

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: ASIAN RHINO SPECIALIST GROUP

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The Global Environment Facility project to initiate the implementation of the Conservation Strategy for Rhinoceros in Indonesia and Malaysia was activated in April 1995. The project is concentrating on training and deployment of more intensive anti-poaching teams in both nations as well as improving the institutional capacity for the co-ordination of rhino conservation activities.

Progress continues on the development of managed breeding centres for the Sumatran rhino, both in its native habitat and under more natural conditions. One centre will be in Indonesia within the Way Kambas National Park, while the other will emerge in Malaysia through an expansion of the existing captive facility at Sungai Dusun into the adjacent Wildlife Reserve, where many of the animals in captivity were captured.

The first issue of the new AsRSG newsletter *Asian Rhinos* was published in January 1995 and the next issue will be published in July/August 1995.

The revised version of the Action Plan will be completed by September 1995 with publication by the end of the year.

A population and habitat viability assessment workshop for Malaysia rhinos will be conducted in Sandakan, Sabah, in late November, 1995. Immediately thereafter there will be a meeting of the AsRSG on more general matters.

Finally, the Programme Officers of the AsRSG have attempted an assessment of Asian Rhino taxa/populations using the newly published IUCN Red List Categories. The results appear in the table below and indicate that of the seven taxa most recognised, one is probably extinct, four are critically endangered, and two are endangered. In terms of the three species, two are critically endangered and one is endangered.

IUCN Red List Categories. assessment of Asian rhino status.

IUCN CRITERIA*	JAVAN RHINO		SUMATRAN RHINO			INDIAN RHINO	
	<i>Rhinoceros sondaicus</i> sondaicus, JAVA	<i>Rhinoceros sondaicus</i> <i>sondaicus annamanticus</i> , VIETNAM	<i>Dicerorhinus sumatrensis</i> <i>sumatrensis</i> SUMATRA, MALAYSIA	<i>Dicerorhinus sumatrensis</i> <i>harrissoni</i> ; BORNEO	<i>Dicerorhinus sumatrensis</i> <i>lasiotis</i> MYANMAR, THAILAND	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i> Eastern pop., ASSAM, BENGAL ORIENTAL	<i>Rhinoceros unicornis</i> Western pop. NEPAL, U. PRADESH
A. POPULATION REDUCTION	VU	CR?	CR	CR	-	VU?	VU
B. EXTENT OF OCCURRENCE	EN	EN	EN	EN	-	EN	EN
C.&D. POPULATION ESTIMATE	CR	CR	CR?	CR	-	VU	VU
E. PROBABILITY OF EXTINCTION	EN?	CR?	CR?	CR?	-	VU?	VU?
OVERALL RATING	CR	CR	CR	CR	EN?	EN	EN

*Revised IUCN Categories approved by the 40th meeting of the IUCN Council, 30 November 1994

EX=Extinct CR=Critically endangered EN=Endangered VU= Vulnerable