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19 May – 31 October 2026
Dr A. Christy Williams, Chair

01 · FROM THE CHAIR

Six months of *a functioning group*

Number 4 was a snapshot of a group waking up. Number 5 is something better: a bulletin written largely by its members. In these pages the Field Directors of Manas and Ujung Kulon — both members of this group — speak about the two hardest jobs in Asian rhino conservation; three members introduce themselves properly; and Kees Rookmaaker — who co-edited Number 3 of this bulletin in March 2000 — returns to these pages with both his own story and the publications section he has agreed to edit from now on.

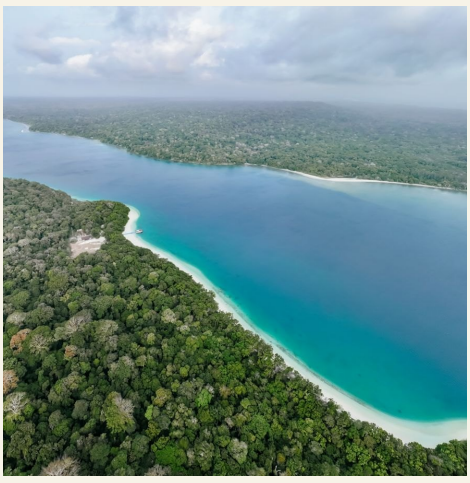
Since May, the sub-committees have continued to take shape — most recently the Javan Rhino Conservation Planning group, now co-chaired by Pak Ardi Andono, Head of Ujung Kulon National Park, and Pak Wanda. A Strategic Action Plan for the Sumatran rhino is being drafted for early 2027, and our members' pages are live at asianrhinos.group. The working groups will report formally, under their co-chairs' names, from Number 6.

And the period ends with the best kind of news: a new Javan rhino calf on camera in Ujung Kulon, two Sumatran rhino pregnancies at the SRS, and rhinos ranging free in Dudhwa. The animals, it seems, are keeping their side of the bargain. This bulletin exists so that we keep ours.

Warm regards,
Christy



Desy's fifth calf, first recorded 10 October 2026
© UJUNG KULON NATIONAL PARK (UKNP)



The Ujung Kulon peninsula
© UJUNG KULON NATIONAL PARK (UKNP)

EDITORIAL

Researching Rhinos *in the Library*

KEES ROOKMAAKER · RHINO RESOURCE CENTER · CO-EDITOR, *ASIAN RHINOS* NO. 3 (2000)

Rather than answer our questions, Kees sent an essay — which is exactly what we hoped the bulletin's historian would do. It begins fifty years ago, in the Artis Library in Amsterdam:

"On Wednesday afternoon, when there were no classes, I was allowed to spend time in the Artis Library... Here I was surrounded by all the great books of the past. It did not take long before I had to decide that a serious choice was needed, as my life would not be long enough to read everything on offer... What could really be better than the rhinoceros, with five living species, three in Asia, two in Africa. With the enthusiasm and naivete of youth, I somehow thought that I could wade my way through the accumulated wealth of knowledge in a few years. Rhinos are too ponderous to allow such quick fixes though."

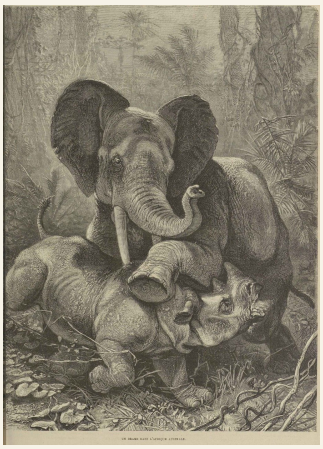
"At the start of the millennium... I was encouraged by Nico van Strien, who studied the rhinoceros in the Indonesian field and who had a great understanding of the value of older publications. Nico engaged the help of his son Willem to build a website needed for global access. In 2003 the Rhino Resource Center was born. The RRC now has over 30,000 references and over 7,500 images. We add about 3 items every day of the year."

On this bulletin: "At the turn of the century, Nico van Strien and Tom Foose wanted to put together a newsletter with all the latest news from the field. They asked me to join their team for the 3rd issue of 2000. That would be the last for some time... This then must be a call to everybody working with rhinos, especially in the range states, to write about any developments as they happen. A newsletter is a far more permanent venue than a picture or blog on social media."

