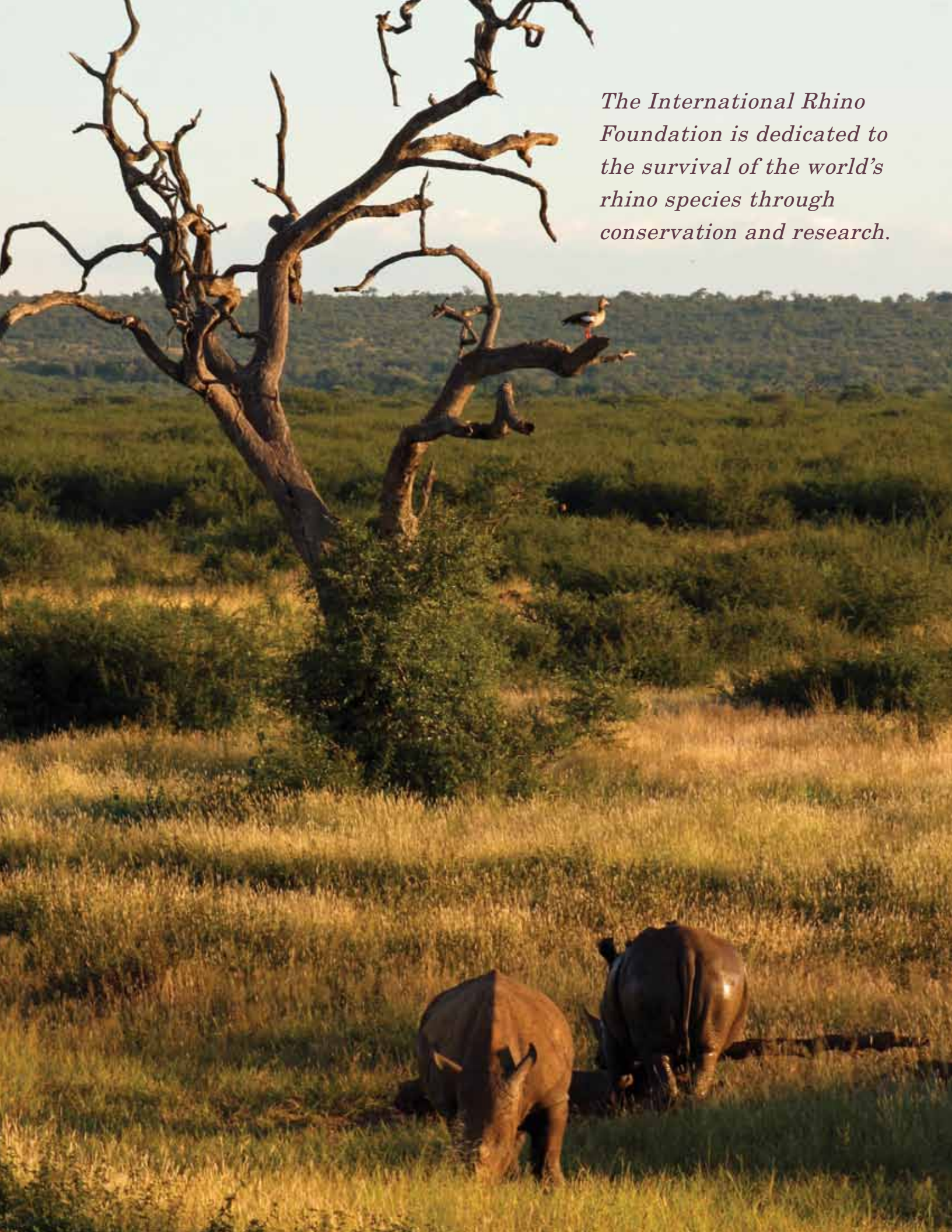


INTERNATIONAL
RHINO
FOUNDATION



Annual Report 2009



The International Rhino Foundation is dedicated to the survival of the world's rhino species through conservation and research.

Leadership Message

For the past 16 years, the International Rhino Foundation has protected and conserved rhinos in areas where they are most in need of attention and where conservation will have the greatest impact. We do this by maintaining a hard-working presence in rhino range countries, and by partnering with like-minded organizations to meet our mutual goals. All of us at IRF passionately believe that our commitment will help save these magnificent creatures from extinction.

Highlights of the past year include evaluating potential translocation and habitat expansion sites for Javan rhinos – the world's most threatened large land mammal – and laying the groundwork for a Javan rhino research and conservation area within Ujung Kulon National Park. Our hopes soared with a pregnancy at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. Unfortunately, female 'Ratu' lost the pregnancy early in 2010, but we are keeping our fingers crossed for another pregnancy this year.

In Africa this year, rhino poaching reached a 15-year high and our teams there have been at all-out war trying to save rhinos in Zimbabwe's Lowveld. IRF's partner, the Lowveld Rhino Trust, moved 53 black rhinos from areas with high poaching risk to 'safer' areas where they could be adequately protected. Prior to these translocations, an average of 9 rhinos per month was being poached in the Lowveld region of Zimbabwe; afterwards, losses were reduced to an average of only 2.5 rhinos per month.

In India, IRF and our partner, Save the Rhino, funded construction of an 8-kilometer-long (about 5 miles) electric fence along the southern boundary of Manas National Park to keep translocated rhinos in. The fence also protects local communities from elephants that previously raided their crops, reducing incidents of human-elephant conflict and increasing farmers' incomes. The communities are very pleased with having rhinos as neighbors, and also with their new-found earnings.

Since its founding, IRF has supported scientific research, regularly providing grants for work that is directly applicable to management, propagation and conservation of rhinoceroses in nature and in captivity. This year, we awarded funding totaling \$240,325 for five projects, which was matched by \$235,112 from other donors.

