

# SUMATRAN RHINO CRISIS SUMMIT



***Last chance to act!***

**GLOBAL SUPPORT  
NEEDED TO PREVENT  
THE FIRST RHINO  
SPECIES EXTINCTION  
OF THE 21st  
CENTURY.**

**Date:** Sunday 31 March –  
Thursday 4 April, 2013

**Location:** Jurong Bird Park, Singapore

(a neutral venue for species  
range states, and accessible  
for international participants)

## *What is the issue?*

Two-horned hairy rhinos have lived on Earth for 20 million years. The latest, smallest and last form of this rhino, known as the Sumatran rhinoceros, was once widespread throughout South-east Asia. Sumatran rhinos have been in terminal decline since the 1990s and their numbers have reduced to around 200 individuals. Numbers are now so low that we may see the rhino finally vanish in the coming decade, if we do not act fast and massively now.

## *What needs to be done?*

Review the situation and our existing strategies. Identify key issues on which action has to be taken. Get inspiration from previous endangered species campaigns and implement lessons learned. Craft an ambitious yet achievable plan. Source financing to realize the plan. Seek strong governmental commitment and support for implementing the plan.

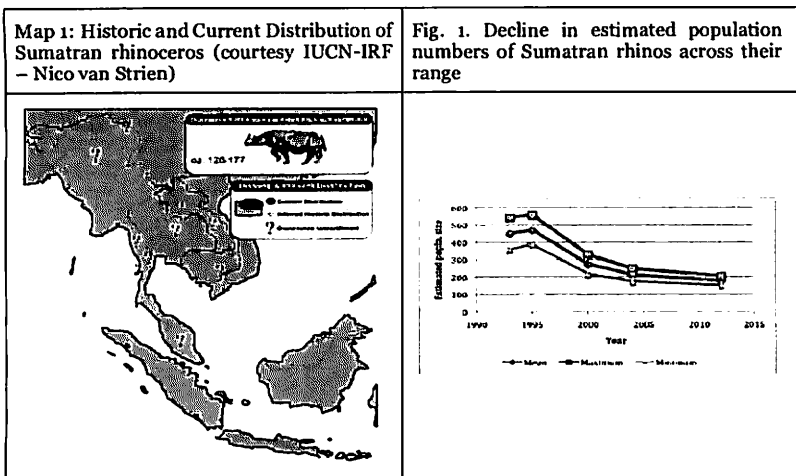
## *What is your role?*

Participate in the summit. Help identify the key issues. Provide relevant experience. Help develop the plan. Help raise funds. Promote 100% government commitment and support.

## *The Sumatran rhino story*

The Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) is on the brink of extinction on the equatorial islands of Borneo and Sumatra. Over five decades ago, pioneering conservationists were already concerned over its rarity. In 1984, the IUCN Species Survival Commission Captive Breeding Specialist Group, on behalf of the IUCN, convened a 3-day meeting in Singapore to "formulate an acceptable plan for a captive propagation project as part of the overall strategy for the conservation of the Sumatran rhino". Twenty participants representing governments of the three main Sumatran rhino regions (Indonesia, Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah), zoos and others, agreed to a plan to, firstly, prioritise conservation of wild Sumatran rhino populations and, secondly, form a loosely-coordinated global captive population drawn from rhinos outside protected areas. What happened after that?

Eight natural forest habitats containing Sumatran rhinos were protected in the three main Sumatran rhino regions, and 40 rhinos were captured between 1985-94 from areas being converted to plantations, for the captive breeding programme. The wild populations in the 8 areas mostly have stagnated, declined or gone extinct.



**Table 1: Estimates of Sumatran rhinos left in the wild (IUCN 2012)**

Name of PA	Size of PA (km <sup>2</sup> )	No. of rhino 2010-11 estimates	End of 2012 estimates
<b>Indonesia (Sumatra)</b>			
Bukit Barisan Selatan	3,000	60-70	60-70
Gunung Leuser Ecosystem	8,000	40-80	40-80
Way Kambas	600	25-27	25-27
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>125-177</b>	<b>125-177</b>
<b>Sabah (Malaysia)</b>			
Tabin	1,220	15	2
Darum Valley	500	13	<13
Isolated rhinos		?	?
<b>Sub-total</b>		<b>28</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>152-205</b>	<b>140-192</b>

Note : except for Way Kambas, the estimates for 2010-11 are believed to be overly optimistic

