



Species

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Volume I

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Cover photo: *Leucospermum heterophyllum*, a Vulnerable species distributed in the Agulhas plain area, Western Cape, South Africa. This species is one of the many threatened plants monitored by the CREW program and is confined to Elim Ferricrete Fynbos, which is also a highly threatened ecosystem type.
Photo: Ismail Ebrahim

Inset photos: Australian Sea Lion (*Neophoca cinerea*) adult female with pup, North Page Island, South Australia
Photo: Simon Goldsworthy (page 4)
False Spider Cave Crab (*Cancrocaeca xenomorpha*), a freshwater crab from caves of the Maros karst (Indonesia)
Photo: Didier Rigal (page 4)
Lear's Macaws (*Anodorhynchus leari*)
Photo: Agnes Coen (page 4)
Macolor niger, Black and White Snapper, Lutjanidae, Palau
Photo: David B. Snyder (page 4)
Yellow-blotched Palm Pit Viper (*Bothriechis aurifer*), a pitviper found in Mesoamerica listed in the Red List as Vulnerable
Photo: Justin Elden (page 5)

Layout by: Aixa Díaz

2024-2025 Report

IUCN SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group



CHAIR
Bibhab Kumar
Talukdar

Aaranyak, Guwahati,
India

**RED LIST AUTHORITY
COORDINATOR**
Susie Ellis Wildt

International Rhino
Foundation

NUMBER OF MEMBERS
61

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITES

Facebook: @asianrhinospecialistgroup

Website: <https://rhinos.org/>

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

Mission statement

The mission of the IUCN SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group (AsRSG) is to foster conservation and management of the three species of Asian rhinos and their habitats.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Out of the three species of Asian rhinos, the wild population of the Greater One-horned Rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) has been found stable and with an increasing trend in 2021.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-009 Prepare IUCC SSC AsRSG/AfRSG and TRAFFIC International Report on rhinos for CITES CoP-19.
Status: Achieved

T-010 Prepare IUCC SSC AsRSG/AfRSG and TRAFFIC International Report on rhinos for CITES CoP-20 to be held in 2025.
Status: On track

PLAN

T-003 Complete preparation of Greater One-horned Rhino Conservation Plan.
Status: On track

T-004 Assist Indonesia to prepare the National Plan for Javan Rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) and Sumatran Rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*).
Status: On track

ACT

T-005 Assist India and Nepal with technical inputs from the AsRSG members to increase the wild population of the Greater One-horned Rhinos to 4,500 by 2025.
Status: On track

NETWORK

T-006 Build capacity of AsRSG members on Red List and Green Status assessment.
Status: On track

T-007 Increase membership of AsRSG to about 100 by 2025 by including budding young professionals of diverse backgrounds with the ability to strengthen AsRSG.
Status: On track

T-012 Set up AsRSG Steering Committee to strengthen member's involvement.
Status: Achieved

COMMUNICATE

T-008 Hold the 3rd Asian Rhino Range States Meeting in Nepal in 2023.
Status: Achieved

T-011 Prepare and Submit the IUCN SSC AsRSG Chair's report in *Pachyderm Journal* for 2022-2023.
Status: Achieved

T-013 Prepare and Submit IUCN SSC AsRSG Chair's report in *Pachyderm Journal* for 2023-2024.
Status: Achieved

Activities and results 2024-2025

ASSESS

Policy

T-010 Prepare IUCC SSC AsRSG/AfRSG and TRAFFIC International Report on rhinos for CITES CoP-20 to be held in 2025. (KSR 5)

Joint report prepared on time and submit to CITES Secretariat: 1

Result description: Initial discussion with TRAFFIC and African Rhino Specialist Group and IUCN team responsible for CITES were initiated in 2024, to collect information in uniform format for incorporation in the joint report. Virtual call with CITES Secretariat also were done along with officials from TRAFFIC, IUCN Team for CITES and African Rhino Specialist Group. By the first quarter of 2025, the joint report of IUCN SSC AfRSG/AsRSG and TRAFFIC for CITES CoP



Sumatran Rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*)
in Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary
Photo: Bibhab Kumar Talukdar

20 on The African and Asian Rhinoceroses – Status, Conservation and Trade report was being drafted, reviewed and updated with latest available information and was planned to be submitted to CITES secretariat through IUCN key contacts by early May 2025.