The threats to rhinos are still enormous and new challenges arise almost every day. As IRF's work moves forward, we keep our eyes constantly on our bottom line: ensuring that rhinos survive. We're not there yet, but because each of you is also committed to that same goal, we get a little closer each day. On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, thank you for your support of the International Rhino Foundation. We hope that you find this report interesting and informative.

John Lukas, President

Susie Ellis, Ph.D., Executive Director



STAFF

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Asia Program Coordinator

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Africa Program Coordinator



State of the Rhino 2009

Javan Rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) **Critically Endangered**

37 to 50 individuals – believed to be stable

Rarest of all rhinos, the Javan rhino survives only in Indonesia's Ujung Kulon National Park and Vietnam's Cat Loc Reserve. In late 2008, surveys indicated that 37 to 44 animals remain in Ujung Kulon, and no more than four individuals survive in Vietnam (where one animal was recently poached for its horn). The single largest threat to Javan rhinos is that the reproducing population exists in only one location, which makes it susceptible to catastrophic losses from disease or natural disasters. The future of this species depends on continued protection of the existing population, as well as collaborative efforts to establish a second, 'insurance' population outside of Ujung Kulon.



Sumatran Rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) **Critically Endangered**

200 individuals – decreasing

Only about 200 Sumatran rhinos survive in fragmented populations on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. In Sumatra, Indonesia, between 130 and 190 rhinos are scattered among three populations in Bukit Barisan Selatan, Way Kambas, and Gunung Leuser National Parks. In Sabah, Borneo, Malaysia, approximately 20-30 Sumatran rhinos remain in fragmented populations. Many experts believe that the Sumatran rhino is now extinct in peninsular Malaysia. The primary threat facing this species is human encroachment into the rhinos' habitats. The future of Sumatran rhinos depends on continuing protection by highly trained anti-poaching teams and creating incentives for local communities to decrease encroachment.



Greater One-horned Rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) **Vulnerable**

2,850 individuals – increasing

Greater one-horned rhino populations now number between 2,800 and 2,850 and are slowly growing; however, poaching pressure is also beginning to increase throughout the species' range. In 2009, 19 rhinos were killed by poachers in Assam, India, and at least 11 were poached in Nepal. Even with these losses, greater one-horned rhino numbers are slowly growing, mostly because of the growing population in Kaziranga National Park, which now numbers more than 2,000 animals. To continue this growth, however, protection and conservation measures must continue and intensify.



Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) **Critically Endangered**

4,240 individuals – believed to be stable

Black rhino populations were brutally hit by well-organized and highly-armed gangs of poachers in 2009. In Zimbabwe, 58 animals were lost to poachers in 2009. Black rhino strongholds include South Africa, Namibia, Kenya and Zimbabwe, in descending order. The future of this species depends on controlling illegal trade in horn and protecting existing populations from organized criminal poaching gangs.



White Rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*) **Near Threatened**

18,000 - increasing

White rhino populations continue to grow despite the heaviest poaching pressure faced by the species in 15 years. South Africa lost more than 100 white rhinos to poaching this year. Fifty white rhinos were lost to poaching in Kruger National Park alone, which borders Mozambique. Private sector game ranches are also under siege. The Northern white rhino subspecies is now thought to be extinct in the wild, but the Southern white rhino subspecies, despite poaching pressure, is still slowly increasing.

