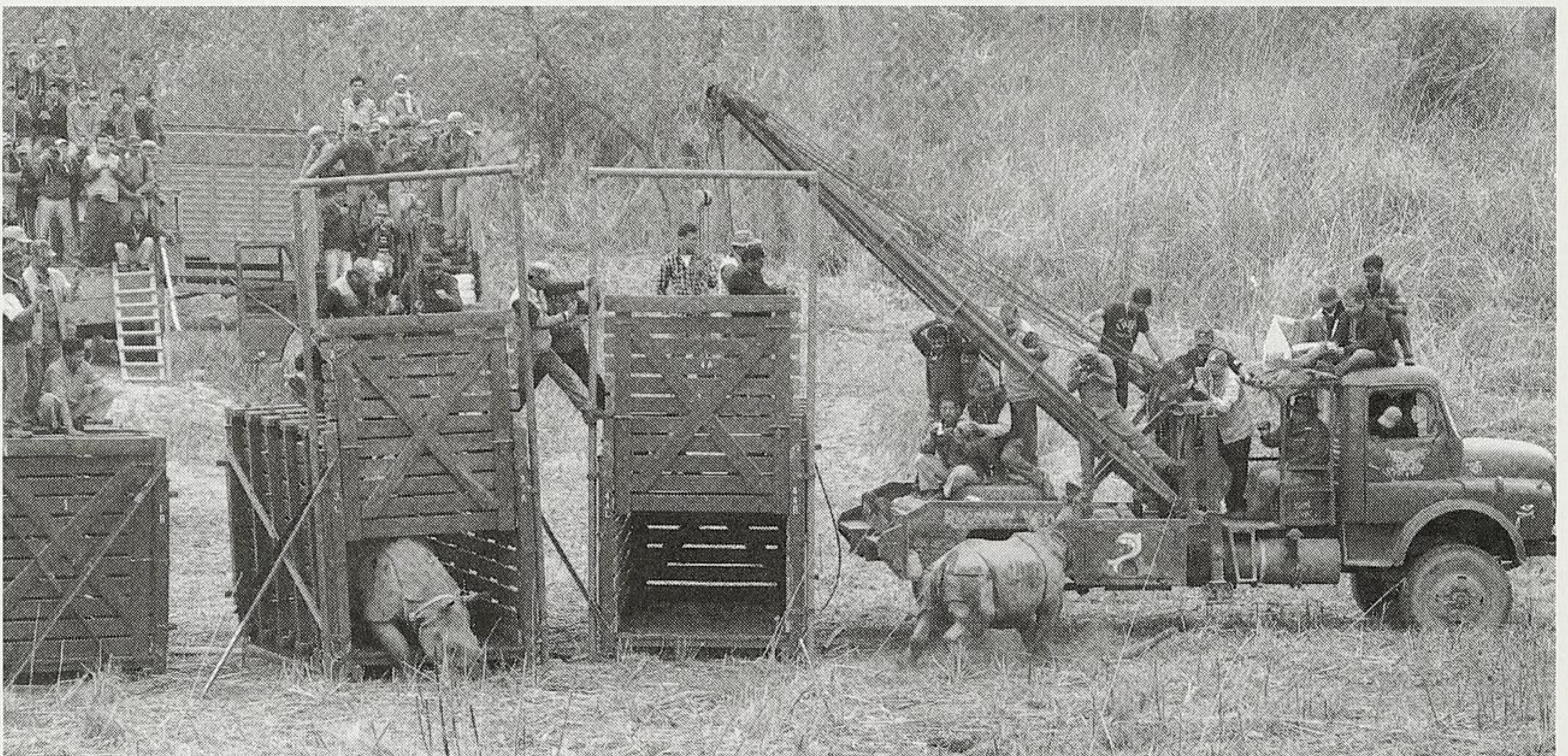


General Announcements

On 19 February 2012, wildlife biologists captured four greater one-horned rhinos (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) in India's Kaziranga National Park and safely transported them to Manas National Park, approximately 50 kilometers away. This operation is part of the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 program, a partnership that includes the government of Assam, the International Rhino Foundation (IRF), the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Bodoland Territorial Council and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The transfer is part of an effort to build the rhino population in the state of Assam to 3,000 animals by the year 2020. Around the turn of the 20th century, the number of greater one-horned rhinos had been reduced to only a few hundred animals due to habitat loss and poaching, but wild populations are now better protected and being managed to re-populate areas in which the species had previously been eradicated.

