

S

Adopt-A-Warden Minnesota Conservation Officers Association

"WARDENS HELPING WARDENS AROUND THE WORLD"

Representative: Gary Westby

Interests

Minnesota Conservation Officers are interested in the conservation management and protection of natural resources. Officers are becoming increasingly aware of their global inter-relatedness and responsibilities for the sustainability of our world's resources and in this case specifically the Javan Rhino. Conservation officers have developed a kinship, a mutual respect for comrades who choose to protect these natural resources, often at the expense of their own lives and welfare. Within Minnesota and throughout North America thousands of conservation officers exchange information and support in order that they might assist each other in their pursuit of their common goals. We are interested in making the game wardens of Indonesia and specifically the park guards of Ujung Kulon aware that by mere virtue of their choice of occupation and endeavors, that they inherently are members of this same fraternity. We believe we can help guards of Ujung Kulon deter poaching by supporting them with equipment, training and encouragement. We would like to help to develop an understanding of their important role in their countries environmental future. In return we will cultivate a mutual appreciation of our diverse cultures and an awareness that our unique environmental issues may not be as unique as we once thought.

Objectives and Initiatives

- * To help equip and train park guards according to the needs and priorities defined by the park personnel so they can effectively deter poaching and protect the natural habitat of the Javan Rhinos and all the other plants and animals.
- * To provide encouragement and improve the stature and respect for park guards.
- * To promote a system that will lead to self reliance i.e. ecotourism, legalized hunting and education.
- * To establish an ongoing program of joint training/patrol missions each year.
- * To establish the necessary system of equipment delivery and accountability.
- * To pursue with our Indonesian counterparts and other organizations methods for developing culturally appropriate education programs that will not only support conservation methods but enhance their local economies.
- * To promote understanding of our cultures, their diversities as well as our many similarities.

Activities

Conservation Officers have supplied hand cuffs, radios, backpacks, furniture and first aid materials. They have participated in joint patrols with park guards. Officers have conducted training in radio and hand cuffing procedures, officer safety training, defensive tactics training and first aid. Funds associated with the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund will provide for one sixteen to eighteen foot patrol boat fully equipped, park guard patrol items, one water well, handcuffs, radios, and transportation costs for training officers and educational specialists and support staff. Future instruction can be offered in additional defense tactics, pain compliance, mace, knife defense, navigation, first aid, interview and interrogation, and watercraft operation. Extensive training could be offered in the use of firearms if permission was secured from the Indonesian Government. Our project has generated considerable publicity because of its grass roots nature. It is an unique effort of field wardens helping field wardens with the assistance of citizens. People appreciate this basic effort in conservation. The program has been featured in scores of newspaper articles and radio shows. We have conducted slide presentations in schools, churches, civic and sportsman's groups. We have financed our previous

for
25
m

er
to
ng

se
m

t,
in
ng
ed
ry
ct

in
to
g.

efforts through fund raisers and private donations. The Safari Club International has been our most generous supporter.

The Minnesota Indonesian Society has been a long time supporter as well as the American Museum of Asmat Art, American Association of Zoo Keepers, the Minnesota Zoo and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. A most recent development is the expressed interest from the children of the schools where we have given slide presentations. They are requesting more information from children from Indonesia. They would very much like to communicate with children from Ujung Kulon and develop friendships. The recently formed Gamelon Society of Minnesota is eager to participate in this need for cultural exchange.

Resources

Minnesota and North America have excellent training officers, radio technicians and contacts for supplies and equipment. We have access to an ever expanding communication network. The program has generated enormous enthusiasm and desire for participation from a variety of sources.

Needs

- * Long term financial support
- * To develop a system of accountability to ensure continual participation by past and future contributors
- * Assistance with expediting equipment shipments, i.e. mining companies
- * Facilitate the exchange of cultural information and developing friendships between children of our countries.
- * Interpreters, guides and transportation
- * Facilitate/promote the concept of park guards traveling to Minnesota for training and promotional efforts.