



# Species

ISSUE 63

## 2022 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat



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## The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC)

The IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) is a science-based network of thousands of volunteer experts from almost every country of the world, all working together toward achieving the vision of “a just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to both prevent the loss and aid recovery of the diversity of life on earth.”

Members of SSC belong to one or more of near 200 Specialist Groups, Red List Authorities, Action Partnerships, Task Forces, and Conservation Committees that make up the Network, each focusing on a taxonomic group (plants, fungi, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fishes, and invertebrates), national species, or a disciplinary issue, such as sustainable use and livelihoods, translocation of species, wildlife health, climate change, and conservation planning.

Framed by the Species Conservation Cycle, SSC’s major role is to provide information to IUCN on biodiversity conservation, the inherent value of species, their role in ecosystem health and functioning, the provision of ecosystem services, and their support to human livelihoods. This information is fed into the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

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### 2021-2025 Species Strategic Plan

The IUCN Species Strategic Plan encompasses the joint work of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and a number of partnerships to achieve more than 2,700 targets proposed by the Network during the 2021-2025 quadrennium.

To accomplish those targets, the Species Conservation Cycle was established, which is the conceptual framework for the Network activities. The Species Conservation Cycle’s main purpose is to guide efforts for valuing and conserving biodiversity through three essential components that are linked to each other:

**ASSESS:** Understand and inform the world about the status and trends of biodiversity.

**PLAN:** Develop collaborative, inclusive and science-based conservation strategies, plans and policies.

**ACT:** Convene and mobilise conservation actions to improve the status of biodiversity.



Their implementation requires two transversal components:

**NETWORK:** Enhance and support our immediate network and alliances to achieve our biodiversity targets.

**COMMUNICATE:** Drive strategic and targeted communications to enhance our conservation impact.

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### SSC Species Report

Annual progress in the implementation of the 2021-2025 Species Strategic Plan is documented in the SSC *Species Report*, which consists of a comprehensive description and analysis of the activities and results generated by the members of the SSC Network each year. Each SSC Group contributes to this document by providing a yearly summarised description of their achievements, which is presented in stand-alone reports.

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## Structure of the IUCN SSC Stand-alone Report

Stand-alone reports summarize the activities conducted and results generated by each group member of the SSC. Following, is the structure of the stand-alone report and the contents under each session.

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### Title of the SSC Group

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### Photograph(s) of the Chair / Co-Chairs

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### Group information

Includes names of Chair / Co-Chairs, Vice-Chairs, Deputy Chairs, Red List Authority Coordinators and Program Officers, their institutional affiliations, number of members and social networks currently active.

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### Logo of the SSC Group

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### Mission statement

Includes the mission of the group.

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### Projected impact for the 2021-2025 quadrennium

Includes the description of the impact on species conservation resulting from the implementation of the targets formulated by the group for the 2021-2025 quadrennium.

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### Targets for the 2021-2025 quadrennium

Includes the targets planned by the SSC Group for the 2021-2025 quadrennium ordered alphabetically by component of the Species Conservation Cycle. Each target is labeled with a numerical code (e.g., T-001, T-012) that identifies it in the SSC DATA database and its status for the reported year is indicated (Not initiated, On track or Achieved).

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### Activities and results

Includes the targets for which activities were conducted and results were generated during the reported year, ordered alphabetically, first by component of the Species Conservation Cycle, and second by Activity Category. Description of activities and results includes the indicator that best describes progress, its associated quantitative or qualitative result, and the narrative description of the activity conducted or result obtained. Each activity or result reported is linked to the Key Species Result to which it is mainly associated (e.g., KSR#1, KSR#5).

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### Acknowledgements

Includes the acknowledgements to funding agencies, partners, and persons who contributed to the progress of the targets of the group.

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### Summary of achievements

Summarises information of the group's strategic plan for the quadrennium and progress achieved implementing targets for all the components of the Species Conservation Cycle during the reported year.

