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Editorial Policy

Asian Rhinos intends to serve primarily as a source of information about new developments in the conservation efforts for the three species of Asian rhinos, both *in situ* and *ex situ*. We will include: reports about the activities of the AsRSG and about its meetings; announcements of future events; notification of funding opportunities; information on trade issues; news about rhino populations and programs in the range states and in captivity; and selected items about African rhinos that we consider particularly pertinent to Asian rhino conservation. *Asian Rhinos* will provide updates on population and distribution figures for the three species of Asian rhinoceros, as well as summaries of African rhino status, as new results become available.

Asian Rhinos does not publish original research papers or reports and all material submitted may be edited and summarized by the editors, with reference to the source of information. The editors recommend that quotations from *Asian Rhinos* refer to the original paper or publication indicated as the source, or when no specific source is given refer to 'Asian Rhinos, No 3, 2000'.

ASIAN RHINO SPECIALIST GROUP ACTIVITIES

NEW AsRSG ACTION PLAN

The first Action Plan for Asian Rhinos was published in 1989 edited by Mohd Khan Momin Khan who has served as Chair of the Asian Rhino Specialist Group (AsRSG) since 1984. This action plan was revised and improved in a number of workshops convened by the AsRSG between 1989 and 1995. In 1997, the New Edition of *Asian Rhinos: Status Survey and Conservation Action Plan* was published, edited by Dr. Thomas J. Foose and Dr. Nico van Strien, on behalf of Mr. Mohd Khan Momin Khan, Mr. S.C. Dey and Drs. Effendi Sumardja. The action plan is an important and well illustrated document of 112 pages guiding the conservation of the three species of Asian rhinos.

It is available from IUCN Publications Services Unit, 219c Huntingdon Road, Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK (Tel. 44 1223 277894, fax 44 1223 277175, e-mail iucn-psu@wcmc.org.uk). Price \$ 20 or £13.50 plus postage/packing.

The new Action Plan indicates that poaching for the horn and habitat degradation remain the major threats to the survival of the three Asian species of rhinoceros, all on the verge of extinction. Four major requirements for rhino conservation are identified:

- cessation of the illegal trade in rhino horn and products;
- stabilization, extension, and improvement of rhino habitat;
- recovery of rhino populations to viable levels;
- support of local communities for and hence benefit to local communities from rhino conservation.

Significant funds are required if Asian rhinos are to be conserved from extinction. The AsRSG in this new action plan estimates that for the period 1996-2000 approximately US \$ 33 Million is needed for a rigorously defined set of priority projects.

NEW AsRSG STRUCTURE & POLICY

The AsRSG reorganized during 1999. There continues to be a Chair as well as two Deputy Chairs, one for South-East Asia and one for South Asia (India/Nepal). In addition, there is an Executive Committee comprising the chairs, the two program officers and principal representatives from the six significant range states for Asian rhinos, i.e. India, Nepal, Indonesia, Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Vietnam. A full list of the current members of the AsRSG with their addresses appears later in this issue. For the period 1998-2000, Mohd Khan continues as the Chair, Mr S.C. Dey as the Deputy Chair for South Asia and Drs Effendi A. Sumardja as Deputy Chair for South-East Asia. Dr Thomas J. Foose and Dr Nico J. van Strien continue their activities as Program Officers of the AsRSG. Finally, AsRSG has decided to conduct only regional rather than plenary meetings in order to increase cost-effectiveness and to reflect the very different needs of the two major regions for Asian rhinos.

GOLDEN ARK AWARDS

The Golden Ark award, provided by Prince Bernhard of The Netherlands, is conferred upon persons who have contributed significantly to wildlife conservation. AsRSG Chair Mr. Mohd. Khan bin Momin Khan and AsRSG member Widodo Ramono have been earlier recipients of this award.

On 28 November 1996, Dr. Nico J. van Strien, one of the AsRSG Executive Officers, was distinguished as a "Knight" in the Order of the Golden Ark. This was in recognition of his "persistence, determination and commitment to the protection of rainforest habitat and in particular the conservation of the Sumatran Rhino."

A year later, on 29 November 1997, AsRSG Deputy Chair Drs. Effendi A. Sumardja was honoured to become an "Officer" in the Order of the Golden Ark, in tribute of his "contribution to conservation and environmental protection in Indonesia."

