



INTERNATIONAL RHINO FOUNDATION  
2007 ANNUAL REPORT



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## MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT and EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

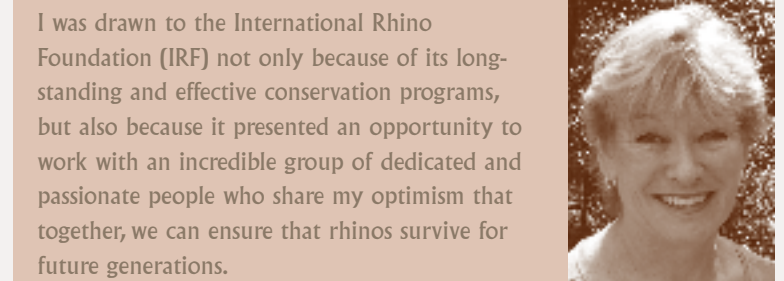
The past year has been a time of change for the International Rhino Foundation (IRF). While we have remained steadfast in our primary commitment to protect and conserve rhinos through our field programs, we also have focused energy on changing the public face of the IRF, reaching out to broader audiences to share our mission. This document, IRF's first annual report, is part of that effort.



directly to field programs. We also will continually seek new funds to address the ever-changing challenges facing rhinos. IRF has made significant strides this year in laying the foundation for new growth. 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 Tubae*

Highlights of the last year include the hiring of a new Executive Director, Dr. Susie Ellis, with extensive experience in international wildlife conservation. With design assistance from Disney, we revitalized our logo and created a new, more user-friendly website which has already seen a significant increase in site visits, requests for information, and online donations. Regular e-newsletters now keep our constituency informed about the latest news in rhino conservation and IRF's activities. Walking on the wild side, we launched the new website with the quirky 'Endangered Feces Auction' on eBay, which generated not only funds, but more importantly, media interest in rhinos from all over the world.



I was drawn to the International Rhino Foundation (IRF) not only because of its long-standing and effective conservation programs, but also because it presented an opportunity to work with an incredible group of dedicated and passionate people who share my optimism that together, we can ensure that rhinos survive for future generations.

Since becoming Executive Director in December 2006, I have had the opportunity to visit almost all of IRF's field sites, meeting with staff, partners, and supporters in Africa and Asia. More than anything, the lesson that's been driven home is that while all five rhino species remain in peril, all are in better shape than might be expected because of IRF's work.

Other successes in 2007 included the transfer of Cincinnati Zoo-born "Andalas", the first Sumatran rhino born in a zoo in more than 112 years, to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Indonesia. This monumental effort required months of planning, and more than 60 hours in transit by truck, plane, and boat to safely move Andalas to Sumatra from the Los Angeles Zoo, where he had been housed for the previous year. Our work in Zimbabwe's Lowveld Conservancies led to an increase in the black rhino population there from 370 to 388 animals, despite ongoing threats from poaching. In India, groundwork was laid for the ambitious Indian Rhino Vision 2020 program, which aims to increase the population of Indian rhinos to 3,000 by the year 2020, spreading out the population to at least seven national parks to decrease their susceptibility to threats.

From its inception 15 years ago, IRF has focused its programs in areas where rhinos are in the most need of attention and where conservation will have the most significant impact. Among the most important lessons we have learned is the value and impact of collaboration. Lasting solutions involve a multitude of stakeholders – local people, communities, government agencies, zoos, conservation organizations, scientists, and others – in order to be effective. Our key partners in the field – including the Asian Rhino Project, Save the Rhino, Save Foundation, WWF, Yayasan Badak Indonesia, and many others – share our commitment to creatively and collaboratively seek ways to work together towards our common goal.

Looking forward, in 2008, we will see the first Indian rhino translocations to Manas National Park. While Zimbabwe's political and economic situation will continue to present challenges, our staff there is committed to maintain a presence in the field to discourage poaching. And in Indonesia, the constant vigilance of Rhino Protection Units in Way Kambas and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Parks will continue to protect the last secure bastions of the Sumatran rhino.

We enter 2008 with great optimism about what IRF, its partners, and supporters can accomplish by working together. New challenges in rhino conservation appear almost every day, and ongoing threats to rhinos persist. But IRF's resolve to secure a bright future for rhinos is stronger than ever. Thank you for your generous support, which will make that future possible.

As IRF grows, we continuously work to ensure wise investment of IRF's limited resources by making sure that more than 90% of funds go

*Susie Ellis*





# THE INTERNATIONAL RHINO FOUNDATION

More than 25 years ago, Zimbabwe's black rhino population was decreasing at an alarming rate from intense, organized poaching. In response, a group of concerned individuals and institutions founded the Black Rhino Foundation in 1989 to assist in the conservation of black rhinos in Zimbabwe through efforts in the wild and in captivity. In part because of the Black Rhino Foundation's support, poaching was virtually eliminated and Zimbabwe's black rhino population began to stabilize. In most areas throughout the species' range, numbers are now increasing.

protection, and where conservation efforts will have the most significant impact. IRF also works with conservation centers and zoos to provide linkages between captive and wild populations of rhinos, with the ultimate objective of helping captive populations become a truly integral part of conservation strategies for rhinos.

Since its founding, IRF has provided funding for scientific research that enhances the health and viability of captive rhino populations and maximizes their contribution to conservation in nature. At the heart of IRF's vision is the belief

*The heart of IRF's vision is the belief that these magnificent species should endure for future generations.*

In 1993, recognizing that the escalating crisis facing all five rhino species was not receiving the attention it deserved, the Black Rhino Foundation expanded its mission and became the International Rhino Foundation (IRF). For the last 15 years, IRF has funded and operated rhino conservation programs in Africa and Asia, focusing expertise and resources in areas where rhinos are most in need of

that these magnificent species should endure for future generations, and that protecting rhinos ensures the survival of many other species that share their habitat, including people.

