



**INTERNATIONAL  
RHINO**   
**FOUNDATION**  
Annual Report 2010

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



## Leadership Message

The year behind us has been one of high hopes, hard work, and ups and downs.

We began laying a solid foundation to secure the survival of Javan rhinos by expanding 'rhino friendly' habitat in Indonesia's Ujung Kulon National Park. At best, no more than 44 Javan rhinos remain on the planet, in that one population. Short-term, we need to provide more useable habitat to encourage population growth. Longer-term, our plan includes translocating a portion of the population to a suitable second site. Sadly, the last Javan rhino is believed to have been poached from Vietnam in May, making our work in Ujung Kulon all the more critical.

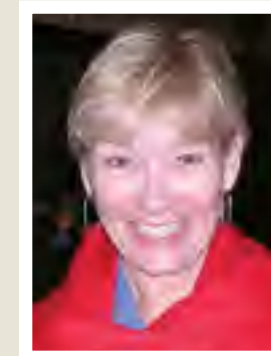
In Bukit Barisan Selatan and Way Kambas National Parks, Rhino Protection Units continue to safeguard wild populations of Sumatran rhinos from poaching. In Way Kambas, the teams also are working with local communities on alternative farming practices, so that they can earn income for their families without encroaching on the park to clear land and plant crops. Saving the Sumatran rhino will require a balanced approach of caring for the wild population as well as building up the small captive population. This year, female 'Ratu' at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary became pregnant twice, but unfortunately miscarried both times, which is not uncommon for a young female. We have our fingers crossed for another pregnancy soon!

In India, we translocated two female greater one-horned rhino to Manas National Park in Assam as part of Indian Rhino Vision 2020. The females joined the two male rhinos that were moved in 2008 and are adjusting well to their new habitat. More translocations are planned for 2011.

Sadly, 2010 was one of the worst years on record for African rhino poaching, particularly in South Africa. Illegal rhino horn trade patterns have shifted to a rapidly emerging market in Vietnam, which seems to be driving an unprecedented increase in poaching. IRF is working closely with the international conservation community to halt the increase in illegal trade, and is in the process of developing a new security assessment and training project to address the most urgent on-the-ground needs to help stem the tide.

The good news is that in Zimbabwe, where IRF has focused most of its African rhino investment, moving rhinos out of unsafe areas to more secure sites over the past two years has really paid off. For the first time in several years, this year there were more rhino births than rhino deaths and the population is again growing.

The achievements on the pages that follow demonstrate our hard-working presence in rhino range countries, and what we are able to accomplish by partnering with like-minded organizations. IRF's donors and supporters, like you, are part of what makes those collaborations work. Your belief that a small group of dedicated individuals can make a difference is critical to our success. We are grateful to each and every one of you who has joined us in the hard work of ensuring that rhinos survive well into the future.



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## State of the Rhino 2010

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

No more than 44 individuals – believed to be stable  
Rarest of all rhinos, the Javan rhino survives only in Indonesia's Ujung Kulon National Park. Sadly, this year, we believe that the last Javan rhino was poached in Vietnam's Cat Loc Reserve. In Ujung Kulon, best survey estimates, backed up with camera-trap data, suggest that no more than 44 animals remain in the park. Of these, we suspect that there are only four or five females with breeding potential. The highest priority actions for Javan rhinos are continued protection of the existing population and collaborative efforts to expand useable habitat in Ujung Kulon as a precursor to establishing a second, 'insurance' population elsewhere in Indonesia.

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

Fewer than 200 individuals – decreasing  
Only about 200 Sumatran rhinos survive in fragmented populations on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. In Sumatra, Indonesia, between 130 and 175 rhinos are scattered among three populations in Bukit Barisan Selatan, Way Kambas, and Gunung Leuser National Parks. In Sabah, Borneo, Malaysia, approximately 20 Sumatran rhinos remain in fragmented populations; no evidence of rhinos has been seen in peninsular Malaysia for several years. The primary threats facing this species are human encroachment into the rhinos' habitats and poaching. The future of Sumatran rhinos depends on continued protection by highly trained anti-poaching teams, intensive management within protected areas, and creating incentives for local communities to decrease encroachment.



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

At least 2,850 individuals – increasing  
The greater one-horned rhino population now numbers around 2,850 and is slowly growing. In 2010, poaching pressure on the species in India and Nepal slightly decreased. Greater one-horned rhino numbers are increasing mostly because of the growing population in Kaziranga National Park, which now numbers more than 2,000 animals. To continue this growth, however, protection measures must endure and efforts to spread the population out among different protected areas over the next few years must continue.

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

At least 4,860 individuals – slowly increasing  
Black rhino populations were brutally hit by well-organized and highly-armed gangs of poachers in 2010, particularly in South Africa. In Zimbabwe, where we moved animals to safer areas, poaching decreased significantly this year. Black rhino strongholds include South Africa, Namibia, Kenya and Zimbabwe, in descending order. Highest priorities include continuing to protect existing populations from organized criminal poaching gangs and ensuring effective prosecution of wildlife crime.

