



APRIL 2006

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

Project J

Conservation of rhino in India and strategy framework to reduce rhino poaching in range countries

Assam, India

The project entitled Conservation of Great Indian One Horned Rhino in Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam, India has been completed successfully by the Rufford Small Grant Awardees, Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar of Aaranyak. Under this project a series of community orientation was made around Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary of Assam that harbours the highest density of Greater One Horned Rhinos in its distribution range in India and Nepal. Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary (WLS) was only 16 sq km where in 1999 about 76 rhinos were recorded that revealed a rhino density of about 4.75 per sq km, as against 3.60 per sq km in Kaziranga National Park and 1.15 per sq km in Orang National Park of Assam where rhinos are found.

A GIS based map has been produced out of the project work that pin points the straying route of rhinos outside of the Pabitora WLS which was one of the major output expected from this project. The map has been made based on intense field visit and interactions with the local villagers and forest staff. The output has been verified and the final version of the map has been prepared as shown below. The map is now assisting the forest staff to deploy their guard outside the WLS to stop any poaching chances. The map has become an useful tool to the forest managers.

The study found couple of information of rhino moving from Pabitora WLS to Orang National Park. Based on the information received from the field survey, the following map has been produced. This mapping was done in October-November 2005.

For further information about the project please contact Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, Ph.D.Aaranyak, 50, Samanwoy Path, Survey, Guwahati-781028, Assam, INDIA, bibhab1@sancharnet.in

FUNDRAISING

More zoos support the Campaign

We have received some more donations (in Euros):

Zoo: Vienna Zoo, Austria, www.zoovienna.at, 1800

School: King's House School, U.K., www.kingshouse.richmond.sch.uk, 867

Individual: P.A. Flannery, U.K., 72

NEWS FROM THE ZOOS

Activities and Material

News about activities and materials from participating zoos has been published on the News section of the Campaign website:

<http://www.rhinocampaign.net>

More details can also be found on the Campaign's section of the EAZA website:

<http://www.eaza.net>

NORTH AMERICAN SAVE THE RHINOS CAMPAIGN

Julie Dunn

The North American Save the Rhinos Campaign is raising \$850,000 in new funds to match \$1,150,000 already pledged for rhino conservation. The goal is to raise public awareness and fund field programs coordinated by IRF in Africa and Asia that will ultimately double the number of critically-endangered Black, Indian, and Sumatran rhino populations in select protected habitats in the wild within 10 years. These programs counteract poaching, give triage care saving lives of injured rhinos, and expand rhino populations and ranges. Elephants, tigers and tapirs and other species that share the rhino's habitat also benefit. IRF partners with the Rhino Advisory Group/Species Survival Plans (RAG/SSP) of the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) to identify, rank, and fund rhino conservation projects in the field. The North American and EAZA Campaigns have a number of projects in common. IRF and the RAG/SSP lead the North American Save the Rhinos Campaign together with Ecko Un! Ltd., an urban wear clothing company. The Campaign seeks 100% involvement from the about 90 North American (U.S., Canadian & Mexican) zoos holding rhinos and over 100 U.S. corporations use the rhino image. So far 33 North American zoos have contributed or pledged – including 14 that had not contributed to IRF programs before. Many zoos are making multi-year commitments.

www.rhinos-irf/savetherhinos

CAMPAIGN MERCHANDISE

Several commercial companies have prepared special Save the Rhinos campaign merchandise that can be sold in your zoo shops. Please have a look at the online Save the Rhinos shop on the EAZA website (www.eaza.net/rhino/shop.html) to see the latest product sheets and order forms.

MEETING

On the first of June 2006, Save the Rhino International will be organising the Rhino Mayday in conjunction with ZSL and BIAZA. Nick Lindsay, from ZSL, chair of the EAZA Rhino Campaign, will also chair this new Rhino Mayday. All the money raised will go to the Rhino Campaign.

The Rhino Mayday aims to present Rhinos and Rhino conservation to specialists, zoo staff as members of the general public. We particularly want to focus on the projects selected for the Campaign and hope many of the Campaign's coordinators will make a presentation about their rhino work this day.

The Mayday will take place at the Zoological Society of London's Huxley Conference Theatre in Regent's Park, Central London. Whether you are working in a zoo, a conservation organisation or just have an interest in Rhino conservation, do join us for an excellent event.

For booking, programme and more information, please go to the Events' section of the Save the Rhino website: www.savetherhino.org or contact

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FUNDRAISING

Donate online:

Go to <http://www.justgiving.com/savetherhinos>

Then simply use your credit card to donate.

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To unsubscribe visit the website at <http://www.rhinocampaign.net> and follow the link "Newsletter".