## MISSION

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





# RHINOS IN CRISIS

Rhinos have walked the Earth for more than 50 million years, appearing in fossil records in North America and Europe, as well as in Africa and Asia. Today, all but one species face extinction within the next 20 to 50 years.

swamp forests disappear due to uncontrolled logging, mining, and forest fires, populations of rhinos that depend on large, undisturbed tracts of habitat are becoming more vulnerable. Growing human populations are overlapping into protected areas, converting land for livestock and agriculture, and destroying rhino habitat. Subsequently, as rhino populations become increasingly isolated from each other, reproductive opportunities are becoming more limited, leading to further declines in rhino population numbers.

*Rhinos have walked the Earth for more than 50 million years, but today, all but one species face extinction within the next 20 to 50 years.*



The greatest threat to rhinos is poaching for their horn, which is made of keratin, the same material as hair and fingernails. Most rhino horn is sold in the black market for traditional Asian medicine and is used to reduce fever, not as an aphrodisiac, contrary to popular belief. In the Middle East, especially in Yemen, rhino horn is also used to make ornamental daggers, which are considered a cultural status symbol. Although rhinos are legally protected worldwide, high black market prices for rhino products continue to entice people to engage in poaching.

Rhino horn poaching is particularly cruel. In both Asia and Africa, poachers kill rhinos with guns or wire snares. Snared animals may break free, but deeply embedded wire remains around their legs or neck. Without veterinary care, animals with snare wounds soon succumb to infection.

Healthy and secure rhino habitat is rapidly decreasing. Habitat destruction particularly affects Asian rhinos. As rainforests and





# STATE OF THE RHINO 2007

## JAVAN RHINO

*Rhinoceros sondaicus*

**Critically Endangered**

The Javan Rhino is the rarest of the rhino species, with fewer than 55 animals surviving in only two known locations – Indonesia’s Ujung Kulon National Park and Vietnam’s Cat Loc Reserve. No more than five individuals survive in Vietnam; Indonesia’s population in Ujung Kulon is believed to number between 40 to 50 animals and is relatively stable. Surveys are planned for 2008 to confirm the status of the population. Rhino Protection Units have successfully guarded the Ujung Kulon population and have significantly reduced threats from poaching and encroachment. However, because the reproducing population exists only in one location, there is still significant risk of extinction from a single disaster or disease.



## SUMATRAN RHINO

*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*

**Critically Endangered**

As few as 275 Sumatran rhinos survive in very small and highly fragmented populations in Southeast Asia. The majority of the population lives on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. In Sumatra, rhinos are found in three main populations, all contained within protected areas: Bukit Barisan Selatan, Way Kambas, and Gunung Leuser National Parks. The population faces consistent threats due to deforestation, encroachment, and other human activities, but Rhino Protection Units have helped to stabilize the population in Sumatra. Populations in peninsular Malaysia have likely experienced particularly severe losses in the past few years. In February 2007, Cincinnati Zoo-born ‘Andalas’, the first Sumatran rhino born in a zoo in 112 years, was sent to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary to join its breeding program. In 2008, intensive surveys will be conducted in Indonesia and other areas within the species’ range to confirm numbers.

## GREATER ONE-HORNED RHINO

*Rhinoceros unicornis*

**Endangered**

Despite its successful population recovery to 2,619 individuals in 2007, the greater one-horned rhino still faces severe poaching pressure throughout its range in India and Nepal. More than two-thirds of the population lives in Assam’s Kaziranga National Park, where 16 animals were poached in 2007. Poaching also was rampant in several of Nepal’s national parks. Under the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 strategy, 13 new guard posts were built and 150 guards hired and trained in Manas National Park to prepare for rhino translocations from Kaziranga and other parks. Translocations will spread the greater one-horned rhino population among multiple protected areas to reduce the risk of extinction.



## WHITE RHINO

*Ceratotherium simum*

**Near Threatened**

The white rhino is the least endangered of the living rhino species. Of its two distinct subspecies, only the Southern white rhino population remains viable, now numbering 14,500 animals in southern Africa. Severe poaching has put the very existence of the Northern white rhino into question - perhaps only four individuals remain in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Intensive surveys so far have found only spoor, with no sightings of actual animals.



