

ASIAN RHINOS

BULLETIN

Newsletter of the IUCN SSC
Asian Rhino Specialist Group

ISSUE · DATE

No. 4 | May 2026
**CHAIR'S 30-DAY
REPORT**

PERIOD · PREPARED BY

18 April – 18 May 2026
Dr A. Christy Williams, Chair

A NOTE ON THE SERIES

The fourth issue of *Asian Rhinos*, returning to a six-monthly cadence

This is the 4th issue of *Asian Rhinos*, the AsRSG newsletter first launched in 1995. Numbers 1 and 2 were edited by Tom Foose and Nico van Strien (January and October 1995); Number 3, edited by Foose, van Strien and Kees Rookmaaker, appeared in March 2000 after a four-year pause. There have been two earlier attempts to revive the bulletin since then; this fourth issue marks a third restart, with a firm commitment to publish on a six-monthly cadence going forward so that members and partners receive a regular, dependable update on Asian rhino conservation.

GOVERNMENT ENGAGEMENT · INDONESIA

Jakarta meetings on *Sumatran & Javan rhino recovery*



With the Hon. Minister of Forestry

Jakarta · 6 May 2026

HEIDI S. RIDDLE (CHAIR, IUCN SSC ASESG) · H.E. MR RAJA
JULI ANTONI · A. CHRISTY WILLIAMS (CHAIR, ASRSG)



With IRF, ALeRT & WCN partners

Jakarta · 5–7 May 2026

STAKEHOLDER MEETING WITH THE IRF, ALERT
AND WCN FIELD AND PROGRAMME TEAMS.

Meeting with H.E. Minister of Forestry. Met Hon. Minister Raja Juli Antoni in Jakarta on 6 May 2026 and delivered the AsRSG briefing note on Sumatran and Javan rhino recovery, focused on (i) Conservation-led leadership, (ii) Conservation breeding, ART and second-habitat planning for the Javan rhino, and (iii) Innovative financing. Briefing reviewed and strengthened by Pak Anwar Purwoto, Pak Inov (IRF Indonesia), and Barney Long (Re:wild).

Joint follow-up letter with AsESG. A joint follow-up note was submitted to the Minister together with the IUCN SSC Asian Elephant Specialist Group (Chair: Heidi S. Riddle) after the meeting. The Minister's office has acknowledged receipt; AsRSG and AsESG stand ready to support a focused technical follow-up convened by DG KSDAE.

Stakeholder meetings in Jakarta (5–7 May). YABI team, Pak Anwar Purwoto (incoming Co-Chair, Sumatran Rhino sub-committee) and Heidi Riddle (Chair of AsESG). Introductions initiated via Edge Group Conservation to Bapak Hashim's office (rescheduled to June/July).

WORKING GROUP · SUB-COMMITTEE ACTIVITY · CALLS ATTENDED

Sub-committees standing up; *co-chairs confirmed*

Additional sub-committee co-chairs confirmed / progressing:

- Sumatran Rhino – Pak Anwar Purwoto
- Conservation Breeding & ART – Dr Barney Long and Dr Muhammad Agil
- Partners of AsRSG – Dr Jo Shaw (SRI) and Ms Nina Fascione (IRF)

GOH Rhino Conservation Planning sub-committee – introductory planning meeting convened among Naresh Subedi, Deba Dutta, Babu Ram Lamichhane and Amit Sharma (held 11 May).

Sumatran Rhino Rescue & ART. Attended the bi-weekly Zoom call series continued (22 April, 6 May, next 20 May, hosted by Pak Anwar) with YABI, IRF, Re:wild, ALeRT, FKL, SRS and partners.

Javan Rhino working call with ALeRT/YABI continued (29 April; 13 May postponed for in-field thermal drone work in UKNP).

Red List Authority. Dr Deba Dutta confirmed as RLA Coordinator (with Dr Susie Ellis providing continuity backstop).

Climate & rhinos work-stream under discussion – Dr Maheshwar Dhakal (Nepal MoFE), Nina Fascione and IRF to scope a GOH climate project.

MEMBERSHIP REVIEW · 2026-2029 QUADRENNIUM

Members, bios and *new candidates*

Members 2026 spreadsheet rolled out (28 April). All members asked to complete bio (100–150 words), headshot photo and sub-committee preferences by 15 May. Reminders issued to ~30+ members on 10–11 May; many confirmations received.

