



2020-21 Impact report

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A message from our CEO

For more than a decade, we have been battling two major crises in rhino conservation: surging poaching and shrinking habitat. Alone, each of these challenges has caused devastating impacts on rhino populations. Together, they have put rhinos at enormous risk.

These two great threats have brought daily challenges and caused many of us to reassess our plans. How could we increase the global rhino population year-on-year if, at the same time, thousands were being killed for their horns by international criminals and large swathes of their once pristine and diverse habitat was being degraded? Despite this, we wouldn't back down from our long-term goal; for all five rhino species to thrive in the wild.

But we did adjust the targets: holding the line – keeping rhino numbers steady in the face of the threats – would be an achievement in itself. We realised we had to protect as many rhinos as possible if we were to eventually allow their populations to grow. Once something is lost, it's even harder to get it back than it would have been to protect it in the first place.

When Covid-19 arrived, it became clear that another crisis was unfolding. Like people all over the world, rangers had to protect their own health and the health of their families and communities, whilst continuing to carry out their essential work.

Many reserves were financially devastated by the sudden loss of income from the halt in tourism. Often there was barely enough funding to cover the basic costs needed to keep rhinos safe: ranger salaries, patrol rations, vehicle fuel and maintenance.

Contributing towards these often basic, but always essential, items and services became one of our top priorities in 2020–21. We listened to our partners

in the field, adjusted our plans, and sometimes had to scale back our ambitions.

In a year when we had hoped to build upon the last decade of 'holding the line' conservation, we had to ensure that the essentials could, at the very least, continue. Thankfully, support from our generous international donors and partners made that possible.

It has not been easy. There have been many tough days; I can't remember a year as hard as this in my 20 years as CEO of Save the Rhino. But there have been highs, as well as lows, as you'll read in the following pages.

If the crises that rhinos have faced and continue to face have taught us anything, it's that we must be ready to adapt to whatever lies ahead, whilst keeping our end goal in sight. As we continue to support essential, everyday rhino conservation activities, our long-term vision remains at the forefront of our work.

It is only thanks to the continuous support of people like you that this will be possible. Thank you very, very much. Rhinos are relying on all of us to do everything that we can. I can assure you that all of us at Save the Rhino International will do just that.

Cathy Dean, CEO

JAMES LEWIN | COVER: MICHAEL J COHEN



Vision, mission,

We believe rhinos are magnificent.

And they are endangered. To survive, they need a safe and diverse world.

Every day, we work with incredible people across the globe to ensure that all five species of rhino thrive in the wild.

JAMES LEWIN



strategies

Our vision

All five rhino species thriving in the wild.

Our mission

Collaborating with partners to support endangered rhinos in Africa and Asia.

Our strategic priorities

Protection, law enforcement, investigations and intelligence

Biological management

Stopping illegal markets

Capacity building

Coordination

Societal engagement

Sustainable, adequate financing



Achievements in 2020-21



Javan rhinos on the rise

March 2021 brought great news for Javan rhinos, as two new calves were spotted via camera traps in Ujung Kulon National Park, the species' only remaining home. Helen and Luther, the new rhinos, were seen by Rhino Protection Unit officers in October 2020, increasing the total population to 74.

While this number remains extremely low, the births mean that the last remaining population of this Critically Endangered species is growing: the Javan rhinos alive today are healthy, they can find enough good sources of food, and they can find mates to breed successfully. This news gives us more motivation than ever to continue this crucial work, so that more incredible Javan rhino calves, just like Helen and Luther, are born in the future.

Poaching in South Africa dips below 400

In 2020, 394 rhinos were poached in South Africa. While every poaching loss is heart-breaking, this total represents the sixth consecutive year of falling poaching numbers, and significantly, is a drop of one third compared to 2019 – a welcome step forward for rhinos in South Africa.

Likely, the Covid-19-induced travel restrictions within and outside South Africa played a role in the reduced total: strict curfew rules and the huge reduction in international flights would have limited the opportunity for criminals to traffic rhino horn. Of course, there's much more work to be done to drive this number down to zero.

ROBIN MOORE GIVE

Collaborating to protect Kenya's rhinos

When Covid-19 hit, many of the reserves where rhinos live in Kenya dealt with devastating financial losses from the lack of tourism.

But rhino conservation is expensive – it takes significant resources to protect rhinos and the wild landscapes in which they live. With the threat of poaching so high, funding had to be secured – immediately – to cover the core costs to ensure that rhinos were not in further danger because of the pandemic.

Together with partners, we helped ensure that the seven rhino-holding private and community conservancies in Kenya's Laikipia region received enough funding to cover the everyday costs of keeping rhinos safe. Thanks to generous funders, the conservancies were able to secure some breathing time whilst continuing to pay ranger salaries, keep patrol vehicles on the road, and protect Kenya's natural heritage.



Rhinos and the IUCN Red List

<CR>

Black rhino
Diceros bicornis

In-situ population¹ 5,366 – 5,627

IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION

Critically Endangered Considered to be facing an **extremely high risk** of extinction in the wild

<NT>

White rhino
Ceratotherium simum

In-situ population² 17,211 – 18,915³

IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION

Near Threatened Is close to qualifying for or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future

<CR>

Javan rhino
Rhinoceros sondaicus

In-situ population¹ 75 animals

IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION

Critically Endangered Considered to be facing an **extremely high risk** of extinction in the wild

<NT>

Greater one-horned rhino
Rhinoceros unicornis

In-situ population¹ 3,588

IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION

Vulnerable Considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild

<CR>

Sumatran rhino
Dicerorhinus sumatrensis

In-situ population¹ <80 individuals

IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION

Critically Endangered Considered to be facing an **extremely high risk** of extinction in the wild

The global rhino population

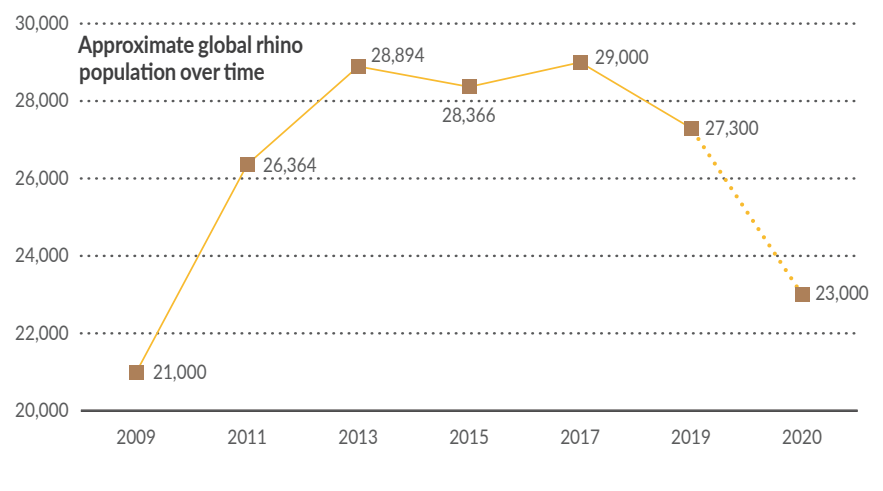
At the last official count, in 2017, we thought there were approximately 27–28,000 rhinos left on the planet. Unfortunately, we now know that range is too high.



