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LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

For nearly 25 years, the International Rhino Foundation has protected and conserved rhinos in areas where they are most in need of attention and where our investments in conservation will have the greatest impact. Our core values of hard work, partnership, passion, and optimism are at the heart of everything we do.

The poaching crisis in Africa reached a 20-year high this year with 1,215 animals lost in South Africa alone. The horrors of these killings strengthen our resolve and underscore the importance of our work. At the end of 2014, we re-launched Operation: STOP POACHING NOW. Our IRF family responded generously and swiftly – the 10-week campaign raised more than \$225,000. From these funds, we have awarded a number of grants to protect key rhino populations. Over the past 2 years, we have refined our investment strategy for southern Africa to focus on what the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group considers “important populations” – the larger groups of rhinos that we believe are of sufficient size and suitably protected that they will survive the poaching wars.

It's not all bad news from Africa. This year, IRF, with our partner Wilderness Safaris, established a new black rhino population in Botswana's Okavango Delta. We moved 20 animals from two different areas in South Africa to the Delta, with all animals now doing well in their new home. More animals will be moved in 2015.

Our largest program in Africa, in Zimbabwe's Lowveld conservancies, continues to thrive. At the end of 2014, the Lowveld area held 84 percent of Zimbabwe's rhinos – a testament to the hard work and optimism that has enabled our partner the Lowveld Rhino Trust to ward off the extinction of the country's rhinos. We've done this using sound biological management, strategic

translocations of rhinos, support for anti-poaching and informant systems, and supporting legal actions against poachers - all in the face of enormously challenging economic and political conditions.

In Asia, we have good news and bad news. This year's camera trap data for critically endangered Javan rhinos, compiled and analyzed by Ujung Kulon National Park experts and validated by the IUCN Asian Rhino Specialist Group, show that there are between 58 and 61 animals in the park – good news from previous lower estimates based only on partial camera coverage.

The bad news is that despite protection, Sumatran rhino populations appear to be slowly continuing to decline, with only about 100 animals left in Indonesia. The crisis has triggered an international response with additional funding now made available through a \$11.2 million Debt-for-Nature Swap ‘deal’ between the US government and Indonesia. The IRF played an important role not only in the negotiations between Indonesia and the US, but also in providing the necessary match funding to secure the agreement. We also received a large grant from the Disney Conservation Fund to develop a 10-year strategic plan for Sumatran rhinos. This generous funding will be complimented by other new sources of support next year.

In India, we actively partner with the Government of Assam, WWF, and the USFWS to continue Indian Rhino Vision 2020. The first phase of Indian Rhino Vision 2020, begun in 2008, has seen 18 rhinos moved to Manas National Park. Ten calves have been born since then, but we have also lost eight of the IRV 2020 rhinos to poaching, the most recent late this year. Despite setbacks, plans for Phase II of the program are moving forward. Six greater one-horned rhinos from Kaziranga National



Park will be moved to the Laokhowa-Burachapori Wildlife Sanctuary by the end of 2015.

Since its founding, IRF has worked on the ground for rhino conservation, but a key part of our mission is also to support scientific research. We regularly provide grants for work that is directly applicable to management, propagation and conservation of rhinos in nature and in zoos. This year, we awarded funding totaling \$203,045 to support seven research projects to benefit the species, including two student grants.

The International Rhino Foundation could not exist without the extraordinary commitment and generosity of our many supporters. Our efforts to reach out to the general public has been fruitful - funding from individual supporters alone has grown more than 900 percent since 2008 – a testament to your caring and commitment. We will continue to be lean and efficient; more than 93 percent of your donations go directly to support field programs. It's our honor to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with you as we work together to save rhinos. Thank you so very much for your unwavering belief in our work.