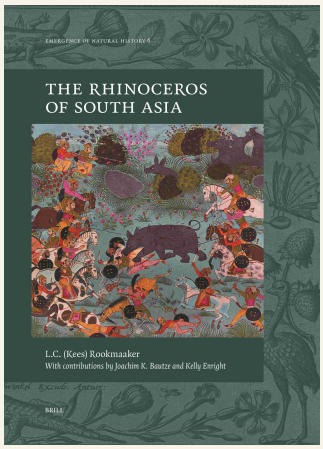
And on his magnum opus, The Rhinoceros of South Asia (Brill, 2024; 890 pages, 707 figures, 3,081 bibliography items): "Some reviewers have stressed that the book is too expensive for individuals. How did they overlook that the book is available on the publisher's website, to view, to read, to download — entirely free for everybody anywhere in the world." (doi.org/10.1163/9789004691544)



Kees Rookmaaker in the Artis Library
25 June 2026



Chasse Illustrée, 20 October 1881
"yes, 2 horns, but distinctly GOHR?"



The Rhinoceros of South Asia (Brill, 2024)
free to read and download at the publisher's site.

02 · STATE OF THE SPECIES · STANDING DASHBOARD

The numbers, *as officially known*

SPECIES	BEST ESTIMATE	AS OF	SOURCE	KEY SITES
Greater one-horned	4,075 (IRF State of the Rhino, 2025)	2025	Range-state censuses	Kaziranga · Chitwan · Pobitora · Orang · Jaldapara · Gorumara · Manas ≈50 (FD, this issue) · Dudhwa 53 (census, Jun 2026)
Javan	No official figure; spatial-count estimate in development (35 camera clusters, 140 traps)	2026	TNUK monitoring programme (this issue)	Ujung Kulon only
Sumatran	Fewer than 50 in the wild	Oct 2026	IRF, 3 Oct 2026	Leuser · Way Kambas (SRS: 10 animals) · Kalimantan

Printed every issue with the estimate date beside every figure. Only officially released figures; contested numbers are shown as ranges with both sources.

03 · GROUP NOTES

Javan Rhino sub-committee. Pak Ardi Andono (Head, Ujung Kulon NP) and Pak Wanda confirmed as Co-Chairs, October 2026. Working group reports in the Done · Next · Needs format begin as a standing section in Number 6 (May 2027). Members' pages are live at asianrhinos.group/members. Sumatran rhino. A Strategic Action Plan document is expected in early 2027.

04 · RHINO NEWS ROUNDUP · 19 MAY – 31 OCTOBER 2026

Since May, *in brief*

A fifth calf for Desy in Ujung Kulon. A Javan rhino calf, one to two months old, was recorded by camera trap on 10 October wallowing beside its mother, Desy — her fifth calf (after Arjuna 2013, Arum 2015, Hawa 2018 and Syauki 2024) and her third with the male Musofa. The park's monitoring team report both mother and calf in good condition. The announcement came as this issue went to press — and the Field Director who announced it is this issue's second Park & People interview.

MINISTRY OF FORESTRY / BALAI TN UJUNG KULON, 3 NOVEMBER 2026

Two Sumatran rhino pregnancies at the SRS. Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry and YABI announced that Ratu (by Andalas, her fourth calf) and Delilah (by Harapan, her second) are both pregnant and due in May 2027 at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, Way Kambas. Delilah was the first Sumatran rhino born in managed care to produce a calf of her own. The SRS now holds ten animals and has reached capacity; IRF is fundraising to expand it.

INTERNATIONAL RHINO FOUNDATION, 3 OCTOBER 2026

Dudhwa's free-ranging experiment. In March, four greater one-horned rhinos were released from Dudhwa's fenced rehabilitation area, bringing the free-ranging population to eight; Uttar Pradesh is assessing the feasibility of ten as the first phase of a wider Terai strategy. The June 2026 census counted 53 rhinos (17 adult males, 25 adult females, 11 calves over one year). "The objective should be more than releasing the 10 rhinos — it should be establishing an ecologically functional, demographically viable and genetically resilient free-ranging rhino population," AsRSG member Amit Sharma (WWF-India) told The Better India. The piece also records the loss of Rajeshwari, a 30-year-old female, to tiger predation in March.