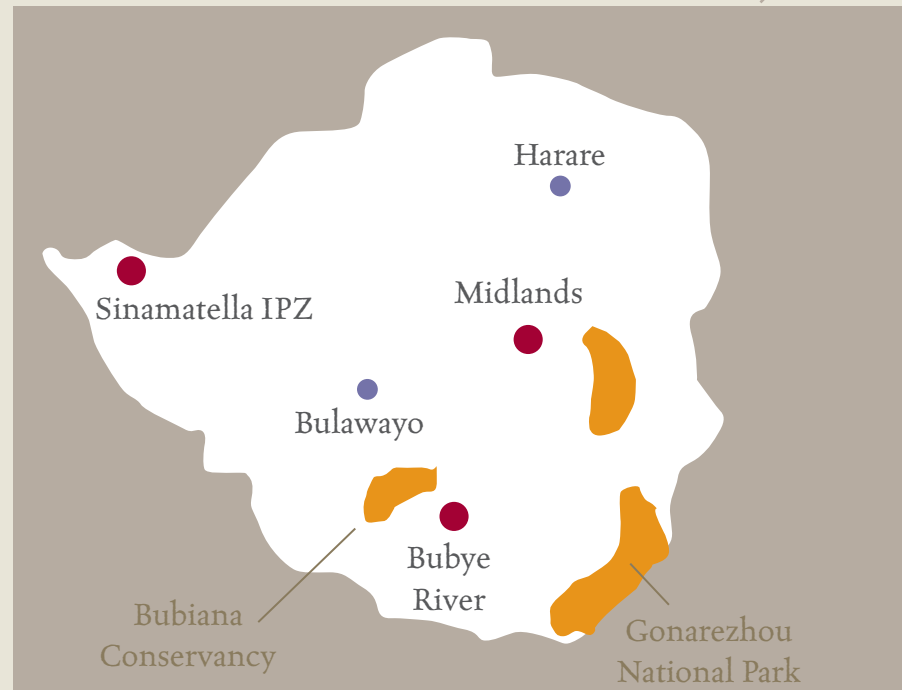


IRF Project Sites

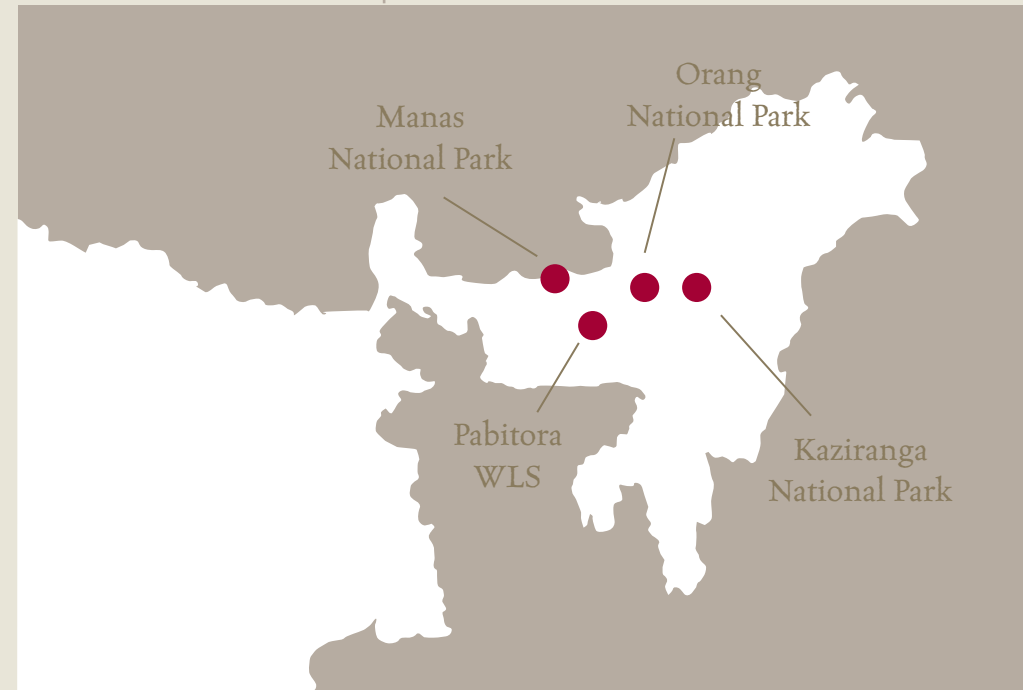


The International Rhino Foundation protects and conserves rhinos in areas where they most need attention and where each dollar spent will have the most significant impact. We do this by maintaining a hard-working presence in rhino range countries and by partnering with like-minded organizations on the ground.