Susie Ellis John Lukas

Susie Ellis, PhD  
Executive Director  
John Lukas  
President



## STATE OF THE RHINO

### JAVAN RHINO

(*RHINOCEROS SONDAICUS*)

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

58-61

#### POPULATION STABLE

Javan rhinos survive only in Indonesia's Ujung Kulon National Park, where updated population estimates are based on video camera trap data that have been verified by the IUCN Asian Rhino Specialist Group. The highest conservation priorities for saving the Javan rhino from extinction include continuing protection, expanding rhino habitat within the Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area in the eastern portion of Ujung Kulon, managing habitat within the core portion of the park, and identifying a suitable translocation site for establishing a second population.

### SUMATRAN RHINO

(*DICERORHINUS SUMATRENSIS*)

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

<100

#### POPULATION DECREASING

As few as 100 Sumatran rhinos survive as fragmented populations in Indonesia's Bukit Barisan Selatan,

Gunung Leuser and Way Kambas National Parks, and a small population has recently been found in central Kalimantan. The Sumatran rhino was recently declared extinct in the wild in Malaysia. Small population effects, such as reduced reproduction, human encroachment into rhino habitat and the ever-present danger of poaching remain the most serious threats. The most critical actions are to protect and consolidate existing populations, to increase public awareness, and to expand the managed breeding program.

### GREATER ONE-HORNED RHINO

(*RHINOCEROS UNICORNIS*)

VULNERABLE

3,345

#### POPULATION SLOWLY INCREASING

Thanks to ongoing protection, the greater one-horned rhino population now numbers more than 3,345 animals in India and Nepal. More than 2,550 rhinos are found in Kaziranga, Manas and Orang National Parks, and the Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary in India's state of Assam. More than 250 individuals also live in protected areas

in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, and more than 535 remain in Nepal, where no poaching took place in 2013 or 2014. Poaching is still a problem in Assam, where 30 animals were killed this year. The highest priority action is to continue and ramp up protection.

### BLACK RHINO

(*DICEROS BICORNIS*)

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

5,050

#### POPULATION SLOWLY INCREASING

Black rhinos are at continued risk from the African poaching crisis, particularly in South Africa. Despite this, thanks to intensive anti-poaching efforts, black rhino numbers remain relatively stable or are slowly increasing as reproduction slightly offsets both natural mortality and poaching losses. 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 maximizing anti-poaching activities and maintaining intensive monitoring and active management of wild populations.

### WHITE RHINO

(*CERATOTHERIUM SIMUM*)

