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Rhinos face continuously changing and intensifying challenges, which makes it more important than ever that the International Rhino Foundation reaches out, makes connections, and builds bridges with partners and supporters throughout the world. We are very grateful to count you as part of our IRF family.

Experience in Africa, India, and Nepal has shown that left alone, and with adequate protection, rhinos can thrive. Unfortunately, under a now-global siege, we cannot just let rhinos do what rhinos do best — be rhinos. In South Africa alone, at least 1,004 rhinos were lost to poaching this year -a 457-fold increase since 2007. The International Rhino Foundation is responding to the situation strategically. Where do we put our limited resources in the face of such an onslaught? How can we bet on the odds that rhinos will survive in some areas but not in others? How can we ensure that rhinos will be around for our children and grandchildren to enjoy?

The IRF traditionally has worked in some of the most difficult places in the world, for better or for worse, and we intend to go the distance. We don't shy away from a challenge or from a fight. And we know you don't either. The stories in this report introduce you to a few of our rhino champions, and highlight some of the important work we are doing as part of our commitment to ensuring that rhinos survive for future generations, including:

Supporting Zimbabwe's Lowveld Rhino Trust to protect and monitor more than three-quarters of that country's black and white rhinos. Despite poaching losses, particularly in 2008-2009, the Lowveld's rhino population continues to rebound and has now become Zimbabwe's stronghold, with 28 births recorded this year.

Creating a new population of greater one-horned rhinos in Assam, India through translocations to areas where rhinos have been extirpated in the past. In Manas National Park in Assam, IRF and Indian Rhino Vision 2020 partners have moved 18 rhinos over the past

# LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

several years, and celebrated 12 births. Sadly, we also lost five animals to poaching just this past year – a total of seven animals killed since the moves began. Indian Rhino Vision 2020 partners have put a halt to translocating more animals to the park until corrective measures, including strengthening park staff performance and relationships with local communities, are put in place. In the meantime, we will take the hard-won lessons from Manas with us as we begin moving animals to a second translocation site, Burachapori Wildlife Sanctuary, in the comina year.

Safeauardina two of the three remaining viable Sumatran rhino populations. The IRF and our partner, the Rhino Foundation of Indonesia, will continue intensive protection in Way Kambas and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Parks, and, within the next few years, begin actively managing these populations in concert with partners, including the Government of Indonesia. These two populations represent at least 65 percent of the remaining 100 animals on Earth. In September, at the first Asian Rhino Range States Meeting, the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Nepal, and Bhutan signed a multi-lateral commitment to utilize integrated strategies to increase Asian rhino populations by at least three percent per year. The International Rhino Foundation stands firm in our commitment: we will not lose this or any other rhino species on our watch.

Rehabilitating 10,000 acres of habitat for Javan rhinos in Indonesia's Ujung Kulon National Park. The newly created Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area was over-run by an invasive palm that, once it takes hold, chokes out the low-growing plants on which lowlanddwelling Javan rhinos feed. Through our partner, the Rhino Foundation of Indonesia, we have hired local community members to selectively clear the invasive Arenga palm from selected plots, which has led to a vibrant regeneration of rhino food plants – and a good number of rhinos frequenting the area.





There are no easy, one-size-fits-all solutions to the grave crisis at hand, and each rhino species faces unique challenges. Because of your support, the IRF can be agile enough to examine and act on encouraging solutions. We remain confident in our ability to deliver state-ofthe-art rhino conservation and will continue to honor our legacy of hard work, passion, optimism, and partnership to ensure our effectiveness.

As we celebrate the small victories, we also recognize that the rhino wars are far from over. We will build on our existing programs as we move ahead in defining the IRF's future. We will aim to amplify our strengths, expand our partnerships, and raise the rhino's profile to create a world in which rhinos can survive well beyond our lifetime.

Thank you again for being part of our community and sharing our message with your family, friends and colleaques.