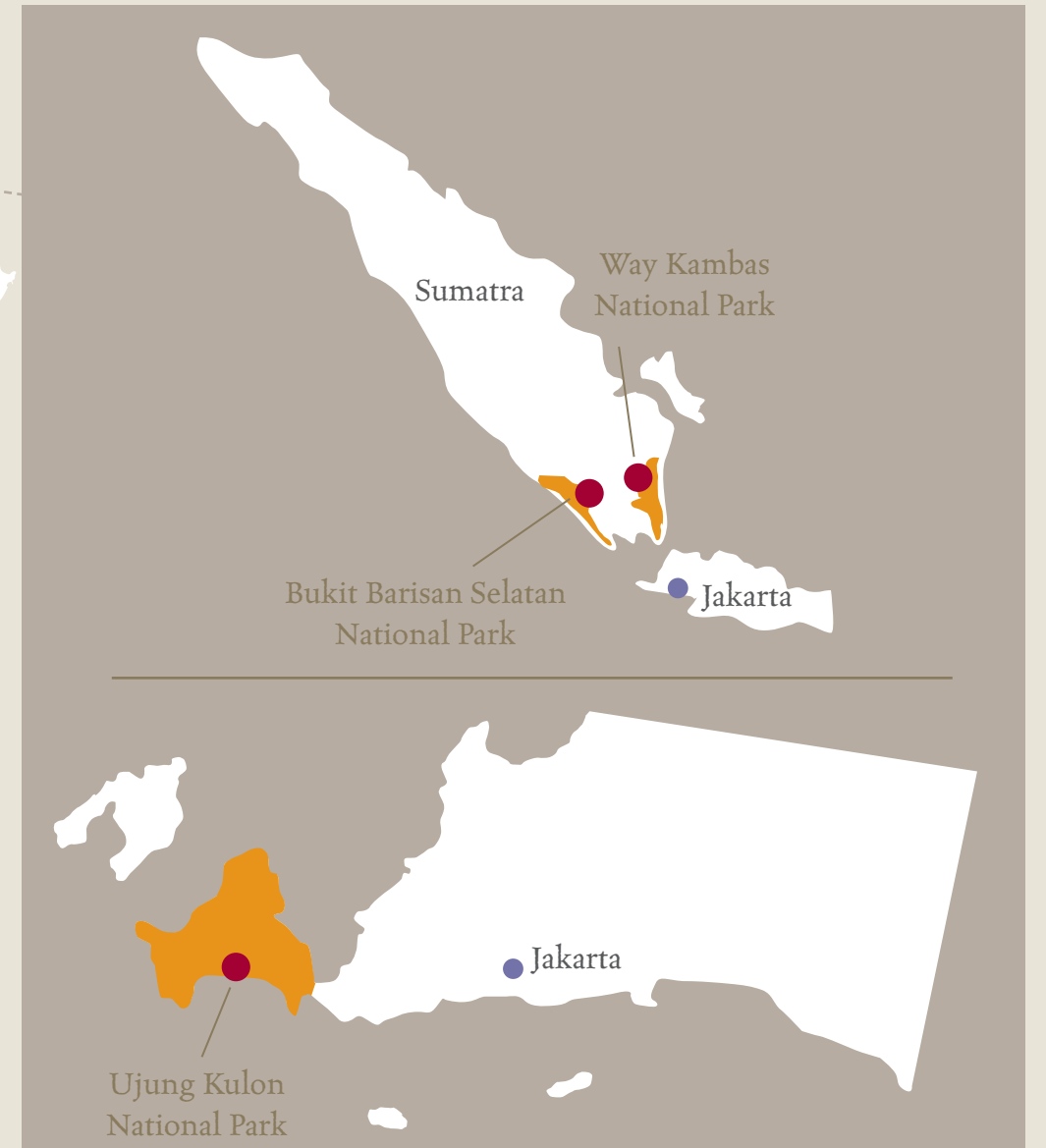
Zimbabwe



India



Indonesia





Expanding Habitat for Javan Rhinos

An important part of the recovery strategy for Critically Endangered Javan rhinos includes expanding the existing habitat available to the breeding population, and, longer-term, translocating a small group of Javan rhinos to a second site. In 2009, IRF commissioned Dr. Andy Gillison, world-renowned rapid habitat assessment expert, to evaluate potential translocation sites in Java. The small team was co-led by Widodo Ramono, Executive Director of IRF's partner Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI), and included representatives from the Indonesia Scientific Authority, Ujung Kulon National Park, our Rhino Protection Units, and WWF-Indonesia. The team first collected baseline data on a series of representative transects in Ujung Kulon National Park, followed by intensive data collection on transects in the adjacent Gunung Honje area and in Gunung Halimun National Parks. Other team members conducted parallel work including socio-cultural assessments and geo-referencing of transect data.

Taking into account various biophysical elements, including the influence of human activity, the study concluded that while conditions in peninsular Ujung Kulon National Park and adjacent Gunung Honje may not be entirely optimal for sustained management of the Javan rhino, they nonetheless are considerably better than those offered in the other areas surveyed in Java, where translocation would almost certainly lead to failure.

Short-term recommendations are to establish a Javan rhino research and conservation area inside the Gunung Honje area with intensified active management including replanting natural forest vegetation with rhino food plants in some areas, carefully implementing controlled

slash and burn patch management in designated and closed forest areas to promote regeneration of rhino food plants, and continuing and increasing anti-poaching protection, including establishing new patrol paths and additional guard posts in Gunung Honje. Infestation by Langkap (Arenga) palm, an invasive species that poses a serious threat to rhino food plants, also will be reduced.

Finally, working with local communities will be key – IRF and partners will increase education programs in areas adjacent to Gunung Honje, and undertake a more comprehensive study of socioeconomic issues associated with establishing a research and conservation area, so that local peoples' livelihoods can be linked to active rhino management through activities such as wildlife tourism, cottage industries, and agriculture intensification outside the designated conservation area.

Why It Matters: The entire breeding population of Javan rhinos exists in one location and thus is susceptible to catastrophic losses from disease or natural disasters. And though the population is believed to be stable, it may have reached its carrying capacity in the current habitat and probably cannot grow any larger without intervention. Expanding the habitat available to Javan rhinos in Ujung Kulon and Gunung Honje should allow the population to increase, which in turn would allow us to eventually translocate some animals to establish a second population at a separate site, further helping to expand the species' population and prevent its extinction.

Implementing partners: Yayasan Badak Indonesia, Ujung Kulon National Park, Asian Rhino Project, WWF Indonesia



A Rare Pregnancy Gives Hope for Sumatran Rhinos

Early in 2010, the a pregnancy resulting from the breeding of female Ratu, born in Indonesia, and male Andalas, the first of only three Sumatran rhinos born in captivity in more than 112 years, gave hope to international rhino biologists. The breeding occurred at Indonesia's Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas National Park after international efforts led to the pair's introduction..

Unfortunately, Ratu later miscarried, which is not unusual for a rhino's first pregnancy. While all of us at IRF were saddened by the loss, achieving a pregnancy in this Critically Endangered species confirms that the Sumatran rhino breeding program is progressing. Emi, Andalas' mother, lost a number of pregnancies early in gestation before she carried one to term at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Experience and information gained with Emi will be used to help Ratu sustain her next pregnancy, once she is ready.

Andalas and Ratu were brought together through international goodwill and cooperation in an effort to save this critically endangered species. Ratu wandered into a village just outside Sumatra's Way Kambas National Park in 2006; Andalas was born at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden in 2001, grew up at the Los Angeles Zoo and was transferred from the Los Angeles Zoo to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in 2007.

Three years after Andalas' successful transition to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, he and Ratu mated. The

breeding followed months of gradual introduction by scent, sound, sight, and finally, physical proximity, ultimately resulting in the pregnancy.

Captive breeding is one part of IRF's integrated conservation strategy for the Sumatran rhino, which is now down to no more than 200 animals in the wild and 10 in captivity. IRF's focus is to protect rhinos in the wild, and bolster the population through captive breeding. IRF also funds anti-poaching units in three Indonesian national parks. Thanks to those programs, there has been no rhino poaching in the last five years, and poaching of other large vertebrates which share rhino habitat has decreased significantly.

Why It Matters: A viable and holistic program that involves captive breeding will provide insurance against the difficulties and uncertainties of protecting the Sumatran rhino in the wild. In addition, solid success with this species may provide a model for development of a similar program for the Critically Endangered Javan rhino, whose population is more stable but numbers no more than 48 individuals in the wild, and has no insurance population in captivity.

Implementing partners: Yayasan Badak Indonesia, Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, White Oak Conservation Center, Taronga Conservation Society Australia



Holding the Line in Zimbabwe

This year in Zimbabwe, IRF intensely focused on keeping rhinos safe in the midst of a 15-year poaching high across Africa. Most of Zimbabwe's rhinos live in the country's Lowveld conservancies, large tracts of land converted from cattle ranches to wildlife management areas to safeguard these highly threatened species.