New members added for consideration: 13 candidates across Indonesia, India, US and Europe – see Annex B. These will be reviewed with the Chair of the membership working group, Dr Narendra Pradhan.

Bios still outstanding: 14 of 61 older members (carried over from the 2025 list and present in the 2026 Google sheet) have not yet filled their bio. Mrs CeCe Sieffert has stepped down and Cathy Dean is resigning April 2026 – to be replaced by Dr Jo Shaw.

TROUBLE UPLOADING?

If any member is having difficulty submitting their bio, headshot or sub-committee preferences via the 2026 Members sheet, please email them directly to chair@asianrhinos.group and the secretariat will add them on your behalf.

WEBSITE · PHOTO LIBRARY · EXTERNAL OUTREACH

Photo library: engaged Dr Kees Rookmaaker (Rhino Resource Centre) to source high-quality images for the AsRSG website.

ANNEX A

Working Group Rosters · 2026–2029

SELF-SELECTED SUB-COMMITTEE
 PREFERENCES AS RECORDED IN THE 2026
 MEMBERS GOOGLE SHEET

Names in *vermilion italic* are newly added members under consideration for the 2026–2029 quadrennium. A member may sit on more than one working group.

**GOH Rhino Conservation
 Planning**

29 MEMBERS

Deba Dutta	Dr Sonali Ghosh
Dr Andrew Laurie	Dr Steve Wilson
Dr Anjan Talukdar	Mr Abhinaya Pathak
Dr Anwaruddin Choudhury	Mr Amit Sharma
Dr Baburam Lamichhane	Mr Arup Kumar Das
Dr Bhaskar Choudhury	Mr Bishan Bonal
Dr Ganesh Pant	Mr Bishnu Shrestha
Dr Lucy Vigne	Mr Pradeep Vyas
Dr Maheshwar Dhakal	Mr Prashant Kumar
Dr Markus Hofmeyr	Mr Rishi Ranabhat
Dr Mudit Gupta	Mr Udayan Borthakur
Dr Narendra Pradhan	Ms Nina Fascione
Dr Naresh Subedi	<i>Mr Dedi Riyanto ·NEW</i>
Dr Pop Bhutia	<i>Ms Martha Parker ·NEW</i>
Dr Rathin Barman	

**Sumatran Rhino Conservation
 Planning**

21 MEMBERS

Dr Christy Williams	Mr Anwar Purwoto
Dr Lucy Vigne	Mr Francesco Nardelli
Dr Markus Hofmeyr	Mr Rois Mahmud
Dr Muhammad Agil	Mr Rudi Putra
Dr Sonali Ghosh	Ms Montana Stone
Dr Steve Wilson	<i>Dr Jo Shaw ·NEW</i>
Dr Sunarto Sunarto	<i>Ms Maggie Moore ·NEW</i>
Dr Susie Ellis	<i>Mr Dedi Riyanto ·NEW</i>
Dr Terri Roth	<i>Mr Ilham Ananda ·NEW</i>
Dr Zulfi Arsan	<i>Mr Dedy Surya Pahlawan</i>
Mr Abhinaya Pathak	<i>·NEW</i>

**Javan Rhino Conservation
 Planning**

20 MEMBERS

Dr Christy Williams	Dr Zulfi Arsan
Dr Lucy Vigne	Mr Abhinaya Pathak
Dr Markus Hofmeyr	Mr Francesco Nardelli
Dr Muhammad Agil	Mr Rois Mahmud
Dr Rathin Barman	Ms Montana Stone
Dr Sonali Ghosh	<i>Dr Jo Shaw ·NEW</i>
Dr Steve Wilson	<i>Ms Maggie Moore ·NEW</i>
Dr Sunarto Sunarto	<i>Mr Dedi Riyanto ·NEW</i>
Dr Susie Ellis	<i>Mr Ilham Ananda ·NEW</i>
Dr Terri Roth	<i>Mr Dedy Surya Pahlawan</i>
	<i>·NEW</i>

