



# RHINOS

IN CAT TIEN NATIONAL PARK

INA BECKER

HCMC PUBLISHING HOUSE



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CAT TIEN NATIONAL PARK - VIETNAM

FEBRUARY 2000



## FOREWORD

Dear school children,

This booklet is about the last Vietnamese rhinos in the world. Cat Tien National Park would like you to know about these rhinos. Hopefully the things you learn from this book will help you to understand more about the status of these animals and will result in you helping to protect the park. With support of all people living in and around the park it must be possible that the rhinos and other animals will be happy and able to live here, now and in the future.

You know, these days it is very difficult for rhinos to find enough food, to have enough space and to feel secure. The park was established to help the rhinos and other animals and plants to survive in the area. Government and several projects are working together in conservation activities in the park. One important role the people working in the park play, is to make sure the forest and wetlands, in which many animals live, are not taken away by people. Therefore the forest guards stop people who do not follow the park rules. The park staff is involved in research as well, just to find out more about the park's beautiful vegetation and interesting wildlife. All this work is important and necessary because rhinos and other wildlife need a place to live. The more we know about the wildlife and the natural area where they live, the better. If we understand the animals and the way they live, we can also work on protection and maintenance of their home, the park. It is important that the area where they live is safe, clean, quiet, and has enough space and food for all of them. Therefore destruction of the park's environment is not allowed. It means that the soils, the waters and the air should not be polluted. And it also means that vegetation, the trees and plants, and wildlife should not be removed, as they all need each other.

The natural environment in Cat Tien National Park is one of the few places in Vietnam where wildlife so far managed to survive. This park is the only place left in the world where this type of rhino lives. And even here it is extremely difficult for the rhinos to survive, as there are many people who live in or around the park, who have destroyed big parts of the home of the rhinos and other wildlife. In many other areas in our country, many species of plants and animals disappeared completely, because people took over. We don't want that to happen here. We want this park to be a safe place, especially for the last Vietnamese rhinos. If protection fails or if these animals don't have enough space, a disaster will happen: the Vietnamese rhino will be extinct in a few years from now. We don't want that. We want them to survive and we even would like to see that new rhinos are born.

Let us all work together to make sure the Vietnamese rhino can stay here forever. If we are successful, Vietnam can be proud, as it is a very difficult job to be a good host for the last Vietnamese rhinos in the world. To be successful, your support is needed!

Please, do all you can to help the park to protect the animals and their home!



Tran Van Mui,  
Director Cat Tien National Park.





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# INTRODUCTION

Dear young reader,

Please, write your name and address here:

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

This book is for you!

It is a present from the Cat Tien National Park Conservation Project.

Designed and written by Ina Becker.

Trung Dung made the drawings.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service\* paid for it.

This book will help you to learn about rhinos and their environment,  
and you will get to know one of the last Vietnamese rhinos!

If you see this \* behind a word, it means that you can find some explanation  
in the chapter "the meaning of some important words".



Nowadays, there are only very few Vietnamese rhinos left in the world. The only place where they are still living, is Cat Tien National Park. So far there are no clear signs that there are more Vietnamese rhinos left in other places.

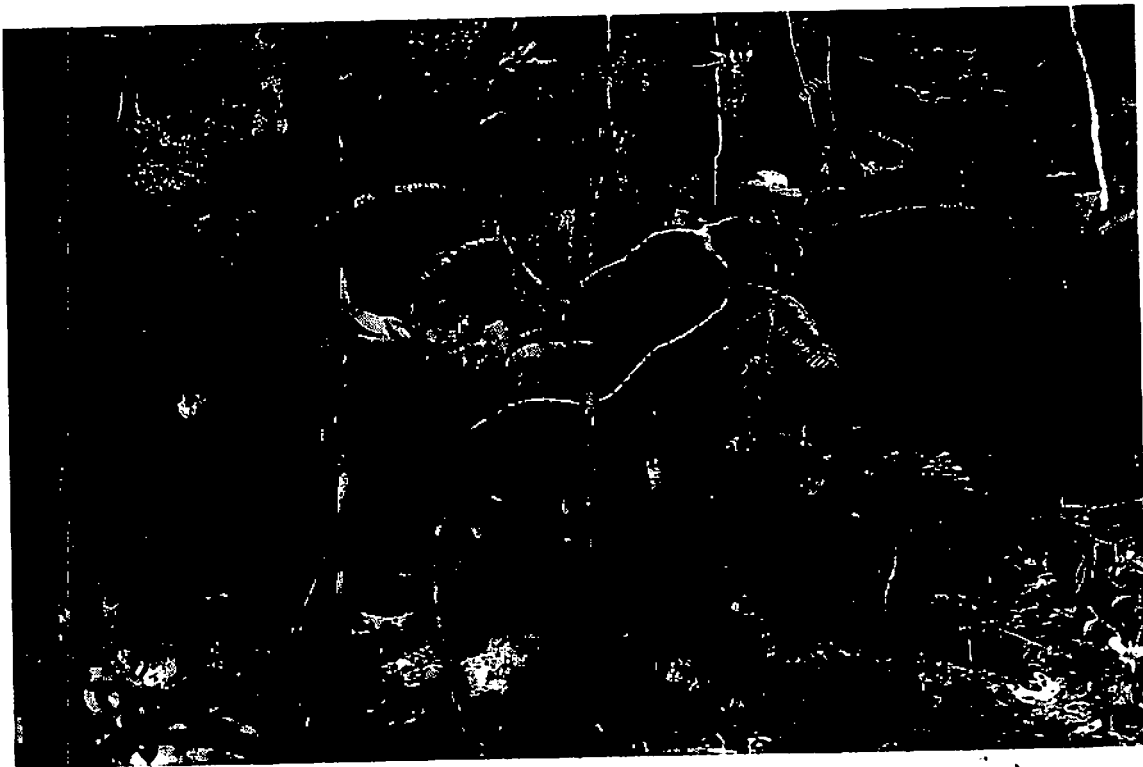
Based on information obtained by research done in the park, people believe that there are only a few of them around, at least 4 rhinos and maximum 7. This means that the Vietnamese rhino is about to extinct\*. Many people in the world are afraid that soon there will be no rhinos any more. They become very sad when they imagine that there are no Vietnamese rhinos alive in the world. They don't want this animal to extinct, they want the rhino to live! They want these rhinos to survive\*! Therefore these people want to help to secure a place to live for these rhinos. What about you?

To survive, these rhinos need protection\*. And to protect them, support of people living in and around the park is helpful and very important. People like you, could play a role in the protection activities that are now mainly carried out by the park staff.

Don't you think it is very special that you are living so close to these endangered\* animals?

Cat Tien National Park is special. Not only because it is the home of the last Vietnamese rhinos, but also because many other animals live in the area. Actually, the park is a real good place to live, for wildlife\* and plants. Many people say that it is a special place on earth, as it hosts an enormous number of different species\*. The park staff is working hard on the protection of the flora\* and fauna\* in order to keep the park's ecosystems\* for future generations.

Cat Tien National Park, February 2000



Forest in Cat Tien National Park - Ina Becker

# A VIETNAMESE RHINO HAS A MESSAGE FOR YOU



Here is a letter for you to read.....

Hello girls and boys in the schools in and around Cat Tien National Park!

How are you these days? I hope you, your teachers and your families are doing fine and are in good health! You must be surprised to hear from me! I would like to tell you something important, that you might find interesting.....