Even in these 'safer' areas, rhino monitors must be vigilant to stay ahead of highly organized poaching gangs. In 2009, 56 rhinos were lost from the Lowveld conservancies, and at least 13 rhinos were killed in state-owned lands and other areas. Despite these losses, Zimbabwe's Lowveld still holds 333 black rhinos and 171 white rhinos, out of a country-wide total of 424 black and 302 white rhinos. To halt and apprehend suspects, quick action is required when news of a poaching incursion arrives. In 2009, IRF's partner, the Lowveld Rhino Trust, moved 53 black rhinos from areas with high poaching risk to 'safer' areas where they could be adequately protected. An additional 16 black rhinos were treated for injuries or other problems. Each rhino that wasn't already marked received an ear-notch and/or had a radio transmitter implanted in its horn. Radio transmitters allow field teams to keep track of the animals both by air and on foot.



Poachers generally target adults, who have large horns that provide a bigger profit. Rhino calves, still nursing and too young to survive on their own, are often left behind in the slaughter, sometimes with life-threatening injuries. Increasingly, injured and orphaned calves have to be rescued and bottle-reared until they are old enough to be released. The Trust rescued and raised five calves over the past year, two of which, 'Lisa Marie' and 'Carla', were successfully returned to the wild.

In addition to active protection, the Lowveld Rhino Trust staff also work to strengthen law enforcement, compiling data on Lowveld rhino poaching cases, arrests and prosecutions. In August, in the Buby River Conservancy, one poacher was killed by police, one was severely wounded and captured, and one escaped. Rhino monitors were in the area, but were not directly involved in the fire fight. In the aftermath, one of the Trust's staff drove the wounded poacher to the hospital under guard by Zimbabwe Republic Police. They obtained information from the poacher on the South African ringleader who was in the area to collect the horns. The police were taken to the border post where they found the suspect trying to flee the country. He



was arrested and remanded into custody, but unfortunately was released.

IRF and partners are working to ensure that this poaching ring and related illegal activities are exposed through investigations and in the media, and to make sure that the appropriate information on the case is provided to the South African authorities with the expectation that they will be able to continue the investigation more thoroughly than the Zimbabwean authorities.

We also are working to bring closer scrutiny to poaching and ineffective prosecutions in Zimbabwe by providing support to the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group to deal with illegal trade issues. In October, IRF participated in a conference with other international organizations, diplomats and stakeholders in Harare to emphasize the seriousness of Zimbabwe's rhino conservation crisis, as confirmed by the IUCN- and TRAFFIC-led reviews of rhino population trends, poaching pressures and inadequate law-enforcement responses.

Why It Matters: Part of the rhino conservation crisis in Zimbabwe has arisen from national economic hardships; a larger part of the problem is that Zimbabwean authorities have not upheld their commitment to rhino conservation by imposing strict sentences for poachers. The ongoing loss of rhinos is of concern not just to Zimbabwe but to the whole world. Unless the poaching rate is significantly reduced from the current level, Zimbabwe's rhino population will be approximately halved over the next five years, leaving only four viable populations. Our work to translocate rhinos to maintain multiple viable populations depends upon having areas with adequate security to which animals can be moved, and on full government commitment to halt poaching.



Jackson Kamwi Disney Conservation Hero

Lowveld Rhino Trust's Senior Rhino Monitor, Jackson Kamwi, was selected by the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund as a 2009 Disney Conservation Hero. This prestigious international award recognizes local people who make significant contributions to conservation in their communities. Jackson received the award in recognition of his commitment to protecting Zimbabwe's black rhinos and his heroic efforts, helping to capture and relocate nearly 1,000 rhinos over the past two decades.

Implementing partners: Lowveld Rhino Trust



Greater One-Horned Rhinos: Keeping the Population Growing

Greater one-horned, or Indian, rhinos now number about 2,850 and the population slowly continues to increase. This year, IRF co-funded a census in Kaziranga National Park which confirmed that the park now holds 2,049 rhinos – more than any other area in India or Nepal.

IRF's ambitious project, Indian Rhino Vision 2020, implemented in partnership with the government of Assam, WWF-India, and the Bodo Territorial Council, aims to increase the rhino population in India to 3,000 by 2020 by moving animals from concentrated populations to areas where rhino populations are not as dense. Getting a rhino ready for translocation is no easy feat, and it must be carried out in a way that provides maximum safety for the animals as well as the people involved. Rhino translocations were delayed this year because of difficulties in importing the highly-controlled tranquilization drug of choice, etorphine.

Nevertheless, we are still making progress! Last year, one of the male rhinos previously translocated to Manas National Park wandered outside of the park for more than 2 weeks, traveling more than 60 km before he could be safely immobilized and returned to the park. As a result, IRF, and our partner Save the Rhino funded construction of an 8-km (about 5-mile) electric fence along the southern boundary of the park to keep the rhinos in. As a side benefit, the fence also protects local communities from elephants that previously raided their crops, reducing incidents of human-elephant conflict and increasing farmers' incomes. Our hope is to eventually provide another 8-10 km of fencing so that all communities along the Manas National Park border can benefit.

The two male rhinos previously moved to Manas as part of IRV 2020 are monitored by a team of WWF-India biologists and forest department staff. Our immediate plan is to populate the park with at least 20 more rhinos over the next year.