NEAR THREATENED

20,400

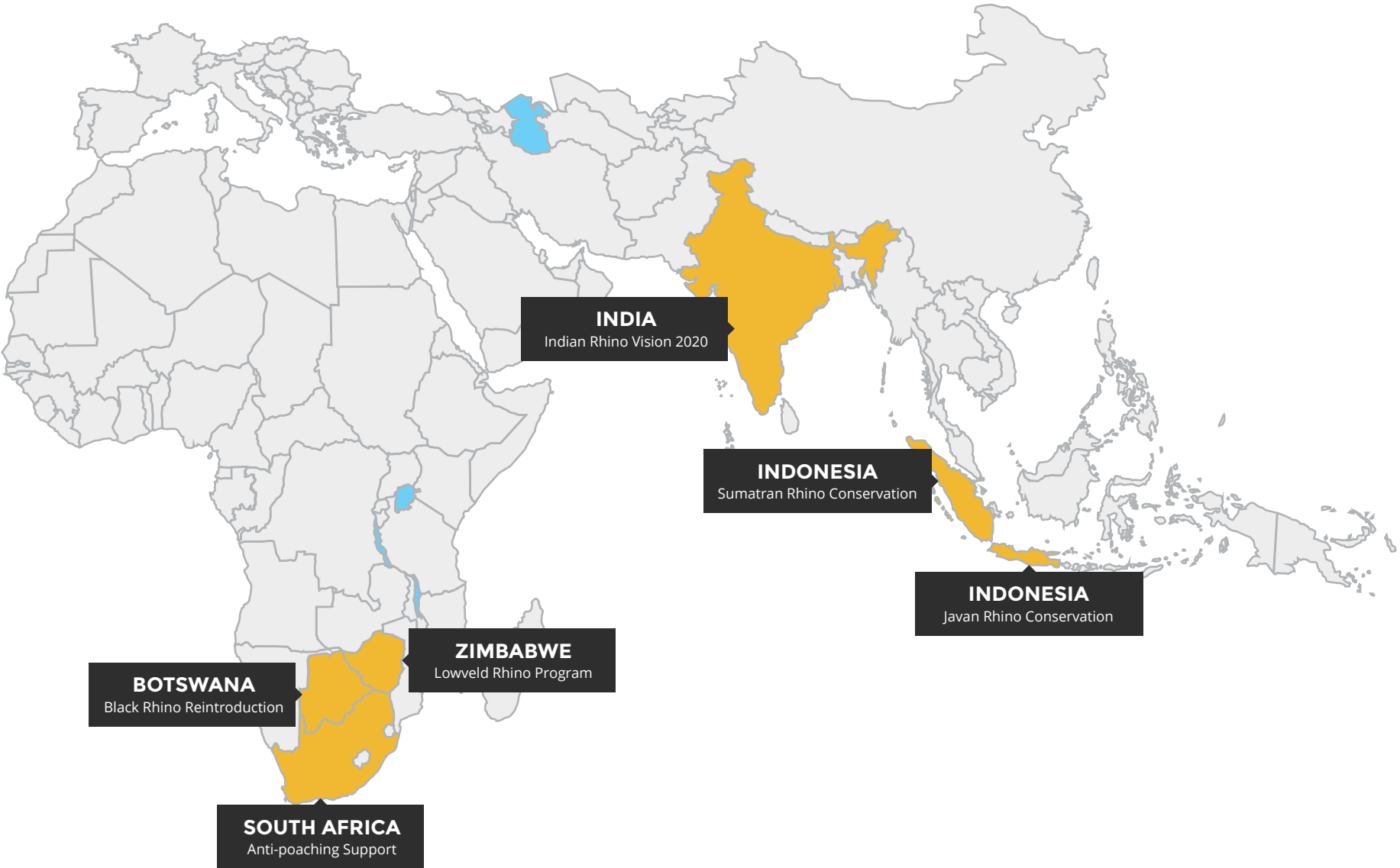
#### POPULATION POSSIBLY DECREASING

In the face of the poaching crisis, white rhino populations are thought to be slowly decreasing. White rhinos occur in eight countries - South Africa, Namibia, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Swaziland, Uganda and Kenya. South Africa holds more than 90% of world population. In 2014, more than 1,215 rhinos were slaughtered in South Africa; the majority were white rhinos. The highest priority for ensuring this species' survival is stepping up protection efforts, especially for the largest populations, and placing international pressure on range country governments to enforce their wildlife crime laws.





## WHERE IRF WORKS



## HOW IRF WORKS

Throughout its 23-year history, the International Rhino Foundation has supported and managed rhino conservation projects in Africa and Asia. We maintain a very small staff in the US; our commitment to being lean means that **93 percent of contributions go directly to field programs**. Our core values - hard work, partnership, passion, and optimism - are at the heart of everything we do.

### HARD WORK

Successful conservation takes hard, sometimes back-breaking work. Anti-poaching and monitoring teams on the ground give their all to making sure that their charges survive. In Zimbabwe, for example, Lowveld Rhino Trust trackers may walk for a week to make sure a missing rhino is still alive and well. In Indonesia, Rhino Protection Units carry 50 pound packs, containing all their food and supplies, for 15 days per month at a time through the dense rainforest. These men also brave dangers posed by tigers, elephants, and swarms of malaria-carrying mosquitos (not to mention scores of blood-sucking leeches).

### PARTNERSHIP

We recognize there is more work to do to save rhinos than one person or organization can ever accomplish in a lifetime. Therefore, IRF has identified and partnered with like-minded people and some truly exceptional organizations to work together towards our mutual goal of saving rhinos. We've learned that the key to being a good partner is humility – recognizing that every group has different

strengths and something to offer – if we can build on those strengths, together we can get the job done.

