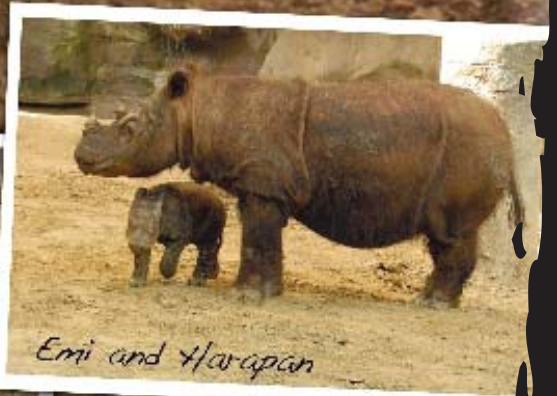


In Loving Memory of

"EMI"



and Andalas



Emi and Harapan

The Rhino Print

November 2009

CONTENTS

My First Experience Arresting a Rhino Poacher.....	3
In Loving Memory of Emi.....	4
Exciting News from the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary.....	7
Rhino Protection Units remove nearly 300 snares from Cat Loc in the first three months.....	7
Project Update: Rapid Action Initiatives to Strengthen Anti-Poaching Measures in and Around Rhino Bearing Areas in Assam.....	8
Sumatran Rhinoceros.....	10
New Project: "Securing Indian Rhino Populations in Assam through Translocations – Indian Rhino Vision 2020".....	12
Javan Rhinos Share Wallow Holes: Impact of Climate Change?.....	14
National Committee Update.....	15
Special Thanks.....	16
Rhino News.....	16
Corporate Donors and Pro-Bono Supporters.....	23
Merchandise Order Form.....	24

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Welcome to the November 2009 Newsletter

A warm welcome to you all and apologies for a very late November newsletter. My excuse is displayed below. Another budding conservationist in the making, young Cameron Crosbie born 3 December and totally adored by his big brother Angus and of course his loving parents.

October saw the ARP AGM and National Committee meetings. Enclosed/attached should be a copy of the AGM minutes for you and you can find a copy of the Annual Report on the ARP website www.asianrhinos.org.au.

Another exciting new project grant application was approved for this quarter – a rhino relocation program as part of the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 program. Thanks to the support of Taronga Zoos and the Taronga Conservation Society Australia we are able to commit \$10,000AUD to this project.

There has been more findings from the video camera traps in the Indonesia Javan Rhino program and some interesting progress in Vietnam. Auckland Zoo has also advised that they are able to commit a further \$20,000NZD next year highlighting the continued commitment to rhino conservation.

Also in New Zealand, ARP has received funding from the International Rhino Fund of New Zealand to contribute to the Sumatran Rhino programs in Indonesia. This is yet another example of conservation organisations working together to secure the future of the plight of the Asian rhinoceros.

ARP would like to wish all our members, partners and donors a safe and happy festive season and we look forward to another productive year in 2010. If you are looking for something different for Christmas why not consider a rhino Rembrandt, ARP membership or Rhino Adoption package. If you ring your order through to 0889760952 we will attempt to get your package in an overnight mail bag to ensure your gift reaches you in time.

All the best,
Kerry Crosbie, Project Director



My First Experience Arresting a Rhino Poacher

Below is a story provided by Arief Rubianto, Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park RPU Leader on the arrest of an animal poacher.

According to information from our informant there had been rhino poaching activity in Bengkuntat, West Lampung. Based on this information, it was decided that we should approach this issue in collaboration with the BBS NP forest guard and the local police. We requested one police officer to monitor the house of the suspected poacher and prepared one unit to be on standby in the village. Using two-way radio communication we were able to ensure that the suspected poacher was unable to leave the village before the operation was in action.

We were required to use a public vehicle to travel to the location, as the familiarity of our vehicle could have jeopardized the operation. If we were approached by villagers as to our reasons for being there, we stated that we were merchant traders collecting coffee and cacao. It was important for us to remain undercover at this time.

According to informants our target was still in the forest at this stage so we needed to wait for him in the village. We ended up waiting for him for about 3 days! In order to survive, we bought clothes and meals from the villagers. We stayed in an unused and very small store and could only leave after midnight to ensure that we did not blow our cover!

After 3 days of waiting in the store, we received information that the suspected poacher had returned to the village and was planning to travel to the city by motorcycle the following day. We needed to make careful plans before he left the village.

At 10 am the next morning we saw the target walking in front of the place where we were staying. We made contact with our team members to prepare and advised that we must make an arrest today!!

After coordinating the team we were able to make a successful arrest. Unfortunately he had no evidence with him and only had a knife. We were then able to take him to his house and after searching his property we managed to find some rhino teeth! This was all the evidence we needed to return him to our camp and send him to jail. It was our belief that the rhino horn had already been sold on so we hoped to interrogate him at the police office.

During interrogation, the poacher stated that he had not killed a rhino or any other mammal and that the teeth had come from a friend. He was not aware that we were RPU and that we had plenty of information relating to his involvement in rhinos killed in the area since 1990.

After following the required legal processes, this poacher was only given 4 months jail due to the fact that the teeth were the only evidence that we had. We were very disappointed but have to accept this legal decision. It was actually my first experience to arrest a rhino poacher!

I have now made a promise to myself to improve our methods in the future so that we can arrest more rhino poachers and ensure that they receive maximum punishment and longer jail terms.



ARP is very proud to support the important work that Arief and his team do in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park. We have visited the teams there and seen firsthand the tough and dangerous work that these men do and how proud and professional they are. These guys are on the front line of rhino conservation putting their lives at risk not only from mosquito born disease and animal attack but also attack from poachers and illegal encroachers they are working hard to stop. We take our hats off to them. Absolute heroes!

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.

In Loving Memory of Emi

Found in a pit trap in 1991 Emi was the 28th of 40 rhinos acquired for a captive breeding program for the Sumatran Rhinoceros. The program was initiated in 1984 with the goal of producing a vigorous captive population of Sumatran rhinos that could serve as a back-up to the dwindling wild population. Rhino #28 (Emi) was a very young female estimated to be about three years old.

Because there were no tracks of an adult rhino in the area, it appeared the rhino calf was alone and had been orphaned. Her mother was probably killed by poachers who covet the rhinos' two small horns. The horns are crushed up and sold for top dollar on the black market as "medicine" to cure anything from headaches to arthritis to upset stomachs even though there is no scientific proof that rhino horn contains any medicinal value.

Although Emi had probably never seen humans before, when the trackers arrived at the pit and looked down on her, she did not panic. Within hours, she was eating the leafy tree branches they offered right out of their hands.

Forests of Sumatra typically are dense, but what had been Emi's home territory was rapidly disappearing due to logging. Making her potential future in the wild even bleaker was the fact that the logging roads were opening up the forests and making them more accessible to poachers. Those same roads actually helped the rhino trappers in transporting Emi out of the forest and to the coast where she boarded a ferry and crossed the ocean to the island of Java, the most populated island of Indonesia. Had she remained in that forest, Emi's fate most likely would have ended up in the hands of poachers.

Many of the rhinos captured for the captive breeding program had remained on Java, but several had made yet another long journey, this time by airplane, to the United States. Emi was the fifth of seven rhinos to come to America. She arrived at the Los Angeles Zoo in good condition and began her new life on the West Coast. Quite a transition, straight from the forests of Sumatra to the bustling city of LA, but Emi handled it all in stride. Her adaptability is one of the traits that made Emi so exceptional.

Known as the "hairy rhinoceros", the Sumatran rhino has a distinctive longhaired reddish-brown coat not seen in other rhino species. This coat is especially prevalent on young rhinos, and Emi had far more hair than any of her adult relatives previously imported to the United States. Growing up on the California coast, Emi's coat changed from reddish-brown to almost blond, but at seven years of age, it was not the colour of her hair that concerned animal managers, it was the challenge of trying to breed her.

In 1995, only three of the seven imported Sumatran rhinos were still alive, and efforts to breed the species had met only with failure. Not only was the U.S. struggling, but breeding efforts in Malaysia and Indonesia also proved fruitless. Because the only male Sumatran rhino in the U.S., Ipuh, was at the Cincinnati Zoo, and because of their reputation for breeding endangered species, Emi was transferred on breeding loan from LA to Cincinnati. A year later is when Dr Terri Roth arrived at Cincinnati Zoo and had the privilege of working with this extraordinary rhino called Emi.

Growing up around cats, dogs and cattle, people often take for granted that if you put male and female animals together, they will naturally breed and produce offspring. This scenario is far from reality when it comes to many wildlife species. Sumatran rhinos are very solitary by nature, and early efforts to breed them by housing a male with a female resulted only in aggressive battles between the two who wanted nothing to do with each other.

