



Bibhab Kumar Talukdar

Chair

Bibhab Kumar Talukdar ⁽¹⁾

Red List Authority Coordinator

Susie Ellis Wildt ⁽²⁾

Location/Affiliation

⁽¹⁾ Aaranyak, 50 Samanwoy Path (Survey),
Guwahati 781 028, India

⁽²⁾ International Rhino Foundation

Number of members

61

Social networks

Facebook:

Asian Rhino Specialist Group

Website:

[https://rhinos.org/research-publications/
iucn-asian-rhino-specialist-group/](https://rhinos.org/research-publications/iucn-asian-rhino-specialist-group/)

IUCN SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group



Mission statement

Foster conservation and management of three species of Asian rhinos and their habitats.

Projected impact for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

In the 2nd Asian Rhino Range States Meeting, organised by the Asian Rhino Specialist Group (AsRSG) in New Delhi, India, 26–28 February 2019, all five Asian rhino range states attended and decided to secure the future of all three species of Asian rhinos by adopting the New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhino Conservation. The Greater One-horned Rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) was downlisted from Endangered to Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List in 2008 as its status improved, which reflects the true sense of conservation success. However, the Critically Endangered Sumatran Rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) and Javan Rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*), currently found in Indonesia, continue to face diverse challenges. IUCN SSC along with National Geographic, the International Rhino Foundation, Global Wildlife Conservation and WWF joined hands with Indonesia's Ministry for Environment and Forestry to launch the Sumatran Rhino Rescue Project in July 2019, to make extra efforts to save Sumatran Rhinos. Interactions among AsRSG members have also contributed new ideas to secure the three species of Asian rhinos in the wild.

Targets for the 2017-2020 quadrennium

Plan

Planning: (1) initiate preparation of the Javan Rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) Conservation Plan; (2) initiate preparation of the Sumatran Rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) Conservation Plan; (3) initiate preparation of the Greater One-horned Rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) Conservation Plan.

Policy: hold the 2nd Asian Rhino Range States Meeting.

Communicate

Communication: initiate Asian Rhino Species Update webinars in 2020 using virtual mode.

Activities and results 2020

Plan

Planning

i. The initial framework and write-up of the Javan Rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) Conservation Plan was initiated. Collation of information needed for various chapters is in progress. Unfortunately, however, the focal AsRSG member entrusted with this task died due to COVID-19. (KSR #15)

ii. Collation of information needed for various chapters of the Sumatran Rhino Conservation Plan is in progress. Since Sumatran Rhino is currently found in Indonesia only, discussion with the Ministry for Environment and Forestry is also underway as the country itself is making an emergency action plan for Sumatran Rhino, as the species currently needs some urgent attention. The contents of various chapters are being assigned and maps, etc., are being prepared for Sumatran Rhino distribution. However, due to COVID-19, not much progress could be made with Indonesian Ministry officials during 2020 for wider participation to prepare the report. (KSR #15)

Vulnerable Greater One-horned Rhino,
Rhinoceros unicornis, Kaziranga, India
Photo: Bibhab Talukdar



iii. We achieved about 60% progress collating information needed for various chapters of the Greater One-horned Rhino Conservation Plan. The content of various chapters is being drafted for India and Nepal, as these two countries cover the current distribution range of Greater One-horned Rhino. However, due to COVID-19 restrictions in 2020, the remaining tasks could not be completed because of travel restrictions to follow up and mental stress among AsRSG members, resulting from the pandemic-related uncertainty. (KSR #15)

Communicate

Communication

i. Out of three planned Asian Rhino Species Update webinars, only the Sumatran Rhino webinar could be achieved. (KSR #28)

Acknowledgements

AsRSG would like to acknowledge Secretarial support being provided by Aaranyak and the International Rhino Foundation during 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic standstill, no salient activities could be accomplished.

Summary of activities 2020

Species Conservation Cycle ratio: 2/5

Plan **3** |||

Communicate **1** |

Main KSRs addressed: 15, 28

KSR: Key Species Result



WhatsApp Image of AsRSG
Photo: AsRSG archives



Species

ISSUE 61

2020 Report

of the Species Survival Commission
and the Global Species and
Key Biodiversity Area Programme