### PASSION

We love what we do. Period. All of us at IRF are passionate about rhinos, with a 23-year track record of helping them to survive under some of the most difficult circumstances on Earth. We are steadfast in our belief that our commitment will help save these magnificent creatures from extinction.

### OPTIMISM

Our teams couldn't achieve what they do without underlying optimism that our work is making a difference. Despite challenges, we hold great hope that together, through hard work, partnership, passion, and careful investment of precious resources where they are most needed, we will ensure that rhinos survive for future generations.





## QUIETLY ESTABLISHING A NEW BLACK RHINO POPULATION IN BOTSWANA

Without a lot of fanfare, IRF, with our partner Wilderness Safaris, moved 20 black rhinos from South Africa to Botswana's Okavango Delta. Following 6 weeks of quarantine in Kruger National Park, the Botswana Defense Force flew the first three males and three females, including a pregnant female, to Botswana in March. There, the animals were put into a second quarantine, where we planned a 1-month acclimation that would lead up to a "soft release".

Working with animals always brings unexpected surprises - one of the females broke down the door to another's quarantine pen after 3 days, and it was impossible to repair the pen without risk to animals and staff. We made the decision to release three of the animals early: first, the pregnant female, followed by a sub-adult male and the rowdy fence-breaking female.

Hoping that scent of their companions would keep the released rhinos near the bomas, we spread dung from the remaining animals around the release area - and it worked. Two weeks later, the rest of the animals were released, and all six rhinos, each fitted with a radio-transmitter for tracking purposes, settled into their new home.

Later in May, an additional 14 black rhinos were captured in South Africa's North West Parks, and placed in pens near the capture site before being transported. The second group included six males and eight females, from 1.5 to more than 10 years of age. All 20 animals have adjusted nicely to their new home and new neighbors.

The Tiffany & Co. Foundation, the Houston Zoo, Cleveland MetroParks Zoo, Taronga Conservation Society Australia, and a number of private donors generously supported these moves. To see a short video on this exciting initiative, visit [bit.ly/BotswanaRhinos](http://bit.ly/BotswanaRhinos).







## ZIMBABWE – WORKING TO SAVE BLACK RHINOS

IRF's signature Africa program is in Zimbabwe's Lowveld region, in the southeastern portion of the country. The Lowveld conservancies were formerly degraded ranchland - overgrazed by high cattle densities, the land was largely empty of wildlife. In the 1980s, Raoul du Toit, IRF's Africa Rhino Coordinator (and also director of the Lowveld Rhino Trust, our implementing partner in Zimbabwe) and fellow visionaries initiated consolidating privately-owned cattle farmlands into land tracts large enough to host rhino populations. Fortunately, these areas regenerated fairly quickly from dry, dusty farmland to rich rhino habitat. Rhino conservation efforts in the Lowveld have built up the black rhino population to constitute about 8% of Africa's continental total.

As a result of cooperation between neighbors, the reintroduction of other mammals, restoration and reinvigorated anti-poaching patrols, the Lowveld Conservancies came into existence. Raoul and colleagues collected straggling Zambezi Valley rhinos from various corners and translocated them to the new conservancies. During the 1990s, these areas achieved some of the fastest growth rates ever recorded for black rhino populations. Other species also recovered, including cheetah, leopard, and wild dog. Wildlife-based tourism started to play a significant role in the Lowveld's economy.

The current major challenges to the Lowveld remain ongoing occupation by settlers encouraged by the Mugabe regime and financial challenges facing the Save Valley Conservancy, resulting from various political pressures. Nevertheless, the Lowveld rhino populations continue to grow, and at the end of 2014, the area held 84 percent of Zimbabwe's rhinos. This has been achieved through sound biological management, strategic translocations of rhinos from unsafe to safer areas, support for anti-poaching and informant systems, and supporting legal actions against poachers.

The Lowveld conservancies have maintained crucial anti-poaching and management inputs throughout very challenging economic and political conditions. Unplanned settlement under Zimbabwe's "Fast-track" Land Reform Program has resulted in significant loss of rhino habitat in the conservancies but nonetheless the available range remains sufficient to carry more than twice the current populations of both rhino species.

