

In situ rhino conservation programmes: Fundraising priorities
Prepared June 2009, by Cathy Dean, Director, Save the Rhino International

Save the Rhino works with 15 field programmes in Africa and Asia on a long-term, ongoing basis. Some of these are comparatively well funded, or have a number of long-term donors giving them a reasonable financial security (leaving them out of the list below does not mean that they are not an ongoing priority for SRI). The ones listed below have a particular need for new funders; some may offer opportunities for an exchange of technical or other involvement. We have excellent relationships and communications with all of these field programmes.

I have just given the outline details for each programme, so that Rhino TAG members can get an overview. If anyone is interested in finding out more about any of the programmes, please contact me, and I will be delighted to provide further information:

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Chyulu Hills rhino programme, Kenya

Location: Chyulu Hills, in the north-east of the Tsavo ecosystem

Project leader: Richard Bonham

Project partners: Maasailand Preservation Trust / the Kenya Wildlife Service

Rhino species: Black rhino (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*)

Rhino numbers: a minimum 14

Size of protected area: 926 km²

Activities: Anti-poaching and monitoring patrols, rhino dung DNA analysis, reforestation programme, Predator Compensation Fund, education bursaries and mobile health clinic

Support: We focus on the Game Scout and Rhino programme, helping to pay for salaries, vehicle fuel and running costs, and camping and monitoring equipment

Funding partners: EAZA Rhino Campaign, Chester Zoo (provides funding and GIS training), US Fish and Wildlife Service, Amnéville Zoo, International Rhino Foundation

Current needs: The ongoing costs of the game scout and rhino programme, which costs around 120,000 euros per year. There have been no rhinos poached since 2005, but the game scouts deal with some 400 illegal activities each year (arresting poachers with poisoned bows and arrows, snares etc). The GIS work that Chester Zoo is assisting with will help with planning future patrols, the siting of any additional waterholes, roads, observation posts etc. An annual donation of around 5-10,000 euros would have a significant impact. We visited the Chyulus with Chester Zoo staff in February 2009.

Selous Trust, Tanzania

Location: Selous Game Reserve

Project leaders: Fraser Smith

Project partner: Selous Trust

Rhino species: Black rhino (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*) in the northern sector; possibly *Diceros bicornis minor* south of the Rufiji River

Rhino numbers: ± 19 in the northern sector, approximately 25-40 in the southern sector

Size of protected area: 47,000 km²

Activities: Anti-poaching, monitoring

Support: We help fund the ongoing anti-poaching and monitoring work of the Selous Trust in the

northern sector

Funding partners: Chester Zoo, US Fish and Wildlife Service, International Rhino Foundation

Current needs: The ongoing costs of the rhino monitoring and law enforcement (anti-poaching) programme, which costs approx. 226,000 euros per year. The Board of the Selous Trust is approaching other lodges in the Selous Game Reserve to ask them to help fund the deficit, but in the current recession, this will take time to come into effect. An annual donation of around 10,000 euros would have a significant impact. We visited the Selous in June 2008 and February 2009 with Chester Zoo staff.

North Luangwa Conservation Programme, Zambia

Location: North Luangwa National Park

Project leaders: Ed Sayer and Claire Lewis

Project partners: North Luangwa Conservation Project and the Frankfurt Zoological Society

Rhino numbers: 20 South Central black rhino (*Diceros bicornis minor*)

Size of protected area: 205 km²

Activities: Anti-poaching, monitoring, translocations and environmental education – the Conservation Education Programme

Support: We have helped fund the re-introduction of rhino into North Luangwa National Park by keeping the Sanctuary secure through building infrastructure and providing education programmes for the neighbouring communities

Funding partners: EAZA Rhino Campaign, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund, Frankfurt Zoological Society

Current needs: We have done amazingly well with fundraising for the Conservation Education Programme (USFWS and Disney), which is now funded up until September 2010. However, the priority now is to raise funds for the translocation of the final five rhinos from South Africa in May 2010 (it was planned for May 2009 but had to be postponed because of lack of funds). This involves the action translocation costs (flights, vet expenses etc), but also requires new infrastructure (observation posts, fences) and the training and equipping of additional rangers, provided by the Zambian Wildlife Authority. I will be visiting North Luangwa in October 2009.

