



Rhino rescue

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a black rhino

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EDUARD GOOSEN

Same, same, but different



Cathy Dean | CEO, Save the Rhino International

In 1992, in leather brogues and with very little training, William Todd-Jones, wearing a rhino costume, alongside our co-founders, Dave Stirling and Jonny Roberts, crossed the finish line of the London Marathon on Sunday 12 April. None of them realised the tradition they had just established.

Now, every year, rhino runners from around the world gather in London for this special event. Some wear a costume (we have around 20 of those in total), and others proudly show our logo on their t-shirts, all taking on 26.2 miles of the city's streets.

Of course, things look quite different now to the early 90s; we've not since had a runner wearing brogues (if you enjoy blister-related torture, please get in touch...), and our finish-line picnic in St James' Park is a space ready to welcome 50 or 60 people. Yet the essence of the day has remained: people coming together to do something extraordinary and raise funds for rhinos.

The concept of doing the same thing, differently, is true for many other aspects of our work at Save the Rhino. Because, despite the best efforts of ourselves and many of our conservation partners, many of the threats that rhinos face now aren't very different from the ones they faced when we started. Poaching, despite the respite in the late 1990s and early 2000s, continues to devastate rhino populations, though thankfully it's decreased in recent years. Habitat degradation and loss still push rhinos into smaller and often fragmented territories. And the impacts of the climate crisis are being felt through shifting rainfall patterns that reduce food availability for rhinos.

Yet, whilst the challenges we faced in the 1990s persist today, the actions that we take to overcome them have evolved. For example, addressing the poaching threat now entails more than just security guards on patrol; it also includes international collaboration, intelligence

gathering, uncovering illicit financial flows, and behaviour-change campaigns to address the source of the demand for illegal wildlife products.

Tackling the same problem over time can feel hopeless. But thankfully, we know that our new strategies, coupled with everyday actions such as supporting rangers and protecting vital habitats, are making a difference (take a look at pages 4-5 for some highlights).

Looking ahead, it seems the next few years are likely to be even more turbulent than the ones before them. We'll be doing the same as we've always done; supporting rhinos, and the people and places they depend on. And we'll be doing this in the most effective ways that we can – testing new and innovative strategies alongside tried and tested methods.

It's only by thinking long-term and having dedicated, passionate and generous supporters like you that we can accomplish any of this. So, from me, and the rest of our team, thank you so much.

This year, on the 30th anniversary of that first run in a rhino costume, nearly 70 rhino supporters, including me and other members of Save the Rhino's team, will be once again running the London Marathon to raise awareness and funds for rhinos. The world has changed a great deal in the past 30 years, but some things, reassuringly, stay the same.

Cathy Dean, CEO

A handwritten signature of Cathy Dean in black ink. The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being prominent.



Your impact

The last few years have been incredibly tough. Thankfully, with your ongoing and generous support, there have been many important conservation actions in the past year.

Here are a handful of significant wins that you've helped achieve in the last 12 months.

African-wide

Experts gather and report to CITES

Every two to three years, experts within the IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG) come together to discuss the state of African rhinos.

This year, as travel restrictions remained, the Group met online to share expertise, develop knowledge, and discuss the future of Africa's rhinos. Whilst Zoom calls may not be your first thought for what rhino conservation involves, the importance of the AfRSG's network cannot be underestimated: without it, creating strategies for the conservation of African rhinos would be much more difficult.



LARA JACKSON



RENAUD FULCONIS

India

Greater one-horned rhinos increase

A recent count brought excellent news for India's Greater one-horned rhinos. Since 2019, the number of Greater one-horned rhinos in the country has increased to a total population of 3,262! Reaching beyond 3,000 rhinos is a huge milestone, especially when poaching continues to be a significant threat.

Now, we've got to ensure there is enough space for these rhinos and their future generations to thrive.



INDONESIA: MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY

Indonesia

New hope for Sumatran rhinos

On 24 March 2022, the future for Sumatran rhinos got a little bit brighter. A new female calf was born at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas National Park, Indonesia.

When there are estimated to be only 34-47 Sumatran rhinos left in the world – as revealed in the latest IUCN / TRAFFIC report for CITES CoP19 – and their biggest challenge is finding each other to mate, the arrival of this little rhino is a huge achievement. So far, the calf and her mother, Rosa, are doing well under the expert care of the Sanctuary's onsite keepers and veterinarians.

South Africa

Improving enforcement to tackle poaching

In recent years, significant strides have been taken to ensure that law enforcement authorities find and arrest individuals responsible for poaching, their contacts, and those trafficking horns out of the country.

Between January and June 2022, 69 people were arrested in South Africa in connection with rhino poaching and horn trafficking. Not only do these arrests press pause on immediate poaching activity, but they also help to dismantle international criminal networks.



DAVE ROBERTSON



Rhinos and the IUCN Red List

Black rhino
Diceros bicornis

In-situ population¹ 6,195

IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION
Critically Endangered Considered to be facing an **extremely high risk** of extinction in the wild.

<CR>

White rhino
Ceratotherium simum

In-situ population¹ 15,942

IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION
Near Threatened Is close to qualifying for or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future.

<NT>

The Northern white rhino subspecies is functionally extinct, with only two individuals (both female) left. The Southern white rhino accounts for all other white rhinos.

Javan rhino
Rhinoceros sondaicus

In-situ population¹ 76

IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION
Critically Endangered Considered to be facing an **extremely high risk** of extinction in the wild.

<CR>

Greater one-horned rhino
Rhinoceros unicornis

In-situ population¹ 4,014

IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION
Vulnerable Considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild.

<NT>

Sumatran rhino
Dicerorhinus sumatrensis

In-situ population¹ Estimated 34–47

IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION
Critically Endangered Considered to be facing an **extremely high risk** of extinction in the wild.

<CR>

Where we're at

Rhino population estimates have officially been published for all range states (the countries with rhinos) in the last year, with accurate counts to the end of December 2021 reported to CITES² (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species).

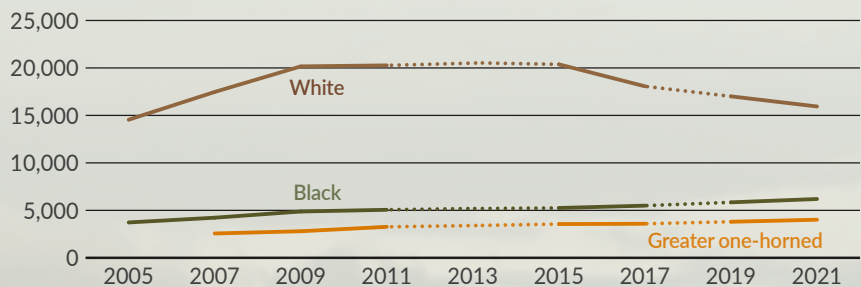
As helpful as updated numbers are, these ones paint a worrying picture. Since 2017, global rhino populations have decreased by approximately 3%. The main reason for the decline is poaching. Specifically, the relentless poaching in South Africa's Kruger National Park, which has caused a drop in the Park's rhino population from an estimated 10,000 in 2010, to around 4,000 now.

Yet, poaching has not been the cause of the recent demise of another rhino species: Sumatran rhinos. While official figures from the Indonesian Government talk of fewer than 80 animals remaining, IUCN's data suggests there may be only 34–47 individuals left. Habitat fragmentation and its impact on

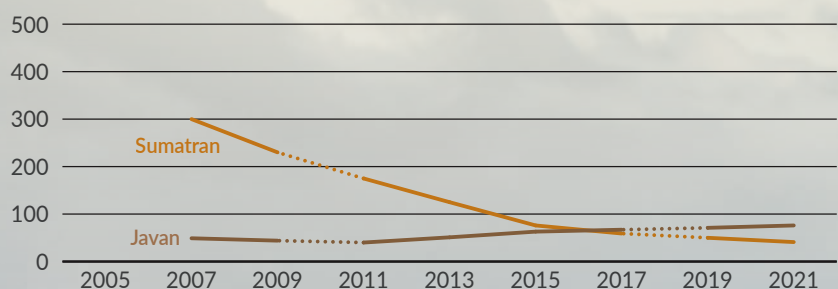
breeding success are pushing the species to the edge of extinction. A glimpse of hope did come in the form of a pitter-patter of rhino feet, however; a Sumatran rhino was born in Indonesia on 24 March 2022.

Thankfully, for the other three rhino species, things are looking up. Populations of Greater one-horned rhinos, Javan rhinos and black rhinos are all increasing. They're by no means out of trouble, but at least we can see the benefits of strategic conservation activities and commitment to supporting each species. Keeping up current momentum is crucial to overcome the threats they, alongside Sumatran and white rhinos, continue to face.

White, Black and Greater one-horned rhino populations 2005–21²



Sumatran and Javan rhino populations 2005–21²



¹In the countries in which they naturally occur.

²Population numbers are as reported to CITES by the African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups, at the end of December 2021.

Changes in habitat

For those populations where poaching is no longer the biggest concern, a lack of safe, suitable habitat is our biggest problem.

Since 2005, in Kenya and Namibia, black rhinos have increased by 73% and 88% respectively. Given their Critically Endangered status, such growth is crucial, and now, the race is on to make sure there is space for more rhinos in the coming years. This doesn't just mean investing in security to stop poaching. It means researching the ecology of potential sites, working with communities to ensure long-term plans, and connecting current habitats to create a network of rhino reserves.

Since 2005, Kenyan and Namibian black rhinos have increased by 73% and 88% respectively.

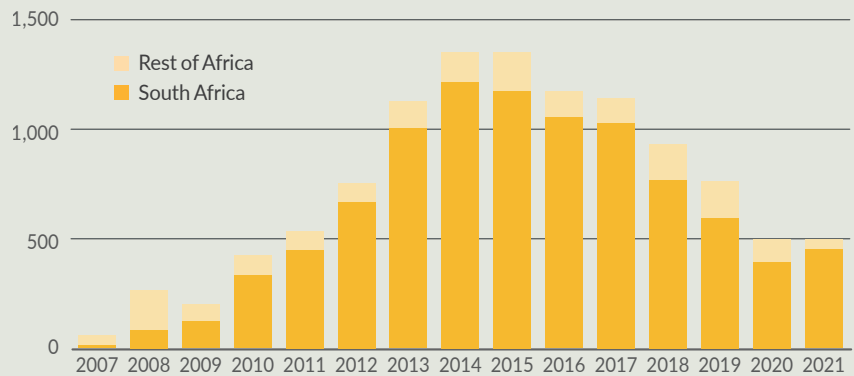
In Asia, invasive species are one of the biggest threats to rhino habitats. Even with strong protection by rangers, whole sections of a reserve may be deserted by rhinos if they're overrun with invasive plants, reducing the food availability, and the space for rhinos to roam. Eradicating invasive species is often a manual and long-term job, and therefore, projects to remove plants such as Arenga palm in Indonesia and Cotton-tree flowers in India have become critical conservation activities.

