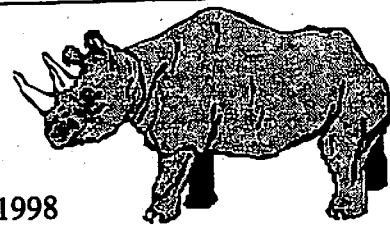


REALLY, RHINOS!



Volume 12, no 2, 1998

VAN GOGH HORNS IN!

from The Guardian Manchester, October 13, 1997.
Author: Nancy Banks-Smith.

Van Gogh is a rhinoceros with attitude. His attitude is, 'If in doubt, give it a clout.' Wildlives (BBC2) is devoted to that endearing species, the camcorder-carrying conservationist. Mike Hearn, a young biologist, works for Save the Rhino. He was recording the perambulations of the pitifully few black rhino in Namibia. Most were modest mothers (childbirth must be agony) but one, Van Gogh, was a big male. He's called Van Gogh because one ear was bitten off by a hyena and, if that hyena is listening, I raise my hat to you, sir.

Van Gogh was having a kip under a bush and Mike poked in the hushed tones of a birdwatcher in church: 'He's unaware of our presence but one ear is moving around.' Rhinos, he added, barely breathing, have a reputation for short temper.

There was nothing wrong with Van Gogh's remaining ear. The next frame showed him trotting purposefully towards the camera. With the curious calm that comes with perfect despair, you noticed that he had at least two of everything that mattered. Two horns, for instance. Someone behind the camera threw a very small stone at him. I think there's a proverb about that. People being charged by rhinos should not throw stones. Someone else went 'argh!' just like the comics. Van Gogh moved smoothly into a gallop. Steam issued from his ear. The whole frame filled with rhino, then - as if the intercity to Inverness had passed - there was nothing but a drift of dust. Silence fell with a crash. At last, I hope it was silence.

The strange thing was that no one said another word about this lively incident, no one described their escape, no one showed us their scars. Nothing. The next scene showed Save the Rhino taking off in a

microlight plane. They said it was a much better way of covering large areas. Of course it is. Did I say anything? Did I? Apparently Wildlives will keep us au fait with endangered species. Yes, please. I'm very worried about Mike.

OVERCITES?

The Guardian Manchester, June 12, 1997.
Author: Andrew Meldrum.

STUBBORN, near-sighted and rapidly dwindling in numbers, the rhinoceros has charged on to centre stage at the meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) in Harare.

Among the 139 CITES member states the discussion about how to protect the threatened rhinoceros population is as heated as the debate on conserving elephants. The figures are alarming. From a worldwide population of 90,000 in 1970, rhinos now number just 12,500 and 80% are in Africa.

Despite a ban on international trade in rhino horn since 1977, rhinos have continued to be slaughtered to meet the demand in Asia, where powdered horn is used in traditional medicines, and Yemen, where the horn is prized as a dagger handle.

The debate centres on whether limited, controlled trade in the horn should be allowed to fund rhino conservation. South Africa - which protects the rhino most effectively and has the largest population at 8,119 - wants to be allowed to begin a legal trade in horn. Animal rights groups are fiercely opposed to the proposal, and are supported by most of the conservation groups. But some scientific experts say South Africa's scheme may point the way towards a sustainable future for the rhinoceros. CITES, which has concluded that efforts to protect the animal and end the trade in horn have failed, says new approaches should be considered.

Tom Milliken, director of the east and southern

African programme of Traffic, the British group which monitors trade in flora and fauna, says surveys show that the demand for horn in many Asian countries, where it is believed to reduce fevers, is likely to continue.

Guarding rhinos in intensive protection zones has been effective in south Africa and Zimbabwe but is expensive, an estimated £2400 a square mile.

In 1994, CITES called on the international community, and specifically the Global Environmental Fund, to help meet these costs, but funding has been minimal and the countries have had to pay for their own conservation.

"The cost of protection is vast and Africa has a tremendous shortfall which it must bear in order to protect its rhino," says Holly Dublin, senior conservation officer for the Worldwide Fund for Nature. In an attempt to find new ways to fund conservation, Zimbabwe removed the horns from many of its rhinos, with few side-effects. Rhinos regrow their horns, and many local conservationists believe the horn could be "harvested" and the income used to fund protection.

Such thinking is behind South Africa's proposal.

"We are in 'no-win' situation at present, so maybe it is better to try controlled trade," Mr. Milliken says. "Although I think we need to study the matter further before it is approved."

Genetics of Sumatra's at-risk rhino

Science News, Feb. 8, 1997 by Christine Mlot

In many cases, an endangered species can more accurately be described as a collection of genetically distinct endangered populations. To maximize diversity, each population needs to be managed separately - if there are enough individuals to keep the population alive.

