

# The First Asian Rhino Range States Meeting

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Countries should raise red corner notices via Interpol for suspects operating across national boundaries.

5. The CITES ban in the international trade of all rhino products needs to be maintained and enforced, including by those countries where rhino products are used, any countries that act as intermediate points in the trade, and all rhino range states.
6. In order to maximize the growth rate of Asian rhino populations, sound principles of biological management need to be followed. The breeding rate of rhinos is reduced if their densities are either too high or too low. Sound biological management includes concentrating and/or combining populations where their densities and/or numbers are too low, and starting new populations in suitable habitats using animals from populations where the densities are too high.
7. **Ex situ** conservation within the range countries is an important supplement to **in situ** conservation efforts, especially in the case of the Sumatran rhino. **Ex situ** populations should be based on a sufficient number of founder animals to ensure the genetic and demographic health of the populations. As far as possible, animals brought into captivity from the wild should be from sub populations which have no or little long term viability. Capturing of animals for **ex situ** populations should not jeopardize the survival of a species in the wild.
8. To achieve the goal of a 3% annual increase in Asian rhino populations, the establishment of new populations within the former ranges will be essential for each species. This requires a long term plan to identify suitable sites for new populations and to prepare such sites for future releases.
9. The successful conservation of each species depends on rigorous and effective monitoring of the numbers and trends in each Asian rhino population. OTc@003Tj/TT21Tf.2250TD.00



from prosecution without prior government sanction has also been granted to them in the case of use of firearms by them in course of discharging their duty. This has given a big morale boost to the forest staff engaged in rhino protection work. Workshops to sensitize judicial officers to these issues have also been organised in the state. There is strong political commitment at the highest level for conservation of rhinos in Assam.

In West Bengal, commitment from the highest political level for the conservation of wild animals and their habitat has resulted in effective rhino conservation. The addition of adjoining non forest government

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which makes it susceptible to catastrophic losses from disease or natural disasters. The

reproduction is very low. Only the population in Way Kambas National Park appears to be slowly growing. In 1997, Rhino Protection Units (RPU) were established in Bukit Barisan Selatan, Way Kambas, and Kerinci Seblat National Parks. RPU are highly trained, 4 person anti poaching teams made up of one park guard with authority to carry a weapon and make arrests, and three highly trained local community members. RPU patrol key areas within the parks, monitoring wildlife and deactivating traps, apprehending poachers and intruders, and investigating crime scenes. No known poaching in Bukit Barisan or Way Kambas National Parks has occurred in the last 6 years, but it is clear now that anti poaching efforts, though essential, are not going to be enough on their own to prevent the precipitous slide of the species toward extinction.

The Sumatran Rhino now needs intensive care. Its numbers in the wild are extremely low and individuals are scattered between several, small sub populations across two range states. This situation, and the species' solitary nature and poor breeding record in captivity, all combine to make this a very challenging patient. Extinction is a very real prospect, and so urgent and decisive actions need to be taken immediately. A Sumatran Rhino Emergency

Plan Tf2. On file at: 000005/TT103c(thisTc(so)Tj/TT11P.961r8



Key Elements of the Emergency Plan:

1. Critical information needs to be collected on wild rhinos in Sumatra and Kalimantan in order to provide a sound basis for all future management decisions. Building on ongoing efforts in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park (BBS) and Way Kambas National Park (WK), the following precise and standardised, information is targeted for each population in BBS, WK and Gunung Leuser/Leuser Ecosystem (GL):
  - Location and size of areas occupied by rhinos

established in BBS, WK and GL with significantly enhanced enforcement efforts, including considering fencing the IMZs to maintain rhino densities.

10. Models for local community support for, and engagement with, Sumatran Rhino conservation efforts need to be developed. There should be a communication strategy that will engage local communities to seek their support for controversial but necessary actions to save the Sumatran Rhino from extinction, and so help

## Signatures

The five Asian Rhino Range States hereby commit to managing the populations of the Greater One Horned, Javan and Sumatran Rhinos with the intention of achieving at least 3% annual growth rate in their populations, through the implementation of the actions outlined in this Bandar Lampung Declaration .

Ministry of Agriculture and Forest, Bhutan

Signature

Date

Ministry of Environment and Forests, India

Signature

Date

Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia

Signature

Date

Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment, Malaysia

Signature

Date

Ministry of Forest and Soil Conservation, Nepal

Signature

Date