The impact of more than a decade of relentless poaching, particularly of the largest global rhino population in South Africa, is taking its toll and causing the global population to plummet. Today, it's estimated that there are just 23,000 rhinos in the world. This recent decline is a tragedy. But there is at least one hopeful thought: during some of the toughest years that rhinos have faced, as poaching rocketed and habitats shrunk or were affected by severe drought, the last decade of efforts to conserve

them have, at least, ensured that the global population did not decline further.

Nevertheless, there is no time to relax. As the poaching pressure eases (thankfully), we must secure healthy habitats whilst mitigating the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and building resilience against the increasing impacts of climate change. It is vital that we don't just halt the decline but that we reverse the trend and increase populations for the future.



¹ In the countries in which they naturally occur.

² In 2021, the population of white rhinos in Kruger National Park, in South Africa, was reported to have declined significantly. As Kruger held the largest number of white rhinos in the world, this is likely to substantially change the global white rhino population. However, as not all other regions and countries have reported their rhino populations, we continue to use the last known official population from 2017, as reported by the IUCN.

African rhinos

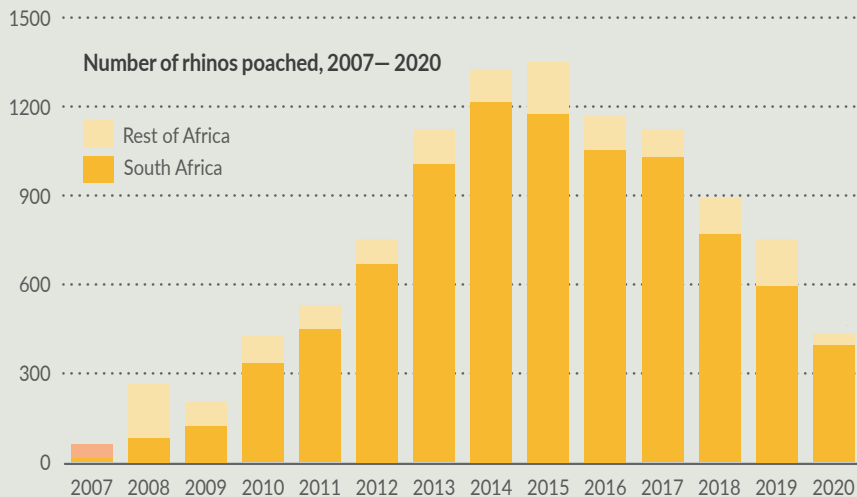
During the 10-year period 2011–20, nearly 10,000 rhinos were poached across Africa, against a baseline figure of c. 20,000 rhinos in the continent in 2010. It's not surprising that Africa's rhinos are struggling today. Fortunately, poaching numbers have declined

from their peak in 2015, when 1,349 rhinos were killed, but both African species continue to be under threat. In 2020, 435 rhinos were poached, a relatively low number, most likely helped by Covid-19-related restrictions on movement that impeded would-be poachers

and international traffickers. And of course, poaching isn't the only threat. Healthy and resilient habitats are increasingly scarce but desperately needed as future homes rhinos.

In addition, the Covid-19 pandemic has had an enormous impact on rhino conservation in Africa. As tourism shut down almost overnight and many people had to protect their own and their loved ones' health, the funding and resources available for everyday rhino conservation activities dramatically declined.

For both black and white rhinos, the coming years are critical. We must continue tried and tested approaches to rhino conservation (anti-poaching, biological management, community engagement), whilst finding new ways to allow rhino populations to grow, rather than just remaining steady, and adapting to new circumstances in a rapidly changing world.



Asian rhinos

The three rhino species in Asia are also facing extraordinary challenges, though in a very different context. Covid-19 has brought huge obstacles: important translocations were delayed, key training programmes postponed, and vital tourism income lost. As in Africa, ensuring that everyday activities can continue, despite the pandemic, has been critical.

Thankfully, however, some rhinos species in Asia have – slowly – been increasing. Greater one-horned rhinos in India and Nepal have expanded into a handful of new reserves, their numbers are on the rise, and poaching has dropped to fewer than five individuals each year.

However, proactive habitat management, including the removal of invasive species and creating new suitable and protected areas, is crucial to ensure that the upward population trend continues.

Similarly, Javan and Sumatran rhinos need more space. With fewer than 80 animals left of each species, their situation is even more urgent.

Whilst new calf sightings have brought hope for Javan rhinos, the new births in 2020 only just offset natural deaths. Nevertheless, a decade ago there were just 50 of these rhinos left; today there are 75. With protection and monitoring by expert rangers patrolling each day, we hope that more calves will be born in the coming years.

With just a handful of tiny Sumatran rhino populations spread out in small, disconnected areas, estimating their overall number is a challenge in itself. Today, there are thought to be fewer than 80 left, and unfortunately, due to the loss of habitat and isolation that makes it almost impossible for rhinos to find each other and breed, their population seems to be in decline.

Alongside our partners around the world – including the International Rhino Foundation – we're supporting efforts of the Government of Indonesia to capture and relocate Sumatran rhinos to conservation-breeding facilities like the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. The goal is to increase rhino numbers quickly and safely, creating a source population from which animals can eventually be reintroduced into the wild.

SOHAIL INZAMAM



Managing Kenya's rhinos for maximum growth

Kenya has lost 188 rhinos (black and white) to poaching during the last decade.

