

Saving the Rhinos: what will it take?

Susie Ellis, Ph.D.

International Rhino Foundation

Rhinos have walked the Earth for more than 50 million years, but today, all but one species faces extinction, possibly within our lifetimes. Organized poaching in India, Nepal, and Africa has more than doubled in the past 3 years, and other threats are still emerging. But the news is not all bad. Although the two species of Indonesian rhinos – Javan and Sumatran - may be the most threatened large mammals on the planet - in peril from forest loss, habitat conversion, and from human settlements encroaching on their habitats, they are in better shape than might be expected because of the partnership between AAZK's Bowling for Rhinos and the International Rhino Foundation (IRF) for the past 10 years. This paper provides an update on the current situation facing these and other threatened rhino species and outlines some of most urgent rhino conservation needs – requiring all our collaborative efforts to prevent extinction.