



Dehorning

A proven, proactive tool
for rhino protection

Eyes in the Sky

Rhino guardians
take to the air in Namibia



2025

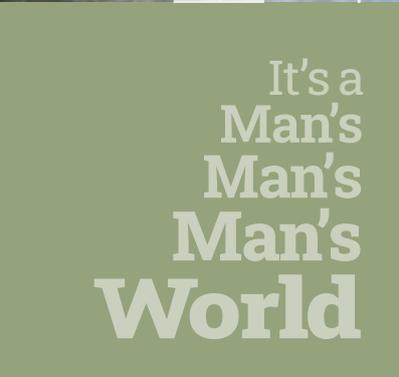
The Horn



A Best Friend & More



Javan rhinos 2025



It's a Man's Man's Man's World



A Look Back at the 2025 London Marathon



uMkhuze's new Rhino Monitor



Rhino Range Expansion



Rhino dynasties

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A message from our CEO

2025 will be remembered as a year of change. Around the world, we've seen shifting political landscapes, advances in technology, and rising environmental pressures – from extreme weather events to continued biodiversity losses. These global challenges affect all of us, and they impact rhinos too.

At Save the Rhino, this has also been a year of beginnings. We launched our new organisational strategy that will guide us through to 2030, helping us stay focused yet flexible in the face of future change.

We forged exciting new partnerships in Indonesia, to protect Javan and Sumatran rhinos – the planet's most threatened rhino species. In Kenya, our partners continue to inspire us with their efforts to expand habitat for black rhinos. And in South Africa, we're encouraged by dedicated efforts to disrupt illegal rhino horn supply chains and reduce poaching losses.

We were proud to participate in the IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group meeting and to contribute to the development of the new African Rhino Conservation Framework. This year also brought the publication of the IUCN/TRAFFIC triannual rhino report, providing vital updates on all five rhino species. And for the first time, Save the Rhino was represented at

LARA JACKSON

the CITES Conference of the Parties, where we worked with key governments to help shape global policies that support rhino conservation.

None of this would be possible without you. Every supporter – whether contributing to a campaign, sharing our messages, or even running the London Marathon in a rhino costume – plays a role in rhino conservation. Your commitment keeps us going, especially during times of uncertainty.

As we look ahead, we believe that what the storm shakes loose becomes the soil for something new. With your support, we'll keep working towards a future where all five rhino species can thrive in the wild – for the benefit of nature, and for people, for years to come.

Dr Jo Shaw
CEO, Save the Rhino International





153
tyres

for Hluhluwe-
iMfolozi Park's
rangers

600+
training places

funded for rangers
across Kenya

Our impact

Thank you for standing with us

Protecting rhinos is a shared journey, driven by collaboration, innovation and the tireless dedication of people on the ground. This year has brought new challenges, but also inspiring progress for all five rhino species. Your generosity enables vital conservation efforts and strengthens the partnerships that make this work possible.

Here are some of the successes you helped achieve over the past year.



6
months of fuel

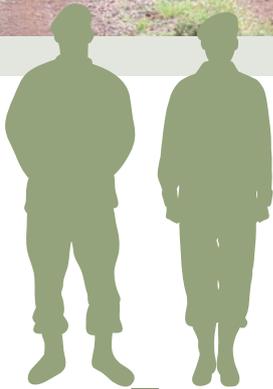
provided for North Luangwa's
Rhino Monitoring Unit

Grants to
18
partners
across

6
countries



LARA JACKSON



4

field ranger camps

refurbished at uMkhuze Game Reserve



6

dogs from canine units

provided with veterinary care, food, equipment and training



10 Sumatran rhinos

provided with food and veterinary support at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary

706 41

school children school teachers

took part in educational field trips to Borana Conservancy

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH FORRANGERS



2,500+
rangers

received life insurance cover across Africa

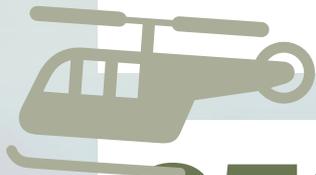


SUPPORTED THE PROTECTION OF

240,000+

acres of rhino habitat

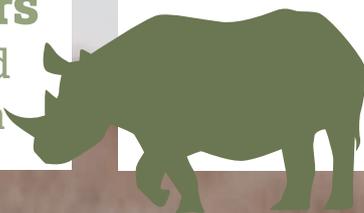
in Laikipia & Meru counties, Kenya



250+

helicopter hrs

of rhino-related ops in Namibia



A Best Friend & More

We interview **Joseph Piroris**, (below) Deputy Head of the Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) of Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

Joseph Piroris, Deputy Head of the Anti-Poaching Unit (APU) of Lewa Wildlife Conservancy

What first drew you to this role?