## BLACK RHINO

*Diceros bicornis*

**Critically Endangered**

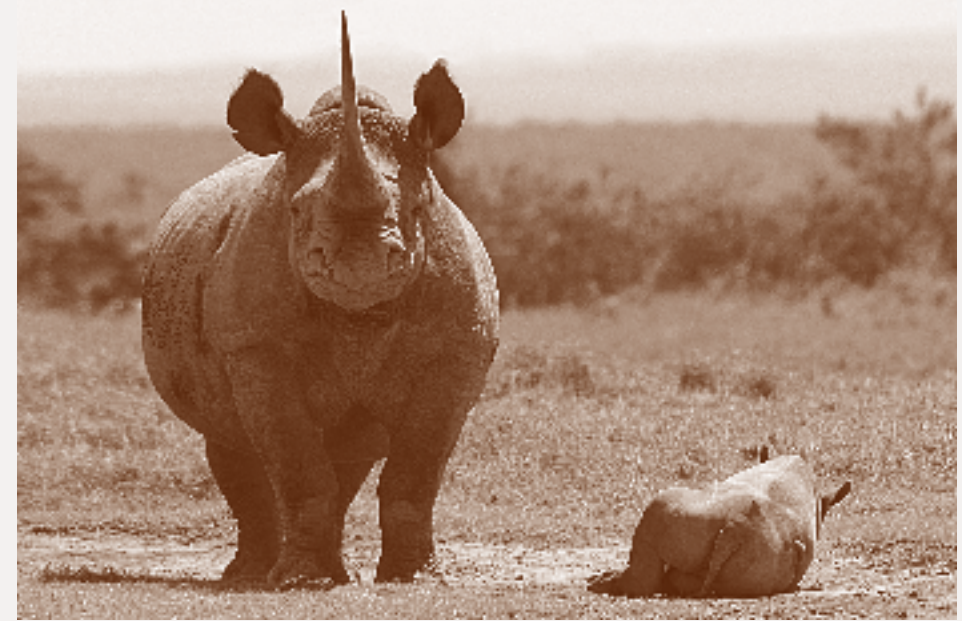
There are approximately 3,725 black rhinos surviving in southern and eastern Africa. In Zimbabwe, where IRF concentrates its black rhino work, the population increased from 370 to 388 individuals in 2007. Despite threats from increasingly bold and well-organized poachers, due to strong protection and conservation efforts, populations of the three black rhino subspecies are slowly increasing throughout their range, growing by about 4.45 percent per year over the past 10 years.





# REASON FOR OPTIMISM

*While four of the five rhinoceros species remain in peril, all are in better shape than might otherwise be expected because of the International Rhino Foundation's work.*





# ZIMBABWE

Africa's total population of black rhinos, surviving in Eastern and Southern Africa, is up from about 2,500 animals 5 years ago to at least 3,725 animals today. But Zimbabwe's black rhino population, now the third largest in Africa, still faces serious threats. Since early 2000, at least one-third of the total area where rhino conservancies exist in southern Zimbabwe has experienced large-scale invasions as a result of land reformation - resulting in the displacement of black rhinos from their home ranges as well as their incidental and purposeful injuries and deaths. There have been at least 120 deaths of black rhinos from poaching in Zimbabwe since 2000. These losses would have been significantly higher, however, if it were not for IRF's veterinary interventions which have helped to maintain a positive rate of population growth, showing that rhino conservation in Zimbabwe is not a 'lost cause'.

IRF works primarily in Zimbabwe's Lowveld conservancies, which hold 75% of the country's black rhinos. Working in partnership with WWF, private conservancies and local communities, we strive to ensure the safety of Zimbabwe's black rhinos through monitoring and anti-poaching

patrols. Our rhino operations team regularly removes snares, provides management, and rescues at-risk rhinos, moving them to safer areas. Over the period 2001-2007, we translocated a total of 107 at-risk black rhinos. These translocations have reduced the number of rhinos exposed to targeted poaching and high snaring risk. One hundred of these translocated rhinos have been used to establish a new breeding population in Buby

River Conservancy, which has the capacity to accommodate more than 400 black rhinos. This represents one of the largest range expansion achievements made anywhere in Africa in recent years.



## 2007 Highlights

With at least 14 known cases of rhino poaching in Lowveld conservancies in 2007, IRF's Lowveld Rhino Project implemented a large-scale dehorning operation in 2007 to reduce poaching risk. Eighty-four rhinos were dehorned during this operation, in state-land areas as well as in the least secure areas within private conservancies.

In 2007, the Lowveld Rhino Project immobilized 96 black rhinos (and 28 white rhinos) in the field for metapopulation management and treatment. Treatment included: emergency veterinary treatment of snare and other injuries; translocation of rhinos from vulnerable areas to areas of greater security; dehorning to reduce poaching risk; and ear-notching and fitting of horn radio transmitters to improve population monitoring.

Despite the increased poaching pressures, the population of black rhinos within Lowveld conservancies increased from 370 to 388 during 2007, thus maintaining a modest growth in Zimbabwe's national population.

# TANZANIA

The spectacular Selous Game Reserve in southern Tanzania is the second largest natural UNESCO World Heritage Site in the world, with significant biodiversity, including 70% of Tanzania's black rhino population and its largest population of elephants. However, uncontrolled poaching in the 1980s ravaged the Selous' population of nearly 3,000 black rhinos, leaving just a handful of survivors.

Black rhinos were believed to be extinct in the Selous until 1990, when black rhino tracks were detected. IRF's partner, the Selous Rhino Trust, was then able to confirm that a viable population of

black rhinos exists in the Selous. The Selous Rhino Trust, along with the Tanzania Wildlife Department, surveys and monitors rhinos in the Selous to determine population, distribution and status, and to assure their long term security.

A team of 12 rangers regularly patrols and carries out basic anti-poaching activities, also reporting on animal sightings and signs of potential threats. At least 19 black rhinos have been confirmed in the northern part of the Reserve and signs of at least another 20 have been found in limited surveys in the south.

## 2007 Highlights

In addition to supporting anti-poaching patrols, IRF and partners provided the Selous Rhino Trust with use of a Super Cub aircraft which has facilitated increased rhino sightings and successful anti-poaching activities. The use of the aircraft led to rapid air-to-ground operations in response to several poaching incidents in 2007, mainly of elephants and hippos (often in or near rhino home ranges). In one incident, a



poacher's canoe was spotted from the air and early the next morning, rangers moved into the area by boat and were guided through the complex waterway system by the aircraft circling above. Four canoes were located from the air and despite the poachers submerging them in an attempt to escape detection, the rangers were able to recover all four canoes and other equipment, and to apprehend the poachers.









