

2021 Report

IUCN SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group



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**RED LIST AUTHORITY
COORDINATOR**
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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
58

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE

Facebook: @asianrhinospecialistgroup
Website: <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

AsRSG shall assist Asian rhino range states with technical inputs to maintain viable, stable and enhance population of three species of Asian rhinos. AsRSG shall also assist Assam Government in India for range expansion of Greater One-horned Rhino within Assam, India in the current quadrennium.

Targets 2021–2025

PLAN

- T-003** Complete preparation of Greater One-horned Rhino Conservation Plan.
- T-004** Assist Indonesia to prepare National Plan for Javan Rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) and Sumatran Rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*).

ACT

- 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.

NETWORK

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

COMMUNICATE

- T-008** Hold the 3rd Asian Rhino Range States Meeting in Nepal in 2022.

Activities and results 2021

PLAN

Planning

- T-003** (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this task has been going slowly. As such, the Greater One-horned Rhino Conservation Plan is expected to be completed by the end of 2022 or by early 2023, after internal review by two range country government officials and four independent AsRSG members with expertise working for Greater One-horned Rhinos in India and Nepal.

- T-004** (KSR 8)

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 0

Result description: Dialogue to assist Indonesia to prepare the National Plan for Javan and Sumatran Rhino initiated in 2021.

ACT

Technical advice

- T-005** (KSR 10)

Number of technical consultations provided to support conservation actions: Ongoing.

Result description: AsRSG members assisted range country government agencies to assess rhino population in the rhino bearing areas and provided inputs to continue to build and strengthen rhino population and quality of rhino habitat. Invasive alien plant species have been removed through proactive leadership of the rhino bearing area's management authority with technical inputs from AsRSG members.

NETWORK

Capacity building

- T-006** (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 0

Result description: Discussion to gauge interest from members was initiated in 2021 with an aim to start training sessions in 2022.



Greater One-horned Rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) in Pobitora WLS
Photo: Bibhab Talukdar



Greater One-horned Rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) in Kaziranga for Translocation
Photo: Bibhab Talukdar

Membership

T-007 (KSR 2)

Number of SSC members recruited: 10

Result description: Ten new members were recruited for the AsRSG.

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-008 (KSR 12)

Number of scientific events organised: 0

Result description: The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Government of Nepal, has agreed to host the 3rd Asian Rhino Range States Meeting in the second part of 2022 (25% achieved).

Acknowledgements

International Rhino Foundation (IRF) has been supporting rhino research and conservation since its inception and is a regular supporter of AsRSG. Aaranyak has been hosting the office of the Chair of AsRSG and provides all possible secretarial support. WWF has been a regular supporter of AsRSG's activities in India.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 6

Geographic regions: 6 Asia

Actions during 2021:

Plan: 2 (KSR 8)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 2 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

Overall achievement 2021–2025:

