

Asian Rhino Project



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Welcome to ARP's February Newsletter (albeit a tad late)

Apologies for any inconvenience to our members for the slight lateness of this issue—please put it down to the steep learning curve I've experienced since coming aboard with the ARP's dedicated team of workers. I look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with the ARP into the future!

This issue brings unfortunate news. It is with great sadness that the ARP acknowledges the passing of the world authority on the Javan and Sumatran rhinoceroses, Dr Nico van Strien. This terrible loss has occurred less than two years after that of the internationally renowned Asian rhino expert, Thomas Foose (see Newsletter May 2007), Nico's good friend. Nico will, without a doubt, be remembered as a tireless conservationist and a great man (see below).

Meanwhile, the ARP's network of supporters and volunteers continues to provide much needed funds and in-kind assistance, enabling us to direct our attention and resources to the on-ground projects aimed at conserving the three magnificent species of Asian rhino. Despite there being some obstacles to these goals, encouraging signs of progress are also to be found, some of which are highlighted in this issue.

Marc D Bowden

A Warm Welcome to New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members: Margaret Ferguson, Yvonne Garnsey and Alan King.

Asian Rhino Project Adopt-a-Rhino Fundraiser

You can help us help save the Sumatran rhino by adopting a rhino today – and it's tax deductible!

All funds raised through the Asian Rhino Project rhino adoption program will be used to support the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS) in the Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra.

With each adoption you will receive an attractive adoption certificate including information on your rhino and the program – great for the wall!

You can also choose to receive quarterly updates on your rhino as well as an A4 sized photograph for your wall (extra costs apply for photos and updates).

More information on the rhinos and the program can be found on our website.



In Memoriam: Dr Nico van Strien An Obituary from the International Rhino Foundation (IRF)

Too soon, the rhino world has lost another great conservation leader. Dr. Nico van Strien, 61, IRF Asian Program Coordinator, died peacefully on February 7th in Doorn, the Netherlands, following a year-long battle with cancer. "Nico", as he was known to colleagues, was, without a doubt, the world's authority on both Sumatran and Javan rhinos, having studied and authored numerous scientific papers on both species. He dedicated more than 30 years of his life to rhinos.

Dr. van Strien earned a M.Sc. in 1971 at the Free University of Amsterdam, and a Ph.D. in 1985 in Agricultural Sciences from Wageningen University, Netherlands. His doctoral dissertation work, for which he spent 5 years in and walked 3800 km through the Gunung Leuser Ecosystem, remains the definitive work on the ecology of Sumatran rhinos. Nico worked in a number of countries during his career, including in Malawi where he worked as a biology lecturer at Chancellors College. He also provided critical technical advice to a number of groups, including the UNDP-Global Environment Facility, the IUCN Asian Rhino Specialist Group, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. As Chair of the IUCN Asian Rhino Specialist Group over the past several years, his tireless efforts were instrumental in helping people to work together for rhino conservation throughout Southeast Asia, including convening experts working on greater one-horned rhinos in India and Nepal last year so that cross-boundary conservation efforts between the two countries could take wing. Dr. van Strien was a long-term member of many other distinguished organizations, chairman of the Van Tienhoven Foundation for International Nature Protection, serving on the Board of the Netherlands Committee for International Nature Conservation and the Golden Ark Foundation, and as a member of the IUCN Tapir Specialist Group, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Säugetierkunde, and a life member of the Malawi Wildlife Society.

Nico officially served as the International Rhino Foundation's (IRF) Asian Rhino Program Coordinator from April 1998 to January 2008, but worked as an advisor for several years before that. He deftly coordinated our work throughout Asia, including Indonesia, India, Vietnam, Malaysia and other countries. Along with IRF's late Program Director and one of his dearest friends, Dr. Tom Foose, he was responsible for the success of our rhino conservation



programs in Indonesia, including Rhino Protection Units in Bukit Barisan Selatan, Way Kambas, and Ujung Kulon National Parks, as well as the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, a captive research and propagation facility in Way Kambas. "There is no doubt that both Sumatran and Javan rhinos survive today because of Nico's deep knowledge, passion and vision for their conservation," said IRF's President, John Lukas.

We will miss Nico's dry sense of humor, his straightforward approach to life, and his dedication to and love for rhinos and the people who work so diligently to save them. To those who had the chance to work with him, he always seemed happiest when near wild rhinos - wandering in deep forest or boggy wetlands in his characteristic t-shirt, shorts, and flip flops - looking in all directions for rhino sign. His enthusiasm and deep knowledge engendered deep respect from colleagues worldwide and will be forever missed in the conservation world.

