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ENDANGERED SPECIES AND HABITATS OF THAILAND

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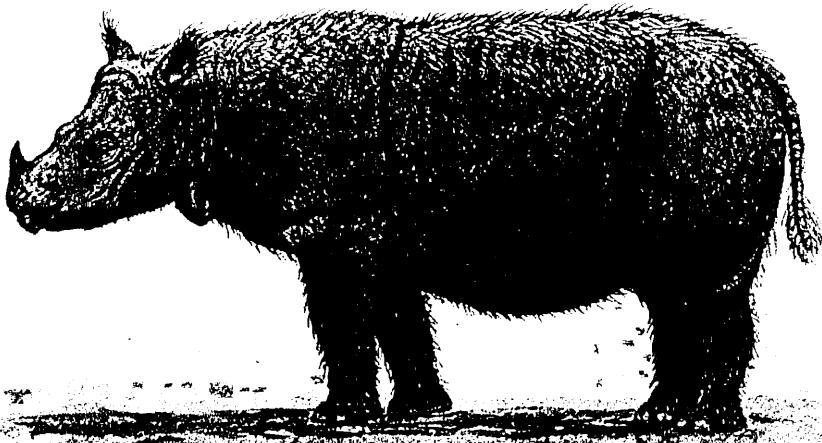
Rhinoceros sondaicus

LESSER ONE-HORNED RHINOCEROS, JAVAN RHINOCEROS

Rhinoceros sondaicus Desmarest, 1822

RHINOCEROTIDAE

A one-horned rhino with 3 folds of skin across the back, comprising one in front of the shoulders, one behind the shoulders, and a third one over the rump. It is a large and heavy animal, about 1.6-1.8 m at the shoulder and weighing 1,500-2,000 kg. Legs are stout and short, with three toes on each foot. Upper lip is prehensile and capable of drawing twigs and leaves to the mouth. The skin is nearly naked and dusky grey in colour. Formerly distributing from Bangladesh, Burma, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia, and probably South China, through Malay Peninsula to Sumatra and Java. It is only on the last site that about 20-30 individuals are definitely known to survive. Other small areas in Burma, Thailand, Laos and Kampuchea are believed to harbour some remnant populations. In Thailand a few individuals are said to exist along the Tenasserim Range that occasionally venture into Thailand during the rainy season. Rhinos inhabit dense tropical forests with a good water supply and mud wallow; although preferring lower areas, they can be found up to 1,000 m. Males gad about within their home range of 15-20 kg² per day, and always along the same tracks; while the females stay in a fixed and defended districts. Generally solitary in habit they stay in pairs in mating period. Only one single calf is born after a gestation period of 16 months. Sexual maturity is reached at 3-4 years in females, but at 6 years in males. This rhino is declared legally as a reserved wild animal.



Dicerorhinus sumatrensis

ASIAN TWO-HORNED RHINOCEROS, SUMATRAN RHINOCEROS

Dicerorhinus sumatrensis (Fischer, 1814)

RHINOCEROTIDAE

A small two-horned rhinoceros with only one fold of skin crossing the back just behind the shoulders. Height at shoulders are 1-1.5 m. and weights 900-1000 kg. Young animals have a coat of long, dense, and soft brown hairs, which are reduced to short black bristles in adults, except the long hairs on the ears and at the tip of the tail. Colour is buff to grey with light flesh colour on the venter, inside of the legs and the lips. Formerly found widely distributed in India (Assam), Bangladesh (Chittagong Hills), Burma, Thailand and Vietnam, south through Malay Peninsula to Sumatra. Survives in Tenasserim Range, Phetchabun Range, and other scattered localities in Southeast and Peninsular Thailand, especially in the adjoining forests between Thailand and Malaysia. This rhinoceros inhabits well-forested terrains with abundant water bodies. It is nocturnal in feeding habit and devours a great variety of shoots, leaves and fruits from trees and saplings. Only a single calf is born after a gestation period of 7-8 months. In captivity it was reported to live for 32 years. This rhinoceros had been hunted intensively for its horn and almost all parts of the body which are highly valuable for their aphrodisiac property. At present, it is legally protected as a reserved wild animal and treated as an highly endangered animal by CITES and U.S. Endangered Species Act.