



Sumatran Rhinoceros, *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*, CR  
Photo © Barney Long / Sumatran Rhino Rescue





# SUMATRAN RHINO RESCUE

## First year Sumatran Rhino Rescue

*Some species require urgent, large-scale, coordinated action to prevent them from being lost to extinction. The Sumatran Rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) is one example of a species in urgent need for coordinated action. If we don't act now, the Sumatran rhino will very likely go extinct in our lifetime*

Launched on World Rhino Day in 2018, Sumatran Rhino Rescue (SRR) is a groundbreaking, collaborative approach to conservation. With the objective to support the Government of Indonesia's Emergency Action Plan for the Rescue of Sumatran Rhino, the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Species Survival Commission (SSC) has been working together with international and Indonesian NGOs to create and implement a collaborative plan to save the species.

Working hand-in-hand with on-the-ground partners and coordinating closely with leaders in the government this survival alliance includes National Geographic Society, World Wildlife Fund, International Rhino Foundation and Global Wildlife Conservation.

Also, in our first year, Sumatran Rhino Rescue welcomed the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, Save the Rhino International, Taronga Conservation Society Australia, and the Zoological and Botanical Garden Stuttgart, Wilhelma as strategic partners; and Forum Konservasi Leuser, WWF Indonesia and Yayasan Badak Indonesia as implementing partners in this groundbreaking effort to save the Sumatran rhino.

*“Sumatran Rhino Rescue members and our implementing partners have successfully completed several major tasks during the first year of the Alliance: we rescued and relocated Pahu — a female Sumatran rhino who was isolated in Kalimantan, a wild-born rhino; the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas National Park was expanded to make room for our teams to rescue more rhinos; we deployed field teams to look for additional rhinos; and we convened the world's leading scientists on Sumatran rhino ecology and veterinary sciences to provide advice on the Emergency Action Plan that provides the ultimate framework to all of our activities led by the Government of Indonesia.”*

Jon Paul Rodríguez, SSC Chair.

## Meet Pahu

In November 2018, SRR successfully rescued and relocated a critically endangered but healthy female Sumatran rhino from an isolated region in Indonesian Borneo to a secure facility designed for her care. The rhino —named Pahu after the river closest to her habitat— is cared for by a team of veterinarians and animal husbandry experts, working to ensure her safety and health in this new environment; they will determine whether she will be able to breed in the future.



Sumatran Rhinoceros, *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*, CR  
Photo © Ridho Hafizh Zainur Ridha/WWF-Indonesia



*“There’s still a long road ahead but today the future of the Sumatran rhino is looking brighter. The Sumatran rhino is an integral part of our heritage; we simply can’t stand by and watch the species disappear. We support the Government of Indonesia in taking this bold conservation approach before it’s too late. This particular rhino was in a grave danger due to her degraded habitat. We know that even with years of preparation and some of the greatest experts in rhino conservation these operations can prove risky. But in such dire circumstances, we’re left with little choice. While risks remain for this rhino, with her safe arrival at the sanctuary, we’re cautiously optimistic, and our dedicated team will continue with round-the-clock care as she settles into her new home.”*

Rizal Malik, CEO WWF-Indonesia.

## Future steps

The next year of work is critical to the efforts to save the Sumatran rhino. SRR will pursue a robust set of activities focused on four key objectives:

1. Conducting search and rescue operations to relocate rhinos in the wild.
2. Building new facilities and bolster capacity to care for and breed rhinos.
3. Coordinating partners across the regions of Indonesia to collaborate on a single, country-wide breeding program.
4. Raising the profile of the Sumatran rhino so that people around the world can contribute to the species’ protection.



Sumatran Rhinoceros, *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*. CR  
Photo © Colby Bishop

Only with support from organizations and individuals around the world will this work be possible.

For more information and to learn how to contribute, please visit [www.sumatranrhinorescue.org](http://www.sumatranrhinorescue.org).







# The IUCN Species Survival Commission

QUARTERLY REPORT  
SEPTEMBER 2019



Zanzibar red colobus, *Piliocolobus kirkii*, EN  
Photo © Robin Moore