Nico is survived by his loving wife, Tineke van Strien-Reijgersberg, and sons Maarten and Willem.

The passing away of our dear friend and colleague Nico is devastating news. Nico has been instrumental in the ARP's operations, providing regular updates on the work of the Sumatran rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas, and invaluable advice regarding conservation plans for the Javan rhino. He will be sorely missed. On behalf of the ARP and its members we forward sincere condolences to Nico's family, friends, and colleagues.

The IRF has established a scholarship fund in Nico's memory. For additional information, please contact Susie Ellis at s.ellis@rhinos-irf.org. Memorial comments may be posted on IRF's website (www.rhinos-irf.org).



Auckland Zoo Committed to Supporting Asian Rhino Project

Auckland Zoo proudly joins the campaign to save the critically endangered Sumatran Rhino, and is now committed to support the Asian Rhino Project.

Conservation is at the heart of Auckland Zoo. Ask any staff member, and they will tell you that what drives them is their passion for conservation—the ability to make a difference to wildlife and the environment, and to inspire others to do the same. Since 2000 when the Auckland Zoo Conservation Fund (AZCF) was established, the Zoo has had a strong internal culture of supporting in-situ conservation. While it is important to think globally and act locally, it is also important for zoos where possible, to actively support ‘in-situ’, conservation programmes in the wild.

Zoo staff carry out various fundraising activities including quiz nights, African evenings, black tie events and many many more activities where staff donate time, resources and 100% of profit to the Conservation Fund. In addition, Auckland Zoo has committed 1 per cent of gross revenue to the AZCF.

The Auckland Zoo’s ‘Zoo Music’ series allows us to further promote conservation, and this year we are proudly supporting the Asian Rhino Project with New Zealand musicians ‘The Phoenix Foundation’. Large visual screens are set up during the concert providing

information to enable people to further investigate the conservation of Asian rhinoceros. The musicians themselves have also embraced the plight of the rhino and incorporate key messages into media interviews. Links to ARP have also been added to Auckland Zoo’s website.

Sumatra is a conservation ‘hotspot’ which AZCF has committed to support through various in-situ project-based non-government organisations including Asian Rhino Project, Sumatran Orang-utan Conservation Programme, 21st Century Tiger Kerinci Seblat National Park, and Sumatra’s Bukit Tigapuluh National Park.

Rhino keeper Nat Sullivan is fortunate enough to have been given the opportunity to visit Sumatra and Java with ARP Director Kerry Crosbie in April. Nat will be experiencing first hand some of the ARP supported projects and witness some of the in-situ work being carried out. On her return, she will be hosting presentations to further empower people in the ways that they can help in the survival of the critically endangered rhino.

By Nat Sullivan, Rhino Zoo Keeper, Auckland Zoo.

Above Photo: Audience at Dave Dobbyn during the Zoo Music series. Photo courtesy of Auckland Zoo

Rhino Rembrandts at Cincinnati Zoo

In 2005 a 'Rhino Rembrandt' programme was founded at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden. Rhinos of this and other zoos around the world have dabbled in abstract art. For the keepers working with them, this exercise strengthens their bond and broadens their spectrum of operant conditioning. For the animals, the special activity has become one of many ways to enrich their day. As an enrichment activity, painting adds to the animal's choices of engaging activities with their keepers. Many forms of enrichment provide a 'toy' experience that may help bring out naturalistic manipulation behaviors. Painting in this manner includes the keeper in the experience. Not only are they receiving a stimulating activity but a chance to strengthen the animal/keeper bond with their caretakers, and this type of enrichment seems to benefit everyone.



The rhino 'painting programme' has taken this mutually beneficial activity to a larger scale, allowing our 'Rhino Rembrandts' to help better the situation for the wild populations still existing. The drive behind the project is to aid the efforts of rhino conservation organisations in safe-guarding our remaining rhinos and the habitat supporting not only them but many other threatened species. The Australian Rhino Project has been supported by the Rembrandt painting programme through donated paintings used in fundraising activities and more recently a donation of Rembrandt sales of a whopping US\$900!! Our sincere thanks to Cincinnati Zoo and in particular the Jason Faessler and Renee Carpenter rhino keepers there who have been so supportive of the work we do. These funds contributed to the second installment to the Empowering People for Rhino Conservation program implemented by the Media Consultancy Group in Nepal.