Because of our concern for Emi's well-being, we dared not force her into an enclosure with the male rhino if the risk of him attacking and hurting her was significant. However, our goal was to breed Emi and Ipuh, a goal that clearly could not be achieved if the animals were never in the same yard. Therefore, we decided the best approach was to study Emi and learn about her reproductive cycle so that we might be able to determine when she would be receptive to Ipuh before placing the animals together.

Science is only as good as the data that can be collected, and when working with non-domestic species, data collection can be incredibly challenging. Most folks would not expect a rhinoceros to tolerate a lot given

their reputation as tough, cantankerous animals. We were fortunate that Emi's ready acceptance of so many things allowed us to collect data by ultrasound on a regular basis (even though the procedure had to be performed rectally). Furthermore, after a conditioning period, our veterinary technicians were able to collect blood from a vein in her ear so that we could monitor hormone levels.

Like a lot of us, Emi will tolerate quite a bit if rewarded with her favourite foods, and as long as she was fed pieces of apple, banana and sweet potato, she stood quietly in her chute during these research procedures. In fact, Emi had the right of refusal every day because her entrance into the chute for this work was always voluntary and never forced. But Emi was a trooper, and always cooperated with us.

Eventually the data we collected from Emi allowed us to unravel the mysteries of reproduction in this species and provided the information we needed to determine the right time to pair her with Ipuh for mating. Emi's contribution to science and to our knowledge of her species is profound, and yet to her, it was all part of the daily routine.

Proof of Emi's tolerant demeanour was perhaps best demonstrated by her behaviour the first time Ipuh attempted to mate with her. Ipuh, having also come from the forests of Sumatra, was captured as an adult in 1990. He had spent seven years in captivity without breeding a female when suddenly he found himself in an enclosure with receptive Emi throughout the day and into the night. Ipuh attempted to mate Emi. In fact, over a 19-hour period he mounted her 47 times, and each time, Emi stood quietly. Unfortunately, Ipuh never was successful, and by morning, the exhausted pair was separated. Twenty-one days later, Ipuh got his second chance. This time Ipuh figured it out and succeeded.

Emi's first pregnancy occurred in the fall of 1997 and was diagnosed by the presence of an embryo observed by ultrasound 16 days after mating. Surprise and elation quickly spread throughout the Zoo and then extended to Emi's native land of Southeast Asia where our international partners in the effort to save this species rejoiced with us. This was the first pregnancy produced in a captive Sumatran rhino in over 100 years!

Unfortunately, our euphoria came to an abrupt end when, at day 42 of gestation, Emi lost the pregnancy.

Over the next two years, Emi became pregnant four more times, but lost every pregnancy within the first three months of gestation. Of course, Emi was completely unaware of the optimism and excitement her pregnancies inspired nor the heart-wrenching disappointment her miscarriages brought, it was an emotional roller coaster for those of us involved, and I started to envy Emi and her state of blissful ignorance.

Through it all, Emi appeared perfectly healthy and content, once again, taking everything in stride. Little did she know that she was a primary topic of conversation during a Sumatran Rhino Master-planning Workshop in Southeast Asia that was sponsored by the International Rhino Foundation. The recommendation coming out of that workshop was to supplement Emi with the hormone, progesterone, the next time she conceived to see if that might help her sustain a pregnancy to term.

When Emi became pregnant for the sixth time in May of 2000, she was prescribed a daily dose of oral progesterone. The rhino keepers diligently ensured Emi received the entire dosage of liquid hormone every morning by injecting it into a stack of bread and then feeding Emi the hormone soaked slices of bread while she stood in the chute. Always interested in food, Emi quickly became accustomed to her morning bread treat, and would stand in position in the chute waiting for it even if the front door of the chute was wide open.

One afternoon, 474 days after mating with Ipuh, Emi came into the barn for the evening and just wasn't acting quite herself. She spent most of the night pacing between her stalls, vocalizing, frequently lying down and getting back up and spraying urine. In fact, in the 12 hours leading up to Emi's delivery, she sprayed urine an amazing 69 times! We knew this because our Zoo Volunteer Observers were watching her on monitors and recording her behaviours all night long at the Linder Centre for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW).

In the early hours of the 475th day, Emi appeared to be going into labour, but about that time Head

Keeper Paul Reinhart arrived and suddenly Emi's interest shifted to her breakfast. Keeping us all waiting in suspense, Emi proceeded to eat almost her entire breakfast before returning to the task of delivering her calf, which she then did relatively quickly and without complications. With this successful delivery, Emi became the first Sumatran rhino in 112 years to produce a calf in captivity and brought international attention to herself, CREW and the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. The birth of this calf was a spark of hope for the future of the species. But none of this concerned Emi, she was busy caring for her newborn calf.

Despite the fact that Emi had been orphaned young and raised in captivity her natural instinct was strong and Emi proved to be an ideal mother from the very start. True to form, Emi calmly accepted the new arrival, cleaned him, watched nearby as he struggled to stand and then helped guide him to nurse. Her first calf, named "Andalas" thrived in Emi's care. At one year of age, a robust Andalus was weaned, and attention turned once again to Emi.

Our attempt to produce a second calf from Emi and Ipuh was initiated in October of 2002. Using the same management protocol that had produced the previous pregnancies, Emi and Ipuh were paired for mating when our scientific data indicated Emi would be receptive. The two had not forgotten what to do, but it took six consecutive matings before Emi became pregnant. This time, no hormone soaked bread was offered to Emi and, finally, she carried a pregnancy to term successfully on her own.

In the very early hours of July 29th, Emi became restless. She proceeded to pace, paw, rub her horn, vocalize and spray urine almost continuously for 36 hours before finally lying down and having serious contractions. Within 45 minutes of starting those contractions, Emi's second calf "Suci" entered our world 477 days after it was conceived. This one, a female with a unique white sock on her right front leg, was every bit as big, vigorous and healthy as her brother had been.

April 2007 saw the arrival of Emi's third and last calf – a male "Harapan". Emi is the only Sumatran rhino in history to produce more than one calf in captivity. With the captive population plummeting to just eight

animals prior to these births, and the wild population now hovering at about 200 rhinos, the species is in an unprecedented state of crisis.

Emi the orphaned rhino calf from Sumatra became a shining star in the struggle to save her species from extinction. With every calf she produced, Emi moved the world one rhino further away from losing the species, and in her calm and unassuming way, gave us hope and provided inspiration. Whereas I once envied Emi and her blissful ignorance, now I wish she could somehow comprehend all she achieved and just what she meant to her species and to all of us who are fighting for its survival against all odds.

On September 5, 2009, Emi passed away in her sleep at the age of 21. The Veterinary staff had spent months conducting a battery of diagnostic tests, consulting numerous rhino and veterinary experts and administering various treatments, but they could not save her in the end.

On the day of her death a thorough post mortem exam was performed and the liver appeared to be the problem. Tissue samples were submitted to veterinary pathologists and the results indicated Emi died due to liver failure caused by iron storage disease (hemochromatosis).

Considered the most endangered of all rhino species and perhaps the most endangered mammal species on earth, it is estimated that at least 60 percent of the Sumatran rhino population has been lost in the last two decades. The primary cause is conversion of rhino habitat for agriculture, even in some national parks, and poaching for its horn which some Asian cultures believe contains medicinal properties.

Today, there are only ten Sumatran rhinos living in captivity worldwide and fewer than 200 animals exist in isolated pockets of Sabah, Malaysia and the island of Sumatra in Indonesia. Sumatran rhinos can live 35-40 years.

Article: Dr Terri Roth

(Article modified from that which first appeared in the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden's Wildlife Explorer magazine in Sept./Oct. 2004).

Exciting News from the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary

This month has brought us some exciting news from the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Indonesia! On December 5th, Andalas (the centre's young male, who was born at the Cincinnati Zoo and later transferred to Indonesia) successfully bred with Ratu, one of the sanctuary's young female rhinos, for the first time.

There have been just three Sumatran rhinos born in captivity during the past century, all at the Cincinnati Zoo. Andalas was the first, followed by his sister, Suci, who still lives in Cincinnati, and brother Harapan, who now resides at the White Oak Conservation Centre in Florida.

With the unfortunate death of Emi (mother to all three youngsters) earlier this year, the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary is now home to the only potential breeding pairs of Sumatran rhinos in captivity anywhere in the world. Although behaviourally normal, Torgamba, the SRS's older male, is suspected to be infertile, leaving Andalas as our best hope for breeding this Critically Endangered species in captivity.