“My father worked here for 21 years. When I was a small boy, I would walk to see him, and he would give me money to go to school. My father retired in 2011, but the ways he nurtured me and Lewa’s impact on the community, have built my passion as a ranger.

I joined Lewa in 2012 as a rhino monitor before joining the APU in December 2013. From 2016–19, I had the privilege of working with the K9 Unit as its Commander. I don’t take it for granted, and it is in my heart to further conservation to the next level in the best way I can.

Can you tell us a bit about the team and the dogs that make up Lewa’s K9 Unit?

“It started in the early 1990s with labradors, then pure bloodhounds and Belgian Malinois. Now we have two girls: six-year-old Ruby, a pure bloodhound, and five-year-old Nasuj, a Doberman-bloodhound cross. It has been a long journey with many successes, our K9 Unit has been active in the security of this region – not only for the protection of wildlife but also of communities.

How do the handlers build trust and communications with their dogs?

“During the selection process, it’s crucial to identify those who genuinely have passion for dogs.





ALL IMAGES LEWA COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

The moment these guys take the dogs out, it's not a routine for them, it's a calling, and they're always there ready to walk or play with the dogs. This is when the bond between dog and handler is strengthened.

How do the dogs support the team in preventing poaching and responding to other crimes?

“ The APU is never complete without the K9 Unit. Whenever the team goes out for patrols, to combat poaching, or to help in the communities, they always go out with the dogs. Each dog has different strengths, with Ruby better suited to cooler and more urban areas and Nasuj more tolerant of hotter environments.

At the scene of a crime, suspects might try to be sneaky and hide themselves, but these dogs can do what we call 'scent discrimination' leading us to where the suspects are.

What does a typical day look like for the team?

“ Dogs and handlers must be awake at 06:00 to go for a walk. When they get back, the dogs are checked for injuries. Then there's what we call the 'kennel routine', which involves cleaning the kennel and the dogs before they have their breakfast.

Briefings take place and then it's time for their daily training sessions, which might be in the community areas or on Lewa itself. At lunchtime they return to base and rest during the heat of the afternoon before going back out for a short walk at 17:00. Their daily routines are full, but this can adapt if there are incidents.

How do you ensure both dogs and handlers stay in good physical and mental condition?

“ As mentioned, the dogs have regular walks and training sessions. For the handlers, on Mondays, we have the gym at 08:00, Tuesdays we do a run, Wednesdays and Fridays gym, and Saturdays another run. This work is demanding, as the terrain is often difficult and impossible to reach by vehicle.



We must also balance work and family time. These guys spend much of their time in the field and they need time to see their families. They go home for a week each month and then, when they come back, they're refreshed and can work for three weeks without any distractions.

If you could share one message with people around the world who care about rhinos and conservation, what would it be?

“ We must ensure that wildlife and people can live together. I wish to say to the international community, and all who wish to support our rangers and our dogs, let's all come together and protect wildlife as a family. I think the future of conservation is bright, when species like rhinos or elephants can breed, grow their numbers and be taken to establish populations in other places.

Top to bottom: Lewa's K9 Unit currently has two dogs: a bloodhound called Ruby and Nasuj, a Doberman-bloodhound cross



Dehorning

A proven, proactive tool for rhino protection

The decision to dehorn a rhino is viewed by many as drastic and often distasteful. The rationale for doing so relates to risks and rewards. Dehorning reduces the financial reward gained from killing a rhino and selling its horn on the black market. For effective rhino protection, this works best in tandem with approaches to increase the risks of being detected and arrested.

The first procedures to protect rhinos by removing their horns took place in Namibia in 1989. The poaching wave which swept across much of Africa in the 1960s and 1970s had abated. However, in the latter part of the 1980s, poaching spiked again in Namibia and the decision was taken to dehorn rhinos as an interim protection measure. Initial interventions were carried out in the vast landscape of the northern Kunene region. Not a single dehorned rhino was subsequently killed and fewer than ten rhinos were poached in Namibia in the following two decades.