THE BETTER INDIA, 20 OCTOBER 2026

05 · PARK & PEOPLE · NO. 1 IN THE SERIES

Manas, *twenty-six years on*

DR SONALI GHOSH · FIELD DIRECTOR, MANAS NATIONAL PARK
MEMBER, ASRSG · INTERVIEWED FOR ASIAN RHINOS

Number 3 of this bulletin (March 2000) carried the memorial for Sanjoy Deb Roy, Manas's first Field Director. We return to his park with rhinos back on the ground — through a Director who has run both Kaziranga and Manas.



Manas's famous melanistic leopard crossing
PHOTOGRAPH: NAYAN JYOTI DAS

Q· *Manas lost its entire rhino population in the insurgency years, then rebuilt it through translocations. What does that journey look like from inside the park today?*

Manas has lived through one of conservation's most difficult journeys. During the insurgency years, its entire rhino population was lost to poaching, and the park was placed on UNESCO's List of World Heritage in Danger in 1992. Yet what followed is equally important: through sustained translocations, community participation, improved protection, and long-term political and administrative commitment, Manas began to recover. Rhino reintroduction began in 2006 under the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 programme, and UNESCO removed the "in Danger" listing in 2011. For me, Manas is proof that science-backed conservation works — but only when it is matched by political will, patient institutions, and the willingness to accept setbacks without abandoning the long-term goal.

Q· *Where does the population stand, and how is it monitored and secured day to day?*

The rhino population is currently pitched at around 50 individuals. We are now trying to return to the intensive monitoring strategy used during the early reintroduction phase, when every animal was individually tracked and followed. Day to day, this means combining direct observation, intelligence-led patrolling, habitat monitoring, and coordination between frontline staff, local communities, and partner organizations. The objective is simple: know each animal, understand its movement and condition, and ensure that protection is proactive rather than reactive.

Q· *You have directed both Kaziranga and Manas. What did Kaziranga teach you — and what simply doesn't transfer?*

Both Kaziranga and Manas are World Heritage Sites, and rightly so. Both teach the same fundamental lesson: large, connected landscapes must remain inviolate if wildlife is to thrive and recover. But the similarity ends there. Kaziranga taught me the value

of strong, centralized protection — what is often described as "fortress conservation." That model has worked well in its context. Manas, however, taught me that there cannot be one blanket solution for every landscape. In a post-conflict setting, collaborative governance has been far more effective. Manas has shown me that foresters must respect and acknowledge multiple governance models, especially where communities are not merely stakeholders but partners in conservation.

Q· *How has the relationship with the fringe villages changed, and what role do former poachers play?*

Collaborative governance helped Manas recover much faster than would normally be expected in a post-conflict landscape. The Bhutan side also acted as a natural buffer during the conflict years, allowing many wildlife populations to survive and later spring back. Former poachers, local communities, and especially women who had few alternatives during the decade-long conflict joined hands with the government to support conservation. That shift is perhaps Manas's greatest achievement: conservation is no longer seen only as a government instruction, but as a shared future.

Q· *What of Sanjoy Deb Roy's legacy do you still feel in how the park runs?*

Sanjoy Deb Roy's spirit and soul will reside in Manas forever. His surveillance systems remain part of the park's protection architecture, but his influence goes beyond technology. His experiments with pygmy hog recovery and grassland management continue to shape how we think about habitat restoration in Manas. His legacy reminds us that good conservation is both rigorous and imaginative.



Frontline staff of Manas National Park
— PHOTOGRAPH: PHOTO MUSINGS LAB

Q· *What would success look like ten years from now?*

The complete restoration of Manas's habitats and animal populations to their pre-1992 status. That does not only mean more rhinos. It means secure grasslands, healthy riverine ecosystems, viable populations of flagship and lesser-known species, and a landscape where local communities see themselves as custodians of that recovery.

Q· *What could AsRSG members actually do for Manas?*

Support technical knowledge exchange, share global best practices, help strengthen monitoring and veterinary capacity, and contribute positive international visibility. Most importantly, help garner global support — including funding — for Manas's long-term conservation programme.

