

# SUMATRAN RHINOS

## "HAIRY RHINOS"

In addition to being the smallest and hairiest of the rhino species, Sumatran rhinos are also the most prehistoric and loosely related to the extinct woolly rhino.

As with Javan rhinos, this species is on the verge of extinction due to a catastrophic decline. Sumatran rhinos live in dense jungle and are few in number, but the birth of a calf to Rosa, a Sumatran rhino at Way Kambas National Park, Indonesia in March 2022 has rekindled hope for future births.



### AVERAGE LIFESPAN

Approximately 30-40 years although a female called Bina celebrated her 42nd birthday in 2023

### HORNS

Front horn: 25-80 cm  
Rear horn: 10 cm

### HEIGHT

Approximately 120-150 cm (to the shoulder)

### WEIGHT

Adults weigh approximately 500-950 kg

### SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*

"Dicerorhinus": from the Greek di, meaning "two" and "ceros", meaning "horn" and "rhinos", meaning "nose" and "sumatrensis" referring to Sumatra

### SUB-SPECIES

Western (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*)

Eastern (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis harrissoni*)

Northern (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis lasiotis*)

### CONSERVATION STATUS

Western: Critically endangered

Eastern (Borneo): Critically endangered, but only 2 or 3 believed to exist

Northern Sumatran: Assumed extinct



### DIET

Twigs, leaves, shrubs and fruit (especially wild mangoes and figs)

### SOCIAL

Usually solitary, except for females with small calves and brief periods of courtship

### COMMUNICATION

Arguably the most voiciferous of the rhino species, with a wide selection of sounds including eeps, whale and whistle-blows which contain high level infrasound that would be advantageous for use in the rhino's forest habitat

### HISTORICAL & CURRENT RANGE

Once prevalent in the foothills of the eastern Himalayas, India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and southwestern China as well as the Indonesian islands.

Only found on the Indonesian island of Sumatra (except the 2 or 3 in Kalimantan) at Way Kambas National Park, Leuser Ecosystem and Bukit Barisan National Park, Sumatra

### POPULATION

The exact number is unknown. The Indonesian government's official estimate is 80 individuals. However, the African Rhino Specialist Group estimates the actual figure is closer to 34-47.

### POPULATION INCREASE/DECREASE

The eastern (Borneo) Sumatran rhino was declared extinct in wild Malaysian Borneo in April 2015. There are thought to be only 2 or 3, including a female in captivity named Pahu in Kalimantan.

An internal assessment carried out by the Asian Rhino Specialist Group (AsRSG) estimates the population has declined around 13% between 2017 and 2022. Their inhospitable habitat, low numbers and fragmented population complicate tracking and conserving, but also mating.



### REPRODUCTION

- Gestation: 15-16 months
- Birth numbers: Single calf
- Birth interval: 3-4 years
- Female sexual maturity: 6-7 years
- Male sexual maturity: 10 years

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