The two-horned Sumatran rhinoceros typifies this dilemma. Only about 300 animals remain in the wild, and one population, on the island of Borneo, is down to about 50 animals. The Sumatran is

considered the most ancient of rhinos. Unlike other species, the Sumatran rhino is hairy and relatively small, measuring 8 feet long and weighing less than a ton. The rhinos in the Bornean population are the smallest and have a distinct skull shape.

In an article in the April CONSERVATION BIOLOGY, Columbia University evolutionary geneticist Don J. Melnick and his colleagues quantify the genetic differences that go with the obvious physical differences. Analysis of DNA from mitochondria in the animals' cells revealed little difference between rhinos in eastern and western Sumatra but a 1 percent difference between the Bornean and other Sumatran populations, indicating an evolutionary divergence.

The Bornean rhino, which inhabits tropical forests has been separate from the other rhino population since at least 10,000 years ago, when the local terrain became an archipelago. Disappearing forest habitat and pressure from poachers in search of rhino horns have pushed all the Sumatran rhino populations to the edge of extinction. The researchers recommend that conservationists maintain the Bornean population separately, to preserve the set of genes best adapted to the island, but "unfortunately...we might not have the luxury."

Rhino & Tiger Fund Continue Endangered Species Protection

Source: USFWS Press Release 4 February 1998

(as seen in: Animal Keepers' forum Vol. 25, No. 3, 1998, pp 108-109)

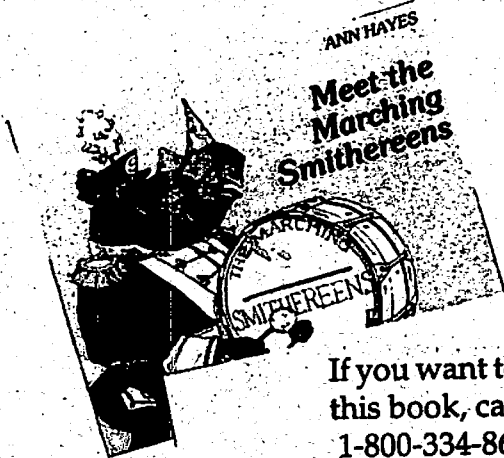
Interior Department Secretary Bruce Babbitt recently spoke about successes achieved so far from efforts funded under the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994. That Act provides money to fund projects that will provide effective long-term conservation proposals. Congress has funded the program through the year 2000, with \$400,000 being appropriated for FY 1997 and 1998.

* In Assam, India, the Fund provides support for various conservation efforts at Kaziranga National Park and Pobitor, Orang, and Laokhowa wildlife sanctuaries. Kaziranga National Park provides habitat for the largest remaining Indian rhino population.

lation, 55% of the total wild population of the species. The \$30,000 provided by the Fund will be used by park forest guards to build 10 shelters for their use while on security patrols, permitting them to remain longer in areas where poachers access the park.

• The black rhino population in Tanzania has been reduced to fewer than 100 individuals because of extensive poaching. The Fund has provided \$30,480 to the World Wildlife Fund in Tanzania to support surveillance and monitoring training for field staff of the Selous Games Reserve, one of the largest protected areas in Africa.

• The Javan rhino is the most imperiled of all rhinos. A grant of \$19,680 to Vietnam's Institute of Ecology and Biological Resources supports information-gathering efforts on the status of the Javan rhino population in Catloc Nature Reserve including the number of rhinos and their distribution. These studies will provide data necessary for formulating enhanced rhino conservation programs for law enforcement officers and for local communities.



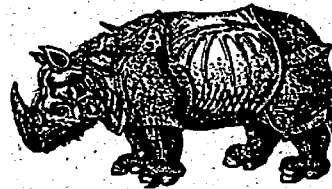
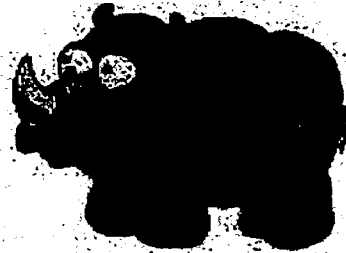
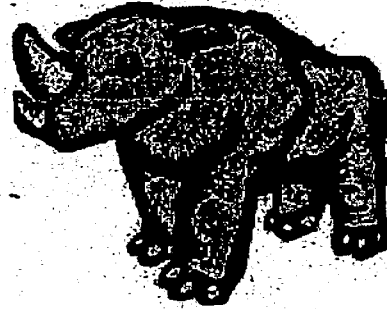
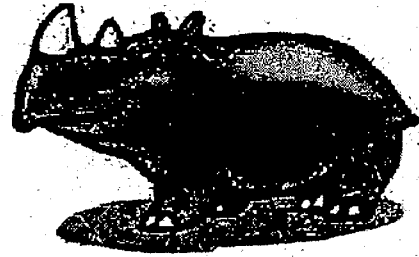
If you want to order this book, call: 1-800-334-8647.