**Table 2: Sumatran rhinos in captivity**

Location	No. of rhinos received into captivity 1985-2004	No. of 1985-2004 rhinos still alive	New rhinos received into captivity after 2004	Total no. of calves produced	Male : female ratio, 2012
Peninsular Malaysia	11	0	0	*1	-
Sabah (Malaysia)	10	1	2	0	1:2
Indonesia	9	1	2	**1	2:3
USA (from Indonesia)	7	1	0	3	2:1
UK (from Indonesia)	3	0	0	0	-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5:6</b>

Note : \* mother pregnant when captured. \*\* father born in Cincinnati Zoo

# Sumatran Rhino Crisis Summit

## *program outline*



Venue: Wildlife Reserves Singapore

### Sunday - March 31, 2013

- 17:30 Private bus from Traders Hotel - Jurong Bird Park
- 18:00-onward Registration and welcoming refreshments
- Welcome statement from Dr. Simon Stuart, Chair, Species Survival Commission, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), delivered through Mark Stanley-Price, WILDCRU, Oxford
  - Welcome statement by Mr. Lee Meng Tat, Chief Executive Officer, Wildlife Reserves Singapore
  - Welcome statement by Datuk Dr. Abdul Rahim Nik, Deputy Secretary General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Malaysia
  - Video message from Tun Musa Hitam, Chairman, Sime Darby Foundation
  - Welcome statement by Datuk Dr. Laurentius Ambu, Director, Sabah Wildlife Department
  - Welcome statement by Ir. Darori MM, Direktur Jenderal, Perlindungan Hutan dan Konservasi Alam, Kementerian Kehutanan, Republik Indonesia
- 21:00 Private bus from Jurong Bird Park - Traders Hotel

### Monday - April 1, 2013

- 07:30 Private bus from Traders Hotel - Singapore Zoo
- 08:00-8:30 Registration - Main Entrance of Zoo and Forest Lodge
- 08:30-10:00 Welcome by facilitation team  
The four dialogic practices  
World map and time line  
Opening stories
- 10:00-10:20 Tea Break
- 10:20-12:00 **Panel 1: The Sumatran Rhino - stories from Malaysia and Indonesia**  
Panel: Director of Biodiversity from Ministry of Forestry Indonesia, Secretary to Director General from Ministry of Home Affairs Indonesia, Widodo Ramono as the Indonesian NGO representative, Laurentius Ambu of Sabah Wildlife Department, Abdul Hamid Ahmad of Borneo Rhino Alliance and Simon Stuart of IUCN Species Survival Commission through video message
- 12:00-13:00 Lunch Break
- 13:00-14:15 **Panel 2: The African Rhino stories**  
Panel: Richard Emslie - 1880-2013, Ben Okita - government role, Brian Harris - poaching, Raoul du Toit - black rhinos in Zimbabwe, Markus Hofmyer - rhino translocation & management in South Africa, Mick Reilly - rhino conservation on private land

14:15-15:30	<b>Panel 3: Other Large Mammals stories</b> Panel: Mark Stanley-Price - Arabian oryx, Sarah Brook - Vietnam rhino extinction, Barney Long - saola, Susie Ellis - panda, Samuel Turvey - global picture, 20,000 years ago till now
15:30-15:50	<b>Tea Break</b>
15:50-17:05	<b>Panel 4: Other Success stories</b> Panel: Michael Wallace - Californian condor, Paul Marinari - black-footed ferret, Alan Lieberman - Hawaiian forest birds, Thomas Hildebrandt - advanced reproductive technologies
17:05-17:30	<b>Lessons learned</b>
17:30	<b>Private bus from Singapore Zoo- Traders Hotel</b>
18:30	<b>Private bus from Traders Hotel to Indonesian Embassy</b>
19:00-21:00	<b>Dinner invitation to SRCS participants from His Excellency Andri Hadi Indonesia Ambassador Extraordinary &amp; Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia in Singapore</b>
21:30	<b>Private bus from Indonesian Embassy to Traders Hotel</b>

## Tuesday - April 2, 2013

08:00	<b>Private bus from Traders Hotel - Singapore Zoo</b>
08:30-9:30	<b>Opening of Day 3</b> <b>Preparing for the Open Space Technology (OST)</b> - a method where participants are allowed to express their ideas in self-managed convening sessions
9:30-9:50	<b>Tea break</b>
9:50-12:00	<b>Round one - small group discussions</b>
12:00-13:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
13:00-15:00	<b>Round two - small group discussions</b>
15:00-15:20	<b>Tea Break</b>
15:20-17:00	<b>Round three - small group discussions</b>
17:00-17:30	<b>Lessons learned</b>
17:30	<b>Private bus from Singapore Zoo- Traders Hotel</b>