Gune Uno

John Tubac

Susie Ellis **Executive Director** 

John Lukas President

### STATE OF THE RHINO

### Javan Rhino (Rhinoceros sondaicus) Critically Endangered

#### <44 Probably no more than 44 individuals in the wild – Population stable

Javan rhinos now survive only in Indonesia's Ujung Kulon National Park. The species is believed to have occurred in nine other countries - India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, China and Vietnam — but the last individual recorded outside Indonesia was killed by poachers in Vietnam in 2010. Population estimates for Ujung Kulon National Park are based on field observations by Rhino Protection Units (RPUs), ground surveys, and data from video camera-trap research in 2011. There has been no rhino poaching since Rhino Protection Units (RPUs) were established in the late 1990s. The highest conservation priorities for saving the Javan rhino from extinction include protecting this last remaining population, expanding rhino habitat within the Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area in the eastern portion of Ujung Kulon, and identifying a suitable translocation site within the species' historic range for establishing a second population.

### Sumatran Rhino (Dicerorhinus sumatrensis)

<100 Probably no more than 100 individuals in the wild – Population decreasing

#### Critically Endangered

Rhino specialists now believe that as few as 100 Sumatran rhinos may survive as fragmented populations in Indonesia's Bukit Barisan Selatan, Gunung Leuser and Way Kambas National Parks, as well as in tiny, highly fragmented forests of Sabah, Malaysia. This estimate reflects the loss of isolated populations in Peninsular Malaysia, severely declining numbers in Malaysian Borneo, and the lack of reliable population estimates from northern Sumatra. The only place that wild Sumatran rhino populations may be increasing is Way Kambas National Park in southern Sumatra. Human encroachment of tropical forest habitat and poaching remain the most serious threats. At present, nine animals are maintained in managed breeding programs in the United States, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Greater One-horned Rhino (Rhinoceros unicornis)

>3,300 More than 3,300 individuals in the wild – Population slowly increasing

#### Vulnerable

The greater one-horned rhino population now numbers more than 3,300 animals in India and Nepal, thanks to continued protection and reintroduction efforts, and despite recent increases in poaching activity in northeastern India. The Indian state of Assam remains the stronghold for this species with more than 2,500 rhinos found in Kaziranga, Manas and Orang National Parks, and the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. Just over 250 individuals are also documented from protected areas in the states of Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, and more than 500 greater onehorned rhinos remain in Nepal, the majority in Chitwan National Park. This past year, poachers killed 41 animals in India, but Nepal had no rhino poaching – a record we hope to see repeated for many years!

### Black Rhino (Diceros bicornis)

5,050 Just over 5,000 individuals in the wild — Population slowly increasing

#### Critically Endangered

Black rhinos remain victims of sustained poaching activity, particularly in South Africa, yet their numbers continue to slowly increase despite this ongoing threat. Normal reproduction continues to slightly offset both natural mortality and losses due to poaching, and populations across the species' range remain relatively stable or are slowly increasing thanks to intensive antipoaching efforts. Presently, the species occurs in nine countries: the Republic of South Africa, Namibia, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Swaziland and Botswana. The highest priorities for safeguarding this species are to bolster anti-poaching activities and to maintain intensive monitoring and active management of wild populations.

#### White Rhino (Ceratotherium simum)

20,400 At least 20,400 individuals in the wild — Population slowly increasing despite high poaching pressure

#### Near Threatened

The white rhino is most abundant of the five living rhino species, but also the most seriously threatened by poaching for its horn. Overall, populations have remained relatively stable in the face of increasingly aggressive and sophisticated poaching, but the situation is unsustainable over the long-term. White rhinos presently occur in eight countries — the Republic of South Africa, Namibia, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Swaziland, Uganda and Kenya. South Africa holds more than 90 percent of world population, but is also the country hardest hit by the poaching crisis. In 2013, more than 1,000 rhinos were slaughtered there, the overwhelming majority being white rhinos killed in Kruger National Park by Mozambiquan poachers crossing the shared border with South Africa. The highest priority for ensuring this specie's survival is to step-up protection efforts, especially for the largest remaining populations, and for range country governments to enforce their wildlife crime laws.