In addition to direct anti-poaching activities, the best way to protect Kenya's rhinos is to enhance population breeding rates through improved management of the country's overall 'meta-population' of rhinos. Kenya's current rate of population increase is around 3% per year, against a national target of 5%, so there's room for improvement. Kenya's response to the poaching crisis of the 1970s, 80s and early 90s was to establish several relatively small, fenced sanctuaries to protect and recover rhino numbers. However, smaller rhino sanctuaries require more active management, and population growth rates tend to be lower, due either to social pressure (e.g. bulls fighting for dominance) or to resource limitation (not enough food or water). If rhino densities are high, growth rates fall; an equation known as 'density dependence'.

It is now possible to generate a full 10-year analysis of the performance of Kenya's entire black rhino population, on a site-by-site basis, and at the national meta-population level

But before you can even begin to assess density dependence, you must know how many rhinos you've got in each protected area.

Each January, the Kenyan Wildlife Service (KWS) prepares annual status reports for each black rhino population, based upon the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group's *Monitoring Guidelines*. Rhino numbers are prepared according to the length of time since each individual has been observed:

- Confirmed (<12 months)
- Probable (<24 months)
- Possible (>24 months)

In practice, when the KWS's Rhino Scientist Cedric Khayale, assisted by the Association of Private and Community Land Rhino Sanctuaries' Administrator, John Gitonga, came to look at the data in detail, they found that monitoring accuracy varied from site to site. With support from consultant Chris Barichiev of Conservation Alpha, they found problems such as:

- multiple but incomplete data sources
- different date formats
- incomplete translocation data
- changing names
- confusion between similar animals with different IDs
- spelling differences resulting in multiple identities

There was a lot of work to be done to 'clean up' the data and



JAMES LEWIN

discover the most accurate number of black rhinos across the country.

The process of cleaning up Kenya's rhino-sighting data was begun via the Rhino Impact Investment Project, which worked through four sites: Tsavo West National Park (NP), Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, Borana Conservancy and Ol Pejeta Conservancy. Save the Rhino then successfully approached two funders – the Bently Foundation and the Scott and Jessica McClintock Foundation – for grants to complete the task for the other rhino sites in Kenya.

With funding in place, John and Cedric worked through the 10 years' worth of data; a slow and difficult process. Although the project took longer than expected, the data has now been collated and cleaned for 11 of the other 12 sites (Sera Wildlife Conservancy, Meru NP, Aberdare NP, Chyulu Hills NP, Tsavo East NP, Nairobi NP, Maasai Mara (National Reserve and Triangle), Lake Nakuru NP, Ruma NP and Ol Jogi Conservancy). Solio Game Reserve is the only remaining sanctuary whose data have not yet been cleaned.

Site managers can finally answer questions such as "Do we lose more calves to predation than we expect?" or "Do we have density dependence in all or only some sanctuaries?"; in other words, "What biological management actions do we need to take?"

This has been an immense and long-overdue project, which will now become substantially easier to maintain, given that only 12 months of data from each site will need checking in future years.

Action to save Namibia's rhinos

In Namibia, tourism – primarily nature-based – accounts for 15.4% of total employment, and 14.7% of the national GDP. The sector is at the core of Namibia's economy, providing income for many people and supporting the country's key conservation programmes.

Like other rhino range states, the Covid-19 pandemic devastated Namibia's tourism industry, and the livelihoods of those that relied on it. It is estimated that Namibia lost US \$3.2 million in annual tourism revenue in 2020–21. Tens of thousands of jobs were put in jeopardy, including community game guards, conservancy staff, and those providing goods and services to reserves. The long-term effort to build Namibia's communal rhino conservancy programme was put under severe threat; without much-needed funding, wildlife – including rhinos – was put at huge risk from poaching.

To prevent poaching across the country, Namibia's Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) and its partners have been carrying out a series of proactive measures. The MEFT determined that one of the most effective responses is to strategically dehorn the most vulnerable rhinos every two to three years. In addition, the MEFT translocates rhinos out of high-risk areas to safer locations, establishing new populations and/or supplementing existing ones, promoting population growth and reducing the impact of having too many rhinos in

Between April 2020 and March 2021, 19 successful rhino immobilisation activities were carried out across Namibia. These included dehorning operations, translocations to more secure areas, treating injured rhinos, ear-notching, and implanting transmitters into horns for future monitoring.

one place, which can lead to a decline in population growth (density dependence).

However, with no income from park fees or accommodation bookings, and rhino custodian properties (private and/or community reserves or farms that agree with the MEFT to keep state-owned black rhinos on their land) at risk of collapse, Covid-19 put the country's rhino conservation programme under extreme pressure.

Thankfully, with funding via Save the Rhino from the United States' Fish and Wildlife Service and The Woodtiger Fund, as well as other international donor support, the MEFT was able to continue



BOTH IMAGES: NAMIBIAN MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

vital activities to keep rhinos safe and encourage population growth.

Despite these efforts, rhino poaching in Namibia remains a major concern. Yet, thanks to consistent efforts by the MEFT and others, poaching has declined in recent years. In 2018, 81 rhinos were poached in Namibia. In 2020, there were 37 confirmed poaching cases.

As the impact of Covid-19 continues to grip Namibia's economy (some predict that the tourism industry will reach pre-pandemic levels only in 2024), the coming years will prove difficult. The communities and wildlife that depend on tourism will require significant support. Without it, we risk reversing the decades of positive action that have supported and protected Namibia's rhinos.

Above: Unfortunately, during a dehorning operation in Etosha National Park in May 2020, the MEFT's Rhino Recovery Vehicle, used and fitted out specifically for rhino operations, caught fire and was destroyed.

Thanks to The Woodtiger Fund, a new vehicle was purchased in November 2020 and customised, helping the MEFT to continue with vital rhino immobilisation and translocation activities.



Patrolling to protect Javan rhinos

Undoubtedly, the greatest threat to Javan rhinos is that the entire population exists in one single place. All 75 surviving animals live in Ujung Kulon National Park (UKNP) in the western tip of the island of Java.

The species is extremely susceptible to disease outbreaks, earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions, as well as facing challenges from opportunistic poaching by illegal fishermen and encroachment into the Park. To counter this threat and effectively monitor the population, expert four-person Rhino Protection Units (RPU) patrol the rhinos' habitat every day.

Covering more than 7,300 km between April 2020 and March 2021, the marine unit encountered 46 incidents of illegal fishing, apprehending perpetrators each time.