Beyond invasive species, our changing climate is increasingly shifting weather patterns. Droughts and floods have become much more common across rhino range states, each with huge implications for short and long-term food and water security.

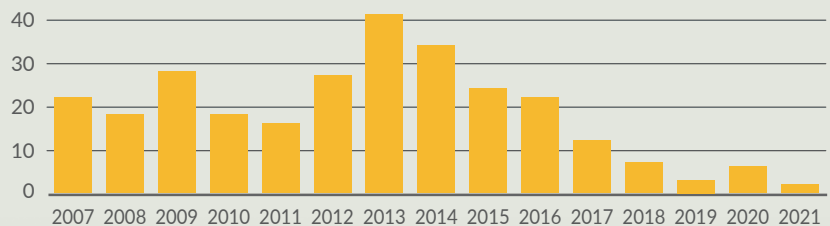
As an umbrella species that can boost biodiversity, and in turn, reduce the impacts of climate change and improve ecosystem resilience, protecting rhinos is not only important for them, but for people, wildlife, and our planet.

The impact of poaching

African rhinos poached 2007–21²



Greater one-horned rhinos poached 2007–21³



³ Estimated data from the Asian Rhino Specialist Group and historic news sources

Since the last official report to CITES (in 2018), poaching has tragically taken the lives of 2,725 rhinos across Africa and Asia. Put simply, too many rhinos are being killed to give them any chance of their numbers increasing. Fortunately, the total is almost a 50% decrease compared to the previous four-year period. However, it doesn't change the impact of the loss, and the cumulative long-term effect is driving rhino numbers (particularly the Southern white rhino population) down.

In South Africa (where 87% of all continental poaching in the last decade has taken place) poaching increased in 2021, following a substantial dip during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. Thankfully, the overall trend continues to follow the downward trajectory that started in 2015.

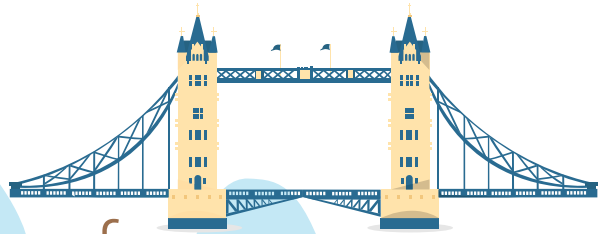
Whilst total poaching continues to decline, syndicates in South Africa are changing their tactics. Moving on from the common targets, such as

Kruger National Park, where enforcement is strengthening and rhino numbers have declined, poachers are turning their attention elsewhere. Smaller reserves such as Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park (HiP) in KwaZulu-Natal have recently suffered more intense poaching activity. Providing support to the rangers in HiP is one of our top priorities over the coming months.

Other countries are reporting similar trends. Recent news suggests poaching in Namibia could be increasing in smaller, private reserves. In addition, rhino poaching in Botswana is rising, perhaps because syndicates are moving away from the larger South African reserves.

Of course, poaching doesn't only reduce the current population. It also impacts dependent and future calves if a female rhino is poached. In fact, research on white rhinos in South Africa suggests that poaching has shifted the average reproductive success of a cow (female rhino) from six to just 0.7 calves in their lifetime.





A decade of rhino marathons

As a child, I watched on television as presenter Nick Baker ran the Marathon des Sables in a rhino costume. I had no idea then that I would one day do a marathon in one of those famous costumes – and certainly not more than once.

Vicky Rees | Rhino Runner



This year marks my tenth consecutive London Marathon in a rhino costume (minus the 2020 Virtual Marathon – more on that later).

'Rhino marathons' have been my annual highlight since 2012 when, aged 18, I completed my first race. A keen runner, my ballot entry had been unsuccessful, but in the commiseration magazine, I spotted a costume just like Nick Baker's... I love both animals and a challenge, so I applied. To my delight, and perhaps my parents' horror, I was accepted.

After numerous cake sales, street collections and pub quizzes, a few occasions when I took a cheeky afternoon off school to run, and a costume alteration to shorten my rhino, Marathon day arrived. I remember dancing at every bandstand and pausing for a photo with a little girl's class teddy. Of course, I also remember chafing and sweating profusely.

I finally crossed the finish line, exhausted but elated, with a time of 7:35:31. Instantly, I wanted to do it again. Then, and every time since, crossing the line has somehow erased the gruelling preceding hours.



Whilst subsequent races have blurred together somewhat, the best (and worst) moments stand out. Going to the wrong start line and having to sprint across Greenwich Park pre-race was bad enough in 2014, but I did it again in 2021, missing my start wave. Surprisingly, 2021 then ended up being my best race psychologically; a marked contrast to 2015's 'wall' at mile 11. My favourite event, however, was in 2017, as my mum, an invaluable supporter of my previous marathons, ran for Save the Rhino too: we crossed the finish line together.

A few things unite every marathon; the fantastic support from Save the Rhino, the pre-race nerves, getting called 'rhino man', and the brilliant atmosphere. It truly brings out the best in spectators and runners.

I love the bit of the course where the route doubles back, and the faster runners, suffering at mile 22, cheer me across the barrier as I plod through mile 13.

Speaking of plodding... I am reliably one of the last finishers of each 'crash' of costume runners. My finish times have ranged from 6:19:47 (2014) to 7:53:35 (2019). I owe my faster races to Paula Radcliffe's strategy of counting steps. I would force myself to run for a hundred paces, then walk for fifty, mile after mile. I trained more for my earlier marathons. The last few have been more mind over matter: to say I 'ran' them feels an exaggeration!

I also very much walked the virtual marathon of 2020 – my only marathon without wearing a costume, having had my daughter by c-section three months prior. It was truly surreal to be joined by my newborn and mum for a rainy marathon around my village.

Whilst it all began with marathons, rhinos have shaped other parts of my life. I shoehorned a trip to Uganda's only rhino sanctuary, and a dissertation on the politics of rhino conservation there, into my undergraduate degree, and then completed a rhino-themed Master's in African Studies. Spending time with rhinos and rangers was incredible, and highlighted the sad plight of such beautiful animals.

This journey has been a consistent feature of a decade of huge changes and personal challenges. I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to have participated – it has been such an honour and a joy to get to know the Save the Rhino family, past and present, and to play

a small part in the vital conservation work they do. Looking forward, I hope to do the ForRangers Ultra marathon in Kenya – and at least part of it in costume! So... bring on the next 10 years?

Vicky has completed an extraordinary 10 London Marathons for Save the Rhino in the last 10 years, raising more than £14,660 in total!

Want to join Vicky on the start line in 2023? Apply online: www.savetherhino.org/get-involved/events

Black rhino rescue

In 2021, Chilunda, one of North Luangwa National Park's (NLNP) black rhinos, went walkabout. Not unusual in itself – that's what young male rhinos do – but by the end of the year he'd made his way 200 km south, deep into a remote part of the Luangwa Valley. To ensure Chilunda's safety, we deployed an expert rhino protection team to his location, whilst we planned a rescue operation to bring him back to North Luangwa as soon as possible.

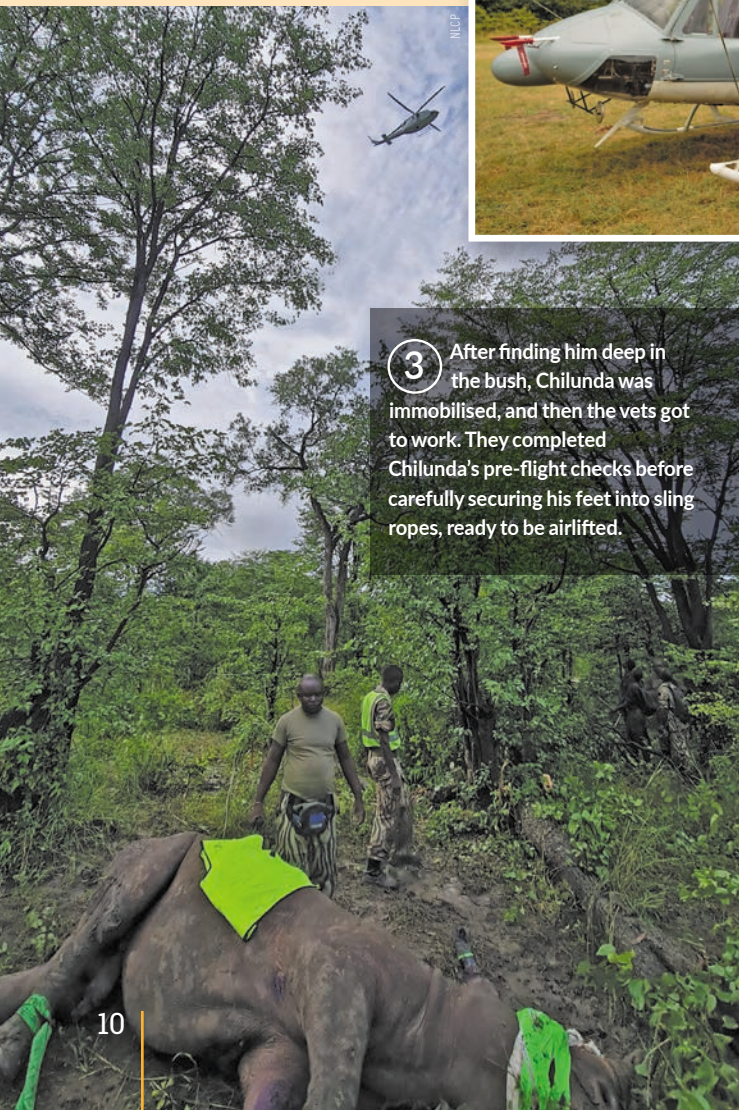
Claire Lewis | Project Manager, North Luangwa Conservation Programme

① With tough terrain, security risks and, of course, the enormous logistics of moving any large animal, the rescue mission was always going to be demanding. Thankfully, with support from some of our local and international partners, we were up to the challenge.