The AsRSG members congratulate both Dr. van Strien and Drs. Sumardja with this honour bestowed upon them by Prince Bernhard.

INTERACTIONS WITH THE AFRICAN RHINO SPECIALIST GROUP (AfRSG)

The AsRSG continues to have very constructive relationships with its counterpart, the African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG), in an effort to increase interactions on common interests and problems. Dr Richard Emslie, the Scientific Officer of the AfRSG is a member of the AsRSG, while Dr Thomas J. Foose represents the AsRSG program office on AfRSG. Dr Esmond Bradley Martin continues to be a member of both specialist groups. Both Dr Emslie and Dr Bradley Martin attended the AsRSG meeting in Kaziranga National Park in February 1999. The two Specialist Groups also both contribute to the publication of *Pachyderm*, published bi-annually from Nairobi, Kenya, as the journal of the IUCN SSC African Elephant, African Rhino and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups. Dr Nico van Strien serves on the editorial board of *Pachyderm*, and the journal includes a regular Chairman's Report outlining the new developments in the AsRSG.

All correspondence concerning *Pachyderm*, including enquiries about subscription, should be sent to: The Editor, *Pachyderm*, WWF Regional Office, P.O.Box 62440, Nairobi, Kenya (tel. 254-2-331543 / 249049; fax. 254-2-332878; E-mail. afesg@wwfnet.org).

RPU PROGRAM IN INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA

Foose and van Strien have discussed the Rhino Protection Unit (RPU) Program for *in situ* rhino conservation strategies in Indonesia and Malaysia (*Pachyderm*, No. 26, 1998, pp. 103-104), including the various funding sources that have supported this effort. What ensues is a summary of those sources providing recognition to the various donors.

GEF Funding 1995-1998

Asian Rhinos Number 1 (page 7) reported about the finalization of the approval process of a Global Environment Facility (G.E.F.) Biodiversity Project through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which injected US \$ 2 Million over a period of three years. The GEF project was coordinated and facilitated by AsRSG in conjunction with the International Rhino Foundation (IRF). Under this AsRSG/IRF-initiated program, Rhino Protection Units (RPUs) have been formed in all areas where Sumatran rhinos exist, except in Gunung Leuser

National Park where a similar program has been organized by the European Union. There are now 28 RPUs operating under the auspices of IRF/AsRSG in Indonesia and Malaysia. The GEF was crucial in catalyzing the establishment of RPUs needed to protect the Sumatran and Javan rhinos in their native habitat. As expected, the GEF project concluded in December 1998, but as one of the major objectives achieved, the RPU program has continued with support from other donors under AsRSG auspices as described below.

International Rhino Foundation (IRF)

During the later stages of and particularly since the conclusion of the GEF project, the International Rhino Foundation (IRF) has provided and recruited funds to permit continuation of the RPU program. AsRSG and IRF have jointly facilitated and assisted implementation and coordination of the RPU programs since its inception. IRF serves as the financial and administrative agent for AsRSG under an M.O.U. between IRF and IUCN. The IRF funds for the RPU program are derived largely from contributions from two major IRF members and donors, the Howard Gilman Foundation through White Oak Conservation Center and the Disney Wildlife Conservation Awards. The recruitment of additional funds has entailed the formation of a number of new funding partnerships with other organizations. Notable new funding partners are discussed below.

United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Rhinoceros & Tiger Conservation Fund (RTCF)

The USFWS RTCF is a unique program by a non-range state to provide annual support for worthy projects in rhino and tiger conservation. Since its inception in 1996, the RTCF has provided about \$ 620,000 for Asian rhino conservation.

AsRSG and IRF have been the recipient of 10 grants so far to support Sumatran and Javan rhino conservation programs in South East Asia. These grants include:

- two grants for Sumatran Rhino RPUs in Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia
- a grant for Javan Rhino RPUs in Ujung Kulon National Park, Java, Indonesia.
- two grants for Sumatran Rhino RPUs in Peninsula Malaysia
- a grant for Sumatran Rhino Community Outreach

Work in Sabah, Malaysia

- a grant for a Javan Rhino Colloquium conducted in Indonesia, primarily for the Ujung Kulon population but with participation for the species in Vietnam as well.
- two grants for technical assistance to rhino conservation in Vietnam.
- a grant to help support the SRS, the Sumatran Rhino Managed Breeding Center in Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia.