Spending up to 15 days in the field at a time, the RPUs create a significant deterrent to would-be rhino poachers. In addition, they support the conservation of other endangered species within UKNP (such as banteng, leopard, deer, primates, and pangolin) by removing snares and investigating all evidence of illegal activity.

In 2020–21, thanks to generous donations from the Scott and Jessica McClintock Foundation and Save the Rhino International Inc., alongside other donors, £46,397 was sent to support the salaries of RPU members and cover essential programme costs in UKNP to support the 24/7 patrols.



The patrols carried out by RPUs have proved successful: no rhinos have been poached for many years, and the Javan rhino population has been – albeit slowly – increasing. However, teams identified that one area needed more attention: the Park's coastal boundaries. With many incursions into the Park taking place via the coast, and illegal fishing in the protected waters a common occurrence, marine species were being impacted and wildlife, including Javan rhinos, were less likely to use the shoreline due to the frequent human disturbance.

Between April 2020 and March 2021, terrestrial RPU teams covered a total of 6,167 km on patrol in the Park, identifying more than 200 cases of illegal activity and recording more than 180 rhino signs.

Therefore, in 2020, a new marine arm of the RPU programme was established. Covering more than 7,300 km between April 2020 and March 2021, the marine unit encountered 46 incidents of illegal fishing, apprehending perpetrators each time. Once again, the RPU's work proved successful: over the 12 months, the number of incidents declined, demonstrating the importance and success of this new patrol region. Now, the RPUs are looking to expand to other coastal areas surrounding the Park, to ensure that their work in certain locations does not simply shift the problem elsewhere.

Thanks to support from Save the Rhino International's donors, Javan rhinos in Ujung Kulon continue to be protected and monitored by Rhino Protection Units, helping to reduce the threats they face, and in turn, the species to slowly increase in number.



ROBIN MOORE GWC



Working through Covid-19

The impact of the pandemic on rangers

Saving rhinos is hard. Rangers often spend their time in remote outposts for weeks at a time, with little contact with the outside world (including partners, parents, children), surviving on dry rations and often without running water or electricity.

While living in these conditions, rangers have to complete long daily patrols, record everything they can about the rhinos they see, and – crucially – be prepared to face armed gangs that are ready to do anything to get away with a rhino's horns. It's one of the toughest, most dangerous jobs there is.

And this was the case before the pandemic, when there were more tourists around to support the costs of rangers' important work. But despite the lack of funding and the risks to their own health, rangers couldn't stop working due to Covid-19. There is no 'patrolling from home'.

But with no tourists for months due to travel restrictions, paying for the most essential aspects of rhino protection – ranger salaries, patrol vehicle fuel and essential kit such as uniforms, boots and rations – was extremely difficult. During these tough times, many rangers had to work longer, staying away from their families for months, instead of weeks. Some had to take pay cuts, despite the intense and difficult job they continued to bravely do.

Thanks to grants from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, the Bently Foundation, the Woodtiger Fund, zoos and many other supporters around the world, Save the Rhino International was able to support some of these essential costs. Often, this funding covered some of the most basic, but necessary, costs, ensuring that rangers could continue their work safely, reduce the risk of burnout, and protect rhinos and other endangered wildlife successfully.

Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park (HiP) is a 960 km² reserve in Kwa-Zulu Natal Province, in the east of South Africa. The Park is home to black and white rhinos and has suffered from intense poaching since the current poaching crisis began. When the pandemic arrived in the country, lockdowns meant that any remaining tourists had to leave the Park, and rangers not already on duty had to remain at home, while those in the Park had to stay and maintain patrol duties. The ranger team in HiP might normally put in 14,000 person-hours each month, but in the first few months of Covid-19, through extended overtime, nightshifts, staffing roadblocks and conducting vehicle checks, the rangers were working around 20,000 person-hours each month.

To assist with these intense patrolling efforts and reduce the ongoing fuel costs, five new quadbikes were purchased, providing rangers with more efficient means to monitor HiP's rhinos and the electric fence surrounding the Park without using large, fuel-heavy vehicles. The bikes saved the rangers time during regular patrol duties and improved incident response times, increasing the chances of successfully apprehending poaching suspects.

Additionally, grants to HiP ensured that facilities, vehicles and appliances could be maintained to remain in good working condition. This upkeep was – and continues to be – crucial to provide an environment acceptable for rangers to work in; maintaining comfortable accommodation for rangers is critical to keeping morale high amongst the team.

“ I have been a Section Ranger in this Park since 2006 and during this entire period Save the Rhino and its donors have been supporting us, even before rhino poaching was ever an issue. We often go through difficult times and turmoil, but at the end of the day, we get through them.

Presently, due to Covid-19, loss of jobs and revenue, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife [the management organisation responsible for the Park] is struggling to find funding to pay for staff, let alone operational costs. Save the Rhino and its donors have always assisted us with maintaining our Park and very often with mundane tasks and 'unsexy' activities such as fixing broken toilets, showers, pumps and generators. Your continued support on the ground enables staff to do their work effectively, increases morale and gets results.

I would personally like to thank you very much for your very generous support.

**Dirk Swart, Section Ranger
Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park**



Supporting canine units across Africa

Workshops held during 2020–21

November 2020

Dealing with heat stress and poisoning, by Jessica Manzak DVM

December 2020

Providing emergency first aid to dogs in the field, by Tommy Asinga DVM

December 2020

Canine behaviour, by Chris Aycock

**13 K9 units
attended the
sessions from
11 different
African countries**

Over recent years, detection and tracking dogs have become increasingly important members of anti-poaching and wildlife protection teams across Africa.

With their excellent set of senses and their non-corruptible character, the number of canine units across the continent has risen significantly. However, many of these programmes work in isolation, with very few opportunities to share experiences and gain knowledge from each other.

To address this challenge, Save the Rhino International has helped fund, coordinate, and facilitate workshops for anti-poaching canine units across Africa since 2018. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, in-person workshops were not possible in 2020 or 2021, but, as the network expanded and more canine units were established, the need to bring people together became increasingly important. So, our team got to work, identifying the most pressing issues and understanding how to organise virtual events that could benefit K9 teams across the African continent.

Following a questionnaire sent to all former workshop attendees and new canine unit members, it was clear that shorter, regular, online sessions with experts to discuss specific topics would be extremely helpful. Since November 2020, seven workshops have been held (three in 2020–21 and four in 2021–22).