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

At least 20,150 individuals - increasing  
White rhino populations continue to grow despite the heaviest poaching pressure faced by the species in 16 years. South Africa alone lost 333 rhinos to poaching syndicates this year. More than 40 percent of these were lost in Kruger National Park, which borders Mozambique. Private sector game ranches are also under siege. Despite poaching pressure, the southern white rhino is still increasing and is considered 'Near Threatened' by the IUCN.

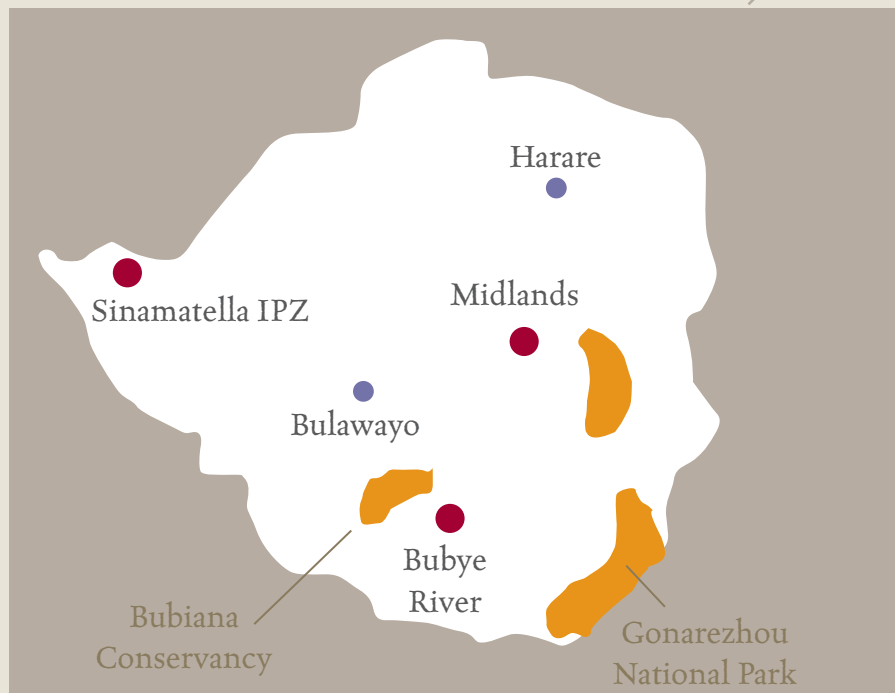


# IRF Priority Areas



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

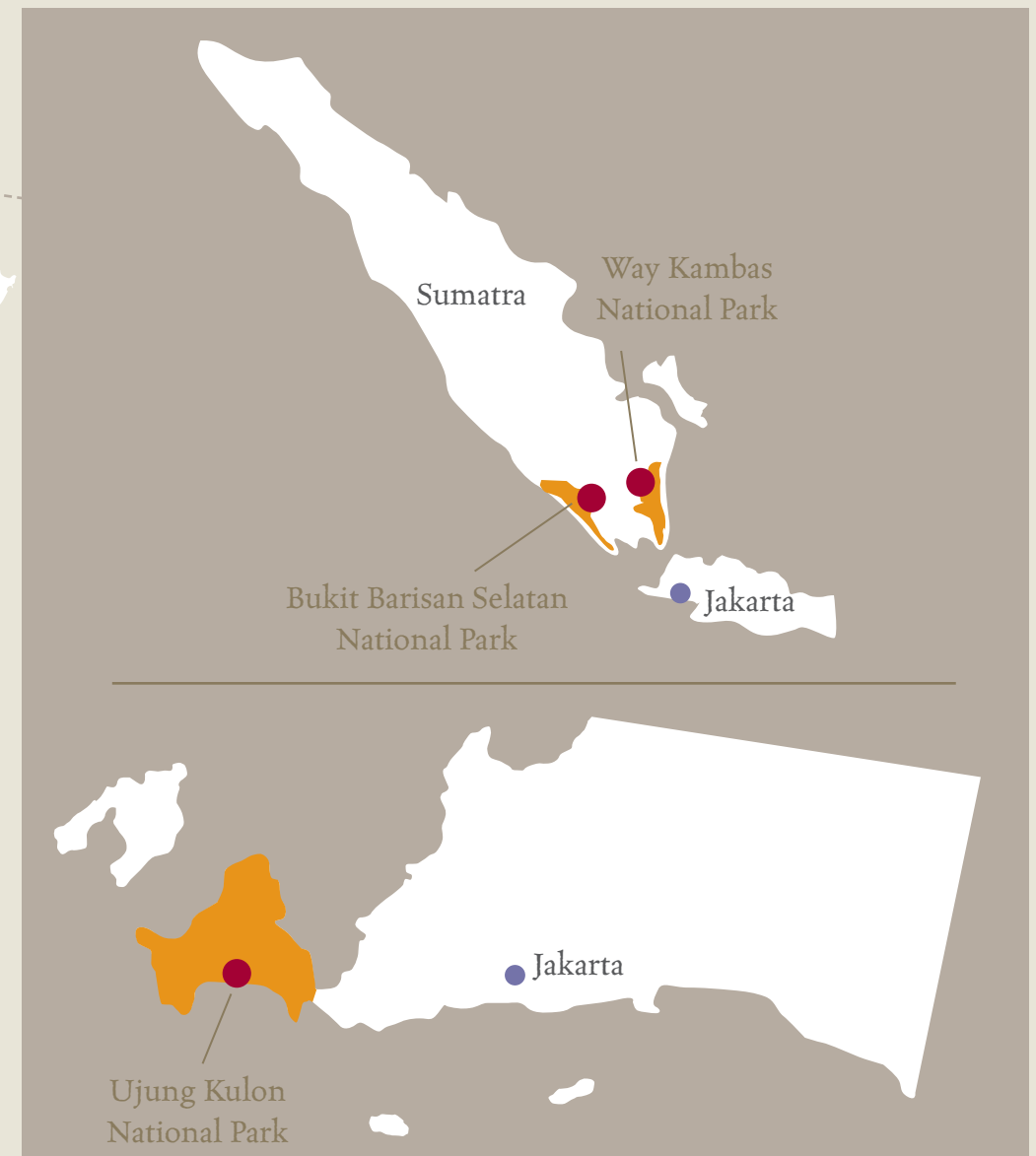
## Zimbabwe



## India



## Indonesia





## Providing Hope to Sumatran Rhinos

Sumatran rhino numbers have declined more than 70% over the last two decades due to poaching for its horn as well as increasing habitat destruction. Fewer than 200 Sumatran rhinos survive in very small and highly fragmented populations in Southeast Asia, with Indonesia and Malaysia the only significant range countries.

With our major local partner, the Rhino Foundation of Indonesia (YABI), the International Rhino Foundation operates a multi-faceted program that includes protection of Sumatran rhinos and their habitat through Rhino Protection Units, research on and captive breeding of the species at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, and education and alternative income development outreach to local communities.

Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park and Way Kambas National Park in Sumatra, Indonesia, are two of the three major habitats for Sumatran rhino, and are also two of the highest priority areas for other threatened megafauna, including the Sumatran tiger and Sumatran elephant. IRF and our local partner, YABI, operate seven Rhino Protection Units in BBS and five Rhino Protection Units in Way Kambas.

Rhino Protection Units (RPU) are highly-trained, four-person anti-poaching teams (made up of local community members) that intensively patrol key areas within Indonesia's national parks. They monitor threatened wildlife, deactivate traps and snares, identify and apprehend illegal intruders, including poachers, and investigate crime scenes, thus preventing or reducing the loss of wildlife and protecting critical habitats.