## HOW IRF WORKS

Throughout its 23-year history, the International Rhino Foundation has supported and helped to manage rhino conservation projects in Africa and Asia.

IRF programs in Africa are based in the southern part of the continent. In Zimbabwe, our implementing partner, the Lowveld Rhino Trust, monitors more than three-quarters of that country's black and white rhinos in two privately-managed wildlife conservancies. Lowveld Rhino Trust staff regularly track and identify hundreds of rhinos, oversee the occasional de-horning of animals to deter poachers, translocations of rhinos from areas of high threat to safer locations, the treatment of animals injured by poachers, and the rescue and rehabilitation of rhino calves orphaned by poaching. In Zimbabwe and in South Africa, we have supported advanced ranger training and provided much-needed equipment to important rhino areas. In Botswana's Okavango Delta, IRF is working with Wilderness Safaris to create a viable population of the south central black rhino through translocations from South Africa. (The country's black rhino population was extirpated many years ago.)

IRF's Asia programs are centered in India and Indonesia. Indian Rhino Vision 2020 is an ambitious effort to reintroduce greater one-horned rhinos to national parks and wildlife sanctuaries in the northeastern state of Assam where they used to occur. The goal is to build the regional population to more than 3,000 animals in the next seven years. In Indonesia, the IRF works through its local partner, Yayasan Badak Indonesia to conserve the world's two most threatened rhinos – the Sumatran and the Javan. IRF supports Rhino Protection Units in three Indonesian national parks on the islands of Sumatra and Java. These elite anti-poaching units are the backbone of efforts to try to ensure the survival of these critically endangered species.

The International Rhino Foundation is committed to being lean and effective. We work hard to ensure that our precious resources are spent where they are most needed and where they can do the most good. In the US, although our tiny staff works remotely from Virginia, Pennsylvania and Texas, we are in constant contact. Being a 'virtual' organization helps to keep our overhead low and to ensure that majority of funds go directly to the field. Our administrative headquarters is in Fort Worth, Texas, where our financial and legal services are generously donated by Lee M. Bass, a long-time member of our board of directors.









# WHERE IRF WORKS

### INDIA Indian Rhino Vision 2020

### **INDONESIA**

Sumatran Rhino Conservation

### **INDONESIA** Javan Rhino Conservation

Black Rhino Reintroduction

ZIMBABWE Lowveld Rhino Trust (LRT)

### RHINO CONSERVATION IN ZIMBABWE'S LOWVELD

Natasha Anderson (photo right) is the monitoring coordinator for the International Rhino Foundation and Zimbabwe's Lowveld Rhino Trust (LRT). She is responsible for tracking several hundred black and white rhinos in the Bubye Valley and Save Valley Conservancies, which cover about 1.5 million acres and hold most of the country's remaining rhinos. Natasha, of course, doesn't tackle this task alone, but relies on the skills of nearly two dozen skilled trackers who are very much at home in the bush.

Zimbabwe's Lowveld rhino population is slowly growing despite the ever-present threat of poaching in southern Africa, and this growth is directly related to the LRT's operations. These include the individual identification and monitoring of several hundred rhinos, which requires a few dozen routine immobilizations every year, daily tracking and extensive record keeping, sometimes implanting or attaching radio-transmitters, occasionally de-horning rhinos to discourage poaching, treating the unfortunate animals that suffer injuries at the hands of poachers, and translocating animals from areas of high threat to more secure locations.

Teams of seasoned wildlife veterinarians and helicopter and airplane pilots are critical to the success of these complicated operations. In 2013, LRT director Raoul du Toit and Natasha oversaw the drug-darting of 66 rhinos, 46 ear-notchings, four de-hornings, 13 transmitter implants, and 13 translocations, including 10 white rhinos that were moved from the Malilangwe Conservancy to Bubye Valley Conservancy to increase that population's genetic diversity. Only five rhinos required veterinary treatment of poaching wounds, but one was so seriously injured that it could not be saved.

The LRT also had the satisfaction of returning two rhino calves — Bebrave and Long Playing — back to the wild more than a year after they had been rescued and hand-raised. The two young rhinos were released in the Save Valley Conservancy and appear to be adapting well to their new home.

