

Sample Grant Proposals

Name

Date

Sample proposal #1

Name of project: Sumatran Rhino Protectors¹

Describe the issue: The Sumatran rhino is critically endangered. It is possible that there are as few as 30 Sumatran rhinos remaining in the wild. This cute creature, often called the “singing rhino” because it makes a wide range of sounds, needs human help to increase its numbers and reclaim some of its former range in Indonesia.

Your proposed solution: Sumatran rhinos are in such dire need, they require intensive coordinated action with all organizations working on this important issue. Therefore, we propose an alliance that brings all Sumatran rhinos in captivity to one preserve where they can be monitored by scientists and put into an intensive breeding program. This program will also increase patrolling in the local ecosystem to reduce poaching pressure and gather data about wild Sumatran rhinos’ behavior.

Choose the category your proposal falls into:

High cost: Requires high-cost technology, large amounts of human labor, or purchasing land for habitat protection. Examples: creation of a preserve, creation of a breeding/relocation program, removing challenging invasive species, or paying farmers and hunters to not use parts of their current territory.

Medium cost: Some initial costs or small long-term costs are incurred, but little human labor required in the long term to implement project. Examples: controversial laws that need lobbying and enforcement, limits on harvesting plants and animals, removing some invasive/non-native species that are manageable.

Low cost: Little to no human labor needed, no land purchased or leased, no political lobbying needed. Examples: noncontroversial laws, simple engineering solutions, planting native species on existing preserved land.

¹ Please note that this is a fictional sample grant proposal used in the *Helping the Sumatran Rhino* activity in the *Extinction Stinks!* unit.

Justify the cost of your proposal: Without immediate, intensive action, this critically endangered species will go extinct. We believe that investing this money now can give the Sumatran rhino a chance of survival that would not be secured with lower-cost measures. This is because Sumatran rhinos reproduce slowly and are geographically isolated, significantly limiting the possibility that they will meet and successfully reproduce in the wild.

How does your proposal affect...

...the needs of other living things in the environment? List at least three categories of living things that you are taking into account (one of them could include humans nearby).

Other herbivores: The Sumatran rhino is an herbivore that requires a variety of plant species in its diet. Putting the Sumatran rhino into intensive conservation will increase human interest in preserving diverse plant life in the Way Kambas National Park, simultaneously preserving those species for other herbivores. Given that there are other at-risk herbivores, such as the Sumatran elephant, sharing the ecosystem, this project will indirectly benefit other species.

Carnivores: Sumatran rhinos do not have many natural predators; local carnivores might feed on the young or elderly of the species, but their numbers do not significantly affect local carnivores like Sumatran clouded leopard or Sumatran tiger. However, anti-poaching measures in the habitats where Sumatran rhinos live can also protect these carnivores, who are also at risk of poaching.

Plants: The Sumatran rhino consumes a large amount of vegetation per day, but it eats a diverse array of plants, reducing the chance that their growing populations will significantly affect a single local plant species.

...the ecosystem services the local environment provides?

The Way Kambas ecosystem, where the breeding program would take place, is a rich and diverse ecosystem that provides many ecosystem services locally. Helping the Sumatran rhino survive and thrive keeps plant life in balance, preserving their ability to filter water and protect the land from eroding. Keeping the Sumatran rhino alive also preserves their body's unique chemicals and proteins that might be useful in the future to mimic in medicine. Sumatran rhinos also disperse seeds that they consume, boosting the biodiversity of plant life and the many regulating, supporting, and cultural benefits of diverse forests.

...the local human community?

Several human behaviors, including deforestation and poaching, have led to the Sumatran rhino's steep decline. Deforestation led to economic gains in the area, and

poaching pressure is due to the high value of rhinoceros horns on the black market. Hiring local workers at the preserve could stimulate economic development to make up for income lost by conservation measures aimed at protecting the Sumatran rhino. However, there will continue to be people whose economic needs push them to act in ways that threaten the rhino's survival.

How would you know that your project has been successful? Be specific.

This program will be successful if it has produced at least three Sumatran rhino babies in the next 10 years. This may seem like a low number, but given that the time between breeding periods for Sumatran rhinos is three years and the current wild population could be as low as 30, this goal represents a 10 percent increase in the rhino's population!

Sample Proposal #2

Name of project: Using the Law to Protect the Sumatran Rhino²

Describe the issue: Sumatran rhinos are in danger of extinction. This is mostly due to loss of habitat and poaching.

Your proposed solution: We propose changing the laws so that poaching and deforestation are illegal. These changes will be noncontroversial since it is clear that deforestation and poaching are bad and should be stopped. Changing these two laws will provide a low-cost way of increasing the number of Sumatran rhinos, because they will have a place to live and food to eat, and will no longer be hunted.

Choose the category your proposal falls into:

High cost: Requires high-cost technology, large amounts of human labor, or purchasing land for habitat protection. Examples: creation of a preserve, creation of a breeding/relocation program, removing challenging invasive species, or paying farmers and hunters not to use parts of their current territory.

Medium cost: Some initial costs or small long-term costs are incurred, but little human labor required in the long term to implement project. Examples: controversial laws that need lobbying and enforcement, limits on harvesting plants and animals, removing some invasive/non-native species that are manageable.

Low cost: Little to no human labor needed, no land purchased or leased, no political lobbying needed. Examples: noncontroversial laws, simple engineering solutions, planting native species on existing preserved land.

Justify the cost of your proposal: Having a low-cost solution increases the chances that this project will succeed. It also saves you money so you can fund more projects that help important species around the world.

² Please note that this is a fictional sample grant proposal used in the *Helping the Sumatran Rhino* activity in the *Extinction Stinks!* unit

How does your proposal affect...

...the needs of other living things in the environment? List at least three categories of living things that you are taking into account (one of them could include humans nearby).

Trees: This proposal will help trees because it makes deforestation illegal. The number of trees will increase.

Sumatran rhinos: As we said before, Sumatran rhinos will benefit from this proposal because increasing their habitat's range will give them more places to live, thus increasing their chances of survival. They will be protected because poaching will now be illegal.

...the ecosystem services the local environment provides?

These will be improved because trees will not be cut down and people won't hunt for rhinos anymore. This provides better services for the ecosystem, boosting ecosystem services.

How would you know that your project has been successful? Be specific.

Our project will be successful if we pass these laws in Indonesia, making deforestation and poaching illegal.