

## Sumatran Rhino: *Dicerohinus sumatrensis*

The Sumatran Rhino, a.k.a. the Hairy Rhino, has suffered a 50% decline in numbers over the last 15 years, due to poaching. Additionally, the rhinos' habitat has been destroyed by development and agriculture. Fragmented populations of the Sumatran Rhino remain in Southeast Asia. Several conservation groups are working to save the Sumatran Rhino, implementing protection of habitat, strengthening anti-poaching efforts, trade monitoring of rhino horns, protected area management, and awareness programs.

### Hope for the Sumatran Rhino: The Cincinnati Zoo

The Cincinnati Zoo has made history with their Sumatran Rhino captive breeding program, which has resulted in an unprecedented 3 calves!

### Distinguishing Characteristics

By far the Sumatran Rhino's most distinguishing feature is the hair! The Sumatran Rhino's reddish brown skin is covered with coarse hair. The hair grows into longer shaggy fur in captivity, since the rhino is generally not in contact with rough vegetation as in the wild, which tends to rub the hair down.

The Sumatran Rhino has two horns comprised of compressed keratin - basically hair and fingernail material. The front horn is 10" - 31" in length, while the second horn is quite small, often less than 3 inches long.

Sumatran Rhinos have a prehensile upper lip used for grasping food and browsing. In addition to having a fondness for fruits, Sumatran Rhinos eat leaves and juicy plant tips.

Like all rhinos, the Sumatran 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.

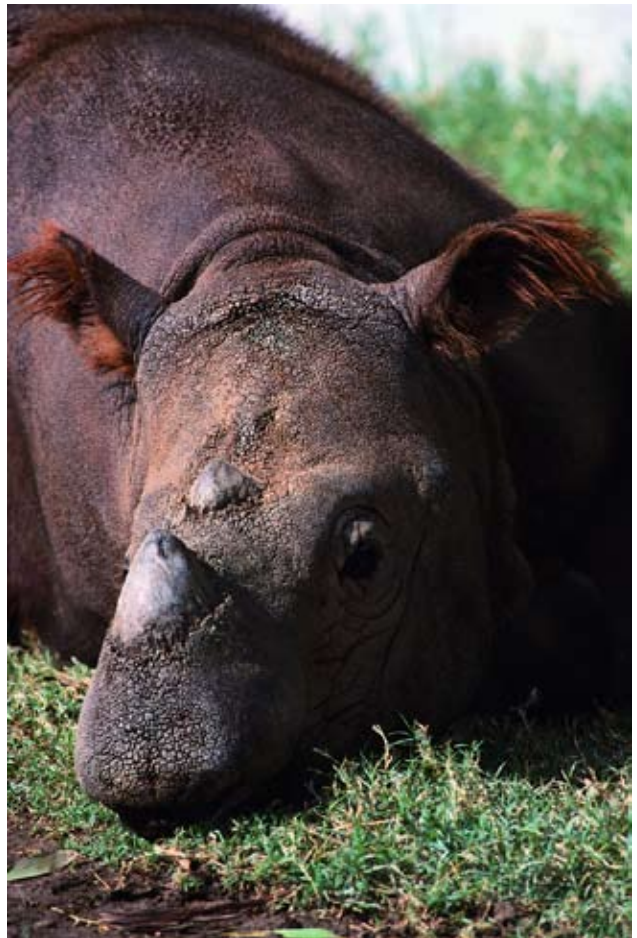
### Size of the Sumatran Rhino

The Sumatran Rhino is the smallest of all the rhino species, standing only 3 - 5 feet high at the shoulder. Their weight ranges from 1,300 - 2,000 pounds, and they are typically 6.5 - 9.5 feet in length.

### Activity

The Sumatran Rhino can run 30 mph and make a 180-degree spin a single jump. In their natural habitat of dense tropical forests, they negotiate steep slopes, riverbanks, and mountains with ease. Sumatran Rhinos leave tunnels in thick forest vegetation as they break through it, protected by their horns, and cartilage on the nose and head.

Sumatran Rhinos also visit salt-licks formed by mineral seepages, and like all rhinos, enjoy mud wallows.



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### 2008 Population: Less than 275 rhinos

- 50% decline in population over the last 15 years, due to poaching

### Life span

- Sumatran Rhinos can live 30 - 45 years in the wild. The captive life span record is 33 years.

### Scientific Name and Origin

- *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*
- *Dicerorhinus*: from the Greek di, meaning "two"; cero, meaning "horn" and rhinus, meaning "nose"
- *sumatrensis*: referring to Sumatra (with the Latin -ensis, meaning locality)

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

Learn more about rhinos at [www.savingrhinos.org](http://www.savingrhinos.org)