**Conservation Breeding & Assisted
 Reproduction**

19 MEMBERS

Dr Anjan Talukdar	Dr Zulfi Arsan
Dr Bhaskar Choudhury	Mr Amit Sharma
Dr Frederike von Houwald	Mr Bishan Bonal
Dr Lucy Vigne	Mr Francesco Nardelli
Dr Maheshwar Dhakal	Mr Pradeep Vyas
Dr Muhammad Agil	Mr Rudi Putra
Dr Sonali Ghosh	Mr Udayan Borthakur
Dr Steve Wilson	<i>Dr Barney Long ·NEW</i>
Dr Susie Ellis	<i>Mr Dedy Surya Pahlawan</i>
Dr Terri Roth	<i>·NEW</i>

Partners of AsRSG

18 MEMBERS

Dr Bibhab Talukdar	Dr Sunarto Sunarto
Dr Christy Williams	Mr Bishan Bonal
Dr Lucy Vigne	Mr Pradeep Vyas
Dr Maheshwar Dhakal	Ms Clare Campbell
Dr Markus Hofmeyr	Ms Nina Fascione
Dr Muhammad Agil	<i>Dr Barney Long ·NEW</i>
Dr Narendra Pradhan	<i>Dr Jo Shaw ·NEW</i>
Dr Naresh Subedi	<i>Mr Jimmy Rutherford ·NEW</i>
Dr Sonali Ghosh	<i>Nilanga Jayasinghe ·NEW</i>

**Communications & Knowledge
 Management**

20 MEMBERS

Dr Anjan Talukdar	Dr Sunarto Sunarto
Dr Baburam Lamichhane	Dr Susie Ellis
Dr Bhaskar Choudhury	Mr Abhinaya Pathak
Dr Kees Rookmaaker	Mr Bishan Bonal
Dr Lucy Vigne	Mr Pradeep Vyas
Dr Maheshwar Dhakal	Mr Prashant Kumar
Dr Narendra Pradhan	Ms Montana Stone
Dr Naresh Subedi	<i>Dr Jo Shaw ·NEW</i>
Dr Rathin Barman	<i>Mr Jimmy Rutherford ·NEW</i>
Dr Sonali Ghosh	<i>Nilanga Jayasinghe ·NEW</i>

ANNEX B

Membership Review Snapshot

A STANDING RECORD OF NEW SSC MEMBERS
ADDED, CANDIDATES UNDER CONSIDERATION,
AND OUTSTANDING BIOS

EXISTING SSC MEMBERS ADDED TO THE ASRSG GROUP

4

Dr Barney Long – *Re:wild* · Co-Chair, Conservation Breeding & ART

Nilanga Jayasinghe – *WWF-US*

Kaushik Barua – *Assam Elephant Foundation*

Dr Jo Shaw – *Save the Rhino International* · replacing Cathy Dean; Co-Chair, Partners

NEW MEMBERS ADDED TO THE 2026 SHEET (FOR CONSIDERATION)

9

Mr Jimmy Rutherford – *Save the Rhino International*

Dr Åsa Fahlman – *Sweden* · wildlife veterinarian; application received 27 April, bio submitted

Ms Maggie Moore – *International Rhino Foundation*

Dr Samrat Mondol – *Wildlife Institute of India* · nominated 6 May by Mr Amit Sharma

Ms Martha Parker – *International Rhino Foundation*

Mr Dedi Riyanto – *YABI, Ujung Kulon* – *Javan rhino*

Mr Ilham Ananda – *FKL/ALeRT* – *Sumatran rhino, Aceh*

Ms Shreshree Kumar – *Wildlife Institute of India* · nominated via Mr Amit Sharma

Dr Dedy Surya Pahlawan, DVM – *Rhino Foundation of Indonesia* – *SRS Way Kambas*

OLDER MEMBERS (2025 LIST) WITH BIOS STILL OUTSTANDING

14 OF 61

Dr Baburam Lamichhane

Mr Kanchan Thapa

Dr Dedi Candra

Mr Kuswandono Rumidi

Dr Muhammad Agil

Mr Pradeep Vyas

Dr Richard Emslie

Mr Prasanna Yonzon

Dr Shant Raj Jnawali

Mr SS Bist

Mr Ajay Karki

Ms Cory Brown

Mr Jayanta Deka

Prof Hamid Ahmad

PREPARED BY

Dr A. Christy Williams — *Chair,*
IUCN SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group

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