The IRF is not afraid of challenges, and perhaps nowhere else can we better demonstrate what hard work, passion, commitment and partnership can achieve. We're in Zimbabwe for the long-term, working to conserve these precious species under the most complex and challenging circumstances.







## OPERATION: STOP POACHING NOW

At the end of this year, we re-launched our Operation: STOP POACHING NOW campaign highlighting ten ways to stop rhino poaching in southern Africa, ranging from more 'boots on the ground' to community engagement. Our IRF family responded generously and swiftly – the 10-week campaign raised more than \$225,000 that has been awarded via grants to protect key rhino populations. We're building on strengths – focusing on supporting larger populations as we believe that they are the ones with the greatest chance of surviving the current poaching crisis.

Here are just a few of the important Operation STOP POACHING NOW investments:

### SOUTH AFRICA

In **Great Fish River Nature Reserve**, your gifts helped to protect black rhinos by building and equipping a new guard post in an area where it was previously difficult for staff to operate because of a lack of accommodations. **Investment: \$35,000**

In **Phinda Nature Reserve**, you put in place a rapid response team that can pre-emptively respond to ever-increasing poaching incursions. Funds have also strengthened relationships with local communities, a valuable source of information that can help to avert poaching. **Investment: \$34,426**

Your contributions lent core support to **StopRhinoPoaching.com**, a small but dynamic South African organization that strengthens regional security and investigations, provides specialized training such as security management and trauma/battlefield operations, and provides rhino dogs and handlers to high-priority areas. **Investment: \$33,000**

### SWAZILAND

Sharing a border with Mozambique — the epicenter for rhino poaching syndicates — Swaziland's rhinos are constant targets for

heavily armed poaching gangs. Your support has helped to engage **community networks** that provide information to help head off poaching incursions.

**Investment: \$15,000**

### ZIMBABWE

In Zimbabwe's **Gonarezhou National Park** — a site where we hope to soon re-establish a black rhino population — you purchased a new communication mast and radio repeater to improve digital radio coverage to enhance security for the park — a key element in preparing for a rhino reintroduction. **Investment: \$30,000**

### VIETNAM

IRF has also partnered with **Education for Nature – Vietnam** to fund public awareness campaigns discouraging rhino horn consumption in that county, including public service announcements and outreach to government and the business community. We've also funded TV and radio advertising campaigns encouraging the public to report rhino crimes through a toll-free hotline.

**Investment: \$55,135**







## GOOD NEWS FOR JAVAN RHINOS

For decades, Javan rhino population estimates have hovered around 40-50 animals in Indonesia's Ujung Kulon National Park – the species' final stronghold. In 2013, IRF and WWF donated 140 additional camera traps to the program, enough to cover a grid encompassing the entire 466 square-mile park. This year's camera trap data, compiled and analyzed by Ujung Kulon National Park experts and validated by the IUCN Asian Rhino Specialist Group, show that there are between 58 and 61 animals in the park – good news from previous lower estimates based only on partial camera coverage.

Counting rhinos - and telling them apart - is no easy task. Our colleagues in Ujung Kulon have allowed IRF access to unique footage of some of the rarest animals on Earth. If you'd like to see what these amazing rhinos look like up close, go to [bit.ly/JavanRhinos](https://bit.ly/JavanRhinos). You'll not only see rhinos (including cows and calves) but some of the other species that benefit from IRF's Javan Rhino Protection Unit program, including the Javan hawk-eagle, dhole, and Javan leopard.

IRF and our on-the-ground partner, the Rhino Foundation of Indonesia, are expanding useable habitat through managing the invasive Arenga palm in the park, as well as identifying a suitable area to which a small group of Javan rhinos can be translocated.

Earlier this year, photographer Stephen Belcher completed a successful Kickstarter-funded expedition to Ujung Kulon to photograph Javan rhinos in the wild. Our cover features one of his many stunning photos.







