

RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

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NEWSLETTER #16 AUGUST 2009

Dear colleagues and friends,

This is the 16th issue of the quarterly e-newsletter of the RRC – the Rhino Resource Centre. Edited by Dr Kees Rookmaaker.

During the past quarter we have added over 250 new references to books and papers about the five species of rhinos living in Africa and Asia. These include the new studbook for *Rhinoceros unicornis* kept by the Basel Zoo, as well as six dissertations or theses by students in different countries. The latest issue of *Pachyderm* (no. 45) was published with a great selection of papers on elephants and rhinos. There are papers issued for the CITES 58th meeting of the Standing Committee, with a detailed paper on current needs in rhino conservation. The staff of Rhino Vision 2020 in India have joined others by making their reports available on the RRC website.

Not a day goes by without changes in the RRC database – check back frequently to see the latest additions. I am grateful to all publishers and authors who have alerted me to new publications or send me their articles or dissertations. *Contributors are always acknowledged.*

Rhino conservation, rhino management and rhino research need to be based on a firm foundation. Policies and action plans can only be effective when based on the best information available. We write about rhinos to tell others about conservation successes, about techniques, about results of field observations. These publications are important because they shape our work and our action. Experts need to know the literature to be able to provide the best advice. The need of the Rhino Resource Center which provides information about literature and available data is immense and obvious. All rhino workers must know what has happened in the past and what is happening today. It is all available at the click of a mouse anywhere in the world, just by visiting <http://www.rhinoresourcecenter.com> regularly and browsing all material that is offered, free of charge and constantly updated.

The work of the Rhino Resource Center
is supported by
International Rhino Foundation
and **SOS Rhino**

The Rhino Resource Center is a very small registered charity. We do not employ any full-time staff to deal with the new publications and the regular requests for information. Most requests for assistance are dealt with in a few days, but with more time we could be even more effective. The RRC has valuable support. We could do far more with just a little more funding which would allow us to employ a staff member full-time to add more data and to provide reviews and summaries of all that is already available. It doesn't need much – are you willing to contribute to the RRC? It would make a difference to all of us who love to work with and for rhinos across the world.

*The Rhino Resource Center is a charity.
We do not actively raise funds due to the nature of our work,
but need your assistance to provide our service to all rhino lovers worldwide.*

**Join us. Your support will be acknowledged
in our publications and on our website**

These are challenging times for all rhinos in the wild. The threat of death is ever imminent, with a manifold increase in poaching and illegal hunting. Funds for conservation actions are dwindling, while the need for protection is ever increasing. Parks where rhinos were considered safe are now under threat. There is no room for complacency – we know what happened to the subspecies of black rhino in western Africa (believed extinct in the past decade), we fear what may happen to the last Northern white rhinos. Rhinos in Asia are already at such minimum levels that their populations would not be able to withstand another onslaught. There is a constant change in trade routes and the demand for rhino horns appears to be spreading and to be increasing rather than to be contained through strategies involving international treaties and enforcement. We must do what we can to save these last pachyderms.

Visit: www.rhinoreourcecenter.com

Visit the website of the Rhino Resource Center for everything about the five species of rhinoceros in Africa, Asia and around the world.

- There are details of 12,977 references to publications on rhinos
- Text of 4276 items as PDF, and many others in full text
- Browse publications by subject, or search for words in the text
- A large photo gallery showing illustrations in old books, individual rhinos in zoos around the world, and a new section of [rhinos in modern art](#).
- Links to other website with rhino information.
- General information of all species of rhino, including a *comprehensive list* of both scientific and vernacular names.
- A message board for queries and comments.

RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

FACILITATING COMMUNICATION ACROSS DISCIPLINES AND CONTINENTS

MEETINGS

The International Rhino Keeper Association met from May 17th - 21st, 2009 at Busch Gardens in Tampa, Florida. It was a great meeting with visits to Busch Gardens and Lowry Park zoos, great presentations and much chance to talk in social occasions. Rhino keepers who are not yet a member should look [on their website](#).

NEW LITERATURE (finalised 31 July 2009)

In the past quarter (May to July 2009), we have added 257 new references – that is, almost three per day including weekends.. This brings the total number of items in the database to 12.977. Of course, about a third can be consulted in full.

Below I have listed new entries published in the 21st century (and a few special older ones) in five categories: Books, General, African rhinos, Asian rhinos and Fossil species. If you are interested in one of these titles, always check the [RRC website](#) first if it may be available there.

BOOKS AND DISSERTATIONS

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NOW AVAILABLE

Rookmaaker's book on *Encounters with the African Rhinoceros*
All sightings of rhinos in southern Africa 1790-1875 analysed and illustrated.
More information is found on our website.

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RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

FACILITATING COMMUNICATION ACROSS DISCIPLINES AND CONTINENTS

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