Top Right: Sumatran rhino, Suci, with keeper, Renee Carpenter. Photo by Jason R Faessler, Cincinnati Zoo
Bottom Right: Close up of Greater one-horned rhino. Photo by Dave Jenike, Cincinnati Zoo

Donations

Just \$5/week goes a long way and donations over \$2 are tax deductible!
If you would like to set up regular small donations to the ARP,
please don't hesitate to contact us for easy, hassle-free options.

info@asianrhinos.org.au or phone 08 89760952.

Project Update - Media Consultancy Nepal's Empowering People for Rhino Conservation (EPRC)

Community Buffer-zone Organisations (CBOs) mobilised to empower community

On 28 January 2008, thirty members from various local park buffer-zone organisations gathered at the office of Nanda Bhauju buffer zone community forest at Kolhuwa, Nawalparasi, to participate in conservation outreach. The event was organised by the local CBO Nawa Pratibha Women's Group.

Mr. Tham Narayan Sharma from Trinetra Bufferzone User Committee and Mr. Dhan Singh Bohora from Setapani Forest Conservation Committee, conducted the training, which began at midday and ran for five hours—two hours more than scheduled.

The program is an output of the 'Training of Trainer' (ToT) initiative, provided to 17 members of the buffer-zone organisations in November 2007. One consequence of which was that each 'graduate' committed to conduct at least one training session for other CBO members in their respective communities.

The 28 January gathering was the first such instance of 'second-generation' training being undertaken in Chitwan National Park's buffer-zones. The purpose of the event was to attempt to overcome some of the tentative responses toward conservation from community organisations and their members by empowering, inspiring and involving them directly in conservation activities.

Scant attention and involvement of bufferzone CBOs has been reckoned as the major setback for the conservation campaign in and around Chitwan NP. For instance, grassroot CBOs are not fully informed regarding local conservation issues. Additionally, intractable issues of compensation and protracted judicial processes involving imprisoned suspected poachers have held back CBOs from engaging in more active conservation measures—fearing criticism from and aggravation of some buffer-zone communities.

Mr. Tham Narayan Sharma, a ToT graduate, believed that local communities were not receptive toward conservation issues due to the lack of input from CBOs. Mrs. Radha Chhetri, another ToT graduate, believed that by participating, representatives from local communities became more open and involved



in constructive debates which also helped to broaden their understanding of and attitudes toward conservation issues.

Some of the program's discussion topics included 'CBOs role on conservation', 'poaching, poaching trends and poaching deterrents', 'humans' relationship with the environment', 'human rights issues in conservation practice', and 'ways to resolve compensation issues' among others.

Facilitating these activities is a major component of Media Consultancy Nepal's Empowering People For Rhino Conservation (EPRC) project—implemented in five of Chitwan NP's buffer-zone Village Development Committees (VDCs) since August 2007, with the generous support of the Asian Rhino Project.

By Deepak Acharya, EPRC/MCN

Above: Training program delivered at Kolhuwa and facilitated through EPRC

International Fund for Animal Welfare Indian Rhino Update: January 2008

In September, an 18-month old female Greater one-horned rhino calf was brought to WTI/IFAW's Center for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation (CWRC) after its mother was shot by poachers on the edge of Kazaringa National Park. Both had moved out of KNP as the rising flood-waters of the Brahmaputra River threatened to drown them. The calf is healthy and has been stabilized and WTI/IFAW is now preparing for its translocation to the rhino boma at Manas, where it will join three other rhinos as part of a soft-release program that will be used to re-establish a rhino population in the park.



The two rhinos that were relocated to Manas in January 2007 continue to do well in the boma along with the rhino that was moved in February 2006. They are commonly seen together now. The tall grass in the boma was cut in November to make the habitat more suitable for the rhinos, since it becomes unpalatable during the winter months. The grass in the western compartment of the boma was cut while the rhinos were in the other compartment. A five-meter wide grass patch was left uncut along the fence of boma to maintain the visual barriers so that the rhinos are comfortable in the open area inside. Once the new shoot mature in this compartment, the grass in the other compartment will be cut. Mineral salt blocks are being provided to the rhinos as mineral supplements.