Of all anti-poaching interventions, including anti-poaching ranger teams, detection cameras and integrity testing, dehorning was the only one found to significantly reduce poaching

Zimbabwe similarly experienced a major poaching spike during the late 1980s and early 1990s and introduced dehorning as a tool to provide breathing space. In combination with the creation of Intensive Protection Zones (IPZs), dehorning successfully reduced poaching losses. In both countries, a range of other security measures were implemented alongside

dehorning and these were recognised as being essential for success. Dehorning continues to be used as a strategic intervention to protect important rhino populations in Zimbabwe and Namibia.

During the 2000s, rhino horn trafficking networks turned their focus on South Africa, targeting Kruger National Park and surrounding private reserves, resulting in the loss of up to 75% of rhinos in these populations. Huge amounts of funding and effort were invested to try and keep rhinos safe. However, as the landscape spans multiple reserves with different management and security approaches, it was hard to tell which tools were the most effective. In 2021, the Greater Kruger Environmental Protection Foundation (GKEPF) spearheaded Project FIRE to objectively analyse the effectiveness of all the different rhino protection interventions.

Project FIRE was the first large-scale study of its kind, and the findings were striking. Of all the interventions, including anti-poaching ranger teams, detection cameras and integrity testing, dehorning was the only one found to significantly reduce poaching. Dehorning 2,284 rhinos across the



landscape resulted in a 78% reduction in rhino losses and cost just 1.2% of the rhino protection budget. Whilst other interventions were successful in detecting incursions and facilitating arrests, the study found this was not enough.

As dehorning is proactive it has an immediate impact on rhino safety, whilst other interventions are reactive, only coming into effect after a rhino has been killed. Additionally, most interventions are dependent on other systems, including the criminal justice process and so can be compromised by corruption and insider information.

In April 2024, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife in South Africa undertook an operation to dehorn the entire rhino population in Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park (HiP), and repeated this exercise during 2025. HiP had been targeted by poaching networks formerly active in Kruger and dehorning had an immediate impact, with rhino losses reduced by 79% in the first month. Save the Rhino are working with the team behind Project FIRE on an analysis to understand the best interventions to sustain these successes for HiP.



The process of dehorning itself does not harm the rhino, but the horn will soon grow back, requiring the procedure to be repeated every 12-18 months

Dehorning does come with limitations. As rhino horns are constantly growing, the procedure must be repeated every 12-18 months. Dehorned rhinos are still killed for their horn stumps and regrowth. Dehorning also only protects rhinos within a certain landscape and may result in rhino horn trafficking networks shifting their efforts towards horned populations elsewhere.

A further study is underway across southern Africa to assess how this displacement happens as well as answer questions about how rhino populations are affected by dehorning.

Today, the interim measure first used to provide breathing space for rhinos more than 30 years ago remains a vital tool for many of the most important rhino populations across southern Africa. Ultimately, sustained global efforts are still required to overcome international demand for horn, organised crime and corruption, and socio-economic inequalities as the drivers behind the long-term threats to rhinos.



Building Lasting Partnerships Borana's Journey with our Neighbours

At Borana Conservancy, the heart of our success lies not only within our boundaries but also beyond them: in the vibrant communities that surround us. The seven neighbourhoods bordering Borana, made up predominantly of the Il Ngwesi Maasai people, have deep cultural and historical ties to this landscape.

Izzy Voorspuy | Conservation and Sustainability Officer, Borana Conservancy

Along our northern boundary lie community-owned conservancies and state-owned forest lands that have been home to ancient cultures, from the Yaaku to the Maasai. These are pastoralist people or hunter-gatherers who have lived in harmony with their environment for generations.

As the management team of a Protected Area (PA), one of our key responsibilities is to help preserve these cultural values and ensure landscape connectivity for the endangered species found on Borana. Borana is not only home to black rhino but also to a variety

of other endangered species, many of whom are endemic to the region such as Grévy's zebra and reticulated giraffe. Borana is also home to nearly 500 bird species, and we are continually making additions to our mammal, bird, reptile, and amphibian lists, reflecting the diverse microhabitats found across the Conservancy. Our other neighbours include large-scale protected areas and commercial ranches, all hosting wildlife and generating opportunities for local communities through employment and micro-enterprises.