## SUMATRAN RHINOS IN CRISIS

No more than 100 Sumatran rhinos exist on Earth, and without bold action could disappear in our lifetime. A key component of conserving this species is ramping up protection. Through our on-the-ground partner, the Rhino Foundation of Indonesia (Yayasan Badak Indonesia or YABI), IRF protects Sumatran rhinos through seven four-man Rhino Protection Units (RPU) in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, and five units in Way Kambas National Park.

RPUs patrol and survey several thousand kilometers per year in each park, on foot, by motorbike, and by boat, monitoring rhinos, tigers, elephants and other large mammals. RPUs also make arrests for illegal activities, such as encroachment to build hunting camps and plant cash crops, setting traps and snares for mammals and birds, illegal fishing and logging.

Twenty-nine RPU personnel were recruited by Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry at the end of 2014; these staff joined government wildlife protection forces in the national parks. From a pool of 250 applicants, YABI hired and trained 29 replacements; all new-hires now are at work protecting rhinos. We hope to raise funds to add more RPUs in 2015.

Sumatran rhinos received much-needed international attention in 2014. The IRF, with Conservation International and WWF, was instrumental in securing approval of an \$11.2 million Debt-for-Nature Swap (DNS) amendment under the U.S. Tropical Forest Conservation Act (TFCA). A DNS is an agreement between a debt-laden developing country and one or more of its creditors that forgives a portion of the nation's debts in return for the promise of environmental protection. Because of Indonesia's ongoing eligible debt, the U.S. government approved

the funds specifically to help protect rhinos, tigers and other species such as orangutans that share rhino habitat.

The \$11.2 million will be added to the existing \$29 million in DNS funding used to strengthen national park management and forest conservation, improve management and governance of key protected areas, including engaging all key stakeholders, protect and manage Sumatran rhinos, tigers, and orangutans along with other threatened species, and increase the awareness of local people and governments.

To secure 'the deal', IRF, with donations from the Asian Rhino Project, the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Gardens, and a private donor, contributed \$150,000 of the \$560,000 in match funding required to secure the DNS funding (roughly a 1:20 return on investment!).





## INDIAN RHINO VISION 2020

The first phase of Indian Rhino Vision 2020, which began in 2008, has seen 18 rhinos moved to Assam's Manas National Park. Ten calves have been born in Manas since then, including a few to cows that were originally orphaned in Kaziranga National Park, hand-reared and subsequently released by the Centre for Wildlife Rehabilitation and Conservation. Due to a local political insurgency, no additional translocations to Manas are planned until the situation subsides and security issues are resolved. In 2014, one greater one-horned rhino was killed in Manas National Park, bringing the number of rhinos killed in Manas to eight since reintroduction efforts began. Manas is not the only area hit by poaching; India lost a total of 30 animals last year - that number is down from 41 in 2013.

Plans for Phase II of Indian Rhino Vision 2020 are moving forward. Six greater one-horned rhinos from Kaziranga National Park will be moved to the Laokhowa-Burachapori Wildlife Sanctuary by the end of 2015. IRV 2020 partners are approaching this translocation a bit differently; animals will spend at least 6-10 months in large pens at the release site before being released into the sanctuary. Pen construction is almost complete. As part of the preparation for the translocations, we provided a small grants program for small, local organizations to create community development, awareness, and livelihoods programs.

## IRF RESEARCH GRANTS

A key component of IRF's mission is supporting research directly applicable to management, propagation and conservation of rhinos. Every 2-3 years, we request proposals targeting important research priorities, which this year included: (1) the genetic health of South African rhinos; (2) improving rhino population monitoring and tracking in situ; (3) identifying and quantifying the most important factors in translocation success; and (4) investigating important factors affecting health and reproduction ex situ in the browsing rhino species.

Fourteen established scientists evaluated proposals on their quality, soundness of science, feasibility, likelihood that the results will help resolving challenges, budget effectiveness, and importance to the overall effort of maintaining healthy, self-sustaining populations of rhinos.