Work on a partial extension of the boma has started and should be completed soon. The area has been increased on the northern side by 200 m x 400 m area. In preparation for translocation of fourth rhino from CWRC the wallowing pool in the extension area has been made bigger. The unloading ramp is being repaired and permission for translocation has been forwarded to Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Mary Harris, Associate Director Foundation & Corporate Relations, IFAW

Photo courtesy of WTI/IFAW.

Planetkeeper Rhino Update

Further to ARP's November 07 newsletter article, interest in the 'Planetkeeper' program for primary students at South Australia's open-range zoo at Monarto, continues to grow. Already in 2008, three classes have booked-in to participate in practical behind-the-scenes experiences with the Rhino keeper, and also participate in close-up encounters with the Zoo's Rhino family.



– STOP PRESS –

Monarto Zoo's Planetkeeper Rhino programme has generously donated \$708.80 to the ARP! Special thanks to Emma Still, Monarto Zoo's Education Officer, the zoo's Rhino keepers, and all other zoo staff for their support for the Asian Rhino Project!!

*Top Right: Shovelling Rhino dung. Photo by Emma Still.
Bottom Right: The Rhino Lookout. Photo by Geoff Brooks.*



Indonesian Rhinoceros Close to Extinction

Based on direct observation and experience, Indonesian people more often recognize the African Rhinoceros species in preference to the three Asian species. But Indonesia is home to two rhinoceros species; the Javanese rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) and the Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*). Both species are very few in number—about 60 and 200 respectively. In comparison, the White Rhinoceros numbers approximately 14,000 while the Black rhinoceros number about 3,000. Moreover, they have different habitat requirements—the African rhino species tend to prefer open space and graze, while the two Indonesian rhino species prefer secondary forest and browse on foliage and fruit.

Generally, if Indonesians are aware that there are rhinoceros species in Indonesia, it is usually that of the Javan rhino in Ujung Kulon, where it has become somewhat of a mascot for the people of Indonesia. They may not, however be aware that without immediate action to help save the Javan rhino, they will become extinct in our lifetime. Such an extinction would follow the same sad story as with other large mammals like the Javanese and Balinese tigers.

The drastic decline of forest habitat has caused the decrease in Javan rhinos to a critically low number. Likewise, the population of Sumatran rhinoceroses has declined more than 50% in the past 10 years. The number of Javan rhinos remains stagnant.

Besides the serious decline in habitat, the high level of poaching has prompted the decline of Sumatran rhinoceros, especially. For example, the Kerinci Sebelat National Park once held perhaps the largest number of Sumatran rhinos known, but at the present it is probably locally extinct. In 1994, 17 locations were known in Sumatra for the presence of this rhino species, however, more recently, only four locations remained: Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, Way Kambas National Park, Kerinci Sebelat National Park and Gunung Leuser National Park. Although, there are some unconfirmed indications of rhinoceros elsewhere

Although the Sumatran rhinoceros has a larger distribution than the Javan rhino, and well over 100 individuals surviving, the level of population decline is far higher. The incidence of poaching is still quite high

and its available forest habitat continues to decline as a function of alteration to other use by humans.

In Indonesia, the Javan rhino presently survives only in Ujung Kulon National Park. For the last ten years the population has remained steady with 50-60 individuals. The level of the security there is relatively good with no more reported poaching after a Rhino Monitoring and Protection Unit (RMPU) began operations there. However, this alone cannot guarantee that the species will endure in Ujung Kulon.

Conservation action plans for the Javan and Sumatran rhinoceroses are being implemented. Research activities regarding their life-histories, habitat, population and conservation, as well as the increase in awareness among the communities close to the rhinoceros habitat, has been conducted by domestic researchers and others from abroad, and by national park staff. There has been community participation and a high level of awareness-raising for the Javan rhinoceros, but more is desperately required.

Programs for searching for a secure second habitat for Javan rhinoceros outside Ujung Kulon have yet to be realised, partly due to a difference of opinion among stakeholders regarding the most appropriate location especially from the security point of view.

In the future, our concern and love for nature including the rhinoceros are essential for the conservation of Indonesia's biological diversity. Aren't living animals far more valuable than cultural artifacts, be they inanimate objects or stories from the past?

*By Sectionov, IRF (International Rhino Foundation)
Assistant Coordinator for SE ASIA/IRF Indonesia Liaison.
Edited by Dr. Susie Ellis and Dr. Robin Radcliffe.*

Committee Updates

National Committee - by Kerry Crosbie

The Asian Rhino Project has experienced some changes to its structure and organisation. We are proud to introduce Marc Bowden to the National Committee as the ARP's Organisational Manager. He has made a start on numerous grant applications for the ARP and been editing and compiling this newsletter. Marc is now the ARP's administrator and presently works on the project one day a week. He has also been investigating other fundraising activities and is working on a public awareness campaign. Talk about hitting the ground running!

