

Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund

Rhinos and tigers are magnificent creatures—big, powerful, and charismatic. Unfortunately, these same qualities make them popular targets. Rhinos and tigers are usually hunted because their body parts are in high demand on the global black market. Tiger organs and bones, and rhino horns, are used in Asian medicines, which are sold to consumers who believe these animal products convey strength, health and virility. The illegal trade in animal parts is a profitable business and the demand for these products generates an ongoing temptation for poachers, who often come from impoverished backgrounds.

In addition to the poaching-for-profit threat, rhinos and tigers are killed by local villagers who fear attacks on themselves, their livestock and their crops. As human populations move further into the natural ranges of wild animals, the resulting conflict poses a

serious threat to both human and animal safety.

This ongoing assault has devastated the world's rhino and tiger populations and both animals are now listed as endangered species. Wild tigers, once abundant throughout Asia, now live in small fragmented groups, mostly in protected forests, wildlife refuges and national parks. Experts estimate that more than 500 tigers are killed each year. Recent surveys indicate the South China tiger may have become extinct in the wild and that only 47 remain alive in China's zoos.

Wild rhinos can be found in parts of Asia and Africa, but they too live in small fragmented populations, which may not be sustainable due to lack of breeding opportunities. Sumatran rhinos have decreased by 50 percent in the past 18 years leaving only about 300 surviving, primarily in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Recovery of Africa's white rhino demonstrates the benefits of strong law enforcement and conservation management. Decimated by loss of habitat and illegal hunting, Africa's white rhinos nearly became extinct with only about 100 surviving in the wild. Now, the population has increased to more than 11,000 and is the most abundant of all rhinos.

In 1994, the U.S. Congress passed a law to establish the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund. Grants are awarded from this fund for anti-poaching programs, habitat and ecosystem management, development of nature reserves, wildlife surveys and monitoring, management of human-wildlife conflict, public awareness campaigns and other conservation efforts related to rhino and tiger survival.

International Affairs
Division of International Conservation
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Room 730
Arlington, VA 22203
703/358-1754
703/358-2849 fax
internationalconservation@fws.gov
<http://international.fws.gov>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
www.fws.gov

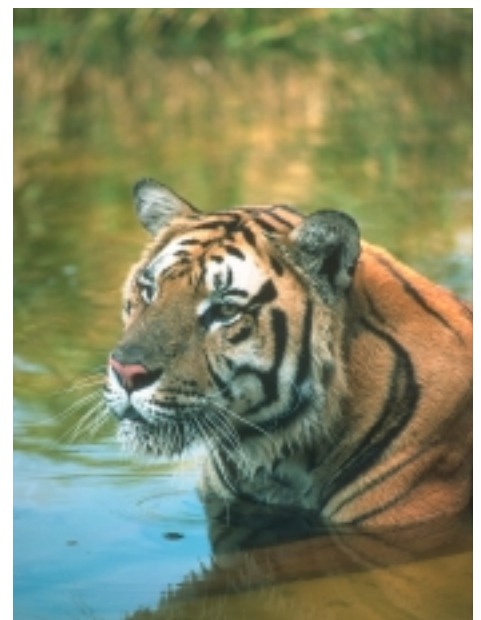
Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance
Number 15.619

February 2004



Black rhino

© T. Fitzjon/G. Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust



Tiger

© Corel

The 2003 congressional appropriation of \$1.2 million, together with matching funds from host countries and conservation groups, funded 34 successful rhino and tiger conservation projects such as:

- Production and distribution of English/Chinese educational brochures on laws against rhino and tiger poaching for eastern medicines;
- Horn and shoulder microchip marking of rhinos in South Africa to assist with law enforcement and capture of poachers;
- Mobilization of rhino anti-poaching units in Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam with the supply of motorcycles, fuel, communication equipment and training;
- On-the-job training programs in rhino population management, monitoring and habitat assessment for rangers and university students in South Africa;
- Rhino conservation education campaigns in 60 schools in Namibia, which is home to an expanse of black rhino habitat;
- Environmental education camps for children living near important tiger habitat in Nepal;
- Wildlife management courses conducted in India for forest officials who work in tiger conservation in other Asian countries;
- Workshops and conferences for teachers and conservationists in Russia aimed at awareness and conservation of Russia's tiger populations;
- Construction of a breeding sanctuary in Uganda to allow black and white rhinos breeding opportunities in a natural habitat;
- Establishment of nature reserves and migratory corridors for the Amur tiger in Russia and China;
- Support for tiger anti-poaching units in Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam to include the supply of communication and monitoring equipment and training;
- Providing equipment and training to Cambodia's Wildlife Protection Office for a Tiger Conservation Program; and
- Production and publication of a "wildlife crime enforcement guide," which will be distributed to China's law enforcement, prosecution and judicial authorities.



White rhino

© Corel



Tiger

© Corel



Great One-horned rhino

© Corel

| Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund from First Appropriation in 1996 through FY 2003 | |
|--|---------------------|
| Total Number of Grant Proposals Received | 543 |
| Total Number of Grants Awarded | 205 |
| Percentage of Countries with Rhinos and Tigers that Receive Grants | 84% |
| Total Amount Appropriated by U.S. Congress | \$5,136,500 |
| Total Funds Distributed through Grants | \$4,888,165 |
| Total Funds to Administration of Grants | \$248,335 |
| Total Matching/In-kind Funds Leveraged by Grants | \$10,684,327 |