Thanks to the RPU, there have been no known incidences of poaching of Sumatran rhinos in Bukit Barisan and Way Kambas National Parks in Sumatra for the past six years. The RPU also protect numerous other threatened species, including tigers, elephants, tapirs, monkeys, leopards and fishing cats.

The five RPU in Way Kambas have also been working overtime to restore an area of the park that authorities seized back from encroachers. In a large collaborative effort with park authorities, police, and local people, the RPU helped remove around 500 'squatters' from the park and destroyed about 300 temporary houses. An illegal fishing village also was relocated from the mouth of the Way Kanan River. Now, 100 percent of encroachers have been removed from the park – an unprecedented accomplishment! Our team is now helping to regenerate the land previously cleared by the encroachers by planting native plant species



that will provide food for Sumatran rhinos and elephants. The Sumatran rhino population in Way Kambas appears to have grown to 33 animals and there have been signs of new rhino calves. The RPU also are working with communities adjacent to Way Kambas National Park on alternative farming practices, so that local people living near the park can earn income for their families without encroaching in the park to clear land and plant crops there.

There are only nine Sumatran rhinos in captivity in the world - two at the Cincinnati Zoo, one at the White Oak Conservation Center in Florida, two in Malaysia, and now four at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS). The International Rhino Foundation participates in the Global Propagation and Management Board, an international stakeholder group that manages the small and dispersed captive Sumatran rhino population at a global level. And, with our local partner, YABI, we also manage the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary.

The SRS is a 250-acre complex located within Way Kambas National Park in Sumatra, Indonesia. Its four rhinos – 'Andalas', 'Rosa', 'Ratu', and 'Bina' – are part of an intensively managed research and breeding program aimed at increasing our knowledge about the Sumatran rhino with the ultimate aim of increasing the population in the wild. At the SRS, the rhinos reside in large, open areas where they can experience a natural rainforest habitat while still receiving state-of-the-art veterinary care and nutrition.

