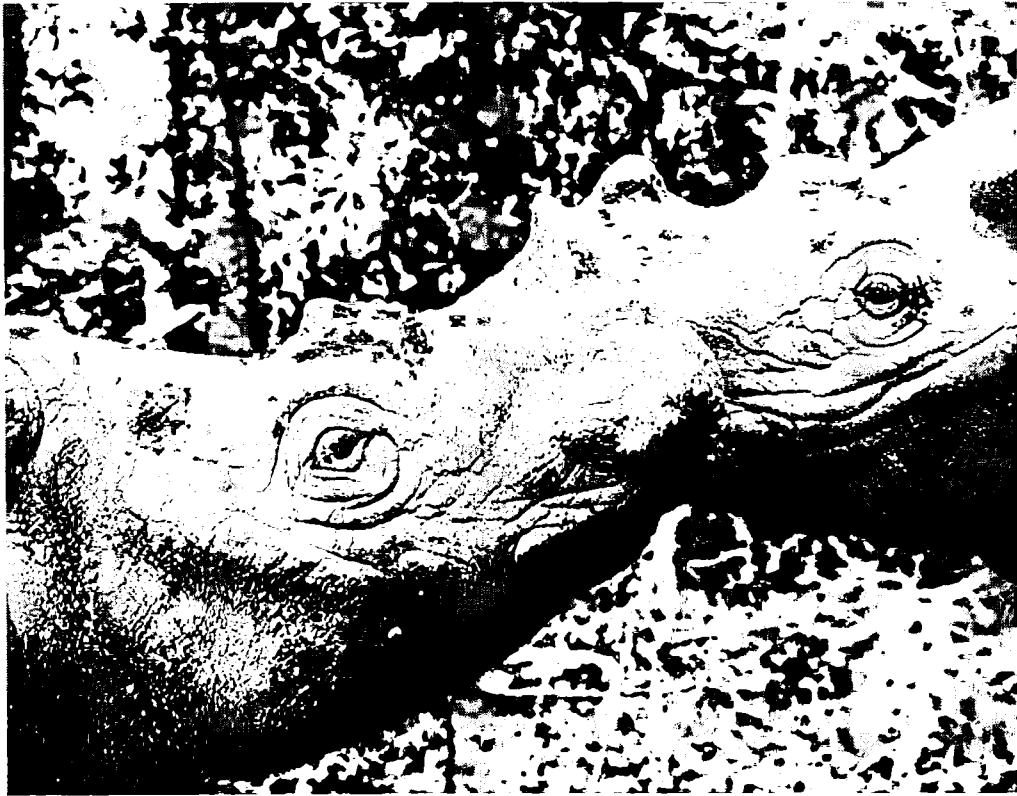
In all, a flurry of activity, involving many partners in the Indian Rhino Program, is well underway, funded by the North American Save the Rhinos Campaign.

Randy Rieches, Curator of Mammals  
San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park

## Sumatran Rhino Update

Early this year on Sumatra, six of the Rhino Protection Units (RPU) stationed in Bukit Barison Selatan National Park traveled to Kerinci Seblat National Park in an effort to trap the last rhinos – perhaps one or two - thought to exist in that area. The objective was to translocate any remaining animals from an area where poaching still constitutes a significant threat to Bukit Barison Selatan, where the rhino population is both substantial, stable, and perhaps even increasing, and no new traps set by poachers have been found in recent months. After surveying a large section of the park without finding fresh signs of rhino, however, the rescue attempt was abandoned and the RPU returned to their base camps.

This month, two senior Indonesian RPU rangers will travel to Sabah, Malaysia to work with SOS Rhino personnel, attempting to upgrade the effectiveness of RPUs currently operating in the Tabin Wildlife Reserve and to improve monitoring of the resident rhino population. Then, in July, a team of WWF and Sabah Wildlife Department RPUs from Danum Valley will travel to Way Kambas National Park, Indonesia, for two-weeks of training. These exchanges and training will lead to more consistent and reliable information regarding the status of wild populations and poaching in both countries.



*Nico Van Strien*

At the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas, two young female rhinos are settling in well after having wandered into villages outside the protected area. Both females appear to be prime breeding age and there is hope that they soon will be mated with the sanctuary's resident male. A team of US scientists, veterinarians, and animal staff will visit the site in July and join with sanctuary staff on a wildlife disease study in the Way Kambas area. They also plan to discuss pending rhino imports/exports between Indonesia and US Zoos, tentatively scheduled to be undertaken by the end of the year. These exchanges are critical to the success of the captive breeding effort.

At the Cincinnati Zoo, a third pregnancy has been confirmed for the only proven breeding pair of Sumatran rhinos in captivity. The pregnancy appears to be progressing well, with the female expected to give birth to her third calf in April 2007.

**Terri Roth, Vice President for Animal Science  
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