

ENDANGERED SPECIES: SUMATRAN RHINO

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The Sumatran Rhino, also known as the Hairy Rhino is sadly on the critically endangered list. The Sumatran Rhino lives in Southeast Asia and is heavily hunted. Poaching and habitat loss have drastically reduced their range of natural wildlife. Sumatran Rhinos tend to spend their days sitting in the pond or mud wallows to keep cool.

THE EVENT:

In 1983 it was believed there could have been as many as 800 Sumatran Rhinos left in the wild but sadly now in 2020, there are thought to be as little as 80 left in the wild.

The Sumatran Rhino is an endangered animal. It lives in Sumatra, Borneo, Africa, Thailand, and the Peninsula of Malaysia. It loves to live in forests, swamps, dense high land, and low land.

The Sumatran Rhino is the smallest of all rhino species. It loves to wallow in mud, this helps maintain their body temperature and prevents skin parasites.



Sumatran rhino's playing in the mud.

SOCIAL ACTION - WHAT'S BEING DONE:

On the 31 of August 1995, rhino protection units (R.P.U) were formed to help Sumatran Rhino thrive.

Although game wardens patrol against poachers, it is very hard to keep watch on such a vast area of wildlife. Some game wardens in Africa even kill the poachers.

The definition of a poacher is someone that illegally hunts and kills any endangered animal or animals. In June 2017 any hunting of elephants or rhinos could leave you in prison for 20-25 years and a hefty fine of \$200,000 to 25 million.

THE CAUSE:

The main cause of the Sumatran Rhino being endangered is that they are being hunted. Poachers shoot the rhinos with tranquillizing dart's to knock them out, they cut off the horn of the rhino and leave it there to wake up in excruciating pain and die.

The horns of the Sumatran Rhino is believed to be a valuable medicine in some parts of the world. That's why they are heavily targeted.

The habitat of the Sumatran rhino is being destroyed due to deforestation. Most natural grasslands only survive where it is protected in reserves, only the African savanna has large protected areas of unspoiled grasslands where wildlife lives relatively undisturbed.



A Sumatran rhino with her calf.

THE EFFECTS:

Widespread habitat loss and fragmentation of their natural habitat have led to the surviving rhinos struggling to meet and breed. There are 80 or fewer left in the wild and captivity.

The Sumatran Rhino helps sustain grazing lawns. If they go extinct there will be less food for other grazers so yes other animals will suffer as well. You may be asking how the Sumatran Rhino helps the grazing lawns thrive so this is how it happens.

When the Rhino eats it has to come out the other end so that's a natural and organic fertilizer for the plants. When the Rhino eats it is also weeding the grazing lawn's from sapling, leaves, and twigs which gets out of the way of the grass so other animals can enjoy it too.

MY OPINION:

I strongly believe that all animals deserve a fair chance in life. We should help other species thrive, not to suffer. I think poaching is a horrible thing that will be hard to stop if we don't work together.

We need to stop all poaching of any animal and look out for them. After all, we do live on the same earth. We should share it, and all live as equals.

Who decided the human race was going to on the top of the food chain anyway. I hope that anyone that would hunt and kill an animal for sport or fun should face their consequences.



The Sumatran rhino grazing in a field of grass.

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