I have some extra rhino books for sale. Price includes shipping. Make check payable to: Judyth Lessee (all money goes to the rhinos!)

Rhino (The story of the rhino and the people who control its future) By Jill Bailey. Illustrated by Alan Baker. Gallery Books, 1990. \$13.

Rhino! Written by Eduard Zingg. Abdo & Daughters, 1993. \$13.

A CRASH OF RHINOS!



More than 90 rhino graphics available at www.arttoday.com

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Nepal - Looking for rhinos with an elephant

By Mark Stachiew

I clung to the back of the elephant. It wasn't comfortable, but the gently swaying grey bulk I was sitting on made me feel safe from the dangers I imagined lurking in the jungle.

A friend and I were perched on the back of an elephant in Royal Chitwan National Park in southern Nepal. We were hoping to catch a glimpse of the endangered Indian one-horned rhinoceros.

Our hearts pounded in anticipation as our mount lumbered its way through the dew-soaked forest. Our guide looked disinterested as he sat astride the elephant's neck. He steered the animal by kicking the back of its ears with his bare feet and would occasionally scan the ground for any signs of a rhinoceros. When he saw something interesting on the ground, he would command his elephant to stop by whacking a wooden goad on the back of its fuzzy head. Usually, the guide would look down then shrug his shoulders and murmur something unintelligible in Nepali.

The early morning sun shone feebly through the February mist which enshrouded the forest. Our guide was well wrapped with a large blanket while we clutched our cameras with one hand and the elephant with the other. All the while, we were being drenched as our mount brushed against the cold dew which coated the leaves of the forest. We wandered through the grassy fields and wet forests for several hours without seeing any evidence of rhinos and were growing weary of the search. Every once in a while, the elephant would scare up a jungle fowl and it would fly off into the forest, screeching. We often saw the shadowy silhouettes of spotted deer as they darted out of our way and we even saw a fox skulking across the fields, but the rhinos remained elusive.

We had been at it for about three and a half hours and were beginning to feel the pain caused by straddling an elephant. The sun was starting to burn off the fog and the guide was getting fed up. There were two other elephants loaded with tourists ambling off towards the nearby village

of Sauraha and our guide decided to follow them back. We were disappointed that we never had the chance to use our cameras.

As our convoy of elephants headed back, our guide spotted something on the ground and he became excited. He said something to one of the other guides and they urged their mounts towards the river's edge. Our guide followed a trail that was plain to him, but Invisible to us.

Our elephant thundered through the heavy jungle growth which lined the swampy edges of the river. Suddenly, we saw a grey shape crashing by. "Look, rhino!" shouted our guide. The clatter of our camera shutters erupted in the morning stillness as we took blurry photos of a rhino's back hidden in a forest of leaves.

The rhinoceros wasn't pleased by our presence and crashed back into the forest. Our guide sped after him and one of the other elephants followed us. We tracked our quarry to a clearing and discovered an entire family of rhinos, a male and female and a young one. We blasted off more photos, but once again all we managed to capture were a batch of fuzzy shots of rhino eyes and ears hidden by the plants. Our guide knew we were after good pictures, so he tried to maneuver the elephant into a better position.

The rhinos were still agitated by our presence, but they weren't running away from us. They just remained hidden. We were frustrated because they were so close and yet we could barely see them.

Just as I had taken my umpteenth photo of a rhino's back, the curious baby rhino peeked his head out to get a better look at us. My camera was pointing right at him as I saw the rising sun glinting in the corner of his eye. I stared at his wrinkled grey face with its tiny horn for what seemed like hours, but he was only there long enough for me to take one picture, then he darted back into the jungle.

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http://www.vir.com/~capt_xerox/markworld.html

Originally published in The Suburban - July 27, 1988

www.Rhinos on the Net.com

Rhinocervs is the name of a hard-rock and metal band which hails from New York City. If you aren't into music or don't need a gig, at least visit the site since it has a cool illustration of Albrecht Dürer's famous woodcut and links to other rhino sites.

www.columbia.edu/~ro28/rhinocervs

Want to send an electronic postcard to someone to say how much you love rhinos? Go to E-Cards and not only do you get to select a cool black rhino picture but you get 3 pages of information on all the rhino species.

www.e-cards.com/writeups/writeups.pl

Spelare resultat statistik lokalen nyheter lankar matcher sponsorer gastbok the coach juniorer Borås Rhinettes bli stodmedlem.

What?! You don't read Swedish? Neither do I. But there is a football (?) team called the Borås Rhinos and of course there is a logo with a rhino on it. Check it out.

www.tninet.se/~dvh630e/rhinos/index5.htm

More sports! This time rugby. The unofficial Leeds Rhinos homepage is online.

www.cowardathome.demon.co.uk/table.htm

Forget Michael Jordan! You should be rooting for the Baton Rouge Charging Rhinos! If anyone has more information on this AAU basketball team, let me know!