PLAN

Planning

T-003 Complete preparation of Greater One-horned Rhino Conservation Plan. (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: Based on comments received from members of AsRSG and keeping in view that India and Nepal governments have published National Rhino Conservation Strategy and Action Plan, the steering committee of AsRSG decided to redraft the content of the Greater One Horned Rhino Conservation Plan which shall be completed before World Conservation Congress scheduled in October 2025.

T-004 Assist Indonesia to prepare National Plan for Javan Rhino (*R. sondaicus*) and Sumatran Rhino (*D. sumatrensis*). (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: Based on the reports of 26 Javan Rhino killed in Ujung Kulon NP of Indonesia during 2019-2023, but detected by Indonesian Police in early 2024 leading to thorough investigation resulting into conviction of arrested poachers with up to 12 years life imprisonment, the AsRSG Steering Committee has started re-drafting some of the content for Action Plan for Javan Rhino. Similarly, in the past two years with no authentic records of Sumatran Rhino in Southern Sumatra, the Steering Committee of AsRSG decided to refocus the plan on Northern Sumatra at potential landscape to secure the Sumatran Rhino. Both plans are being scheduled for release during IUCN World Conservation Congress in October, 2025 in Abu Dhabi.

ACT

Technical advice

T-005 Assist India and Nepal with technical inputs from the AsRSG members to increase the wild population of Greater One-horned Rhinos to 4,500 by 2025. (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: 3

Result description: During 2024, AsRSG members provided key inputs to India's Greater One Horned Rhino Conservation Action Plan published by the Ministry of

Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India and Wildlife Institute of India. The Chair of AsRSG and another member of AsRSG were editors of this publication. In the first quarter of 2025, we provided technical inputs to Bihar Government in India to plan for Rhino Re-introduction in Valmiki Tiger Reserve, Bihar. The Chair of AsRSG, along with two other members of AsRSG has been nominated by Bihar Government as a member of Rhino Task Force of Bihar to steer the wish of the government to re-introduce Greater One Horned Rhino in Valmiki Tiger Reserve in Bihar which will help transboundary rhino conservation with Chitwan National Park in Nepal.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-006 Build capacity of AsRSG members on Red List and Green Status assessment. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 4

Result description: Two AsRSG members, Dr Deba Kumar Dutta and Mr Arup Kumar Das underwent Red List assessment training at Coimbatore, India in November, 2024 imparted by Dr Sanjay Molur who has



Greater One Horned Rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*)
in Kaziranga National Park of Assam, India
Photo: Bibhab Kumar Talukdar



IUCN SSC AsRSG and IUCN WCPA World Rhino Day 2024
Photo: AsRSG



AsRSG Chair receiving Harry Messel Award of IUCN SSC in 2024
Photo: IUCN SSC

been associated with IUCN SSC CPSG and other Red List assessment trainings. In 2024, Dr Deba Dutta was designated as Deputy RLA for AsRSG while Dr Susie Ellis shall continue as RLA of AsRSG till the end of this quadrennium. In the first quarter of 2025, after attending the training on Red List assessment, Dr Deba Dutta and Mr Arup Kumar Das of AsRSG have started an online module of Red List to become a certified RLA of IUCN SSC. They are expected to complete the full module by September, 2025.

T-012 Set up AsRSG Steering Committee to strengthen member's involvement. (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in law enforcement and policy work: 2

Result description: The Steering Committee of AsRSG formed in November, 2024 with key responsibilities. Two AsRSG members were sent for Red List assessment training at Zoo Outreach Organisation in Coimbatore, India, where Mr Sanjay Molur of IUCN CPSG conducted a five-days training on Red List assessment. Similarly, two AsRSG members were oriented to help collate information needed for CITES CoP-20.

Membership

T-007 Increase membership of AsRSG to about 100 by 2025 by including budding young professionals of diverse backgrounds with the ability to strengthen AsRSG. (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 3

Result description: Compared to 2023, three new members have been appointed for AsRSG. Current members of AsRSG are 61.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-011 Prepare and submit the IUCN SSC AsRSG Chair's report in *Pachyderm Journal* for 2021-2022. (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 1

Result description: The AsRSG Chair's report was published in *Pachyderm Journal* in 2024.

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report prepared in association with IUCN SSC AfRSG and TRAFFIC International, during the first quarter of 2025. We are also grateful to IUCN SSC for supporting AsRSG Chair's participation at the 5th SSC Leaders Meeting at Abu Dhabi in October 2024.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 11

Geographic regions: 11 Asia

Actions during 2024-2025:

Assess: 1 (KSR 5)

Plan: 2 (KSR 8)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 3 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:



■ No longer a priority
 ■ Not initiated
 ■ On track
 ■ Achieved