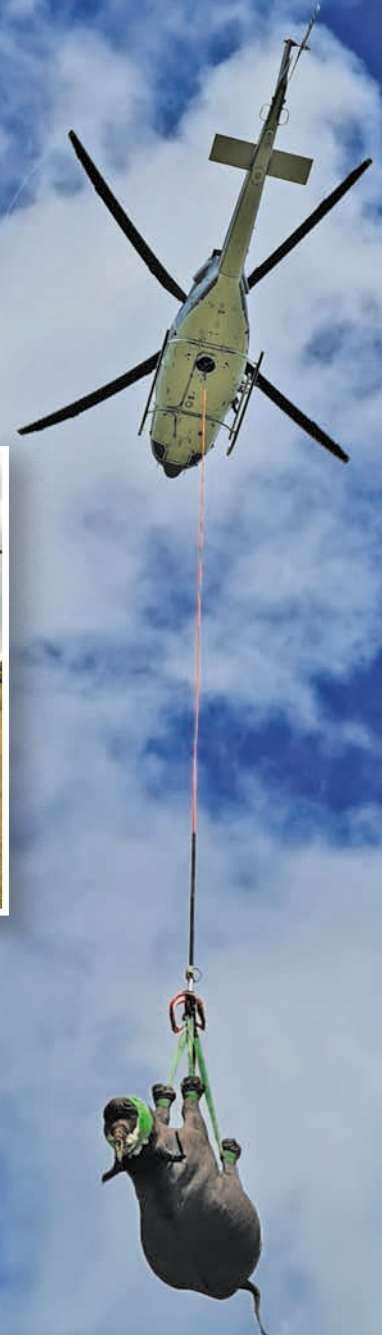
② Months after Chilunda broke out, and once the heaviest of the rains had abated, the final preparations for his rescue were underway. With 24 hours to go, the team gathered to run through their final plans (right).



③ After finding him deep in the bush, Chilunda was immobilised, and then the vets got to work. They completed Chilunda's pre-flight checks before carefully securing his feet into sling ropes, ready to be airlifted.



④ Whilst it looks ungainly and bizarre, the 'slinging' method has proven benefits. Pioneered in Namibia and South Africa, it's one of the best ways to move a rhino: it reduces total travel time, decreases health risks, and reduces chest compression when compared to conventional crated road transport.





5 With fuel logistics in place, we made two stops during the four-hour trip (top, left). These breaks allowed vets to check on Chilunda whilst the helicopters refuelled. Chilunda's vitals (heart rate, temperature and breathing) were all monitored, and he even got a bit of a leg massage to improve blood circulation.



6 Safely back inside North Luangwa National Park, Chilunda was carefully lowered for the third and final time (right). Once grounded, it was all-hands-on-deck to move him into the boma, where he could be closely monitored for a few weeks before being re-released back into the Park.



7 Paimolo Bwalya, Commander of the Rhino Monitoring Unit (below), enjoys a moment of peace (and thanks!) while new transmitters are implanted and the final vet checks completed, before Chilunda's sedative is reversed.



8 Despite the enormous journey, Chilunda settled into his new boma quickly, showing no ill effects. In fact, with so much tasty browse on offer, he walked straight into the second boma and began to eat!



We're all so proud and relieved to have Chilunda back safely.

A huge congratulations and thank you to the entire team for their dedication to keeping Chilunda safe throughout this record-breaking airlift.



Trends in rhino tracking technology

Rhino-tracking technology has come a long way over the years, contributing significantly to our ability to monitor, protect and improve our understanding of these fascinating creatures.

Natasha Anderson | Monitoring Coordinator, Lowveld Rhino Trust

Raoul du Toit | Director, Lowveld Rhino Trust

Since the early 1990s, the Lowveld Rhino Trust has been testing and using rhino-tracking technology. We've used the information gained to support large-scale dehorning and translocation operations, required in response to heavy poaching in the Zambezi Valley.

Collars, anklets and horn transmitters

Early efforts to attach Very High Frequency (VHF) tracking devices using neck collars (which are commonly used for many other species), proved difficult. Rhinos' large, tapering necks either pushed the collars against their ears causing lesions, or forced them off completely. Ankle devices proved more effective, yet the risk of wounds to a rhino's leg remains. In addition, ankle devices often break when a rhino bangs them against rocks, tree stumps, or other natural features.

VHF devices embedded in a rhino's horn have, in contrast, remained a staple in our rhino-tracking toolbox. There are sometimes problems with the quality of devices available (poor signal range, early battery failure, duty-cycle shifts such that devices start turning on only at night). But overall, VHF horn transmitters provide a simple and (generally) reliable tracking aid. Between 18 and 24 months after insertion, they naturally grow out of the horn, so a rhino doesn't have to be re-darted to remove the device once it stops working, unlike with ankle bracelets. Today, VHF horn transmitters are often our 'go-to' for emergency cases that require closer and consistent monitoring, such as tracking injured animals or moving orphans back into the bush.

Over the years, we've experimented with different technologies and fitment techniques – thankfully often with much more success than the early collars.

Radio Frequency Identification

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags are small, and low-energy-demanding devices that are widely used in commercial applications. Mounted on cattle ear tags, these devices are attached to a rhinos' ear during routine operations (*below*). RFID readers are then placed at varying locations (often waterholes), to record the ID of the visiting animals, helping us to keep track of dispersing sub-adults – often a challenge in large areas. Thankfully, the tags are a relatively cheap option – a critical factor given that rhinos often snag them on bushes!



Upcoming technology

Currently, there's an exciting evolution of "Internet of Things" (IoT) devices, which transmit GPS (and other) data as weak signals over wireless networks. The big advantage of these networks is that they only send a small amount of data to local gateways. In practice, this means that we can gather the information we need from much smaller devices (traditional satellite GPS units are inherently large and heavy). The new IoT networks make it possible to use a device small enough to be implanted into a horn.

To date, no IoT developers can claim to have produced a device with enough durability and performance to reliably meet our rhino-tracking needs. Yet, the potential is clear: it's just a matter of time before we have this tool available, possibly in several versions.

Looking into a rhino's eyes

In 2012, we found a young black rhino that was blind. Together with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and with the endorsement of the Kenya Vet Board, we worked with Dr Anthony Goodhead from South Africa, who had previously undertaken several ocular (eye) interventions on rhinos.

Jamie Gaymer | Conservation Manager, Ol Jogi Conservancy

We soon found out that the rhino had bi-lateral cataracts and, unfortunately, it was inoperable. In the years since, worryingly, we've discovered more of our rhinos have this unusual condition.



In 2018, whilst attending a Rhino Management Group meeting at Akagera Park in Rwanda, I had the opportunity to discuss these rare cases with some geneticists. The question posed was: "Could this be a genetic trait caused by the small breeding population left after the last major rhino poaching crisis of the 1970s and 1980s?"

This situation is what ecologists may identify as the impact of a 'genetic bottleneck', which occurs when a population is significantly reduced in size, limiting genetic diversity.

As Kenya's black rhino population plummeted from an estimated 20,000 individuals in 1970 to fewer than 400 individuals by 1985, this is – sadly – entirely possible.

We don't yet know if this is the reason that some of our black rhinos have cataracts. So, we're looking into the issue by undertaking an extensive study on the 'normal ocular parameters' (normal eye function) of wild black rhinos in their natural habitat, with support from the National Geographic Society. The project involves collecting data from our rhinos (both those with and without cataracts) to understand more about their genetic sequence.

Recently, whilst we undertook a routine ear-notching operation, we were able to gather some information for this research, including:

- Completing ocular ultrasound examinations on approximately 20 rhinos (thanks to the Holtzman Wildlife Foundation)
- Performing ocular swabs to look at bacteria on and around the eyes (*left*)
- Carrying out tonometry (testing intra-ocular pressure, *below*)
- Collecting DNA material from each rhino

Once we receive full research authorisation (which needs approval from the KWS and the Wildlife Research and Training Institute), we intend to extract the DNA from the samples and undertake whole-genome sequencing. This should help us to identify any genetic traits synonymous with cataracts in Ol Jogi's population of Eastern black rhinos.

Why does this help us? Firstly, the study will improve our knowledge of black rhino eye biology, increasing our understanding if similar issues arise in the future. Further, if we confirm that these cataracts are congenital, we may be able to develop a simple test to confirm which rhinos carry the cataract gene. In turn, this might inform future population management decisions; particularly important as we attempt to manage Kenya's rhinos in their best interests for a sustainable future.

IMAGES: OL JOGI CONSERVANCY



Mazingira Yetu: 'Our environment'

Effective, long-term conservation of wildlife and landscapes not only needs projects to protect areas or animals. It needs people, especially those living in and around such landscapes, to recognise the importance of resilient and thriving ecosystems.

Izzy Voorspuy | Conservation and Sustainability Officer, Borana Conservancy

Unfortunately, many young people are now growing up in degraded landscapes. On top of this, environmental science is generally taught theoretically, often without exposure to intact, functioning and healthy ecosystems. Living in a degraded landscape could become the new normal.

We've developed a conservation education programme at Borana. 'Mazingira Yetu', which translates as 'Our Environment'.

To provide the opportunity for people to learn about the importance of healthy ecosystems, we've developed a conservation education programme at Borana. 'Mazingira Yetu', which translates to 'Our Environment' in English, will provide a space for people to find out about the importance of natural wilderness and how individual elements contribute to sustaining all forms of life. Given Borana's location in the Ewaso Nyiro ecosystem, just north of the Equator in Kenya, this is particularly important. We live in a landscape where the seasonality of rainfall is becoming increasingly erratic, most likely due to the impact of climate change.

Our long-term aim at Borana is to provide a sustainable ecosystem, in partnership with our neighbours and community, for species on the brink of extinction. However, the survival of Borana's rhinos and other wildlife is threatened by the unsustainable use of natural resources and rangelands across our region. Through Mazingira Yetu, we want to increase



Left: The Mazingira Yetu building has been built sustainably using local and recycled material from in and around Borana Conservancy.



the long-term security of the wildlife and habitat of the landscape, by nurturing and growing local people's love and understanding of the natural world and its conservation, through applied citizen science.





After numerous ideas, meetings, and planning sessions with people in and around Borana, particularly with local teachers, the programme was officially launched in April 2022, when a Conservation Education Officer and an Education Assistant were employed. Since then, we have built a Conservation Education Centre at Borana HQ, sourcing local, sustainable materials to create an environment-friendly learning location. In July 2022, we welcomed our first visitors into Borana on our new, specially adapted bus, the Mazingira Express!

Each visit will bring groups of schoolchildren (Grades five and six), their teachers, and adults from community groups within the villages and forests surrounding Borana. These regular Conservation Trips will offer more access to important ecological landscapes, providing a chance to strengthen the human-nature connection and explore the value of conservation in practical ways. Our hope is that each visit builds knowledge and inspires participants to spread conservation messages to friends, family members and others in their community.

The long-term future of Borana Conservancy, and of all protected areas across Laikipia, Kenya and Africa as a whole, will depend on everyone placing a high value on our environment. And, it will depend on all of us having the skills to manage habitats in ways that support both human livelihoods and wildlife populations.