My name is Storm and I am one of the few rhinos that are living very close to you, in Cat Tien National Park. I know that you, and many other people inside and outside Vietnam, have been talking about us for a long time. Actually, many people did not believe that we are still around. They were thinking that we are extinct! They were thinking that it has become impossible for rhinos to survive, as there is hardly place for us left. They mention that hunters have killed many rhinos in the course of time. Finally, they also believe that many rhinos did not survive the war. All this together made them believe that we are all dead.

Well, it's true that we lost almost all our habitat\*, in the twentieth century. There are many people in Vietnam. They all need a place to live and they need food. They also need money, to send their children to school for example. So the people cleared the forest and flat lands and use these areas to grow crops, sell timber and do some other business to make a living. They also built houses and made roads. And because of that, our area became smaller and smaller, in fact there is hardly any space left for us to live.

Unfortunately it is also true that many of my rhino relatives and rhino friends could not find food after the spraying of defoliants\* during the war. They died of starvation.

And yes, many Vietnamese rhinos were killed by hunters in the course of time.

However, a few of us managed to keep on going, in spite of all the terrible things that happened to the Vietnamese rhinos in the past. So we are still around, but it is not easy!

There were also a few people who continued to believe that there are still some Vietnamese rhinos alive. And as you can see, they were right! But as not many people did have this opinion, we, the last Vietnamese rhinos in the world, decided in 1999 to proof that we are still around!

You better sit down and take some more time to listen to my story.....



Please, go ahead reading Storm's letter .....

This is what we did to show people that we are still around

First of all we were walking around a lot, leaving footprints and droppings behind, wherever we went. The people living close to us could see clearly that we had visited the area where they have their farms.

Not often, but every now and then, we were pretending not to see people in the area while we took a bath, very close to where they were working! So some people could say they had seen us, there and there!

When we found out that the people working in Cat Tien National Park are very interested in our presence and wellbeing, we decided to attract as much attention as possible. And that worked very well. Let me also tell you how we did that.

The people working in the park, most of them Vietnamese, but also some foreigners, were doing research in the area where we live. They were looking for us! They came into our area regularly and were observing our footprints, asking questions about us to local people and so on. Some of them even stayed in our forest for more than a month. Instead of hiding ourselves for human beings, something that we usually do, we walked around and around. We did not show ourselves directly because we had noticed that some of them were carrying a gun. Most likely to protect themselves, but we wanted to be on the safe side. But we made sure that they could see our footprints, find our droppings and notice the scratches we made on trees with our teeth. We also marked some leaves on trees. We did not eat these leaves completely, just to enable them to see what food we eat and so on. Enough signs for them to be sure we are around! And indeed, they did notice our presence. To me they looked pleased whenever they found tracks of us. They made often notes in their notebooks and took a lot of photographs of our tracks. Some of them even made plaster cards of our footprints.

Then they left.

After some time, some of them returned to our area. These men installed special cameras in different places. Nobody had ever done that before. We were convinced that they wanted to have photographs of us!

We, the last Vietnamese rhinos, meet each other every now and then. After these cameras were installed, we discussed and agreed that this was a very good opportunity for us to show ourselves to the outside world, to people who do not know us yet. You have to know that we want the people in the world to be aware that we are still alive. We also want them to understand that it is far from easy for us to make a living these days. And we hope that, when they know about the problems we are facing, they will do something for us. We really need help to survive, And we need it NOW, before it is too late.

It was decided that one of us would stand in front of the camera and would have a photograph made. And so it happened. In fact, several times pictures were made. We only did not like the light of the cameras but for the rest it went smoothly, no problems!





In May and June 1999 the newspapers in Vietnam were saying that there are photographs of us in the park, with the people of the Cat Tien National Park Conservation Project\*. We knew it was true! We were hoping that the people working in the park would soon show them to you and many other people. And we hoped that everybody would become interested and wants us to survive.

That's all I want to write to you now. I will come back to you later!

BYE!

STORM

p.s. Please, have a look at the following photographs. They might help you to imagine the things I was talking about in my letter. All these pictures were made by Cat Tien National Park Conservation\* Project staff, when doing research.



This picture gives you an example of what happens regularly to the area where I live. Although it is in the park, people have been clearing the forest to make a farm. It means that I can't go there any more. So my home has become much smaller. One of the results is, that there is less food than before, for me and for other wildlife.

Here you see another part of the rhino habitat that has been taken away from us. The area is used for cashew plantations at the moment. The rhinos don't visit this place any more because of lack of rhino food and also because there is hardly any shade. You know, we don't like to stay in bright sunshine, it's too hot for us. Therefore we stay most of the time in the shadow and we even cover ourselves with mud to protect our skin against the sunlight.



Remember I told you about the people doing rhino research? Here you see them, making notes of the rhino tracks that they found in our habitat!



The following photographs show you the researchers while measuring our tracks, and making a plaster card of one of our footprints. Plaster is a kind of cement. By filling our footprints with plaster and let it dry for some time, one gets a very good idea of how our feet look. The plaster cards also give an idea whether we are grown-up rhinos or calves, depending on the size. Many of such plaster cards were made and taken to the park's headquarters. So you can still see our footprints when you are in their office!



Have a look at this photograph. The marks, made by the rhinos with their teeth, are visible on the stem of the tree. And did you notice the leaves that are partly eaten? We did that as well. Remember we wanted the researchers to know that we are around. At the same time we wanted them to learn about what we eat and the things we do.



And here is one of the pictures made with the automatic camera, in Cat Tien National Park. This very beautiful Vietnamese rhino is actually one of my best friends. I hope you like the picture. And of course I hope that you are happy to see that we are still around.



# MORE ABOUT RHINOS.....

Another letter has arrived for you! The sender is Storm, the Vietnamese rhino. It looks like he has a lot to tell you, as it is a long letter again. Have a look!

Hi school children, here I am again!

How have you been doing since last time I wrote to you?

Have you seen the 7 photographs of the Vietnamese rhinos in the news, from half July 1999?? Here is one of them!!!



The pictures went with the text: **FIRST EVER PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE LAST VIETNAMESE RHINOS IN THE WORLD!** Made by WWF\*/Mike Baltzer/Cat Tien National Park Conservation Project. What a news! Don't you think it's great?

I still can't believe it, but the people working in the park, those who made the pictures of us, managed to get the attention of the press worldwide! Everywhere in the world our pictures were shown. You could find them in so many newspapers and magazines! We were even on TV and we were also discussed in several radio-programmes. I must say that all of us were very impressed, we never dreamt of so much attention. And the good thing is that people seem to be happy to know that we are still alive. Now we hope that people do not only talk about us, but also will do something, to help us, to improve our situation.....



Something else. The rhinos in the park were wondering how much you know about them. That's why I am writing you again. To make sure you are well informed, I will give you some details. I will also tell you some rumours and things people say about us, that are not true. So you will know the facts and you will also be aware of misunderstandings and wrong ideas/beliefs about us. And of course I will answer the questions that some of you were asking.

Many people ask: "Is it true that there are not many Vietnamese rhinos alive?"

It is true... there are not many rhinos around, only a very small number, not even ten. The only place left in the world, where we are trying to survive, is an area in Cat Tien National Park. And even there it is very hard for us to find food, minerals and water, because even there are many people around. Now that I am answering this question, I suddenly feel very sad. I always become sad when I think about our current situation and when I think about our future. Can you imagine that I am worried about it? What will the future be like for us, rhinos? Just like human beings, animals and plants need a place to live. Please, don't let people take all the land for farming. And please, let them stay away from the park, from our area, so that we will be able to live in peace. We don't want to give up but we desperately need your help to survive.

