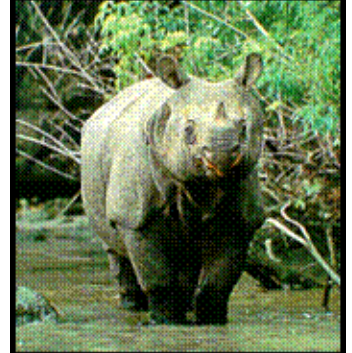


Asian Rhino Project  
**Annual Report**  
**2005-2006**



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## **Director's Report**

Welcome to our 2nd annual report and to our 3rd year of incorporation. This year has been a massive year both for the Incorporation and for rhino conservation!

Several exciting announcements were made during the past year including a third pregnancy at the Cincinnati Zoo Sumatran Rhino Facility in the USA, numerous RPU sightings of Sumatran Rhino in Borneo which have also been captured on camera and recorded on video, Sumatran rhino calf tracks in Borneo, as well as 4 separate Javan rhino calf tracks in Ujung Kulon National Park, Java. These announcements are encouraging evidence that we can save these species if we act now. The ARP congratulates all NGOs and Governments involved for their great efforts in rhinoceros conservation.

The ARP has had a full restructure with my recent move to the Northern Territory which has seen a National Committee formed along with two sub committees (Western Australia and Victoria). This year has also seen the ARP gain Deductible Gift Recipient status, the establishment of credit card facilities and also registration as an Australian Registered Body allowing us to operate in any state of Australia.

The ARP is proud to have developed many new projects through partnerships with NGOs in the field. To name a few, rhino surveys, funding Javan rhino protection units in Vietnam, rhino relocation, and the establishment of an Australian specialist veterinary support team. We have participated in multiple international conservation workshops, conferences and meetings and recently, I have been invited to sit on two new committees – the Indonesian Rhino Foundation and the IUCN Asian Rhino Specialist Group.

Our fundraising efforts this year were much improved including a large event - Bowling for Rhinos which saw fundraising efforts reach across Australia and New Zealand raising just over \$8,000 for the ARP. The website has had a complete makeover and a new fundraising program 'Adopt a Rhino' has been developed.

Of course, none of this could happen without the hard work from the ARP committee, board, patron and individual helpers – for that I am sincerely grateful. A huge thankyou also goes to ARP members whose contributions are invaluable. Thank you!



## Projects

Since its inception the Asian Rhino Project has directed 100% of its funds raised through donations, memberships and sponsorships into projects that assist in the conservation of Asian Rhinos.

### **Investigation into the Illegal Trade in Rhino Horn, India**

Wildlife Trust of India

The Wildlife Trust of India undertook a short study with financial support from the Asian Rhino Project to record the population status and hunting trends of the Indian rhino in last decade (1995-2005).

This study has revealed that poaching in Kaziranga National Park, which is the home to a third of the global population of the Indian rhino, was relatively lower during the period 1995-2005 than in the preceding decade. In Orang National Park, instances of poaching increased somewhat during 1995-2005, while in Pabitora and Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuaries, the situation has not changed much.

Due to large scale poaching during 1986-95, it was assumed that the Indian rhino had become locally extinct from Manas National Park. In 2001, the carcass of an Indian rhino was found inside the park indicating that this animal was surviving in Manas despite the heavy poaching pressure. Very recently, a few individuals of the Indian rhino have been reported inside Manas National Park which suggests the possibility that a few animals may be surviving or have migrated from Bhutan. The overall trend in poaching indicates a decline during the last decade compared to the one before (1986-95).

Information has also revealed that more rhinos were killed during winter when grasses dried up and probably afforded less cover than in other seasons. This clearly indicates that greater emphasis on patrolling should be placed during winter months.

The most common method applied for killing the Indian rhino is gun shot except in Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary where electrocution was often used by poachers, taking advantage of the power transmission line passing through this protected area.

Intelligence gathering by the Forest Department during this period to check trade of rhino horn was much better than 1986-95. Regular operations by the Forest Department and state police have resulted in many seizures of rhino horns,



## Projects

arms and ammunition and other accessory equipments for poaching. Based on the number of fake horns seized, it is assumed that there might be more fakes available than what was previously known. It was believed that the Indian rhino was being killed for its horn only, but recent seizure operations have found a number of rhino skins, teeth and bones as trade items.

The study also found that most rhino areas are understaffed and are usually managed by casual (temporary) staff. The communication equipment available in the rhino habitats is also not up to the mark. The number of mobile hand sets is less than desirable, and in many cases are in a state of disrepair.

However, positive signs show that the population of the Indian rhino is improving in all the rhino bearing habitats. Unfortunately to date, no rhino habitat is free from poaching pressure. Seeing its vulnerability to poaching, a dedicated action towards combating this should be undertaken which may include improved communication mechanisms and trained, well equipped patrol staff.

A significantly enhanced level of rhino poaching in Nepal during the civil unrest of last few years indicates that (a) there is still a market for Asian rhino horns and (b) poaching of rhino increases whenever and wherever protection has declined.

Dr Prabal Sarkar, Field Officer, Wildlife Trust of India.

## **Endangered Species Documentaries**

### Indonesia

#### Wannamedia Lestari Foundation

The Wannamedia Lestari Foundation, proposed a series of three video documentaries about the "flagship" Indonesian endangered species the Javan Rhinoceros, the Babirusa and the Orangutan. The aims of the documentaries are to raise awareness of the growing threat to Indonesia's biodiversity amongst primary schoolchildren, official policy makers and the general public.

The ARP last year pledged \$5,000 to the educational side of this project and advised that we were happy to purchase the equipment required to enable the distribution and presentation of these films. We are awaiting the completion of the rhino documentaries before the equipment will be purchased.