### In 2014, we awarded \$203,045 in grants:

Mike Bruford, Cardiff University  
Assessing the Genetic Health of the southern black rhinoceros populations using genomic tools - \$50,000

Mary Beth Manjerovich, Lincoln Park Zoo  
Investigating Important Factors Affecting Health and Reproduction *Ex Situ* - \$15,605

Dmitri Petrov, Stanford University  
Genetic Studies Relevant to Management of Black Rhinoceros Populations - \$49,885

Budhan Pukazhenth, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute  
Role of Gut Microbiota in Health and Disease Sensitivity of the Black Rhinoceros - \$42,555

Alan Roca, University of Illinois  
Developing Effective Markers for Censusing of Sumatran and Javan Rhinos by Local Researchers - \$35,000

Krisztián Gyöngyi, International Fund for Animal Welfare  
Improving Rhino Population Monitoring in Liwonde National Park, Malawi - \$5,000 (student grant)

Kathleen Sullivan, University of Florida  
Validation of best practices for measurement of iron status in black rhinoceros - \$5,000 (student grant)







## WORLD RHINO DAY

Learning from the successes and failures of the past, Team Rhino is the result of established organizations that have worked for rhino conservation for many years coming together. We were delighted to partner with Asian Rhino Project, Save the Rhino, and the Wild Foundation on the Team Rhino launch.

Knowing that we can do more together than we can on our own, we created Team Rhino to build on our conservation successes and to create a rhino constituency of like-minded people all over the world. Jane Goodall, Dave Matthews, Amercian Authors, Bradley Trevor Grieve, and thousands of others have come together to support the cause. If you don't yet have a Team Rhino t-shirt or hoodie, visit the IRF online store at [www.rhinos.org/shop](http://www.rhinos.org/shop) to get one.

Join us in celebrating World Rhino Day on September 22nd and wear your Team Rhino gear with pride!

## HORNS AND HEROES PROJECT

The Horns and Heroes project supports rhino conservation through art. Holding art auctions every other year, founder and artist Chad Harmon, also a Zoological Manager at Disney's Animal Kingdom, with the help of his creative and supportive team, catalyzed this project to bring together art and conservation. Horns and Heroes is a community-driven art show that inspires artists, collectors, and enthusiasts to become conservationists and to leave the event with the understanding of the future of rhinos. This year, more than 80 artists decorated a rhino bust with imaginative creativity – including illustrators, tattooers, graffiti artists, sculptors and SFX make-up artists, to name a few. The next Horns for Heroes event will take place around World Rhino Day in 2016.



### 2015 DONORS

IRF's work is only possible because of the generous support of our donors. Thank You!

#### \$100,000+

American Association of Zookeepers-Bowling for Rhinos  
Lee and Ramona Bass Foundation  
Disney Conservation Fund  
Daniel Maltz  
Save the Rhino International  
Save Valley Wildlife Services, Ltd.  
US Fish & Wildlife Service

#### \$25,000-\$99,999

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Asian Rhino Project  
Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden  
Columbus Zoological Park Association  
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Jacksonville Zoological Society  
Stephen & Denise McDonough  
SeaWorld Busch Gardens Conservation Fund  
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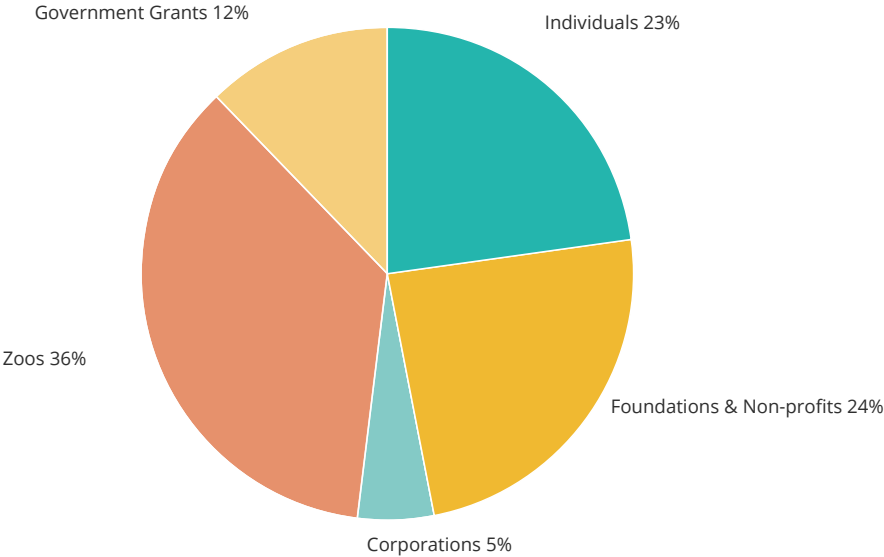