Your question: "Is there a law that helps to protect rhinos?"

Yes, there is. Nowadays trade in rhino or rhino parts is strictly forbidden. A very important agreement between many countries in the world, called CITES, has been signed as well by Vietnam. The CITES treaty means that hunting, gathering, buying or selling or killing of endangered species of plants or animals is absolutely not allowed. On the CITES list you also find the Vietnamese rhinoceros. It means that this animal is endangered and that you and others should never ever be involved in hunting or trade or any use of this animal.

Something very important that I want you to know:

For a long time rhino parts were used in traditional medicine. However, scientists have done research on this and concluded that rhino parts do NOT contribute to improving peoples' health. So don't believe it when people who sell medicine, tell you that rhino parts are good medicine. It is not true and although traditional medicines often give good results, with regard to rhinos these people are wrong.

Someone said "I heard a tourist say that he saw a big group of rhinos in Cat Tien National Park"

This is a rumour! I wish this person was right... But I'm afraid it is not true. Let me explain you why this can't be true.

First of all, as I said before, there are not many of us left. Not even ten rhinos can be found in Cat Tien National Park, so this person can't have seen a big group as there are not many rhinos around.

Secondly, you can't see us easily in the forest. Most of the time we see you but you don't see us.

Remember, it took till May 1999 before people could proof we are around so I don't believe this tourist saw rhinos! Moreover, the area where we live is closed for tourists!

Thirdly, rhinos usually don't stay together in a big group. In fact, rhinos are most of the time alone.

Sometimes rhinos meet at a wallow, but this happens only every now and then. A wallow is not only the place where rhinos like to bath and cover themselves with mud, it is also a good meeting point for rhinos who are looking for a rhino girl or boyfriend, actually it is a perfect place for rhinos in love!

Finally, the only chance that you see rhinos staying together for a long period, is when you happen to see a mother with a calf. They usually stay together for about three or four years.



You asked "Is it true that rhinos like salt?"

Yes, we do! That's why we regularly visit saltlicks. We also go to springs because they are often rich in minerals and that is what we need to have a good diet. We feel it is important that our meals are complete so that we don't develop any shortage in our nutrition. We hope to stay healthy by being well fed.

Another question that I received is the following: "Not many people know very well how rhinos look and what qualities they have...."

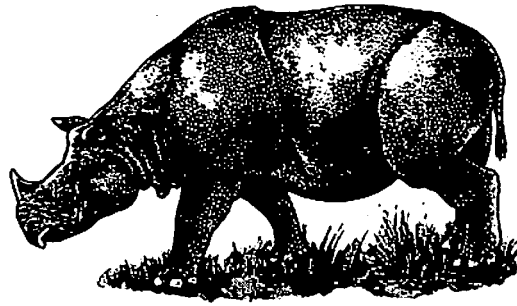
To give you an impression of our looks - we are a bit plump and we have a thick skin, just like elephants. The grown-up males carry a horn consisting of hair, not of bone. The females have a small hump or have no horn at all. Please, have a look at our photographs in this booklet, to see what I mean. Furthermore, rhinos have good hearing and a good sense of smell. We are a bit shy and that's one of the reasons why we hide ourselves for people.



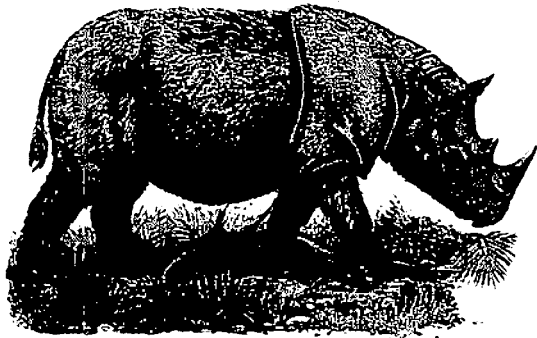
"Are you the only rhinos in the world?" This question needs a long answer. Are you ready for it? No, we are not the only rhinos in the world. But we are the only Vietnamese rhinos in the world. You find more rhinos, but they are a bit different, they are from other families.

Look at WWF-Helmut Dier's drawings on the next page, to have an impression of how the various rhinos look.

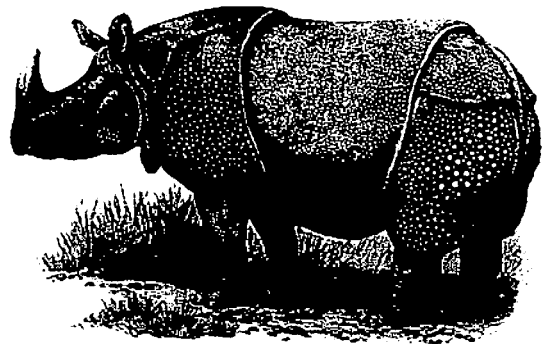
As you can see on this page there are 5 species of rhinoceros in the world.



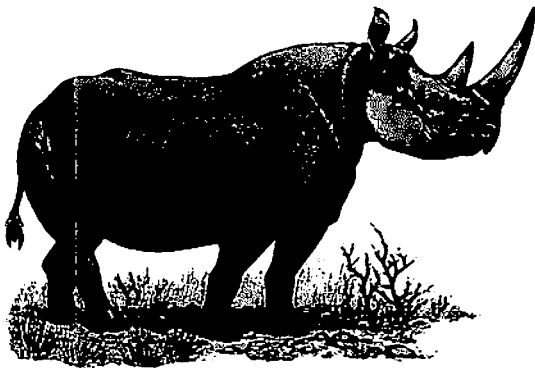
Javan Rhino



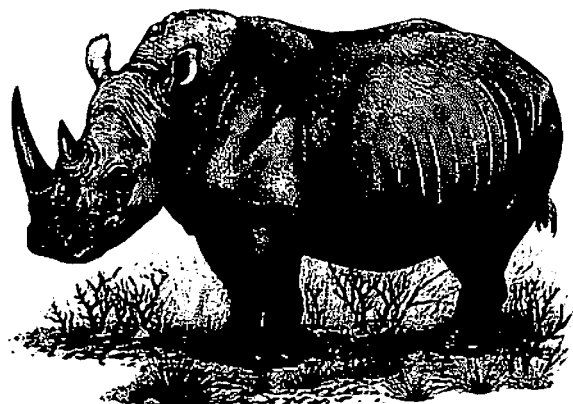
Sumatran Rhino



Indian Rhino



White Rhino



Black Rhino

The Black and White rhinos live in Africa while the Javan, Sumatran and Indian rhinos are living in Asia. Europe, America and Australia don't have rhinos living in the wild.



You most likely saw that some of the rhinos have two horns. Another thing to know is that the Sumatran rhino is the smallest rhino. The other three rhinos are much bigger than we are. We are the rarest\* rhinos in the world!

Scientists say that we are from the Javan rhinoceros family, although we are not exactly the same as the Javan rhinos in Indonesia. Does this confuse you? Let me explain a bit more.

The Javan rhino family is divided in 3 sub-species. All 3 are the type of rhino with one horn. One of these sub-species became extinct late 19<sup>th</sup>, early 20<sup>th</sup> century. That was the *Rhinoceros sondaicus inermis*. This animal used to live in India, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

So now there are only 2 sub-species of Javan rhinoceros left. The *Rhinoceros sondaicus sondaicus* is one of them. Although we are from the same family, this rhino is a bit bigger than we are. It lives in Ujung Kulon National Park in Indonesia. In that country it was also very hard for rhinos to survive, just like in Vietnam. Actually, everywhere in the world it is very hard for rhinos to cope with loss of habitat. But back to our friends in Indonesia: so far about 50 to 60 animals managed to keep on going there. They also got protection from government and support from people inside and outside the country, by making their habitat a National Park\*. That has been very helpful.