Through the Mazingira Yetu programme, Borana hopes to bring more people into the Conservancy and inspire a deeper connection with the natural world.



Once... Twice... Three times to Summit

As a Best Man, how do you come up with a stag party that will stand out from the rest? How do you ensure it meets the expectations of the groom-to-be, whilst also remaining a lasting memory for everyone that dishes out the cash to join the party?

Ryan Nappi | Fundraiser and Best Man

Ben Nevis

We began at the foot of Ben Nevis (*bottom, opposite*). The idea was to stay together, but this challenge is 90% psychological and 10% physical. After 20 minutes, we began to spread out. The wind was low, rain clouds non-existent, and the sun shone on the face of the peak – perfect visibility. The climb is long with steep

ascents and switchback after switchback taking us into the clouds.

The first groups made it to the coveted trig point in around two hours. As the following climbers made their way up, Steve and I summited an extra three times to ensure everyone had their photo taken and to help the final climbers come back down the peak. Anyone

who has taken on the challenge will tell you, the descent is the painful part! It plays havoc on the knees. Proudly, all 17 climbers managed to summit the highest peak in the UK.

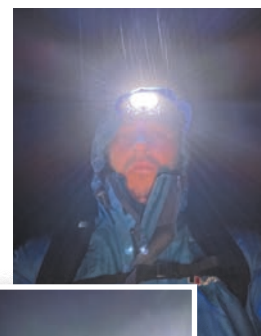
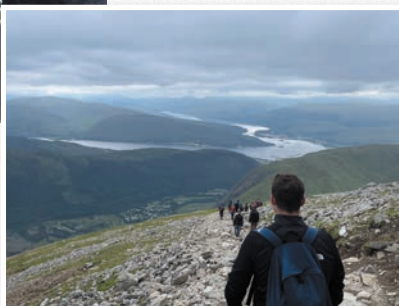
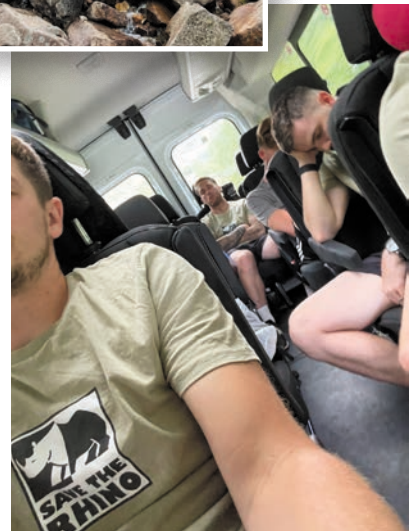
Scafell Pike

We left Scotland two and a half hours later than planned, so we knew already that the 24-hour finish time was out of our hands. Still, we wanted to complete the peaks as quickly as we could. At 11 pm, with spitting rain and in pitch black, we approached Scafell in the Peak District. Torches and GPS at the ready, we got going. Scafell is much like the description of Tolkien's mountainous ranges of Mordor – desolate and unforgiving. As we set off, a handful of climbers decided to sit this one out. A couple more turned back halfway due to injury. Ten of us continued the arduous journey to the summit, where we would go off route approximately once every five minutes. The conditions were not in our favour at all. Even when we were within touching distance of the matching

Our Groom, Steve Yates, is an active guy who always has something in the diary to train for. Whether it's a marathon or a personal record on a weeknight run, he loves to achieve new feats. He is also a keen fundraiser, namely for endangered animals. So, the answer seemed simple...

The National Three Peaks Challenge: climbing 23 vertical miles (the equivalent of 17,000 stair runs) in 24 hours, summiting the UK's three highest peaks; Ben Nevis (Scotland), Scafell Pike (England) and Snowdon (Wales). And whilst we are at it, let's try to raise £1,000 per peak for a well-loved charity, which, of course, was Save the Rhino. I shared the idea with a few of the lads to make sure I wasn't crazy. Surprisingly, they were captivated. In a matter of minutes, they were looking up routes and researching hiking boots. My backup plan of flying to Benidorm was looking less likely.

In total, 17 climbers signed up. The main hurdle to overcome was securing designated drivers. For that, I am forever grateful to the fathers of the bride and groom, Graham and Cliff.



ALL IMAGES RYAN NAPPI



trig of those at Ben Nevis and Snowdon, we couldn't find it with our torches. We searched on until someone finally caught a glimpse and we made a run for the stone. We were soaked through, and it was freezing. We didn't hang around.



long time – only cemented further knowing we helped Save the Rhino along our path.

If you ever climb, you'll think you're mad at 1.30 am trying to find your way down Scafell Pike. But when you look across the lakes of Snowdon on your final peak, you'll know that you've done something amazing. If you want an unforgettable experience and to support a great charity, grab your boots, walking poles and rain coats, and get out there.

Snowdon

As we left the Peak District, we were begging for the heating to be switched to the maximum in the vans. Our wet boots, coats and gear hung in the back as we tried to get some rest. Before you knew it, we were in Snowdonia. The sky was dark and ready to burst at 11 am.

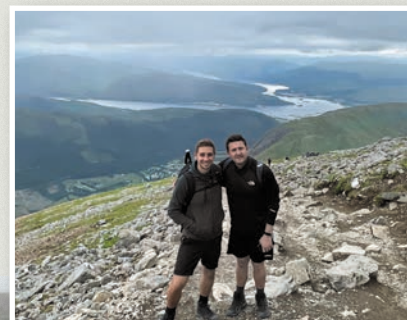
I hadn't thought about the possibility that this final peak would also be covered by rainfall and was now checking local forecasts, hoping for a dry climb... 95% chance of heavy rain and 40 mph winds. We were way behind schedule at this point and our after-party was still four hours away in Cardiff. The clock was ticking. Seven of us took on the final peak. Our boots felt like fishbowls. The wind made the final stretch tricky, but we managed to summit as a group to find zero visibility at the peak. Every step down was tough, but together we pushed on to the very end. We made it in just under three and a half hours.

Job done: all three peaks in just under 29 hours

And that was that. We regrouped at the bottom of Snowdon. Freezing cold, we got out of our climbing gear and into the vans with the heater turned up to sauna level. It was a whirlwind of a journey and it wasn't until we arrived to a hero's welcome in Cardiff that we realised what we had achieved. I know we will remember the feat we accomplished together for a very

Climbers: Steve Yates, Lawrence Smith, Liam Siva, Jordan Walsh, Gavin Boseley, Ryan Nappi, James Buck, Liam Bell, Grant Bell, Ryan Vear, Kieran Huggett, Ben Thorne, Tom Goodchild, Lewis Sartin, Ali Thorogood and Steve Campbell.

Drivers: Cliff Yates and Graham Huggett.



Fundraising and supporting rangers



Riding high – Fundraising for rangers' life insurance at the Gaucho Derby

In March 2022, Sam Taylor, alongside friends and teammates Simon Kenyon and Charlotte Outram, took on the Gaucho Derby, a 10-day, 500 km horseback adventure race across the wild Patagonian landscape.

The team endured many twists, turns and tumbles along the way. Thankfully, they got through the full event (with the help of some much-needed pain medication, and of course, their four-legged friends), raising \$60,000 to support the life and health insurance cover for more than 3,200 rangers across 62 protected areas in Africa.

While we always hope the insurance isn't needed, it's vital for rangers and their families, providing peace of mind that they and their loved ones will be supported if an injury – or worse – occurs.



ForRangers is a fundraising initiative set up to support the lives of wildlife rangers in sub-Saharan Africa. In partnership with Save the Rhino International, ForRangers raises funds to improve training, purchase equipment, and support rangers' wellbeing.

Find out more at www.forrangers.com

Rangers are a lifeline for rhinos. Every day they risk their lives to protect wildlife, often using 'tired' kit, only having basic training, and not receiving enough general support given the demands of the job.

Founded in 2015, ForRangers set out to change this. ForRangers aims to support Africa's wildlife rangers by undertaking epic fundraising challenges, including ultra-marathons, mountaineering expeditions, and other extreme endurance events.

Since its inception, ForRangers has raised millions to support projects that improve rangers' lives. The following are a few of the highlights from the past year.

ALL IMAGES RICHARD DUNWOODY UNLESS NOTED





Providing patrol equipment at OI Pejeta

Covid-19 has had an enormous impact on all wildlife reserves. When faced with fewer tourists, and in turn, less funding, OI Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya had to take strong measures to ensure it remained operational, implementing salary cuts, cancelling orders for new uniforms and training programmes, and reducing fuel budgets.

The effect this had on the rangers who work hard to protect the Conservancy's wildlife was particularly severe. Having appropriate equipment readily available is essential to maintain not only effectiveness but also morale.

To support the team, ForRangers was able to provide key equipment including GPS units to support the rangers' patrols, as well as waterproof and thermal clothes to keep them warm and dry during night-time deployments (top). Having warm clothing has boosted the team's wellbeing enormously, contributing to more effective anti-poaching patrols and security efforts.



Supporting women in North Luangwa

As we strive to boost diversity within all ranger teams, reducing the impact of the challenges faced by individual rangers is a top priority. If the ranger is a woman, they may face additional challenges specific to their gender.

Women motivated to work in conservation face social barriers, such as an opposition to spending long periods away from home, and procedural barriers, such as selection processes that were designed for men. They also face the obstacle of period poverty.

In October 2021, ForRangers sent a grant to North Luangwa Conservation Programme, in Zambia, to purchase 100 'ufulu' sanitary pads for the 50 women that work as Wildlife Police Officers, Fencers, Community Scouts and Sector Scouts in North Luangwa's team.

The pads are supporting each woman's health and wellbeing, providing them with the opportunity to continue taking part in physically strenuous and remote assignments during menstruation.



MARIA MEADOWS

Poaching crisis in KwaZulu-Natal

This year, rangers in KwaZulu-Natal Province (KZN) in South Africa have faced distressing scenes. All too often, they have had to deal with the devastation of the brutal killing of another precious rhino.

The Province has been impacted by poaching since the current crisis began in 2008. But in recent years, poaching has been declining. Not this year! In 2022 the Province has seen a surge in poaching. Between January and June, 133 rhinos were killed in KZN – more than half of all rhinos poached in South Africa, and more than three times the number of rhinos poached in KZN during the same period in 2021.

Teams of brave men and women are doing everything they can to deter criminal activity, whilst remaining ready to respond immediately to new incidents.

Dedicated rangers are dealing with four or five dangerous incursions every day. Teams of brave men and women are doing everything they can to deter criminal activity, whilst remaining ready to respond immediately to new incidents.

Why has this happened?

