

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NORTH AMERICAN ZOOS LEAD RHINO CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

As the year comes to a close, the North American Save the Rhinos Campaign reports success with the involvement of over half of the approximately 90 North American zoos that hold rhinos. These zoos are contributing funds to support *in-situ* rhino conservation projects selected by IRF in partnership with AZA's Rhino Advisory Group (RAG). "Our best supporters are the zoo directors, curators and keepers who have cared for rhinos at some point in their careers," says Campaign Manager Julie Dunn.

IRF technical staff on the ground in Africa and Asia oversee *in-situ* program implementation, and work closely with the AZA RAG to develop complementary *ex-situ* rhino breeding and research programs at zoological institutions. Projects benefiting from the Campaign range from anti-poaching patrols and securing of habitat to the latest in veterinary medical care and the breeding and exchange of rhinos internationally. Reports from the field are available via the electronic North American Save the Rhinos Campaign newsletter. Request to receive this quarterly news by contacting nasavetherhinos@cox.net.

To date, 46 zoos have joined the North American Campaign. Approximately half of the funds raised

to date were pledged at the outset of the Campaign, and half have been raised or pledged through Campaign cultivation since January. Three of the participating zoos are located outside North America. About 26 zoos had never contributed to rhino conservation through IRF before. Of the eight zoos making multi-year pledges to the Campaign, all but one are new zoo contributors. The Campaign will continue through 2007, with a goal of 100% participation by all zoos with rhinos by year's end.

The North American Campaign gives zoos an opportunity to plan and implement creative outreach and education activities that generate broad public awareness and support of rhino conservation. These activities have ranged from local "Save the Rhinos" benefit concerts, distributing admission discount coupons, organizing rhino walk-a-thons, car washes, and selling rhino-themed merchandise. Corporate Campaign partner Ecko Unltd. is designing a special Campaign t-shirt that zoos can order and sell at events and in gift shops. Proceeds of Campaign activities and merchandise are donated to IRF in the name of the zoo, bringing recognition for its part in rhino conservation.

The International Rhino Foundation (IRF) welcomes Dr. Susie Ellis, who became Executive Director on 1 December 2006. Susie comes to the IRF from Conservation International (CI),



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where she was Vice President for its Indonesia and Philippines programs for five and a half years. Prior to joining CI, Dr. Ellis served as senior program officer for IUCN's Conservation Breeding Specialist Group for 10 years. She also is well known in the zoo community, having worked for the Minnesota Zoo, Lincoln Park Zoo (Chicago), San Diego Zoo and Sea World of San Diego in various capacities. Susie holds a PhD from the University of California at Davis, and over the past 15 years has led collaborative conservation initiatives in nearly 30 countries, resulting in more than 100 technical papers, proceedings and book chapters.

AZA CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT FUND GRANT APPLICATION GOES ELECTRONIC FOR 2007

The 2007 CEF grant application is now available on the AZA Web site at www.aza.org/ConScience/WhatIsCEF/.

Please note that 2007 marks the first year of electronic CEF submissions, which will reduce paper and postage costs for applicants and streamline the review process. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the new application requirements well before the submission deadline. The deadline for CEF applications is 11:59 pm EDT on 2 April 2006.

As always, we encourage submissions from AZA members working in institutions or organizations of all sizes and for projects focusing on any and all topics related to *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation and animal management, research, conservation education, animal health, animal welfare, and more. To learn more about CEF, please visit the AZA Web site or contact cef@aza.org.

