RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

www.rhinoresourcecenter.com

NEWSLETTER #31 MAY 2013

Dear colleagues and friends,

This is the 31st issue of the quarterly e-newsletter of the Rhino Resource Center. Edited by Dr Kees Rookmaaker.

The total number of references in the collection of The RRC now stands at 17,711. This is an increase of 238 items in the last quarter. **Over 17,000 references are available as PDF on RRC website**



SUPPORT RRC

IN THIS ISSUE:	
Sumatran Rhino Crisis Summit Anna Merz rhino protagonist passes at 81 Visit to Assam – March 2013 Rhino related meetings Our sponsors Contents of the RRC website	p. 2 p. 3 p. 5 p. 8 p. 10 p. 11
Yes, you can help	p. 11
New LiteratureGeneralp.12Africanp.13Asianp.16Fossilp.18	p. 12
Contact Information	p. 22

The Rhino Resource Center is a Charity (Registered KvK Utrecht 30185802) Board Members: Prof. Robert Visser, Dr. Esmond Bradley Martin Founding Chairman: Dr. Nico J. van Strien



issue no. 31

MAY 2013

OUR EXECUTIVE TEAM					
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SUMATRAN RHINO CRISIS SUMMIT

Sunday 31 March to Thursday 4 April 2013 – Singapore

The news at the start of the meeting that there were likely to be less than 100 Sumatran rhinos in the world was a sobering announcement at the start of the meeting. It gave a sense of urgency to the 130 participants who had come to Singapore from range states like Malaysia and Indonesia, as well as from further afield. It was an intense meeting filled with discussions and proposals, which fortunately gave a chance for people to sit together and combine their interests. A ground-breaking agreement to save the Critically Endangered species was reached between representatives of the Indonesian and Malaysian governments. Tam, the male rhino in Sabah, is likely to be sent to Cincinnati to enhance their successful captive breeding programme. The proposals will need serious funding to achieve, so let us all put the Sumatran Rhino back on the map.



Conservation cannot be achieved in a vacuum. We all have to learn from the past and know the latest research on these animals. The Rhino Resource Center plays a pivotal role in making all available knowledge available. The RRC sponsored the meeting by providing flashdrives with pertinent publications on Sumatran rhinos as well as other species, for the participants to use in their project proposals and initiatives. There is no conservation without communication.



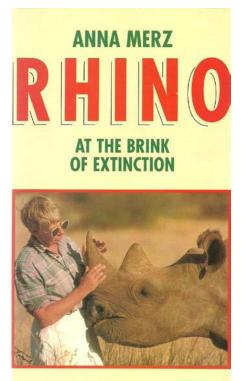


ANNA MERZ, RHINO PROTAGONIST, PASSES AT 81 YEARS

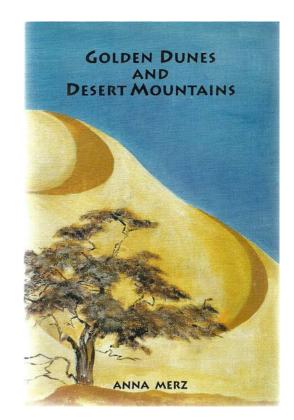
In the night of Thursday 4 April 2013, we received a phone call in the middle of the night. It was our friend Colin in the Waterberg of South Africa with the sad news that Anna had passed away in a Pretoria hospital after a short illness. It was a great shock to us, because we had the privilege to be counted among her friends. For several years, we had been her neighbour when she lived in the bush on the Palala River, in the area of Melkrivier near Vaalwater. It was a remote place to live, but for Anna it kept her close to the African bush which she had come to love so much. She had shared her home with many animals, birds, and it is well-known that she would take her pack of 13 dogs (at last count) for walks of many hours on the land around her house. She had loved her dogs, and her horses, and of course her rhinos.

Florence Ann Hepburn was born in Radlett, England, on 17 November 1931 and passed away in Pretoria, South Africa on 4 April 2013. Anna had lived in Ghana, before "retiring" to Kenya in 1976 with her second husband karl. Here she had a chance to put her love for wildlife in general and rhinos in particular in action by helping to set up the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary and later Lewa Downs. She raised Samia, a black rhino and put all her energy into increasing her understanding of rhino behaviour. In 19996 she went to live in South Africa, but remained active in the development of Lewa Wildlife Conservancy.

Her obituary in *The Times* of London can be found on the RRC, one of many tributes to her life as an advocate for rhinos.