Kruger National Park, approximately 500 km north of KZN, was once thought to be home to more than 8,000 rhinos. Since 2008, Kruger has been the primary target for poaching gangs. But poaching and drought have pushed Kruger's rhino population into a steep decline; the best estimates indicate a staggering population drop of 59% since 2013.

Now, it seems, the gangs that wreaked such devastation in Kruger have moved south, turning their attention to rhinos living in higher density populations in the smaller reserves across KwaZulu-Natal.



One of the reserves hit hardest by this onslaught has been Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park (HiP). Rangers at the Park try desperately to overcome the new poaching challenge. But, as in so many reserves, budgets in HiP have been squeezed over time, and that squeeze was exacerbated by the huge economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. With limited resources and no let-up from incursions, finding enough time and funding to cover critical vehicle repairs, fuel and rations is hard enough, let alone securing more equipment or adding more human capacity.

Additionally, rangers across KZN are regularly facing life-threatening, distressing, and demoralising situations, putting them at great risk of burnout, fatigue, and low morale. Put simply, the teams at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, and those at other reserves throughout KZN, need all the help they can get.

From equipment repairs to canine unit training, we're working to provide more funding to reserves in KwaZulu-Natal, offering rangers the support they need to protect rhinos whilst keeping themselves safe.

From equipment repairs to canine-unit training, we're working to provide more funding to reserves in KwaZulu-Natal, offering rangers the support they need to protect rhinos whilst keeping themselves safe.





Please help by supporting our urgent fundraising appeal

Your donation will make a huge difference to rangers and rhinos in KwaZulu-Natal

£3 can provide a life-saving first aid kit

to help save a ranger's life if they're injured whilst on patrol.

£10 could buy a foam mattress for a ranger to rest on

whilst they're on extended patrols in remote parts of a reserve.

£32 can buy a green heavy padded jacket.

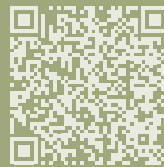
keeping rangers warm during cold nights whilst keeping watch over rhinos.

£250 can provide extra training for canine unit handlers

improving their safety and effectiveness when tracking suspected poachers.

Donate online at www.savetherhino.org/save-kzn-rhinos

Scan to find out more online



It's not just about **numbers**

Good news: rhino poaching is decreasing! Across the African continent, there were 2,707 recorded incidents of illegal killings of rhinos from 2018 to 2021 inclusive; 90.0% of these were recorded in South Africa. Whilst this total is much too high, poaching rates dropped during this time, from 3.9% of the continental population in 2018 to 2.3% in 2021. In the dark days of 2015, it was 5.3%.

Sam Ferreira | Scientific Officer, IUCN Species Survival Commission African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG)

The African Rhino Specialist group is the go-to scientific body for rhino conservation and population statistics.

Nevertheless, these numbers can never be perfectly accurate. Finding every poached rhino is almost impossible. Typically, authorities will find 80–90% of the rhinos that are killed, and often with them, they may also find a calf that's died next to its mother.



SHAWN MOUSLEY

With this in mind, for rhino numbers to increase, poaching must remain below 2.3% of the total population. These are some of the findings that the AfRSG has recently reported as part of our joint report with the Asian Rhino Specialist Group and TRAFFIC – the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network – to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which will soon be hosting its 19th Conference of the Parties in Panama this November.



LARA JACKSON

The report noted that, at the end of 2021, the world had an estimated 23,432 African rhinos. Of these, the 6,195 black rhinos in the wild were increasing at 3% per annum. Sadly, the 15,942 white rhinos were decreasing at -3.1%. Worryingly, this meant that overall, African rhinos were decreasing at -1.6% per year.

Yet, despite this continental trend, there are many places where you could say that rhinos are doing too well. Several places recorded reduced population growth because the current rhino numbers exceed the ecological potential of the landscape, meaning that there aren't enough resources (food, water, space)





for rhinos. In turn, this reduces breeding and often leads to more fights between rhinos. For many of these places, finding more, suitable habitats is proving tough.

One of the key options is to establish more partnerships with local people, including communities and private industry. For instance, our report noted that, where rhino populations are managed in diverse models (i.e. not only managed in State areas), they performed better. This was true for all African rhino subspecies other than Northern white rhinos (only two remain, both female, in Kenya).

When a female rhino is lost to poaching, we also lose an average of 4.5 future calves.

Although accountability for rhino conservation is embedded within the mandates of range States, the threats to rhinos are on a global scale and include environmental change. Therefore, international cooperation is key. The only way we can address the unclear risks and threats ahead is by working together to find solutions that support rhino conservation outcomes.

Our vision in the AfRSG is "Thriving wild African rhinos valued by people and contributing to their wellbeing." Reaching this doesn't just mean boosting the number of rhinos across range States, it means meaningful participation by, and equitable partnerships with, local people, so that rhinos, and the people they impact, have positive futures.

Since 2017, African range States have...

- Translocated 391 individual rhinos
- Dehorned 2,217 rhinos
- Treated 57 injured and wounded rhinos
- Recovered 42 rhino orphans

Securing our legacy now and in the future

Jon Taylor | Managing Director, Save the Rhino International

In a past life, I worked for many years on climate change, and I would talk to people about the kind of things we might see in the future if the climate crisis and other environmental challenges weren't taken seriously. And even though I believed the science, the future world I was describing seemed like something many years away.

In recent years, we have become too used to seeing terrible fires in California, Australia, and this year in Europe too. We have lived through a global pandemic that has crossed from other species to humans and affected the whole world. And as I write this, droughts in China and elsewhere are uncovering archaeology not seen for centuries, while one-third of Pakistan is underwater.

The decisions we make in this crucial decade, in these next few years, will determine the type of world that we bequeath to our children and grandchildren. And Save the Rhino will be at the heart of those discussions, fighting for a climate-resilient world in which people can thrive, buffered, protected and uplifted by healthy, diverse ecosystems that are full of iconic and magnificent wildlife – including, forgive the bias, lots of rhinos!

Of course, all of us who love our natural world need to be acting now, in these crucial times. Perhaps you're considering how to travel more sustainably, donating to boost rhino conservation activities, or encouraging more wildlife into a nearby green space. But beyond this, you may think about leaving a gift to rhino conservation in your will, to make sure that vital conservation can continue in the years to come.

If that sounds like you, then Save the Rhino has a partnership with the award-winning Farewill team to provide a free will-writing service, either online or, if your will is more complex, by telephone. Just use the code RHINO-HORN22.

Alternatively, if you would like to speak to someone at Save the Rhino about leaving a gift, please call me, Jon Taylor, Save the Rhino's Managing Director, on +44 (0)20 3918 9057 or email jon@savetherhino.org

A wonderful legacy for future generations is still a possibility. But to achieve this, all of us need to pull together, pull hard, and pull now. I promise you that Save the Rhino will be leading the charge.



A new baby at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary!

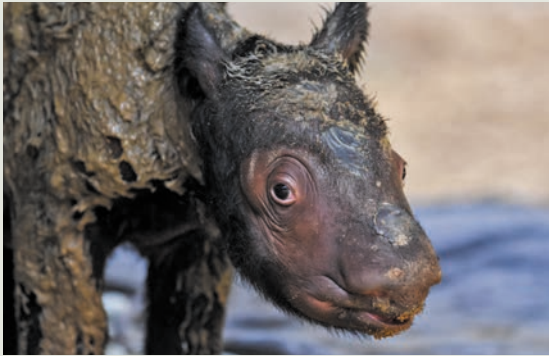


Having a state-of-the-art breeding facility in Indonesia is crucial to support Sumatran rhino conservation.

All images courtesy of the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

On 24 March 2022, the Government of Indonesia announced the birth of a female Sumatran rhino at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, Way Kambas National Park (SRS), Lampung Province. The mother, Rosa, is approximately 20 years old and the father is Andatu, who was the first calf born at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in 2012. The birth of the new calf (who at the time of writing is not yet named) has brought us hope for the future of this Critically Endangered species.

Sectionov Inov | Indonesia Programme Manager, International Rhino Foundation



The birth of the Sumatran rhino is good news amid the efforts of the Indonesian Government and partners to increase the Sumatran rhino population.

The adorable new female calf has increased the number of rhinos at the SRS to eight. In addition to Rosa and Andatu, the other rhinos currently occupying the SRS are Bina (female), Ratu (female), Andalas (male), Harapan (male), and Delilah (female).

Following the birth, Wiratno, former Director General of Natural Resources and Ecosystem Conservation at the Indonesia Ministry of Environment and Forestry, said:

"The birth of the Sumatran rhino is good news amid the efforts of the Indonesian Government and partners to increase the Sumatran rhino population. My deep gratitude for the work of the team of veterinarians and keepers who have continuously monitored the development of rhino Rosa's pregnancy and postnatal care."

The Sanctuary is located in the heart of Way Kambas National Park on the island of Sumatra, providing a semi-wild home to the only reproductively viable captive Sumatran rhinos in the world. The 250-acre SRS was built in 1996 by the International Rhino Foundation in partnership with local NGO,





Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI), which currently manages the SRS, the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Way Kambas National Park and Taman Safari International.

Residing in large, natural rainforest habitats, the Sanctuary's eight rhino residents receive state-of-the-art veterinary care and nutrition by a handful of vets and rhino keepers that live at the SRS. This tiny population is the core of an intensively managed breeding and research programme that is intended to promote the species' population growth, while also generating a genetically diverse "founder" group that could be used as a source for animals to repopulate national parks in years to come.



We're all very excited about what the future holds!

The goal of this programme is to increase our knowledge about the ecology and behaviour of the species, as the remaining wild rhinos continue to be protected and supported. With fewer than 80 Sumatran rhinos left in the world, the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary plays a critical role in the survival of the species.

Currently, Rosa and her calf are both doing well. In due course, the Indonesian Government will name the calf at a special ceremony.



Feeding rhinos in a drought

Every year, during the dry season, our Research Department conducts rhino body condition assessments, targeting the relatively old and lactating rhinos with the aim of introducing those affected onto a supplementary feeding programme. This year it's been particularly dry, and we're feeding rhinos to support them through the drought.

Kenneth Onzere | Rhino Monitoring Officer, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy



IMAGES LEWA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

Drought has made finding food particularly tough for rhinos like Kitui (above), who have lost body condition.

The 2022 drought

The "short rains", which usually come in November and December, were delayed but did provide some relief for us coming into the end of 2021.

In mid-May this year, we restarted the feeding programme.

But this wasn't the case everywhere. Kenya's northern region continued to experience drought — its fourth straight season of insufficient rainfall. The 2022 "long rains", which usually fall between March and May, were expected to give some relief. Unfortunately, they also arrived late, leaving most of Kenya with low or no rainfall.