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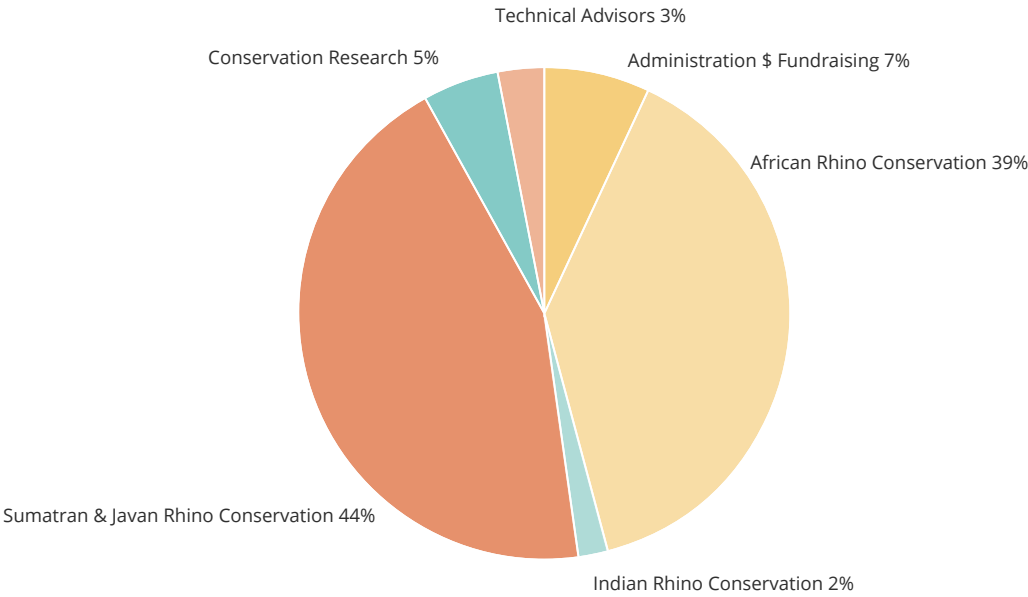
Individuals	\$624,772
Foundations & Non-profits	\$641,318
Corporations	\$142,966
Zoos	\$956,310
Government Grants	\$331,768
IRF Store	\$11,649
Team Rhino	\$9,210
TOTAL NEW REVENUE	\$2,717,993
Accrued grants	\$215,578
Reclassified contribution	\$5,000
Interest Income	\$15
TOTAL REVENUE	\$2,938,586



### 2014 EXPENSES

African Rhino Conservation	\$1,051,817
Zimbabwe Black Rhino Conservation	\$280,196
Zimbabwe Black Rhino Special Projects	\$82,450
Southern Africa Anti-poaching	\$229,428
Botswana Black Rhino Translocations	\$457,501
Black Rhino Repatriation	\$2,242

Indian Rhino Conservation	\$55,711
Indian Rhino Vision 2020	\$55,711
Sumatran & Javan Rhino Conservation	\$1,205,187
Sumatran Rhino Conservation	\$899,453
Javan Rhino Conservation	\$305,734
Conservation Research	\$125,039
Technical Advisors	\$88,110
Scholarships	\$1,500
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$2,527,364
Administration & Fundraising	\$208,302
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,735,666







International Rhino Foundation  
201 Main Street, Suite 2600  
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Kelly J. Russo  
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