Q· *What do people outside Assam most misunderstand about Manas?*

People often assume that Manas is still deeply affected by insurgency — unsafe, lawless, its animals routinely hunted. That image is outdated. Manas today is a recovering, actively managed landscape with committed frontline staff, engaged communities, and growing wildlife populations. The challenge now is not lawlessness; it is sustaining recovery in a complex landscape.

Q· *A moment you are proudest of?*

The journey from 2007, when the UNESCO monitoring mission reviewed Manas as a site in danger and I was a bright-eyed DFO supporting the review mission, to 2011, when the site came off the Danger List — and now to receiving recognition from UNESCO for Manas's revival. Being part of that journey has been deeply humbling.

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06 · PARK & PEOPLE · NO. 2 IN THE SERIES

Ujung Kulon, *the last of the last*

PAK ARDI ANDONO · HEAD, UJUNG KULON NATIONAL PARK · CO-CHAIR, JAVAN RHINO CONSERVATION PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBER, ASRSG



Pak Ardi Andono — © Ujung Kulon National Park (UKNP)



Marine patrol, Ujung Kulon

© UJUNG KULON NATIONAL PARK (UKNP)



Patrol on the ground

© UJUNG KULON NATIONAL PARK (UKNP)

Q· *Ujung Kulon is the only place on Earth where the Javan rhino survives in the wild. What does that responsibility feel like, day to day?*

It is both a great honour and a serious challenge. I am fully aware that the survival of one of the world's rarest mammals depends on the protection we provide in this park. This is not only Indonesia's responsibility, but a global conservation responsibility. For me, protecting the Javan rhino is more than an administrative duty — it is a moral responsibility to ensure that future generations can still see this magnificent animal living in the wild, rather than only reading about it in history books. We should never be satisfied simply because the Javan rhino is still alive today.

Q· *Where does the population stand, and how do you monitor it?*

Since 2024 we have been developing a population monitoring approach called spatial count. Our survey design is organised into 35 clusters, with four camera traps in each — 140 cameras providing systematic coverage across the park. We identify individuals from physical features, and combine identification, camera locations and detection times into a spatial database. Importantly, we do not simply count the rhinos photographed: in a dense tropical forest some animals may never pass a camera, so we use statistical approaches that account for imperfect detection. Monitoring is not just about knowing how many Javan rhinos remain

— it is about understanding where they live, how they use their habitat, and how changes in the environment may affect them. Alongside the cameras we run regular patrols and are developing thermal drones.



From the spatial-count grid: 140 cameras across the park

© UJUNG KULON NATIONAL PARK (UKNP)



Camera-trap still, Ujung Kulon

© UJUNG KULON NATIONAL PARK (UKNP)

Q· *The difficult findings of recent years shook confidence in the park's numbers. What has changed?*

Population monitoring must go hand in hand with stronger protection. Over the past few years we have rebuilt the protection system: patrols reorganised under a single command with revised procedures; a Fully Protected Area approach across the peninsula, with patrol teams moving continuously, supported by marine patrols, to close access routes; a firearms reduction effort with the police — 375 firearms collected and destroyed; law enforcement strengthened — seven rhino poachers arrested and prosecuted, with sentences of 11–12 years and fines up to IDR 100 million; real-time surveillance cameras and a K9 unit of four detection dogs; river access routes used by poachers blocked; and a communications network and operations room so rapid-response teams act on threats quickly. Javan rhino conservation requires two things working together: stronger scientific monitoring and stronger protection on the ground.

Q· *What role do the communities around the park play?*

Park protection cannot be achieved by park officers alone. We have developed an approach called the Five Protective Pillars — Lima Pagar Perlindungan: Social, Cultural, Life, Economic and Education Protection. We want to change the way people think about local communities: they should not be seen as people who need to be monitored, but as strategic partners. Our philosophy is simple — protecting Ujung Kulon means building strong relationships with its people, creating a living social shield for the Javan rhinoceros and its habitat.