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### Example for the recommended citation:

Kumar Talukdar, B. 2023. 2022 Report of the Asian Rhino Specialist Group. In: Nassar, JM, García, L, Mendoza, L, Andrade, ND, Bezeng, S, Birkhoff, J, Bohm, M, Canteiro, C, Geschke, J, Henriques, S, Ivande, S, Mileham, K, Ramos, M, Rodríguez, A, Rodríguez, JP, Street, B, and Yerena, E (Eds.). 2022 Report of the IUCN Species Survival Commission and Secretariat. International Union for Conservation of Nature. 4 pp.

Animalia

Fungi

Plantae

National Species

Disciplinary

Action Partnership

Task Force

Red List Authority

Committee

Center for Species Survival

## 2022 Report

# IUCN SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group



**CHAIR**  
Bibhab Kumar  
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Aaranyak, 50  
Samanwoy Path  
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781 028, India

**RED LIST AUTHORITY  
COORDINATOR**  
Susie Ellis Wildt  
International Rhino  
Foundation

**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

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 IUCN SSC AsRSG/AfRSG and TRAFFIC International Report on Rhinos for CITES CoP-19.  
Status: Achieved

**T-010** Prepare IUCN SSC AsRSG/AfRSG and TRAFFIC International Report on Rhinos for CITES CoP-20 to be held in 2025.  
Status: Not initiated

#### 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

#### COMMUNICATE

**T-008** Hold the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Rhino Range States Meeting in Nepal in 2022.  
Status: Not initiated

**T-011** Prepare and Submit the IUCN SSC AsRSG Chair's report in *Pachyderm Journal* for 2021-2022.  
Status: Achieved

### Activities and results 2022

#### PLAN

##### Planning

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

Number of conservation plans/strategies developed: 1

Result description: Two rounds of consultations were held in 2022, with some AsRSG members working actively with Greater One-horned Rhino in India and Nepal. Since India and Nepal are also planning to launch their national conservation and action plans for the Greater One-horned Rhino for the respective countries, it is agreed that the AsRSG Greater One-horned Rhino Conservation Plan shall complement the national action plans of India and Nepal. The revised completion of the AsRSG Greater One-horned Rhino Conservation Plan is being planned for June 2024.

**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: 2

Result description: Dialogue with the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry is on as the Government is also preparing an Emergency Action Plan for



Javan and Sumatran Rhinos. The AsRSG is exploring with the Government of Indonesia if a joint Javan and Sumatran Rhino Plan can be prepared by AsRSG and the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Indonesia. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Rhino Range States meeting earlier planned in Chitwan NP, Nepal, in November, now re-scheduled for 3-5 February 2023, the feasibility of a Joint National Plan for Javan and Sumatran Rhino shall be discussed further with Indonesian delegates.

## 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 2022, three technical consultations have been provided by AsRSG members in India and Nepal to aptly manage the rhino population and their habitats, keeping in mind the growing threats from alien invasive plant species threatening the regrowth of grassland habitats suitable for rhinos.

## 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: 2

Result description: Communication with AsRSG members was done through email with regards to the number of AsRSG members interested in attending virtual workshops on Red List assessment and Green Status Assessment. Two members showed interest, and the criteria used for both assessments were shared with an online link. The same shall be further discussed in the AsRSG group meeting during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asian Rhino Range States meeting scheduled in Chitwan NP (February 2023).

## 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: AsRSG Chair's report published in *Pachyderm Journal* at: <https://pachydermjournal.org/index.php/pachyderm/article/view/511>.

## Acknowledgements

The AsRSG would like to acknowledge the financial support received from the International Rhino Foundation and Aaranyak to enable the Chair of AsRSG to travel to rhino areas in Asia. The IUCN Secretariat also partly supported the Chair of AsRSG to attend the CITES CoP-19 in Panama in November 2022.

## Summary of achievements

**Total number of targets 2021-2025: 9**

**Geographic regions: 9 Asia**

**Actions during 2022:**

Plan: 2 (KSR 8)

Act: 1 (KSR 10)

Network: 1 (KSR 2)

Communicate: 1 (KSR 12)

**Overall achievement 2021-2025:**