A big thanks to Karen Payne who stepped in when I most needed her and did a wonderful job compiling the annual report and last November's newsletter. Thanks so much Karen!

Kerryn Wood also joins the ARP team as its Membership Coordinator. Kerryn is an avid rhino lover who has been wanting to help out the ARP for some time now and we're glad to welcome her on board!

If there are any other members who would like to donate a little of their time and skills, please don't hesitate to contact me at kerry.crosbie@asianrhinos.org.au—any effort is most welcome.

Kerry Crosbie
Director

WA Branch

ARP's WA branch has been brainstorming fundraising and education ideas for the upcoming year—so stay tuned for some exciting events! The fundraising chocolates have been selling fast in Perth Zoo's staffroom and help bring in a steady profit.

NSW Branch

Kristy Garard has left Australia to participate in a three week-long research trip to Nepal and India, focusing on conservation programmes aimed at protecting the Greater one-horned rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*).

During her stay in Nepal, Kristy will meet with various buffer-zone and community groups, rhino clubs from local villages around Chitwan National Park, and National Park officials and the EPRC (Empowering People for Rhino Conservation) team. She will also attend a seminar regarding wildlife-human conflict. Not only will Kristy visit projects ARP has sponsored, but she will also ascertain what further actions can be done to assist with protection of Greater one-horned rhinos in Nepal.

After Nepal, Kristy will make her way to India where she will meet with the International Rhino Foundation team. She will accompany them on their trip to Kaziranga, Manas and Orang National Parks to witness what the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 project is doing in the way of improving security in these parks and translocating some individual rhinos from Kaziranga to the smaller parks of Manas and Orang.

We look forward to Kristy's return in March, and hearing of what she has learned of the projects ARP has assisted in Nepal and India.

In The News – Asian Rhino Stories

Poachers kill rhino, tiger 1 December 2007

Only 30 rhinos are now left in the Bardiya National Park (BNP), one of the best habitats for the endangered species. Poachers killed one rhino at Patharbhoji area of Suryapatuwa VDC on Wednesday.

Thirty-one rhinos were counted during the last census at BNP in 2007.

<http://www.kantipuronline.com/kolnews.php?&nid=129952>

Honda extending rhino scheme to all schools 3 December 2007

The education and awareness programme for the conservation and protection of the Sumatran Rhinoceros and environment organised by Honda Malaysia Sdn Bhd since January will be extended to all schools throughout the country.

<http://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news.cfm?NewsID=54386>

Rare Sumatran rhino sighting in Malaysia 3 December 2007

A Sumatran rhinoceros has been photographed in peninsular Malaysia in the first sighting for more than a decade, raising hopes the animal can avoid extinction, a report said Sunday.

http://afp.google.com/article/ALeqM5grhm4Wkp_9HDfNTUJT9dCYNOfEw

Rhino population increases to 122 in Jaldapara 7 December 2007

The number of rhinoceros in Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary of north Bengal has increased from 14 to 122 in 21 years. The number of one horned rhinoceros in Jaldapara was 14 in 1986, 108 in February 2006 and presently 122, after the birth of a cub early this week, said Monindra Chandra Biswas, Divisional Forest Officer, Cooch Behar Wildlife Division.

<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/004200712071417.htm>

Rhino boom triggers crisis 9 December 2007

Rapid rise in the rhino population has pushed the Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary to a crisis that threatens to blow up into bloody fights among the animals. The sanctuary had 14 rhinos in 1985. It has 122 now and forest officials are struggling to cope with their increasing demand for food.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1071210/asp/bengal/story_8650675.asp

Rhino death trap in Kaziranga 14 December 2007

Two years ago, Kaziranga National Park (KNP) celebrated hundred years of its existence and narrated a colossal success story. The famous habitat of the great Indian one-horned rhinos (rhinoceros unicornis) received international media headlines for its unbelievable achievement in preserving a highly endangered species. Situated in middle Assam the 430 sq km park is today home to more than 1800 one-horned rhinos. It otherwise nurtures around 65 percent rhinos living on earth. Besides India, few other Asian countries support the conservation of habitats for all together 2700 one-horned rhinos.