Over the past year, Andalas's vets and keepers have been working to introduce him to the females at the sanctuary – Ratu, Rosa and Bina. During these initial introductions, Andalas seemed very unsure of how to

behave, and when in doubt, tended to be aggressive. But after numerous socialization sessions, in which the male and female rhino are fed together on opposite sides of a gate and then gradually allowed to interact at their own pace, Andalas – with some guidance from Ratu, an older and more experienced rhino – learned what to do.

As you can see from these photos of the twosome, typical rhino courtship behaviour includes chasing, nudging, and sharing a relaxing wallow in the mud.

All of us are hoping that the New Year will bring us welcome news of a Sumatran rhino pregnancy!

Article and photo: International Rhino Foundation Newsletter



Rhino Protection Units remove nearly 300 snares from Cat Loc in the first three months

Joint patrol units consisting of 8 local community members and 8 rangers from the Forest Protection Department have removed 295 snares from the core zone of Cat Loc, habitat of the last remaining Javan Rhinoceros in Vietnam. The majority of the snares are placed in traplines to target animals such as Muntjac, Wild Pig and Pheasants but more than 30 of these snares were of large size, capable of trapping animals like Rhino, Gaur and Bear. All snares were removed from the forest and destroyed along with three hunters' camps found by the rangers.

The removal of snares from Cat Loc and general increase in enforcement in the area is providing enhanced protection for the park's biodiversity. Rangers and local community members recorded tracks and signs of Gaur, Rhino, Wild Pig and Buff-cheeked Crested Gibbon on multiple occasions on each patrol.

October also marks the beginning of an intensive survey of Cat Loc for Javan Rhino. WWF have brought in conservation detection dogs from the United States which have been trained to find Javan Rhino dung, with the aim of collecting multiple dung samples from every individual. The survey will last 6 months; DNA and hormonal analysis will then be conducted to determine population size, sex ratio and hopefully investigate breeding condition and stress levels. This survey and analysis is supported by WWF, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, International Rhino Foundation. DNA analysis will be conducted by Queens University, Ontario and hormonal analysis by the Institute of Zoology, Zoological Society London.

You can follow the progress on this survey through a personal blog: <http://rhinomania.blogspot.com/>.

Project Update: Rapid Action Initiatives to Strengthen Anti-Poaching Measures in and Around Rhino Bearing Areas in Assam

The successful conservation and management of rhino in Assam needs rapid threat mitigation measures in order to ensure long term survival of rhinos in Assam, India. Poaching of rhinos both within and outside the rhino bearing areas in Assam has remained a challenge for frontline forest staff and needed better support and coordination. This project fully funded by the Taronga Conservation Society Australia and ARP was aimed at strengthening anti-poaching activities and the monitoring of stray rhino around Kaziranga National Park.

Due to an increase in rhino population in Kaziranga (currently 2048 rhinos as estimated in April 2009 compared to 1855 estimated in 2006), the incidence of rhino straying out of the NP has increased significantly. This has led to the poaching of approximately 6 rhinos outside the Kaziranga NP during the year 2007. In the year 2008 the incidence of rhino straying out of Kaziranga increased again. This proved a challenge for park rangers to adequately manage and protect them once outside the park boundaries.

The anti-poaching project supported by Taronga Zoos began in January 2009. The project focuses on local community involvement in monitoring areas outside the National Park. Equipments like binoculars, motorbikes to track the stray rhinos, camping

materials such as small 4-6 men tents, rucksacks with torch lights, rain coats and jackets and the necessary equipment needed to bring the stray rhinos safely back into Kaziranga NP has been purchased. A set of three groups of forest squad comprising about 4-6 persons in each group will be specifically trained to chase the strayed rhino back into the park. One Speed Boat engine will also be sponsored through this project to further strengthen the river front monitoring in northern boundary of Kaziranga both with regards to stray rhino and movement of poachers.

Activities carried out until November 2009:

The project is working on strengthening the mobility of the forest staff to monitor these stray rhino outside the national park and to ensure that they are returned back to the park safely with active involvement of the community.

This year poaching incidences have decreased by approximately 50% outside KNP compared to the 2008 figures. In 2007 about 10 rhinos were poached outside the KNP of which 6 are within 10KM from park boundary. The rest were beyond 10KM of the park boundary, and officials do not claim them as Kaziranga rhino as may have come from elsewhere. In 2008, 6 rhino were killed outside the park. However in 2009 so far only 3 poached outside the park. During this period of our project implementation, two primary rhino poachers were arrested outside the KNP. These two poachers have been involved in more than 40% of rhino poaching incidences outside KNP in south east area. In Feb-March 2009 at least four rhinos strayed out in this area and all of them three were returned safe. However there was one poaching case during that period Feb-Mar 2009.

The forest staff are not part of Kaziranga Administration, but are employees within the greater Assam Forest Department. The Numaligarh Forest Beat Office (which is about 30 KM east of Kaziranga NP) have been playing major role in monitoring stray rhino and our program has assisted fulfilling their basic needs in performing their additional duties on monitoring the strayed rhino and also monitoring the poachers outside the KNP.



Three community meetings have been organized around key villages and three teams have been formed to assist in our program. Professional training has been imparted to forest staff and community intelligence gatherers to enhance monitoring and protection of rhino.

Items purchased so far:

- Two motor motorbikes have been handed over to the field sites to assist the forest staff to enhance the protection of rhinos outside the Kaziranga NP. A focus has been made mainly towards eastern side of the park.
- Ten binoculars were put into service to monitor the rhino straying outside the Kaziranga NP
- Field gears such as small 4-6 men tents, rucksacks with torch lights, rain coats and jackets were also handed over to make the effort to protect and monitor the stray rhinos outside the Kaziranga NP more effective.

In the proposal we were supposed to provide an OBM engine for a Speed Boat. However the Kaziranga Authorities got extra fund from Central Government

and they have purchased that component from their extra funds. Hence at this stage we have US\$ 3000 unutilized, which subject to approval from Taronga Foundation, we would like to utilize for community awareness during the winter months (November 2009 until March 2010) to further strengthen the second line of defense to ensure better protection to strayed rhinos.

We have achieved the planned activities. The key threatening process to rhino in poaching and increase and decrease in poaching, no of attempts to poach rhinos, are the basic criteria we have incorporated to assess the success of the project.

This project is not looking after habitat component as we have seen the immediate threats to rhino which is basically poaching. The population of rhino in Kaziranga is on increasing trend with current rhino population stands at 2048 as estimated in the year 2009 compared to 1855 estimated in 2006.

Article: Aaranyak and Asian Rhino Project.

Photo: Pranjit Kumar Sarma



The Asian Rhino Project, Silvery Gibbon Project and Australian Orangutan Project present the



Walk for Endangered Asian Animals

This joint walkathon will aim to raise funds and awareness for the critically endangered Orangutan, Silvery Gibbon and Asian Rhinos.

9am, Sunday 14 March 2010 at Lake Monger, WA

To help us in ensuring the day is a success, help is sought in the following areas:

- Advertising
- Manning stalls on the day
- BBQ skills
- Face painting skills
- Education/interpretive signage throughout the walk, fact sheets etc
- Dressing up as NGO mascots
- Sourcing donations for prizes
- Sourcing donations for children's bouncy castle, food and drink on the day
- Encouraging participants!

If you or someone you know can assist in any of the above ways, please contact Sophie Lourandos on sophie.lourandos@asianrhinos.org.au or Bill Waterer on wwaterer@eftel.net.au.

Sumatran Rhinoceros

The Sumatran rhino, also called the "hairy rhino" because of its hairy body and tufted ears, is the most endangered of all rhino species because of its rapid rate of decline. Only around 200 animals survive in dense forests in Indonesia and Sabah, Malaysia.

Sumatran Rhinos face tremendous poaching pressure, and are now also quickly losing their habitat due to massive deforestation. In Indonesia, an area of forest the size of a football field is destroyed every minute! Sumatran rhinos now exist only in protected areas where they are physically guarded from harm by Rhino Protection Units.

Because of their shy, solitary nature and their remote jungle habitat, there has been little research conducted on Sumatran rhinos in the wild. And, because these rhinos are so rare, there are only 9 in captivity in the world - two at the Cincinnati Zoo, one at the White Oak Conservation Centre in Florida, one in Malaysia, and five at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Indonesia.

The Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS) is a 250-acre complex located within Way Kambas National Park in Sumatra, Indonesia. Its five rhinos - Andalas, Rosa, Ratu, Torgamba and Bina are part of an intensively managed research and breeding program aimed at increasing our knowledge about the Sumatran rhino with the ultimate aim of increasing the population in the wild.