FOREWORD BY DESMOND MORRIS





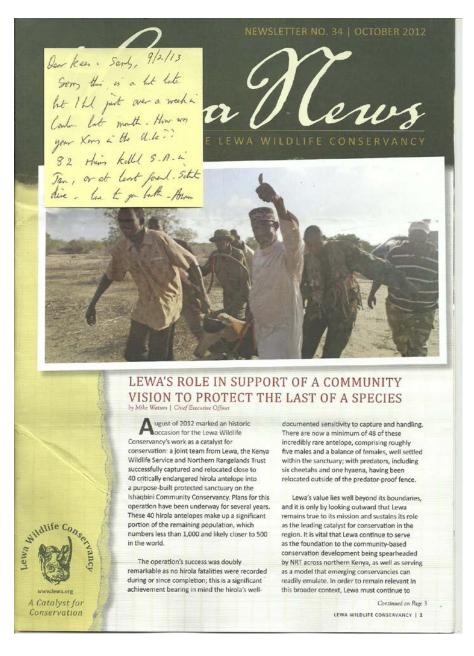
issue no. 31

Anna was a good friend of Sandy and myself, and we will miss her regular handwritten letters and occasional phonecalls. We had the privilege to getto know her better, share holidays and dinners and some celebrations. Every time a rhino was poached, she would be saddened by the loss, and was sad by the inevitability of what was happening around her. But she did her share, and Lewa remained her passion.

Words fail me. Anna will be greatly missed. Let us carry her torch and protect rhinos.

Below is the last newsletter which she always sent us, typically with a handwritten note pasted on it:

"9/2/2013. Dear Kees & Sandy, Sorry this is a bit late but I had just over a week in London last month. How was your Xmas?? 82 rhinos killed in S.A. in Jan, or at least found. Situation dire. Love to you both. Anna."



FACILITATING COMMUNICATION ACROSS DISCIPLINES AND CONTINENTS



VISIT TO ASSAM – MARCH 2013

In March, invited to visit rhino areas in Assam by WWF, I was excited by this sudden opportunity to learn about the challenges of conservation in the field. A day in Kolkata (Calcutta) initiated us into the complex Indian society and environment. It was just a short plane journey to the land of the rhinos, Assam, and after landing at Guwahati airport, we left straight away to the fanous Kaziranga National Park. Established in the early 20th century, when the authorities were sensitive to a threat of diminishing wildlife numbers, the park stretches for many miles between the Brahmaputra River in the north and the 37 National Highway. Kaziranga is a haven for anybody who is interested in seeing rhinos, oobviously because it is just about impossible to miss seeing a group of them on even a short visit. There is good accommodation in a wide price range on the fringe of the park, and good opportunities to ride into the park on an elephant and explore further afield in a jeep.

During this visit, I also had a chance to meet some of the people who had been associated with the parks for a long time to gain some background to the chnages that have occurred over the past fifty years. Of course, rhino numbers in Kaziranga have increased, rather dramatically, over the years. Park officials were busy preparing for the bi-annual census of rhinos in the park, which took place on 24-25 March 2013. According to newspapers reports, a total of 645 adult males and 684 adult females besides sub-adults and cubs were counted. This led to a census result of 2290 rhinos in Kaziranga (in 1999, the figure was 1,672, in 2009 it was 2,048). Poaching remains a threat which takes a constant toll of the population.



Next we visited Pobitora Wildlife Sancturay, s mall 38.8 km^2 reserve, close to Guwahati town and surrounded by 23 villages. Here we met people of the Pobitora Conservation Society, a local group of enthusiasts who are keen animal conservationists. There are many rhinos in the park, who have to share some of the space with cattle that wanders in from outside, as well as cope with a serious drought.



issue no. 31

MAY 2013



Our final leg was to Manas National Park bordered in the north by Bhutan. The rhino population had been totally wiped out by insurgent activity in the area in the 1980s. Recently, under the official Rhino Vision 2020 project, 18 rhinos were brought back to the area from other reserves. We never saw a rhino, but were heartened by the news on 20 March that a calf had been spotted, and soon after we heard that a second calf was born. However, to realise how little scope we have for celebrations, soon after w left we read the sad news that the mother of the baby rhino had been killed by poachers. Steps were immediately taken to ensure the safety of the remaining animals.





issue no. 31



Talking to forest officers, forest guards, journalists, scientists, NGO staff, it was obvious how much pride the people of Assam have in their rhino. It is a state symbol much loved by everybody. <u>Rhino Vision 2020</u> is a program aiming to invcrease rhino numbers in India to a total of 3000, and despite serious setbacks caused by poaching and increased international illegal trade, the target will be reached. There is a great sense of commitment from all concerned which is very heartening.