## Projects

### **Avant Card Promotion**

Australia

Avant Card ran a pro bono, 30,000 card ARP promotion worth \$9,000. Special postcards were designed, in the shape of the first Sumatran Rhinoceros calf born at Cincinnati Zoo (Andalas). On the reverse of the card was a paragraph of information about the plight of the Asian rhino species and how people can help. The postcards were distributed to 420 selected Cafes & Restaurants, Cinemas, Clubs / Bars, Community & Art Centres, Galleries / Museums, Hostels, Hotels, Retail Sites, Sports Venues / Gyms, Theatres, Travel Centres, Universities and Education centres around Australia.

At least 30,000 pairs of eyes will see these cards! What a fabulous way to create awareness!

To learn more about Avant Card promotions visit [www.avantcard.com.au](http://www.avantcard.com.au).

### **Javan Rhino Protection Unit**

Vietnam

The ARP has committed two years of funding with the WWF, USFWS, and Netherlands Government Javan rhino conservation project, towards rhino patrolling and monitoring. Over the past 6 years, significant efforts have been implemented to safeguard the remnant Javan Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus annamiticus*) population in Cat Tien National Park – Vietnam. The capacity of the Park has increased, conservation awareness of the local communities raised and detailed plans to resettle people living deep inside the National Park negotiated and formulated.

The conservation status of the Javan Rhino remains unclear. Due to the extremely difficult terrain that the rhinos inhabit, it is extremely difficult to find signs of the rhinos. Also, different survey techniques point to conflicting information; study of field signs indicate that about 3 rhinos are surviving while DNA analysis indicates that there are 6 or 7 animals present. Refined footprint survey analysis techniques deployed in the most recent surveys have indicated even fewer. Based on field evidence it is believed that there are about 3 animals, no more than 5.



## Projects

In the 1980's and early 1990's the local indigenous people had been displaced from lowlands just outside the Park by majority Kinh Vietnamese. Governmental policies favoring the growing of cash-crops (cashew) encouraged these people to replace a fallow period with growing cashew stands thus replacing natural habitat with permanently cultivated land. The operation of these farms and travel in between villages produces considerable disturbance to rhino's habitat. Plans are in place to resettle those who inhabit areas within the most critical parts of the rhino range. These people have agreed to relocate provided they see an improvement in their living conditions. The increased awareness in the project has interestingly resulted in a greater general appreciation by the local people of the forest and animals in their backyard. It has created a sense of pride which in turn enables locals to be of greater direct assistance.

The habitat in which the rhinos remain is very inhospitable. Steep hills, slippery mud, dense rattan and bamboo make this an area which is hard to traverse while rhinos have ample means to remain concealed. Direct observations have never been made by scientists. Only a handful of local people and forest guards have actually seen a rhino.

*The Mission for this Project is:* To improve the conservation status of Javan Rhinos in Cat Tien National Park. The Project consists of five objectives:

1. In 2007, the rhino conservation strategy adapted to new information, experience and opportunities.
2. In two years, the undisturbed rhino range doubled to about 15,000 ha.
3. Adequate protection and biological management of Javan Rhinoceros ensured.
4. Mutually beneficial co-existence between people and Javan Rhinoceros improved through implementation of pilot resettlement of two hamlets.
5. Positive attitude towards Park and its rhinos maintained amongst at least 50% of schoolchildren in the immediate vicinity of the Park.

We are excited to be able to contribute to what may be the last hope for the Vietnamese Javan Rhinoceros and encourage further donations for this project.



## **Projects**

### **Rhino Protection Unit (RPU) Assistance Borneo**

#### **SOS Rhino**

Further RPU support has been forwarded thanks to the support of Karen Rotherham and her fundraising efforts from her 960km trek along the Bibbulmun Track. \$2,397.35 was raised which provided SOS Rhino with a diesel generator, 6 sets of emergency lights and 15 rucksacks.

### **Rhino Protection Unit (RPU) Assistance Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park**

#### **Sumatra**

Two satellite phones were acquired for the RPUs at Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBS), Sumatra in March 2005 to assist in communications within the park. These phones are not only a valuable safety item in the event that someone is hurt and requires evacuation, but also provide the RPU teams with a more secure line of communication within the park regarding rhino and habitat surveillance.

### **Rhino Relocation (Rosa)**

#### **Sumatra**

Using ARP funds a female rhino (Rosa) was relocated from Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBSNP) to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas, Sumatra. Rosa had been protected by the RPU team in BBSNP for 12 months prior to the translocation as she was often found wandering into nearby coffee plantations. This extraordinarily friendly rhino became so accustomed to humans that she ended up wandering further and further from the park. Her last expedition found her missing for 2 months! When she was eventually located she was 50km from the park in the middle of a village. It was decided she needed to be moved to the safety of the sanctuary for her own good. This was funded by Peter Hall and the Asian Rhino Project.



## **Projects**

### **Volunteer Coordinator SOS Rhino**

#### **Tabin Wildlife Reserve Ecotourism Project**

As an important component of the Community Outreach Program, SOS Rhino established a Volunteer Program in 2002. Volunteers travel to Sabah to assist their field staff on rhino surveys in the Tabin Wildlife Reserve by collecting data on the Sumatran rhino and other flora and fauna found in the area. They also help build field camps, teach English to the field staff, and raise funds for the project. Volunteers are introduced to the culture of the people in the area, and have the opportunity to experience, first-hand, a conservation and research program in action. The volunteers then act as agents of conservation by sharing their experience and raising awareness at their workplace, in their schools, and in their communities.

To date, 10 to 30 individuals per year have participated in this program, traveling from the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Ireland, New Zealand and the United States. These individuals come from diverse backgrounds: some are students working toward degrees in veterinary medicine, biology, sociology and international relations; some work in zoos as animal keepers and educators; and some simply pursue their passion of adventure travel. Their length of stay range anywhere from five days to three months.

SOS Rhino reached capacity and the program staff were challenged to complete primary assignments as well as supervise the volunteers. A proposal for support for this program was forwarded to four organisations - the ARP, PATA (Pacific Asia Travel Association) Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service (for vehicles) and the EAZA Rhino Campaign (for equipment). The ARP agreed to fund a volunteer coordinator position to manage the volunteers and take the pressure off the RPU teams and RPU manager. The committed funding is for 1 year which will be reassessed for the following years.