At the sanctuary, the rhinos reside in large, open areas where they can experience a natural rain forest habitat while still receiving state-of-the-art veterinary care and nutrition.

You can now become Facebook friends with Andalas, Rosa, Ratu, Torgamba and Bina thanks to our partners the international Rhino Foundation.

Torgamba

Torgamba is the oldest male Sumatran rhino at the SRS, and the oldest Sumatran rhino in captivity in the world. All the female rhinos at the SRS respect him, and so do the keepers. When Torgamba decides to do something, no one can stop him. Because of Torgamba's age, he suffers from chronic renal disease and anemia, but he remains in great spirits (and

remains very interested in female rhinos as well!). Ratu is Torgamba's favorite female at the SRS.

<http://www.facebook.com/people/Torgamba-Rhino/100000384717221>

Bina

Bina is the grand old lady of the SRS. Generally a calm, quiet rhino, she is usually happy alone, taking walks in her forest enclosure. Bina can be unpredictable though, and sometimes she'll chase her keepers. She can also get "jealous". Torgamba is Bina's favorite male rhino, and sometimes if she sees or hears another female with Torgamba, she makes lots of noise.

<http://www.facebook.com/people/Bina-Rhino/100000398187472>



Rosa

Rosa is the largest female rhino at the sanctuary, but she's actually still just a teenager. Unlike most Sumatran rhinos, Rosa isn't shy at all - she is extremely acclimated to people and loves their company. (She was actually moved to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary from Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park because unfortunately her lack of fear made her too vulnerable to poachers.) Every morning, Rosa waits by the far edge of her enclosure, listening for her keepers, and then walks alongside them to the gate. She knows when they are supposed to arrive, and if her keepers are running late in the morning, she starts screaming for them, and everyone at the sanctuary can hear her. Sumatran rhinos are known for their unique squeaking and chirping vocalizations, but Rosa is the loudest of all the rhinos - she practically sings!

<http://www.facebook.com/people/Rosa-Rhino/100000403317178>

Ratu

Ratu is the most "wild" of all the Sumatran rhinos at the sanctuary. She loves hiding in the forest, and knows every inch of her enclosure. Her keepers have to search the forest for her every morning when they arrive to feed her and conduct a health check. Ratu is very sensitive to her environment - anytime she hears a frog croak, or a branch fall, she stands quietly with erect ears, and then sounds an alert. She routinely patrols and marks her territory by scraping branches and urinating. Even though Ratu exhibits the most "wild" behavior of the SRS rhinos, she still has a great relationship with her keepers. She likes to try to play with them in the forest, running, rubbing her head against them and sometimes jumping and bucking like a rodeo horse. She knows her name and will follow when her keepers call to her.

<http://www.facebook.com/people/Ratu-Rhino/100000401307295>

Andalas

Andalas, the Cincinnati-Zoo born rhino who was transferred to Indonesia from the U.S. in 2007, just turned 8 last month! We can't believe how time flies - it seems like only yesterday we were celebrating this little rhino's birth. (Andalas was the first Sumatran rhino born in captivity in 112 years.) But Andalas isn't a little rhino anymore - now he is the largest rhino at the SRS and has recently reached sexual maturity. Having been born and raised in captivity, Andalas is comfortable



with humans and is a very playful rhino. While on walks in his forest enclosure, Andalas always tries to "play" with his keepers - often resulting in his keepers having to climb a tree to avoid him. After all, when a 1,700 pound animal wants to play with you, things can get a little dangerous. Because the SRS is located within Way Kambas National Park, other animals, like tapirs, bears, deer and wild pigs, often travel through the sanctuary. Andalas delights in chasing away the pigs that routinely wander into his enclosure. Early morning is Andalas' favorite time of the day. Every morning, he waits for his keepers at the gate to his enclosure, and starts calling for his breakfast as soon as he hears their approach.

<http://www.facebook.com/people/Andalas-Rhino/100000386157351>

If you want to help support the SRS rhinos, you can choose a rhino to "adopt". Simply contact info@asianrhinos.org.au or visit our website www.asianrhinos.org.au to download a form. By "adopting" a rhino for yourself or as a gift for someone else, you'll help pay for your rhino's food and medical care. Adoptions through the ARP are tax deductible in Australia and you'll receive an adoption certificate showing your support. For USA members please adopt through the International Rhino Foundation to ensure your tax deductible contribution. www.rhinos-irf.org

Please consider becoming a Facebook friend or adopting a rhino today, so you can learn more about the SRS rhinos, as well as Sumatran rhinos in the wild.

New Project: “Securing Indian Rhino Populations in Assam through Translocations – Indian Rhino Vision 2020”

ARP has been generously awarded \$10,000 from the Taronga Conservation Society Australia for the relocation of rhino as part of the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 program.

Project Summary

In April 2008, as part of Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV 2020), a partnership among Assam Forest Department; ARP’s Partner, the International Rhino Foundation; WWF-India and other NGOs, the much anticipated translocations of Indian rhinos commenced with the movement of two males from Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary to Manas National Park in Assam. The IRV 2020 goal is to “increase the total rhino population in Assam from present numbers to 3,000 by 2020, and to ensure that these rhinos are distributed over at least seven protected areas to provide long-term viability of an Assam metapopulation.”

The first translocation has produced initial positive results, and will be followed by the translocation of another 18 animals to Manas in November/December 2009. IRV 2020 will be achieved by a combination of rhino translocations and improved protection, with other translocations planned for the future. Support for moving rhinos to Manas in the local administration and among local communities is in place, as is enhanced security within the Park.

The key to the success of the initiative will be the safe capture and translocation of the animals as well as the ability to both continuously monitor and provide for their security. The cost of translocating one rhino is around AUD 5,000, thus translocating up to eighteen rhinos requires funding of around 90,000 AUD.

Conservation Benefit

a) Expected Measurable Outcomes

Currently, more than 85% of the Indian rhino population inhabits one protected national park, Kaziranga, exposing the population to the risk that a single catastrophe such as a flood or disease outbreak could again lead to serious population decline. Additionally, a smaller population of rhinos (approximately 100) living in Pabitora National Park have exceeded the park’s carrying capacity, leading to an increased risk of rhino-human conflicts as animals move out of the park and into agricultural areas to forage for food.

As part of the IRV 2020 program, ARP is assisting our partners, with the aim to translocate 18 rhinos to Manas NP in November/December 2009.

The expansion of the distribution of Indian rhinos will reduce stochastic risks and reduce the population pressures in any single habitat by ensuring a better distribution of rhinos over suitable ranges. This is essential for the species’ metapopulation management and long-term survival.

The expected conservation output of this project will be the successful establishment of an Indian rhino population in Manas National Park. Rhinos once flourished in this park but due to heavy poaching pressures in the past, only small numbers remain.

b) Expected Conservation Scope of the Project

The expected conservation scope of this project will be the successful re-establishment of the Indian rhino population in Manas National Park. The expansion of the distribution of Indian rhinos will reduce stochastic risks and reduce the population pressures in any single habitat by ensuring a better distribution of rhinos over suitable ranges. This is essential for the species’ metapopulation management and long-term survival.

c) Anticipated Scenario if Action is Delayed or No Action is Taken

Poaching pressure remains high within India and Nepal. In 2008, 26 rhinos died at the hands of poachers in Assam, and at least eight were poached in Nepal, where populations are highly fragmented and difficult to protect. Already in 2009, at least 17 rhinos have been poached in India and Nepal. These events occurred mostly during the rainy season when animals were forced to leave their normal ranges for non-flooded areas.

Any delay in translocations may further increase the risk of poaching within these areas, as well as force rhinos out of highly populated areas into the hands of poachers.

d) How Long Will the Project Continue to Deliver Benefits and What is the Required Ongoing Input?

The IRV 2020 program will continue to deliver benefits to the Indian Rhino Population up until 2020. We will know that the project is a success when the translocated population is established and breeding in its new home in Manas National Park.

Probability of Success

e) Describe the project design and how this will logically lead to the stated expected outcomes.

Rhinos will be selected for translocation based on their age, sex, health and other variables as laid out in the Translocation Protocol for Indian Rhinos, which is based on successful translocations carried out in Nepal between 1986 and 2003. The methodologies outlined in this document have been approved by the Government of India and the provincial Government of Assam. Current plans call for at least eighteen rhinos to be translocated into Manas NP. These will include four male and four female rhinos from Pabitora and three male and seven female rhinos from Kaziranga.