On average, 15 'participants' attended each session, though the actual number of people attending is likely to be much higher, as often four to five people joined as a unit

OLUJOGI SANCTUARY

“ I thought that the sessions were brilliant. The handlers were engaged and have proactively sought to implement their learning from the sessions.

Workshop attendee

through one computer, and many others watched the recording afterwards.

To gauge how useful the online sessions had been, a survey was sent to all participants after the first few workshops. The feedback was good: in the absence of physical meetings for the last two years, they provided relevant information and a space to share experiences and ask questions. Everyone who responded to the survey said that they would attend future sessions and that the platform and time of the sessions worked well. Suggestions for future topics were also put forward, including tracking, deployment strategies, the olfactory system of the dog, and puppy training. Future sessions are now being planned to continue sharing important knowledge.





Veterinary training in Indonesia



Sumatran rhinos are one of the rarest large mammals on the planet. There are fewer than 80 of them left in total, and they live in a handful of small and fragmented sites within the Sumatran and Bornean rainforests.

Given their exceptionally low population, action to conserve every Sumatran rhino, and to encourage their breeding, is essential. Working together with international NGO partners in support of the Government of Indonesia, Save the Rhino International has been part of the Sumatran Rhino Rescue (SRR) project since 2018. The SRR initiative aims to bring the species back from the brink of extinction through four key pillars:

- **Pillar 1** Conducting search and rescue operations to locate and capture rhinos in the wild
- **Pillar 2** Building new facilities and building capacity to care for and breed rhinos
- **Pillar 3** Coordinating partners across Indonesia to collaborate on a single country-wide breeding programme
- **Pillar 4** Raising the profile of the Sumatran rhinos so that people around the world can contribute to the species' protection

In 2020–21, one of the top priorities for the project was to build capacity, boosting the knowledge of teams on the ground to ensure that all future search and rescue missions could be carried out successfully. Intensive training programmes were developed, providing the Sumatran rhino teams with an opportunity to gain essential skills to contribute to the project's success, including building expertise in veterinary care, animal capture and translocation of Sumatran rhinos.

In January 2020, representatives from all three Sumatran rhino regions (Lampung, Aceh, and Kalimantan) were trained by a team of international and Indonesian vets at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas National Park. During the training, veterinarians shared best practices and methods that they had developed to ensure that when new animals arrived in the purpose-built rhino sanctuaries, every rhino would receive the most advanced care.

Unfortunately, as international travel was prohibited due to Covid-19, many future training plans had to be put on hold. Yet, with such a fragile population of Sumatran rhinos remaining, teams could not afford to delay much further. Sessions quickly moved online, with two virtual workshops held in October and December 2020, focusing on general veterinary practices to care for rhinos at sanctuaries, alongside covering critical topics, such as the safest way to immobilise a rhino for a translocation.

The education sessions were designed to equip local vets with additional knowledge from others around the world, learning from other people's experiences and identifying the key challenges to overcome when translocating rhinos in Indonesia. Such information sharing will help to enable captures to go smoothly when they can commence.

Despite the impacts of Covid-19, the teams are doing all that they can to prepare for the capture, translocation, and subsequent care of rhinos as they move from wild forests into conservation sanctuaries. Hopefully, thanks to this extensive knowledge sharing and preparation, successful rescue missions will begin early in 2022.

Working with communities – from education to engagement

Douglas Adams, one of our Founder Patrons, once noted that much of the happiness of the lifeforms on the small blue-green planet called Earth seemed to depend on the movements of small green pieces of paper, which was odd because, overall, it wasn't the small green pieces of paper that were unhappy. (For the under-50s reading this, we used to have £1 notes, which were green.)

In our 21st century world of conservation, many of the lifeforms on that same small blue-green planet care deeply about its endangered wildlife, and want to help protect them by working with wild animals. Which is similarly odd, because, overall, it isn't the wildlife that is causing the problems. Poaching, habitat destruction, consumption of illegal wildlife products, human-wildlife conflict, pollution, climate change – these are all problems caused by people, and addressing them often involves leaving conservation biology behind and engaging with the human worlds of sustainable development and behaviour change.

Across this small blue-green planet, but perhaps in Africa in particular, a safe future for wildlife depends on future generations of people who understand the value of wild animals in wild landscapes, and who have the knowledge and skills to adopt new and sustainable approaches to development.

The 'Lolesha Luangwa' (LL) conservation education programme, run by the North Luangwa Conservation Programme (NLCP) in Zambia, began in 2001 with a handful of schools in one area adjacent to North Luangwa National Park (see images bottom, right). Today, the programme reaches 20 schools and more than 2,000 students all around the Park. But LL hasn't just grown, it has evolved; today, the programme is engaging not only school 'conservation clubs' but also a wide range of adult community groups, running classes and initiating projects to help people understand the value of their wild landscape and live safely and sustainably alongside wildlife.

And LL is no longer a stand-alone project, but an important piece of a much larger picture of community engagement and support programmes. Traditional conservation activities like wild animal and range management have been joined, and to some extent superseded, by support for alternative livelihoods and improved community finance, improved horticulture, community forestry



and sustainable fisheries management, and new approaches to safe coexistence with potentially dangerous wildlife such as elephants.

In the past couple of years, life around North Luangwa has been severely disrupted, first by political unrest and criminal gangs, and then by the Covid-19 pandemic. Through these difficult times, the interdependence and mutual support between the Park and the communities living around it have been more important than ever.

Save the Rhino International and its donors, particularly the Wildcat Foundation and Peter and Birgit Lawrence, has supported the vital conservation work of the NLCP and the communities that live alongside it for many years, and we look forward to doing so long into the future.

Alongside LL, we look forward to supporting our partners at Borana Conservancy in Kenya, who have similarly worked with their neighbouring communities for many years and have recently completed a SAPA – a Social Assessment for Protected and conserved Areas – which is a tool that enables conservationists and their neighbours to assess the social impacts, governance and equity of their conservation efforts.

Building on the results of that assessment, Borana is working with its partner communities to significantly increase its education outreach, and Save the Rhino will be providing both project planning and fundraising support – from Ardea Cares, from our sister organization in the USA and from WildArk – to that project. More broadly, we look forward to collaborating with others to disseminate the lessons learned from these and other successful programmes to many conservation communicators across Africa and beyond.



Helping the AfRSG to help its members

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Species Survival Commission's African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG) covers all rhino range states in Africa – Botswana, Chad, DR Congo, Eswatini, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe – and works with state, provincial, community, municipal and private sector rhino conservation programmes.