Sumatran rhinos are difficult to breed in captivity, and we have not yet had a successful pregnancy at the SRS. Female Ratu became pregnant by young male Andalas twice in 2010, but unfortunately miscarried both pregnancies, which is not uncommon. SRS staff are using all the tools at their disposal to help ensure that Ratu will be able to bring her next pregnancy to term. Ratu and Andalas have continued to breed, and we are hoping for another pregnancy soon.

### Why It Matters

Saving Sumatran rhinos will require a balance of caring for the wild population and trying to breed as many animals as possible in captivity in order to boost population numbers, while also working with local communities to reduce encroachment – currently the greatest threat facing this Critically Endangered species. IRF uses a three-pronged approach to Sumatran rhino conservation, incorporating intensive protection of surviving populations in the wild, captive research and propagation of rhinos at the SRS, and education and outreach programs to local communities and decision makers.

**Implementing partner:** Yayasan Badak Indonesia, Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, Way Kambas National Park





## Laying the Foundation to Expand the Javan Rhino Population

Indonesia's remote Ujung Kulon National Park (UKNP) holds the only viable population of the Critically Endangered Javan rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*). At best, 44 Javan rhinos remain on the planet; surveys and other data suggest that only 4-5 females are still breeding. It is believed that the last surviving Javan rhino in Vietnam was poached in May 2010.

For the past 16 years, International Rhino Foundation-funded Rhino Protection Units have kept the Ujung Kulon population safe from poaching. However, protection in itself isn't going to be enough to prevent extinction. Over the long-term, a second viable population needs to be established elsewhere in Indonesia. The first step is to create conditions that will allow the existing population to expand by increasing the habitat available in eastern Ujung Kulon (in the Gunung Honje area).

Over the past year, IRF, through its partner Yayasan Badak Indonesia (Rhino Foundation of Indonesia) and supported by the Asian Rhino Project, Save the Rhino International, WWF, and other donors, has been working to expand the useable habitat for Javan rhinos in UKNP by creating the 4,000 hectare Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area (JRSCA), which the Government of Indonesia was formally launched on June 21, 2010. The project intensifies active management in Gunung Honje (in the eastern portion of the park), with the short-term objective of providing more habitat to allow the population to increase. We are constructing small bridges, an electric fence, and a patrol road; eradicating invasive species which have taken over a good portion of the habitat; planting rhino food plants; providing a water supply and saltlick; and constructing additional guard posts. The continued survival of the Javan rhino depends on their population increasing as rapidly as possible, and in spreading the population out so that 'all the eggs are not in one basket'.

As one of the first steps towards establishing the JRSCA, UKNP authorities successfully negotiated with 51 families who agreed to relocate from their illegal homes inside the park, which will make them eligible to participate in various job opportunities, possibly to include JRSCA construction/development.

**Why It Matters:** With only one small population in one location, the species is extremely susceptible to catastrophic losses from disease, natural disasters, or other unforeseen events. To ensure that the Javan rhino survives long-term, we need to establish a second population elsewhere in Indonesia. Our work now to expand 'rhino-friendly' habitat available to Javan rhinos in Ujung Kulon and Gunung Honje should allow the population to increase. These areas will provide a staging ground from which we eventually can translocate animals to an 'insurance' population elsewhere in the species' historic range.

**Implementing partners:** Yayasan Badak Indonesia, Ujung Kulon National Park, Asian Rhino Project, and the World Wide Fund for Nature.



## Spreading the Wealth: Translocating Greater One-Horned Rhinos

In December, two female greater one-horned rhinos joined the two male rhinos moved in April 2008 to Manas National Park in Assam, India. (The park is also home to three rescued females that had previously been released into the park.)

Translocations are the backbone of the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 program, a partnership among the International Rhino Foundation, the Government of Assam, the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Bodo Territorial Council, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, that aims to attain a population of 3,000 wild rhinos in seven of Assam's protected areas by the year 2020. More than 85 percent of the world's 2,850 greater one-horned rhinos inhabit Kaziranga National Park in Assam, India. Because the majority of the animals are in one population, the species is at risk from disasters such as floods or disease outbreaks. Pobitora National Park holds about 90 rhinos, and has exceeded its carrying capacity.

Manas National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, was selected as the first site to receive translocated rhinos. The park is home to tigers, pygmy hogs, and golden langurs as well as elephants, wild buffalo and Indian bison. Rhinos were once common in Manas, but violent civil conflict beginning in 1989 caused massive damage to the park's infrastructure, including destruction of anti-poaching camps, roads and villages. Until recently, the last rhino seen in Manas was in 1996. But that's all changing.

On December 28th, Forest Department officials, veterinarians, and other technical experts set out on elephant-back to begin a translocation operation in Pabitora. In dense fog, the capture team was able to dart a mother and her female calf. Both animals were radio-collared and loaded into crates which were then lifted onto trucks for transport. The rhinos started their 250-kilometer journey from Pabitora in the evening and were released in Manas in the early morning of December 29th.