<http://www.merineews.com/catFull.jsp?articleID=128542>

More evidence of rhinos in Sabah's wilds 14 December 2007

Imagine sneaking up just several feet from a female "super model" bathing without "her" knowledge. An absolutely privileged sight that Dr Thayaparan's enjoyed recently far away from civilization.

<http://www.dailyexpress.com.my/news.cfm?NewsID=54623>

Rhino killed, guards gun down poacher in KNP 14 December 2007

Poachers killed a rhino - the 14th inside the Kaziranga National Park and the 17th overall of the Park this year — near Ujantoli beel under Bagori range last evening. However, in a major success for the Park authorities and

the Forest Department, a poacher of the gang that had killed the rhino was also killed in the wee hours today during an encounter with Forest security staff.

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/details.asp?id=dec1507/at05>

SOS Rhino: And now there's reason to celebrate 15 December 2007

Wading across raging rivers and crossing paths with a python are worthy risks for a Sri Lankan veterinarian who moved to Sabah to study the Sumatran rhinoceros. After spending almost four years collecting dung and foot-prints of the elusive animal in the Lahad Datu area, Dr S. Thayaparan finally had a close encounter with a rhino a month ago — and even managed to capture some video footage.

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Sunday/Focus/20071215145643/Article/index_htm

Edinburgh Zoo to start rhino research facility 16 December 2007

It would be more than a boost to the image of Assam and her wildlife, in fact it would be a boon to the Indian one-horned rhino, the species about which scientific understanding is still limited. The Edinburgh Zoo now has plans to build a new facility for a number of rhinos.

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/details.asp?id=dec1707/at08>

Rhino poaching on rise at Kaziranga National Park in Assam 25 December 2007

Assam's Kaziranga National Park has been a remarkable success story of conservation of the one-horned Indian rhinoceros and the wildlife in north-east India. But the rising instances of poaching of rhinos has left officials baffled. At least 20 one-horned rhinos have been killed in 2007 till date. It was four to eight each year in number between 1998 and 2006.

http://www.thecheers.org/news/South-Asia/news_4996_Rhino-poaching-on-rise-at-Kaziranga-National-Park-in-Assam.html

2 Pobitora rhinos to get home in Manas 1 January 2008

In a move that augurs well for the future of the rhino and also the conservation prospects in Manas National Park, four rhinos – two males and two females — from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary would be translocated to Manas on February 12. The rhinos will join three others who had been taken to Manas from Kaziranga in the last two years.

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/details.asp?id=jan0208/at07>

19 rhinos killed in Kaziranga in 13 months 11 January 2008

One more rhino has been shot by poachers in Kaziranga National Park of Assam, taking the toll of the endangered animal killed in the park in the past 13 months to 19. The rhino was killed on Tuesday at Borscheleka, under Bagori Range of the park, but the poachers could not take away its horn, park officials said.

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/Flora__Fauna/19_rhinos_killed_in_Kaziranga_in_13_months/articleshow/2692881.cms

Airport officials uncover smuggled rhino horns 12 January 2008

Customs officials at Tan Son Nhat International Airport have recently discovered a number of large rhino horns imported illegally into Vietnam. The biggest of the five rhino horns discovered by customs weighed nearly 8 kg while the smallest weighed only 1 kg.

<http://www.thanhniennews.com/society/?catid=3&newsid=34945>

More attention being focused on three endangered mammals native to Borneo 22 January 2008

WWF Malaysia is focusing more attention on the endangered Borneo pygmy elephants, Sumatran rhinoceros and orang utan, all which make their home on Borneo.

http://www.nst.com.my/Current_News/NST/Tuesday/National/20080122122642/Article/index_html

Rhino dies of suspected anthrax 23 January 2008

A 30-year-old male rhino of the Assam State Zoo here died of suspected anthrax on Tuesday morning. The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Assam State Zoo, Narayan Mahanta, told The Hindu that night guards spotted the rhino collapsing, with blood oozing out of its nose and anus around 5.30 a.m.

<http://www.hindu.com/2008/01/23/stories/2008012356081500.htm>

Third rhino killed in three weeks 23 January 2008

A mature female rhino at the Kaziranga National Park (KNP) in Assam, whose horn was hacked off by poachers on Saturday night after being shot, died on Monday. The poachers killed its three-year old calf and hacked off its tiny horn using an axe.