Lewa is located in the northern foothills of Mount Kenya, extending into the semi-arid region of northern Kenya. Drought has had a huge impact on our landscape and our wildlife.

In mid-May this year, we restarted the feeding programme, after recording seven rhinos with poor body condition.

Six of these rhinos are lactating mothers, and one is an orphaned black rhino named Kitui (left). Kitui is a young black rhino that has required significant care since birth and lives in a smaller enclosure within Lewa. Like the other rhinos in the larger landscape, browse for Kitui has been depleted due to the drought. Despite targeting the group of six, many other rhinos have been seen consuming the supplementary feed.



Rhino condition and supplementary feeding

Using a scale of 1 to 5 (one indicating emaciation and five indicating obesity), our condition assessment follows a set of criteria, to produce a score for each animal. Ideally,

every rhino would be between 3.5 and 5. Any rhino with a score below three is put onto the programme and food is left out for them during the drought, when it could otherwise be hard to come by.

Black rhinos are usually introduced to their supplementary feeds gradually. *Euphorbia candelabrum* and *Euphorbia tirukali* are the two species that black rhinos prefer to feed on. Once body scores have been recorded and poor-conditioned rhinos identified, piles of each plant are placed in strategic locations for them to find. After a few weeks, the rhinos establish a regular routine of visiting these sites and then we begin to add in lucerne (*Medicago sativa*), which is highly nutritious fodder. In contrast, rather than a gradual introduction, any underweight white rhinos are offered hay and lucerne as soon as supplementary feeding begins.

Without sufficient rain, the number of rhinos on the feeding programme will increase.

Every morning and afternoon, our Research Team, assisted by the General Security and Logistics Department, loads a tractor with hay, lucerne and euphorbia. They head out to the feeding sites previously identified and drop off the vegetation. Alongside monitoring by our rangers, camera traps are placed at each site, helping us to check up on every feeding rhino, and continually assess their health.

Clearing the way for more Javan rhinos



IMAGES TRF

Until the late 19th century, Javan rhinos roamed from northeast India and the Sundarbans (a vast tract of forest and saltwater leading into the Bay of Bengal from India and Bangladesh), throughout mainland Southeast Asia, and on the island of Sumatra. Now, they are found in just one National Park on the island of Java. Thankfully, their population appears to have stabilised in recent years. And now, ensuring that there is suitable habitat for their numbers to grow, is essential.

Christopher Whitlatch | Communications Director, International Rhino Foundation

Today, all Javan rhinos (76 individuals) live in Indonesia's Ujung Kulon National Park (UKNP). Thanks to 24/7 protection and monitoring by expert Rhino Protection Units, no poaching has been recorded in the UKNP for more than 20 years, and at least one calf has been born every year since 2012.

However, a major challenge for the continued recovery of this Critically Endangered species is the availability of healthy habitat. To create more space for Javan rhinos, and in turn, help the population grow, we have been working with our local partner, Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI).

One of the biggest parts of this project has been the creation of the Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area (JRSCA), a 5,100-hectare area within the UKNP, established by the Government of Indonesia. Within the area, rhinos can safely move around to search for food, water, and mates. Whilst the space was created with Javan rhinos in mind, keeping it a rich and healthy habitat remains tough.

Arenga obtusifolia, commonly known as Arenga palm (background image), is a fast-growing plant species that has found its way into the UKNP. Thriving in the tropical Javan forest, Arenga palm chokes out other native plant species as it grows up to heights of 16 metres and dominates the canopy. It spreads rapidly, congesting the forest and other plants (including preferred rhino food), and reducing rhinos' access to the full JRSCA habitat.

Reducing Arenga palm is a tough, manual, and time-consuming task. Alongside YABI, we began a programme to reduce and control *Arenga obtusifolia*, opening pathways and creating more food sources for Javan rhinos.

Between July and December every year, YABI employs 250 people from areas surrounding the UKNP to remove Arenga palm. Using basic equipment including hand saws, shovels, hoes, and pruning shears, Arenga is carefully and quietly removed; making as little noise as possible is crucial if we are to avoid disturbing the reclusive Javan rhino!

Once the plant is removed, not only can Javan rhinos move into formerly hard-to-reach areas, but their preferred foods are no longer crowded out, and can regenerate quickly.

With all remaining Javan rhinos living in this one national park, the species is particularly susceptible to natural disasters, lack of food and water, and disease breakouts. Continued protection, monitoring, habitat restoration, and community involvement are key not just for the survival of the individual rhinos living now, but for the future of their species.

Preparing for Indian Rhino Vision 2.0

Following the translocation of two Greater one-horned rhinos from Kaziranga National Park to Manas National Park in April 2021, the Indian Rhino Vision 2020 (IRV2020) programme came to a close. The programme, which launched in 2005, taught us many lessons. Now, we're using this knowledge to develop a new programme: **Indian Rhino Vision 2.0**.

Bibhab Talukdar | Senior Advisor, Asian Rhinos, International Rhino Foundation

When IRV2020 began, its aim was to increase the rhino population within India's State of Assam to 3,000 by establishing populations in seven protected areas. By the time the programme ended last year, we had successfully increased the total population across the State to more than 3,000, with rhinos now found in four protected areas: Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary, Orang National Park, Kaziranga National Park, and Manas National Park.



IMAGES IRRF UNLESS NOTED

A recent survey (completed in March 2022) of Greater one-horned rhinos shared that the total population (across India and Nepal) of the species has increased to 4,014 animals from approximately 3,500 in 2015. Whilst poaching remains a threat, it is – thankfully – a much smaller risk for Greater one-horned rhinos compared to their African

cousins: approximately 11 were poached between 2019 and 2021.

Instead, one of the most significant threats to the species is the prevalence of invasive species, which choke out native rhino food plants and limit the amount of habitat available. With a growing population of rhinos across Assam and more translocations planned with IRV 2.0, a healthy habitat full of diverse rhino food plants, is key.



RENAUD FULCONIS

During the last 18 months, those involved with IRV2020 have been developing goals for the coming years, planning to build upon our previous successes. Meetings to approve the plan, affectionately called IRV 2.0, were unfortunately delayed due to the global pandemic, but the hope is that IRV 2.0 will kick off in late 2022 or early 2023, under the leadership of the Assam Forest Department and supporting partners. Excitingly, translocations could commence again by the end of the year!

IRV 2.0 has five core areas, including: habitat management, incorporating local communities, rhino-range expansion, rhino crime monitoring and direct support.



At the International Rhino Foundation, we're collaborating with our partner, Aaranyak, and community members, to pilot the removal of invasive plant species in Manas National Park.

The Park totals around 50,000 hectares and is currently home to approximately 48 rhinos. Yet around one-third of the rhinos' grassland habitat has already been taken over by invasive

species. So far, community members have successfully restored 50 hectares of prime rhino habitat.

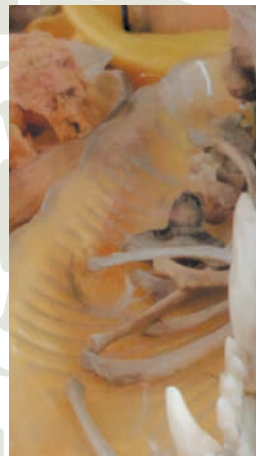
As IRV 2.0 takes shape, the programme in Manas will help us to learn more about working alongside communities to restore and protect rhino habitats, serving as a model to reintroduce rhinos into more of India's national parks.



Changing China in the Year of the Tiger

Rhinos, tigers, pangolins, and leopards continue to be driven towards extinction by Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). Even though only a fraction of TCM uses endangered species as ingredients, the mere existence of legal TCM markets in China drives legal and illegal trade in endangered species worldwide.

Veronika Spurna | Wildlife Campaigner (China Specialist) , Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA)



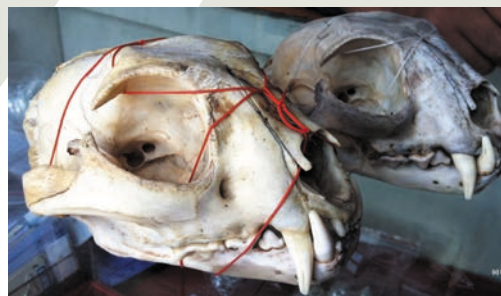
we have also been tracking the availability of 409 products containing pangolin scales on manufacturers' and third-party websites. At first sight, it may seem that there is good news for the pangolin, as advertisements for pangolin-scale medicines on manufacturers' websites decreased from 340 in 2020 to 37 in 2022. However, this does not mean that the products have been pulled; we still found 209 products listed on third-party websites, up from 76 in 2020.

Nearly all the leopard and pangolin products examined have valid Government codes, which permit the manufacturers to make the products. This raises many questions

One of the key parts of our work at EIA is to document and reveal the use of endangered species in TCM, challenging the legal ambiguity around the use of tiger and rhino parts, and confronting the more explicit and overt use of leopard, pangolin and other species.

With Save the Rhino's support, we have been able to build our research. In 2020, we reported on 24 companies selling 62 leopard bone pill and wine products. Our most recent research reveals that these products are still being manufactured and there is a need to increase the pressure to make a change. Since 2020,





IMAGES EIA UNLESS NOTED

related to new advertising practices, where a product may not be advertised on the manufacturers' website but continues to be sold via third-party platforms.

By encouraging divestments, we hope that China's publicly listed TCM companies will be incentivised to stop using endangered species. This is of particular relevance as China's TCM pharmaceutical giants expand to international markets.

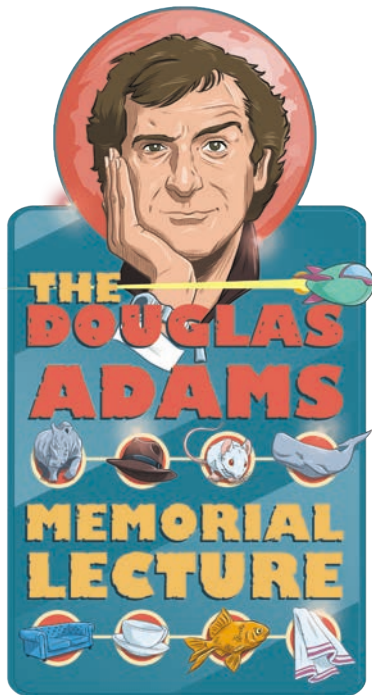
Some of these products are manufactured by large, publicly owned pharmaceutical companies such as Beijing Tong Ren Tang, or Tianjin Zhongxin Pharmaceutical, with shares traded on the Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Singaporean stock exchanges. Many of their shareholders are international investors, who claim to uphold ESG (Environmental, Social, and corporate Governance) principles. However, to EIA's knowledge, so far only the Norwegian Pension Fund, the largest sovereign investment fund in the world, has divested from these companies (as of August 2022). In 2021, the bank divested from five TCM entities on the grounds of unacceptable environmental harm.



