

References:

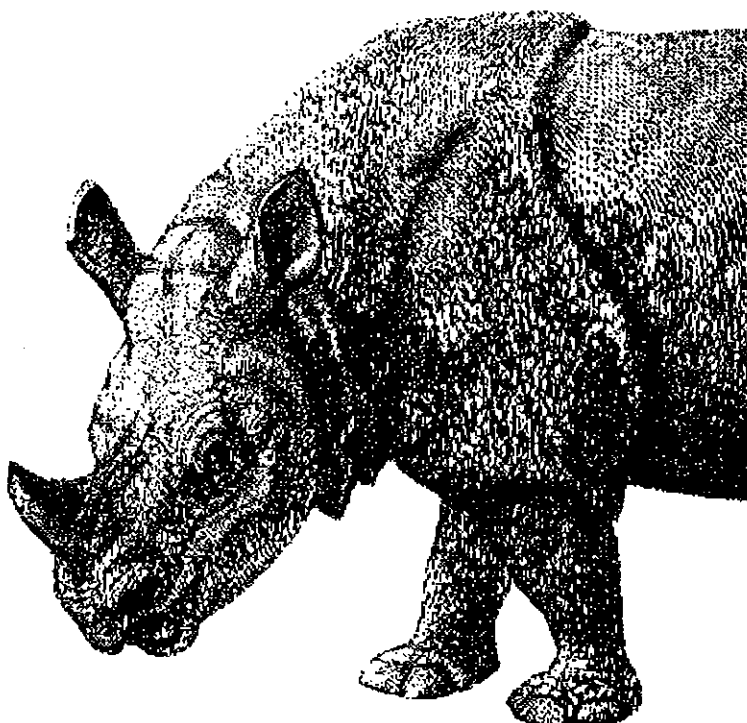
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Appeal for Rhino Conservation

Note to readers -- An appeal is circulating which suggests that different Indian non-governmental organisations, wildlife conservationists and concerned individuals call upon all governments and Parties to the Convention to ensure that all five subspecies of rhino are afforded the highest level of protection world-wide. The following is a suggested wording for the appeal and a format for collecting signatures. We suggest to our readers that they join the signature campaign collection effort. You can send your signature either to us for forwarding or to TIGER LINK, 19 Kautilya Marg, New Delhi as they seem to be coordinating the appeal.

Indian Appeal for the Conservation of Rhinoceros

We call upon governments to forcefully and publically oppose any proposals or initiatives for the legalisation of rhino horn trade.

It is our express belief that efforts taken over the past four years to enforce the international ban on the trade in rhino parts and to crack down on the illegal trade in rhinos is now having a positive conservation benefit to wild rhino populations. There are growing indications that, for the first time in twenty years, many rhino populations -- both in Asia and Africa -- are stabilising. However further efforts for the conservation of these critically endangered species are still needed.

Attempts to legalise trade in rhino horn from any of the remaining populations or species of rhino will have a profoundly detrimental impact on all populations and species. It is clear that proposals to renew the international commercial trade in rhino horn will negate the efforts of consuming states to control the illegal trade in rhino parts and products, will fuel demand for rhino horn and will lead to renewed poaching of rhinos world-wide. This in turn will use us scarce resources for additional anti-poaching efforts and put at risk the lives of the many dedicated wildlife guards who protect these animals.

As India is home to 70-80% of the world's last remaining one-horned rhinos, we view this issue with the gravest concern and we strongly urge you not to take any steps which will weaken the trade protection for rhinos of any species. We entreat you to give our views most serious consideration and support.

Name

Organisation

Signature