## Projects

### **Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary**

Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra

In the past year, two new rhino have entered the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS) – both females. One was rescued from villages surrounding Way Kambas (Ratu) and the other was a translocation of a rhino (Rosa) who had become humanised after a year of specialised protection in the Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park. Both females are now being housed at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS) in Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra. Preparations are currently taking place for the transfer of Andalas the first born calf at Cincinnati Zoo, also to the SRS.

With the arrival of these rhino, the population at the SRS has doubled. To accommodate all rhino safely and affectively, new paddocks are being constructed within the sanctuary. The ARP has sourced all the electric fencing materials as well as 50 rolls of shade cloth to pin to the fences as a visual barrier. The materials were shipped to Indonesia a few months ago and construction is expected to be completed within the next three months.

Through ARP patron Peter Hall's dedication to saving the Sumatran rhino through science, \$100,000 has been forwarded to the IRF to cover operational costs for the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas NP (SRS) and to part fund a new project called the Rhino Conservation Medicine Program (RCMP). The RCMP extends itself to assist with all species of rhino (Asian and African species) both *in-situ* and *ex-situ* in collaboration with the Fossil Rim Wildlife Centre and Cornell University in the USA. DR Robin Radcliffe coordinates the program, the following is a report from his most recent expedition:

The RCMP began its inaugural trip to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS) in Southeast Sumatra's Lampung Province this year. The SRS is a breeding and research center managed by the International Rhino Foundation (IRF) together with local and international partners for conservation of the Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) and as such is focused on captive propagation of these highly endangered rhinos, research of important health and management concerns, and education. It is hoped that these objectives will help secure the future for these rare forest rhinos and their



## Projects

habitat in cooperation with local people. The SRS is unique from zoological facilities in that managed care of the rhinos occurs in the rainforest where the rhinos live a relatively normal existence in their natural environment, eliminating many of the medical and nutritional problems these animals develop in zoos.

Ratu and Rossa have adjusted well to life at the sanctuary. This RCMP trip was eventful in that both new females were introduced for the first time to the resident male rhino named Torgamba. Based on ultrasound exams – which help the staff determine the best time for pairing the male and female rhinos – both females were mixed with Torgamba. This is a learning process for both staff and rhinos alike as we soon discovered! Ratu's initial pairing with Torgamba was characterized by marked aggression and chasing – a behavior typical of the species when the humans don't mix at the appropriate time. The pair have been mixed again since and mated successfully. This mating is significant given Ratu's apparent young age and Torgamba's improved health condition. Both animals remain unrepresented in the captive population and will be an important genetic contribution if mating proves successful. Next came Rossa. Perhaps as is her nature Rossa was very curious to meet Torgamba; however, he obviously did not share her interest. Torgamba ambled out of his wallow only after hours of coaxing by Rossa and staff alike, only to wander over and give but a passing sniff before returning to his wallow. We could only muse that this is perhaps why the species is becoming extinct!

A major focus of this trip was completion of a comprehensive disease survey surrounding Way Kambas National Park that is contiguous with the rhino sanctuary. The health of the rhinos we now know remains intricately linked with the health of the rainforest environment including the local people and their livestock. In order to better understand this complex relationship and potential risks to the rhinos and other wildlife, we began a detailed disease survey of both domestic and captive wild animals in the region. In close collaboration with IPB Bogor – the local Veterinary College in Indonesia – the team was able to sample 50 elephants, 100 cattle and the 4 rhinos at the sanctuary. The information gathered from this study will be the first major effort to better understand the health risks of the Way Kambas ecosystem, information



## **Projects**

which will not only help us better care for the rhinos at the SRS but will also provide useful information for local people who base their livelihoods on agriculture.

One of the thrills of fieldwork in remote regions of the world is experiencing new sights, sounds and smells. In Indonesia these experiences are sure to include encounters with the diverse animal and plant life of the rainforest such as the amazing insects. Others include immersion into diverse cultures – new foods, customs and ways of life. Together with my two students on this trip, Laura Stokes-Greene of Ohio State University and Erin Goodrich of Cornell University, we began language courses with the local SRS staff. Twice each week we learned to write and read the local language, Bahasa Indonesian, along with the keeper staff as they learned English. The lessons made for a real cross-cultural experience for all involved and in the end improved communication between staff and visitors alike.

*Robin W. Radcliffe, DVM, DACZM Rhino Conservation Medicine Scientist, IRF, FRWC, CUCVM*

### **Rhino Survey**

Kerinci Seblat National Park, Sumatra  
Approximately 30 zoos and wildlife parks from around Australia and New Zealand took part in a national bowling for rhinos fundraiser last year, organised by the ASZK (Australasian Society of Zookeepers) and the Asian Rhino Project.

The Asian Rhino Project received \$8,075 from the total funds of \$16000 raised through the event - what a mighty effort by Zoo staff, friends and volunteers!

A special thanks to everyone involved – especially event coordinators Penny Cooper and Natalie Dunn for all their help. It wasn't easy, but together we did a great job and what a fantastic outcome! The Asian Rhino Project funds are being used to support an important Sumatran rhino survey in the Kerinci National Park in Sumatra.

The survey will be funded through a partnership between the Asian Rhino Project, the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE), Fauna and Flora International-Indonesia Programm (FFI) and Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP) Management.



## Projects

At 13,300km<sup>2</sup>, Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP) spans four provinces (South Sumatra, Jambi, Bengkulu, Jambi and West Sumatra) and is the largest protected area on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. The vast tracts of primary rainforest inside KSNP that continue outside of the national park borders contain high levels of biodiversity, which has led to KSNP being designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an ASEAN Heritage Site.