Lowveld Rhino Trust, Zimbabwe

Location: Lowveld Conservancies

Project leader: Raoul du Toit

Project partner: Lowveld Rhino Trust

Rhino species: South Central black rhino (*Diceros bicornis minor*) and white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum simum*)

Rhino numbers: 390 black rhino and 140 white rhino

Size of protected area: 755,000 ha covered by the monitoring units

Activities: Monitoring, translocations, education, temporary care for orphan rhino calves

Support: We try to raise what we can for the work of the Lowveld Rhino Trust, whose priority needs include ongoing support for the monitoring units, veterinary treatment, and the development of an intelligence network and legal support

Funding partners: EAZA Rhino Campaign, International Rhino Foundation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, EAZA Rhino Campaign, Save Foundation (Australia), Stuttgart Zoo, Dublin Zoo

Current needs: Thanks to major donations by Stuttgart Zoo (6,000 euros) and Dublin Zoo (2,000 euros) in response to our Crisis Zimbabwe appeal, run in conjunction with the International Rhino Foundation, we will shortly be making a grant of around 11,000 euros to the Lowveld Rhino Trust. The annual translocations/de-hornings taking place in May-June 2009 of around 50-60 animals

have been covered, but we urgently need to raise further funds for the ongoing care of the orphaned rhino calves and, in particular, to pay informer rewards and prosecution costs. No rhino poacher has yet been convicted in Zimbabwe, so Raoul du Toit wants to employ a keen, clean lawyer who will successfully prosecute wildlife crime cases. I last met Raoul in November 2008 and we speak regularly.

Save the Rhino Trust, Namibia

Location: Northwest of Kunene and Erongo Region

Project leader: Rudi Loutit

Project partner: Save the Rhino Trust

Rhino species: South Western black rhino (*Diceros bicornis bicornis*)

Rhino numbers: Confidential, but over 100 animals

Size of protected area: 25,000 km²

Activities: monitoring, translocations, community game guard training, wildlife-based tourism

Support: We focus on Save the Rhino Trust's ongoing core costs (salaries, vehicle running costs etc) as well as on its community game guard training programme, and we recently raised funds for the purchase and installation of solar panels at the main base

Funding partners: EAZA Rhino Campaign, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Ashden Trust, Save Foundation (Australia)

Current needs: Save the Rhino Trust has annual operating costs of around 425,000 euros, to cover staff salaries, vehicle costs (included the camel-based monitoring team), flying time etc. This rhino population is the largest free-ranging population in Africa outside a National Park. The project does a lot of work with local communities, who are getting rhinos for the first time, and need training / capacity building in rhino monitoring techniques. An annual contribution of around 10-20,000 euros would have a significant impact. We send a member of staff to visit the programme each year.

Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Namibia

Location: Primarily Etosha National Park, Waterberg Plateau Park and the Kunene Region

Project leader: Pierre du Preez

Project partner: Ministry of Environment and Tourism

Rhino species: Black rhino (*Diceros bicornis minor*) and white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum simum*)

Rhino numbers: In total, Namibia has 1,435 black rhino and 370 white rhino

Activities: Translocations, community conservation programmes, anti-poaching and monitoring, wildlife-based tourism development

Support: Translocating rhinos from the Kunene Region to other National Parks and communal conservancies, as part of an ongoing biological management programme

Funding partners: EAZA Rhino Campaign, Opel Zoo

Current needs: MET carries out an annual rhino translocation programme, to reduce ecological carrying capacity and to introduce rhino to new areas, as part of its rhino custodianship efforts. For the last three years, Opel Zoo has given 5,000 euros per year (in addition to its initial grant of 35,000 euros through the Campaign), which pays for repairs to the translocation crates and vehicles, and to re-equip the vet's vehicle with drugs etc. Around 5,000 euros a year would be a significant contribution, and there may well be opportunities for veterinary support and exchanges (e.g. ultra-sound training).