Poaching in the Lowveld region declined again in 2013. Nine black and white rhinos were reported killed in the Bubye Valley and Save Valley Conservancies, and 28 births were recorded.







### **INDIAN RHINO VISION 2020**

Up until only a few years ago, greater one-horned rhinos had been absent from India's Manas National Park for almost a decade. The last remaining animals were slaughtered in the 1990's during a period of civil unrest until IRF and partners began returning animals to Manas from other protected areas in the nation's northeastern state of Assam. The ambitious reintroduction program, Indian Rhino Vision 2020 — a partnership between the Government of Assam, International Rhino Foundation, World Wildlife Fund – India, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bodoland Territorial Council – calls for increasing Assam's rhino numbers to 3,000 by the year 2020, as well as increasing the number of protected areas in which viable populations occur from three to seven.

At the turn of the century in Assam, greater one-horned rhinos remained only in Kaziranga National Park, Orang National Park and the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. Kaziranga alone, with more than 2,300 animals, holds nearly 70 percent of the world population. Manas National Park was chosen as the first of the former habitats to receive reintroduced rhinos, to be followed by the Burachapori, Laokhowa and Dibru Saikhowa Wildlife Sanctuaries.

From 2008 through 2012, IRV 2020 partners translocated 18 rhinos from Kaziranga and Pobitora to Manas. Most of the animals were fitted with radio-collars to help monitor their movements within the national park's nearly 235,000 acres. The first rhino calf in the re-established population arrived on September 2012, followed by nine more last year. Unfortunately, poachers claimed the lives of five adult rhinos last year, including the mothers of two calves, both of which had to be rescued and are now being hand-raised. The recent spate of poaching also brought a temporary halt to translocation efforts, pending a re-assessment of security measures in Manas.

Moving forward, enhanced protection efforts within Manas and an emphasis on community-based programs along the park's periphery will help put this important rhino reintroduction initiative back on track. In addition, planning has already begun to prepare Assam's Burachaopri Wildlife Sanctuary for a rhino translocation in 2014.







# SUMATRAN RHINO SANCTUARY

Dr. Dedi Candra (photo right) is the chief veterinarian for the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS), located in Indonesia's Way Kambas National Park. The SRS is home to five individuals of this critically endangered species: a breeding male (Andalas), three adult females (Ratu, Rosa and Bina), and our pride and joy, calf Andatu, born in 2012 – the first Sumatran rhino ever born in a breeding center in Indonesia.

All five rhinos at the SRS are in excellent health. Each of the adult rhinos has access to a large natural forest enclosure from which they are free to browse native plants that comprise the bulk of their diet. In addition, each morning their keepers provide them with fresh leafy vegetation collected from the surrounding forests and a few local fruit treats. Morning feedings in the animals' pens also offer the best opportunities for taking their weights. Fecal samples are collected regularly, revealing that the animals are not without a number of common gastro-intestinal parasites, but nothing of serious concern. Routine ultrasound exams administered by Dr. Candra help monitor the females' reproductive conditions, information essential to continued breeding at the SRS.

Ratu and her calf, Andatu, continue to be housed together and will be separated sometime in 2014, at which point attempts will be made to pair Ratu with Andalas again. Andalas was paired numerous times with Bina and Rosa in 2013, hoping that they would mate. Introductions with Bina have been encouraging, with both animals engaging in courtship behavior, but no mounting occurred. Andalas did mount Rosa on several occasions last year, but failed to impregnate her. In May 2013, Dr. Terri Roth and a team from the Cincinnati Zoo, with veterinary support from the Taronga Conservation Society Australia, made a special visit to the SRS to collect semen from Andalas. The team collected 80 straws of what they described as the best sperm samples produced by Andalas to-date, which will be used in future artificial insemination efforts.

At the close of 2013, young Andatu tipped the scales at just under half a ton, about 200 pounds less than his mother and approximately 700 pounds less than his father.