Q· *The park lives with Krakatau and tsunami risk. How do you see the second-habitat question?*

When the entire population of a species is concentrated in one location, its future is exposed to the same risks; a major disaster could have devastating consequences. That is why developing a second habitat is a strategic necessity, not simply an additional option. Indonesia has developed the Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area (JRSCA) to build the knowledge, technical experience and management capacity needed. The future of Javan rhino conservation must be built on two approaches working side by side: strengthening protection in Ujung Kulon and developing a safe and suitable second habitat.

Q· *You are now Co-Chair of the AsRSG's Javan Rhino sub-committee. What should it achieve by 2029?*

Together with Mr Wanda, I see four priorities: strengthen the scientific information on the population — estimates, distribution, dynamics, individual identification; strengthen protection of the population and habitat; support the development of a second habitat and prepare a translocation strategy based on scientific, veterinary, welfare and risk-management considerations; and strengthen collaboration between the Indonesian government, scientists, veterinarians, conservation organisations and international experts. The success of the sub-committee should not be measured by the number of meetings held or documents produced, but by its real contribution to better protection and a more secure future for the Javan rhino.

Q· *What can AsRSG members do, practically, for Ujung Kulon?*

Scientific expertise in population estimation, genetics and technology-based monitoring; veterinary expertise in rhino health, anaesthesia, transport and welfare during rescue and translocation; support for second-habitat development — suitability, carrying capacity, ecological readiness; and the experience of India and Nepal in rhino management and translocation, which could provide valuable lessons. The most valuable support is support that can be translated into real action.

Q· *A moment you are proudest of?*

Operation Merah Putih — the rescue and translocation of a Javan rhino named Musofa, with support from partners including the Indonesian Navy Marine Corps and its KAPA K-61 unit. Javan rhino translocation is an extremely challenging operation; every stage had to be handled carefully, from capture to the animal's adaptation at the destination. But the greatest achievement is knowing that we have helped keep Javan rhinos alive and safe in their natural habitat — and I deeply appreciate our field officers, who work every day under difficult conditions.



The Head of Park with joint patrol personnel, Ujung Kulon

© UJUNG KULON NATIONAL PARK (UKNP)

07 · MEET THE MEMBERS · THE FIRST BATCH

Three of us, *properly introduced*

A new standing series: members introduced in their own words, with questions written around each person's actual work.



Anwar Purwoto — *the coordinator*

CO-CHAIR, SUMATRAN RHINO SUB-COMMITTEE

Q· *Your first rhino memory?*

My memory goes back to the 1990s, when I was working for the Ministry of Forestry with protected areas that were habitats for the Sumatran rhino — Way Kambas, Bukit Barisan, Kerinci Seblat and Leuser. My involvement got deeper at WWF Indonesia, where rhino was one of four flagship species and we worked directly with the Javan rhino in Ujung Kulon and the Sumatran rhino in Bukit Barisan Selatan.

Q· *What has coordinating the implementing partners taught you about what the programme most needs?*

YABI, FKL and ALeRT work directly in the field, so they know the issues very well; we regularly share progress, problems and constraints, and help each other as much as we are able. What I have learned: we need strong coordination among institutions so the real problems are discussed and solved effectively; one body representing the partners that can bring field issues to the government and obtain guidance directly from the decision-making body; a forum where donors and field partners can meet, because sustainable financing recurs constantly; and a mechanism to monitor project implementation site by site.

Q· *If the collaborative proposal works, what does Sumatran rhino conservation look like by 2029?*

From early 2027 we will have the Strategic Action Plan for Sumatran Rhino Conservation. If the collaborative proposal is funded, it means we work together to achieve the targets in a document approved by the government — avoiding overlap, strengthening cohesiveness.

Q· *How do you balance rescue-and-ART against in-situ protection for a species down to the last few dozen?*

We have to work simultaneously on both, because these two pillars support each other. The wild population is limited, which means we need strong in-situ protection — but with such a population we also need human intervention to push reproduction through rescue and ART.

Q· *What has changed across your career — and what stubbornly hasn't?*

What has changed is people's understanding: they now know the Sumatran rhino population is very limited, not as large as once predicted. What hasn't: we still do not see the big movement needed to handle the situation — above all on protecting the rhino's habitats and population.