# INDIA

Greater one-horned, or Indian, rhinos were once found from Eastern Pakistan, through India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh, and into Myanmar. The greater one-horned rhino population decreased to fewer than 20 individuals in the early 1900s as the result of poaching, habitat destruction, and human encroachment. But with strict protection by Indian and Nepalese wildlife authorities, rhinos have rebounded to about 2,650 animals in 13 groups distributed between northern India (Assam) and Nepal.



More than 85% of the Indian rhino population inhabits Kaziranga National Park in Assam, India, exposing the population to the risk that a single catastrophe such as a flood or disease outbreak could lead to a serious population decrease again. 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 conflict as animals move out of the park and into agricultural areas to forage for food. In several other parks with small rhino populations (including Laokhowa and Orang National Parks), political and ethnic conflicts have resulted in increased poaching.

IRF and its partners, the Government of Assam and WWF-India, have launched Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV 2020), with the goal of increasing the population of Indian rhinos to 3,000 by the year 2020 and translocating animals in order to spread the population out more evenly over at least seven national parks.

## 2007 Highlights

With poaching an ongoing threat, strong protection must be put into place to ensure that translocated populations have every chance to thrive. In 2007, IRF and partners laid the groundwork to translocate 20-30 rhinos from Kaziranga and Pabitora to Manas National Park. Security assessments were completed, and recommendations made to ensure that the rhinos will be adequately protected in their new home. Recognizing that successful conservation efforts will be heavily dependent on both government and community support and involvement, IRF and IRV 2020 partners are working with local community organizations and government as well as park authorities to implement these recommendations. The Bodo Territorial Council (the local ethnic governing body) and the Government of Assam built 13 new anti-poaching camps and have hired 150 protection staff. Providing employment for local people has significantly increased support for moving rhinos to Manas in the local administration and among local communities, and Manas National Park is now poised to receive rhinos.

Current plans are to translocate the first group of rhinos to Manas in Spring 2008. Animals will be radio-collared and regularly monitored to gauge the success of the reintroduction process. Joint government/community patrol units will regularly patrol the park to prevent poaching and encroachment and to monitor the new rhino population.





# INDONESIA RHINO PROTECTION UNITS

The Critically Endangered Sumatran and Javan rhinoceros may be the most threatened of all land mammals on Earth. Fewer than 275 Sumatran rhinos remain, primarily on Indonesia's Sumatra island, where the population has declined at a rate of 50% over the past 10 years, largely from deforestation and habitat fragmentation. The population of Javan rhinos numbers only around 50 animals. Over the past 5 years, however, losses of Sumatran and Javan rhino have been nearly eliminated in Indonesia through intensive anti-poaching and intelligence activities by Rhino Protection Units operated in partnership with the Indonesian Rhino Foundation. The successes of these units have kept the two species from extinction and are critical for their continued population recovery.

Rhino Protection Units (RPU) rigorously patrol forests to destroy snares and traps (the main mode of poaching for these species) and apprehend poachers. By gathering intelligence from local communities, RPUs also proactively prevent poaching attempts before they take place. RPUs have been very effective in protecting the rhino from poachers - only five Sumatran rhinos have been lost to poachers since the inception of the program, and no Javan rhinos have been killed. By virtue of the RPUs' consistent presence and patrolling, other species, such as Sumatran tigers and elephants, also benefit, as does the ecosystem as a whole.

Eight patrol units operate in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park in Sumatra, one of the highest priority areas for Sumatran megafauna. Approximately 60-85 Sumatran rhino (the second largest population in the world) inhabit the Park, along with 40-50 Sumatran tigers and around 500 Asian elephants. Five patrol units operate in Way Kambas National Park, which has a resident population of 40+ Sumatran rhino (the third largest population of Sumatran rhinos) and is also the site of the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. Three patrol units operate in Ujung Kulon National Park, home to the only remaining viable population of Javan rhinos in the world.



## 2007 Highlights

In 2007, largely due to the extremely effective efforts of the rhino protection units, there were no cases of large mammal (rhino, in particular) poaching in Bukit Barisan, Way Kambas and Ujung Kulon National Parks.

Each of the 16 Rhino Protection Units was on continuous patrol in the three parks in 2007, averaging a minimum of 15 days on patrol per month. The patrol units removed all animal traps and snares they encountered, and collected a significant amount of information on illegal activities, including encroachment, timber theft, illegal hunting, and forest product theft.

In Bukit Barisan Selatan (BBS), patrol units helped to arrest 19 suspects for illegal hunting or logging; eight of these suspects have already been prosecuted and convicted. BBS patrol units also confiscated 50 illegal guns from local communities.

The Way Kambas Rhino Protection Units located and destroyed more than 25 animal traps and helped to arrest 15 suspects for illegal hunting, fishing, or poaching; these suspects are currently awaiting prosecution. The RPUs in Way Kambas also launched a major intelligence gathering effort to identify

and infiltrate several illegal trading cells operating in the vicinity of the park that are offering rhino horn, tiger skin, and elephant tusk for sale.

Due to the success of rhino protection efforts in Ujung Kulon National Park, no incidences of poaching and very few incidences of encroachment were encountered in the Park. In 2007, a workshop, partially funded by IRF, was conducted in Jakarta on the Evaluation and Update of the Indonesian Rhino Conservation Strategy. The ultimate goal articulated at this workshop was "to create conditions conducive to and then actually to develop viable populations of Javan rhinos in the wild." The workshop outlined a new strategy that will focus on maintaining and then expanding by 20 percent the wild population in Ujung Kulon, and secondly, on establishing an additional wild population elsewhere through translocations, after identifying and securing additional, suitable habitat.