In the 1980s, KSNP was considered as one of the most important protected area for conservation of the Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*), with some sources suggesting a possible population of up to 300 animals on the basis of habitat. The rhino population estimates now are drastically low (fewer than 50). However, there remain many unconfirmed reports of Sumatran rhino sightings and we are still hopeful.

This survey aims to conduct a series of rapid field surveys over two months, the majority for 10 days or more, in an almost entirely data-deficient core area of the Eastern (Jambi) Block in KSNP. It is this forest block where it is believed a small but potentially significant population of Sumatran rhino may survive.

This area is under imminent threat from road building plans and mounting pressure to clear this forest for oil palm plantations and small scale farmland, which seeks to exploit possible road building activities. Only with the field survey data can well informed management strategies be developed for the conservation of this critical area that is also home to tigers, elephants and the thought to be extinct ground cuckoo. The primary purpose of this proposal is to confirm whether a population of rhinos does indeed survive in a remote core forest area in the KSNP Eastern Block and, if so, offer preliminary recommendations for subsequent conservation action.

The Asian Rhino Project has been asked to provide almost half of the funding for this survey which amounts to AU\$8000. We are delighted to be a part of this project not only for the interests of a potential rhino population, but also in the hope that data collected will assist in the conservation of this important habitat for all of the species which reside there. We wish the FFI and DICE teams all the very best of luck.



## Projects

### **ARP Specialist Veterinary Support Team**

One of the outcomes of our visit to Indonesia in March 2006 was the identification of the benefits of developing a contact list of veterinarians within Australia (with rhino knowledge and experience) who would be willing and able to provide assistance to the SRS programs as required. Given our close physical proximity to SE Asia, including similar time zones compared to places like the US; Australia has the advantage of being able to respond quickly to emergencies, at a considerably reduced cost.

To date we have had replies from two suitably experienced veterinarians - Dr Tim Portas and Dr Benn Bryant from Western Plains Zoo in Dubbo, NSW as well as Karen Payne from Perth Zoo.

The primary responsibility for these positions would be to assist Robin Radcliffe and the SRS veterinarians in an advisory role for the Sumatran rhino conservation programs in Way Kambas with teaching and consultation responsibilities. Below are a few examples of what sort of assistance we would be looking to provide:

- To assist in transferring specialist skills from Australian veterinarians to the Asian veterinarians in ARP supported projects.
- To provide emergency back up in the event of a medical emergency such as disease outbreak, serious injury or illness to rhino.
- To provide back-up support for Asian veterinarians to allow them to participate in exchange programs.
- To assist or carry out special research projects such as diet, reproductive, and disease.
- Provide the capacity to respond rapidly with experienced veterinary help in the case of emergencies (disease outbreaks, injured/trapped animals, rescued animals requiring reproductive assessments, animal relocation/translocation, etc.).
- Assist and advise with strategies to monitor and safeguard health of captive and wild rhino in Asia.

The veterinarians will not be limited solely to the Way Kambas SRS rhino. Whilst they are visiting ARP projects the rhino will be their first priority however, within this program they will have the support to apply their skills to other wildlife conservation programs with whom the ARP would see fit to support.



## Cancelled Projects

### **Indian Rhino Project, Dudhwa National Park**

Nepal  
SOS Rhino

The ARP committed \$2,000AU to the Dudhwa project however this project never eventuated. The funds pledged for this project were therefore transferred to the SOS Rhino Volunteer Coordinator position (see update on page 9).

### **Rhino Rescue, Kerinci Seblat National Park**

Sumatra, Indonesia  
International Rhino Foundation and Partners

According to the IUCN Action Plan for Asian Rhinos, Kerinci Seblat National Park once held a large number of Sumatran Rhino estimated at 250-500 with a carrying capacity of 500-1,000 in 1989. Now, the numbers are devastating! There was estimated to be a mere 3 or 4 rhino left in the park, all of which are not only in grave danger of poaching, but are severely fragmented!

Attempts were made to capture these remaining rhino and relocate them to the safety of the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas National Park. The project funded by the ARP with the assistance of Peter Hall was sadly unsuccessful and called off because no traces of rhino were found and it was therefore deduced that they had been exterminated from the area.

### **PhD Opportunity in Wildlife Conservation**

Asian Rhino Project and Murdoch University

The ARP and Murdoch University last year offered a PhD scholarship program to provide the opportunity for the successful student to embark on rhino research which may assist in conservation of these species. It was decided that the PhD opportunity should no longer be pursued as we have identified that funding would be better spent on funding a specialist wild animal veterinarian to work in the field (see ARP Veterinary Support Team pg 14). We would like to thank Murdoch University for their support and dedication to the project.



## **International Meetings**

### **IRF Board Meeting**

Kerry Crosbie attended this meeting held in Florida, USA. The two day workshop was spent updating members and partners on IRF projects and operations. Kerry presented an overview of the Asian Rhino Project and their partnership with the International Rhino Foundation. ARP Patron Peter Hall was voted onto the IRF Board and Kerry was identified as his alternate.

A day after the workshop was spent re-capping ARP/IRF projects with Tom Foose, Nico van Strien and Dr Terri Roth. Topics discussed were PhD opportunities, Rosa and Ratu rescue, grant opportunities and issues facing Way Kambas National Park and the destruction/land encroachment there.

Kerry spent a day in Chicago on the way home with Cindy Salopek from SOS Rhino. Cindy and Kerry went through plans to do a joint presentation at the International Congress of Zookeepers in May 2006 (see pg 27). They also discussed in depth the volunteer coordinators position for SOS Rhino Borneo and also prospects for future Borneo Rhino Challenges.

### **Indonesian Rhino Conservation Strategy Workshop**

Local government authorities, Park Officers, Park Rangers, RPU Officers, as well as local and international NGOs were all present at this meeting. Updates were given on each National Park followed by a revision of the 12 year old, 1991 "Indonesian Rhinoceros Conservation Strategy". The new action plan will span from the present up until 2010 and will be reevaluated every two years. A specialist Rhino Task Force has been formed and will be responsible for the implementation of the new action plan. It is intended that the task force will work to get the Indonesian President to acknowledge the action plan during his speech at their National Plant and Animal day held on the 5 November 2006.