A cornerstone of our community engagement is the Borana Mobile Clinic, led by Pauline, who has been with Borana for more than 20 years. She is a trusted confidant and a lifeline for many. The clinic provides essential healthcare services focused on women and children, and operates in the field five days a week and the sixth on Borana. In times of crisis, whether caused by climate or political instability, Pauline never stops her work. When vehicles can't get through, she and her team walk to the most remote places to ensure healthcare reaches those who need it most.



For many years, Borana has supported both primary and secondary schools within the seven neighbourhoods, providing infrastructure support, bursaries, and learning resources. One of our most impactful initiatives has been the Breakfast Club, a schools' feeding programme that provides students with nutritious porridge at the start of each school day. This gives students the energy and focus needed to excel in their studies, improving the overall health and well-being of students, increasing attendance and improved academic performance.

Recognising the gap between protected areas and surrounding communities, we felt it was critical to bring young learners

into Borana in a structured, inspiring way. With huge support from Save the Rhino, we transformed an old sheep-shearing shed into a conservation education centre named Mazingira Yetu, meaning 'our environment' in Swahili. We also purchased a school bus (above right), allowing us to host two to three school visits each week during term time.

“My team and I are extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to be land stewards of this Protected Area and will continue to build partnerships with the people who have called this land home for generations.”

Michael Dyer, MD, Borana Conservancy

Each group of 30 students enjoys a game drive on Borana, with many students seeing a rhino for the first time, followed by an immersive cultural and environmental learning experience at the Mazingira Yetu centre. Students also meet inspiring team members, from rangers and mechanics, to accountants and guides, opening their eyes to new possibilities for their future.

When schools are closed, we focus on adult engagement. Working with local groups, we deliver training on sustainable and regenerative rangeland management, using demonstration plots and collaborative projects with partner organisations. These sessions expose communities to best practices in land stewardship and help strengthen the resilience of shared ecosystems.

Opposite: The Borana Mobile Clinic carries out its work in some very remote areas and therefore must travel great distances

Top: Much work has been carried out to improve the facilities at the local Ethi school

Right: Davis, one of the nurses, meets with a patient out in the field with the Borana Mobile Clinic



ALL IMAGES BORANA CONSERVANCY



Ngare Ndare Forest Trust forms a large portion of our southern boundary. Managed through a Trust and anchored on six Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) surrounding the Forest, we work to support the development of low-impact tourism infrastructure and revenue streams that help protect the Forest. We have a similar partnership with the Il Mamusi Community Forest Association to safeguard the Mukogodo Forest.

Over many years, Borana has built strong, formal partnerships guided by our 4Cs philosophy: Community, Conservation, Culture, and Commerce. Whilst we do rely on support from global philanthropy, all of which is channelled through Save the Rhino, it is the commercial activities – tourism, livestock, visitors and regenerative livestock – that cover most of our core costs in a sustainable and relevant way.





Rhinos and
the IUCN
Red List

Global Rhino Population Overview

The latest assessments of rhino populations worldwide reveal a complex picture of persistent threats, signs of recovery in some species and concerning declines in others.

Black rhino
Diceros bicornis
In-situ population¹ 6,788

<CR>

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

In **Africa**, throughout 2024, white rhino numbers declined, particularly in South Africa, despite ongoing conservation efforts, while black rhinos show cautious improvement following years of targeted protection. These trends have been largely attributed to high rates of illegal killings in Namibia and South Africa, adverse impacts of extended droughts, challenges with rhino monitoring, management and reporting, the lack of recent surveys from some countries and South African provinces, and, possibly, previous overestimates for some populations.

new populations, habitat protection, and anti-poaching operations. Nevertheless, black rhinos remain Critically Endangered, and localised losses can quickly undermine decades of progress. Strong protection measures, including dehorning in high-risk areas, continue to be essential in safeguarding these populations.

White rhino
Ceratotherium simum
In-situ population¹ 15,752

<NT>

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

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.

In **Asia**, Greater one-horned rhinos in India and Nepal continue to expand their numbers slowly, whereas the Javan and Sumatran rhinos each have fewer than 50 individuals remaining. Poaching, habitat pressures, genetic and population constraints, and management challenges continue to shape the survival prospects of these species, emphasising the importance of sustained, targeted conservation actions.

