

## Asian Rhino Specialist Group

**Chair:** Bibhab Kumar Talukdar

**Red List Authority Coordinator:** Susie Ellis

**Location/affiliation:** The Chair is based in Guwahati, Assam, India for about eight–nine months a year working with Aaranyak ([www.aaranyak.org](http://www.aaranyak.org)) and the other three–four months in Indonesia working with the International Rhino Foundation ([www.rhinos.org](http://www.rhinos.org))

**Number of members:** 63



Bibhab Kumar Talukdar

### Mission statement

The mission of the Asian Rhino Specialist Group (AsRSG) is to secure the future of all the three species of Asian Rhinos in the wild.

The key objectives of AsRSG include periodic dialogue with Asian Rhino Range states conservation agencies to bring rhino conservation challenges to the notice of respective governments to initiate follow up conservation measures, update the status of all three Asian rhino species on the IUCN Red List, provide expertise to Asian Rhino Range countries to conserve rhino populations effectively, working closely with AsRSG and TRAFFIC to prepare and submit reports on international trade on rhino horns at the CITES CoPs.

### Summary of main activities in 2014

In 2014, AsRSG organized a Greater One-Horned Rhino Population Modeling workshop at Guwahati on 4–5 November 2014 in association with IUCN/CBSG, International Rhino Foundation, WWF and Assam Forest Department. The purpose of the workshop was to review progress with Indian Rhino Vision (IRV) 2020 translocations to-date, discuss and determine the real numbers needed for the long-term success of the IRV 2020, taking into account our experience in Manas with poaching losses, model predicted population growth rates and the numbers of rhinos needed to make translocations a success; and discuss ways to ameliorate unforeseen events.

Greater One-horned Rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), Vulnerable. © Bibhab Talukdar



The Chair of AsRSG participated at the 2nd Rhino Security and Monitoring Workshop held in Kruger National Park, South Africa from 29 March to 1 April 2014.

### Future goals/activities

The immediate future goal is to work with the Indonesian Authorities to put in place Javan and Sumatran Rhino recovery and conservation actions that include shifting some populations of Javan Rhinos from existing Ujung Kulon National Park to other suitable areas within Indonesia and bring isolated Sumatran Rhino populations to existing Sumatran Rhino habitats where protection and monitoring system are in place.

In February 2015, AsRSG in association with IUCN/CBSG, International Rhino Foundation, WWF, Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry and other conservation agencies shall hold one Population and Habitat Viability Assessment Workshop for Javan Rhino in Indonesia and one Population Viability Analysis Workshop for Sumatran Rhino in Indonesia which will assist Indonesian Government to take future conservation steps to secure the future of Javan and Sumatran Rhinos in Indonesia.

A meeting of AsRSG members from Southeast Asia is being planned in early May 2015 in Indonesia to take stock of the current state of Javan and Sumatran Rhinos in Southeast Asia. It is worth mentioning that currently the Javan rhino is only found in Ujung Kulon NP of West Java, Indonesia.

In October a meeting of AsRSG for Greater One-horned Rhino shall be held either in Nepal or in India to take stock of the current conservation status of GOH Rhinos in India and Nepal.

### Acknowledgements

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- 2014 Spotlight on High-level Interventions
- IUCN Red List at 50
- Specialist Group Reports