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Rick Switzer	US Department of State	USA	<a href="mailto:c/o.nan@sosrhino.org">c/o.nan@sosrhino.org</a>	
William Clayton		USA	<a href="mailto:c/o.nan@sosrhino.org">c/o.nan@sosrhino.org</a>	



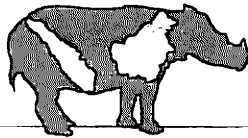
## Wednesday -April 3, 2013

08:00	Private bus from Traders Hotel - Singapore Zoo
08:30-12:00	Opening of Day 4 Preparing the Stepping Up on OST - bringing from the previous day's results into more concrete Areas Of Concern Round four - small group discussions (tea break as needed)
12:00-13:00	Lunch Break
13:00-16:00	Setting Up Plans of Action - small typical group planning for actions (tea break as needed)
16:00-16:30	Presentations - viewing the outputs
16:30-17:00	Lessons learned
17:00	Visit of River Safari
19:00	Gala Dinner at Zoo Forest Lodge
21:00	Tram tour around Night Safari
23:00	Private bus from Singapore Zoo - Traders Hotel

## Thursday -April 4, 2013

08:00	Private bus from Traders Hotel - Singapore Zoo
08:30-10:00	The Story of Sumatran Rhino - Our Journey
10:00-10:20	Tea break
10:20-12:00	The closing rituals Celebration of the Summit
12:00	Lunch break
14:30	Visit Zoo OR Private bus from Singapore Zoo- Traders Hotel OR taxi to the airport (own cost) for those departing today

**Bon Voyage!**



# SUMATRAN RHINO CRISIS SUMMIT

## United in preventing the extinction of the Sumatran Rhino

1 - 4 April 2013

Wildlife Reserves Singapore



The SRCS is proudly sponsored by:

Wildlife Reserves Singapore Group



From the 14 sites that recorded the presence of wild Sumatran rhinos in 1995, only five still have incontrovertible evidence of the species in 2012 and they are now restricted to the island of Sumatra, Indonesia (Bukit Barisan Selatan, Gunung Leuser & Way Kambas National Parks) and Malaysian Borneo (Danum Valley Conservation Area & possibly Taban Wildlife Reserve). The 1984-2012 strategy of trying to protect them in the wild has not resulted in increasing their numbers except in Way Kambas.

The 2012 best guess of Sumatran rhino numbers is less than 150, down from an estimated 413 - 563 in 1995. The past population estimates are debatable, but specific numbers do not really matter. Any species numbering less than 200 and declining is in very serious trouble.

What went wrong? Protection and monitoring of the wild populations was inadequate and, in any case, by the 1990s, the rhino population densities were probably already too low for them to recover without intensive management intervention. The captive propagation plan largely failed through a fatal combination of diverse factors including dealing with a solitary species which is inherently difficult to breed, inadequate knowledge of rhino breeding biology and dietary requirements, cautious decision-making, poor hygiene in some facilities, weak collaboration, emphasis on capture of "doomed" rhinos rather than fertile rhinos, and a willingness to keep on doing the same thing and waiting in vain for a better result. Yet three calves were produced by one rhino pair in Cincinnati Zoo in 2001, 2004 and 2007.

An ad hoc grouping, the Sumatran rhino global propagation and management board (GMPB) consisting of representatives of rhino range states, rhino breeding facilities and donors, has been meeting since 2005. But since then, only four additional rhinos have been brought into captivity, and one additional program has succeeded with one captive birth (at Way Kambas, Sumatra), of a male whose father and grand-father are also in captivity. The only unrelated male is held separately in Sabah. The pace is too slow to save the species. Fresh ideas and perspectives are needed to help decide what to do next.

The essence of the problem now is that there are only a few breeding females. This applies to wild and captive Sumatran rhinos. Prevention of poaching is a necessary but now insufficient approach. Dedicated rhino protection units stave off poaching but are not fool-proof. The species may go extinct even if all poaching can be stopped. A conservation programme now needs to put in place measures that significantly boost rhino birth rate in captive conditions.

The Sumatran rhino receives much less attention than other endangered big mammals globally and locally, and it seems it would be convenient for everyone to let it slide to extinction. So, the basic question remaining is: do we give up and let the species go extinct, or have one last try to boost production of baby rhinos?

The answer should be obvious. There are small groups of dedicated people willing to try. They want to use the inspiration and lessons learned in bringing back species on the edge such as California condor, black footed ferret, crested ibis, red wolf, Indian rhino and white rhino, and to stop us from making the same mistakes that were made that led to the extinction of the Yangtze river dolphin, the Javan rhino in Vietnam, and the northern white rhino.