# SUMATRAN RHINO SANCTUARY

Because of the challenges and uncertainties facing the Sumatran Rhino, the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Asian Rhino Specialist Group recommended developing a captive breeding program as part of a larger population management strategy. Rhino experts agreed that successful reproduction would require sufficiently natural conditions and large enclosures. In the early 1990s, managed propagation centers (known as "sanctuaries") were developed in native habitat in range countries, to which some captive rhinos were repatriated. The first and still most important center is the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS) in Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia. The SRS encompasses 100 hectares (247 acres) for propagation, research, and education. The SRS received its first rhino in 1998. Until recently, the Sanctuary held only one pair of animals, which were not reproductively sound. The SRS is now home to five animals and is staffed by two full-time Indonesian veterinarians, ten keepers, and several administrative and support staff.



The five Sumatran rhinos living at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary – Rosa, Ratu, Bina, Torgamba, and Andalas – serve as ambassadors for their wild counterparts, instruments for education for local communities and the general public, an 'insurance' population that can be used to reestablish or revitalize wild populations that have been eliminated or debilitated, an invaluable resource for basic and applied biological research, and hopefully, in the future, as sources of animals for reintroductions, once threats have been ameliorated in their natural habitat.

## 2007 Highlights

In February 2007, Andalas, the first Sumatran rhino born in captivity in 112 years, was transferred from the United States to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. After successfully adapting to life at the sanctuary during his quarantine and adjustment period, Andalas was released into a big paddock and has gradually been introduced to two young females, Rosa and Ratu, living at the Sanctuary. This young, Cincinnati Zoo-bred male is manifesting signs of physical and sexual maturity, and will soon be part of a targeted breeding initiative that will utilize all of the reproductive science technologies at our disposal, including those already proven successful at the Cincinnati Zoo.



Over the years, a number of circumstantial, medical, and management problems have been addressed and overcome. As a result, within the last decade, the husbandry and captive propagation of Sumatran rhinos has passed from its infancy to its adolescence. The International Rhino Foundation has been steadfastly working to address these issues with the expertise of numerous veterinarians and reproductive biologists.



# CONSERVATION MEDICINE

The Rhino Conservation Medicine Program, a unique collaboration between the International Rhino Foundation, Fossil Rim Wildlife Center, and the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, provides high-level veterinary medical support for global rhino conservation efforts both in the wild and in captivity.



The Rhino Conservation Medicine Program has three fundamental objectives: 1) to provide health care services for global rhino conservation programs in Asia and Africa; 2) to provide unique training and educational opportunities for American and Indonesian veterinary students focused on rhino treatment and research; and 3) to educate local children and communities about the importance of protecting rhinos.



## 2007 Highlights

The Conservation Medicine program staff continued to oversee medical care of the captive rhinos at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, conducting quarterly visits to examine the rhinos, provide routine veterinary care, treat the rhinos for any diseases, infections or injuries, and supervise nutrition and breeding plans. During these regular visits, Conservation Medicine program staff trained sanctuary vets and Indonesian students on rhino veterinary knowledge and skills. The program also supported disease surveys around Way Kambas National Park to help protect rhinos from increasing wildlife-domestic animal disease transmission and human-induced environmental change.

Along with staff from the Los Angeles Zoo and the SRS, the Conservation Medicine program staff successfully planned and managed the translocation of Andalas, the



first Sumatran rhino born in captivity in 112 years, from the U.S. to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. A key part of the preparation was the vaccination of Andalas against diseases for which he has no immunity. Andalas, born in 2001 at the Cincinnati Zoo, had not been exposed to blood parasites present in the Indonesian jungle and thus had not developed natural immunity as young rhinos do in the wild. Program staff collaborated with immunologists from Cornell to adapt a vaccine originally developed to protect domestic livestock in Brazil against parasitic diseases for Andalas. The use of this new rhino vaccine will be a key step towards any future reintroduction of captive-bred Sumatran rhinos into the wild.





# PEOPLE AT THE HEART

*Working under difficult and sometimes dangerous circumstances, courageous and passionate people ensure the rhinos' survival.*



**Natasha Anderson, Rhino Monitoring Coordinator, Lowveld Rhino Program,** manages rhino monitoring efforts in Zimbabwe's Bulyepi River Conservancy. Natasha and her team track and monitor rhinos, remove snares, provide veterinary treatment, and rescue at-risk rhinos, moving them to safer areas.



**Wulan Pusparini, Rhino Protection Unit Data Analyst,** works closely with the Rhino Protection Units in Indonesia's Way Kambas and Bukit Barisan National Parks, analyzing detailed patrol data to document effectiveness of protection initiatives.



**Dr. Dedi Candra, Animal Collections Coordinator,** oversees veterinary care for the five Sumatran rhinos residing in the 267-acre Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, a breeding and research center in Sumatra, Indonesia.



**Waladi Isnan** has played a key role in developing the Rhino Protection Units in Way Kambas and Bukit Barisan National Parks in Sumatra, Indonesia - helping them to become a model of success that has been adapted for endangered species conservation throughout Southeast Asia.



**Jackson Kamwi, Senior Rhino Monitor, Lowveld Rhino Program,** tracks and photographs all of the rhinos in Zimbabwe's Bulyepi River Conservancy - sometimes very dangerous work. Photos are used for identification, and also for future monitoring efforts.



**Raoul du Toit, IRF's Southern Africa Advisor,** coordinates IRF's work with partners throughout southern Africa, ensuring that limited conservation funds are used to their maximum advantage. Raoul and his team have been instrumental in protecting Zimbabwe's black rhino population, leading to their increase over the past several years.