The other sub-species of Javan rhinoceros is the so-called *Rhinoceros sondaicus annamiticus*\*. That is what we are! And as you know, we are living very close to you, we live in Cat Tien National Park!!

Don't you think that all these scientific rhino names are a bit difficult to remember? They must be a bit confusing as well every now and then. Why don't you just call us the Vietnamese rhinos? That is the name many people use for us already. And we like it! And by the way, what do you think of the fact that you are living so close to us?

Some kids asked "Is it true that rhinos don't like people?" Last question!

Well, I would say that rhinos have many reasons not to like people. As you heard before, many of us were killed by hunters, others were chopped in pieces by traditional medicine men. Some of us were taken away from our areas to zoos in other countries. Of course they became very homesick. And a few rhinos even ended up in museums. At the same time our habitats were completely destroyed or became smaller and smaller. Even with less rhinos around than before, it became very difficult for us to find places to live where we would be safe and would have enough things to eat. Can you imagine what it is when you are often very hungry because there is not enough food? And would you like it if you had to stay in an area that is not very pleasant, like where we are now? Just thick forest with mainly sharp bamboo and rattan. Terrible, isn't it? And what would you say if you had to eat the same things, day after day? I'm sure you understand we are sometimes so bored with the food. Honestly, we are craving for more different things to eat, to have more variety in our meals than we have nowadays. And we are also longing to go to the areas that once were our habitat. We would love to return to the riversides, the swamps, the plains and so on, all these pleasant areas that people took away from us in the course of time.

And from our rhino friends in Nepal I also heard stories that made me understand why rhinos sometimes are fed up with some people. Let me tell you just one story as an example so you will understand as well.



Here you are: The rhinos in Nepal are often surrounded by tourists with their guides. Those people want to make pictures of rhinos when they are grazing. And that irritates these rhinos every now and then. Why can't people leave them alone? So when rhinos are really disturbed, they take action, they just push the people that irritate them away! Not all people can cope with that. ...

Let me say it this way. We only like people that protect our habitat and us, and who further leave us alone! So if you behave like that, rhinos like you very much! But we are far from happy with the people that killed our ancestors, friends and relatives. Of course we also do not like the people that take our home away, those who clear the forest and the flat lands where we usually go. We are sure you would feel the same if you were in our situation.

This was another long answer.

After all this rather sad news I will do my best to finish this message to you in a good mood. Let me tell you something that made us rhinos laugh, when we found out. Perhaps you don't believe the following, but it is true! Listen! There are people who collect our droppings... to make wine!!! You would not drink this, I hope! You can't drink dung, can you? I can't even imagine people like it. I would never drink it - Yaki!

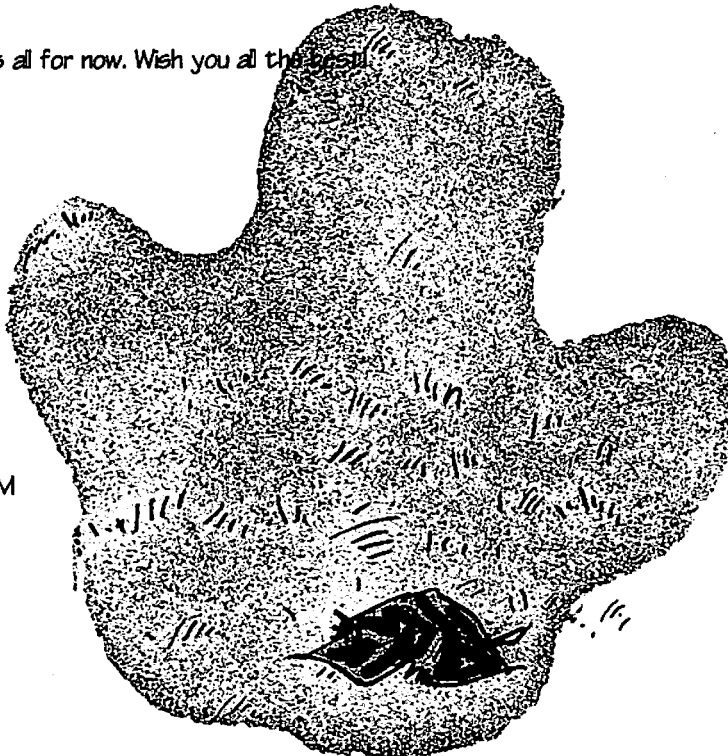
Before I finish this letter to you, let me tell you why my name is Storm. In case you want to know. It is not a very common name among the rhinos in Vietnam. It was my mother who gave me this name because I was born during a heavy storm. I think it is a good name for me. Not only because of the weather the night I was born, but also because my life was not very calm so far. Perhaps my mother foresaw that my life would be stormy.....

Dear all, I'm sure you know a bit more about us than you did before. And hopefully you also find it important to make sure that we, the last Vietnamese rhinos in the world, are able to survive. I hope we will become good friends, forever!

That's all for now. Wish you all the best!!