Why It Matters: Although the population of Greater one-horned rhinos continues to grow, having such a high percentage of animals in one population (in Kaziranga National Park) puts the species at risk from catastrophes such as floods or disease outbreaks, which could lead to a serious population decline. The goal of IRV 2020 is to reduce risks to India's rhino population by ensuring that the animals are spread throughout multiple parks with enough habitat to encourage further population growth.

Implementing Partners: Bodo Territorial Council, Government of Assam, WWF-India



Halting Poaching and Turning Back Encroachment in Indonesia

IRF's Rhino Protection Units (RPUs) are highly-trained, four-person anti-poaching teams that intensively patrol key areas within Indonesia's national parks. They monitor threatened wildlife, deactivate traps and snares, identify and apprehend illegal intruders, including poachers and investigate crime scenes, thus preventing or reducing the loss of wildlife. The goal of the RPU program is to prevent the extinction of Sumatran and Javan rhinos and other threatened species and to protect critical habitats in Java and Sumatra through proactive prevention of poaching and habitat destruction.

Thanks to the Rhino Protection Units, there have been no incidences of poaching of Sumatran rhinos in Bukit Barisan and Way Kambas National Parks in Sumatra for the past 5 years, and for the past 12 years, no Javan rhinos have been poached in Ujung Kulon National Park in Java. The RPUs also protect numerous other threatened species, including tigers, elephants, tapirs, gibbons, monkeys, leopards and fishing cats.

During 2009, the RPUs operating in Bukit Barisan Selatan, Way Kambas and Ujung Kulon destroyed 36 traps and made a total of 52 arrests. The majority of these arrests were for illegal fishing and poaching of deer or small mammals. In 2009, six suspects that had previously been arrested by the RPUs were successfully prosecuted for poaching. Sentences ranged from 8 to 16 months of jail time, with fines up to around/approximately US \$275 per offence.

At the request of the Head of the National Park, the Way Kambas RPUs are participating with national government authorities and the police in a large integrated effort to reduce encroachment in the park. (Up to 30% of the park's area has been invaded and converted to agriculture, significantly reducing the habitat available for rhinos and other species.) Over the past year, RPUs worked with local communities to facilitate reforestation efforts in previously-encroached areas. The RPUs helped local villagers plant more than 10,000 new trees.

Why It Matters: Indonesian national parks do not have resources to adequately fund proactive measures to prevent harm to their unique and at-peril biodiversity. Therefore, as human populations increase and the threats from illegal activities such as encroachment and illegal logging grow, the protection provided by the RPUs remains crucial for the survival of Indonesian megafauna and their habitat.

Implementing Partners: Yayasan Badak Indonesia, Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, Way Kambas National Park, Ujung Kulon National Park



Crisis Zimbabwe

Just after dawn on February 16th, 2009, Sinikwe, a black rhino cow, and her 16-month-old calf were ambushed by poachers in the thick brush. Sinikwe escaped with gunshot wounds. Her calf was shot and killed – its horn hacked off with an ax minutes after its death. For weeks, Sinikwe regularly returned to her calf's carcass. The poachers did too, staking out the dead calf in the hopes of capturing Sinikwe's horn too.

However, rhino monitors from the Lowveld Rhino Trust (the International Rhino Foundation's implementing partner in Zimbabwe) staked out the site as well, and protected Sinikwe from the poachers. And, on May 17th, they successfully captured and moved Sinikwe, her brother, and several other members of their extended family out of the high-risk area where they lived, and into a much safer conservancy.

With the deepening economic crisis in Zimbabwe, there has been a significant increase in poaching. Spurred by the demand for rhino horn for use in traditional Asian medicine, and the increased purchasing power of several Asian countries, rhino poaching across Africa has reached a 15-year high. Up to 25 percent of Zimbabwe's nearly 800 rhinos have been brutally killed by organized gangs of poachers over the past 3 years, just for their horn, and 53 rhinos were killed just in the first six months of 2009! Obstacles ranging from the day-to-day struggles of life in Zimbabwe, to the upsurge in demand for rhino horn in Asia, to the complicity of the government regime in poaching continue, and have in some ways worsened.

In early 2009, the rate of rhino poaching in Zimbabwe reached a critical level, and the rhino population in the Lowveld region (home to nearly 80 percent of the country's total black rhino population) actually started to decline for the first time in many years.



In response, the International Rhino Foundation, with our partners Save the Rhino and the Lowveld Rhino Trust, launched the CRISIS Zimbabwe Campaign to increase awareness about the need to combat poaching in Zimbabwe, and to raise additional funds to rescue rhinos and move them out of dangerous areas.

Thanks to the generous support of numerous committed individuals, zoos and foundations, IRF and our partners met our goal and raised more than \$120,000 to fund emergency operations in Zimbabwe. With these funds, our heroic team in Zimbabwe moved 53 critically endangered black rhinos out of areas where they were particularly vulnerable to poachers.

Prior to these translocations, an average of nine rhinos per month was being poached in the Lowveld region of Zimbabwe; afterwards, losses were reduced to an average of only 2.5 rhinos per month. These emergency operations have made a real difference in the fight to secure Zimbabwe's rhino population, dramatically reducing the number of rhinos exposed to high poaching risk and allowing protection efforts to be better concentrated in more manageable areas.

And, thanks in part to the international media coverage generated by the CRISIS Zimbabwe Campaign and increased international pressure, particularly from the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), awareness about rhino poaching activities in Zimbabwe and South Africa has increased.

The CRISIS Zimbabwe Campaign resulted in more than 50 articles in major media outlets (including the Associated Press, Time, the Washington Post, The New York Times and USA Today). In addition, CITES, to which Zimbabwe is a signatory, discussed Zimba-





IRF Research Awards

bwe's inadequate actions to halt poaching at its 2010 Conference of the Parties. The parties agreed to a number of positive rhino-related decisions to improve cooperative control of illegal trade both by source countries and countries which have been implicated in illegal trade, with the objective to put a stop to illegal trade altogether.