Up to four selected rhinos per translocation effort will be immobilized with etorphine hydrochloride (M99) from elephant back. Rhinos will be monitored by a team of veterinarians during transportation and prior to release. Post-release, animals will be monitored using radio-collars and direct observation, both from elephant back and on foot. Translocations were not allowed to begin until the Assamese government could ensure that Manas National Park was secure for rhinos.

Measures undertaken include building a number of new camps and making operational old camps for protection patrol teams to use, in addition to recruiting and training ~150 new guards from local communities. A new wireless network for communication and vehicles for transportation also have been provided to quickly foil illegal incursions into the Park. A fence is also being constructed along the southern border of the park to prevent park encroachment and to keep translocated rhinos from wandering out of the park and into unsafe areas. Effective translocation, monitoring and survival of these first ~20 rhinos to Manas National Park will be the key indicator as to the probability of success for subsequent phases of IRV 2020.

Monitoring of a translocated rhino will begin immediately upon arrival by a team of biologists with all necessary equipment organized to track the rhino using its radio collar and visually. Initially, the rhinos will be monitored for properly settling in at the new location. The team will also monitor the behaviour and habitat use of the rhinos over the long-term.

A team of at least two biologists will locate each rhino on a daily basis and observe them over the course of the day for overall behaviour and well-being. Location data will be transformed onto a GIS domain with layers of vegetation mapping and other management parameters. These analyses and conclusions will provide critical data for improving management practices and identifying other needs for making the program successful, in addition to providing information and experience for further translocations, and management of protected areas.

IRV 2020 is part of a long-term program and part of ARP's, IRF's and WWF's commitment to conserving Indian rhinos. As such, it is monitored regularly by IRF's Asian Rhino Coordinator (position funded by ARP) and by WWF-India personnel. Quarterly reports are provided by WWF-India and partners that allow monitoring and evaluation of the project's success on a regular basis. We will know that the project is a success when the translocated population is established and breeding in its new home in Manas National Park.

f) Is the project embedded into the local community and governments, does it incorporate capacity building into the plan, and have buy in from governing bodies?

In addition to training more than 150 community members as guards and monitors, the IRV 2020 team has coordinated with the local political and civil leadership to organize public meetings and other activities to cultivate community involvement in and support for the rhino conservation program. There has been a long history of conflict between wildlife and people in Assam. To cultivate public support in favour of rhino conservation in particular and wildlife conservation in general, the IRV 2020 team has employed a two-pronged strategy of providing local employment and training, combined with regular public meetings and communications, to build an atmosphere that favours conservation in and around

Manas National Park. At least three large meetings per year are held with local parties, including the Bodo Territorial Council, to continue to engender support for IRV 2020. Additionally, local community members are hired for any employment opportunities that arise, including construction of the fence along the southern border of the park.

With a program as significant as the rhino translocations in Assam it is critical to communicate the correct information on the program to all constituencies, in particular, via the media. The IRV 2020 has a Communications Strategy which will guide these interactions, with a short-term aim of at least three major stories per year about post-translocation events. Because of the sensitivity of the moves, the Government of Assam will closely manage

media coverage of the first translocations, and will organize press conferences for releases of print and photographic coverage.

This is the second grant awarded to the ARP from the Taronga Conservation Society Australia. The support from Taronga Zoos has been outstanding with funding last year for a rhino rescue program around Kaziranga National Park and the Vision 2020 program this year. Taronga Zoos also supports ARP through professional support of Dr Benn Bryant to the ARP Veterinary Support Team and the whole of the ARP NSW Branch are Taronga Western Plains Zoo staff. This valuable support is greatly appreciated and goes a long way to helping us help the rhinos. Thank you!

Javan Rhinos Share Wallow Holes: Impact of Climate Change?

Javan rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) in Ujung Kulon National Park, Banten-Indonesia are known as solitary mammals, for the tendency of these animals to roam individually (except during mating season, or when nurturing the young calves). However, the recent finding from video trap equipment is not consistent with the above view. During the months of September and October, the survey teams were perplexed by the occurrences of several video clips from different parts of rhino habitat in Ujung Kulon National Park that show two male rhinos wallowing together as a "pair" (at the same time in the same wallow holes). Other than pairs of mother and calf, this "communal" wallowing behavior of male rhinos was never previously recorded; thus adding on to the list of activities (ethogram) comprising the behavior of the Javan rhinoceros.

Further investigation in the field revealed that during this period (the dry season) many of the wallow holes, as well as any sources of water are depleted. Some of the wallow holes are completely dry, rendering the spot useless for rhino wallow. Previous observations indicate that wallowing is a major requirement in rhino's daily life, so wallow holes / water depletion would force the rhinos to find alternative sites for wallowing. Is this an example of climate impact on rhino's habitat? No one can know for sure, but climate modeling and prediction calculated by a team from Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) showed a

tendency of drier climate in Ujung Kulon National Park for the next ten years. Drier climate would mean more severe water and wallow holes depletions in the Javan rhino habitat, and consequently we could predict higher occurrences of such "communal" wallowing. Therefore, this behavior can potentially be used as an indicator of climate change impact on the behavior of the rhinos.

The next question from derived this finding is: how will the water and wallow hole shortage affect the well being of the rhino in terms of stress level and other physiological effects? Hormonal assay from feces, as well as the study of water deprivation using animal model are being discussed to provide more insight to anticipate and prevent harmful effects to the endangered javan rhinoceros.

Article: Adhi Rachmat Hariyadi – WWF Indonesia
Photo: Ujung Kulon NP – WWF Indonesia



National Committee Update

On October 12, ARP committee held our Annual General Meeting. The 2008-2009 Annual Report is available on our website www.asianrhinos.org.au outlining all ARP supported programs, treasurers reports and ARP operations. The ARP account audits have also been completed and are available upon request. A big thanks once again to Evelyn Wong, Judge Constable Accountants and Treasurer Lorraine Dunn for their mighty efforts in this busy period.

We welcome life member Ursula Beaton back to the ARP team – this time on committee as ARP Secretary. Thanks Ursula for your outstanding support for the ARP and rhino conservation. Your committee for 2009/10 is:

Project Director	Kerry Crosbie
Vice Chairperson	Clare Campbell
Treasurer	Lorraine Dunn
Secretary	Ursula Beaton
WA Branch Manager	Sophie Lourandos
NSW Branch Manager	Kristy Murray
General Committee	Carly Palmer

We also welcome ARP member Eveline Read onto our volunteer team as Membership Coordinator. Eveline takes over the position from Kerryn Wood who has done a great job but had to stand down from the position due to upcoming travel plans and health. We hope to have Kerryn back on board in some capacity once things settle for her. Memberships are a vital role in ARP operations and we appreciate both Kerryn and Eveline's support.

WA Branch Update

ARP's WA branch participated in a World Animal Day celebration at Perth Zoo on October 4, where all conservation partners were invited to show case their work on the zoo's main lawn. ARP sold just over \$300 of merchandise on the day. Thank you to Perth Zoo for this great opportunity, we hope this becomes an annual event in the future.



The WA Branch along with the Silvery Gibbon Project and Australian Orangutan Project are planning a "Walk for Endangered Asian Animals" walkathon for March 2010. See page 9. If you are in Perth and are interested in helping organise this event or to participate, please contact Sophie Lourandos as soon as possible.

NSW Update

The Roaring for Rhino's fundraiser has unfortunately had to be postponed and has been rescheduled for February 2010 to ensure that full fundraising capacity can be reached. The NSW branch is working hard to make this exciting event a complete success.

Adopt-a-Rhino Fundraiser

Help us save the Sumatran rhino by adopting one today – and it's tax deductible!

All funds raised through the Asian Rhino Project's adopt-a-rhino program will be used to support the SRS in Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra.

With each adoption you will receive an attractive adoption certificate including information on your rhino and the program.

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

More information on the rhinos and the program is on our website www.asianrhinos.org.au.



Special Thanks

Rhishja Larson for the fantastic design of the new ARP shirts now for sale. Rhishja has also been working on redesigning and updating the ARP website which we hope to have up soon. Rhishja is a proactive rhino conservationist working hard to raise awareness and support for rhinos around the world. ARP is very grateful to also have her support! Thanks Rhishja.

Microsoft for donating Windows Vista and Office 2007 to upgrade ARP's four laptop computers.

Auckland Zoo for continued generous support towards the Javan rhino Program in Indonesia. Auckland donated another NZ\$5,000 in September and recently advised that they are able to commit another NZ\$20,000 again next year. Well done guys! These funds will make a significant contribution to the conservation of the Javan Rhino.