Each animal is monitored on a daily basis by WWF and park staff; the rhinos are adjusting well to their new neighborhood. Additional translocations will take place in early and late 2011, when the monsoons have stopped.

**Why It Matters:** IRV 2020's goal is to ensure that greater one-horned rhinos are spread throughout multiple parks with enough habitat to encourage further population growth. Even though greater one-horned rhino numbers continue to increase, it is dangerous to have such a larger proportion of the animals in one. By moving animals to different locations, we are alleviating the risk of catastrophic loss from disease or natural disaster.

**Implementing Partners:** Bodo Territorial Council, Government of Assam, WWF-India, USF&WS



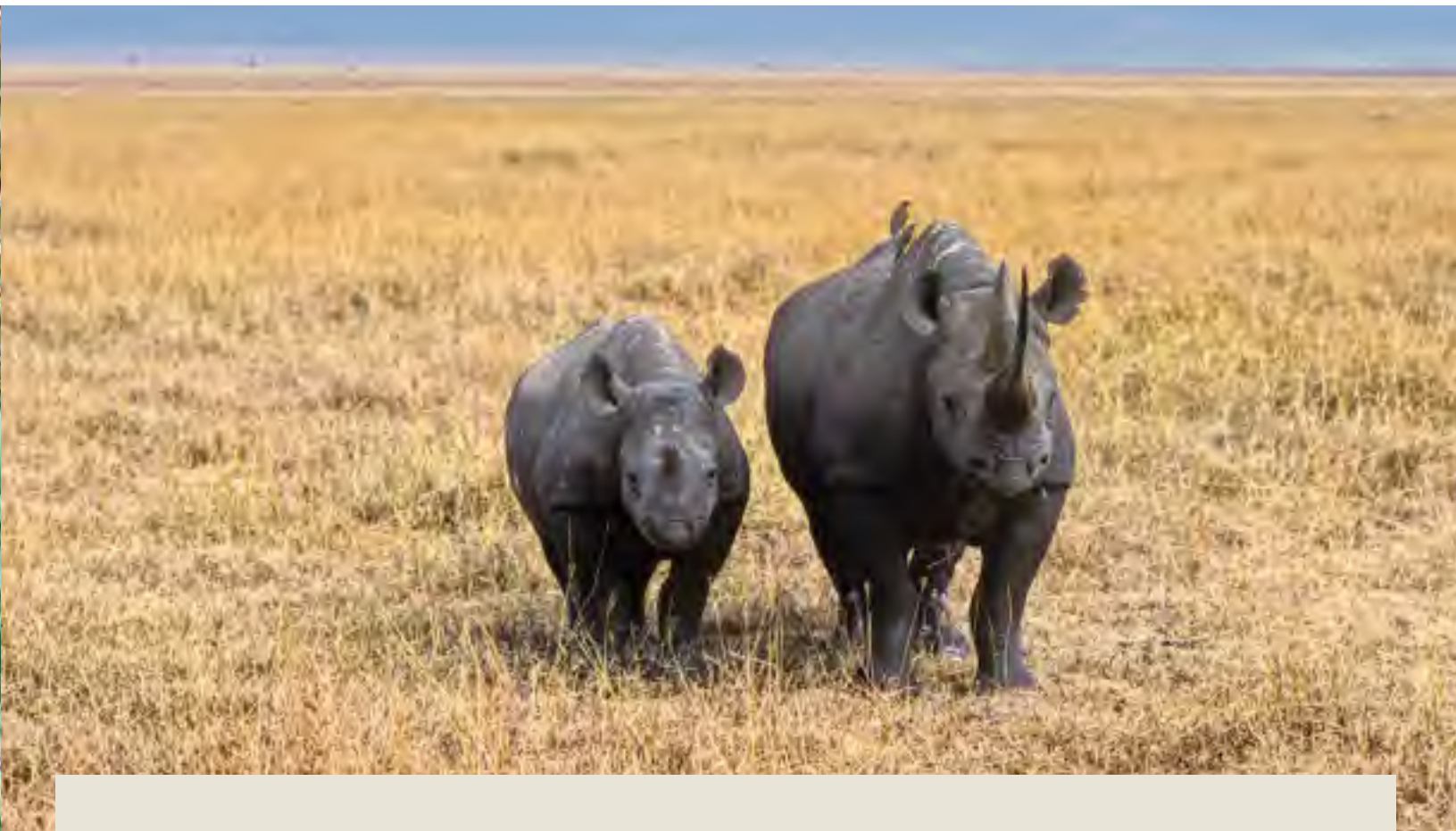
## Turning the Tide: Reducing Rhino Poaching in Zimbabwe

Rhino poaching in Zimbabwe (home to the fourth largest population of Critically Endangered black rhinos in the world) more than doubled in 2008. And in early 2009, the rate of rhino poaching in Zimbabwe reached a critical level, and the rhino population in the Lowveld region (home to nearly 80% of the country's total black rhino population) actually started to decline for the first time in many years.