BYE

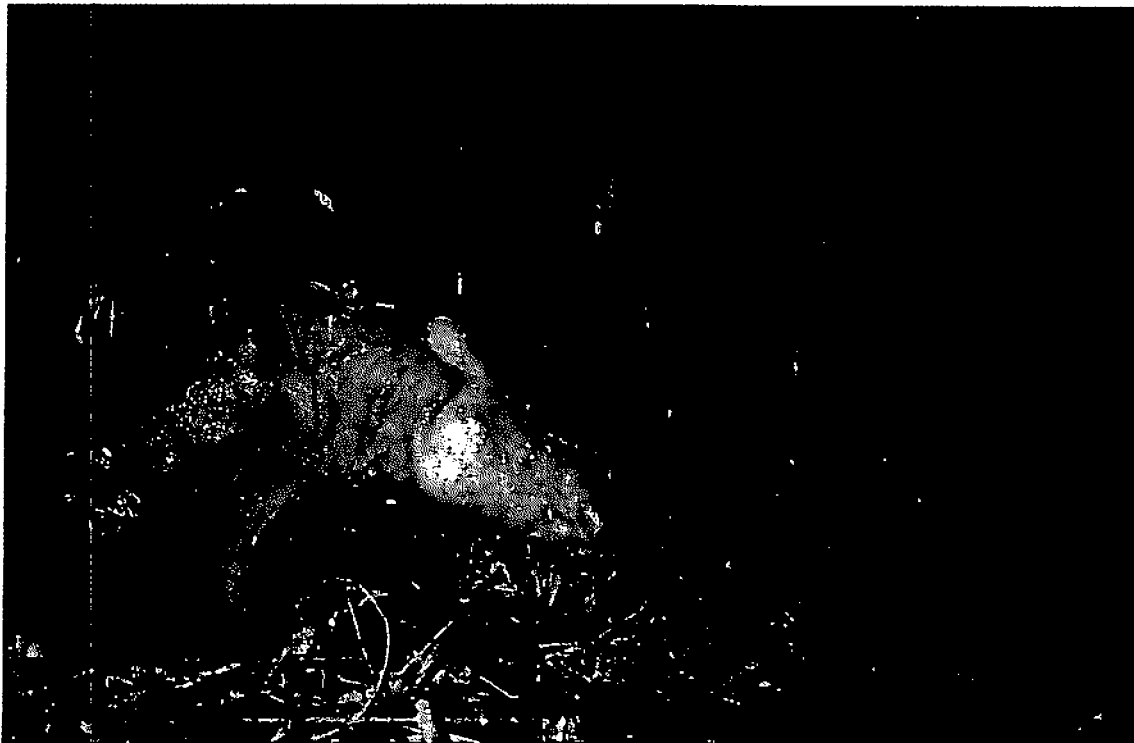
STORM



# THE LAST RHINOS

In old reports you can read that in the past, the Javan and the Sumatran Rhinoceros were common in Vietnam. The Sumatran rhino became extinct in this country in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In that period there were still some Javan rhinos in north-west and in south-west Vietnam. However, the last time that a Javan rhino was seen in the north was in 1964. In the south there were still reports saying that there are a few rhinos around, even in the final years of the previous century. It was only in May 1999 that automatic cameras made the first ever photographs of the Javan rhinoceros in Vietnam. Till then only local people had seen these animals and researchers could only say that there are rhinos around based on the tracks. Although the pictures made many people happy, it was at the same time quite sad to realise that the *Rhinoceros sondaicus annamiticus* on the photograph, is one of the last ones in the world. The situation of the Vietnamese rhino is considered critical and it is feared that this animal will be extinct in a few years from now. Unless.....

Here you see one of the rhino photographs, made in May 1999.



Let us all work very hard, to make sure this rhino will keep its home, for now and in the future. Then there is a chance that it will survive, together with the other Vietnamese rhinos left.



# PROTECTOR ACTIVITIES

Several years ago, the government of Vietnam made a rhino reserve, to protect the few rhinos that were left. Later, in 1998, this reserve was unified with Cat Tien National Park. Although the park area covers about 78.000 hectares and is not very small, it is still not big enough to host many animals like rhinos. Rhinos and other wildlife need large areas in order to find enough food and to have enough space. Even now it is still very difficult for the Vietnamese rhinos to find enough to eat and to have access to saltlicks and wallows.

Now you most likely understand why the government and the park authorities do not allow people to hunt or to clear more land for agriculture or for the construction of roads and houses within the park. The park is meant to protect and maintain the biodiversity\*, not only protect the rhino but also other species of fauna and flora. An example of an endemic\* species in the park that is threatened\* and therefore also needs protection, is the orange-necked partridge. Actually, there are many vulnerable\* plants and animals living in the park. If there is enough space and if the park is well protected, there is a chance that the Vietnamese rhino will survive. So that is why its habitat should not become smaller and smaller. It would be very helpful if the park area becomes larger in the future, so that in case new rhinos are born, the area has enough food and space to offer, for all of them. And if the habitat is well maintained, many other animals and plants will also be able to survive in the park. In fact, there is nowhere else to go for the animals. They won't be able to find places in the south of Vietnam with such rich flora as the lowland tropical rainforest in Cat Tien National Park has. Everywhere else the land is occupied by people. So let's make sure this park will continue to be a good place to stay, for many species.

The park staff is working to protect the biodiversity. Perhaps you know some forestguards who are based in your area. They patrol regularly and stop people from violating the park regulations. Not only people in Vietnam find it important that this area is kept forever and as original as possible. In the rest of the world are also many people who are very concerned about the Vietnamese rhinos and their habitat. There are even some governments of other countries that support or cooperate with your country to make sure the park continues to be a safe place for the rhinos and other wildlife. Many people find it important that the very beautiful landscapes of the park will be there forever. If the protection activities are successful, you and others will still be able to enjoy the views of the forests and lakes, rivers, rapids and swamps in the future. And wildlife will be able to live in the park as well, for many generations. You understand why protection is necessary, don't you? Just to avoid that the flora and fauna will be lost, forever. To protect the park, the help of local people, your help, your support, is extremely important!

Did you ever realise that you are living in or living close to such a special place on earth? Perhaps you were wondering what's so special about Cat Tien National Park. Not many places on earth have such a beautiful, rich and interesting biodiversity. And nowhere else in the world you find the Vietnamese rhinos, the ones that live so close to you. Those are the reasons why many people feel that it is very important to protect this place very well. What about you?



# WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR RHNH?

What you could do to help the rhinos to survive is the following. First of all, do not disturb them. If you leave the rhinos alone in their habitat it will be very helpful. When rhinos feel at ease they might start thinking of having a family. When they are insecure they don't like to have a calf as they will find it more difficult to look after a young rhino.

Furthermore, you should make your friends, family, neighbours and so on, aware of the value of Cat Tien National Park and why you think it is important to protect the environment. It might result in more people caring for the park.

You could ask the government, at different levels, to expand the protected area if possible. That would be very good for wildlife as they will get some more space and thus have more chance of finding enough to eat.

You could also talk with people in government and with the park staff, just to make sure the park is very well protected, so nothing that could damage the flora and fauna will happen.

And of course it is important to keep the park area clean. Do not litter on the ground. You know why? If an animal eats a battery or swallows some plastic, it can develop serious health problems, because that stuff is poisonous. The animal could easily die of it. Or imagine that one of the few rhinos left, steps into a broken bottle, that you threw away. Although it is a strong animal it could die from the wound if a serious infection develops. You don't want that to happen, do you? And you are also strongly advised not to throw any waste in water. Not in the river, not in the swamps, nowhere. If the water is clean, if it is not polluted by all sorts of waste, animals can make use of it and they won't become ill. Just throw your waste in a pit close to your house and bury it, or ask your parents to burn the contents of the pit carefully and regularly. Hopefully the government will organise sound waste disposal in the future.

You should even try to minimize waste. Try to only buy things that last long and are good for the environment.

Don't use chemicals such as pesticides and poisons in agriculture and definitely not in the park. These chemicals are not only a threat for wildlife and their habitat, they are also not good for your own health.

Never cause a fire in the forest. The rhinos and other animals have nowhere else to go so a forest fire would be a disaster. The animals would die from the fire or if they escape the fire they won't be able to find enough food.




Please inform forestguards and the police, when you find out that people are violating the park law, for example if you see people clearing land in the park. You should inform the authorities as well when you know that people are preparing for hunting or if you come across people selling wildlife or other products from the park.

And for when you are getting older and need a place for yourself to live and work, it is extremely important that you don't take the habitat of the rhinos away. This means for example that in the park you should not clear the forest or lowlands for agriculture. And don't cut trees to use for construction, or remove plants and flowers from inside the park, for decoration of the house or to sell to others. As you know the aim of the park is to protect and maintain its biodiversity and wilderness for future generations. The best thing to do is to live and work outside the park and not to make use of the park's resources. Of course this is easier said than done. But if you want to keep the rhinos and their habitat, you really have to. As there are many people living inside and around the park at the moment, it is very difficult to achieve this aim. You could say that there is a conflict between the interest of the flora and fauna and the people who live in and around the park. They all feel the need to use the area. But the animals and plants can't do much about their situation themselves, therefore they need help and therefore the government gave them protection by making it a national park. And for the people who are restricted by the laws of the park (this means that they can not do everything they want) the government and some projects are looking for solutions as well. For example working together with the local people to find other income generating activities so that they are still able to make a living but in a way that is good for them and for the environment.

For later, by the time you are married, it is very good to follow the advice of the government to do family planning. If you have a small family, not more than two children, then you don't need much land or other natural resources and you will most likely be able to look well after your family. If you have a big family you will need a lot of money. It is expensive to look after a family. Just think of the money you need for housing, food, clothes, medical care and education. It would be great if you are able to make a living for yourself and your family without harming the environment. It would be ideal that you have a good life, while at the same time nature is not affected.

