



17 August 2005

TO: Board of Directors of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK)  
Ed Hansen, AAZK Executive Director  
Patty Pearthree, Coordinator, AAZK Bowling for Rhinos (BFR)

FROM: Thomas J. Foose, Program Director, International Rhino Foundation (IRF)

SUBJECT: **REPORT ON INDONESIAN RPU PROGRAM - SEPTEMBER 2004**

The IRF Program for Rhino Protection Units (RPUs) continues successfully in Indonesia. During the period September 2004 - August 2005, there were:

1. 11 RPUs operating for Sumatran Rhino in 2 National Parks in Sumatra: 5 in Way Kambas and 6 in Bukit Barisan Selatan.
2. Additionally, a total of 4 Tiger Protection Units (TPUs) are operating under management of and in collaboration with the RPUs in two of the Parks: 2 in Way Kambas and 2 in BBS. The TPUs are being managed under the same Indonesian Rhino Conservation Program (IRCP) that administers the RPUs.
3. There are also 3 RPUs operating for Javan Rhino in Ujung Kulon National Park, Java.
4. There had been 3 RPUs operating in Kerinci Seblat National Park. However, the rhino population in Kerinci had been largely decimated in the early 1990s before the RPUs initiated operations. The rhino population has not been able to recover because it had been so reduced and fragmented. Thus, it was decided this last year to attempt an evacuation of the remaining rhinos to be consolidated at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas National Park. This operation is in progress.

Prior to 2002, AAZK Bowling For Rhino (BFR) Funds were used exclusively to support the RPUs in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park. However, Rhinos (and Tigers) and Parks are under intensified pressure throughout Indonesia. Basically, the only appropriate response is to increase and improve the activities of the anti-poaching teams in Parks where rhinos (and tigers) occur.

In 2002, the AAZK, the IRF and the Minnesota Zoo Adopt A Park Program (MNZAAPP), which also receives substantial support from AAZK Bowling for Rhinos, formed a closer alliance with the objective of coordinating the protection in southern Sumatra of rhinos and tigers, which are largely sympatric and subject to the same poacher pressure.

This partnership provides for the funds which AAZK contributes to both IRF and MNZAAPP

1. be coordinated by IRF and MNZAAPP; and
2. be used, with prior approval from the BFR Coordinator and AAZK Executive Director, more flexibly in the Indonesian Parks with Rhinos to more effectively respond to changing and increasing needs.

The AAZK Board approved these proposals.

During the last year, the greatest need for the AAZK support has continued to be in Way Kambas National Park, which has a population of 30+ Sumatran rhino. Pressure from both poachers and encroachment has increased in this Park. At the same time, a major CEPF (Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund) grant has been available for at least 2 years to support the RPU and TPU in BBS.

Therefore, in accordance with the objectives and needs of the RPU/TPU Program, and with the permission of the BFR Coordinator, this year IRF has entirely and exclusively used the funds provided by AAZK BFR to support the activities of the RPU in Way Kambas National Park.

As a result of the increased protection possible through the support of AAZK BFR, no rhinos have been lost to poachers in the last 12 months.

The CEPF Grant which has been covering all of the costs for the RPU in BBS National Park was expected to conclude in March 2005, but has been extended until 31 December 2005. IRF will be forming a new funding coalition for these RPU once the CEPF funds are exhausted. Hence, it is likely that next year, AAZK BFR funds would be used for both Way Kambas and BBS National Parks. An excellent video entitled *Patrols of Hope* about the Indonesian RPU program with a focus on BBS and the wild but "tame" rhino Rossa has also been produced and will be available at the AAZK Annual Conference.

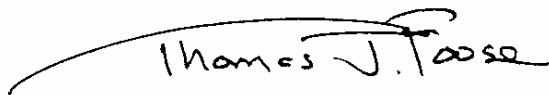
Finally, AAZK and IRF concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in 2004 under which IRF sponsored Mike Connolly (Tulsa Zoo & Living Museum) and Bethany Lutz (Utah's Hogle Park), two of the Bowling for Rhinos top 2004 fund-raisers, to visit the IRF Rhino Conservation Programs in Indonesia in February 2005. By all accounts, this trip was a great success. IRF would propose to continue this program again in 2006.

AAZK Bowling for Rhinos (BFR) support continues to be critical to the RPU program in Indonesia as pressure on all the Parks intensifies.

A Financial Report on funds received by IRF from AAZK Bowling for Rhinos for the Indonesia RPU Program is attached.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Foose". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Thomas J. Foose, Ph.D.  
IRF Program Director