In response to this crisis, IRF's partner, the Lowveld Rhino Trust, moved more than 50 black rhinos from areas with high poaching risk to 'safer' areas where they could be adequately protected. The translocation operations dramatically reduced the number of rhinos living in vulnerable areas, allowing security efforts to focus on providing the best protection possible on a more manageable scale. As a result, we saw a dramatic reduction in the rate of poaching in the Lowveld this year. Eighteen rhinos were poached in Lowveld conservancies during 2010, compared to 64 in 2009 and 71 in 2008. With 39 black rhino calf births reported this year, the birth rate exceeded the mortality rate and the population climbed back up to 345 by the end of year.

In 2010, the Lowveld Rhino Trust's management operations focused on catching up on ear-notching -- a way for rangers to identify and monitor individual rhinos, which is vital under the high poaching threat. (Ear-notching had fallen behind due to translocation demands over previous years.) Overall, 45 black rhinos were ear-notched and 48 black rhinos were dehorned to reduce poaching incentive.

Our team also continued to rescue and treat rhinos with snare and bullet injuries from poaching attempts. In one case, black rhino cow 'Mazda' was wounded by a poacher's bullet in right hind in December. Our monitors quickly found Mazda, who lives in Buby Valley Con-



servancy, and realized that she needed veterinary treatment. After vets performed an emergency immobilization, they discovered that she had also sustained a deep laceration to the front right foot pad and this injury was contributing significantly to her lack of mobility. After receiving treatment for the bullet wound and the laceration, Mazda has shown steady improvement and we expect that she will soon have another calf.

In August 2010, the Lowveld Rhino Trust successfully released four rhino orphans back into the wild. 'Blondie', 'Millie', 'Oliver' and 'Sassie' were all orphaned when their mothers were killed by poachers, and since all were too young to survive on their own, our team took them in, treated them and hand-reared them until they were old enough to provide for themselves. The young rhinos were released in Buby Valley, where they have established a consistent home range at the release site. The four occupy the same range and are seen together, but they tend to live in the two close pairs they established in the 'bomas' (Blondie with Millie and Sassie with Oliver). All four are growing well and putting on weight.

**Why It Matters** This year, because of proactive interventions in 2008 and 2009, there were more rhino births than deaths in the Lowveld Conservancies. During this time of significant poaching risk in Africa, the IRF-supported Lowveld Rhino Trust continues to protect Zimbabwe's rhinos from poachers by proactively translocating rhinos from high-risk areas to safer locations; treating wounded rhinos and returning them to the wild; working with local communities to gain intelligence information to proactively prevent poaching, helping authorities pursue, apprehend, and prosecute poachers; and intensively tracking and monitoring rhinos to ensure their safety.

**Implementing Partner:** Lowveld Rhino Trust





## 2010 - The Worst Year on Record for African Rhino Poaching

This year was the worst year on record for rhino poaching in 15 years. Three hundred and thirty-three rhinos were poached in South Africa alone – almost three times more than the country lost in 2009, and an average of almost one rhino killed per day. The South African government has reacted quickly, making rhino poaching a priority crime and creating a National Wildlife Crime Reaction Unit. More than 120 arrests were made this year with 450 dockets open. Seven farms, along with their aircraft and vehicles were confiscated due to suspected involvement with poaching.

According to TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, rhino horn trade patterns in Asia have shifted over time. In the 1970s-1990s, rhino horn trade centered in Japan, Korea, Taiwan and China. But since 2003, Vietnam has rapidly emerged as the leading destination for illicit trade in rhino horn. Several years ago, a rumor started that a high-level government official was cured of cancer by using rhino-horn powder. Although the story has never been verified, the idea intrigued wealthy Vietnamese. Studies by pharmaceutical company Hoffmann-La Roche and the Zoological Society of London have reported no medicinal value in rhino horn. (A person might as well chew their fingernails, which also are made of keratin.) But unfortunately, even though there is no traditional Chinese medicine practice linking rhino horn and cancer treatment, and China's official traditional-medicine authority publicly refuted stories of the horn's curative powers, many Asians have come to believe the rumor.

Vietnam's Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa, has been seriously implicated in illegal trade in rhino horn on a number of occasions. The economic attaché, Khanh Toan Nguyen, was arrested in April 2006 and the First Secretary, Vu Moc Anh, was filmed purchasing rhino horn outside the embassy in September 2008. And in mid-2010, just before the World Cup, three Vietnamese were arrested at the Johannesburg airport with 24 pieces of horn. South Africa has recently put an end to 'pseudo-hunts' by Vietnamese citizens, who paid thousands of dollars for hunt permits. Unfortunately, the drop in 'legal' hunting immediately resulted in an increase in poaching.