<http://www.hindu.com/2008/01/23/stories/2008012357332200.htm>

Rhino Injured By Poachers Dies In Kaziranga 21 January 2008

A mother rhinoceros, which was shot at early Sunday and seriously injured by poachers in Assam's Kaziranga national park, died Monday, officials said.

<http://newspostindia.com/report-32482>

Rhino census from next month 24 January 2008

National Nature Conservation Trust is set to carry out Rhino Census from the mid-February in cooperation with World Wildlife Fund and Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation.

<http://www.gorkhapatra.org.np/content.php?nid=34826>

Call for protection of rhinos at Kaziranga 24 January 2008

Responding in unison to the recent deaths of rhinos in Kaziranga a number of leading conservation groups today urged the State and Central Governments to take all possible measures to curb poaching in and around the World Heritage Site. While viewing the situation in protected areas as grave, the groups stressed that urgent action was required for securing the future of the one-horned rhino especially in and around Kaziranga.

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/details.asp?id=jan2508/at08>

Rhino poaching declines dramatically 26 January 2008

Nepal witnessed a remarkable improvement in 2007 after the poorest year in the country's history in terms of rhino conservation in 2006, thanks to positive efforts by the government, said conservationists. Only two endangered rhinos were poached in the country in 2007, one in Chitwan National Park (CNP) and the other in Bardiya National Park (BNP).

<http://www.kantipuronline.com/kolnews.php?&nid=135386>

Militants Involved In Rhino Poaching At Kaziranga 26 January 2008

Tribal separatists in India's northeast are involved in a flourishing rhino poaching syndicate at the famed Kaziranga National Park in Assam leading to a sudden spurt in incidents of the giant pachyderms being slaughtered for their horn.

<http://newspostindia.com/report-33528>

Rhinos at risk in India's celebrated park 28 January 2008

The very first month of 2008 brought sad news for the wildlife lovers. The celebrated Kaziranga national park in Assam of Northeast India has witnessed the loss of three endangered one-horned rhino within January. All of them fell prey to the poachers to make the tally of 23 precious inmates in 13 months beginning from January 2007. The annual tally of rhino poaching in Kazirang during the bygone year was all time high in the last decade.

<http://www.americanchronicle.com/articles/50445>

SMS campaign to save rhino 29 January 2008

After a century of being trapped, speared, shot, electrocuted and de-horned alive, the Kaziranga rhino is talking. From its "death bed". Possibly jolted by images of a female rhino wobbling in pain — blood oozing from where her 3-kilo horn was sawed off — animal lovers have started an SMS campaign, in which the words of a dying rhino are being circulated.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/redir.aspx?ID=eb17d4d4-fac5-43f5-9fe9-89f5f21bbc17>

Indian rhino loses fight for life 30 January 2008

A female Indian rhino and her calf have been killed for their horns in Kaziranga National Park, India. The female survived for 35 hours after the attack, but slowly bled to death after her horn was sawn off and shot twice by poachers.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7217866.stm>

Protest against rhino killing 2 February 2008

The All Assam Students' Union (AASU) on Saturday staged a state-wide dharna to protest against the state government's alleged failure in checking rhino killing by poachers in the Kaziranga National Park.

<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/004200802022074.htm>

Another rhino poached in Kaziranga 5 February 2008

A day after the forest minister in Assam suggested several measures including the constitution of a special task force for Kaziranga, one more rhino was poached in the central range of the national park on Monday night.

<http://www.ndtv.com/convergence/ndtv/story.aspx?id=NEWEN20080040408&ch=2/5/2008%2010:10:00%20AM>

Assam Wants CBI Probe Into Rhino Poaching At Kaziranga 5 February 2008

With one more rhino slaughtered for its horn Tuesday, the Assam government has sought a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the recent spurt in poaching incidents at the famed Kaziranga National Park.

<http://newspostindia.com/report-35312>

Five held for rhino killing 5 February 2008

Five people accused of killing rhinos in Kaziranga National Park have been arrested in different parts of Assam, the police said on Tuesday. A rhino horn was also recovered from one of them.

<http://news.in.msn.com/national/article.aspx?cp-documentid=1224870>

Another rhino killed, Min favours CBI probe 6 February 2008

One more rhinoceros was shot dead by poachers in Kaziranga national park, after which Forest Minister Rockybul Hussain offered to give up the portfolio to facilitate a CBI probe into largescale killing of the pachyderm in the reserve forest.