Asia

In Asia, Greater one-horned rhinos number 4,075, with 3,323 in India and 752 in Nepal, as well as an additional 230 individuals across 83 captive institutions globally. Populations have continued to increase steadily thanks to strong protection and habitat management, but future growth will require secure, productive habitats and active population management including range expansion.

However, the Javan rhino faces severe threats in Indonesia. Following a poaching outbreak carried out between 2019 and 2023, it is estimated that there are just 50 individuals left. The total number of rhinos illegally killed, many of which were males, has not been confirmed but will disrupt the population's ability to recover. It is expected that enhanced security and prosecutions, including sentences of up to 12 years in prison for those responsible, will be an effective deterrent of future poaching attempts.

Javan rhino
Rhinoceros sondaicus
In-situ population¹ ~50

<CR>

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

Africa

Southern white rhinos now total 15,750 *in situ*, with an additional 1,299 housed in zoos and other semi-wild facilities outside the continent. These figures represent a decline since 2023, largely due to poaching losses in South Africa and challenges in rhino management in Eswatini, where regulatory changes limited access to wildlife management services. Despite this, the subspecies remains classified as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List, reflecting both its recovery from historical unsustainable hunting and the ongoing pressures of habitat change and illegal hunting.

In Sumatra and Borneo, the Sumatran rhino, with 34–47 surviving, also remains Critically Endangered. The small, isolated populations are threatened by low reproductive rates, an issue exacerbated by low genetic diversity, reproductive pathologies, habitat loss and fragmentation, and the ever-present concern of poaching. Intensive patrols to protect their habitats, monitoring using camera trap surveys, alongside managed breeding in semi-wild facilities such as the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, are essential to prevent further declines and put the species on the road to recovery.

Greater one-horned rhino
Rhinoceros unicornis
In-situ population¹ 4,075

<V>

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

The Northern white rhino remains functionally extinct, with two non-reproductive females living under constant protection in Kenya. Any prospect of recovering this subspecies is reliant on assisted reproductive techniques to preserve its genetic legacy. Whilst advances are being made, the successful birth of a rhino calf using such techniques has yet to occur.

The future of these species depends on sustained, coordinated efforts to disrupt the organised crime networks responsible for the illegal trade in rhino horn, manage and expand critical rhino habitats and include people living around rhinos in conservation efforts. Successful rhino conservation is a test of global conservation commitments, and the landscapes they inhabit will only endure if these efforts are targeted and sustained.

Sumatran rhino
Dicerorhinus sumatrensis
In-situ population¹ 34–47

<CR>

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

By the end of 2024, there were 6,788 wild black rhinos across 13 countries, alongside 214 individuals in zoos internationally. These numbers represent a modest increase since 2023, which saw the first decline in black rhino numbers since the mid-1990s. This increase reflects continued successes from conservation actions, including translocations to establish

