

Indonesian Rhinos: Bowling for Rhinos is Conserving the Most Critically Endangered Mammals on Earth

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Sumatran and Javan rhinos are likely the world's most critically endangered land mammals. AAZK's signature Bowling for Rhinos program has helped to conserve these two Indonesian species since 1996. Shy, secretive rainforest dwellers, Javan rhinos now number about 60 animals in one site, and Sumatran rhinos number no more than 100 in four sites in Indonesia. The Sumatran rhino was declared extinct in the wild in Malaysia in 2016. Sumatran rhinos have had a precipitous decline of more than 70% population loss over the last 20 years – but not in the areas in which AAZK supports their conservation. New plans for both species include bold actions designed to reverse their decline and maximize the potential for population growth. This paper provides an update on these plans, as well as our progress on breeding the Sumatran rhino in captivity. AAZK support for the Indonesian Rhino Protection Units, the backbone of the two species' protection, has never been more critical. AAZK's hard work to raise funds through Bowling for Rhinos ensures that AAZK plays a critical role in their long-term survival and recovery.