# RESEARCH

Since its inception, the IRF has provided funding for research projects to enhance the health and viability of captive rhino populations and answer questions that will contribute to their conservation in nature. In 2006/2007, IRF fully or partially funded five research projects for a total of \$179,190, including:

**The Relationship Between Fecal Corticoids as a Measure of Stress and Amino Acid Status on the Onset of Superficial Necrolytic Dermatitis (SND) in Captive Black Rhinoceros**

J.L. Brown and C.L. Dorsey, National Zoological Park

Amount: \$21,000

**Objective:** Determine if superficial necrolytic dermatitis may be related to metabolic changes resulting from stress or inadequate diet.



**Understanding the Mechanisms and Causes of Male-Biased Sex Ratios (BSR) in Captivity**

W.L. Linklater, N. Czekala and P. Law, University of Wellington and Zoological Society of San Diego

Amount: \$43,420

**Objective:** Confirm the causal pathway from calf sex to the mother's circulating glucose levels, body condition, and stress during blastocyst development and implantation.

**Why Do Captive-Born Female White Rhinos Fail To Produce?**

R. Swaisgood, Zoological Society of San Diego

Amount: \$49,750

**Objective:** Survey and compare reproductive success in white rhinos maintained on different reserves in Africa to identify factors in common with those of zoo populations.



**Use of Doppler Ultrasound Technology To Detect Indicators of Estrus, Ovulation, and Cycle Fertility in Captive Asian Rhino Species**

M.A. Stoops, Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden

Amount: \$43,420

**Objectives:** (i) Measure color/Doppler characteristics during follicle development (size), ovulation, and CL formation in Asian rhinos;

(ii) Measure testosterone concentrations in the urine/serum of female Asian rhino and correlate with Doppler characteristics;

(iii) Correlate LH surge with ovulation through intensive monitoring by Doppler and hormone analyses.



**Nutritional Ecology of the Black Rhinoceros**

S. Helary, University of Liege, Belgium

Amount: \$21,600\*

**Objectives:** (i) Assess at what time of the year different nutrients and anti-nutrients are most limiting in the diet in different ecosystems;

(ii) Establish relations between diet and fecal measures of chemical contents;

(iii) Compare the chemical composition of the diet between high vs. low performing populations.

\* \$11,600 award from IRF Funds and \$10,000 award from Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund



# IRF's New Look

Since its inception, IRF has prided itself on being a lean, serious organization that does what it takes to save rhinos in some of the toughest places on Earth. Within the scientific and zoo community, IRF has long been a primary 'go to' organization for rhino information. However, IRF was not well-known to the general public. With a change in leadership this year, we began working to increase awareness about IRF's work among a broader audience and to build greater public support for rhino conservation.

To do this, we needed to create a new look that would shout "RHINO!" and lead people directly to IRF for information. We are deeply grateful to the graphic designers at Disney, who created a new brand, logo, and website design for IRF.

IRF launched its revamped website ([www.rhinos-irf.org](http://www.rhinos-irf.org)) in November 2007, with a new format and new features designed to attract and educate as many people as possible about rhinos and the importance of rhino conservation. The redesigned website features detailed profiles on all rhino species, information about rhino conservation programs around the world, professional tools for conservation practitioners, educational resources for kids and teachers, a newsroom with information for the media, suggestions for getting involved in conservation, and an easy mechanism for making charitable contributions.

The website was launched alongside a comprehensive "social media" campaign to create even more interest in rhino conservation using a regular e-newsletter, blog, RSS feeds, Facebook, Flickr, MySpace, YouTube, Twitter, and other outlets, along with a new fundraising strategy.



The redesigned website and other materials immediately resulted in increased site visits, requests for information, newsletter subscribers, media requests, and donations, raising more support and more funds for rhino conservation!

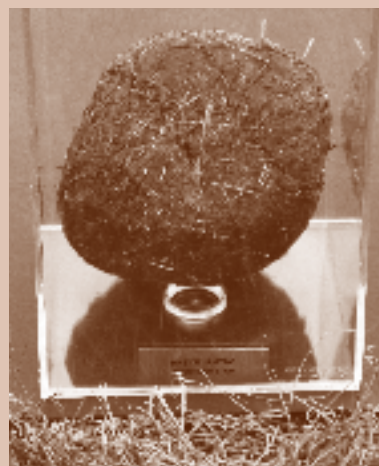


To kick off the new look and draw people to our redesigned website, in late 2007, IRF launched the most unconventional project we have ever undertaken.

## ENDANGERED FECES

In conjunction with the launch of our new website, and with assistance from Salter Herrle Communications Group, R.B. Oppenheim Associates and Disney, IRF held an "Endangered Feces" auction in 2007 – auctioning

off rhino poop from four of the five rhino species on eBay to raise funds for our rhino conservation programs. Quirky as it was, the Endangered Feces auction captured people's imaginations and generated interest in rhinos all over the world. In the US, television coverage included 41 stories that reached at least 3.34 million people, including



CNN Headline News, ABC and NBC national broadcasts, and local channels. There were also at least 150,000 print and internet stories, including coverage by the Associated Press, USA Today, Forbes, Reuters, MSN, ABC, CBS, BBC, and others. (Ours was the second-most emailed story on CNN.com on Friday, December 7th.) And, there were more than 175,000 articles referencing "rhino poop" and the IRF on Google and various blogs. We did numerous radio interviews, including stations in the UK, US, New Zealand, Australia, and Canada, and were included in an article about novel fundraising approaches in the online Chronicle of Philanthropy.

