

RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

www.rhinoresourcecenter.com

NEWSLETTER #24 AUGUST 2011

Dear colleagues and friends,

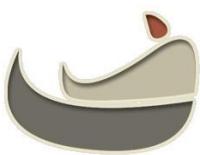
This is the 24th issue of the quarterly e-newsletter of the Rhino Resource Center.
Edited by Dr Kees Rookmaaker.

The total number of references in the database and collection of the RRC now stands at 15,530. This represents a quarterly increase of 527 items.

There are over 13,000 references available as PDF on the RRC website.

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Rhinos close to extinction

We all know it, but it does need to be repeated: all species of rhinos are severely threatened to disappear forever. Forty years ago, when I first thought of studying the biology and history of rhinos, the headlines were no different. Maybe the real miracle is that there are still rhinos to be counted today: due only to the perseverance and efforts of researchers, conservation managers, fund-raisers, journalists, field rangers and many others, working in NGOs, government departments or privately.

The threat to rhinos shows no sign of decreasing, in fact it is witnessing a sudden and disconcerting surge. Rhino horn is still perceived in many societies to be part of an effective remedy against diseases which are hard to cure otherwise, or it may be (even more strangely) seen to enhance male virility. These beliefs have no factual foundation, but they are so persistent, that we had better realize that the demand for rhino horn is not going to disappear in the near future.

So the battle must continue, daily and continuously. No rhino population anywhere on earth is safe. Even dead rhinos in museums are now attacked unless they are guarded and protected. In the wild every rhino population is under threat from poachers or human encroachment. Black rhino have disappeared from Cameroon, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Zambia and elsewhere. The northern white rhino (or Nile rhino, if you prefer) is gone from its wild habitat in Uganda, Sudan and Congo. However, there is encouraging news that the four animals taken from Dvur Kralove to Kenya are doing well and have become sexually

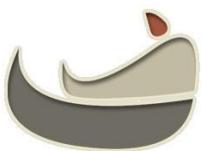
active, a last glimmer of hope to rescue some of their genes.

Fortunately, white rhino continue to increase in numbers. The poaching threat in South Africa is however reaching unprecedented proportions. Poaching, illegal hunting, illegal trade is daily mentioned in the media. Rhinos are killed all the time in larger numbers than in previous years. How are we going to stop the tide?

In a recent paper by Ahmad Zafir and co-workers, it is shown that the known world population of Sumatran rhinos has dwindled to around 216. This is about a hundred less than in 1995. The animals now live in small pockets, far from each other, with decreasing possibilities of reproduction. It is argued that threatened animals should be brought together into semi-in situ captive breeding programmes, while increased protection and monitoring should be established in a few priority national parks (in Sumatra and Sabah). A serious long-term commitment will be needed.

The Indian rhinoceros, or greater one-horned rhino to give it the currently preferred name, is doing relatively well, thanks to enormous efforts in both India and Nepal to manage the populations scientifically with an aim to increase numbers considerably in this decade. Rhino Vision 2020 has the intended positive effects.

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OUR SPONSORS

The board and staff of the Rhino Resource Center gratefully acknowledge the support of our two main sponsors, the International Rhino Foundation and SOS Rhino.



[INTERNATIONAL RHINO FOUNDATION](#)

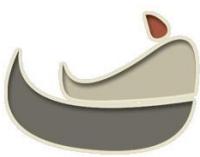


[SOS RHINO](#)

We receive regular donations from Save the Rhino International and Rhino Carhire.
Thank you very much.



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



Continued from page 2

In May 2010, a rhinoceros was found dead in Cat Tien National Park in southern Vietnam, which harboured the last examples of the Vietnamese *Rhinoceros sondaicus annamiticus*. Recent reports underline the fear that this small population, believed to number less than 5 animals even a decade ago, is now extinct. There are less than 50 examples left of the Javan Rhinoceros, all in Ujung Kulon National Park in western Java. Their situation has remained stable for several decades, thanks to continuous protection and research by the Indonesian government and NGOs. There are plans to translocate a few animals to Gunung Honje to establish a second viable population.

We know it: the Javan rhino, the Sumatran rhino and the Northern White rhino are at the top of the list of threatened megafauna. Its going to require continuous funding and efforts by dedicated people to keep them alive for future generations. Research can provide the tools best suited for the

task. Situations constantly change, we need to keep asking the right questions and find the right answers. An investment in protection and research is well worth making.

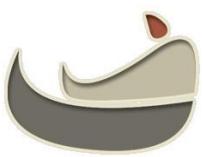
BOOKS PRESERVE WHAT WE KNOW

Let me add that much knowledge about all rhinos is available. I believe that for the benefit of everybody working with rhinos or studying them, it is imperative that this knowledge is reviewed and collated and discussed. I believe that we should be able to produce one large book for every species of rhino as a reference tool in biology, management, husbandry and pure science. We can protect rhinos in the field, and at the same time preserve knowledge about these pachyderms in print forever. I often wished to have time to devote to a comprehensive reference base on rhinos with details of their distribution, behaviour, ecology, anatomy, history and all their interactions with men through the ages. The material in the RRC can provide the basis for such an important task.