I wish to thank all those who have contributed to make my stay successful, in no particular order: Pranab Bora, Pankaj Sharma, Rabindra Sharma, Abdul Mazid Ali, Bapkon Das, Uttam Saikia, Mukul Tamuly, Nripen Nath, Ashok Das, Deba Dutta, Nilutpal Kashyap, Kushal K. Sharma, Bijoy Dutta, and of course Christy Williams, and Amit Sharma. Thank you all.







ANNOUNCEMENT OF RHINO RELATED MEETINGS

When you run, you may just catch:

Rhino Mayday, Wednesday 1 May 2013

A day of talks and debates for anyone with an interest in wildlife conservation Rhino Mayday will be held at University College London and the Grant Museum of Zoology, Gower Street, London.

IRKA – WORKSHOP MAY 2013, SAN DIEGO

The International Rhino Keepers Association is organising the 2013 Rhino Keeper Workshop at San Diego Zoo Safari Park, May 5-9, 2013. The conference is now fully booked and we wish all participants a fruitful and exciting meet.



2013 INTERNATIONAL ELEPHANT & RHINO

CONSERVATION & RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

August 26th - 30th, 2013

Presented by the International Elephant Foundation and the International Rhino Foundation. Hosted by the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium

The pressures on wild populations of elephants and rhinos are increasing at an alarming rate. Poachers are killing elephants and rhinos at levels never seen before. Wildlife habitat continues to disappear while human-wildlife conflict increases. Break-through scientific investigation intdisease, nutrition, behavior and reproduction of elephants and rhinos in human care, ambassadors for their species, is contributing to the future survival of wild populations.

We invite elephant and rhino conservationists and researchers from around the world to present conservation projects and research results on field conservation, conflict mitigation, management, health, diseasenutrition, reproduction and behavior at our third joint International Elephant and Rhino Conservation and Research Symposium. Come join us, meet your peers from around the world, share your experiences and best practices, make new friends and develop new professional associations. Visit Pittsburghzoo.org to register or IRF for more information.



issue no. 31



9th International Conference on Behaviour, Physiology and Genetics of Wildlife 18 - 21 September, Berlin, Germany

Please register at <u>https://www.bayceer.uni-bayreuth.de/izw9/</u> or follow the links at the <u>conference website</u>. After registration, you will receive a confirmation by e-mail. Please find information on main topics, plenary speakers and workshop topics <u>here</u>.

Call for abstracts: If you would like to actively participate in the conference with an oral or a poster contribution, we are looking forward to receive your abstract to one of the main topics or workshop topics. Please find further information concerning abstract submission <u>here</u>. Abstract submission deadline: 01st June 2013

Organised by: Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW); http://www.izw-berlin.de

European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA); http://www.eaza.net

Aim of the conference: The aim of this conference is to foster an exchange of ideas between wildlife scientists from different disciplines with an interest in both wild and captive animals (with a focus on mammalian species), and to present the latest advances and stimulate future research in this topic. To this aim, the selected plenary talks and workshops will cover a diverse range of fascinating topics. We are expecting a stimulating programme with many interesting scientific presentations supplemented by an entertaining, yet informative, social programme.

E-mail: symposium@izw-berlin.de





issue no. 31

MAY 2013

OUR SPONSORS

The board and staff of the Rhino Resource Center gratefully acknowledge the support of our two main sponsors, the International Rhino Foundation and SOS Rhino. A generous donation was received from the WWF Areas Programme.



INTERNATIONAL RHINO FOUNDATION



SOS RHINO



WWF AREAS

We receive regular donations from Save the Rhino International and Rhino Carhire.





SAVE THE RHINO

RHINO CARHIRE

We are grateful to all individuals who donate to the RRC to show their appreciation of our work.

Thank you very much.

The Rhino Resource Center is a registered charity. We need your assistance to provide our service to all rhino lovers worldwide.

FACILITATING COMMUNICATION ACROSS DISCIPLINES AND CONTINENTS



issue no. 31

CONTENTS OF THE RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

The development of the Rhino Resource Center is shown in the table here.

