

109 The need for urgent conservation action to secure the remaining population of Javan and Sumatran rhinoceros in Indonesia

MINDFUL that two of the five extant rhinoceros species are found exclusively in fragmented populations on three Indonesian islands and are listed in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ as 'Critically Endangered';

NOTING that the population of Sumatran and Javan rhinoceroses has declined in recent years as a result of natural and human-induced threats that could cause the extinction of these two species;

RECOGNISING that the fundamental importance of Javan and Sumatran Rhinoceroses as ecosystem engineers in forest habitats, and their decline, may have severe impacts on forest ecosystems and associated species;

CONCERNED that invasive species, natural disasters and the spread of disease may pose further serious threats to Javan and Sumatran rhinoceroses and habitats in Indonesia;

RECOGNISING ALSO that the isolation of populations and challenges related to reproductive pathology could further inhibit population recovery of the Sumatran rhinoceros;

AWARE that Javan rhinoceroses are found only in one location in the world, Ujung Kulon National Park in Indonesia, making them susceptible to threats from disease or natural disasters;

ALARMED that, in 2024, an in-depth investigation by the Indonesian police revealed a disturbing trend that, from 2019 to 2023, numerous Javan rhinoceros mothers had been poached;

INSPIRED that the Indonesian President, in 2012, declared the International Year of the Rhino, advocating commitment to secure the critically endangered Javan and Sumatran rhinoceroses in the country;

WELCOMING the fact that Indonesian officials, non-governmental organisations and scientists formed a rhinoceros task force in September 2024, which recommended that Sumatran and Javan rhinoceroses be declared “objects of vital national importance,” prioritising their protection so that more funding could be allocated for rhinoceros conservation; and

NOTING ALSO that more resources and support are needed from government and donor agencies to enhance protection, monitoring, captive breeding and population recovery of Javan and Sumatran rhinoceroses in Indonesia, the last abode of these two critically endangered species of Asian rhinoceros;

The IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, at its session in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates:

1. REQUESTS the Director General and the Species Survival Commission to provide ongoing support and guidance to the Indonesian Government to strengthen the conservation of rhinoceroses in Indonesia, and to report on the implementation of this resolution at the next session of the World Conservation Congress;
2. CALLS ON Indonesia and the range country government to prepare and implement time-bound recovery measures to conserve Javan and Sumatran rhinoceroses by enhancing protection, species and habitat monitoring and increasing the number of frontline protection staff in national parks where rhinoceroses live;
3. RECOMMENDS that all relevant range country government agencies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, zoos, research institutions and the private sector support Javan and Sumatran rhinoceros conservation;
4. ENCOURAGES the Javan and Sumatran rhinoceros range country to scientifically manage their populations to achieve rapid growth and long-term genetic and demographic viability;

5. FURTHER CALLS ON the range country government to expand intelligence gathering and analysis to prevent rhinoceros poaching and to increase the rate of successful prosecutions with deterrent sentences for poaching of rhinoceroses; and

6. ALSO CALLS ON donors to make the necessary financial resources available to the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry to enable the ministry to initiate a science-based recovery plan for Javan and Sumatran rhinoceroses, to secure the future of these two Critically Endangered Asian rhinoceroses.