

## Rhino Fact Sheet

Rhinos have existed on Earth for more than 50 million years. In the past, rhinos were much more widespread, occurring in North America and Europe as well as in Africa and Asia. Today, only five species of rhino survive. These five species are further divided into 11 identified subspecies. All rhinos are under threat of, and all but one species is on the verge of, extinction. *Without drastic action, some rhino species could be extinct in the wild within the next 10-20 years.* Only about 26,000 of these marvelous creatures survive in the wild with another 1,200 in captivity. Of these rhinos, almost two-thirds are white rhinos. There are an estimated 6,500 individuals of the other four species combined.

### White rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*): ~ 17,500 left



The white rhino, along with the roughly equal-sized greater one-horned or Indian rhino, is the largest land mammal species after the elephant. The white rhino is the least endangered of the living species of rhino.

The white rhino or white rhinoceros got its name from the Afrikaans word describing its mouth. “Weit,” meaning “wide,” was used to describe the animal, but was misinterpreted

by English settlers as the word “white.” Square-lipped rhinoceros is also a common name because upper lip appears to be angular, lacking the “hook” shape of other species.

### White Rhino Size:

- Weight: 4,000-6,000 lb (1,800 - 2,700 kg)
- Height: 5 - 6 ft (1.5 - 1.8 m) tall at shoulder
- Length: 12.5-15 ft (3.8-5 m) length of head and body

**Black rhino (*diceros bicornis*): ~ 4,240 left**



During the last century, black rhinos have suffered the most drastic decline in total numbers of all rhino species. Between 1970 and 1992, the population of this species decreased 96%. In 1970, it was estimated that there were approximately 65,000 Black Rhinos in Africa but by 1992-93, there were only 2,300 surviving in the wild. However, since 1996 intense anti-poaching efforts have had encouraging results. Numbers have been recovering and are now back up to about 4,240 and still increasing. Nevertheless, the poaching threat remains great and there is no room for complacency.

The black rhino, which is not black at all, probably derives its name as a distinction from the white rhino (itself a misnomer) and/or from the dark-colored local soil that covers its skin after it emerges from wallows. The black rhino is also known as the hook-lipped rhino referring to its pointed lips; the upper lip of the black rhino, a browser, is adapted for feeding from trees and shrubs and is its most distinguishing characteristic.

**Black Rhino Size:**

- Weight: 1,750 - 3,000 lbs (800 - 1,350 kg)
- Height: 4.5 - 5.5 ft (1.4 - 1.7 m) tall at shoulder
- Length: 10- 12.5 ft (3.0 - 3.8 m) length of head and body

**Greater one-horned rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*): ~ 2,850 left**



The greater one-horned or Indian rhino is one of the two greatest success stories in rhino conservation (the other being the southern white rhino in South Africa). With strict protection from Indian and Nepalese wildlife authorities, greater one-horned rhino numbers have recovered from less than 20 earlier in the 20th Century to around 2,850 today. However, poaching has remained high and the success is precarious without continued and increased support for conservation efforts

in India and Nepal.

The species derives its name from its single large horn. The skin of this rhino also sets them apart. The greater one-horned rhino is brownish-gray, hairless and has folds of skin that resemble plates of armor with rivets.

### Greater One-horned Rhino Size:

- Weight: 4,000-6,000 lb (1,800 - 2,700 kg)
- Height: 5.75 - 6.5 ft (1.75 - 2.0 m) tall at shoulder
- Length: 10- 12.5 ft (3.0 - 3.8 m) length of head and body

### Sumatran Rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*): < 200 left



The Sumatran rhino is the most endangered of all rhinoceros species. Numbers have decreased by more than 50% due to poaching over the last 15 years. Fewer than 200 Sumatran Rhino survive in very small and highly fragmented populations in Southeast Asia, with Indonesia and Sabah, Malaysia being the only significant range states. Furthermore, there is no indication that the situation is showing any signs of stabilizing.

The Sumatran rhino is also called the Asian two-horned rhino as it is the only two-horned rhino in the Asian region. It is also commonly referred to as the “hairy rhino” because of the long, shaggy hair on its ears and body, in contrast to other rhinos which appear hairless.

### Sumatran Rhino Size:

- Weight: 1,300 - 2,000 lbs (600 - 950 kg)
- Height: 3 - 5 ft (1.0 - 1.5 m) tall at shoulder
- Length: 6.5 - 9.5 ft (2.0 - 3.0 m) length of body

### Javan Rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*): ~ 40 - 50 left



The Javan rhino is the rarest of the rhino species with fewer than 50 animals surviving in only two known locations: one viable, reproducing population in Indonesia and one small non-viable population in Vietnam. Although poaching is minimal in Indonesia, Javan rhinos still face numerous problems, and more intensive protection is needed if the species is to survive. For very different reasons, the Javan and the Sumatran compete for the dubious distinction of being the most endangered rhino species.

The Javan rhino is also called the Asian lesser one-horned rhino because it is smaller than its counterpart, the greater one-horned rhino (Indian rhino).

Javan Rhino Size:

- Weight: 2,000 - 5,060 lbs (900 - 2,300 kg)
- Height: 5 - 5.5 ft (1.5 - 1.7 m) tall at shoulder
- Length: 6-11.5 ft (2.0-4 m)