As part of its work to ensure that the international conservation community takes action to halt the worldwide increase in rhino poaching and illegal trade in rhino horn, IRF Executive Director Dr. Susie Ellis attended the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP) for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in Qatar in March. CITES, an agreement with 175 government signatories, aims to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. In 1993, international trade in rhino horn was banned by the Convention, to which China and Vietnam are signatories. With poaching rates reaching a 15-year high in Africa, rhinos received a great deal of attention at the COP. Rhino discussions were based on a review of rhino status and illegal trade by TRAFFIC and the IUCN African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups. Issues that received particular attention included the increase in poaching rates in South Africa and Zimbabwe, and the increase in illegal trade in Vietnam. The parties agreed to a number of very positive rhino-related decisions to improve cooperative control of illegal trade both by source countries and countries which have been implicated in illegal trade, with the objective to put a stop to illegal trade and consumption of rhino horn and its derivatives. IRF stands fully behind the COP recommendations and its Resolution on Conservation of and Trade in African and Asian Rhinoceroses (go to <http://www.cites.org/eng/cop/15/ins/E15-Com-II-29.pdf> to read the resolution).

Zimbabwe, where IRF has focused most of its Africa work, had a significantly reduced number of poaching incidents this year largely due to our efforts to move rhinos out of unsafe areas over the past two years. In January, Tichaona Mutyairi, a Zimbabwe rhino poacher with the infamous Mazhongwe gang, was sentenced to 17 years in jail after being captured during an exchange of gunfire with the police in October 2009. Although a regional court in the town of Masvingo took a strict stance, punishing the poacher to the full extent of Zimbabwe's wildlife and firearm laws, this sentence was a rare occurrence among captured poachers. In an effort to emphasize that the eyes of the international community are watching, IRF issued a well-distributed press release to highlight this prosecution success – and we hope to see more successes in upcoming cases. This is just one example of IRF's efforts to publicize the rhino poaching crisis in Africa and to help put pressure on appropriate agencies to improve law enforcement in poaching cases.

As we go to press, IRF and our partners are developing a new program to address the most urgent on-the-ground needs to put a halt to the poaching crisis in South Africa as well.







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*IRF's work is possible because so many people share our vision. We are grateful to all of our donors, whose support allowed us to accomplish so much in 2010.*