Indian Rhino Vision 2020, India

Location: Kaziranga, Orang and Manas National Parks, and Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Assam

Project leader: Bibhab Talukdar in conjunction with other agencies

Project partner: Indian Rhino Vision 2020 is coordinated by the International Rhino Foundation,

WWF-India and the Assam Forest Department, with Aaranyak as one of the key delivery agencies

Rhino species: Greater one-horned rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*)

Rhino numbers: Approximately 2,010, of which 92% are in Kaziranga National Park

Activities: Anti-poaching, monitoring, translocations, community conservation

Support: We focus on Manas National Park, where rhino reintroductions are planned

Funding partners: EAZA Rhino Campaign, International Rhino Foundation, Chester Zoo

Rhino, Stuttgart Zoo

Current needs: At present (June 2009), IRV2020 is behind schedule and we do not propose to send over any further funds until late 2009, once existing grants have been spent. However, a major translocation is planned to Manas National Park in November 2009, and we expect to be asked to help fundraise for ongoing work once the translocation has taken place. We will be visiting Manas National Park in December 2009 and expect to have a much more detailed assessment of needs after that.

Rhino Protection Unit programme, Indonesia

Location: Bukit Barisan Selatan and Way Kambas National Parks in Sumatra and Ujung Kulon National Park in Java

Project leader: Bibhab Talukdar

Project partners: Indonesian Rhino Conservation Programme and the International Rhino Foundation

Rhino species: Sumatran rhinos (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) and Javan rhinos (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*)

Rhino numbers: Approximately 100 Sumatran rhinos and 50 Javan rhinos

Activities: anti-poaching, monitoring, community development and education

Support: We focus on helping to cover the core costs of the Rhino Protection Unit programme in three National Parks, who patrol the protected areas and prosecute illegal activity

Funding partners: EAZA Rhino Campaign, Chester Zoo, International Rhino Foundation, Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation, BBC Wildlife Fund, Silver Jungle Ltd

Current needs: The annual budget for the RPU programme across all three National Parks is approximately 500,000 euros (staff salaries, vehicle fuel and maintenance, equipment etc) with an estimated shortfall of approx. 45,000 euros. An annual contribution of 5-10,000 euros would be extremely useful. The Javan and Sumatran rhinos are the two rarest species (only around 50 and 200 remaining respectively) and conservation of these species must be a high priority. In early 2009, a plan was developed to establish a second population of Javan rhinos (as a safety net should anything go wrong in Ujung Kulon National Park), with habitat surveys underway. Achieving this second population will be a high priority in the next few years.

Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, Indonesia

Location: Way Kambas National Parks in Sumatra

Project leader: Bibhab Talukdar

Project partners: Indonesian Rhino Conservation Programme and the International Rhino Foundation

Rhino species: Sumatran rhinos (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*)

Rhino numbers: 5 Sumatran rhinos

Activities: captive breeding and education

Support: We help raise money to cover the core costs of the Sanctuary: staff salaries, vehicle running costs, veterinary supplies and non-browse nutritional supplements

Funding partners: International Rhino Foundation, Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation, BBC Wildlife Fund, Chester Zoo

Current needs: The SRS has annual running costs (staff, infrastructure, veterinary care etc) of around 195,000 euros. Cincinnati Zoo and two Australian zoos provide substantial technical and veterinary support. When and if there is a successful pregnancy, we expect that fundraising to cover the core costs will become much easier, but there is an estimated shortfall of 32,000 euros this year. Andalus, the young male sent to Sumatra from Cincinnati, is now sexually mature and there are high hopes for a birth sometime in 2010-11.

Other support from European zoos for Save the Rhino-supported *in situ* conservation programmes not detailed above:

Chester Zoo also supports the Laikipia Wildlife Forum in Kenya (since 2003) and the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary (since 2000) in Tanzania, as well as the Chyulu Hills rhino programme (since 2004), the Selous Trust (since 2008), Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (since 2008), and the Rhino Protection Unit programme and Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Indonesia (since 2008). As well as financial support, Chester Zoo has provided GIS training for the Chyulus, and major help with developing, implementing and delivering environmental education programmes in Laikipia and Mkomazi.

Colchester Zoo, through its Action for the Wild fund, has provided financial support for Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park in South Africa since 2007. Programme staff have also advised Colchester on the practical implementation of its own work in UmPhafa Private Nature Reserve.

Salzburg Zoo also provided financial support for Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park in South Africa in 2008. Salzburg had not taken part in the EAZA Rhino Campaign, so we were delighted when they came forward with this grant.

It should be noted, of course, that other zoos provide funding and technical support for *in situ* rhino conservation programmes, but not via Save the Rhino International. These include, but are not limited to, the Zoological Society of London, Marwell Zoo and Paignton Zoo.