There are already a few hard core donors to Sumatran rhino conservation work. Knowledge of Sumatran rhino biology under captive conditions, along with techniques for captive husbandry and breeding, have improved greatly since 1984. Assisted reproductive technologies for large mammals continue to advance. Twenty-nine years later, let us garner global support to give the "last try" its best shot. And let us be able to say, thirty years on, that there is in place a functioning array of measures that have started to turn the tide, to boost birth rate of the remaining Sumatran rhinos, and to bring the species back from the brink.

### *Summit Objectives*

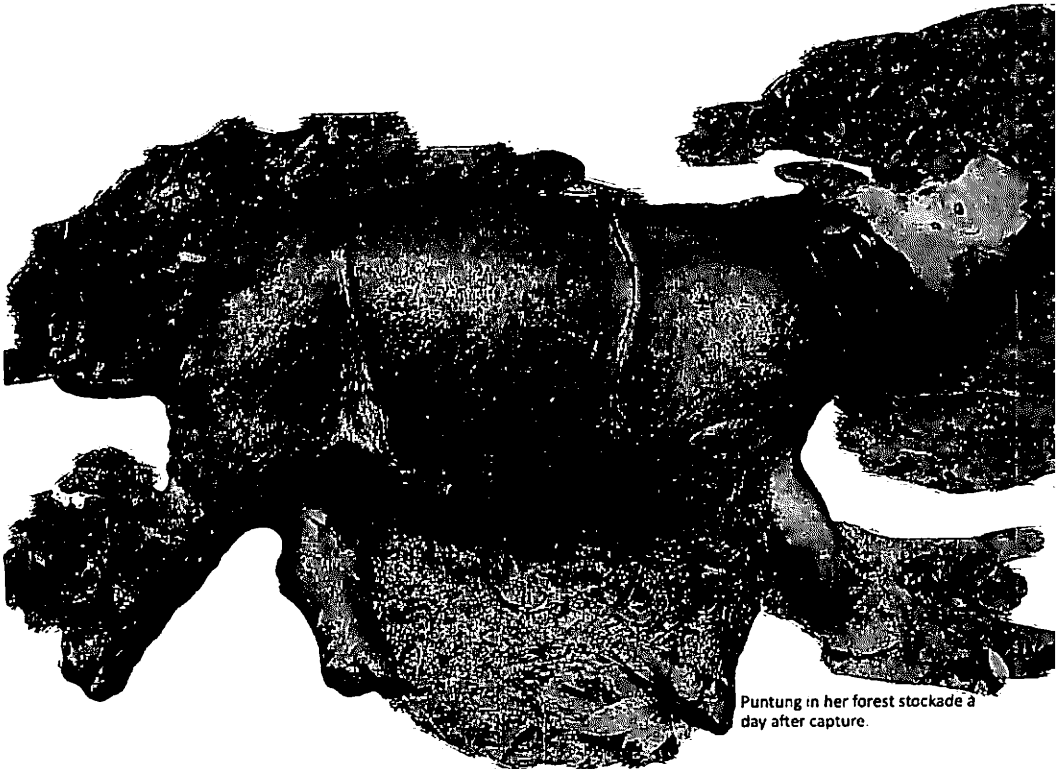
1. To forge a global Sumatran rhino conservation plan (this will involve a review and synthesis of existing plans, enhanced by the experiences of people who have been involved in successes and failures with endangered species; captive breeding will be seen in the context of a long-term re-introduction into the wild).
2. To seek new impetus (via new potential financing sources, influence and partnerships) to support the goal of preventing the extinction of the Sumatran rhinoceros.
3. To lift the conversation from local, national and Sumatran rhino specialist levels to a broad, global platform.
4. To seek ways to help those working on the ground secure enhanced governmental, political and financial support.
5. To initiate a process to raise Euro 30 million for the prevention of the extinction of the Sumatran rhinoceros.

### *Proposed participation*

- People involved in Sumatran rhino conservation and breeding
- People who will be involved in Sumatran rhino conservation and breeding after 2013
- People who have worked on other endangered species and sub-species that have been saved from extinction or that have gone extinct in recent decades
- Governmental and non-governmental representatives of the Sumatran rhino's current range states
- Institutions and persons who are involved in Sumatran rhino conservation financing
- Institutions and persons who may initiate new opportunities for sustainable financing

### *Financing the Sumatran Rhino Crisis Summit*

Co-funding support is agreed between Sime Darby Foundation, Wildlife Reserves Singapore, WWF, Borneo Rhino Alliance, LEAP and Taman Safari Indonesia. U.S. State Department is being asked to contribute.



Puntung in her forest stockade a day after capture.