Babu Ram Lamichhane — *the conflict scientist*

NEPAL · GOH RESEARCH, RESCUE AND REHABILITATION

Q· *Your first rhino memory?*

I saw a rhino for the first time at the Central Zoo when I was about 11, visiting Kathmandu from our remote hill village in Gorkha. It was winter and the rhinos were having a good sun bath. I was mesmerized by their grace.

Q· *What has your Chitwan conflict research taught you about keeping people and rhinos both safe?*

Studying 18 years of incidents (1998–2016), I found attacks by megaherbivores had not significantly changed over time — and that human behaviour is responsible for most of them. Carnivores kill by hunting instinct; but for rhino and elephant attacks, behaviour change by people, adopting safety protocols, can reduce attacks significantly. In recent years the number of attacks has been decreasing.

Q· *Nepal keeps achieving zero-poaching years. What ingredient does the outside world miss?*

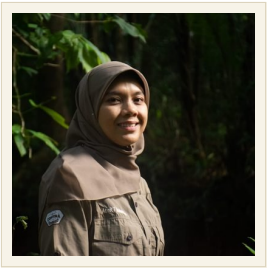
Nepal's unique system of cooperation among stakeholders. After the tragic losses of 2000–2005, government, communities and partners realized that without proactive action all rhinos would be lost. Community-based anti-poaching units watch the buffer zones; the Nepal Army guards the park through regular, ambush and long-range patrols; and since 2010 a coordination mechanism at central, district and province level means that if poachers escape the park, security forces outside will follow them and bring them into custody. Community vigilance plus coordinated law enforcement — that is the ingredient.

Q· *What should the GOH planning group tackle first?*

Nepal already has a national action plan — the priority is implementing it, not writing new strategy. Focus on regional cooperation across the India–Nepal border; identify where implementation is stalling and what would unblock it; and prepare for the mid-term review in 2029 so progress is measured against shared indicators.

Q· *Something your fellow members don't know about you?*

I was part of the team that developed SightingBase — individual-ID rhino monitoring. Now there are AI pattern-recognition softwares, but we did it by hand: photographing rhinos and building IDs from each animal's distinguishing features. SightingBase was also a basis for the development of M-Stripes in India.



Kurnia "Nia" Khairani — *the vet in the forest*

VICE CHAIR, ASRSG–INDONESIA · DIRECTOR, ALERT (ALIANSI LESTARI RIMBA TERPADU)

Q· *You trained as a vet — how did the path to leading ALeRT unfold?*

When I was studying veterinary medicine, I never thought I would work in wildlife conservation. My journey started in 2005, when I joined a Sumatran rhino rescue mission in Bukit Barisan Selatan — we translocated a female named Rosa to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. That experience opened my eyes. Later I became involved in disease surveillance for Javan rhinos — challenging, because we cannot examine the animals directly. Now, as Director of ALeRT, most of my work is managing programmes, leading the team and building partnerships. I never planned this career; it happened step by step.

Q· *Where does disease rank among the Javan rhino's threats?*

Disease is an important threat, especially because the population is very small and survives in one place. One concern is transmission from domestic animals, including buffalo. But I would not say it is the biggest threat — we still need more evidence to compare it with habitat conditions, natural disasters, and the single-population risk itself. The important thing is that we should not wait for an outbreak: losing even a few individuals could have a serious impact.

Q· *What would you tell a young Indonesian woman scientist who wants your job?*

Don't limit yourself to what you studied at university. Be brave, speak up, and take opportunities even when you feel you are not fully ready — you don't need to know everything before you start. And don't feel you have to change who you are to become a leader. You can be firm and make difficult decisions while still being kind and respectful. Leadership is not about knowing everything; it is about being willing to learn, working with the right people, and staying committed to what you believe in.

Q· *What could the AsRSG network genuinely do for your work?*

More opportunities to learn from other rhino practitioners. We work on different species in different countries, but the challenges are similar — disease, monitoring, habitat protection, law enforcement. I hope AsRSG can be a place where we do not only share achievements but openly discuss challenges. That is the real value of a network.

Q· *Something your fellow members don't know about you?*

I am actually quite an easily stressed and panicky person — and I have a stomach problem, so stress is really not my best friend! Sometimes I think my mind and my stomach are working together to remind me to slow down. But somehow I am still here. You don't have to be a naturally calm person to work in conservation: you just need to keep going, learn to manage your panic — and make sure your stomach survives the journey too. A cup of jamu helps.