Why aren't there more professional sports teams with a rhino logo? There is the San Jose Rhinos (inline hockey) and the Rochester Rhinos (soccer). But hey, it's a perfect mascot to use.

Found another team, the Blue Rhinos is a soccer team for under 6 boys and girls. Where? Again in New Orleans!



What do they know that we don't?

RHINOBUY\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Only a few of you could probably afford to buy an original sculpture by JoEllenTrilling but everyone can buy her cards. You will drool when you see her rhino characters. Imagine if Prince Charming looked like Elvis (without the ducktail) and Cinderella looked like Blanche from Streetcar Named Desire. I bet you like these so much you won't want to write on them or give them away. Better order at least two sets. Call Stevens Press at: 1-800-714-4747. There are 4 images so far which can be sold in sets of 4 for \$10 (plus s&h). You just gotta have these!

Any place you can hang your rhino is home! The Woodsman has created a faboo rhino rack for me which includes pegs to hang things on. He will custom design one for you too. Very reasonable, very unique, and very practical. Contact: The Woodsman, 25422 Trabuco Rd #105, Lake Forest, CA 92630 or call (714) 547-TOYS. Tell him the Rhino Museum sent you!

For the Kid Rhino in your life. Bella Luna, a children's clothes shop in suburban Chicago, promotes cotton-comfort merchandise made in America (90%) One of the lines is called Painting Red Rhino. The products are preshrunk and the colors don't fade. Contact Dodi Wians or Marci Lorts at 708-798-3410 or write: Bella Luna, 2060 Ridge Rd, Homewood, IL 60430.

From the new paperback,
Earthways, Earthwise by Judith Nicholls:

What is One?
One is the sun,
a rhino's horn;
a drop of dew,
a lizard's tongue.

One is the world,
a lonely whale;
an elephant's trunk,
a monkey's tail.

One is an acorn,
one is a moon;
one is a forest,
felled too soon.



Rhino gores man to death in zoo

BOGOTA (Reuters) - A rhinoceros in a Colombian zoo gored a man to death when he "invaded" its habitat for unknown reasons, officials said Tuesday.

Maria Victoria Agudelo, a director of the zoo in the southwest city of Cali, said the unidentified victim aged 55 to 60, apparently climbed over a wooden barrier and entered the rhino's enclosed area after closing hours late on Monday.

She said the female rhino, with an upright horn on its snout, was not normally aggressive, but like most animals was territorial and would resent any uninvited guests.

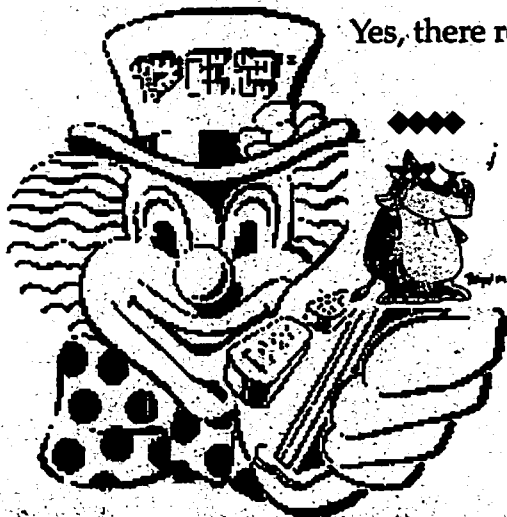
"If a man went into its habitat it was, of course, an invasion," Agudelo said.

She said zoo workers found the man's lifeless body on Tuesday morning and authorities were investigating exactly how he wound up in the area where he was gored.

"He didn't have any identification," Agudelo added.

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[Thanks to Chris Mikesell for this news.]



Yes, there really is a rhino pez dispenser available! Some sources:

- l@voyager.net
Michele Lorenz
5367 East Hidden Lake Drive
East Lansing, MI 48823

- Lindapez@aol.com
<http://members.tripod.com/~Lindapez/index-A.html>

- www.pezheads.org/cgi-bin/dealer.cgi

◆ The rhino dispenser does NOT look like this Doryton rhino! ◆

A one year quarterly subscription to *Really, Rhinos!* is \$20 (\$25 foreign). Make check payable to Judyth Lessee.

100% of each subscription is donated to rhino conservation projects. See feedback or rhino citations to: *Really, Rhinos!*, PO Box 40503, Tucson, AZ 85717-0503 Phone: (520) 327-9044

e-mail: rinophyl@rtd.com
www.rtd.com/~rinophyl

If you find errors, please know they are printed for those who always look for them. We try to print something for everybody.

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