#### **Summary of discussions on Sumatran Rhino**

- Poaching of Sumatran Rhino in Indonesia has been reduced/controlled and although still a significant risk; it is no longer the primary threat to the rhino within the protected areas.



### International Meetings

- Human encroachment within the parks is the primary threat to rhino with forces reluctant to remove the encroachers due to riots and conflict issues threatening the law enforcer's lives and those of their families. It seems the only way to remove the encroachers is involve the military and then provide several guard posts surrounding the parks. This can only be carried out by the Indonesian Government and is accompanied by obvious humanitarian issues.
- Illegal logging is still a serious problem and is likely to be linked to the encroachment.
- Forest Rangers are reported to be inefficient due to lack of political will. Park rangers are disgruntled and as a result are reported to be lacking motivation. Rhino Protection Units (RPU) are funded and supported by NGOs and are seen to be better paid, have better workplace support and better conditions resulting in more efficient protection of rhinos. Incentives and motivational support is required for the government employed forest Rangers.
- The Kerinci Seblat NP rhino rescue has been cancelled due to **no evidence of rhino** what so ever. It is feared they have all been poached and the population is now a devastating zero! The remainder of patron Peter Hall's funding for the rescue has been allocated to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary operational budget.
- Bukit Tiga Puluh NP (central Sumatra) has been added to the new action plan as a possible site for relocations and rhino populations. It has been suggested by the Tiger and Orangutan NGOs that there were obvious signs of rhino five years ago and that there may be rhino still remaining deep within the heart of the park. This park has recently had exciting developments thanks to the success of tiger and orangutan operations within the area seeing the park growing rather than reducing in size. Rhino surveys have been suggested.
- Discussions were also held on securing sites in Kalimantan (Borneo) for the reintroduction of rhino. Possible trans border options may be explored with Sabah included in action plan.



## International Meetings

### **Summary of discussions on Javan Rhino**

- Ujung Kulon NP is reported to be well protected and there are no real poaching, encroachment or logging issues there at present. The population however has stagnated and may have reached carrying capacity.
- Competition with Banteng populations for food has been identified as an issue and suggestions have been made for a relocation program for some Banteng. Note: Banteng in Indonesia are endangered, but within Ujung Kulon they are thriving because the park is so well protected and also due to their main predator, the Javan Tiger becoming extinct.
- It was recognized that a second population of Javan rhino should be formed, with Gunung Halimun NP near Bogor as the preferred site. Further research and surveys were requested though and it would not appear that any rhino would be moved until 2009-10. Rhinos were last found in Gunung Halimun in the 1920's.

### **Global Management Propagation Board (GMPB)**

#### Sumatran Rhinoceros

Kerry Crosbie was voted onto the GMPB when it was formed in 2005. Kerry attended another of these board meetings which was scheduled to run back to back with the Indonesian Rhino Conservation Workshop above. The GMPB board works to:

- Recommend and decide on the management of the global captive Sumatran rhino population as a truly global population – maximising options for reproduction and to improve the vitality and viability of the program.
- Prepare and facilitate exchange of animals between all locations involved for the purpose of the program.
- Facilitate the exchange of experience and transfer of knowledge.

The board continues to play an important role in the captive management of the species.



## International Meetings

### **Additional Meetings at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary**

Additional meetings were also held after the above two meetings between the International Rhino Foundation, Yayasan Mitra Rhino and the Asian Rhino Project at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas National Park. The agenda included discussions on joint ventures on veterinary assistance to the SRS, a mobile education unit and the acquisition of a property outside the national park "Gatot's Place" for a possible rescue/rehabilitation centre and other eco-tourism opportunities.

Carly Palmer and Karen Payne (ARP committee member and Perth Zoo veterinarian) attended the additional meetings at the SRS to assist in discussions on the veterinary and research aspects.



## Fundraising and Growth Branching Out

The ARP has moved into a new phase as Kerry and her husband Gary made their move to the top end mid February. Since the move Kerry has been back to working on a voluntary basis (since December 2005) but is still fulfilling the same role as Administrative Officer, Project Director and Chairperson. The ARP now has three offices – NT, WA and Victorian with the head office in the NT.

The ARP National Committee and sub-committees have been formed as follows:

### **National Committee**

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Chairperson & Project Director       | Kerry Crosbie                                       |
| Vice Chairperson & WA Branch Manager | Clare Campbell                                      |
| Secretary                            | <b>VACANT</b>                                       |
| Acting Treasurer                     | Petra Hancock                                       |
| Victorian Branch Manager             | Brooke Squires                                      |
| Grants                               | Carly Palmer  |
| Fundraising                          | <b>VACANT</b>                                       |
| Board of Management                  | Kerry Crosbie<br>Andrew Thompson<br>Nicholas Duncan |

### **Western Australian Branch Sub-committee**

|                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Chairperson & Branch Manager | Clare Campbell    |
| Secretary                    | Martina ter Steeg |
| Treasurer                    | Petra Hancock     |
| Merchandise                  | Holly Thompson    |
| Rhino Adoptions Manager      | Emma Gatehouse    |

### **Victorian Branch Sub-committee**

|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Chairperson & Branch Manager | Brooke Squires  |
| Secretary                    | Donna Livermore |
| Treasurer                    | Kelly Hobbs     |
| Merchandise                  | Kylie Bawden    |

### **Volunteer Positions**

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Memberships     | Rae Joy           |
| Website Manager | Daniel Scarparolo |



## Fundraising and Growth

### Deductible Gift Recipient

The Asian Rhino Project received notice of our successful registration on the Registrar of Environmental Organisations on 4 October 2005. This means that we have been registered as a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) and allows donations over \$2 to the "Asian Rhino Conservation Fund" to be tax deducted.