Just published:

Skead, C.J.; Boshoff, A.F.; Kerley, G.I.H.; Lloyd, P.H., 2011. *Historical incidence of the larger land mammals in the broader Northern and Western Cape*, 2nd edition. Port Elizabeth, Centre for African Conservation Ecology, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, pp. i, i-xiv, 1-519. R495 (+VAT), about £45 or \$75. For more information, contact: ace@nmmu.ac.za

The second edition of Jack Skead's book on mammals in the western and northern Cape Province is a mine of information. It contains data on all mammals observed in the region from 1650 onwards. It deals with extinct species like the quagga and blue antelope, as well as many others which are absent or very rare in the region. The treatment on the black and white rhinoceros is outstanding, and even contains an illustration of art-work by Burchell of a rhino hunt which was unknown to me. The book is useful to anybody who has an interest in African wildlife when it was less threatened than today. The editors have done a great job. This is a large book (533 pages), hardcover, well produced at a very reasonable price.



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MEETINGS ON THE RHINOCEROS

2-4 September 2011: Zoothistorica 2011

The 22nd annual meeting of collectors of zoo literature and memorabilia will be held in Leipzig and Halle. Here is the chance to meet people interested in zoo history and buy bargains at the fair and auction. More information: <http://www.zoothistorica.org>

14-17 September 2011: 8th International Conference on Behaviour, Physiology and Genetics of Wildlife

Organised by the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW) and EAZA. More information: <http://www.izw-berlin.de>.

10-14 October 2011: Elephant and Rhino Conservation and Research Symposium

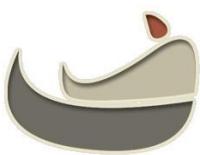
The Rotterdam Zoo in association with the International Elephant Foundation (IEF) invites you to participate in this meeting. This year IEF welcomes colleagues working with all species of rhinos, both in human care and in the wild. Elephants and rhinos face similar problems in the wild (habitat loss and poaching), and many animal managers, field conservationists, veterinarians and researchers work with both rhino and elephant. More information: <http://www.elephantconservation.org>.

CONTENTS OF THE RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

The development of the Rhino Resource Center is shown in the table here.

RRC	2010 August	2010 November	2011 February	2011 May	2011 August	ANNUAL INCREASE
References	13,591	13,908	14,391	15,013	15,530	+ 1939
PDF files	7,625	8,926	10,126	11,731	13,200	+ 5558
Images	2,235	-	2,405	2,442	2,615	+ 380
Messages	-	-	763	775	788	-

I thank all authors and publishers who have helped us by sending copies of books and papers. All contributions are [acknowledged on the website](#).



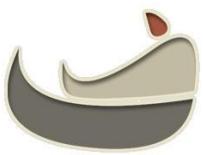
NEW LITERATURE (finalised 31 July 2011)

In this quarter (May to July 2011), we have added 527 new references, to bring the total number of items in the database to 15,530. Of these, no less than 13,200 or 85 percent are available as PDF, and many are searchable in the notes.

Below I have listed new entries published in the 21st century in five categories: African rhinos, Asian rhinos, General and Historical, Theses and Dissertations and Fossil rhinos. If you are interested in one of these titles, always check the [RRC website](#) first, because most are available there.

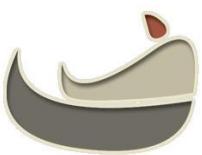
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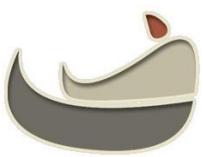


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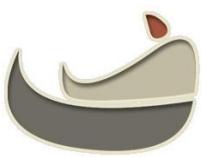
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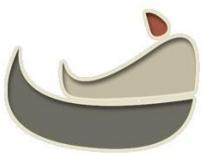


Asian Rhinos – continued

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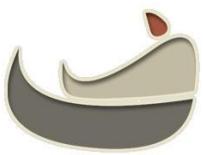
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The listings on the website of Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia are greatly appreciated to document the work done by students and scientists connected with the university: repository.ipb.ac.id

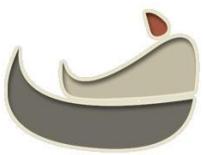
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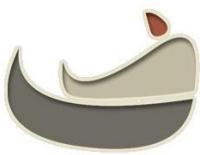
This section of the RRC has recently been greatly expanded through the efforts of Dan Ziegler (USA) and Emmanuel Billia (Rome). This has resulted in papers submitted by scientists around the world. The RRC thanks Athanassios Athanassiou, palaeontologist in Greece for his helpful cooperation.

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Fossil rhinos – continued

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