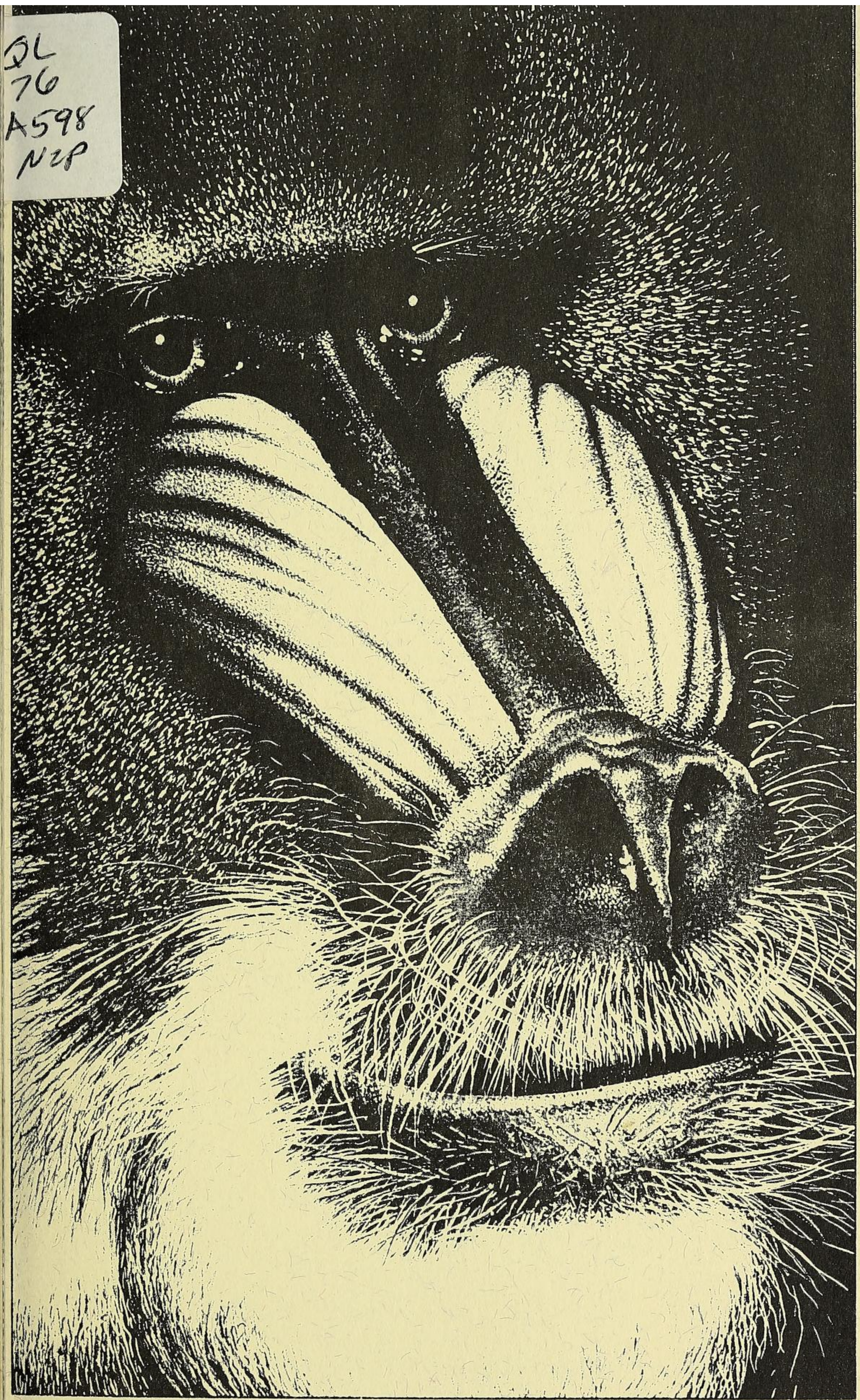


November 1994



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Animal Keepers' Forum

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Information for Contributors

Animal Keepers' Forum publishes original papers and news items of interest to the animal keeping profession. Non-members are welcome to submit articles for consideration.

Articles should be typed or hand-printed and double-spaced. All illustrations, graphs, charts and tables should be clearly marked, in final form, and should fit in a page size **no greater than** 15cm x 25½cm (6" x 10"). Literature used should be cited in the text (Brown, 1986) and alphabetically in final bibliography. Avoid footnotes. Include scientific name of species (as per ISIS) the first time it is used. Thereafter use common name. Use metric system for weights and measurements (standard equivalents may be noted in parenthesis). Use the continental dating system (day-month-year). Times should be listed as per the 24-hour clock (0800, 1630 hrs. etc.). Black and white photos **only** are accepted. Color slides should be converted to black and white prints (minimum size 3" x 5") before submission. Clearly marked captions should accompany photos. Please list photo credit.