RRC	2012 May	2012 August	2012 November	2013 February	2013 May	ANNUAL INCREASE
References	16,850	17,090	17,250	17,473	17,711	+ 861
PDF files	15,520	16,090	16,527	16,928	17,179	+ 1659
Images	2,765	2,915	3,086	3,152	3,202	+ 437
Members				1,613	1,765	

I thank everybody who has helped us by sending copies of books and papers.

All contributions are <u>acknowledged</u> on the website.

DONATIONS TO THE RRC

Good News: - It is now possible to donate directly to the Rhino Resource Center by creditcard or Paypal. The amounts are in Euros: 10 euros = $$13.25 = \pounds 8.15$. All donations, small or big, are a boost to our work. When have found the files you need for your work on the RRC, you can consider donating 10 euros.

DONATE HERE



The Rhino Resource Center is an essential tool for

- Information and image supply to media
- Academic research in biology, conservation studies, art history
- Education in primary, secondary and tertiary levels
- Conservation of rhinos both *in-situ* and *ex-situ*
- Latest information supply of all rhino-related projects
- Information on all the latest conservation efforts
- → All the historical and most current literature.

YES, YOU CAN HELP:

- Authors of books, papers and reports can send us a copy after publication.
- We are always looking for images of all rhinos in books and in the wild
- We aim to include a picture of every rhino ever kept in captivity
- Contribute a message to our blog and get into contact with others
- Place a link on your website to the RRC which will be reciprocated
- Give us a <u>DONATION</u> when you feel the RRC has helped your work.



NEW LITERATURE (finalised 29 April 2013)

In this quarter (February to April 2013), we have added 238 new references, to bring the total number of items in the database to 17,711.

Of these, 17,179 or 95 percent are available as PDF and searchable.

Below I have listed new entries published in the 21st century in four categories: General (all species), African rhinos, Asian rhinos and Fossil rhinos.

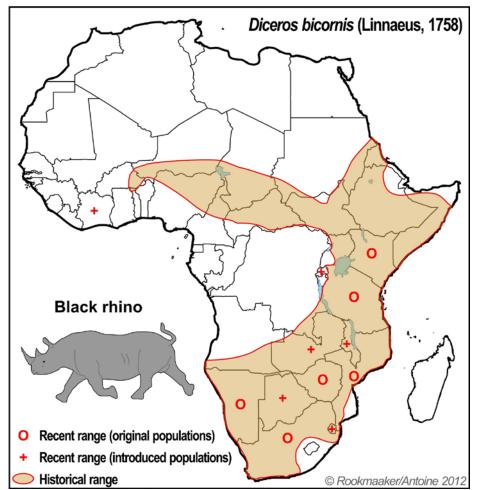
If you are interested in one of these titles, always check the <u>RRC website</u> first, because most are available there.

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issue no. 31



This, and other range maps of African rhino species are <u>now available</u> on the RRC.

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issue no. 31

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issue no. 31

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Unique watercolour by Charles Hamilton Smith. This and other rhino and elephant items available at \$15,000 each. Contact me to express interest.

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NEW PUBLICATIONS ON FOSSIL RHINOS

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Fossil Rhinos - continued

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Mummified Woolly Rhino, Haus der Natur, Salzburg



Fossil Rhinos - continued

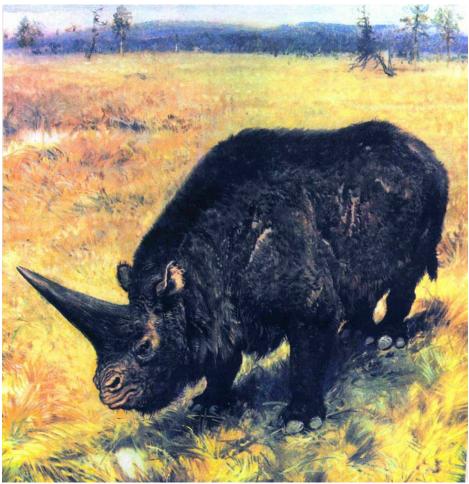
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issue no. 31

MAY 2013

Fossil Rhinos – continued



Artist's impression of a Elasmotherium

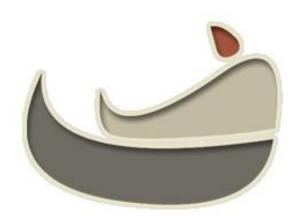
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issue no. 31

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