EIA aims to highlight the Norwegian Pension Fund's example, and to alert investors to the reputational risk related to investments in companies selling products that contain illegal and/or endangered animal parts. By encouraging divestments, we hope that China's publicly listed TCM companies will be incentivised to stop using endangered species. This is of particular relevance as China's TCM pharmaceutical giants expand to international markets.

Besides focusing on investors, we continue to monitor China's wildlife protection policies, engage with academics and civil society organisations to amplify their voices, and advocate for the closure of domestic legal markets through CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species).

The next revision of China's Wildlife Protection law is scheduled for October 2022. This is a window of opportunity to implement meaningful action and ban the use of endangered species for all purposes, including medicinal and ornamental. If ever there were a good time to make that change, the Year of the Tiger seems to present an excellent opportunity for China to show leadership in helping to protect rhinos and other endangered wildlife. Alongside Save the Rhino, we will keep working to make that hope a reality.



Kids like me grew up with Douglas Adams. We had Blondie and Led Zeppelin posters on our bedroom walls (and some of us had a good smattering of rhino and tiger pictures as well), and we had 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' on our bookshelf. That book helped shape my sense of humour; many of my oldest and best jokes are stolen straight from Douglas.

Jon Taylor | Managing Director,
Save the Rhino International

Celebrating Douglas Adams

I never met the great man as he was recording his *Last Chance To See* series about endangered species, or when he worked with Save the Rhino's founders in the 1990s. Since his untimely death in 2001, Save the Rhino has held a Douglas Adams Memorial Lecture to celebrate his life and further his conservation aspirations.

This year marked an important anniversary: 11 March 2022 would have been Douglas's seventieth birthday. The year also marked the first time in three years that Save the Rhino has been able to hold a physical event, and our very first hybrid event, with the activities on stage being streamed live to a worldwide audience. So it was that an unlikely and lovely mix of entertainers, comedians and conservationists gathered at the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) to try something that was new to all of us.

While a small and socially distanced audience gathered in the RGS's beautiful Ondaatje Lecture Theatre, our staff anxiously checked cameras and prepared to broadcast on the global internet. Angus Dunican opened the evening with wise words from Douglas on the hazards of charitable activities, after which the wonderful Rachel Wheeley took up her superb compering of the evening. Later, comedy continued when the Story Beast gave magnificent renditions of some of Douglas's poems, culminating in being joined onstage by the rarely seen



ALL IMAGES: JULIA MASSEY STEWART

ballet 'Dancing Rhino in Tutu' (thanks to the brilliant Nell Thomas, *below*).

In the interval, people were able to visit a marvellous display of Douglas Adams memorabilia from the Cambridge archives, curated by Kevin Jon Davies, as well as an exhibition by the ZZ9 fan group.

A rhino ballet dancing on stage was one of the highlights of the 2022 Douglas Adams Memorial Lecture!





At the core of the evening were two fantastic conservation lectures. Dr Fay Clark of Anglia Ruskin University and the University of Bristol (left), who quoted Douglas Adams on the first page of her PhD thesis, gave a superb talk on the psychology and cognition of dolphins, and the many ways in which these wonderful animals are so similar, and yet so different, to us.

And E.J. Milner-Gulland, Tasso Leventis Professor of Biodiversity at the University of Oxford and Director of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Conservation Science (top right), gave a great talk on the importance of Conservation Optimism in times of so many environmental challenges.

Drawing from her own work on the conservation of Saiga antelope in Kazakhstan, E.J. highlighted the need to harness our optimism if we are to have a real conservation impact.

The success of this unlikely blend of hilarious



entertainment and heavyweight conservation science was evident in the closing Q&A session with the conservation speakers, which would have gone on into the early hours had the RGS staff not needed to go home.

Perhaps most rewarding was hearing members of Douglas's family saying how much they had enjoyed the evening, leaving only one lingering concern for the Save the Rhino team – how do we top this?

The 2022 Lecture was hosted by comedian and serial Douglas fan, Rachel Wheeley.



Scaling the Rhino Ranger Incentive scheme

During the past six months, something very special has been happening in the remote northeast of Namibia. Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) and the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) have been working together to expand the rangeland of the Critically Endangered black rhino, whilst creating much-needed employment opportunities for local people.

Piet Beytell | Chief Scientist and National Rhino Coordinator, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism

Andrew Malherbe | Chief Operating Officer, Save the Rhino Trust Namibia

Namibia hosts around one-third of the world's remaining black rhino population (a total of 2,156 black rhinos were estimated at the end of 2021) and the country is recognised as the last stronghold of the South-western subspecies.

Nyae Nyae Conservancy has recently become the first community conservancy in Namibia to have populations of both black and white rhinos.

Of course, we want to see the rhino population grow, and for this to happen, we must secure more habitat. Successful rhino introductions, however, rely on engaging and empowering local people in rhino protection efforts.

SRT and MEFT have been working together on a rangeland expansion project at Nyae Nyae Conservancy, a community-run conservancy that was first established in 1988. It has recently become the first community conservancy in Namibia to have populations of both black and white rhinos, after white rhinos were translocated into the Conservancy in March 2021. Thanks to the Rhino Ranger Incentive Programme (CRR) – a programme spearheaded by Save the Rhino Trust – more rangers are now monitoring and protecting these rhinos.



The CRR was first implemented in the Kunene Region, where SRT is based, by understanding the needs of local communities and developing strategies that would support them and the rhinos around them. These strategies include:

- Monetary and non-monetary incentives
- Development of community-led eco-tourism enterprises
- Creating a sense of ownership and stewardship toward rhinos
- Improving education and awareness about conservation and the illegal wildlife trade

Pursuing a partnership with the Nyae Nyae Conservancy has been an ideal opportunity to test the scalability of



ALL IMAGES SRT



the CRR programme. It has shown that with the right mix of local buy-in, enabling policy frameworks, and incentives, rhinos can thrive outside of formally protected areas.

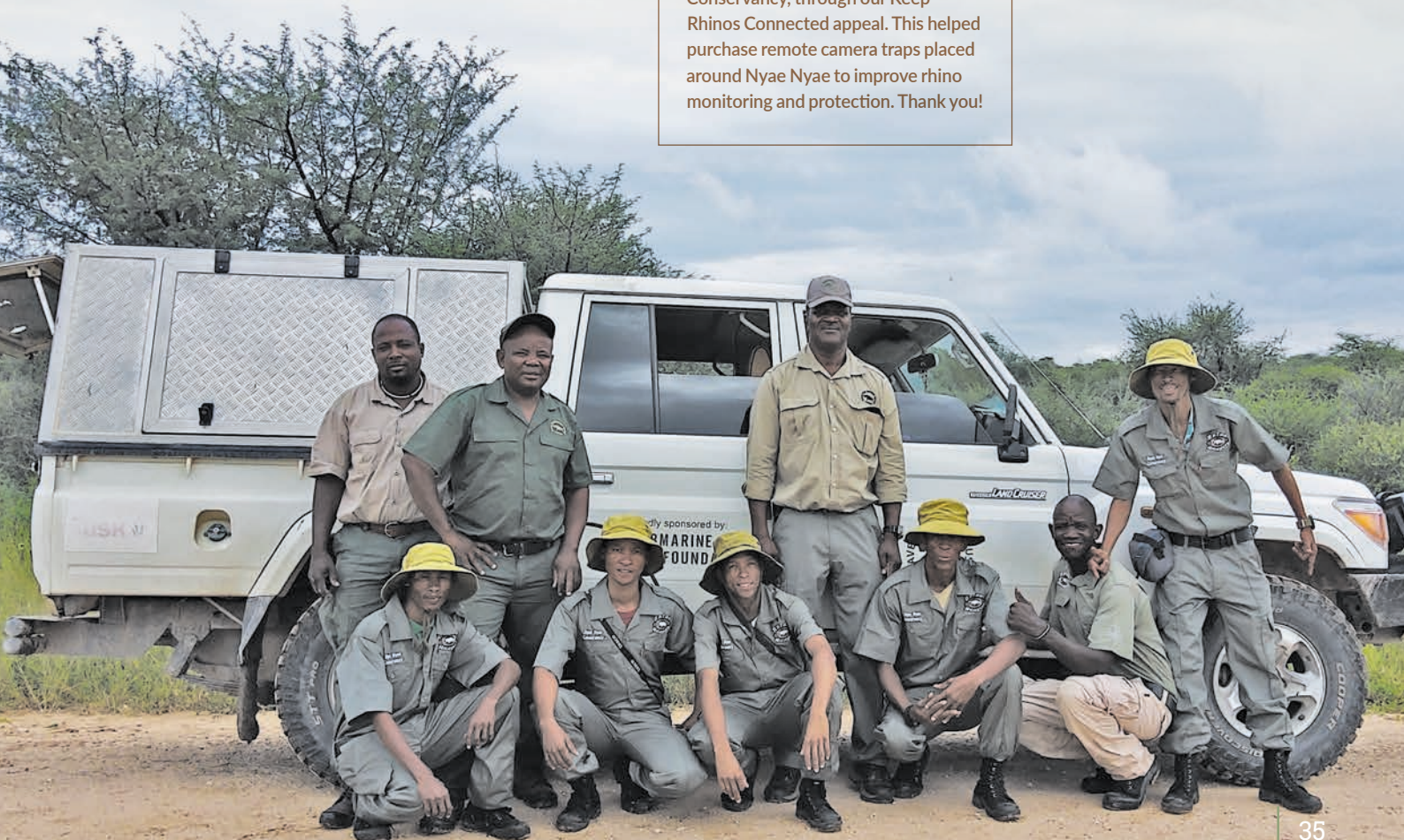
To date, six new rhino rangers have been hired by Nyae Nyae and several exchange visits between Nyae Nyae and Kunene have taken place. The new rangers have undergone rhino monitoring training, basic first aid training and have spent time on patrol with experienced ranger teams. All Nyae Nyae's new rangers have received field equipment for patrols and are already reporting conservation success.

The expansion of the CRR programme represents a watershed moment in Namibia's conservation history. The move indicates the success of the programme, as well as strong

buy-in from the Namibian Government, showing its commitment to the community-based conservation model. We hope the CRR programme can be an example for other African countries, showing mutual benefits for communities and conservation.

Rangers working within the community rhino ranger programme are supporting key rhino monitoring and protection efforts across Namibia.

Last year, you raised £8,592 to support rangers at Nyae Nyae Conservancy, through our Keep Rhinos Connected appeal. This helped purchase remote camera traps placed around Nyae Nyae to improve rhino monitoring and protection. Thank you!