## **RHINO PROTECTION UNITS**

Together, Arief Rubianto (photo, above right) and Waladi Isnan (photo, below right) manage 16 Rhino Protection Units (RPUs) stationed in three Indonesian national parks – Bukit Barisan Selatan, Way Kambas and Ujung Kulon. The first two parks harbor more than two-thirds of the world's remaining Sumatran rhinos, while Ujung Kulon is the only place on earth that Javan rhinos now survive. Each four-man RPU team is comprised of three specially-trained personnel managed by the Rhino Foundation of Indonesia (Yayasan Badak Indonesia or YABI) and one armed government ranger. Without their daily patrols and surveys, Indonesia's critically endangered rhinos would not stand a chance against would-be poachers.

Last year was yet another of zero rhino poaching under the watchful eyes of the RPUs. Collectively, the teams covered close to 8,000 miles on patrol, roughly the distance from Cape Town to Cairo and back. In the process, they observed wild Sumatran or Javan rhinos only 13 times – about one day out of each 16 they spend in the field each month. They did detect a trap set for Sumatran rhinos in Way Kambas National Park and detected evidence of two elephants killed in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park last year. Nine poaching suspects were arrested in Way Kambas, five of them for killing sambar, a large native deer.

During the course of their 2013 patrols and surveys, the RPUs recorded all signs of rhinos, including footprints, feces, wallows and evidence of feeding. They also documented the presence of elephants, tigers, tapirs and banteng, and were called upon occasionally to resolve human-elephant conflict situations. Elephants are capable of causing significant damage to human settlements, which is particularly a problem in Bukit Barisan Selatan, as is encroachment by surrounding villagers. RPUs are often called upon to help police dismantle the illegal camps and settlements.

In addition to their enforcement responsibilities, the RPUs also devote considerable time to conservation education programs and scientific research efforts. They routinely give presentations to local Boy Scout troops and community groups, collect fecal samples for genetic studies on both Sumatran and Javan rhinos, and install and monitor camera traps that help wildlife biologists document rhinos and other threatened wildlife species within the parks.







## JAVAN RHINO STUDY AND CONSERVATION AREA

Sectionov (shown opposite on the left) better known to his friends and colleagues as lnov, has been studying the Javan rhino for more than a decade. Still, he has yet to get a good look at a living example of what may be one of earth's most elusive creatures. That situation, however, could very well change in the months ahead.

It's likely that fewer than 50 Javan rhinos survive within Indonesia's Ujung Kulon National Park, the last place on the planet that this critically endangered species survives. The population appears to have climbed as high as 60 and dipped as low as 25 over the last half-century, but a 2011 video camera-trap study captured the images of at least 35 identifiable individuals. Up to that point, the best evidence for their presence came from footprints, dung, wallows and vegetation pruned by the rhinos as they fed.

In 2013, great strides were made toward increasing prime habitat within the national park as part of the newly-created Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area (JRSCA), a 10,000-acre tract of lowland tropical forest that sits on the eastern boundary at the foot of Gunung Honje (Ginger Mountain) on the Ujung Kulon peninsula. Prior to establishing JRSCA, this part of the park was dominated by an invasive plant species (*Arenga obtusifolia*) and frequented by only a couple of rhinos, which do not feed on the palm's leaves or fruits. Following the clearance of nearly 50 experimental plots and the regrowth of native vegetation, Javan rhinos are rediscovering Gunung Honje. By removing the dense canopy of inedible palms, teams of local villagers have promoted the regrowth of other native vegetation, including more than 10 plant species highly favored by the rhinos as food. As a result, in just about a year's time, the number of rhinos utilizing habitat within JRSCA has jumped from two to nine, verified by footprints of the different individuals.

This year, we completed construction of a perimeter fence that will help exclude domestic cattle and protect the rhinos within, as well as construction of a new base camp for the four Rhino Protection Units that patrol Ujung Kulon National Park. Both projects employ dozens of nearby villagers, providing income directly related to wildlife conservation efforts that benefits local stakeholders.









