

Garamba its World Heritage status. It would guarantee the continued commitment to Garamba of donors who justified their input because of these rhinos and who would be forced to withdraw their support if all the rhinos in the park were allowed to die. ICCN welcomed the option, and members of the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group did all the background research and evaluation. They documented methods to provide ICCN with the full details to present to the Ministry of Environment.

Although it was hoped that the increase in in situ support would render such action unnecessary, the survey in November 2004, which could find only four rhinos in the park with possible but unknown numbers outside, caused alarm. A diplomatic mission to Kinshasa in January 2005 met with a very positive response from most parties, and Vice President Yerodia announced that all four of the vice presidents and the president himself were in favour of a temporary rescue translocation of five of the rhinos. Funds were made available from sources other than those supporting the park and therefore in no way did this project detract from support to the park.

However, certain parties were canvassing against the move for political reasons, and a televised debate on the issue was held with the general public. With elections looming and government positions unstable the government was swung by misinformed public opinion, and the minister of Environment chose not to sign the protocol of agreement that ICCN and partners, including UNESCO and IUCN, had drawn up. Conservateurs and directors were arrested; the director of ICCN was heavily criticized as were the project partners. The work of the trainers in Garamba was stopped by misinformed personnel, and finally the annual planning meeting for the conservation of the park was stopped because threats from local

groups made the conservateur feel that holding the meeting would be too dangerous. The coalition of donor supporters requested ICCN to take action to rectify the situation and a meeting of the World Heritage Commission of UNESCO passed a motion that Garamba would lose its World Heritage status if the rhinos became extinct in situ.

Much positive action has ensued, and the African Parks Foundation, with management rights, is now bringing major support to Garamba, which we hope will turn the tide. Intensive surveys under the auspices of IUCN/SSC and African Parks are planned for early 2006 to consider the range of values leading to World Heritage status, the rhinos, elephants and giraffes, and the park itself. The aftermath and longer-term effects of wars have proved harder to deal with than the wars themselves, but all possible is being done to ensure that the second largest and the most endangered land mammal does not become extinct.

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Save the Rhinos—when the European zoo community fights for their survival

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Rhinos have been chosen as the new subject for the 2005/06 campaign of the European Association of

Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA). Launched at the beginning of September, this year-long campaign aims to



raise awareness and money for rhino conservation projects in the field. Save the Rhino International, a UK-registered charity, is working with EAZA as the official European partner of the campaign and many of its 297 members all around Europe to develop what we hope will be a very successful event for all rhinos. At the same time, thanks to EAZA, the International Rhino Foundation (IRF) is running a North American campaign, in partnership with the American Zoo and Aquarium Association's Rhino Advisory Group / Species Survival Plans and Ecco United. The North American Save the Rhinos Campaign will launch publicly in January 2006.

Save the Rhinos, the EAZA Rhino Campaign 2005/06 has two main objectives: to involve as many members as possible in raising awareness and in developing educational activities; and to raise money to fund in situ rhino conservation projects.

A campaign core group, chaired by Nick Lindsay of the Zoological Society of London (ZSL), has set a target of 350,000 euros. One hundred per cent of the funds raised will be allocated to 13 selected in situ rhino conservation projects in Africa and Asia. Selecting those

13 projects out of the 53 proposals we had received has not been easy. Some factors we thought were particularly important. Would the project deliver an increase in rhino numbers? Would it build local capacity? Is it endorsed by local NGOs or organizations like AfRSG or AsRSG? Is it part of a national plan? We also considered whether a grant from the campaign would make a significant difference and would deliver value for money. We were truly fortunate to receive help from people like Richard Emslie and Nico van Strien from both Specialist Groups, from Tom Foose and July Dunn (IRF) and Evan Blumer (American Rhino Tag).

Because we received many very good project proposals, we have not only 13 on the selected list but also a further 8 on a waiting list (see list below). These waiting-list projects will be funded if we are fortunate enough to raise more than our goal.

An information pack has been given to all EAZA members to help them prepare their campaign. This 164-page document contains general information on the five rhino species, the threats affecting their survival, and the work of in situ conservation projects through anti-poaching and monitoring patrols, environmental edu

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Diceros bicornis michaeli, Masai Mara Game Reserve, Kenya.



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Southern white rhino baby with its mother at Nakuru National Park, Kenya.

... cation programmes, community-based conservation and biological management; it also has a section on awareness, education and fund-raising. Naturally, there are details of the projects that have been selected. Many of the best rhino specialists have contributed to the pack.

Projects

Africa

1. Rhino monitoring equipment for Kenyan National Parks
2. Environmental education programme at the Laikipia Wildlife Forum, Kenya
3. Re-establishment of black rhino, Zambia
4. Lifting crane for rhino capture truck, Zimbabwe
5. Rhino translocation equipment, Namibia
6. Hluhluwe Game Reserve EAZA rhino security equipment, South Africa
7. Rhino horn-fingerprinting project

Asia

8. Combating the illegal trade in and demand for rhino horn in Yemen
9. Indian rhino vision 2020
10. Conservation of rhino in India and strategy framework to reduce rhino poaching in range countries
11. Rhino protection units for Javan and Sumatran rhinos in Indonesia
12. Establishing two additional rhino protection units, Sabah, Malaysia
13. Enhanced community outreach programme, Sabah, Malaysia

EAZA members also received a CD-ROM containing all this information, together with logos and pictures to illustrate any documents produced to promote the campaign. Some CD-ROMs will be sent to zoos in rhino range countries in Africa and Asia; others will be sent to rhino-using countries such as China and Yemen.

The campaign also has its own rhino merchandise, developed by the suppliers with the recommendations of the core group. The items are now being sold in zoo shops with royalties and a percentage of the proceeds going to the campaign.

Finally, the EAZA website (www.eaza.net) carries general information for the participating institutions; while a special campaign website has been created

(www.rhinocampaign.net) for the general public. They provide regular updates and suggest ways that people can contribute and participate. This last website (in different languages already) will have sections translated into other European languages soon.

Projects on the waiting list

1. Protecting a remnant black rhino population in the Chyulu Hills, Kenya
2. Assistance for maintenance and upkeep of the sanctuary and the rhinos held at the Mkomazi Game Reserve, Tanzania
3. Conservation work at the Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy, Zimbabwe
4. Training and employment of further rhino monitors for the SADC Rhino Monitoring Unit, Zimbabwe
5. Conservation of the black rhino population of the western Kunene Region, Namibia
6. Nutritional ecology of black rhinos and its effect on carrying capacity and breeding performance, Africa
7. Partial support of AfRSG Secretariat and/or the next AfRSG meeting
8. Security personnel incentive scheme, Kenyan Association of Private-land Rhino Sanctuaries

If you work for a non-EAZA institution or NGO and want to participate in the campaign, please contact: EAZA conservation campaign coordinator, email: corinne.bos@nvdzoos.nl