The rhinos in Cat Tien National Park really need your care. Please make sure their home will last forever. Play a role in protecting the park so that these animals are able to survive!





# THE OF SOME IMPORTANT WORDS

## **Biodiversity**

Biodiversity describes the variety of life in an area, the number of different species, and the inter-relationships between the species and the natural areas where they occur.

## **Cat Tien National Park Conservation Project.**

A project carried out by WWF with money from the Governments of Vietnam and The Netherlands. Project people are working together with park staff to reverse threats to the area, help them to improve the protection of the park and do research together. The project also assists people living in and around the park who are trying to make an income without violating the park laws.

## **Conservation**

The wise use of the earth's resources in a way that it supports or sustains all life for generations ahead. In a national park conservation might involve protection of ecosystems including endangered species, such as the Vietnamese rhinoceros. Conservation also involves rehabilitation and restoration of ecosystems and their populations.

## **Defoliants**

Chemicals that kill leaves of trees and shrubs.

## **Ecosystem**

Group of species and the environment with which the species interact.

## **Endangered species**

A species in danger of extinction and whose survival is unlikely if the factors that cause its decline continue.

## **Endemic species**

An animal or plant only found in one specific area or in one country. For example the orange-necked partridge is an endemic species in Cat Tien National Park. Nowhere else in Vietnam or in the rest of the world this bird has been found.

## **Extinction**

There is not one of a certain animal or plant species alive in the area where it used to be in the past.

## **Fauna**

The animals.

## **Flora**

Vegetation. The world of trees, plants and flowers.

## **Habitat**

The natural environment of an animal or a plant.



**National Park**

An area that is protected in order to maintain its biodiversity and wilderness for future generations.

**Protection**

Make sure that something is safe and well kept.

**Rare species**

Animals or plants species with small populations, perhaps not vulnerable or endangered but they could be at risk.

**Rhinoceros sondaicus annamiticus**

The rhino species that still lives in Vietnam.

**Species**

Species are different types of animals or different kind of plants.

**Threatened**

A word used to say that species are endangered, vulnerable.

**To survive**

Try to continue living. Do everything possible to avoid dying, to avoid extinction.

**US Fish and Wildlife Service**

This American governmental organisation supports conservation education and protection activities in and around Cat Tien National Park. It also paid for this booklet.

**Vulnerable**

A species of plant or animal, that might become endangered if the factors causing its decline continue.

**Wildlife**

Animals living in their natural environment, in the wild.

**WBFPRDP**

World Bank assisted Forest Protection and Rural Development Project. One of the projects working with Cat Tien National Park. People in the area know it as the Bufferzone Project. Its activities take place in the area around the park.

**WWF**

World Wide Fund for Nature. In the United States of America WWF means the World Wildlife Fund. In Vietnam, WWF has been funding several conservation and development projects.





# WOULD YOU KNOW MORE?

If you like to read more about rhinos you could borrow the story "A Treasure in the Forest" of one of your younger friends. This story about a young rhino girl has been given to the very young children living in and around the park. There is also some information in the cover of the notebook that has been given to many school children in the park area. Read it!

And if you are still looking for more, you should ask your parents and the teachers in school to read and explain from the booklet "Javan Rhinoceros in Vietnam" that has been given to the adults in the park. And please do not hesitate to ask the park staff about the rhinos and the park.

All over the world many people are working for organisations that are active in conservation of nature and in conservation education. In Vietnam you also find people, institutions and organisations that care about the environment. In case you have questions about the environment, feel free to contact them. Here are some addresses:

## **Cat Tien National Park**

Tan Phu District

Dong Nai Province Vietnam

Tel : 061- 791228

Fax : 061- 791227

Website : [http://www.blakup.demon.nl/cat\\_tien](http://www.blakup.demon.nl/cat_tien)

## **Cat Tien National Park Conservation Project**

85 Tran Quoc Toan Street

District 3 Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam

Tel : 08 - 820 3995

Fax : 08 - 820 3996

E-mail : [wwfhcmc@fmail.vnn.vn](mailto:wwfhcmc@fmail.vnn.vn)

Website : [http://www.blakup.demon.nl/cat\\_tien](http://www.blakup.demon.nl/cat_tien)

Project office in the park (English speaking)

Tel/fax : 061-791226

E-mail : [gert-ina@wwfhcmc.vnn.vn](mailto:gert-ina@wwfhcmc.vnn.vn)

## **World Wide Fund for Nature - Indochina Programme**

7 Yet Kieu Street

International P.O.Box 151

Hanoi Vietnam

Tel : 04 - 822 0640

Fax : 04 - 822 0642

E-mail : [hanoi@wwfvn.org.vn](mailto:hanoi@wwfvn.org.vn)



**Birdlife International – Vietnam**

293B Tay Son

Dong Da

Hanoi Vietnam

Tel : 04 – 851 7217

Fax : 04 – 857 3866

E-mail : [birdlife@netnam.org.vn](mailto:birdlife@netnam.org.vn)

**ENDA – Environmental Development Action in the Third World**

J2 – Cu xa Bac Hai, P.15

District 10 Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam

Tel/Fax : 08 – 864 5096

E-mail : [Endavn@Netnam2.org.vn](mailto:Endavn@Netnam2.org.vn)

**IUCN – The World Conservation Union**

13A Tran Hung Dao Street

International P.O.Box 60

Hanoi Vietnam

Tel : 04 – 933 012/13

Fax : 04 – 825 8794

E-mail : [iucnvn@hn.vnn.vn](mailto:iucnvn@hn.vnn.vn)

**Fauna & Flora International – Vietnam**

104B Pho Hue

International P.O.Box 78

Hanoi Vietnam

Tel : 04 – 943 2292/3

Fax : 04 – 943 2254

E-mail : [ffi@fpt.vn](mailto:ffi@fpt.vn)