Rhinos by Number

26,712

wild rhinos worldwide

22,540

African rhinos

4,159-4,172

Asian rhinos

3

species

facing extremely high risk of extinction

12,824

African rhinos killed illegally since 2006

2.15%

2024 African poaching rate lowest since 2011

6.7%

Overall African rhino population declined in 2024

1.8 tonnes rhino horn seizures

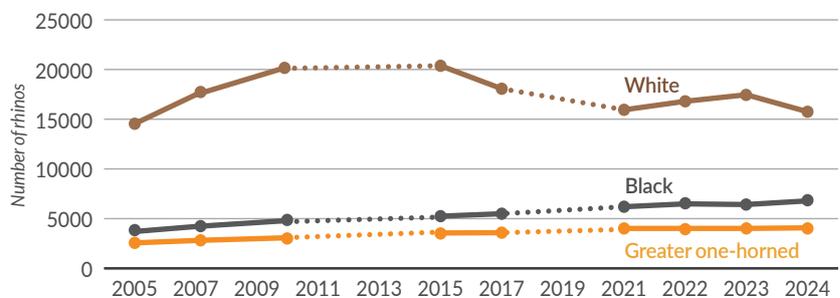
2021-2023

150+ horn seizures the equivalent of

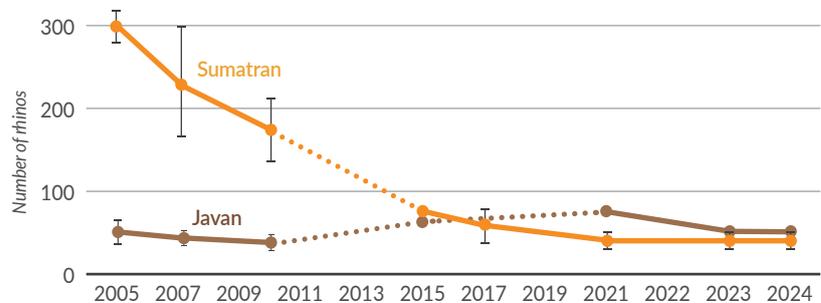
716

whole horns seized globally

White, Black and Greater one-horned rhino population estimates 2005-24²



Sumatran and Javan rhino population estimates 2005-24²



¹In-situ population: in the countries in which they naturally occur.

²As at end December 2024, from The African and Asian Rhinoceroses – Status, Conservation and Trade report produced by IUCN and TRAFFIC for the CITES Secretariat.

Javan rhinos in 2025

An update on the giant ghosts of Ujung Kulon

Hugging the extended coastline of the Ujung Kulon peninsula, the boat cast off. Stationed along the route were bamboo fishing platforms and, as the boat chugged further, the sun-scalded remains of dead trees came into view. These were forest remnants that stood until a tsunami struck in 2018, tragically killing more than 400 people.

They provided a stark reminder of the incredible vulnerability of this landscape, and were reminiscent of the 1883 eruption of Krakatoa, causing devastating tsunamis that killed more than 36,000 people and, likely, rhinos living there at the time.

More than a century later, Ujung Kulon National Park persists with a habitat mosaic of dense forests, open grasslands, sandy beaches and coral reefs. Deer, macaque and wild boar gorge on fallen fruits on the forest floor, whilst highly threatened green peafowl and banteng graze in its clearings.

Our boat came ashore beside a base camp where tents, log benches, and small running streams were located on the slope. Just a short walk out of camp over sodden ground, Arenga palms, a species that is unpalatable to rhinos, rule vast swathes of the

forest. With its ability to disperse thousands of seeds in a single set of fruits, it has come to dominate the area, preventing the growth of food plants favoured by rhinos.

Despite its challenges, Ujung Kulon remains a biodiversity gem. Night time, and the jungle is just as alive in the dark as it is in the day, with an array of nocturnal species stepping into the spotlight: an Oriental bay owl perched on the side of a tree, frogs in the leaf litter and a cacophony of chirping insects.

Trekking deeper into the forest revealed this remains Javan rhino habitat: rhino tracks, active mud wallows, browsed branches, streams where rhinos deposit dung and mud scrapes on the sides of trees through which the animals had barged after wallowing. How an animal of this size can lumber so ghost-like amidst this dense, seemingly impenetrable vegetation is truly extraordinary.

All this is at risk of disappearing completely forever. Following a poaching outbreak coordinated by two gangs that resulted in much of the already small population being illegally killed between 2019 and 2023, it is likely that the Javan rhino population now stands at around 50 individuals. Thanks to the actions of the Government of Indonesia, the Park authorities, and police, those detained have received sentences of up to 12 years, plus fines of 100 million rupiah each, punishments unprecedented for wildlife-related crime in Indonesia.

Throughout the forest, recovery is evident: new vegetation is emerging in the gaps below. As for the rhinos, 2025 has seen several previously undocumented young rhinos, including one very small calf



With rhino numbers now so low, the long-held vision of establishing a second wild population is not a priority at present. The Park's management and Government are eager to capture some individuals to initiate a semi-captive breeding programme across a narrow isthmus to the east of the Park, the Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area. The aim is to emulate the successes of the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary in Way Kambas National Park. Fundamentally, it will remain imperative that the security, protection and monitoring of the wild rhinos on this peninsula are upheld, and Save the Rhino will continue to focus support to the Government of Indonesia, the Park and local NGOs for this work.

Throughout the forest, recovery is evident. Where the tsunami left skeletons of bleached, leafless trees isolated on the shoreline, new vegetation is emerging in the gaps below. And as for the rhinos, 2025 has seen several previously undocumented young rhinos (see camera trap picture above), including one very small calf. Javan rhinos have recovered from population lows before, and, assuming that protection and suitable habitat are intact, they can do so again.