Articles sent to *Animal Keepers' Forum* will be reviewed by the editorial staff for publication. Articles of a research or technical nature will be submitted to one or more of the zoo professionals who serve as referees for *AKF*. No commitment is made to the author, but an effort will be made to publish articles as soon as possible. Lengthy articles may be separated into monthly installments at the discretion of the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit material without consultation unless approval is requested in writing by the author. Materials submitted will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Telephone or FAX contributions of late-breaking news or last-minute insertions are accepted as space allows. However, long articles must be sent by U.S. mail. Phone is (913) 272-5821 Ext. 31. FAX (913) 273-1980.

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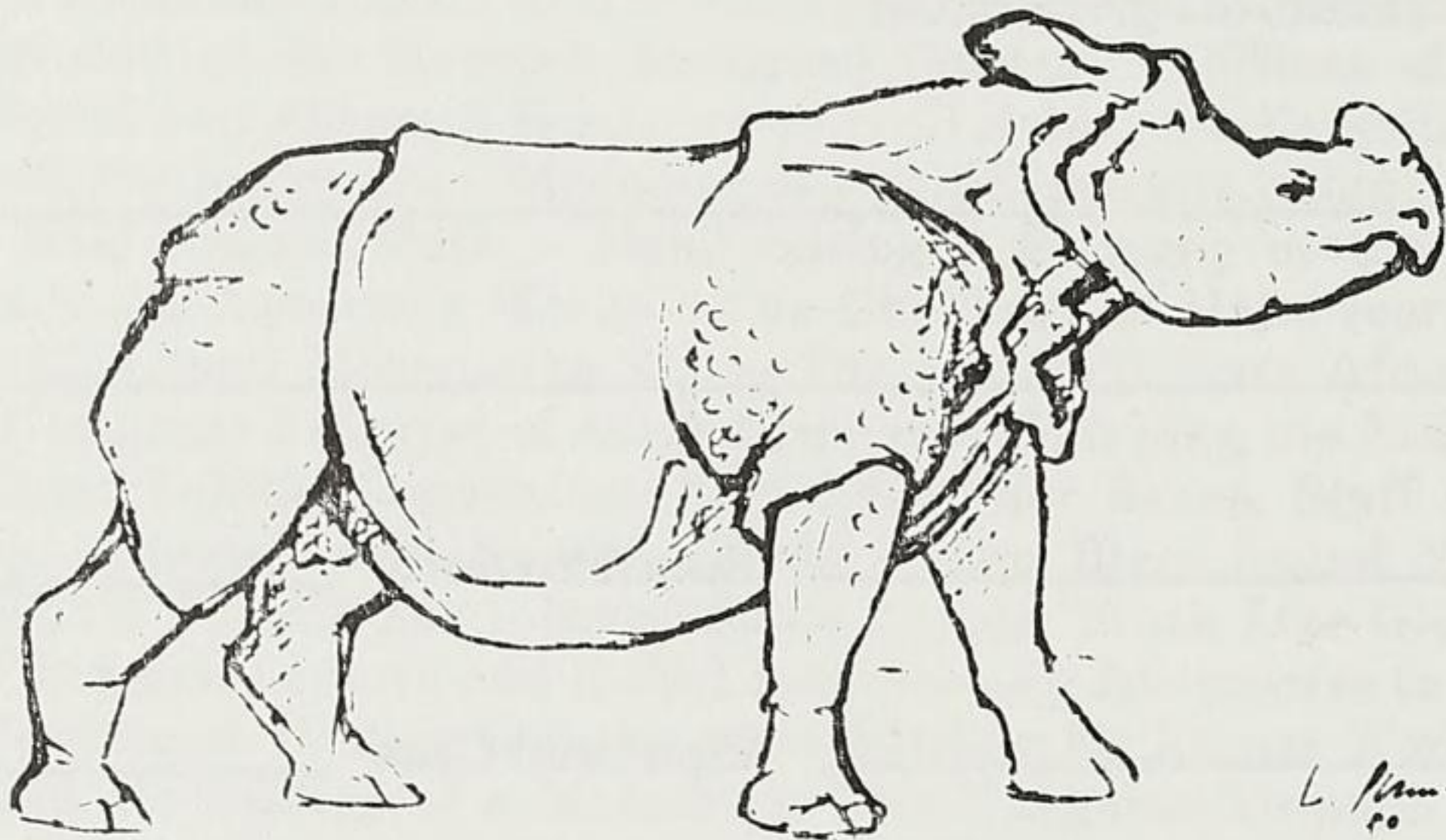
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Saving the Javan Rhino

By
Patty Pearthree, Zoo Keeper
Indianapolis Zoo, Indianapolis, IN
National Coordinator "Bowling for Rhinos"

As National Coordinator for the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK, Inc.) "Bowling for Rhinos" fundraiser, I was given the unique opportunity to visit Ujung Kulon National Park, Java, Indonesia. My task was to investigate the funding needs of the park to be sure it was a worthwhile project for the Association. As a keeper by trade, I have dedicated my life to caring for animals while our communities learn they are worth saving in the wild. It is every keeper's dream to be able to see the animals they care for in the wild and my dream was about to come true.