**TRAFFIC SOUTHEAST ASIA**

C/O WWF – Indochina Programme

International P.O.Box 151

7 Yet Kieu Street

Hanoi Vietnam

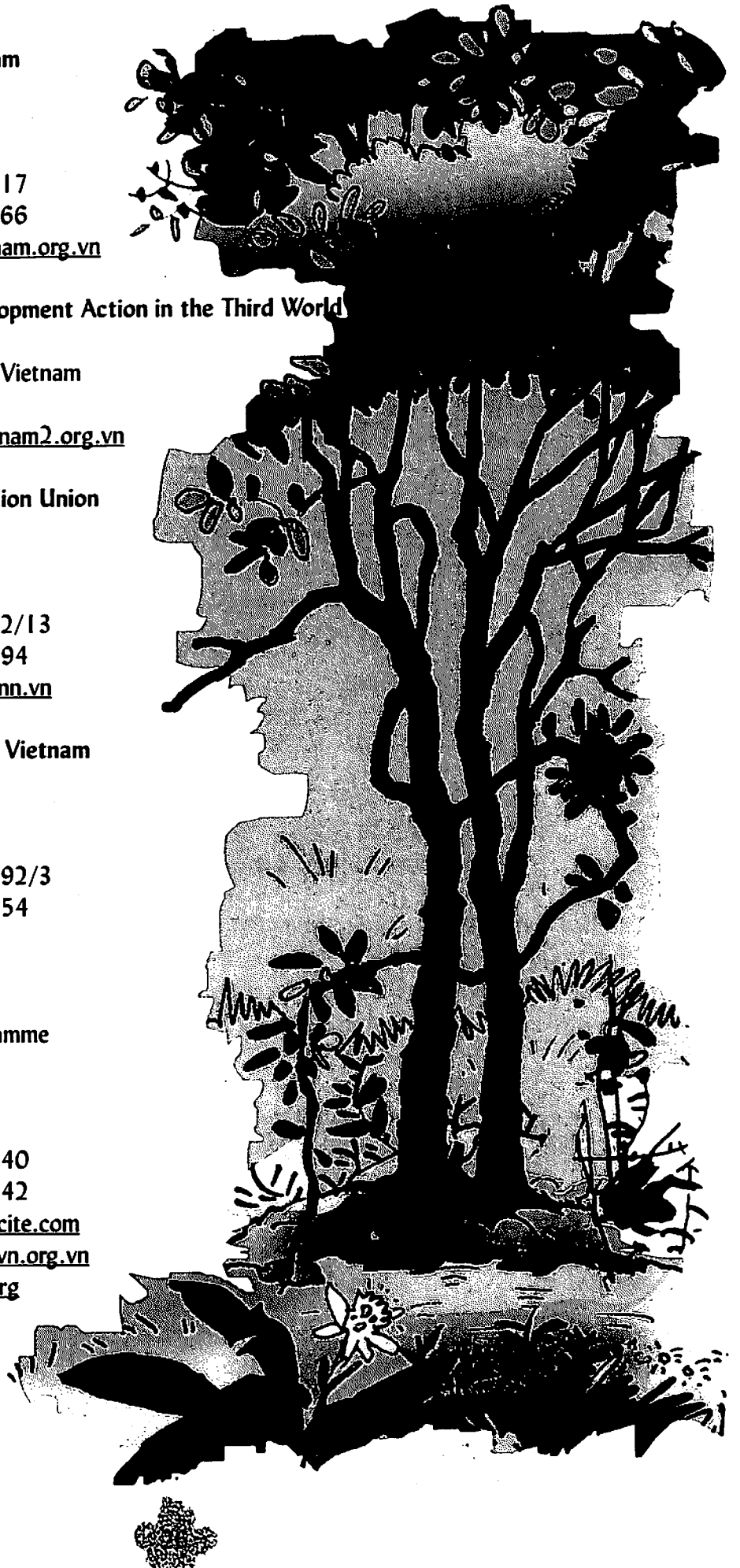
Tel : 04 – 822 0640

Fax : 04 – 822 0642

E-mail : [trafficvn@excite.com](mailto:trafficvn@excite.com)

: [triman@wwfvn.org.vn](mailto:triman@wwfvn.org.vn)

Website : [www.traffic.org](http://www.traffic.org)



# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Answer the following questions and fill the missing words in the sentences about rhinos. You can find most of the answers in this booklet. If things are not clear you should ask your teacher or parents for help. When you have gone through all the questions, a part of it will be a summary of what you read before. Success!

There are 5 different rhinos living in the wild. Show with an X in the table where in the world these rhinos live.

RHINO / WHERE?	Africa	America	Asia	Australia	Europe
Black rhino					
Indian rhino					
Javan rhino					
Sumatran rhino					
White rhino					

One-horned rhinos are the: .....

Two-horned rhinos are the: .....

There are three sub-species of the Javan rhinoceros family. Write behind each sub-species which one is the Vietnamese rhino, which one is the rhino that became extinct early 20th century and which one is the rhino that lives in Indonesia.

Rhinoceros sondaicus sondaicus = .....

Rhinoceros sondaicus inermis = .....

Rhinoceros sondaicus annamiticus = .....

Nowadays, you only find rhinos in Vietnam in ..... There are most likely not more than ..... Vietnamese rhinos left in the world. In the past, the Vietnamese rhinos were living in the ..... and ..... parts of Vietnam.

3 reasons why the Vietnamese rhino has become close to extinction, are:

.....  
 .....  
 .....

Why do you think the Vietnamese rhino managed to survive in the Cat Tien National Park area?

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

3 or more activities to protect the Vietnamese rhino are:

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

Say in your own words what it means that the Vietnamese rhino is an endangered species.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

People are afraid that the Vietnamese rhino will be extinct soon.

a. What does this mean? .....

.....  
.....  
.....

b. What does it mean to you if the Vietnamese rhino would be extinct? .....

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

3 organisations in Vietnam that care about the environment are:

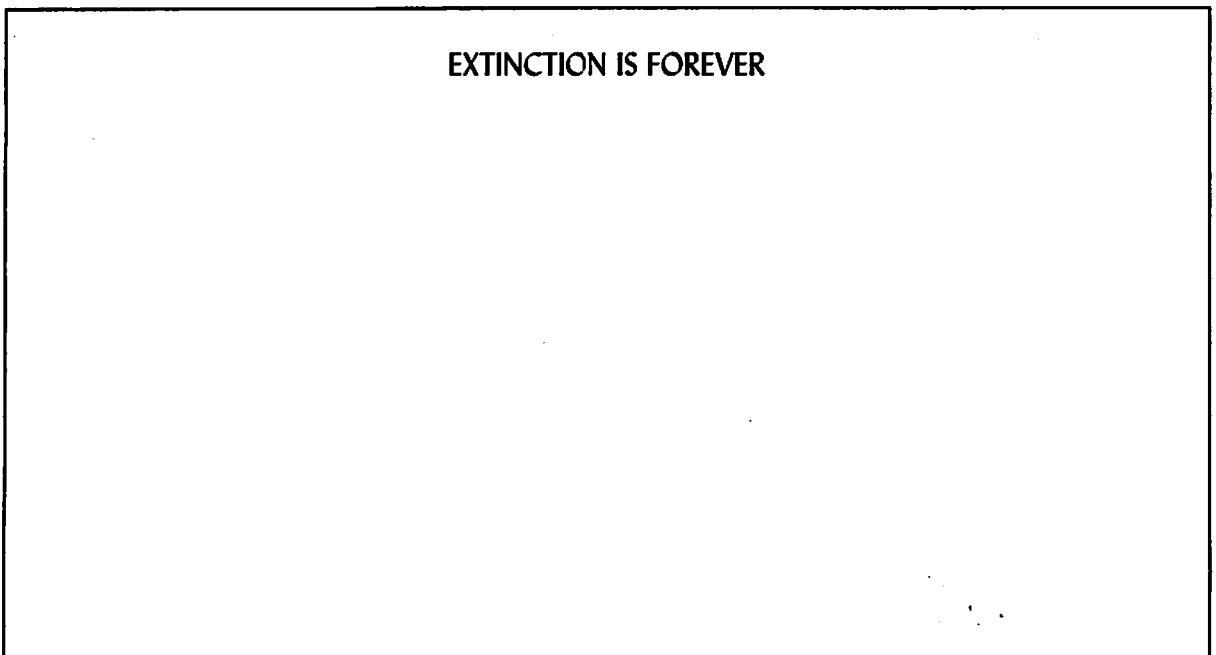
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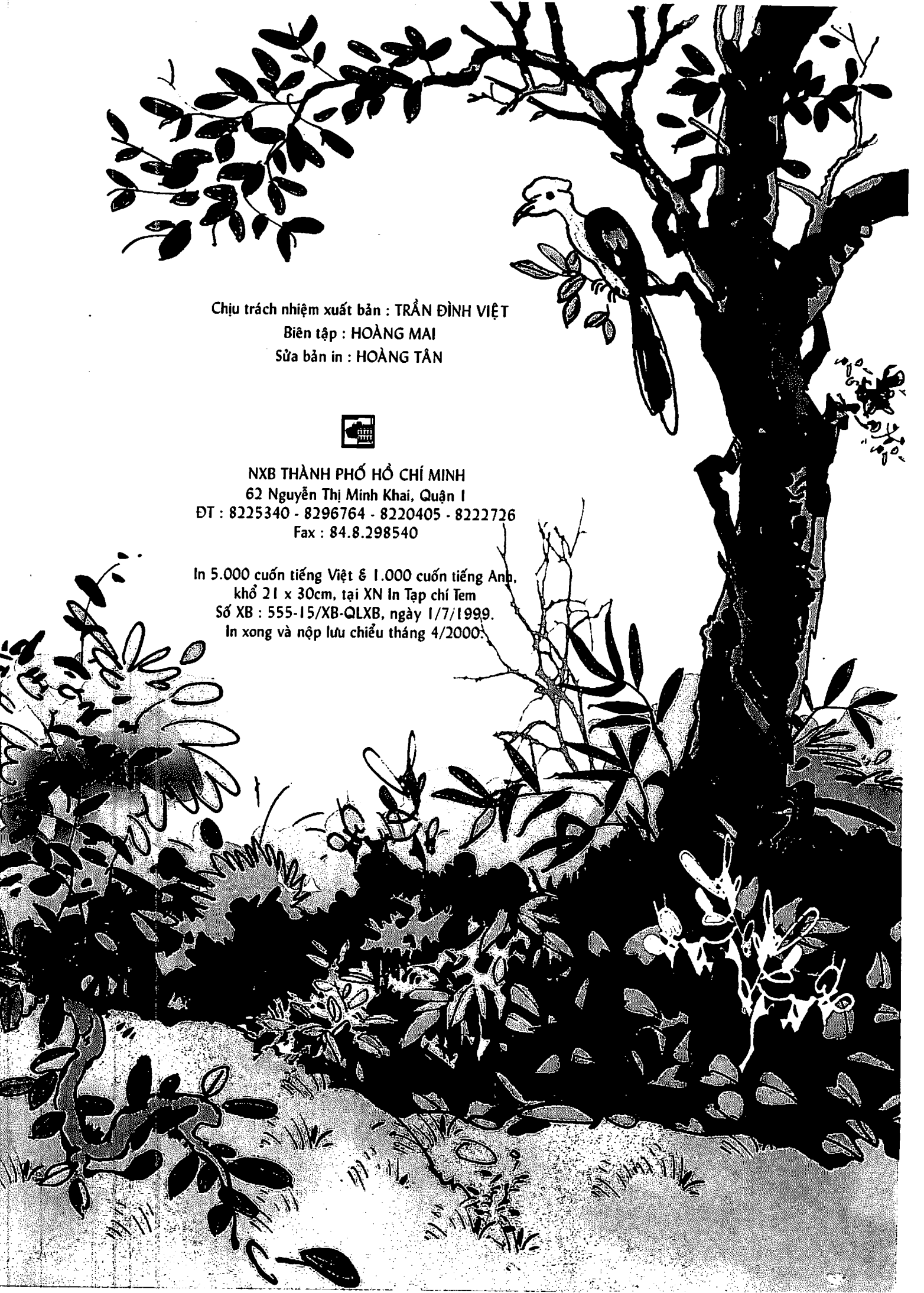
Do you know more animals in Vietnam that are threatened? If so, mention these animals below.