Perth Zoo Docent Association. On Melbourne Cup Day the Docents had a sweep and this year they made the Rhino's the focus. \$2 from every entry was set aside for the rhino's. Khwaja won the main sweep and donated \$5. Lorraine Dunn won the other one and donated her winnings, and third prize wasn't sold, so the prize went to the rhinos. The total amount was \$77 donation to the rhino's, not a bad effort for two little sweeps. A special thanks to Karen Clarke who organised the sweep and I believe with a little persuasion from avid rhino supporter Khwaja. Thanks guys!

International Rhino Fund of New Zealand which has donated \$1,802.47 to the ARP from funds raised for the Sumatran Rhino programs in Indonesia.
<http://www.rhinofund.org.nz/welcome.aspx>

Alan King for continued support through our adoption program and generous donations.

In The News – Asian Rhino News Stories

Rhinos wandering on Indo-Nepal border to get ID's: 13 Dec 2009

Wildlife officials will soon be preparing a database of the rhino population in Katarniaghat Wildlife Sanctuary and Pilibhit forest area, and each rhino will be assigned with a unique ID."The rhinos in this area move in and out of Nepal and recently three of them crossed the border and settled in the Katarniaghat area. With the help of the IDs, it will be easier to track the individual rhinos," said Harish Guleria, co-ordinator of Terai Arc Land, World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

More: <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/Rhinos-wandering-on-Indo-Nepal-border-to-get-IDs/553270>

Auctioneer sold rhino horn for Chinese aphrodisiac market: 12 Dec 2009

An auctioneer stole a client's rhino horn and sold it to dealers in the Far East to be used as a Chinese aphrodisiac, a court has heard. Christopher Surfleet, 35, made about £5,000 from selling the unusual item, Gloucester crown court was told. He admitted stealing the horn from Mrs Kulpa between 31st Oct 2007 and 1st January 2009. He was sentenced to 27 weeks imprisonment suspended for 18 months and ordered to do 150 hours of unpaid work.

More: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/crime/6790269/PLEASE-PIC-Auctioneer-sold-rhino-horn-for-Chinese-aphrodisiac-market.html>

Animal strays out of Orang, cops seek army help to control crowd: 12 Dec 2009

A rhino that strayed out of Rajiv Gandhi Orang National Park charged at a curious crowd of onlookers that ventured near it in Kharupetia town this afternoon, triggering a near stampede. A child was injured and police were forced to seek the army's help to control the situation. The female rhino damaged a police vehicle and a handcart in the town, 50km from Orang, in Darrang district.

More: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1091213/jsp/frontpage/story_11857779.jsp

Experts want stricter poaching laws: 7 Dec 2009

Penalties for poaching rhinos, a Schedule-I animal under Wildlife (Protection) (Assam Amendment) Bill, 2009, are insufficient, rhino specialist groups under the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) have said. According to the IUCN, though the Assam government has increased penalties, these constitute a fraction of the value of a rhino horn in the end-use market.

More: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1091208/jsp/northeast/story_11833000.jsp

Rangers foil poachers' bid in Orang: 5 Dec 2009

Rangers at Orang Rajiv Gandhi National Park foiled a bid by poachers to kill rhinos last night by engaging the group in a fierce gun battle at Morasali.

More: http://www.telegraphindia.com/1091206/jsp/northeast/story_11827615.jsp

Expedition to track down rhinos: 5 Dec 2009

A 50-member expedition will comb the Pulong Tau national park in northern Sarawak for the Sumatran rhinoceros, last seen over 50 years ago. Comprising personnel from the Sarawak Forest Department, WWF Malaysia and timber company Samling Sdn Bhd will begin the 10-day search on Monday. "We are not sure whether there are any rhinos still roaming in Pulong Tau, though footprints were found near the foot of Gunong Batu Lawi in 1996," he said. Since then no follow-up studies have been done.

More: <http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2009/12/5/nation/5241665&sec=nation>

Rhinos find new home in Dudhwa Sanctuary: 4 Dec 2009

Dudhwa National Park, located in the foothills of Himalayas in Uttar Pradesh, has become an ideal home to the famed one horned rhinoceros that is listed among the endangered species. The number of rhinos at this sanctuary has increased courtesy of the successful relocation of these animals from Kaziranga in Assam and breeding them. The translocation of the rhinos was initiated in 1984 after the last of the rhinos at Dudhwa was killed by the European game hunters in 1878.

More: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/flora-fauna/-Rhinos-find-new-home-in-Dudhwa-Sanctuary-/articleshow/5298452.cms>

Emi's Cause of Death: 4 Dec 2009

Veterinary pathologists from the Cincinnati Zoo say liver failure is to blame for the death of Emi, a 21-year-old female Sumatran rhino who died on September 5th. Dr. Mark Campbell, Director of Animal Health at the zoo says, "Emi's liver failed due to a disease process known as hemochromatosis. Hemochromatosis, or iron storage disease, is a pathological condition associated with excessive iron deposits in tissues. It has been recognized in several wild animal species in captivity including African black rhinos, as well as in man and domestic animals. We believe Emi is the first documented case of hemochromatosis mortality in a Sumatran rhino."

More: <http://www.local12.com/guides/petcare/story/Liver-Failure-Killed-Cincinnati-Zoo-Rhino-Emi/WNxezUNQUkqa6T8Ga4Mj8g.csp>

Rhino poaching surges in Asia and Africa: 2 Dec 2009

A report by two Switzerland-headquartered conservation groups says worldwide rhinoceros poaching is increasing, especially in Asia and Africa. The report by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and the World Wildlife Fund says the poaching is being driven by Asian demand for horns and is made worse by increasingly sophisticated poachers, who are using veterinary drugs, poison, cross bows and high caliber weapons to kill rhinos. The report also raises concerns regarding the low and declining numbers as well as the uncertain status of some of the Sumatran and Javan rhino populations in Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam. Findings will be presented at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), held just before the COP 15.

More: http://www.upi.com/Science_News/2009/12/02/Rhino-poaching-surges-in-Asia-and-Africa/UPI-86181259763532

New habitat for rhinos in Bihar: 1 Dec 2009

The Bagha-Chitauni rail link, converted into broad gauge in 1990s and which was once considered to be an obstacle by the forest department, has proved to a blessing in disguise. The forest department was opposed to the move as the relaying of the railway track obstructed natural flow of some rivulets, which flow through the Valmiki Tiger Reserve area. This very obstruction has resulted in development of a swampy land spread over around 1,000 hectares. The swampy land has become congenial for rhinos, some of them have now started to reside in the area. Earlier, these rhinos, whose habitat is in adjoining forest areas of Nepal, used to visit the reserve just for a few days.

More: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/New-habitat-for-rhinos-in-Bihar/articleshow/5286537.cms>

Sniffer dogs help survey elusive rhino population: 30 Nov 2009

Two sniffer dogs from the United States are helping conservationists determine the population status of the Javan rhino in the Southeast Asian country, WWF-Vietnam said in a recent statement. WWF researchers have teamed up with national park rangers to determine the population status of the rhinos in the forests of southern Vietnam, home to one of the world's last two remaining populations of the species, the conservation charity said. Analysis of rhino faeces enables scientists to determine how many individual rhinos survive in the deep forests, their overall health, and if they are breeding, but only if the researchers can find the faeces in the first place.

More: <http://blogs.nationalgeographic.com/blogs/news/chiefeditor/2009/11/dogs-sniff-out-rhinos-of-vietnam.html>

Conservation efforts based on Masai Mara National Park in Kenya: 28 Nov 2009

Taking a cue from Kenya's Masai Mara National Park, the Assam forest department has decided to prepare the janamkundali (database) of every rhino found in the state's national parks for a better understanding of the prized animal. Assam has the largest population of one-horned rhinos in the world, Kaziranga National Park alone has a rhino population of more than 2,000.

More: <http://iassam.blogspot.com/2009/11/assam-to-build-rhino-database.html>

Conservationists' bid to save rhinos: 24 Nov 2009

To mark Nepal Nature Conservation Year 2009 and raise funds for vital conservation work in Nepal, the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and the UK Trust for Nature Conservation in Nepal hosted a seminar called 'Fragile Nepal' at London Zoo on Tuesday, the British embassy in Kathmandu said. Conservationists from the ZSL have joined forces with local communities to form a team of rhino bodyguards on elephant-back to protect the species' last remaining strongholds in Bardiya and Chitwan National Parks.

More: http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=12140UK

Search for Javan Rhino: 22 Nov 2009

Dung-sniffing dogs have confirmed that Javan rhinos are indeed still surviving in Vietnam. The WWF survey of Vietnam's Javan rhino population is off to a promising start: Two dung piles and recent footprints! WWF biologists Sarah Brook and Simon Mahood have announced via the survey project's blog - Rhinomania - that Javan rhino dung and footprints have been found in Vietnam. In five days of searching we found two dung piles, both rather old.