An insight into the life of a Rhino Ranger

In August, during a two-week field trip to learn more about rhinos in Namibia with Save the Rhino Trust (SRT), we were lucky enough to spend time with Mensley Karutjaiva, a Rhino Ranger in Namibia's Kunene region.

Darion Moore | Partnership Communications Officer, Save the Rhino International
Jimmy Rutherford | Programmes Officer, Save the Rhino International

Mensley (above), like the other Rhino Rangers here, is employed by one of the local community conservancies, who all come together to support tourism as well as track and protect rhinos. SRT supports Mensley and other Rhino Rangers like him, providing extra resources to help their work, in return for regular rhino reports. We sat down with Mensley to learn more about his work with SRT.



Above: The team takes GPS coordinates and photos of a footprint while on patrol.

Right: Mensley and his colleagues cooking together at camp.

Name: Mensley Karutjaiva

Role: Rhino Ranger

Nationality: Namibian

Time in current role: Seven years

What is your daily routine like as a Rhino Ranger?

When on duty, I stay in a remote bush camp in the Kunene desert alongside one of my colleagues and a law enforcement officer. Every morning, I wake up at 6:30 am and set up my GPS. Then I go down to the waterhole to start my patrol. As soon as we see fresh tracks, we start tracking rhinos.

What difficulties do you face in your role?

The main challenge is wild animals. When you are tracking on foot, you might come across lions, scorpions, or snakes. Encountering them can be fatal.

We're always extremely careful around rhinos too. For example, by staying downwind so that the rhino doesn't catch our scent. If it does, it will do one of two things: charge or run away. Once, I saw a rhino's footprints at the waterhole and we began to track. When we came closer to the bushes, we lost the tracks. Suddenly, I saw the rhino stand up and start coming towards us. There were no trees to hide up, and no stones to climb, so I decided to sit down. The rhino was already close to me, and it hit me on my side.



My camera went flying one way and the GPS the other. With no other option, I froze. Thankfully, it moved on.

How long do you stay in the field?

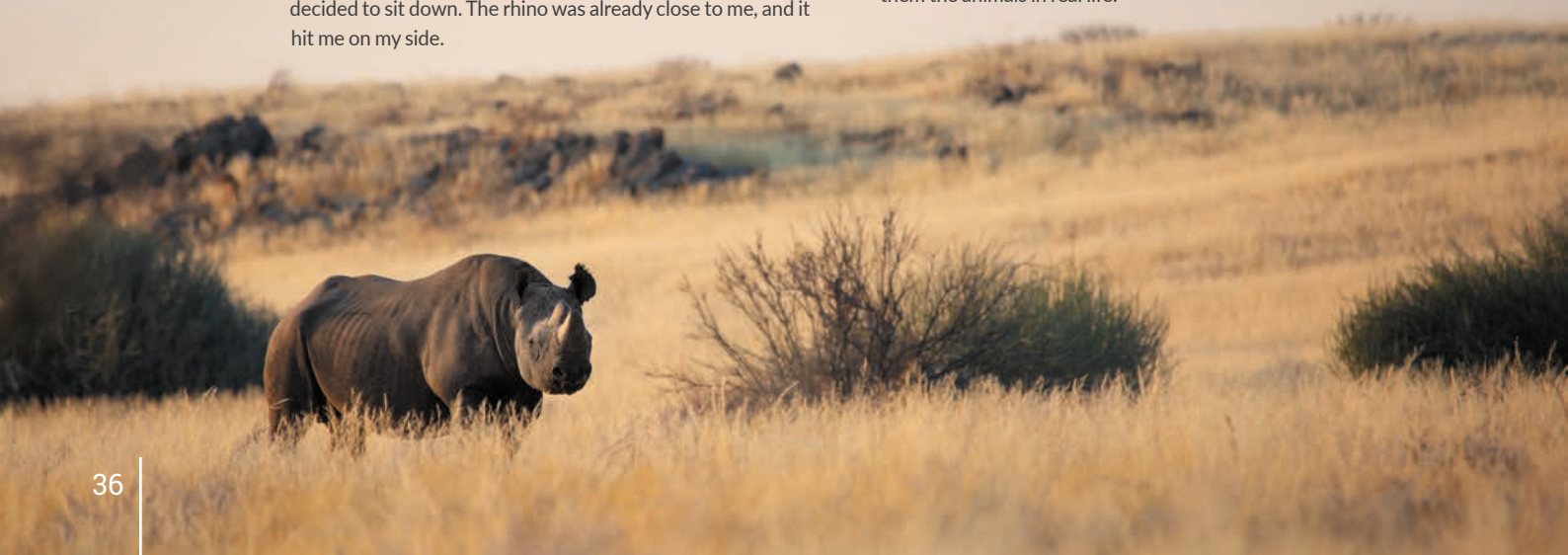
When we are on patrol, we stay at the camp for 22 days. I miss my family, but I know that I need to bring food home for them, so I need to be out working. If I stayed at home, we'd have no bread on the table.

How does Save the Rhino Trust support you when you're in the field?

For every kilometre that we walk, we receive some extra money, because the more you walk, the more rhinos you're able to monitor. We also get diversity and photo bonuses for the rhinos we are tracking, making sure we find different rhinos and record their photos as much as possible. The bonuses are extremely helpful. We really appreciate the support from SRT. If we didn't get the bonuses, our salaries would not be enough.

Why did you become a Rhino Ranger?

I want to protect animals for future generations to see. I don't want to have to show them drawings, I want to be able to show them the animals in real life.



The age of Smart Parks

"We'll call you Captain Vomit", a good friend of mine said when I told him that I will be getting my pilot's license. There's good reason for that. I have never taken well to flying... I loved it, but I was always the reason the flight was cut short. So I felt a bit of a hypocrite when the opportunity to get my pilot's license landed on my lap, thanks to Save the Rhino.

Eduard Goosen | Conservation Manager, uMkhuze Game Reserve



ALL IMAGES EDUARD GOOSEN

Eduard getting his wings after training. Thankfully for his teachers, he didn't live up to his nickname...

A year down the line, a Foxbat AP22 has joined our team in the fight to protect our heritage. And a beautiful thing she is. I've said it before, we have two rules at uMkhuze:

1 You can never win, but the second rule is more important, and that is;

2 We'll die trying!

That is our commitment.

For me, gaining my licence was a personal journey that has changed my life. Now, I love flying, and the addition of the Light Sports Aircraft has had a significant impact on our work at uMkhuze.

With a continuous drastic reduction in resources, especially staff, our emphasis has to be on making the best of what we've got, and using what we call 'force multipliers', whilst maintaining a high standard of law enforcement integrity. Flying has proven to be a game changer. Our rhino monitoring efficiency has multiplied, and better monitoring equals better data, equals better management.

Our rhino monitor, Joshua Rogers, (whose role is funded by Save the Rhino) is also a pilot. His enthusiasm, passion, and excitement in reporting back the number of successful sightings after each flight is often a light at the end of a dark tunnel.



In addition to our new ability flying capabilities, we've been boosting our tech.

As a recognised Rhino Intensive Protection Zone, to address issues around staff and resource shortages, uMkhuze is quite far in the process of becoming a Smart Park. This basically means integrating more technological resources into our work.

Because of the support from Save the Rhino, alongside other partners such as Peace Parks Foundation and WWF, uMkhuze has developed an extensive technological system to bolster our capacity. This is no mean feat for any geographically isolated protected area in Africa.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) are now commonplace around uMkhuze. They have enabled us to not only monitor an extensive and growing network of movement detection cameras on our perimeters, but also allowed us to cost-effectively trace assets, track wildlife, monitor solar power management at remote picket camps, and report live patrol coverage.

Whilst we are continuously learning, we have had some significant successes stemming from the use of this extra technology. No doubt, each year the tech will continue to improve. Unfortunately, these systems are not only finicky but also require expert knowledge and support.

Needless to say, they're often costly.

As I always state, we cannot do it on our own. As such, we are very reliant and eternally grateful for the support from all of you. As contributors and supporters of Save the Rhino, we salute you all for everything you have given us!



The newest addition to our
Close Encounter Collection

NEW Sipi the Sumatran rhino

We're thrilled to have worked with artist Kate Simpson to bring her incredible artwork to life with this detailed pencil sketch.

Available on a wide range of products, from prints to water bottles.

From £9



Join our herd!

Each and every one of our members helps us to make a difference. All membership options are available to purchase as a gift.

Individual membership

Show your personal passion with our Individual membership. Make your membership donation go further by choosing paperless.

From £3.50 per month

Herd membership for 2-6 people

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From £6.00 per month

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Make an even bigger impact and become a rhino champion with our Ambassador membership. Exclusive goodies and discounts included.

From £12 per month

See our website for more details about membership types/ details, payment options and T&Cs.

NEW Core range

Our fresh new merchandise range featuring the patterns and colours that represent Save the Rhino. These fun designs are available on several products, including t-shirts, tote bags and water bottles. Every piece is printed order to minimise waste.

From £16



2023 Rhino calendar

Includes 12 incredible images from supporters.

Printed on 100% carbon-neutral, recycled paper, using environmentally friendly inks.

From £10.99

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Turning brutality into beauty

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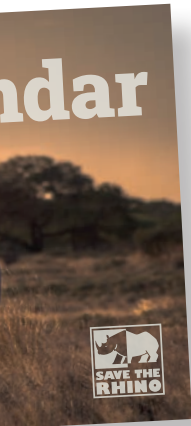
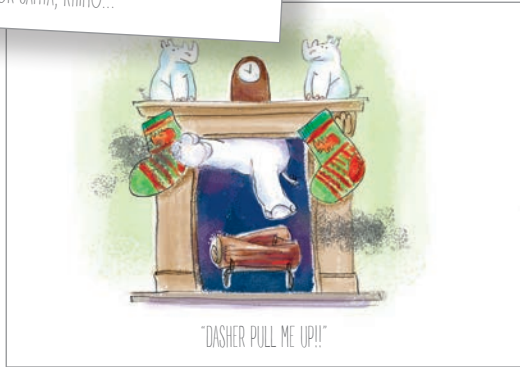
From £29.50



Christmas cards £7

A6, pack of 10

Five of each design.
Cards are blank for your own message.



Kango crochet rhino toy

This Little Ndaba crocheted rhino toy is handmade in Lusaka, Zambia.

Length: 14 cm. 100% organic cotton.

£16



Our best-selling Symbols on Silk jewellery

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Silver rhino charm bracelet £20

Sterling silver rhino charm on a plaited bracelet.



Rhino silver earrings £19

Sterling silver rhino stud earrings with butterfly backs.



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Sterling silver rhino or Africa charm. Available as a silk or silver chain necklaces.

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