08 · NEW PUBLICATIONS & RESOURCES · ASIAN RHINOS IN PRINT

The literature, *kept by its keepers*

SECTION EDITORS: KEES ROOKMAAKER & JAMAL KABIR · RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

These are the new entries in the bibliography from July to October 2026. Most items can be read in full on the RRC. PACHYDERM has just released its latest issue (no. 67 for 2026): check their website for updates: https://pachydermjournal.org/

If anything is found missing, we hope to hear from you: https://rhinoresourcecenter.com/contact/

ALL ASIAN SPECIES

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International Rhino Foundation 2026. State of the Rhino Report 2026. Washington, IRF. pp. 1-15 (online only).

International Rhino Keeper Association 2026. Various notes: President's perspective (Bobko); Elections; Knoxville Zoo's facility focus ; Births, deaths, transfers. The Crash July 2026.

Priyono, D.S.; Khairi, H.A.; Andryan, A.; Arisuryanti, T.; Eprilurahman, R.; Bakar, M.A.L.A. 2026. The role of wildlife DNA forensics in combatting rhino horn trafficking: Lessons from Indonesian cases. Hystrix (The Italian Journal of Mammalogy) 37 (1): 1-19. doi.org/10.4404/hystrix-00842-2025

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Rookmaaker, L.C. 2026. The animal collection of People's Park Zoo, Madras, from 1876 to 1890. Zoos Print 41 (6): 1-5.

Rookmaaker, L.C. 2026. Rhinoceroses exhibited in the People's Park of Madras. Zoos Print 41 (7): 5-6.

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Priyambodo; Zulkarnain, D.; Rustiati, E.L.; Kurniawan, Y.; Putri, C.R.R.; Srihanto, E.A.; Saswiyanti, E.; Arsan, Z.; Sukatmoko; Pratiwi, D.N.; Permatasari, N. 2026. Detection of environmental DNA from tree bark associated with rubbing behavior of Dicerorhinus sumatrensis in Way Kambas National Park. Organisms 6 (1): 51-62. doi.org/10.24042/zv2m2645

Payne, J.; Zainuddin, Z.Z. 2026. A conceptual framework for understanding rhinoceroses' persistence and extinction in Borneo. Pachyderm 67. doi.org/10.69649/pachyderm.v67i.1374

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CITES Secretariat 2026. Eighty-first meeting of the Standing Committee: Responses to Notification to the Parties no. 2026/085 on implementation of decisions 18.116 and 20.81 on Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae). Report to CITES SC81 Inf. 4: 1-42.

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09 · MEMBERS' CORNER

The record put right, *and your turn next*

CORRECTION

Annex A of Number 4 printed one member's name incompletely as "Bishan Bonal". His name is Mr Bishan Singh Bonal — retired IFS, formerly Director of Kaziranga and Member Secretary of the NTCA. The rosters and records have been corrected, with the editor's apologies.

Asian Rhinos is written by its members. For Number 6 (May 2027), send field notes (100–300 words), photographs with credits, announcements, publications and news to chair@asianrhinos.group by 31 March 2027. From Number 6 the bulletin also carries reports from every working group, under their co-chairs' names.

10 · CALENDAR & NOTICES

Dates *to hold*

- November 2026 — CITES Standing Committee (SC81): Indonesia's national report on the Javan rhino (SC81 Doc. 39) — the first official international reporting since CoP20.
- Early 2027 — Strategic Action Plan for Sumatran Rhino Conservation expected.
- May 2027 — Ratu and Delilah due at the SRS. Also: Asian Rhinos Number 6 — contributions by 31 March 2027.

ANNEXES · STANDING RECORDS

Annex A — Working Group Rosters: unchanged since Number 4, except: Javan Rhino Conservation Planning — Pak Ardi Andono and Pak Wanda confirmed as Co-Chairs (Oct 2026).

Annex B — Membership Snapshot: Membership review ongoing via the IUCN SSC portal; candidates are with the membership working group. A full snapshot returns in Number 6.

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

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