

Javan Rhino: *Rhinoceros sondaicus*

With fewer than 60 Javan Rhinos surviving in only two known locations, the Javan Rhino is quite possibly the most critically endangered mammal on earth. The Javan Rhino is at significant risk of extinction, due to poaching and habitat loss.

There are none in captivity, and only two known locations of Javan Rhinos in the wild. One is in Ujung Kulon NP in Indonesia, where the population appears to have stabilized at 50 rhinos. A small population of 5 - 7 individuals remain in Cat Tien NP in Vietnam. The Vietnamese subspecies is a much smaller rhino than the rhinos in Indonesia; they cannot be crossbred. Thanks to IRF-funded conservation efforts, there has not been a poaching incident in Ujung Kulon NP for 5 years.

Javan Rhino Conservation: Top Priorities

The International Rhino Foundation helped the Indonesian government develop a strategy for ensuring the continued survival of Javan Rhinos. The top priorities for the future are to increase the population in Ujung Kulon to 70 animals (the park's carrying capacity) and to then translocate several animals to begin establishing a second population in a secure area.

Distinguishing Characteristics

The Javan Rhino has one horn comprised of compressed keratin - basically hair and fingernail material. The horn is about 10 inches long, and is thought to occur only in the male Javan Rhino.

The Javan Rhino is gray or grayish brown, and the skin has a mosaic patterning that gives it a somewhat prehistoric appearance. Like the Indian Rhino, these rhinos have distinctive folds of skin on its body, which look like plates of armor. The Javan Rhino has eyelashes and a little bit of hair on the ears. There is also hair on the tip of the tail.

The Javan Rhino has an unmistakably long and prehensile upper lip. The prehensile lip enables the rhino to grasp food items, such as twigs, leaves, and saplings, and pull them into the mouth. The Javan Rhino also grazes in open grassy areas.

Javan Rhinos need to consume salt regularly to supplement their diet. In addition to visiting the salt-licks formed by mineral seepages, Javan Rhinos (in Ujung Kulon) drink seawater.

Like all rhinos, the Javan Rhino is an odd-toed ungulate, having three toes - each with a sturdy hoof-like nail. Also in common with other rhinos is a superb sense of hearing, keen sense of smell - but relatively poor eyesight.

Size of the Javan Rhino

The Javan Rhino's weight ranges from 2,000 - 5,000 pounds, and stands from 5 - 5.5 feet at the shoulder. End-to-end, the Javan Rhino can be 6 - 11.5 feet in length. The smaller Vietnamese subspecies is similar in size to the Sumatran



The Javan Rhino grasps food with its unmistakably long and prehensile upper lip.

2008 Population: Less than 60 rhinos

- At significant risk of extinction, due to poaching and habitat destruction
- Most critically endangered mammal on earth
- Indian subspecies is extinct

Rhino, standing only 3 - 5 feet high at the shoulder and weighing 1,300 - 2,000 pounds.

Activity

The Javan Rhino is quick and agile, like the other Asian Rhinos, and is reported to run up to 30 mph and make sharp turns in mid-air if necessary..

A large part of the Javan Rhino's day is spent in the water, wallowing in mud holes, pools, and puddles.

Life span

- It is estimated that Javan Rhinos live about 30 - 45 years in the wild, but have not fared well in captivity, only living up to 20 years. There has not been a Javan Rhino in captivity since 1907.

Scientific Name and Origin

- *Rhinoceros sondaicus*
- Rhinoceros: from the Greek rhino, meaning "nose" and ceros, meaning "horn"
- sondaicus: (Latin -icus indicates a locality) referring to the Sunda islands in Indonesia.; "Sunda" means "Java"

(Sources: WWF, International Rhino Foundation, Save the Rhino International & Rhino Resource Center)

Learn more about rhinos at www.savingrhinos.org