The rhino poaching crisis has put rhino range states under greater pressure than ever and, as a consequence, there are many requests to the AfRSG Secretariat for assistance. In the past, such help was generally provided by the Chair and/or Scientific Officer. However, following the most recent AfRSG meeting (held in February 2019 in Namibia), as a consequence of the current Scientific Officer (Dr Richard Emslie) wishing to reduce his time commitment before stepping down by the end of 2021, and of the Chair's (Dr Mike Knight) wish for greater participation by and capacity building within the Group, a series of Working Groups (longer-term projects) and Task Forces (short-term projects) have been established, each involving five to 10 Members.

While these Working Groups and Task Forces have reduced the burden on the outgoing Scientific Officer, they have not eased the workload of the Chair, whose time is volunteered by his employer (WWF in Namibia), but which is not infinite.

An AfRSG Governance Working Group, led by Dr Rob Brett, identified the need to recruit not only a part-time Scientific Officer to replace Dr Emslie but also a part-time (c. 100 days per year) Programme Officer, who will support the Chair by, for example, managing the multiple Working Groups and Task Forces to facilitate progress, and handling the logistics for the AfRSG meetings that take place approximately every three years.

In 2021, Save the Rhino International, through our CEO, Cathy Dean, who is a member of the AfRSG, played an active role in the Governance Working Group, helping to draw up the Terms of Reference for the roles of Scientific Officer and Programme

Officer, and recruiting for these positions alongside other AfRSG members. In October 2021, Dr Sam Ferreira was confirmed as the new Scientific Officer and Keitumetse ('Kate') Mosweu as the Programme Officer.

In addition, Save the Rhino provided substantial support for the AfRSG by managing the United States Fish and Wildlife Service grant that covers a large proportion of the Secretariat's operating costs; and by participating in various Working Group meetings to support the AfRSG's work in its mission to guide and facilitate the conservation of viable African rhino populations across their natural range.

During the next year (2021–22) Save the Rhino International, alongside others within the AfRSG, will be heavily involved in planning the 2022 virtual AfRSG meeting (taking place in March). The 2022 meeting will be an important milestone for the group, discussing the current priority issues in rhino conservation (biological management, poaching, Covid-19 impacts), and determining the most effective ways to work together to achieve the AfRSG's vision of thriving wild African rhinos valued by people and contributing to their wellbeing.

MAIN IMAGE: NAOMI DOAK



Stopping illegal rhino horn markets in Viet Nam and China

2020 was, or was supposed to be, the year when everything changed. At the beginning of the year, Save the Rhino was working with TRAFFIC – the wildlife trade organisation, on three projects in Viet Nam and China to change people's attitudes to buying rhino horn.



In Hanoi, the long partnership that we and some of our zoo partners have with Education for Nature Viet Nam (ENV) continued, supporting ENV's PSA (Public Service Announcements) programme to inform the public about the many consequences of buying illegal wildlife products. And we were just starting a new partnership with the UK-based Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) to research and influence policy on wildlife trade in China. Then, of course,

Covid-19 hit. By the start of the financial year on 1 April 2020, we were already in lockdown and international, particularly intercontinental, travel was impossible.

The pandemic has, of course, been horrendous for everyone and devastating for those who have lost loved ones. But for those of us working on reducing demand for illegal wildlife products, there was a potential silver lining to this otherwise very dark cloud – the wildlife trade that had for so long been a more niche conservation and biodiversity issue had suddenly switched to being a public health issue, which of course engages a much wider audience.

We were greatly encouraged when the Chinese Government banned the consumption of wildlife products, but we clamoured for more information – what did 'consumption' mean? What was the legal status of this ban? We worked with our friends at EIA to try to find out more.

We held an online '[Thorny Issues Live](#)' panel discussion with EIA, ENV and TRAFFIC, hosted by international journalist Riz Khan, to discuss the possible impacts of Covid-19 on the demand for illegal wildlife products.

And we were delighted when the Prime Minister of Viet Nam issued a proclamation later in the year, reinforcing his country's determination to tackle illegal wildlife crime, with a particular focus on the vital role of government officials in that effort.

Meanwhile, our projects on the ground were inevitably disrupted by the pandemic, but our partners managed to keep things moving. TRAFFIC were important actors in a Vietnamese Government 'high-level policy dialogue' on Illegal Wildlife Trade (IWT) in November 2020, at which senior champions were appointed to take forward new policies, as well as working to tackle IWT across the Viet Nam / China border and launching a major social media campaign in China. ENV continued a dialogue with the Vietnamese public throughout the pandemic on the impacts of consumption of IWT products. And EIA maintained an active role in advocacy on IWT in China, despite not being able to travel.

And in March 2021, Save the Rhino acted as rapporteur for a workshop between the UK Government and many representatives from Asian governments and other organisations on tackling IWT in consumer countries.

But, so far, the great shift in public attitudes we were hoping for does not appear to be happening; as lockdowns lift, people seem to be returning to wild meat restaurants and traditional forms of medicine based on wildlife products. Perhaps the greatest hope in the coming year will be at the government level, where different agencies seem to be working together on a 'One Health' approach. The impact of that change may be slower and more subtle than a sea change in public consciousness, but it may nevertheless have a significant impact on reducing future demand for rhino horn.



Saving rhinos in 2022 and beyond

This report describes the impact of Save the Rhino International and its conservation partners through the 2020–21 financial year–April 2020 to March 2021. But assessing impact takes time, and as we pull together this report, 2021 is coming to a close and the news is full of a new variant of SARS-CoV-2.

So, barring something truly dramatic in the last days of the year, we know how 2021 turned out, and we need to look forward to conservation and saving rhinos in 2022.

The overall context remains the same: the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (the IPCC) and Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) both warned us a couple of years ago that we have 10 years to tackle dangerous climate change and reverse massive biodiversity loss. We watched large swathes of California and Australia burn.

Whatever the shape of the world in 2022, the one thing we cannot do is look forward to getting back to 'normal', or even to finding a 'new normal'

Then, as if on cue, a zoonotic pandemic arrived to remind us just what can happen when we mess too much with natural systems. The Covid-19 pandemic will remain a major factor in 2022. More freedom is likely in warm summer months, but colder seasons remain vulnerable to restrictions on movement and on large indoor gatherings. Opportunities for international travel are unpredictable, and spending many more hours talking to people over the internet seems inevitable. The large-scale restoration of tourism income to internationally important protected areas seems unlikely in the short to medium-term.