The four animals moved to Manas (one male and three females) were the first to be taken from Kaziranga. IRF's Asian Program Coordinator, Dr. Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, helped organize and carry out the operation. Rhino captures began in early morning and were completed just after noon. Two of the animals were estimated at 10 years of age and two at about three years of age. Translocation to Manas was done at night to take advantage of cooler temperatures, the slightly unusual caravan of crated pachyderms warranting a police escort. All captured rhinos were fitted with radio transmitters prior to their release so that their movements can be regularly monitored in the months ahead. This was only the second time that the translocation of four rhinos was attempted in a single day, but both transfers have been successful.



Together, India's Kaziranga National Park and Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary currently hold about 75% of the world's greater one-horned rhino population, and thus serve as a source of animals for re-populating other protected areas. Poachers killed the last remaining rhinos in Manas National Park in the 1990s and it wasn't until a few years ago that a return could be attempted. Since 2008, four male and six female rhinos were translocated from Pabitora to Manas.

In addition to Manas, greater one-horned rhinos from Kaziranga will eventually be sent to Laokhawa Wildlife Sanctuary and Dibru-Saikhowa National Park to increase and disperse the number of wild populations as insurance against extinction. For Indian Rhino Vision 2020 to meet its goal, Assam's rhino population will have to increase by about 800 animals over the next eight years, representing a growth rate of approximately 4% per year. This is certainly realistic if translocations and ongoing protection efforts continue to be successful.

Monsoons will arrive in northern India within the next few months and translocation operations will be postponed until late fall. In the interim, we will provide updates regarding the status of India's relocated rhinos. We wish to thank those who have generously supported this initiative, especially the American Association of Zoo Keepers, Amersfoort Zoo, Zoo CERZA, Denver Zoo, Evansville Zoo, Government of Assam, Los Angeles Zoo, Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, San Diego Zoo's Safari Park, Taronga Conservation Society Australia, US Fish and Wildlife Service, WWF-AREAS, WWF-India, and Zoo Basel. *Source: International Rhino Foundation*

Attention All Photographers - AKF Needs Your Photos

Attention all photographers, the *AKF* needs your photos as potential cover photos and special feature photos throughout the issue. All photos need to be high resolution, 300 dpi or greater. All photographers will need to submit a photo release form that can be found at aazk.org/animal-keepers-forum/aazk-photo-model-release-form/. Photos that clearly depict facility logos and behind-the-scenes shots will need permission of the facility to be used.

Subjects for the photos should revolve around animal husbandry, conservation, education/interpretation, professional development, significant achievements in the industry (births, exhibits, staff, etc.), and can also include some of the more humorous or unique situations that we all come across each day in our occupations. Accompanying text with each photo is strongly encouraged.

AAZK Awards Committee Now Accepting Nominations

The AAZK Awards Committee is accepting nominations for the Lifetime Achievement Award, Jean M. Hromadka AAZK Excellence in Animal Care Award, The Lutz Ruhe Meritorious Achievement - AAZK Professional of the Year Award, the Lee Houts Enrichment Excellence Award, the Certificate of Merit for Zoo Keeper Education, the Certificate of Excellence in Exhibit Renovation, the Certificate of Merit in Conservation, the Mazuri Animal Nutrition Award, and the AAZK Chapter of the Year Award that will be presented at the 2012 AAZK Conference in Syracuse, NY. The deadline for nominations is **1 May 2012**. Information concerning the qualifications, nomination procedure, selection procedure, and an explanation of the awards may be obtained at aazk.org/committee/awards-committee/.

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