



Asian Rhino Project Inc.

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Committee Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on the Environment
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Submission to the inquiry into the administration and transparency of the Register of Environmental Organisations and its effectiveness in supporting communities to take practical action to improve the environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission.

The Asian Rhino Project (ARP) is dedicated to the conservation of the three Asian rhinoceros species – the Sumatran rhino (Critically Endangered), the Javan rhino (Critically Endangered) and the Greater One Horned rhino (Vulnerable).

ARP is able to contribute significant funding to on-ground conservation activities with funds sourced from private donors, corporate sponsors and memberships, the sales of merchandise, and funds raised through events and educational programs. These funds contribute to programs in-situ through partnerships formed with non-profit conservation organisations in the field.

ARP is on the Register of Environmental Organisations and maintains a membership of 110. The organisation raises around \$200,000 a year through tax-deductible donations, which is the bulk of our income. Without tax deductibility, ARP would find it enormously difficult to attract the large private and corporate donors that we need to support our work.

ARP has formed strong relationships with field partners over a long period of time and has made significant contribution to rhino conservation, funding the following activities;

- Operation of Rhino Protection Units in Way Kambas National Park, Bukit Barisan National Park, Gunung Leuser National Park and Ujung Kulon National Park, Indonesia
- Wildlife trade assessment and anti-poaching measures
- Operation of the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Indonesia
- Rhino translocations in Assam, in India

- Community education and empowerment activities, alternative livelihood programs
- Genetic assessment and research of rhino populations in Indonesia and India
- Camera trapping and surveys of rhino populations in Indonesia and India
- Rhino conservation medicine
- Capacity building and staff training and development.

The ARP is internationally recognized for their role in Asian rhino conservation and is a member of the IUCN Asian Rhino Specialist group, the International Rhino Foundation and the Indonesian Rhino Foundation.

ARP reports to donors in our annual report and well as regular newsletters and via social media. We regularly hold events where we are able to update donors on the progress of our field projects and raise awareness about the threats facing Asian rhino species.

The ARP is a volunteer based organisation, with limited resources to support administration. We would be very concerned if the Committee proposes making the administration of the Register more complex and believe that the current level of reporting requires full disclosure of donations and use of donations.

Yours sincerely

Sophie Dentrinos
Vice Chairperson
Asian Rhino Project Inc.