Despite the disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic, poaching remains the greatest threat to rhinos in Africa, and potentially elsewhere. In early December 2021, we saw a sharp increase in rhino poaching in South Africa. Whether this is the start of something

new or just a seasonal spike as international criminals go 'Christmas shopping' (a horrible but real phenomenon) remains to be seen. But while demand for illegal rhino horn remains high, criminals are likely to adapt to the persisting pandemic and find new ways of carrying on their heartless business. The role of wildlife rangers remains vital and, in the absence of significant tourism income, the support of those brave men and women on the front line will depend more and more on those of us around the world who care about wildlife.

Meanwhile, in Viet Nam and China, a concerted effort will be needed to leverage the societal impacts of the pandemic to swing public sympathy away from the consumption of wildlife products. Our conservation partners in those countries are working hard towards that goal but, without the possibility of international travel, international dialogue and support has been limited. Regardless of whether international borders open up, international discourse and cooperation on stopping illegal wildlife trade needs to regain its momentum in 2022.

In Indonesia, work to protect and expand the last habitat of the Javan rhinos in Ujung Kulon National Park will continue, whilst in Sumatra the search for Sumatran rhinos is moving north to Gunung Leuser National Park, at the northern end of the Bukit Barisan mountains. It is hoped that a third Sumatran rhino sanctuary will be established there, to complement those in Way Kambas in the south of Sumatra and Kelian in Borneo.

In November 2022, CoP19 of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) will hopefully be held in Panama. That meeting will once again ignite the debate over a legal international trade in rhino horn, with some countries that have large, managed populations of rhinos likely wanting to realise the value of their stockpiles of horn.

Whatever the shape of the world in 2022, the one thing we cannot do is look forward to getting back to 'normal', or even to finding a 'new normal'. Nothing in our world of conservation is normal now. Never before has our best science told us we have fewer than 10 years to implement unprecedented changes in how people live if we are to limit climate change and protect our precious wildlife. Our main hope, as conservationists, is in understanding and adapting to that disturbing truth, and in moving forward to keep rhinos safe in what needs to be a very rapidly changing world.

A huge thank you!

Without the brilliant support of people and organisations across the world, we would not be able to achieve any of the work you've read about above. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated towards our efforts since the beginning. Your support means the world to us.

A special thanks to those that contributed to saving rhinos during 2020-21:

£10,000+

Ardea Cares
Berry White
Beyond the Ultimate
CHK Foundation
Cathy Dean and Kenneth Donaldson
Disney Conservation Fund
George Ponsonby, George Hayworth and Eden May
HardHat
Mark Henry Cox
New World Foods (Europe)
Oak Philanthropy (UK) Ltd
Rita Cabeles Goni
Sanford C. Bernstein (Hong Kong) Ltd
Sidekick Foundation
The Anna Merz Rhino Trust
The Estate of Betty Liebert
The Glen And Bobbie Ceiley Foundation
The Holtzman Wildlife Foundation
The Rothes Charitable Trust

NAMIBIAN MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTRY AND TOURISM

The Royal Foundation of
The Duke & Duchess of Cambridge

The Scott and Jessica McClintock Foundation

The Woodtiger Fund

WildAid

WILDLANDS Nature and Education Fund

Zoological and Botanical Garden
Stuttgart, Wilhelma

£100,000+

Bently Foundation

Goldman Sachs Philanthropy

Save the Rhino International Inc.

The Wildcat Foundation

United States Bureau of International Narcotics
and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL)

United States Fish and Wildlife Service - Rhino
and Tiger Conservation Fund (USFWS-RTCF)

WCN Rhino Recovery Fund

And those who wish to remain anonymous.



Fundraising and financials 2020–21

Our annual accounts are independently audited by Accountancy Management Services Limited.

You can view these full accounts online, via the [Charity Commission's website](#).

Statement of financial activities

For the year ended 31 March 2021

Incoming resources

Donations and legacies	£562,393
Charitable activities	£3,714,631
Other trading activities	£14,819
Investments	£1,709
Total incoming resources	£4,293,552

Expenditure

Raising funds	£395,642
Charitable activities	£4,503,488
Other	£7,455
Total expenditure	£4,906,585

Net income/(expenditure) for the year	£613,033
Transfers between funds	—
Net movement in funds for the year	£613,033

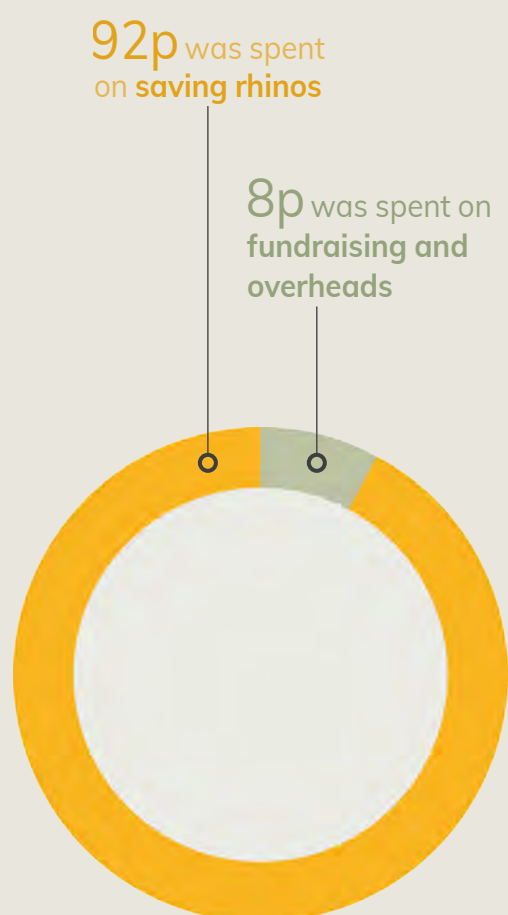
Reconcillation of funds	£1,692,447
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Total of funds carried forward	£1,079,414
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Our commitment to you

