

**IUCN/SSC  
ASIAN RHINO SPECIALIST GROUP  
(AsRSG)  
MEETING**

***BRIEFING BOOK***

**JALDAPARA SANCTUARY  
WEST BENGAL, INDIA  
6-10 DECEMBER 1993**

**SECTION 10  
THAILAND RHINO ACTION PLAN**

Project Title: ASIAN RHINO INVENTORY IN THAILAND

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Date of proposal: April 20, 1993

Project Duration: Begin - September, 1993  
End - September, 1995

Funds Required: year 1 - US \$13,008  
year 2 - US \$11,620  
total - US \$24,628 over 2 years

Objectives:

1. To bring Malaysian rhino experts to Thailand to train 3 Thai scientists on the methods of surveying rhinos.
2. To thoroughly survey areas which have recent reports of rhinos or which are large enough and have suitable rhino habitat - especially in border areas.

Background:

Historically, Thailand supported two species of rhinoceros, Rhinoceros sondaicus (the Javan rhino) and Dicerorhino sumatrensis (the Sumatran rhino). Both species once ranged throughout the country wherever the habitat was appropriate. However, in the last twenty years the scale of deforestation and poaching have been such that there have been few reliable recent reports of rhino anywhere in the country. Consequently, it has been suggested (e.g., the SSC Action Plan for Asian Rhinos) that the rhinoceros may not survive still in Thailand.

Nevertheless, a number of protected forest areas in Thailand are sufficiently large and inaccessible that it is still possible that some rhinoceros survive, particularly in areas which border large tracts of forest in Burma, Laos and Malaysia where they are known to occur.

Justification:

There are no scientists in Thailand who are experienced in rhino tracking and survey techniques. If we are to find out whether Thailand still has any rhinos in the wild, we need to train a small team of researchers in rhino survey techniques. The training will be one or two days in the classroom and several days of actual survey work. The surveys of Thailand should be conducted as soon as possible because encroachment and other human disturbances are spreading farther and farther into potential rhino habitat.

Budget:	year 1	year 2
One-week training:		
2 Malaysian experts:		
transportation - \$200/person . . . . .	\$ 400	---
per diem/accomodation - \$40/day. . . . .	\$ 560	---
3 Thai scientists:		
transportation - \$40/person. . . . .	\$ 120	---
per diem - \$10/day . . . . .	\$ 210	---
2 rangers/guards per diem - \$6/day. . . . .	\$ 84	---
petrol - 50 km/day x \$.04/km. . . . .	\$ 14	---
 Rhino surveys:		
(240 days/year; 3 Thai scientists)		
transportation - 8 trips/year. . . . .	\$ 960	\$ 960
per diem - \$10/day . . . . .	\$ 7200	\$ 7200
2 rangers/guards per diem - \$6/day. . . . .	\$ 2880	\$ 2880
petrol - 50 km/day. . . . .	\$ 480	\$ 480
miscellaneous equipment . . . . .	\$ 100	\$ 100
 Totals: . . . . .	\$13008	\$11620

*Watana Kachannan*

**(Mr. Watana Kachannan)**  
**Director**  
**Wildlife Conservation Office**