The real winners, of course, were the rhinos. Significantly more people are now more aware about the plight facing rhinos and are acting to help IRF to save them. During the 10-day auction, we received nearly 11,000 visits to our website from 97 countries and 72 new readers subscribed to our e-newsletter.

# IRF Staff

## 2007 SPECIAL ADVISORS

**Susie Ellis, PhD**  
Executive Director

**Margaret Moore**  
Development Officer

**Robin Radcliffe, DVM**  
Rhino Conservation Medicine Program

**Nico van Strien, PhD**  
Asian Rhino Program Coordinator

**Dr. Muhammad Agil, PhD**  
Technical Consultant, Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary

**Dr. Dedi Candra**  
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Program Manager, Indonesian Rhino Protection Unit Program

**Drs. Arief Rubianto**  
Field Supervisor, Indonesian Rhino Protection Program

**Secionov**  
IRF Indonesia Liaison

## Pro-Bono Staff & Advisors

Much of the administrative and creative support for IRF is donated pro-bono (i.e., without cost) by the generous institutions and organizations represented on the IRF Board. This allows administrative costs to be kept to a minimum and for other donations to directly fund IRF field conservation programs.

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White Oak Conservation Center

Jean Cha  
Bass Entertainment Production Company

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Frank Roberts  
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Rhino Information Resource Center  
& Rhino Encyclopedia

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IRF Southern Africa Advisor

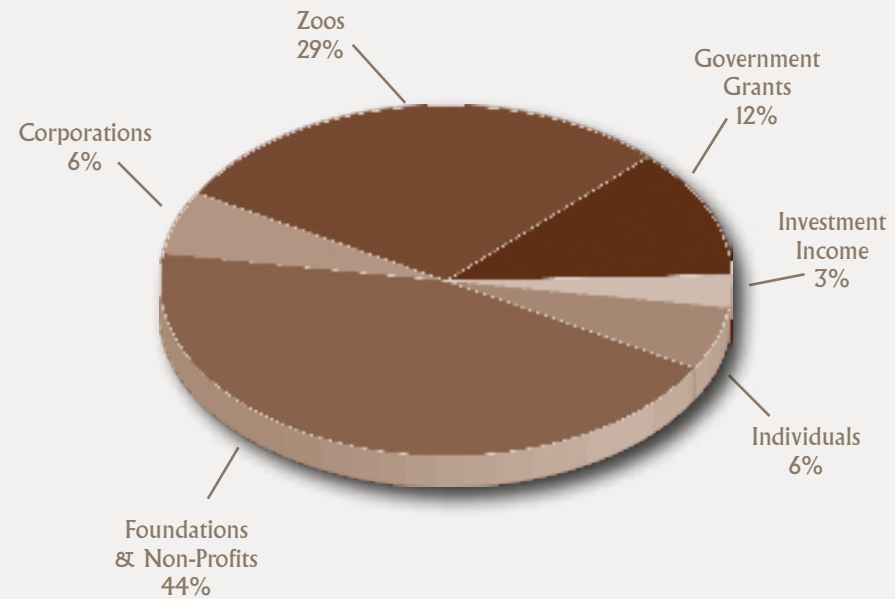


# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

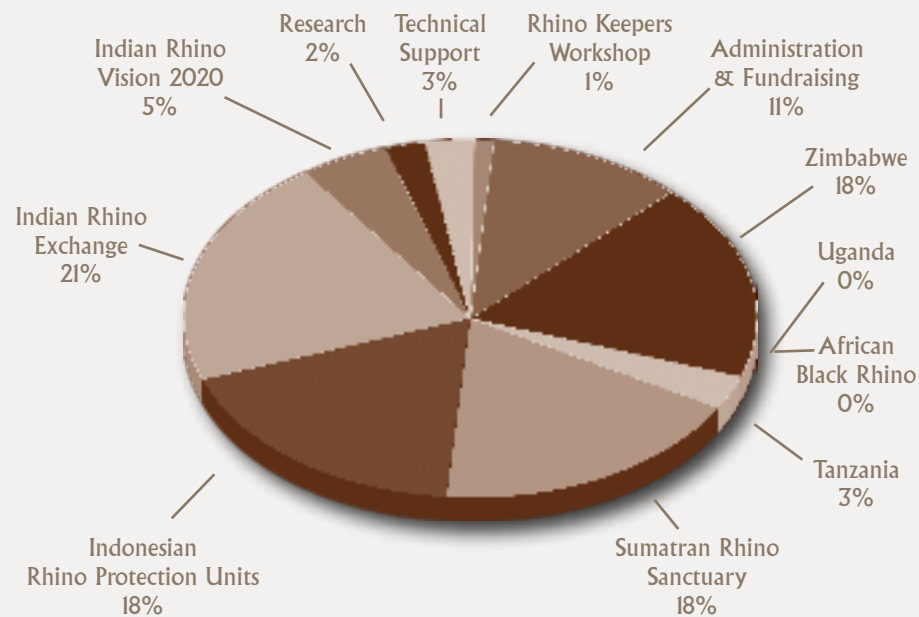
The International Rhino Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations are tax-deductible.

IRF takes great care in the use of our funds. Nearly 90% of expenses go directly to conservation programs, earning IRF the highest four-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent evaluator, in 2007.