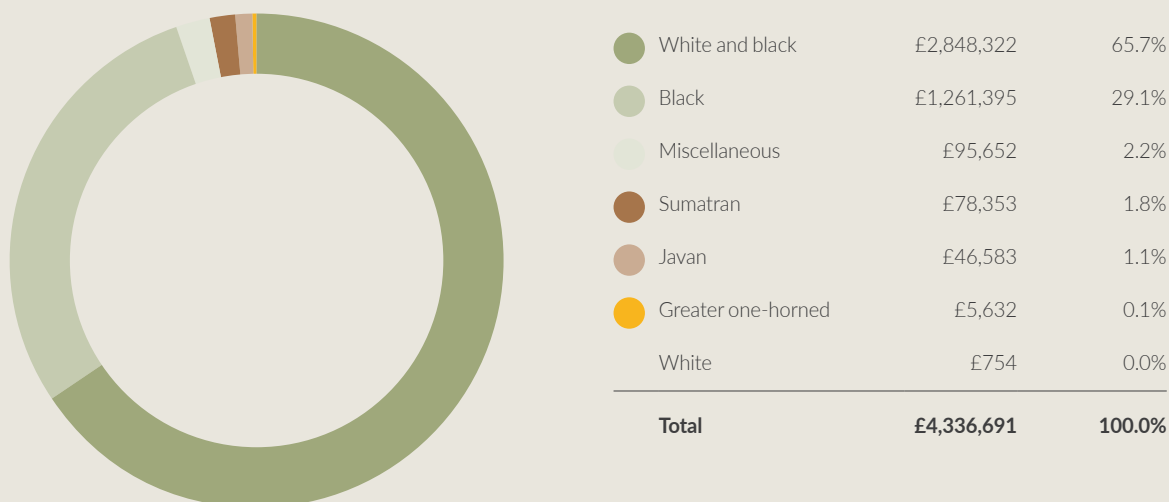
We're committed to using the money we receive wisely, making sure that every penny is valuable for rhinos.

In the 2020–21 financial year,
for every £1 donated to Save the Rhino:



Grants by rhino species

Total grants awarded for the year ended 31 March 2021



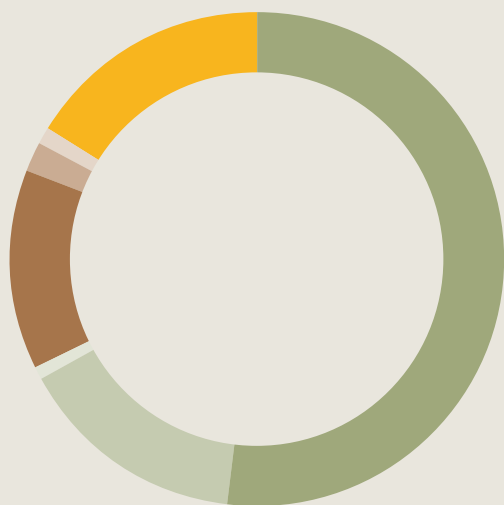
Grants by country

Total grants awarded for the year ended 31 March 2021



Grants by strategic priority

Total grants awarded for the year ended 31 March 2021



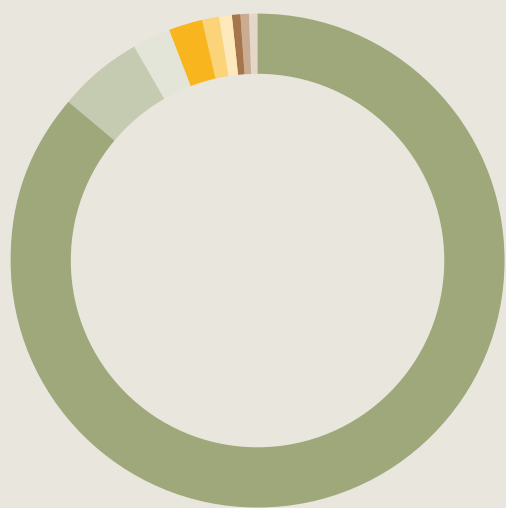
Protection, law enforcement, investigations and intelligence	£2,272,983.47	52.4%
Biological management	£632,349.59	14.6%
Stopping illegal markets	£64,705.63	1.5%
Capacity building	£565,641.82	13.0%
Coordination	£68,067.14	1.6%
Societal relevance	£51,256.48	1.2%
Sustainable, adequate finance	£681,686.80	15.7%
Total	£4,336,691	100.0%

Income by revenue stream

Total income for the year ended 31 March 2021

You are the people who make saving rhinos possible.

We are committed to spending the money you raise effectively and efficiently, keeping our overheads as low as we can without holding back our growth.



Trusts and foundations	£3,714,631
Donations	£244,320
Corporate fundraising	£103,480
Community fundraising	£96,957
Membership	£43,237
Gift Aid	£34,232
Special events	£21,742
Gifts in kind	£16,968
Merchandise	£14,819
Investment income	£1,709
Challenge events	£1,457
Total revenue	£4,293,552

Our people

Honorary President

Dave Stirling (co-founder)

Founder Patrons

Douglas Adams
Michael Werikhe

Trustees

Henry Chaplin | *Vice chair and Treasurer*
Megan Greenwood
Sianne Haldane
Jim Hearn
Emma Lear
Joe Steidl
George Stephenson | *Chair*
Alistair Weaver

Patrons

Polly Adams
Benedict Allen
Clive Anderson
Louise Aspinall
Nick Baker
Simon Barnes
Paul Blackthorne
Suzi Bullough
Mark Carwardine
Giles Coren
Mark Coreth
Dina de Angelo
Robert Devereux
Kenneth Donaldson
Sam Fletcher
Christina Franco
Tim Holmes
Ben Hoskyns-Abraham
Angus Innes
Fergal Keane
Tom Kenyon-Slaney
Francesco Nardelli
Martina Navratilova
Viscount Petersham
Alex Rhind
Mark Sainsbury
Alec Seccombe
Tira Shubart
James Sunley
William Todd-Jones
Friederike von Houwald
Jack Whitehall

Staff

Cathy Dean | *CEO*
David Hill | *Events Manager*
Darion Moore | *Partnership Communications Officer*
Yasmin Morowa | *Operations Manager*
Emma Pereira | *Communications Manager*
Jimmy Rutherford | *Michael Hearn Intern*
Adam Shaffer | *Community Fundraising Manager*
Jon Taylor | *Managing Director*

Design and layout Alex Rhind
www.alexrhind.co.uk



MARK CARWARDINE

Save the Rhino International

Unit 3, Coach House Mews,
217 Long Lane, London SE1 4PR

T: +44 (0)20 7357 7474

E: info@savetherhino.org

www.savetherhino.org

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CHRIS RHINO BOY GREEN