More: <http://www.care2.com/news/member/100041282/1309902>

Rhino horn costlier than gold: 21 Nov 2009

The cost of rhino horn has left gold prices behind for the first time in ten years. Rhino horn, which has medicinal value, now stands at 36,300pounds a kilo, while gold is 24,600pounds in the markets of South Asia. An average horn weighs 7kg. Killing of Rhinos has also peaked to a new high in 15 years. A Vietnamese minister's claim that powdered horn could help cancer patients has only increased its demand further.

More: <http://www.dailyindia.com/show/345520.php>

Prehistoric rhinos roamed in Mexico, say scientists: 13 Nov 2009

The rhinoceros fossils kept in a museum in western Mexico belonged to an ancient rhino species called *Teleoceras hicksi* that lived more than four million years ago, scientists have said. The fossils were found in the Jalisco state in the 1960s and preserved at the Regional Paleontology Museum in the state capital Guadalajara. "Teleoceras hicksi had amphibian habits. It lived in areas with a humid tropical climate and ate grass," Guzman said.

More: http://www.thaindian.com/newsportal/Environment/prehistoric-rhinos-roamed-in-mexico-say-scientists_100274000.html

Zoo Rhino Pregnant Without Ever Meeting: 5 Nov 2009

"Nikki," the Cincinnati Zoo's 18-year-old female Indian rhino is expecting. The father, "Vinu", is a 38-year-old male Indian rhino at the Bronx Zoo. However, the two rhinos have never met. Scientists at the Cincinnati Zoo's Lindner Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW) collected Vinu's sperm in 2005 and stored it for four years before it was thawed and utilized in the successful artificial insemination (AI) procedure in June 2009.

More: http://www.zandavisitor.com/newsarticle-2487-bronx_Zoo_Rhino_Gets_Cincinnati

More teeth to stop poaching: 29 Oct 2009

That poaching is rampant in India is hardly news and it would be an understatement to say that the menace is on the rise. But recent news about a one-horned rhinoceros being killed at the Rajiv Gandhi Orang Wildlife Sanctuary, on the northern banks of the Brahmaputra, 140 km from Guwahati, gives pause for thought. Two poachers were killed in a shootout with forest guards on October 19. For all the awareness camps conducted and hi-tech training provided to the guards, such incidents rob the sheen of the India Rhino Vision-2020 programme, a project aimed at the long-term conservation of rhinos in Assam.

More: <http://www.expressbuzz.com/edition/story.aspx?Title=More+teeth+to+stop+poaching&artid=nEcIPOZW2zk=&SectionID=RRQemgLywPI=&MainSectionID=XT7e3Zkr/lw=&SectionName=XQcp6iFoWTvPHj2dDBzTNA==&SEO=Rajiv%20Gandhi,%20Harmuj%20Ali,%20WWF>

Recent rhino poaching prompts officials to discontinue elephant safaris: 26 Oct 2009

The recent rhino poaching incidents in Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary have prompted officials to discontinue its popular elephant safaris. In an effort to protect greater one-horned rhino in Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary, elephant safaris - booked months in advance by tourists - have reportedly been halted. Officials strongly suspect that rhino poachers have been posing as tourists to gain access to the core area of the sanctuary frequented by greater one-horned rhino.

More: <http://ecoworldly.com/2009/10/25/jaldapara-elephant-safaris-halted-to-thwart-rhino-poachers/>

Two poachers shot to death after killing rhino: 23 Oct 2009

Two poachers were killed over the weekend in India's Orang National Park after the duo allegedly killed a one-horned rhinoceros. The poachers were hoping to use the loud sounds and noises of the Diwali festivities to drown out the sound of their gunfire. By the time forest guards got to the scene, it was too late - a rhino had already been killed. Her horn had been chopped off. Two other poachers escaped.

More: <http://www.care2.com/news/member/171336424/1282114>

Rhino carcass found in Kaziranga: 17 Oct 2009

The carcass of a female rhinoceros without its horn was found in Kaziranga National Park in Assam today, park officials said. The carcass was recovered near Nolini forest camp of Agaratoli range of the park by forest guards during routine patrolling this morning, they said. The matter is being investigated.

More: http://www.ptinews.com/news/335699_Rhino-carcass-found-in-Kaziranga

Study Planned For Javan Rhino Subspecies in Vietnam: 14 Oct 2009

WWF announced today that a comprehensive survey of Cat Tien's Javan rhino population will begin next month

and continue until April 2010. The purpose of the study is to gather urgently needed genetic data in order to develop a local conservation management strategy for these critically endangered mammals.

More: <http://ecoworldly.com/2009/10/14/study-planned-for-javan-rhino-subspecies-in-vietnam/>

Dead Rhino In Jaldapara: What Really Happened?: 13 Oct 2009

The first reports of the dead rhino in Jaldapara began to circulate on Oct. 10, when forest guards noted that a male rhino had been "seriously injured in fighting" and subsequently fell into the Torsha River and drowned. However, on Oct. 11, a different story started to take shape via the Times of India after a postmortem exam revealed a bullet had been lodged in the male rhino's head, between his ear and jaw. In addition, the carcass of a female rhino was found in the forest, with a deep wound on her leg.

More: <http://ecoworldly.com/2009/10/13/dead-rhino-in-jaldapara-what-really-happened/>

Foresters on leave as poachers target rhinos: 12 Oct 2009

While poachers' guns were being trained on a rhino in Jaldapara, senior forest officers charged with protecting the wildlife in this sanctuary known for its biodiversity were holidaying this festive season. Om Prakash, the Cooch Behar divisional forest officer, has been away on a training programme for the past two and a half months. Silvand Patel, the chief conservator of forests, wildlife (North Bengal) and V K Sood, the chief conservator of forests, wildlife, were also on leave. As a result, the vulnerable sanctuary has been left in the hands of acting DFO Dharmaraj Rai, a new recruit with little experience in North Bengal.

More: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata-/Foresters-on-leave-as-poachers-target-rhinos/articleshow/5113730.cms>

More animal deaths in India park: 8 Oct 2009

An endangered one-horned rhino and a tiger have been found dead in the Kaziranga national park in north-east India, officials say. They say that it is not immediately clear whether they were killed by poachers, but an official said the horn of the rhino was missing. About 12 tigers and six rhinos have been killed so far this year triggering concerns that poaching is on the rise.

More: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/8297104.stm

Rhino, Leopard Killed By Poachers Inside Kaziranga National Park: 7 Oct 2009

Kaziranga park officials were dismayed to discover the carcass of a female rhino with her horn chopped out. She was found in the park's Bagori range, near the western part of the Dimoli forest camp. Less than 24 hours earlier, a female leopard's carcass was found in the Kohora range, near the Mikirjam forest camp. This is the eleventh rhino and tenth leopard killed inside Kaziranga National Park this year.

More: <http://ecoworldly.com/2009/10/07/rhino-leopard-killed-by-poachers-in-kaziranga-national-park/>

Why poachers target the rhino: 7 Oct 2009

A combination of ancient Chinese belief and modern financial speculation help to explain why rhinoceros populations are coming under renewed pressure from poachers. In traditional Chinese medicine, rhino horn is prized as a key ingredient in An Gong Niu Huang Wan, considered one of the three main restorative tonics. Shaved or ground into a powder, the horn is dissolved in boiling water and used to treat fevers, rheumatism and gout.

More: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2009/oct/07/why-poachers-target-rhino>

Rhino, tiger carcasses found in Kaziranga: 7 Oct 2009

A carcass of a rhino without its horn was found at Pachim Nimali camp under Bagari Range under Kaziranga National Park today. Park officials said that the rhino died of natural causes. A carcass of a tiger was also found at Mikirjan camp under Kahara range yesterday. Though the authority earlier claimed that the tiger died following a fight, they later revealed that the tiger probably died of food poisoning.

More: <http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/details.asp?id=oct0809/at04>

Rhino's death not knell for species: 3 Oct 2009

When a 21-year-old Sumatran rhinoceros named Emi died last month at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, the world lost its only such animal that has given birth successfully in captivity. But hope still remains for the survival of the species. "It's not an ending point. She left us (three) great calves," says Terri Roth, the zoo's vice president of conservation and science and director of the Center for Conservation and Research of Endangered Wildlife (CREW).