REVENUE	AMOUNT
Individuals	\$89,757
Foundations and Non-profits	\$737,530
Corporations	\$102,054
Zoos	\$480,043
Government Grants	\$198,455
Investment Income	\$54,753
<b>Total New Annual Support</b>	<b>\$1,662,592</b>
Rollover Funds from 2006	\$1,350,249
<b>Total Annual Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,012,841</b>



EXPENDITURES	AMOUNT
Zimbabwe	\$394,352
Tanzania	\$68,000
Uganda	\$2,550
African Black Rhino	\$3,291
Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary	\$388,125
Indonesian Rhino Protection Units	\$401,884
Indian Rhino Exchange	\$470,536
Indian Rhino Vision 2020	\$99,419
Research	\$47,945
Technical Support	\$60,500
Rhino Keepers Workshop	\$13,452
Administration & Fundraising	\$246,263
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$2,196,317</b>





2007

# Donors

## Defenders (\$25,000 +)

American Association of Zoo Keepers/ Bowling for Rhinos  
Anna Merz  
Asian Rhino Project  
Basel Zoo  
Lee & Ramona Bass Foundation  
Cincinnati Zoo  
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund  
Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund  
Disney Worldwide Services  
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National Fish and Wildlife Foundation – Save the Tiger Fund  
SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund  
Tapeats Fund  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
World Wildlife Fund  
Zoological Society of San Diego

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Chicago Zoological Society  
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Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Gardens  
Montgomery Area Zoological Society  
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Jacob Greher  
Carty Griffin  
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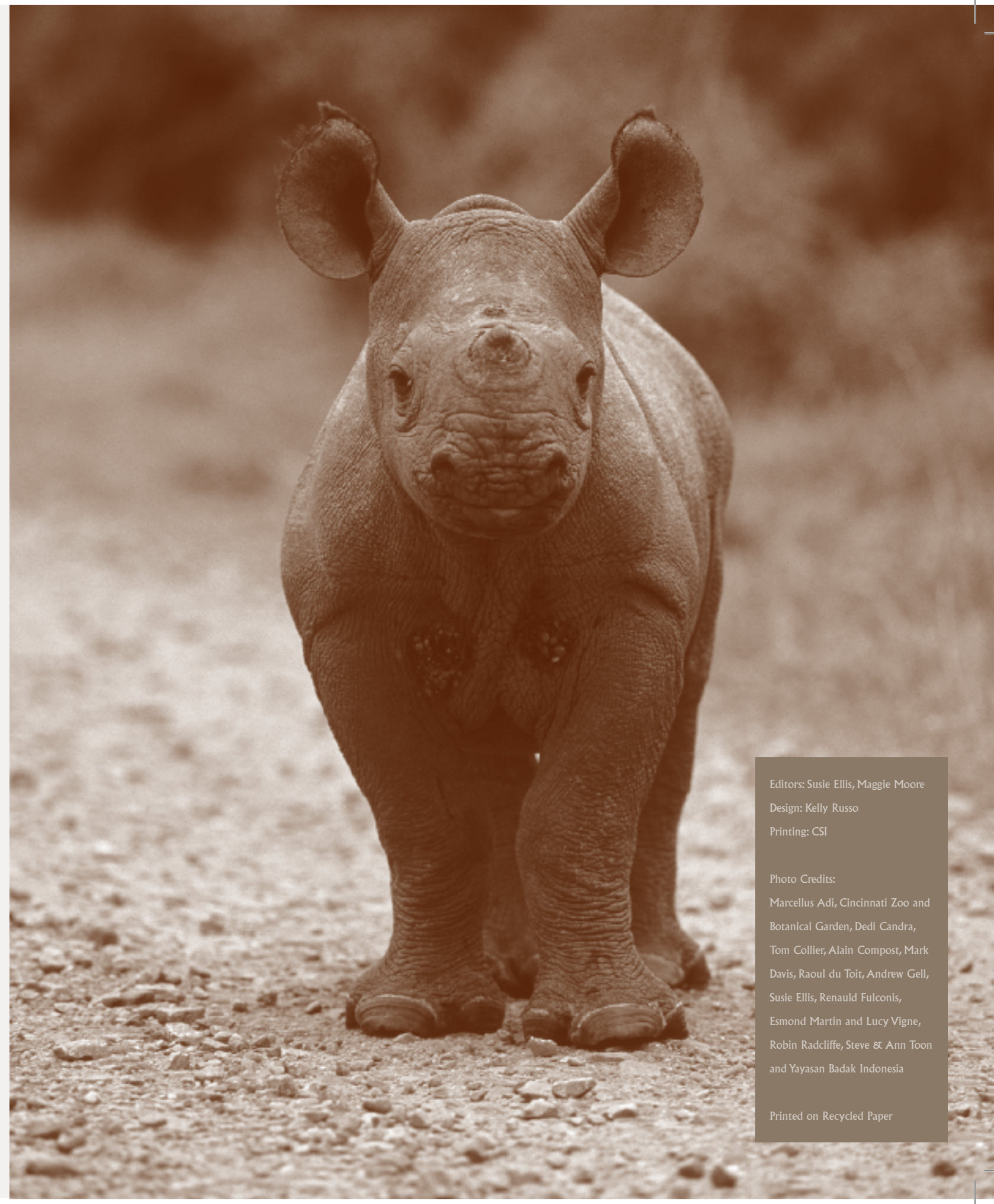
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MEMORIAM



Dr. Nicolaas Jan van Strien  
April 1, 1946 - February 7, 2008  
IRF Asian Rhino Program Coordinator



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INTERNATIONAL  
**RHINO**  
FOUNDATION

International Rhino Foundation  
581705 White Oak Road  
Yulee, FL 32097 USA  
540-465-9595  
571-312-4313

[info@rhinos-irf.org](mailto:info@rhinos-irf.org)  
[www.rhinos-irf.org](http://www.rhinos-irf.org)