Now that we have this status, we are hopeful that it will encourage regular donations to the project assisting us in our fundraising efforts. If you know of local businesses or individuals who might be interested in supporting us (big or small), we would love to hear from you.

### Australian Registered Body

The ARP has registered the organisation as an Australian Registered Body. We received the registration as of the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2005 thanks to the assistance of lawyers at Mallesons Stephen Jaques who provided the ARP with valuable pro bono assistance in the application process.

By becoming an Australian Registered Body we are now able to operate within any state in Australia. Special thanks has to go to Lorenzo Pacitti who handled our case and was very patient with our often delayed responses due to other work commitments and Kerry's travel – thank you.



## Fundraising and Growth Memberships

Rae Joy

The Asian Rhino Project now has a total of 119 members. Of these members, 71 are from Western Australia, 38 from interstate and 10 reside overseas. We have welcomed 20 new members since our last AGM but unfortunately 13 members have let their membership lapse.

Our members are a vital part of raising awareness and providing support for the three Asian rhino species. Our quarterly newsletters enable us to spread the news about the plight of the rhinos and the great work the Asian Rhino Project and its volunteers are doing to conserve the species. Word of mouth through our members is often the best form of advertising, and the best way to reach out to others in the community. Thanks to those of you who have signed up friends and colleagues or encouraged them to join.

The cost for memberships is currently \$25 a year with discounts for taking out a 3 or 5 year membership. Almost 50% of our members have joined or renewed for 3 or 5 years. This also helps rhino conservation by reducing our costs in mailing out renewal and reminder notices. Members receive a quarterly newsletter as well as updates and discounts to various fundraising functions. We encourage our members to take up the option of receiving newsletters via email to conserve paper and save on administration funds. (75% of our members have taken this option – thank you). We understand that this is not an option for everyone and it is possible to receive the newsletter in hard copy.

The Asian Rhino Project is required by law to have no less than 50 members at any given time, in order to be eligible for tax deductibility status. We encourage our members to renew their memberships as soon as possible, not only to keep our membership above this level, but to help save the administration funds that are required for paper and stamps for reminder notices. Rae Joy has done a fantastic job as volunteer membership coordinator and will continue in this role in the coming year. She encourages feedback at any time on how the renewal process can be streamlined. She can be contacted at [memberships@asianrhinos.org.au](mailto:memberships@asianrhinos.org.au).



## Fundraising and Growth Rhino Adoption Program

A great gift just in time for Christmas! You can help us help save the Sumatran rhino by adopting a rhino today.

Two rhino have been bred in captivity in the past 6 years with a third on the way. These adorable calves were born at Cincinnati Zoo in the USA as part of a global breeding program for the species. With so many of the wild Sumatran Rhino populations in areas of suitable habitat facing imminent poaching danger, we are forced to resort to the establishment of secure healthy captive populations in sanctuaries. Here, they are better protected and provide insurance for the survival of the species. With the recent success of the Cincinnati breeding program, scientists feel they have learnt a lot more about this species and its captive requirements. This new breeding success has brought hope and demonstrated a real potential for future captive breeding success.

Breeding Sumatran Rhinos can be risky as they can become very aggressive when paired if the female is not receptive. The Sumatran Rhino are believed to be induced ovulators, meaning that they will only ovulate when mated. The scientists at Cincinnati Zoo have found that by monitoring progesterone levels and conducting regular ultrasound procedures to monitor follicle growth, they were able to pin point the precise time to introduce the pair for mating. The usual tell-tale signs of rhino oestrus are not as visual as other species and very hard to detect through behavioral changes. These rhino are also very solitary animals, and are only compatible when the female is in full oestrus. If this oestrus is not detected at the right time, the breeding will not be successful and the rhino can be injured.

You can adopt for 6 or 12 months. Funds raised by this program will be used to support the vital rhino breeding program. To find out more please contact Kerry on [kerry.crosbie@asianrhinos.org.au](mailto:kerry.crosbie@asianrhinos.org.au) or by calling 08 89760952 or visit our web site [www.asianrhinos.org.au](http://www.asianrhinos.org.au) to download a form.



## Fundraising and Growth

### Events

Petra Hancock

#### **Q – Zar Laser Games**

In July 2005, Q – Zar in Fremantle, WA was bombarded by 30 odd ARP members, their friends and family, all eager to try laser gaming. A great time was had by all as the four teams pitted their skills against each other, the object being to 'tag' opposing team members with a laser beam. You could pick the professionals from the first timers – the old pros came dressed head to toe in black clothing!!

#### **Bowling for Rhinos**

By far the biggest event the Asian Rhino project has held so far. This was a nation wide, simultaneously held event that involved 30 zoos and wildlife parks from around Australia and New Zealand. Organised by Penny Cooper of Sea World and Natalie Dunn of Taronga Zoo, the event last year (Bowling for Bilbys) raised about \$20,000 and this time round, \$16,000 + was raised for the rhinos. It was a fantastic event with about 50 people here in Perth taking part. Despite the cold conditions and threatening rain, play didn't wrap up until about 10.30pm that night, with many of the South Perth Lawn Bowling club (the location) members taking part. The club also coached the players, donated prizes and ran a playoff at the end of the night. The final amount donated to the ARP was \$8,075.

#### **Fremantle Prison Ghost tour**

This sell out event was the first event for the ARP in 2006. Hugely popular, the ghost tour of Fremantle Prison had everyone on their toes and the hairs rising on the back of their necks. There have been many requests for another tour for those who missed out...watch this space!

#### **Rock Climbing for Rhinos**

Once again, these nights have proved to be a steady reliable fundraiser event for the ARP. Many thanks to 'The Hangout' in Bayswater for their continued support and patience in coaching the many first timers.



