



2012 marks the start of The International Year of the Rhino

Quotes from supporting organisations:

IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group

*"We commend the rhino range states in Africa and Asia that have taken strong measures to conserve remaining rhinos, and consequently increased some rhino populations," says **Mike Knight, Chair of the IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group**. "It is our hope that all rhino range states will join Indonesia and take advantage of the International Year of the Rhino by giving priority to securing their rhino populations and repeating the success that has previously been achieved by others."*

IUCN SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group

*"Two subspecies of rhino have already been lost and it is essential that no full rhino species become condemned to the same fate," says **Dr Bibhab Kumar Talukdar, Chair of the IUCN SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group**. "The two rhinoceros species closest to extinction are the Javan and Sumatran Rhinos, numbering less than 50 and 200 animals respectively, with populations of both thought to be in decline. Rhinos have a significant and important role in the culture of many societies and the extinction of any rhino species is a loss to our cultural heritage as well as our planet's biological diversity."*

IUCN Southeast Asia Group

*"Saving Rhinos requires protecting their habitat from further fragmentation and degradation, and dealing effectively with illegal wildlife trade," says **Robert Mather, Head, Southeast Asia Group, IUCN**. "Both actions will also benefit hundreds of other species sharing the forest with the Rhinos as well as tens of thousands of people who are supported by the ecosystem services generated by the Rhinos forest home."*

Endangered Wildlife Trust (IUCN Member)

*"The rhino poaching crisis has demonstrated that there is no single solution to addressing illegal wildlife trade, which is an increasing global phenomenon," says **Yolan Friedmann, CEO, Endangered Wildlife Trust**. "Estimated to be the third largest form of illegal trade, after drugs and human trafficking, wildlife trade often has its roots in organised, trans-boundary crime. For this reason a multi-pronged approach involving the collaboration and cooperation of a diverse range of partners is critical. The Endangered Wildlife Trust is proud to be working with the group of organisations that has called for international recognition of this crisis and the acknowledgement of the plight of the rhino through declaring 2012 as the start of the International Year of the Rhino. We hope that this will elevate rhino conservation and the illegal trade in rhino horn to a global priority and ramp up efforts to stem the poaching of rhino."*

Indonesia Zoos Association (PKBSI)

*"Indonesia Zoos Association proudly support the announcement of the International Year of the Rhino 2012 by the President of Indonesia **Dr.H. Soesilo Bambang Yodhoyono**," says **Dr Rahmat Shah, Chairman, Indonesia Zoos Association**. "We thank IUCN and other rhino range countries for their support to make it happen. Indonesian zoos will continue its support with other institutions and government agencies in rhino conservation programmes in ex-situ or in-situ. The zoos will provide their expertises, knowledge and skills through a captive breeding of Sumatran rhino in Way Kambas National park and help to set up a second habitat for the Javan rhino and protect Sumatran rhino habitats in Sumatra. Zoos in Indonesia will continue their education and public awareness programmes to send the messages across to save rhino species in captivity or in the wild."*

International Rhino Foundation

*"Sumatran and Javan rhinos are among the most threatened species on Earth," says **Dr. Susie Ellis, Executive Director, International Rhino Foundation**. "Unprecedented threats such as habitat loss and poaching have pushed these species, which have walked the Earth for more than 50 million years, towards a very real probability of extinction within our lifetime. There must be concerted efforts among governments of range and consumer countries, such as Vietnam and China, to enforce laws and international treaties in order to stem this tide. We applaud President Yudhoyono for this call to action which we hope will help to ensure the survival of these magnificent animals for future generations."*

Rhino Foundation of Indonesia

*"Yayasan Badak Indonesia (Rhino Foundation of Indonesia) is deeply appreciative of support from the Government of Indonesia, the International Rhino Foundation, the private sector and other NGOs for supporting rhino protection, propagation and habitat management," says **Widodo S. Ramono, Director, Yayasan Badak Indonesia**. "Thanks to the IUCN's strong support as well as that of its members, the President is demonstrating his strong commitment for rhino conservation by declaring the International Year of the Rhino. We must remain focused on the glimmers of hope as we move forward in ensuring that poaching is stopped, that more rhino young are produced and detected, and that habitat for rhino and other threatened species is reclaimed and managed. Yayasan Badak Indonesia is fully committed to strengthening those efforts, with the full support of government and other partners to turn back the tide of extinction facing our rhinos."*

Save the Rhino International

*"The International Year of the Rhino has come at a critical time for all rhino species as they struggle for their very survival more so now than ever," says **Susie Offord, Deputy Director, Save the Rhino International**. "We hope that through making this year the 'Year of the Rhino', it will inspire both the range countries where rhinos live and the countries where rhino horn is being bought, to take more action to protect these unique animals. This year could become the turning point when rhino conservation starts to win the battle and secures these amazing animals' survival for future generations to enjoy."*

TRAFFIC

*"The dramatic surge in rhino poaching we are seeing now is linked with increased demand for rhino horn in Asia, particularly among wealthy elites and business people in Vietnam, where it carries prestige as a luxury item, as a post-partying cleanser, and also as a purported cancer cure," warned **Tom Milliken, the rhino trade expert for TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network**. "It is critical that Africa's law enforcement efforts are significantly scaled up and linked with enforcement and demand reduction efforts in consumer markets in Asia. We'll only win this war if both sides align against the criminal syndicates behind this trade."*

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) (IUCN Member)

*"The future of rhinos on our planet depends on our immediate actions," said **Dr. John Robinson, Executive Vice President of Conservation and Science of the Wildlife Conservation Society**. "Full protection of remaining wild populations of all rhino species is essential and we must end the trade of their horns. WCS congratulates President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia for his leadership and urges the global community to respond to his call for action to ensure that these magnificent species have a future."*

WWF

*"WWF offers its full support for the commitment made by Indonesia's president to secure a future for the country's critically endangered rhinos," says **Dr Efransjah, CEO of WWF-Indonesia**. "There is an urgent need to decrease pressures on habitats and to establish a second Javan rhino population in a safer and suitable location. This will be a big endeavor that will require true leadership from government and critical partnerships among scientists, conservation organizations and local communities."*