

Events:

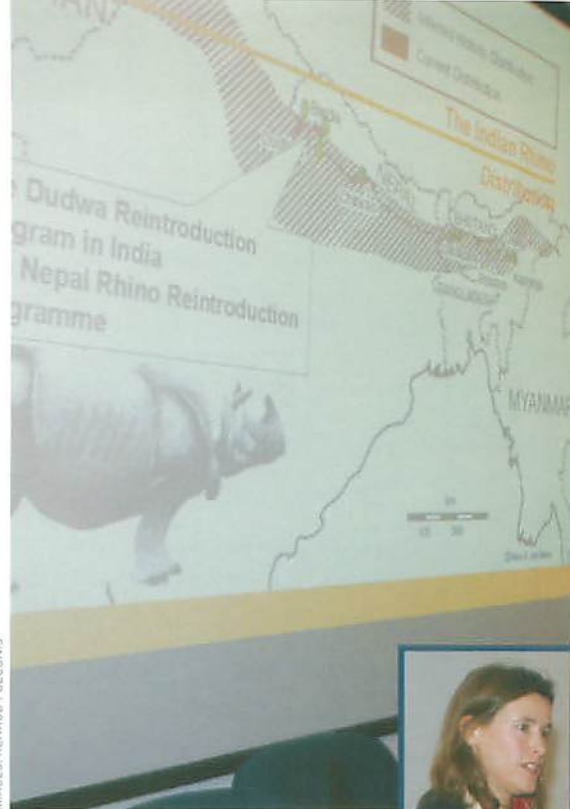
The rhino m'aidez

Renaud Fulconis
EAZA Rhino Campaign Manager

After the Global Captive Action Plan (GCAP) meeting in Whipsnade, organised by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) in association with the International Rhino Foundation and attended by rhino experts from all over the world, the Rhino Mayday was held on Thursday 1 June at London Zoo.

Organised by Save the Rhino International, ZSL and the British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquaria, and chaired by Nick Lindsay, the main goal of the Mayday was to give an overview of some of the projects selected by the EAZA Rhino Campaign. The Mayday was attended by an audience of rhino specialists, zoo staff, members of conservation organisations and the general public.

Thanks to the GCAP meeting, some of the world's leading rhino experts were present at the Mayday, and the presentations all cast light on the crisis facing the world's rhinos. Talks by Richard Emslie and Nico van Strien, from (respectively) the African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups and Tariq Aziz of WWF India introduced species-wide strategies. Nan Schaffer of SOS Rhino brought us up to date with the plight of the Sumatran rhino in Sabah, while Lucie Vigne



IMAGES: RENAUD FULCONIS

spoke about combating the illegal horn trade in Yemen. Maggie Esson from Chester Zoo talked about education in Laikipia in Kenya; John Gripper gave an update on black rhino conservation in Zimbabwe. There was a talk on wildlife crime-scene investigations by Ian Maxwell. Finally, Evan Blumer, Chair of the Rhino Taxon Advisory Group in the USA, gave a presentation on rhinos in captivity and summarised conclusions from the GCAP meeting.

The talks were followed by some very interesting questions from the public. The day ended with prizes given to the happy raffle winners.

Thanks to the zoos who kindly offered free tickets or "keeper for the day" certificates, and to some of the EAZA Rhino Campaign's suppliers for providing a lot of rhino items for our raffle.

Main picture:
Tariq Aziz of WWF India

Below left:
Delegates at the Mayday

Inset:
Horn trade expert Lucie Vigne

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Some of the world's leading rhino experts were present at the Mayday.

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Bronze rhino

One of Save the Rhino's supporters has been particularly generous over the years. Malcolm Stathers, a sculptor who exhibits at the Tryon Gallery in Bury Street, and who made the bust of Queen Elizabeth I recently installed in the entrance to Westminster School, offered four years ago to create and donate to us a bronze of each of the five rhino species. This year, it was the turn of the Javan rhino, and Malcolm brought with him to the Rhino Mayday a beautiful sculpture, number one of a limited edition of nine, ready to be auctioned at the event.

We had already decided that proceeds from the sale would be donated towards the Rhino Protection Unit programme in Indonesia, one of the projects chosen to benefit from the EAZA Rhino Campaign. We were delighted when a member of the audience came forward with an offer of £2,000 for the bronze, provided that it would go into the collection of Nico van Strien, the SE Asia Coordinator for the International Rhino Foundation (IRF) and co-chair for SE Asia of the IUCN/SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group. Nico, unsurprisingly, happily accepted the gift!

Our thanks to Malcolm for his extremely generous support of Save the Rhino, and to the bidder for making possible this grant of £2,000.



Amnéville



Amnéville Zoo, France

AMNEVILLE ZOO

18 French zoos linked together for the "Save the Rhinos" Campaign. Amnéville took part in the Rhino week in July, during which many different activities were developed, aimed both at raising awareness and funds. By working together, the zoos generated a lot of publicity about the plight of rhinos in the French media

Barcelona



Barcelona Zoo, Spain

BARCELONA ZOO

Barcelona Zoo developed two big three-sided panels in three languages (Catalan, Spanish and English) with a collection for the EAZA Rhino Campaign. Another five big panels were placed beside the rhino enclosure, explaining the situation for rhinos in the wild. A "Campaign Point" was also set up with important rhino and campaign information and many different games for children and adults. Furthermore the zoo gave talks, sold key-rings, published news in the zoo's magazine and announced the Campaign in local papers, city panels and buses in the streets of Barcelona

Cologne



Cologne Zoo, France

COLOGNE ZOO

Cologne Zoo seized the opportunity of the "Save the Rhinos" Campaign to design an exhibition about rhinos, the threats facing them and ways to save them. The exhibition focuses on the North Luangwa project in Zambia, where black rhinos have recently been reintroduced. As an example of one of the many activities developed at Cologne, the visitors were able to create their own coloured rhino silhouettes. About 3,600 (one for each black rhino in the wild) of them hung on a 1.5km line across the whole zoo

A year of rhinos

Renaud Fulconis
EAZA Rhino Campaign Manager

Colchester Zoo



Colchester Zoo, UK

COLCHESTER ZOO

All visitors to Colchester Zoo were given a leaflet on arrival with a "rhino ranger trail" fact sheet to be completed during the visit. Visitors followed clues to different enclosures and ranger posts with information about all five different rhinos and the threats they face. A special Mini Fête took place outside the rhino paddock with activities such as a rhino lucky dip, tombola, face painting, rhino disco, craft and merchandise stalls. Rico the rhino also told children about why he is endangered and how they can help

Dutch Zoo Federation



Dutch Zoo Federation

DUTCH ZOO FEDERATION

Six member zoos of the Dutch Zoo Federation (NVD) organised a sponsored marathon as part of their campaign activities for "Save the Rhinos." The Rhino Run took place from 1-3 May 2006 and continued even through the nights. Six zoo staff teams - in total seventy runners - all wearing special Reebok Rhino Run t-shirts, completed the 400km route between the six participating NVD zoos: Hilvarenbeek, Rotterdam, Amersfoort, Rhenen, Arnhem and Emmen. The run raised the amazing amount of €32,550

Dvur Kralove



Dvur Kralove Zoo, Czech Republic

DVUR KRALOVE

Dvur Kralove Zoo in the Czech Republic asked gifted young artists to use rhinos as the basis for their inspiration. It was very successful and involved a lot of young people giving presentations, making rhino sculptures and creating wickerwork rhinos made of willow twigs. These wicker rhinos were woven in the zoo, and 120 more were made from papier-mâché