



White Rhinos

Source: [PhysOrg](#)

The **northern white rhino** is **functionally extinct**, with only 2 females remaining. However, **In-vitro fertilization (IVF)** advancements have raised hope, with **36 embryos ready for implantation** to help save the subspecies.

- **IVF:** [IVF](#) is a fertility treatment where an **egg is fertilized outside the body** and the **embryo is implanted into the female’s uterus**.

White Rhino:

- **About:**
 - **White rhinos** are the **2nd largest land mammal** after the elephant.
 - They are also called **square-lipped rhinoceroses** due to their broad upper lip, and are **not actually white**.
- **Subspecies & IUCN Status:**
 - **Northern White Rhino** (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*): [Critically Endangered](#)
 - **Southern White Rhino** (*Ceratotherium simum simum*): **Near Threatened**

Northern white rhino	Southern white rhino
Smaller, weighing 1400-1600 kg (adult male)	Larger, weighing 2000-2400 kg (adult male)
Straight back	Concave back and prominent shoulder hump
Flat skull	Concave skull
No grooves between ribs	May have distinct vertical grooves between ribs
Hairier ears and tails	More body hair
Shorter front horn	Longer front horn

- **Habitat:**
 - **Southern White Rhinos:** South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and Kenya.
 - **Northern white Rhinos:** Now survive only in captivity in **Kenya**.
- **Social Behavior:** They are **semi-social and territorial**, with males defending their territories (mark their territory with dung) and females roaming larger areas.
 - **Southern White Rhinos are more social**, forming **larger herds**, while Northern White Rhinos have smaller groups.
- **Diet:** Purely **herbivorous**, feeding on short grasses.
- **Threats:** **Poaching, Habitat loss, Low genetic diversity** (especially in **northern white rhinos**), and **climate change**, which alters their habitat and water sources.

RHINOCEROS

World Rhino Day - 22nd September (declared by WWF in 2010)

5 Main Species of Rhino

Species	Found in	IUCN Red List Status	Habitat
African White	Africa	NT	Long/short grass Savannah
African Black	Africa	CE	Semi-Desert Savannah
Greater one-horned	Asia	Vu (CITES - Appendix I, WPA - Schedule I)	Tropical grassland
Javan	Asia	CE	Tropical, subtropical forests
Sumatran	Asia	CE	Same as Javan

Ujung Kulon National Park (a UNESCO WHS) is home to the last remaining wild Javan rhinos on Earth

Greater One-Horned Rhino

Only species found in India (aka Indian Rhino)



CHARACTERISTICS

- Largest of the 5 species
- Identified by a single black horn and a grey-brown hide with skin folds



Threats

- Poaching for horns
- Habitat loss
- Decreasing Genetic diversity



Protected Areas (India)

- **UP**
 - ◆ Dudhwa TR
- **West Bengal**
 - ◆ Jaldapara NP ◆ Gorumara NP
- **Assam**
 - ◆ Pabitora WLS
 - ◆ Orang NP
 - ◆ Kaziranga NP (max no. of Rhinos: ~2400)
 - ◆ Manas NP



Conservation Efforts (India)

- National Rhino Conservation Strategy
- Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (launched in 2005)

New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019

Signed by 5 rhino range nations (India, Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia)



Drishti IAS

Read More: [State of the Rhino 2023](#)