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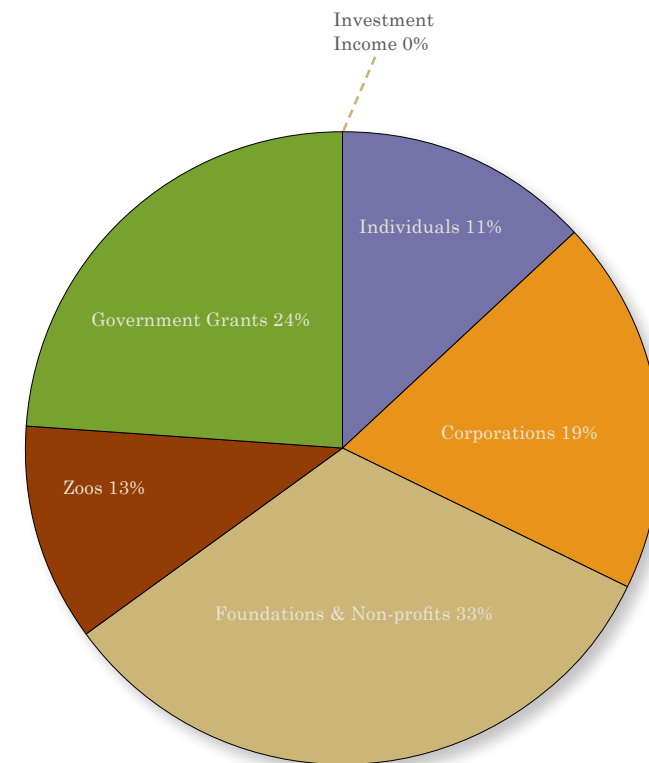
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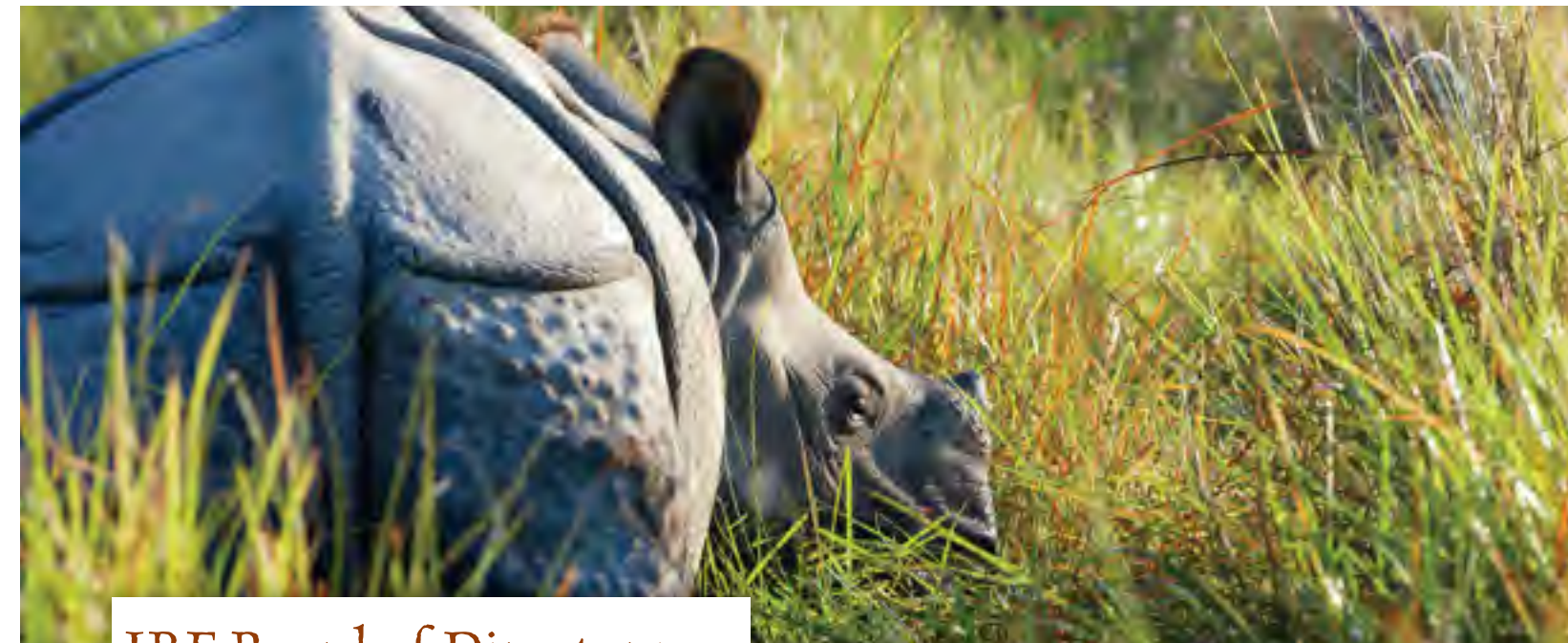
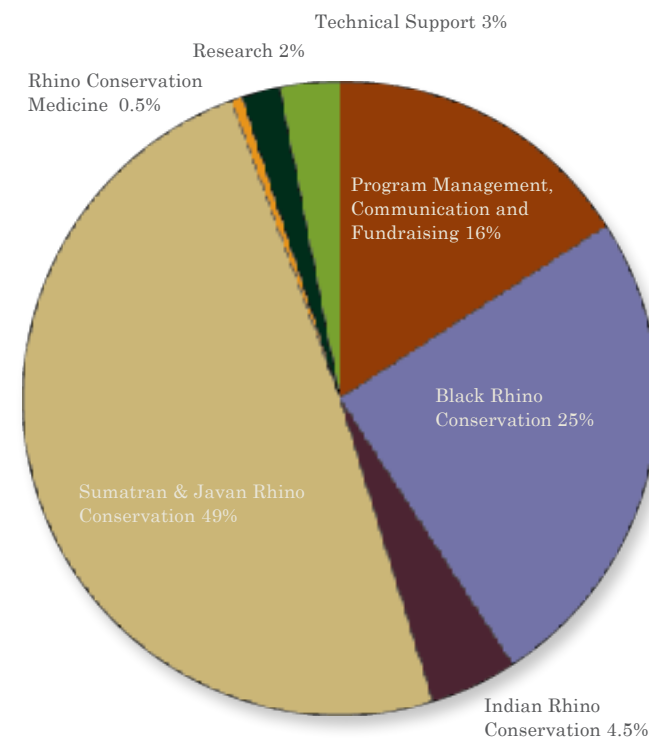
## Annual Support & Revenue

Individuals	\$230,635.95
Foundations & Non-profits	\$668,300.53
Corporations	\$395,047.14
Zoos	\$270,590.86
Government Grants	\$486,107.52
Investment Income	\$178.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,050,860.00</b>



## Annual Expenses

Black Rhino Conservation	\$509,318.00
Zimbabwe	\$445,562.00
Kenya	\$63,756.00
Indian Rhino Conservation	\$92,592.00
India and Nepal	\$92,592.00
Sumatran & Javan Rhino Conservation	\$991,863.00
Sumatran Rhino Protection Units	\$474,042.00
Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary	\$210,805.00
Javan Rhino Conservation	\$258,616.00
Malaysian Rhino Protection Units	\$48,400.00
Rhino Conservation Medicine	\$11,248.00
Research	\$35,900.00
Technical Support	\$63,489.00
Program Management, Communication and Fundraising	\$323,927.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,028,337.00</b>



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IRF is able to keep costs to a minimum because much of our administrative and creative support is donated pro bono.

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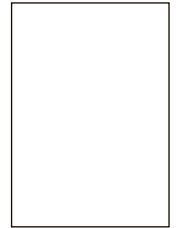
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