We have also worked to put an international spotlight on the dearth of poaching convictions in Zimbabwe, and thanks in part to this increased pressure and attention, there have been three recent cases in which poachers actually were convicted of their crimes and received significant sentences. Earlier this year, a poacher who had poisoned a waterhole, killing a number of rhinos as well as other wildlife, was sentenced to 9 years in prison, and the person who supplied the poison received a 4-year sentence -- a first for the Zimbabwean courts. These and other recent sentences are positive first steps for a judicial system that has often looked the other way where poaching is concerned.

The Lowveld black rhino population now stands at 333 -- down from 380 at the start of 2009 (national numbers are currently estimated to total 400). Our goal now is to further reduce poaching losses, ensure that the Lowveld rhino population begins to grow again through additional translocations in 2010 and 2011 and to keep applying pressure for Zimbabwe to improve its anti-poaching and law enforcement efforts. If we can successfully protect Zimbabwe's rhinos during the current crisis and pressure the government to crack down, then this species can still have a bright future indeed.



Since its founding in 1989, IRF has supported scientific research, regularly providing grants for work that is directly applicable to management, propagation and conservation of rhinoceros species in nature and in captivity. This year, we received more than 30 pre-proposals for funding from all over the world. From these, 11 researchers were invited to submit full proposals for funding consideration, all of which were reviewed by independent scientists and veterinarians. IRF awarded funding totaling \$240,325 for five projects, which was matched by \$235,112 from other donors. The projects funded cover all five rhino species and span a range of topics, including:

Radio frequency identification system for monitoring wild rhino populations (Raoul du Toit, Lowveld Rhino Trust, Zimbabwe - \$25,000); Pan-African physiogeography and evolutionary history of the black rhinoceros (Michael Bruford, Cardiff University, United Kingdom - \$53,945) ; Population genetic monitoring of Indian rhino in Assam: an evaluation of genetic diversity and population differentiation through noninvasive sampling (Udayan Borkathur, Aaranyak, India - \$55,100); Effects of acid-base, electrolyte, energy and cardiorespiratory imbalances during capture and confinement on boma adaptation in white rhinos (Michele Miller, Palm Beach Zoo, United States - \$36,280); and Genetic estimates of Javan and Sumatran rhino population size and sex ratio using fecal samples (Peter de Groot, Queen's University, Canada - \$70,000).

Why It Matters: IRF requested and funded research proposals designed to address key issues directly related to improving rhino conservation efforts -- specifically, improving translocation success, improving rhino identification and monitoring, conservation genetics and black rhino health and mortality issues. Results and lessons learned from the funded studies will contribute significantly to IRF's (and other conservationists') efforts to protect endangered rhinos in the wild and in captivity.



IRF 'Kids'

Regardless of their country's political, social or economic environment, kids all over the world have so much in common. They may live in one of the wealthiest countries in the world, or their family may live on less than 2 dollars a day, but they all, no matter where they live or what resources they have at hand, have the potential to change our world. We'd like you to meet some very special young people, each of whom, one-by-one and in very different ways, are improving the chances for rhinos to survive. And, make no mistake – they will be our future conservation leaders.



Jake Wallack

Sparked by reading books on rhinos for an endangered species school project, Jake decided he wanted to take action. In January 2007, at his 6th birthday party, Jake asked for money for rhinos instead of gifts. Since that time, he has raised funds each year – to-date more than \$650 to help us with our work.



The Jakarta International School 8th Grade Class

In May, as part of their extended study program, 20 dedicated 8th graders from the Jakarta International School's Rhino Club spent a week at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, visiting with keepers and learning all about the Sumatran rhino. As part of the program, teacher Cathy Craig divided the class into teams of four and made short documentary videos about their experience. These passionate young people are using the videos to raise funds for our Adopt-a-Rhino program, and to date, they have raised more than US \$2,000 for the SRS.

A Thought for Us Grown-Ups

Any of us who has children or grandchildren can relate to the beautiful Erma Bombeck poem, *I See Children as Kites*. The last line of the poem says "Only then do you know that you did your job." Hats off to all of the parents, friends, relatives and colleagues reading this and to all the youngsters who are helping us to raise awareness and funds to help rhinos. Thank you for doing such a great job.



Eva Malone

Eva Malone, age 9, first contacted IRF's information line in September 2008 with a big question, "How can I help the rhinos to live?" We wrote back, "Please visit IRF's website to learn as much about rhinos as you can. Then share it with your family, friends, school teachers, and other people – anyone who will listen." Eva has since taken the bull by the horns (pun intended). Since that time, she has since raised \$400 for rhinos, and we've been corresponding ever since.



Jax Bittner

With his parents' support, 8-year-old Jax has talked to relatives, family friends, church members and classmates about his passion for rhinos and has raised nearly \$1,000 to help IRF. Jax's love for rhinos began last year after he checked out a book on rhinos from the school library. After reading about the plight of rhinos and their fight to survive, Jax looked at his mom, Jackie, with tear-filled eyes and said, "Why are they doing this, Mommy?" He then grabbed a sheet of paper and a crayon, and wrote, "Dear Rhino Keepers, what can I do to help?" And that's how our relationship began. Jax's parents, Rob and Jackie, have helped him create business cards, a flyer and a website to raise donations for the IRF. In return, each of Jax's donors receives a "Jax original" drawing of a rhino or a t-shirt. Jax's fundraising target for 2009 is \$1,000. For more information and inspiration, please visit www.rhino-jax.com.