### INTRODUCING A FEW OF OUR SPONSORS

Last year, IRF's Zoo Partners, numbering more than 80 institutions worldwide, contributed a record amount to support field-based rhino conservation projects in Africa and Asia. Funds came from a variety of grants, gifts, and special events, the largest donation being from the American Association of Zookeepers (AAZK) annual fundraising effort — Bowling for Rhinos. In 2013, zookeepers across the United States raised more than \$400,000 — the most in a single year and not very far shy of their \$500,000 goal. Presently, Bowling for Rhinos dollars generate support to protect black and white rhinos in Kenya's Lewa Wildlife Conservancy and to help employ 16 four-man teams in Bukit Barisan Selatan, Way Kambas and Ujung Kulon National Parks — final strongholds for the world's critically endangered Sumatran and Javan rhinos.

For the past few years, the International Rhino Keeper Association (IRKA) has held Cinco de Rhino events and produced calendars to help raise support for Sumatran rhino conservation, including the RPU program and continued operation of Indonesia's Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. Andatu, the first Sumatran rhino born at the Sanctuary, adorned the calendar cover for the second year in a row, this time with his mother, Ratu.

On September 22, all over the world, people celebrate World Rhino Day. Beginning as a grass-roots movement, World Rhino Day provides the opportunity for cause-related organizations, NGOs, zoos, schools, and members of the public to celebrate rhinos in their own unique ways, like these school children (right) in Indonesia, who marched to call attention to the plight of their country's rhinos. This year's World Rhino Day was celebrated in more than 16 countries on four continents. Activities varied from peaceful demonstrations, classroom projects, fundraising dinners, auctions, poster displays, and other creative ways to call attention to the plight of rhinos, including raising funds for the organization or project of their choosing.

Hats off to these and all of IRF's generous donors!







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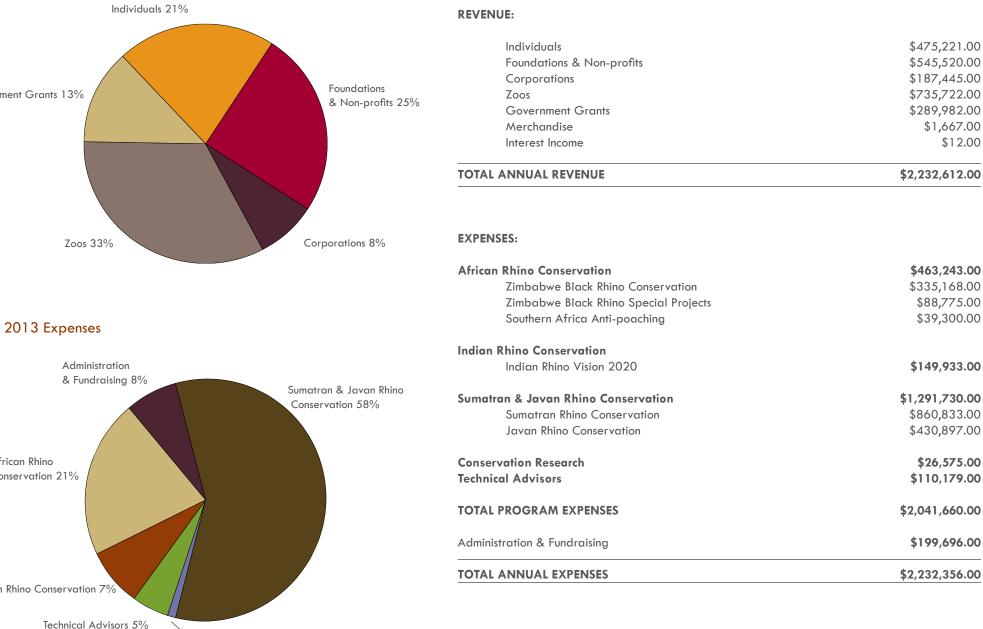
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### 2013 Revenue

Government Grants 13%



Conservation 21%

Indian Rhino Conservation 7

African Rhino

### 2013 FINANCIALS

Conservation Research 1%







International Rhino Foundation 201 Main Street, Suite 2600 Fort Worth TX 76102 USA

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