Zoos throughout the country are saving the Javan rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) by participating in Bowling for Rhinos. Money raised during this fundraiser goes directly to an *in situ* (on location) conservation project which protects the unique and threatened ecosystem of Ujung Kulon, a World Heritage site, and the last refuge of the Javan rhino. In this extremely valuable conservation area, with its wide range of tropical flora, fauna and natural features, first priority is given to the protection and preservation of everything that occurs naturally within the park.



Ujung Kulon is a 300-square-mile National Park on the western tip of Java, Indonesia. This isolated park is home to the last 47 Javan rhinos in the world along with hundreds of other rare plant and animal species. Beyond the risks of natural disaster, genetic problems and disease that all small, isolated populations must face, the threat of poaching still looms large in Ujung Kulon (the Javan tiger was poached to extinction 30 years ago).

The Javan rhino is a very elusive animal and many researchers spend years studying in the field with only a few brief glimpses of the rhino. No zoos in the world have these rare animals. So little is known about the Javan rhino that zoos don't dare take it from its native habitat. Instead, they work to protect the rhino in its own habitat where all its specific needs can be met.

The Javan rhino has become the official symbol of Ujung Kulon National Park. Efforts to protect this flagship species and its habitat will do much more than safeguard a living symbol of this wilderness, they will help preserve one of the most diverse ecosystems in the world. Over 40 mammal species inhabit the park including the Javan rhino, Javan gibbon, leaf monkeys, Javan tree shrew, flying lemur, banteng, wild dog, leopard, binturong, civet, small clawed otter and hairy-nosed otter. More than 250 bird species, many rare reptiles and amphibians including the green sea turtle and saltwater crocodile, and more than 50 rare species of plants inhabit Ujung Kulon.

Saving the Javan Rhino, *Continued*

I found a very primitive people in a park in its infancy with unlimited potential. In Sumatra, the island directly to the west, the Sumatran rhino population has dwindled from 500 to 150 over the last couple of years. Many fear poachers may soon turn to Java. Ujung Kulon park guards need to be trained to deal with these ruthless poachers. Guard posts need to be built in more strategic locations to stop boats from entering the park. Park guards need to be equipped with communications gear (radios and repeaters), surveillance gear (binoculars, cameras, geographical positioning systems, etc.), and survival gear (backpacks, water filter units, canteens, etc.) to ward off these poachers and gather species statistics. Guards also need the support of their government to prosecute these poachers before a carcass is found. Fifteen thousand U.S. dollars can build a fully equipped guard post (this includes well, building, furniture, solar lighting).

Even more important was our presence in the park and its surrounding community. In addition to Dr. Ron Tilson, Conservation Director from the Minnesota Zoo, who is responsible for the Minnesota Zoo's **Adopt-A-Park** program which assists Ujung Kulon, was myself representing AAZK, my husband Herbie (unofficial photographer), and two Minnesota Conservation Officers who were establishing relationships and future projects with the guards of this unique ecosystem. To the guards' disbelief, people from half way around the world were willing to help them save this ecosystem. The friendships established through this experience spread throughout the community and will hopefully last for a lifetime. You can bet the guards are given added incentive to care about the wildlife and are thankful to be able to do so.

My visit allowed me to see how desperately money is needed at Ujung Kulon and the vast potential our money will bring to insure the survival of the Javan rhino. The relationship we began to build with the Indonesian guards is extremely valuable. In cooperation with Ujung Kulon National Park, The Minnesota Zoo, and the Conservation Officers Association of America, we will work to fund three new guard posts, communications equipment, patrol boats and guard equipment over the next couple of years.