The RTCF has also provided other organizations with grants for Asian rhino conservation:

- four for rhino conservation in Vietnam
- eight for conservation of *Rhinoceros unicornis* in India and Nepal.

A full list of projects funded by the RTCF and further information on possible funding from the RTCF is available from Mr. Fred Bagley, Fax: 1\703\358-2849; Tel: 1\703\358-1760; E-Mail: fred_bagley@mail.fws.gov.

AAZK Bowling for Rhino Program

Since 1998, the AAZK Bowling for Rhino Program has been supporting RPUs in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park through an annual grant to the IRF. From an even earlier date, AAZK has been providing support to Ujung Kulon and its Javan Rhino through the Adopt-A-Park Program of the Minnesota Zoological Garden.

WWF-Indonesia

Commencing in late 1998, WWF-Indonesia (WWF-I) entered into a partnership with IRF/AsRSG to provide co-financing of the RPU program in Indonesia. Other WWF national organizations (Netherlands, U.K., Switzerland, and U.S.) have provided funds to WWF-I for this purpose.

European Union (EU)

The Gunung Leuser Project supported by the European Union has been providing funds for RPUs in Gunung Leuser, the site of what is believed still to be the largest single population of Sumatran rhino in the wild.

Anna Merz Trust and The Rhino Trust

Mrs. Anna Merz, legendary rhino conservationist from Africa, has been supporting Sumatran and rhino conservation in Indonesia since 1997 with annual

contributions to support RPU's in Way Kambas and Ujung Kulon National Parks. From the United States, the Rhino Trust, an organization founded by Anna Merz is also supporting RPU's in these two Park.

In Memoriam Sanjoy Deb Roy

Sanjoy Deb Roy passed away on 16th August 1999, leaving behind a large group of his admirers stunned in disbelief. Born in 1934 in Shillong (Meghalaya), India, educated in Silchar (Assam) he took a degree in Science, later adding to it a Masters of Science in Forestry from the Indian Forest College, Dehra Dun during the year 1959 and became a member of the Indian Forest Service to serve in Assam with distinction.

He was the first Field Director of the famed Manas Tiger Reserve in 1973. He was destined to manage, at one time or the other, this spectacular wilderness area for a total period of 18 years. In 1980, under his able stewardship, Manas was designated as a World Heritage Site. He also was the Director of Kaziranga National Park for a period of 3 years. Mr. Deb Roy later became the Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) and the Chief Wildlife Warden of the state of Assam, subsequently to join the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India as the Additional Inspector General of Forests for Wildlife during 1989. He retired in 1992 from government service and continued to serve the cause he had espoused thereafter. One may say that he never retired but simply changed his job!

He was a sportsman, excelling particularly in football, a first rate angler and an expert marksman. Throughout his life, the great qualities of a sportsman were easy to see in his attitude. A true outdoors person, he was happiest amidst the wilderness and made a very significant contribution for conservation of wildlife in India, especially the challenging species such as the elephant, tiger, rhino and the pygmy hog to mention a few.

In 1982, the Manas Tiger Reserve was adjudged the best managed wildlife reserve, attracting a national award under the leadership of Mr. Deb Roy.

He was an internationally acclaimed wildlife conservationist and was a member among many others, of the National Environmental Council, the Indian Board for Wildlife, Project Elephant, the Tiger Crisis Cell, also likewise a member of the IUCN's Species Survival Commission and Specialist Groups on Cats, Rhino, and wild pigs. He continued to be associated with a number of other organisations as an expert consultant. He was Director of the Corbett Foundation and closely worked with the Ranthambhor Foundation.

In 1990, he received Norman Borolough Award for his outstanding contribution to the field of conservation.

He was upright, humble and a gentleman's gentleman. He was a role model for many aspiring wildlife managers. Sanjoy Deb Roy lives through such men who embellish today the cause that was pivotal to his life. Only a few are granted such tribute.

[Dr. S.P. Sinha]