<http://www.sahasamay.com/samayhtml/articles.aspx?newsid=94219>

Rhino translocation move faces setback 10 February 2008

The ambitious plan to shift a number of rhinos to Manas National Park met with a setback today after the drug required for tranquillising the animals did not arrive in Guwahati. What is more worrying is that the authorities involved in the process do not know when it would become available. Well-placed sources in the Assam Forest department told The Assam Tribune that the plan to shift four rhinos from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary to Manas National Park under the Indian Rhino Vision plan has been postponed indefinitely. "The medicine distributed by a UK firm could not be procured by the Nandan Kanan Zoological Park, Bhubaneswar, the sole authority to import it to India."

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/details.asp?id=feb1108/at02>

PM urged to act on rhino poaching 10 February 2008

Lok Sabha MP and the member of National Board for Wildlife, India, Rajen Gohain has sought the intervention of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the matter of increasing rhino poaching in Kaziranga National Park. He has also demanded a high-level inquiry into the entire incidents of poaching in the park.

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/details.asp?id=feb1108/at01>

Four rhino poachers arrested 13 February 2008

Four poachers, allegedly involved in the recent rhino killings in Kaziranga National Park, were arrested Wednesday during a joint operation in Assam's Karbi Anglong district, police said.

<http://www.hindu.com/thehindu/holnus/002200802131415.htm>

Mission to save a minister over rhinos? 15 February 2008

It may be important for many to save the endangered rhinos in Assam's celebrated parks, but for a section of the media in Northeast, it seemingly becomes more important to safeguard the forest minister. While wildlife lovers around the globe rail against the authority of Kaziranga National Park for its failure to protect its rhinos, a section of journalists in Guwahati continue manufacturing stories glorifying the initiative of the State forest minister.

<http://nation.ittefaq.com/issues/2008/02/15/news0667.htm>

Manas may regain UNESCO recognition 16 February 2008

The picturesque Manas National Park – a World Heritage Site is now on a recovery path following a prolonged period of social unrest in the 1990s — could get back the coveted title in a couple of years. Park officials said that a visiting delegation of the UNESCO's World Heritage Committee was satisfied with the recent corrective measures aimed at restoring the Park's infrastructure and security. It is the animal population that remains an area of serious concern, with the number of several key species plummeting during the troubled period.

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/details.asp?id=feb1708/at09>

Conservation work hit by fund crunch 17 February 2008

In a period when two national parks of Assam – Kaziranga, and Manas – have hogged the limelight for reasons both right as well as wrong, the Orang National Park has largely remained hidden from public gaze. The situation appears surprising because the park contains several floral and faunal species including the Indian one-horned rhino, which number around 60, and the rare and elusive Bengal Florican.

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/details.asp?id=feb1808/at09>

Public Outcry Over Poaching of Kaziranga's One-Horned Rhino 18 February 2008

Civil societies and the advocacy groups in Assam, India, have come together demanding stringent actions against the poachers of the endangered one-horned rhinoceros at Kaziranga National Park.

<http://en.epochtimes.com/news/8-2-18/66144.html>

3 poachers held near Pobitora 21 February 2008

Close on the heels of the arrest of several poachers near Kaziranga National Park, a joint team of forest and police personnel apprehended three poachers at Gorumorajan near Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary under Mayong police station late last night. Significantly, one of the poachers, Abidur Zaman, happens to be the munshi of a local mosque. While Zaman has been arrested, his accomplices have been detained for interrogation.

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/details.asp?id=feb2208/at06>

'Reformed' rhino poacher back in the hunt 21 February 2008

The arrest of a veteran poacher, Matka Gogoi, earlier this week has brought to light the story of how one of the most dreaded rhino stalkers in Kaziranga surrendered in the early nineties to turn protector, only to pick up the gun again recently.

http://www.telegraphindia.com/1080222/jsp/northeast/story_8932162.jsp

Asian Rhino Project Rhino Adoption Update

2008 has seen so far seen a total number of 13 adoptions! You can adopt Bina, Rosa, Ratu, Torgamba, or Andalas for 6 or 12 months. Your kind donation will assist us in continuing our valuable support for the Sumatran breeding program at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas, Sumatra. And remember, all donations to ARP, whether they be once-off, part of a regular donor pledge, or through our Rhino adoptions are tax deductible!

For more information, please visit our website www.asianrhinos.org.au or feel free to contact us at info@asianrhinos.org.au.

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Chairperson & Project Director	Kerry Crosbie
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