After a grueling flight which took us across the international dateline, we left civilization at the Jakarta airport and were driven to Lebuan, Ujung Kulon National Park headquarters. We met with the head of the park, Chief Agoes, and all the park guards. Detailed park needs were discussed and prioritized. Here we also met "Budi", a park guard, who would be our guide and storyteller for the next week. Then we were off on a hour-long bumpy jeep ride through primitive villages and some of the prettiest countryside I have ever seen. The sites were so breathtaking that we barely noticed the bumps in the road even after we had broken off both handles from the doors in our attempt to stay in place on our seats. We arrived in Tamanjaya, a village and main guard post, at dusk. Everywhere we went the Indonesians were there watching these funny Americans with all their camera equipment. They stood in awe of us while we were busily taking pictures to try to convey our sense of wonderment to the folks back home. A dinner of rice, noodles, fish and SPAM™ would bring a close to each day for the next week. We would visit each of the five guard posts by touring the peninsula by boat and trekking through the rainforest or along the beaches.

At dawn we set off on a 38-foot wooden boat around the northern tip of Ujung Kulon to Peucang Island, the site of another guard post. Here we were greeted by crab-eating macaques which lined the beach and watched our every move. As we snorkeled off the white sand beach amongst the coral reef, we realized ours were the only human footprints for miles (our macaque audience continued to sit on the beach). The monkeys later raided our camp, stealing supplies and interrupting our dinner by leaping onto our plates and scattering the rice to a more acceptable location for them - the ground. As we watched the sunset over the rainforest, the rusa deer came out of the clearing to feed and soon we were amongst a hundred deer and monkeys.

The next morning we trekked through the lowland rainforest along the western tip of Ujung Kulon to Ciramea. This is the location of a future guard post overlooking a beach where the endangered green turtle lays its eggs. Ciramea faces southwest into the Indian Ocean and on clear days one can see Sumatra. Back on the boat once more, we headed back to Handeleum Island to stay at the guard post overnight.

Continued on page 404

Opportunity Knocks, *Continued*

ASSISTANT CURATOR OF MARINE MAMMALS.....plans/implements acquisition/disposition, husbandry, training, exhibit maintenance and show presentation protocols for a collection of nine (9) Harbor, Harp and Grey seals. Requires a Bachelor of Science degree, four (4) years' progressively responsible experience and a minimum of one (1) year supervisory experience; demonstrated knowledge and experience in aquarium operations, marine mammal husbandry and behavioral training and knowledge of vertebrate physiology, marine ecosystems, taxonomy and water chemistry. Must have valid driver's license and advanced SCUBA certification. Salary range mid to high \$20,000s. To apply send cover letter with resumé to: Human Resources, The New Jersey State Aquarium at Camden, One Riverside Drive, Camden, NJ 08103-1060.

ANIMAL RECORDS ASSISTANT...maintains records, prepares reports, coordinated animal shipping arrangements and oversees reference library. Requires a degree in biology, zoology or related science, a minimum of one (1) year of administrative experience and knowledge of animal taxonomy, scientific nomenclature, animal husbandry, behavioral data collection and animal record systems is required. Accurate typing skills and experience with data processing and ARKS preferred. Salary mid \$20,000s. To apply send cover letter with resumé to: Human Resources, The Philadelphia Zoo, 3400 Girard Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19104.



Saving the Javan Rhino, *Continued from page 383*

The next morning we ventured up the Cigenter River in dugout canoes through the tropical rainforest. It is this type of river and its wallows that the Javan rhino visit, so we kept our eyes peeled for this elusive animal. We disembarked the canoe to hike into the forest. By the end of the hike, my shirt was soaked with sweat, but my exhaustion was soon forgotten. We discovered day-old rhino tracks of 28 and 14 centimeters in diameter. This was an adult and a young rhino which could only mean one thing - the rhinos are still finding one another and breeding in the park. Mud caked on the trees from the rhino wallowing up the riverbank indicated the animal's height, and partially eaten vegetation with the leaves chewed off with a straight edge was evidence of the rhino's dinner. We considered ourselves lucky that day.

The rest of the trek took us through jungle and coastline visiting current and potential guard posts. At each post, we had the opportunity to speak with the guards about their problems and needs for the area. Our daily encounters included dense rainforest overflowing with animal songs, beautiful white coral-sand and volcanic beach fronts, and wonderfully friendly people.

Our journey brought us half way around the world to see the home of one of the most endangered animals on earth. We met key people, both in the field and in the offices, who would help us save these animals and their splendid habitat. We left with an overall excitement in the fact that thousands of people, separated by thousands of miles, can work together in preserving a biological and ecological time capsule for future generations to enjoy.

(Editor's Note: Under the current arrangement, the first \$100,000 raised by Bowling for Rhinos is designated for the Ngare Sergoi Rhino Sanctuary in Kenya; any funds raised over this amount are earmarked for the Ujung Kulon Javan Rhino project. One hundred percent of funds raised from Bowling for Rhinos goes for rhino protection and conservation. No BFR funds were used for Patty's trip to Indonesia.)