More: <http://news.cincinnati.com/article/20091003/NEWS01/910030327/Hope+remains+for+rhinos>

Kaziranga Shootout Update: 3 Rhino Poachers Arrested: 25 Sept 2009

Forest officials have arrested three suspected poachers involved with last weekend's rhino killing in Kaziranga National Park. The arrest of three poachers is the latest development in last weekend's shootout in Kaziranga between forest guards and poachers. The trio was captured in Nagaon as they were trying to escape through the Karbi Anglong district. The Times of India reports that the suspected poachers are likely part of a larger network, and authorities are making efforts to gather additional information.

More: <http://ecoworldly.com/2009/09/25/kaziranga-shootout-update-3-rhino-poachers-arrested/>

12 rhino poachers nabbed in 9 days: 24 Sept 2009

Twelve people from Chitwan, Nawalparasi and Makawanpur were arrested by Chitwan National Park for smuggling the horns of the endangered one-horned rhinos. They were arrested within nine days in between September 10 and September 19. According to Narendra Man Babu Pradhan, conservation officer of the park, they had evidences that the 12 were involved in killing the rhinos for their horns.

More: http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=10141

Dozen arrested in connection with rhino poaching: 23 Sept 2009

Chitwan National Park has arrested a dozen persons with arms in a span of two weeks in connection with recent incidents of rhino killings from various places in Chitwan, Makwanpur and Nawalparasi, Kantipur daily reported. Three rhinos were found dead in and around CNP recently.

More: <http://www.nepalnews.com/main/index.php/news-archive/19-general/1604-dozen-arrested-in-connection-with-rhino-poaching.html>

Male rhino killed in Kaziranga: 21 Sept 2009

A male rhino in Kaziranga National Park in Assam was killed and its horn taken away by poachers, who were involved in two encounters with foresters in the habitat of the great Indian one-horn rhino. A group of three poachers on Saturday killed a rhino with two bullets in the Burapahar Range of the Park and were hiding in its jungles to escape under the cover of darkness yesterday, KNP Director S N Buragohain said.

More: <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/Environment/Male-rhino-killed-in-Kaziranga/articleshow/5037706.cms>

Bullets rain down on battleground Kaziranga: 20 Sept 2009

Kaziranga shuddered as bullets rained down on the forest terrain. Barely recovering from the triple blow dealt out on Saturday, the national park braced itself for more trauma as poachers and forest officials engaged in a fierce gunbattle that lasted late into the night. In the end, though, the poachers managed to escape.

More: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/news/city/guwahati/Bullets-rain-down-on-battleground-Kaziranga/articleshow/5034884.cms>

Two rhinos killed in ten days: 18 Sept 2009

Poachers have killed two rhinos and robbed them off their precious horns in a span of ten days in Chitwan National Park, Nagarik daily reported. A male rhino was found in Temple Tiger area on September 2, while a female rhino was found in Krishnasar Community Forest of Nawalparasi on September 12. Both rhinos were without their horns.

More: <http://www.nepalnews.com/main/index.php/news-archive/8-news-in-brief/1513-two-rhinos-killed-in-ten-days.html>

Poachers trying to poison rhinos in KNP: 18 Sept 2009

Forest authorities in Assam have intensified patrol at Kaziranga National Park as there are fears that poacher gangs might try and kill animals by poisoning the grass instead of gunning them down. An alert was sounded at the Kaziranga National Park after they found at least half-a-dozen cattle dead reportedly after grazing on poisoned grass in the fringes of the sanctuary.

More: <http://incrediblenortheastindia.blogspot.com/2009/09/poachers-trying-to-poison-rhinos-in-knp.html>

New arrival ushers hope for rhino population in Dudhwa: 16 Sept 2009

Banke has his clan growing. The dusky old rhino, now 30 plus, has seen his fourth generation set in. When his female partner Rajeshwari gave birth to a calf on Friday (September 11), a new hope dawned for the rhinos in Dudhwa.

More: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/news/city/lucknow/New-arrival-ushers-hope-for-rhino-population-in-Dudhwa/articleshow/5016133.cms>

Poachers Try New Method to Kill Rhino: Poisoned Salt: 14 Sept 2009

Wildlife officials in India's Kaziranga National Park discover grass laced with poisoned salt - the latest attempt by poachers to kill rhino. Unfortunately, five cattle have died after consuming grass laced with poison salt near the edge of Kaziranga National Park. The deaths happened in the Baghmari area near the Burapaha range and authorities believe the poison was actually meant for the park's rhino.

More: <http://ecoworldly.com/2009/09/14/poachers-try-new-method-to-kill-rhino-poisoned-salt/>

Rhino kills girl: 29 Aug 2009

A 17-year-old girl of Mangalpur-5, Chitwan, died on Friday night after a rhino attacked her. Reeta Nepali was attacked by the rhino when she came out of her house. She was rushed to Bharatpur for treatment but doctors failed to save her. Over the past six years, 34 persons have been killed in rhino attacks in Chitwan.

More: http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=9162

Flood forces Kaziranga wildlife out of sanctuary: 24 Aug 2009

Authorities in Assam have enforced speed regulations on a highway along the famed Kaziranga National Park to prevent vehicles from hitting animals fleeing the sanctuary to escape a flood, officials said here Monday. Kaziranga is the world's largest sanctuary of the endangered one-horned rhino.

More: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/4929067.cms>

Two Men Held With Rhino Horn: 22 Aug 2009

Two men were caught with a rhino horn in Darchula on Saturday. Dansingh Chaisir, 29, from Bhagwati-2 and Nainsingh Thagunna, 36, from Dhap-5 were arrested at Himalaya Hotel in Khalanga-4. The police were able to locate the two under the supervision of the district forest official, Ramesh Chand.

More: http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=8918

Reprieve for rhinos: 18 Aug 2009

Isolated rhinos in fragmented Sabahan forests will be captured and placed in a new rhino sanctuary in a last bid to multiply their numbers. Tabin Wildlife Reserve is located 48km from Lahat Datu in south-east Sabah and spanning 120,500ha of the Dent peninsula that forms the northern headland of Darvel Bay, it is one of the largest remaining protected wildlife reserves in the country; and crucially, the last major stronghold of the Bornean rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis harrissoni*).

More: <http://thestar.com.my/lifestyle/story.asp?file=/2009/8/18/lifefocus/4387617&sec=lifefocus>

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ARP would like to recognise the following corporate donors working to help us help the rhinos. Funds or funds raised from donated items all go towards our valuable conservation projects. Thank you.



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Please send completed membership forms to: Memberships, PO Box 163, South Perth WA 6951.

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I would like to support Asian Rhino Project by becoming a member for: (please tick)

- 1 year = AU\$30 3 years = AU\$80 5 years = AU\$130 Life = AU\$400

Membership includes quarterly newsletters. We encourage members to receive newsletters by email – not only to save administration costs but also to conserve paper.

I would like to receive my newsletters by: Email Mail

Asian Rhino Project often receives information about fundraising events from other local conservation groups.

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Donations are warmly welcomed and should be made to the Asian Rhino Conservation Fund.

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Card No: _____ Expiry Date: _____

Name on Card: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



Rhino Rembrandts – \$475

The artists are Indian and Sumatran rhinos from Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, USA. Painting is a special activity that has become one of many ways to enrich the rhinos' day. Not only do the paintings enrich the zoo rhinos' lives, they also help their wild cousins with proceeds of painting sales going to Asian rhino conservation.



Rhino Earrings – \$20



Pens – \$4



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Rhino – Animals in Art – \$22
Book by Joanna Skipwith and Silver Jungle



ARP T-shirts – \$20



Magnets – \$2



Stickers – \$2



Wine Cooler – \$20



Drink Bottles – \$7



Thermal Mug (350ml) – \$10

Thermal Mug (750ml) – \$15

Merchandise Order Form

Item	Cost	Colour (please circle)	Quantity	Total
Rhino Rembrandt	\$475	N/A		
Rhino – Animals in Art (Book)	\$22	N/A		
Asian Rhino Project T-shirts	\$20	black white Women's sizes: 10-14 Men's sizes: S-XL		
Coloured Earrings	\$8	yellow (long) red yellow (short) blue black/orange		
Rhino Earrings	\$20	gold silver		
Pen	\$4	red blue green		
Sticker	\$2	N/A		
Magnet	\$2	N/A		
Wine Cooler	\$20	terracotta		
Thermal Mug (350ml)	\$10	purple pink green blue black		
Thermal Mug (750ml)	\$15	green black khaki		
Drink Bottle	\$7	black silver		
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Add \$7 for postage. If order over \$75, postage is free.				
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Please charge my: Bankcard Mastercard Visa

Card No: _____ Expiry Date: _____

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Signature: _____ Date: _____