## Fundraising and Growth Professional Presentations

### **Volunteers in Zoos Conference**

Invited by the Perth Zoo Docent Association, the host of the conference, Kerry represented conservation projects that Perth Zoo's volunteers and staff had founded and are heavily involved with being the:

- Asian Rhino Project
- Painted Dog Conservation Inc
- Australian Orangutan Project
- Silvery Gibbon Project
- Zoo Peru

A brief overview of all five projects was given along with a special tribute forwarding special thanks to Perth Zoo's Docent Association for all their support.

### **Australian Society of Zookeepers**

Kerry attended this conference along with 56 other delegates from a variety of zoo's, parks, aquariums, conservation organisations and associated businesses. She represented both the Asian Rhino Project and Perth Zoo and was awarded best paper for her presentation on Perth Zoo's rhino training manual.

The Asian Rhino Project was greatly received and supported by all who attended the conference and as a result the decided to support us in last years major fundraising event (ASZK Bowling for Asian Rhinos) which raised just over \$8,000 for the ARP.

### **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Annual Conference of South East Asia Zoo Association (SEAZA) and the Australasian Region Association of Zoos Parks and Aquariums (ARAZPA)**

Back to back with the ASZK Conference, Kerry also presented both papers at this conference. The Asian Rhino Project paper was similar to the one presented at the ASZK which focused on keepers in conservation and the formation of the organisation. It too had focus on the rhinos, our projects, and keeper involvement; but also had a particular focus on our structure, partnerships and funding. The aim of this presentation was to provide the 250 delegates of this conference, from CEOs to keepers, with a better understanding of the Asian Rhino Project and the great work we do.



**Fundraising and Growth**  
**SOS RHINO Community Based Conservation of  
the Sumatran Rhino of Borneo**

Dr Nan Schaffer founder and president of SOS Rhino visited Perth after attending both the ASZK and ARAZPA conferences in Melbourne on a whirl wind promotional tour in Australia. Up close and personal, presenting from her lap top screen after many disastrous technical difficulties, Nan discussed SOS Rhino's work in Sabah, Malaysian Borneo as well as the conservation efforts focusing on the protection and expansion of Sumatran rhino populations in Borneo. Nan discussed the importance of community based projects and awareness events to the sustainability of conservation programs. She thanked the participants in the audience of the 2004 Borneo Rhino Challenge and invited others not only to the 2006 event, but to join the volunteer program. It was a great night for all who attended and shared in Nan's experiences in rhinoceros conservation. Big thanks to Perth Zoo for allowing us to use their facilities once again to hold this special lecture.

**Asian Rhinos on the Brink of Extinction Lecture**

Presented in the Kim Beazley Lecture Theatre, Kerry presented to interested students on the plight of the Asian rhinos, the conservation efforts to save them and how they can help. This was a great opportunity to promote our joint PhD opportunity in rhinoceros research as well as provide the students with the tools to help these critically endangered animals. A great deal of interest was shown towards SOS Rhino's volunteer program in Borneo. The Volunteer program in Borneo is a great opportunity for students to not only contribute their expertise and time to a worthy project, but also for them to gain valuable experience in in-situ conservation which will assist in their studies.

**Hunter Hall Investment Management Limited  
and Grant Thornton**

Upon her return from the 2005 USA trip and the IRF Board meeting (pg 16), Kerry stopped off in NSW and took the opportunity to present to the crew at Hunter Hall Investment Management Limited as well as our pro bono auditors at Grant Thornton Services. Both presentations were well received and offered great opportunities for the supporting Pro Bono organisations to better understand the valuable work we are doing.



## **Fundraising and Growth**

### **Murdoch University Wildlife Association Project Bonanza**

The Western Australian ARP sub-committee took part in a conservation presentation night, along with the Australian Orangutan Project, African Painted Dog Project and Project Sun Bear in March 06. The event was organised through the Murdoch University Wildlife Association (M.U.W.A) and held in the Kim Beazley lecture theatre at Murdoch, WA. It was Clare, Holly and Carly's first Asian Rhino Presentation and as expected, the night went extremely well! Martina set up a stall to show off our merchandise and offer membership forms.

All profits made through M.U.W.A were divided between all four organisations and the ARP received a cheque for \$250. This is a real credit to the newly established M.U.W.A. It is great to see more and more people learning and contributing to these important conservation projects.

### **Asian Rhino Project ARAZPA Display**

March was a busy month for the WA branch who also held a display at the 2006 ARAZPA (Australasian Regional Association of Zoos Parks and Aquariums) conference. Memberships and merchandise were on offer and a display of 7 newly designed ARP educational posters were proudly presented.

### **The Training and Conditioning Workshop**

The ARP set up a stall at the Australasian Training and Conditioning Workshop and did a steady trade in memberships and merchandise as well as increasing our identity to the zoo community.

### **International Congress of Zookeepers Conference**

Cindy Salopek from SOS Rhino and Kerry Crosbie from the ARP co-presented a paper at the International Congress of Zookeepers in May 2006 on the QLD gold coast. Unfortunately Kerry had to cancel her attendance at the last minute and Cindy was left to hold the fort. The aim of the talk was to advise how keepers really can make a difference to *in-situ* conservation using examples of the ARP founded by Zookeepers, participants in the volunteer programs and the success of the 2004 Borneo Rhino Challenge. All reports came back that it was well received. Special thanks to Cindy for presenting.



## Fundraising and Growth

### Website

Daniel Scarparolo

At the start of 2006 the ARP website underwent a major transformation—navigation and the overall look and feel being the major changes. More information was added about ARP's projects and about the Project itself, giving visitors to the site a greater understanding of what we're about. The profiling of membership pages has increased, along with more photos and an enhanced 'rhino news' page to provide more information of the 'wins' and 'losses' for rhinoceros conservation around the world.

We have room to expand and over the coming months and years we hope to see the website move into an exciting phase with more interactivity and providing greater service to our users, including the addition of online memberships and donations.