2009 Donors

IRF's work is possible because so many people share our vision. We are grateful to all of our donors, whose support allowed us to accomplish so much in 2009.

Defenders (\$25,000 +)

American Association of Zookeepers-Bowling for Rhinos
Asian Rhino Project
Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund
Disney Worldwide Services
Gilman International Conservation Foundation
Peter Hall – Hunter Hall International Limited
Houston Zoo
JDD Holdings LLC
Lee & Ramona Bass Foundation
Stephen & Denise McDonough
Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund
SAVE Foundation
Save the Rhino International
Taronga Conservation Society Australia
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Zoo Basel

Protectors (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens
Diane A. Ledder Charitable Trust
Fossil Rim Wildlife Center
Natural Encounters Conservation Fund
Sea World & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund
Tapeats Fund
The Ramona F. Bass Foundation
World Wildlife Fund

Guardians (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Bland Family Foundation
Columbus Zoological Park
Fort Worth Zoo
Gladys Porter Zoo
Indianapolis Zoo

Christine Look
Los Angeles Zoo
Toronto Zoo
The Wilds

Rangers (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

Atlanta Zoo
Ayudar Foundation
Cincinnati Zoo Keepers
Greater Cleveland AAZK
Detroit Zoological Society
Great Plains Zoo
Henry Doorly Zoo
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Bill Warren
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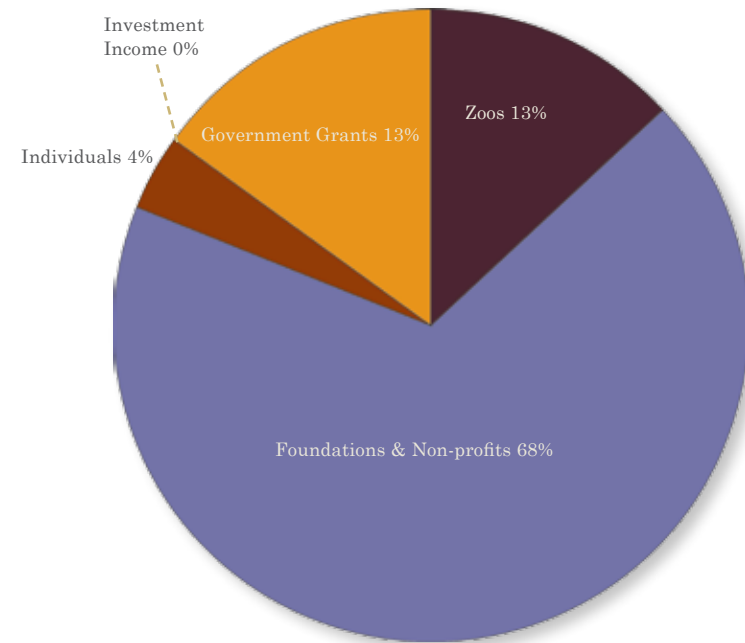
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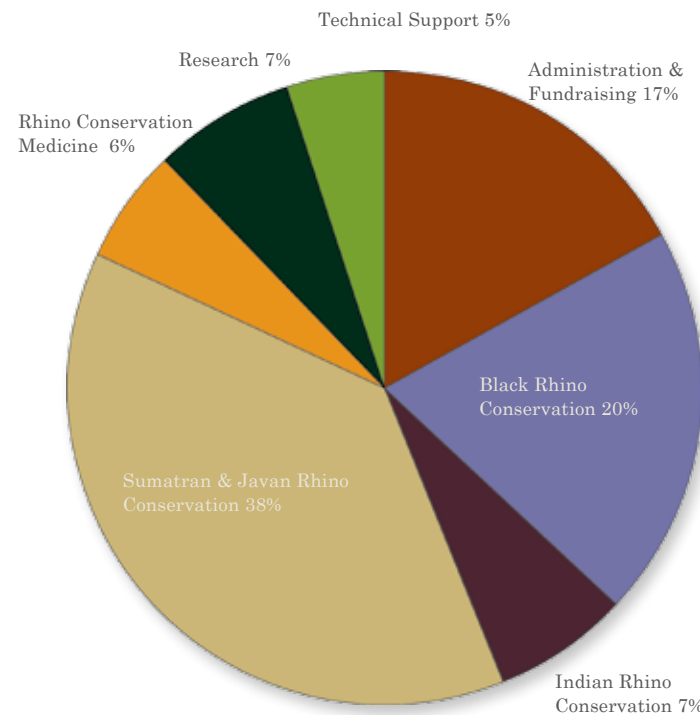
Annual Support & Revenue

Individuals	\$66,236.00
Foundations & Non-profits	\$1,174,638.00
Corporations	\$1,876.00
Zoos	\$222,076.00
Government Grants	\$255,623.00
Investment Income	\$457.00
TOTAL	\$1,720,906.00



Annual Expenses

Black Rhino Conservation	\$325,520.00
Zimbabwe	\$295,520.00
Tanzania	\$30,000.00
Indian Rhino Conservation	\$119,069.00
India and Nepal	\$119,069.00
Sumatran & Javan Rhino Conservation	\$608,675.00
Indonesia Rhino Protection Units	\$506,511.00
Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary	\$51,974.00
Javan Rhino Conservation	\$28,905.00
Rhino Foundation of Indonesia	\$21,285.00
Rhino Conservation Medicine	\$90,995.00
Research	\$105,554.00
Technical Support	\$81,869.00
Administration & Fundraising	\$269,876.00
TOTAL	\$1,601,558.00



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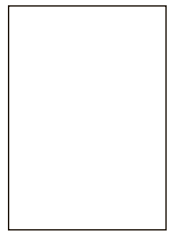
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