

## **Panel Discussions**

### **Challenges in conserving black rhinos in Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Kenya**

*John P. Tajeuma  
Lewa Wildlife Conservancy*

Rhinos in Africa are facing the worst poaching crisis since the unprecedented slaughter of the 1970s and 1980s. Significant numbers have been killed in the last 3 years for their horn and Kenya has been one of the countries hit the most. If urgent measures are not taken to combat these poaching gangs soon, the gains realized in the last 2 decades will be lost and the African rhino population will begin to decline.

With a current stock of 64 black and 53 white rhinos, the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, a heavily guarded private rhino reserve and one of the strongholds of rhinos in Kenya, has not been spared this catastrophe. The Conservancy has lost 4 black rhinos to sophisticated poaching syndicates in the last 2 years.

In this paper, I plan to address the successful story of rhino conservation in Lewa up to 2009 and challenges that we have faced in the last 2 years. I also plan to address the critical counter measures that we have undertaken to secure the Conservancy's population.

### **AAZK's Bowling For Rhino Success Story**

*Patty Pearthree  
AAZK, Inc.*

You are the KEY to the success story! You are that dedicated person that organizes a "Bowling For Rhinos" event year after year. Can one person, a group or an organization make a difference in worldwide Conservation? You bet and we have done just that! Come see what has been done and where we are going.

Many of the animals Bowling For Rhinos supports are still around today because of conservation organizations like The American Association Of Zoo Keepers. It was predicted the African elephant and the Black rhino would be extinct by the year 2000. Although the numbers have dropped dramatically in the last 40 years, the fact that they are not zero is a significant success. This presentation will show how the hard work of "Bowling for Rhinos" has paid off for conservation worldwide from the lowland rainforests of Indonesia to the dry grasslands of Kenya.

"AAZK's Bowling For Rhinos" has raised over \$ 3.7 million since 1990 for some of the most biologically important places on earth. By conserving the rhino's habitat, we have greatly improved the odds for countless other species struggling to survive in the wild. This paper will stress the impact "Bowling For Rhinos" has had on the survival of many species worldwide.

"Bowling For Rhinos" funds now go toward Lewa Wildlife Conservancy (LWC) in Kenya, The International Rhino Foundation (IRF) for work in Indonesia and Action for Cheetah-Kenya (ACK). All 3

organizations support our efforts for worldwide conservation with 100% of our funds going directly to these organizations.

## **The Bowling for Rhinos Conservation Resource Grant**

*Amanda Kamradt  
AAZK, Inc., Zoo New England*

The American Association of Zoo Keepers, Inc. (AAZK) administers an annual conservation fund-raising program entitled Bowling for Rhinos (BFR), sponsored by Blue Rhino. The funds generated from BFR are reviewed annually by the AAZK Board of Directors. Initiating with funds realized from the 2009 BFR events, the Board of Directors established the AAZK Conservation Resource Fund (CRF).

The AAZK Conservation Resource Fund has been established to fund conservation projects and programs, targeting projects and programs that have direct and tangible ties to either African or Asian rhino conservation or species that co-exist within the same ecosystem.

The AAZK Conservation Committee has been charged with advising the AAZK Board of Directors on the distribution of these funds. This portion of the panel discussion will provide information on the allocation and utilization of this grant.

## **Action for Cheetahs in Kenya: Distribution, Threats and Solutions**

*Mary Wykstra<sup>1</sup> and Cosmas Wambua<sup>2</sup>*

Mary and Cosmas will present a PowerPoint presentation summarizing ACK efforts and accomplishments in cheetah conservation throughout Kenya. Details of the completed National Cheetah Survey and accomplishments at both ACK project sites will be summarized. ACK actively addresses issues that threaten the status of cheetah conservation in Kenya through research, education and community programs. Data collected by cheetah scouts is used for developing model programs and for presenting solutions to community members and conservation stakeholders. Since 2009, ACK has received funds to develop research in northern Kenya where we overlap with the efforts of the Northern Rangelands Trust to assure that wildlife and people can coexist.