**Treasurers Report**

**Asian Rhino Project Incorporation  
Account Summary 2005-2006**

**Balance Brought Forward = \$32,866.77**

| Items               | Credit           | Debit            |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Donations           | 569.77           | 0.00             |
| Events              | 2,205.00         | 963.38           |
| Merchandise         | 1,131.00         | 2,678.34         |
| Donated Merchandise | 888.40           | 0.00             |
| Confect             | 2,113.60         | 1,248.13         |
| Membership          | 3,860.00         | Administration   |
| Administration      | 0.00             | 1,265.12         |
| Employee            | 0.00             | 13,897.19        |
| Travel              | 0.00             | 5,695.24         |
| Project Funding     | 17,537.61        | 19,420.05        |
| Bank Credit/Fee     | 120.00           | 296.20           |
| Other               | 2,626.00         | 3,059.00         |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>31,051.38</b> | <b>48,522.65</b> |

**Closing Balance = \$15,415.50**

Note: \$20 was banked but has not been accounted for in September 05

**Asian Rhino Conservation Fund  
Account Summary 2005-2006**

**Balance Brought Forward = \$20,529.88**

| Items           | Credit            | Debit             |
|-----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Donations       | 153,789.08        | 0.00              |
| Project Funding | 0.00              | 114,908.47        |
| Bank Credit/Fee | 2,100.35          | 65.00             |
| Other           | 2,510.00          | 2,510.00          |
| <b>Totals</b>   | <b>158,399.43</b> | <b>117,483.47</b> |

**Closing Balance = \$61,445.84**

Note: at the time of writing the audited accounts had not yet been finalised. This information is a summary of the 05/06 account records. Please contact us if you would like copies of the audited accounts [info@asianrhinos.org.au](mailto:info@asianrhinos.org.au) .



## Special Thanks

The ARP has seen some exciting developments and continued growth over the past year. This would not have been achieved without the dedication of many individuals and groups as well as the continued support of our funding members. Thanks to each and every one of you; your assistance big or small has been invaluable!

A special thanks to the following members (in no particular order) for outstanding commitment to the ARP:

- **Grant Thornton NSW** for Pro Bono assistance completing ARP Auditing. Cathy Li in particular has been outstanding in her commitment to our audit providing us with valuable feedback and advice.
- **Mallesons Stephen Jaques** for Pro Bono assistance. Lorenzo Pacitti who handled our case and was very patient with our often delayed responses due to other work commitments and travel – thank you.
- **Peter Hall** and **Hunter Hall Investment Management Limited** for continued generous donations and support. Peter and Hunter Hall have been instrumental in the growth of the ARP and the ongoing commitments to Sumatran rhino conservation in Indonesia. Their generosity is astounding and critical for the future of the species. Hunter Hall also helps us with our financial bookkeeping – thanks to Paula Ferrao, Steven Schofield and Sara Drake who manage this.
- **International Rhino Foundation** for continued support and guidance to the ARP. In particular Nico van Strien, Terri Roth and Tom Foose and Robin Radcliffe who have always been quick to respond to queries, provided regular updates and “kept us in the loop”.
- **Photographers** David Jenike/Cincinnati Zoo, Alain Compost, Brooke Squires, Terri Roth, Karen Payne, Robin Radcliffe, Nico van Strien, International Rhino Foundation, Clare Campbell, Jeff Holland, Marcell Adi, and Kerry Crosbie for the free use of their rare photos. These pictures are a great tool for raising awareness and promoting the rhinos. Without them we would only be able to tell ½ a story!
- **Avant Cards** for their Pro Bono postcard promotion. In particular Claire Black and her crew who handled our case and designed these fantastic cards.



### Special Thanks

- **Perth Zoo** for continued support for the ARP. Perth Zoo and the ARP have a memorandum of understanding (MOU) which allows us to use their facilities for functions, behind the scenes tours, links to websites, free passes, and animal paintings. Perth Zoo staff have been a great support and continue to make up a large portion of our committees.
- **Perth Zoo Docents** for continued support, donations and stationary. The docent association has been an important support network for the ARP and is always keen to help at a moments notice.
- **Tony Alcock** for his continued support volunteering time for Zoo based ARP functions and kind donation of much needed stationary.
- **Karen Payne** for assisting with grant applications and the kind donation of a printer. Karen has also been assisting us with the veterinary specialist program in Way Kambas, coordinating a team of Australian specialist veterinarians to assist in the rhino program.
- **Marc Bowden** for his continued support, passion and generous ongoing monthly donations. Marc recently donated a lap top computer and has been actively involved in Sumatran rhino conservation for the past two years. He continues to contribute his time and energy to the plight of the Bornean sub-species. Well done!
- **Mary Norris** for the donation of a fax machine.
- **Karen Rotherham** for always being there to help. Karen often steps in at functions and events to sell tickets, take photos, set up and clean up.
- **Dick Norris** for the donation of a paper cutter.
- **Chris Jones** for continued lump sum donations.
- **Ursula Beaton** for her continued support and tireless hours spent on formatting ARP newsletters.
- **Rae Joy** the ARP membership coordinator. Rae has taken on more responsibility in this role this year and now distributes all ARP newsletters on top of keeping membership registers up to date and processing memberships. This role is quite intensive – thanks Rae!
- **Daniel Scarparolo** for the new look ARP website. Daniel designed this website with little input required from the ARP committee. He continues to keep it up to date with news articles, new projects and ARP documents.



### **Special Thanks**

- **Australasian Society of Zookeepers** for the joint fundraising event "Bowling for Rhinos". Particular thanks go to event coordinators Penny Cooper and Natalie Dunn for all their help. It wasn't easy, but together we did a great job and what a fantastic outcome!
- **SOS Rhino** for the co presentation of '*Keepers' Contribution to Sumatran Rhino Conservation in Borneo*' paper at the International Congress of Zookeepers. Special thanks goes to Cindy Salopek for holding the fort and presenting on her own when Kerry had to cancel her attendance at the last minute.

**Thank You!**

### **Asian Rhino Project**

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