.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....

Make a small drawing of Storm, the Vietnamese rhino, in his habitat!

EXTINCTION IS FOREVER



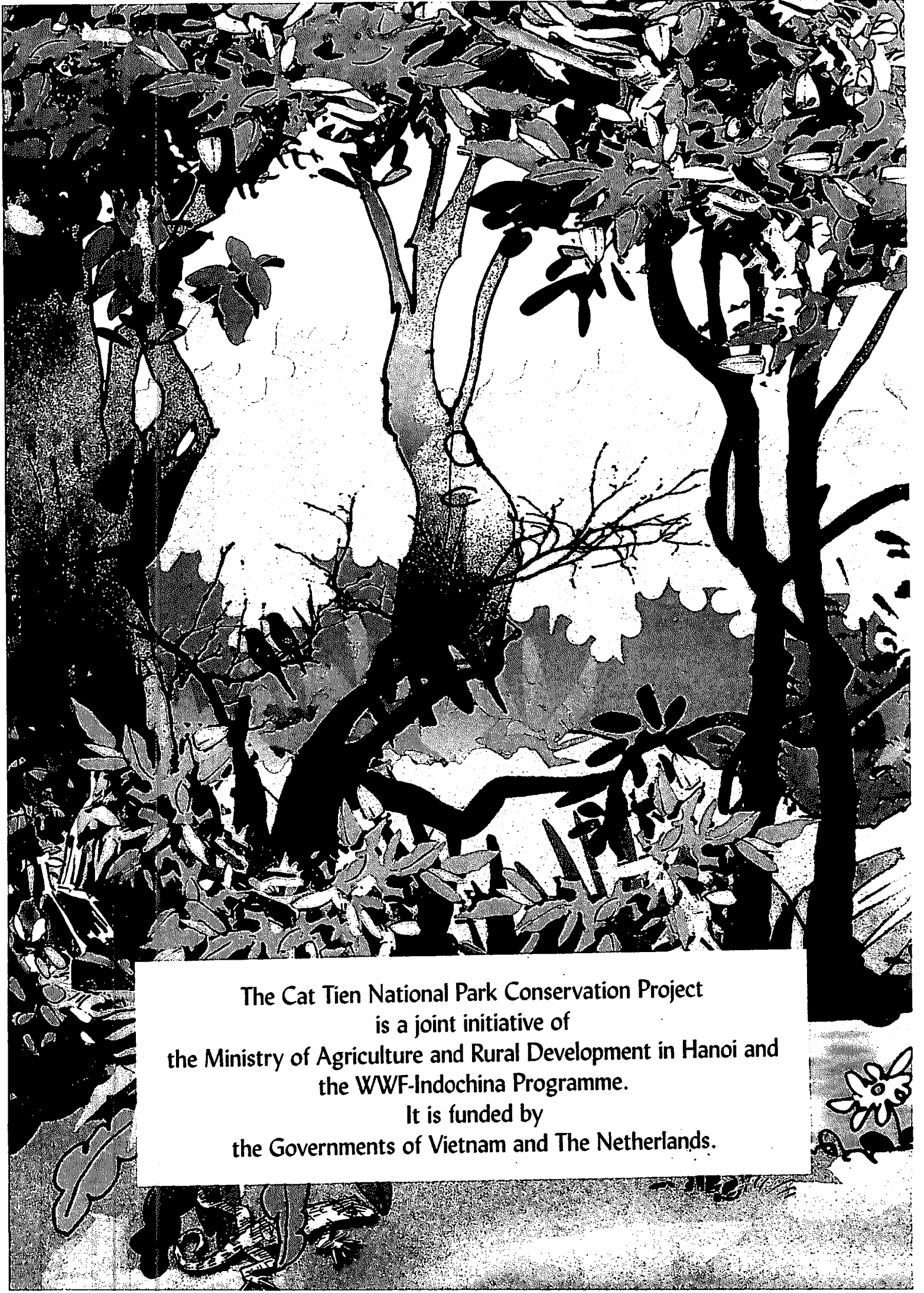


Chịu trách nhiệm xuất bản : TRẦN ĐÌNH VIỆT  
Biên tập : HOÀNG MAI  
Sửa bản in : HOÀNG TÂN



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In 5.000 cuốn tiếng Việt & 1.000 cuốn tiếng Anh,  
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Số XB : 555-15/XB-QLXB, ngày 1/7/1999.  
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