

# Unite for rhinos

Save the Rhino has just six full-time and one part-time member of staff. Even with the help of our fabulous donors, volunteers and supporters, we can't save the rhino all by ourselves. Instead, we have worked hard to build great relationships with other donor agencies.

**Cathy Dean** | Director, SRI

I hugely enjoy my monthly skype catch-ups with Dr Jo Shaw of WWF-South Africa and Dr Susie Ells of the International Rhino Foundation. Over the past few months, we've discussed many topics, including the practicalities of the next AIRSG meeting, grant reports and proposals for our respective donors, the UK's government's Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge Fund and prospective projects for that, and a number of controversial rhino-related issues that have arisen. One of these, the proposed development of synthetic rhino horn, resulted in a joint statement by the IRF and Save the Rhino criticising the plans.

We also work closely with zoos in the UK and Europe, who want help with channelling their support to rhino conservation efforts in Africa and Asia. With the enthusiastic support of Friederike von Houwald, based at Basel Zoo and Chair of the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria's Rhino Taxon Advisory Group, we have recruited around 25 zoos that raise funds for rhino conservation each year.

We've also recently started liaising with Kira Mileham, the IUCN's Director Specialist Group Partnerships, who will be presenting on in- and ex-situ relationships at various upcoming international conservation meetings, using the African Rhino Specialist Group as the blueprint for successful partnerships.

There are many other organisations with which we discuss our work, whether its news from a particular field programme or choosing which database to support our fundraising, for example, David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, the Royal Foundation, Save African Rhino Foundation, Tusk Trust and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. We can be so much more effective if we unite for rhinos.

© Save the Rhino



Specialist Group focused on:

- Discussing and determining the real numbers needed for the long-term success of the IRV 2020, taking into account the experience in Manas with poaching losses
- Modelling predicted population growth rates and the numbers of rhinos needed to make translocations a success
- Discussing ways to ameliorate known threats as well as unforeseen events

The models created at the workshop suggest that the introduction of additional rhino into Manas National Park would likely not be necessary if poaching could be eliminated over the long-term. As this is unlikely in the near future, translocations would almost certainly be required to substantially increase the Manas rhino population over the next one to two decades. However, translocations can only be successful if poaching pressure is reduced to less than one animal poached every year – which may not be a realistic goal at this time. Until the current intensity of poaching is reduced to zero for several years, the IRV partners will not move more animals to the Park, as this would be an unwise placement of a precious resource.

Burachapori, the next site for IRV 2020 translocations, also once held a significant population of rhinos. In 1955, 41 animals (25 males, 12 females, and one calf of unknown sex) were documented in the area. By the early 1980s, Burachapori was home to more than 70 rhinos. However, in 1983–84, poachers killed more than 40 rhinos within a matter of weeks. The rest of the surviving rhinos fled to safer protected areas nearby, such as Orang and Kaziranga National Parks.

The habitat in Burachapori is still of good quality and can readily support a re-established rhino population, but as population models demonstrate, a new population cannot tolerate poaching. Using lessons learned in Manas, particularly about the importance of round-the-clock, proactive protection, the animals will be contained within a well-protected large (15km<sup>2</sup>) boma in Burachapori for at least 6–12 months before being released into the Park. The IRV 2020 partners plan to move the first six rhinos from Kaziranga later in 2015. Stay tuned!

## Grants

Since October 2014, Save the Rhino has sent £11,043 to IRV 2020, including \$7,500 from SRI Inc. and £1,847 from Chester Zoo for community livelihoods around Manas and Burachapori, and €5,000 from Opel Zoo towards fence costs for Burachapori-Laokhowa Wildlife Sanctuary Complex.





# Rhino Legends

Thank you to all our wonderful fundraisers for their hard work and determination to support Save the Rhino.

Why not make history and find yourself a place on our very own Wall of Fame. Run, swim, bake, sing or dance, whatever you do... do it for rhinos and become a Rhino Legend today.



## The sky's the limit

**Juliet Pierrot** (below) took to the skies to show her support for rhinos, raising over £1,500. Juliet explains why: 'I became aware of the rapid decline in rhino numbers, and the reality hit me that they will become extinct in my lifetime, let alone my future grandchildren's, so I decided I needed to try to make a difference.'



## Assam Rhinos cricket club

This year the London-based Assam Rhinos cricket club (above), chose to support Save the Rhino as their charity.

The team has been busy raising awareness for rhinos and fundraising at their matches and charity dinner. They are set to raise £1,000 by the end of the year.

## Run rhino run

**Jim Higham** (below) took on 13.1 miles in the infamous rhino costume, raising over £2,000.

Jim's top tip when fundraising for rhinos: 'Don't be shy in asking - it turns out there is more love for the rhino than you can possibly imagine and people desperately want you to do well.'





## Off to a running start...

**Christopher Howe** ran the British London 10k Run raising a fantastic £2,900 for rhinos. His highlight was 'the generosity the cause seemed to generate. It made me run faster.' Christopher achieved a time of 46 minutes, putting him in the top 2% of 25,000 runners.



## Blair Drummond Safari Park

Thank you to everyone at Blair Drummond for their commitment to fundraising for rhino conservation. To celebrate World Rhino Day this year, they held a rhino raffle to win a beautiful rhino sculpture by Lesley McKenzie, with proceeds split between Save the Rhino and OSCAP (Outraged SA Citizens Against Poaching).

## Fundraising Files

Handy 'How to' guides—get started straight away with our step-by-step guides filled with everything you need to know to run an event, organise a street party or even break a world record! Download them from our website [www.savetherhino.org/fundraise](http://www.savetherhino.org/fundraise) or contact [events@savetherhino.org](mailto:events@savetherhino.org) for more info.



## Dublin Zoo

Dublin Zoo has been a fantastic supporter of Save the Rhino for many years. As well as donating every year to support the Lowveld Rhino Trust, they have also taken part in annual World Rhino Day celebrations, this year baking yummy cakes (top and above), hosting raffles, a silent auction, selling merchandise and more!



## Trekking to the roof of Africa

**Kris, Hans, Laura and Maartje** (above) from SafariPark Beekse Bergen in the Netherlands climbed Mt Kilimanjaro in aid of Save the Rhino. They have raised an amazing £19,000 so far through zoo fundraising, donations and by selling Save the Rhino wristbands.

Kris says 'As a "ranger" in the safari park I work daily to educate our visitors about how special, important and fragile nature is. Now I wanted to do something more than just talk about the importance of conservation. Climbing Kilimanjaro seemed an excellent way to meet a personal challenge and also to contribute to the survival of rhinos in the wild.'

## Zoo Zlin

Thank you to Zoo Zlin for raising €2,590 for our Help a Ranger, Save a Rhino appeal, with a great exhibit showing our awareness film in front of their rhino enclosure, and collecting funds in a unique carved wooden donation box.



## Woburn Safari Park

A huge thank you to the incredible staff and visitors at Woburn Safari Park, who have supported our Rhino Dog Squad appeal this year by raising £8,000. Woburn have held several fundraising weekends with raffles, lucky-dips, arts and crafts, face-painting, info stands and more!



## It's Just Hair

Thank you to the wonderful **Allison Squance** (right) who shaved her head to fundraise for rhinos.



Allison's highlight of the challenge was the event itself, at which she auctioned off the



right to shave her head at Mkuze Cricket Club to friends and supporters.

Allison raised over £4,000, which we have used to pay for a FLIR for South Africa's Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park.