Hope in the Rainforest

Sniffer Dogs Find Sumatran Rhino Signs

If you're reading this, we're pretty sure you have a soft spot for rhinos. And if you're also fond of fluffy four-legged friends with wagging tails and wet noses, this story is for you.

Two sniffer dogs in Indonesia have given us reason to celebrate. Thanks to the Government of Indonesia and the support of the International Rhino Foundation (IRF), Yagi (*below*) and Quinn (*right*), trained by the team at Working Dogs for Conservation, recently found signs of Sumatran rhinos in Way Kambas National Park. Their discovery offers a rare glimmer of hope for one of the world's most endangered mammals.

With fewer than 50 Sumatran rhinos left in the wild, every individual matters. Despite years of camera traps, patrols, and surveys, detecting rhinos in the forests of Way Kambas National Park has been incredibly difficult. While the Park is home to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS) and remains a vital habitat for the species, sightings of wild rhinos have been few and far between. Some, dare we say it, began to question if there were any wild rhinos left in the Park at all.

That's where Yagi and Quinn came in. Within just two days of deployment, they located potential rhino dung in the forest. The dogs had trained for months using samples from the 10 rhinos living at the SRS, and their success is a testament to the power of conservation science (and skilful canine noses).

This discovery is more than just a feel-good moment: it's a critical step forward. Confirming the presence of wild rhinos in Way Kambas means that conservationists can begin planning next steps, from more monitoring to protection, or even integrating these individuals into the Sumatran rhino breeding programme. The genetic diversity from any wild rhinos living in Way Kambas could be a game-changer for the long-term survival of this species.

In recent years, Save the Rhino's focus for Sumatran rhinos in Way Kambas has been on supporting the Government of Indonesia and its efforts to breed the rhinos living at the SRS. With operational costs for food, veterinary care



WORKING DOGS FOR CONSERVATION

Below: Rosa, a female Sumatran rhino at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. The dung from rhinos at the SRS was used to train the two dogs before they were deployed to the wider Park

and maintenance ongoing, the 10 rhinos living in the Sanctuary have been kept healthy, safe and protected thanks to the generosity of supporters like you. In 2024, your donations also helped to restore degraded forest areas in Way Kambas, providing additional habitat for Sumatran rhinos and other species in the future.



All rhino images on pages 2, 14, 15 and back cover courtesy of the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry

This latest news from Way Kambas is an important breakthrough for this rare and incredible species. There's still a long road ahead to secure a future for Sumatran rhinos. But thanks to the efforts of the Government of Indonesia and its partners, including Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI; Indonesian Rhino Foundation), IRF and Working Dogs for Conservation, there is a glimmer of hope.

WORKING DOGS FOR CONSERVATION



Eyes in the Sky

Rhino guardians take to the skies to monitor and protect Namibia's black rhinos

Stretching across rugged deserts and rocky mountains, Namibia is home to the world's largest population of the South-western black rhino (*Diceros bicornis bicornis*). Around 90% of this subspecies is found within the country's borders, with Etosha National Park alone holding the largest black rhino population on Earth.

Decades of dedicated protection and community collaboration have allowed Namibia's black rhino population to recover, a rare achievement in an era where rhino populations across the continent declined. But with success comes responsibility.

Continued collaboration and sustained support are essential to ensure that these security measures, not only prevent losses but also enable Namibia's black rhino populations to thrive

Keeping track of rhinos across thousands of square kilometres is no easy task. This year, a new perspective has joined the efforts to keep them safe – eyes in the sky.

In 2024, Save the Rhino International joined forces with Save the Rhino Trust Namibia (SRT), the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT), and the Black

Rhino Custodianship Programme to launch a dedicated aerial patrol operation. The team used a Cessna 182 as the anchor aircraft, supported by additional flight hours in a Piper Super Cub aircraft. In just six days, the two planes covered more than 12,000 kilometres in approximately 60 hours of flight time – an impressive feat in the country's extreme summer heat.



These flights formed a part of the annual Erongo-Kunene Anti-Poaching Operation, with additional patrols carried out over Etosha National Park at MEFT's request. During these operations, pilots and observers focused on monitoring critical rhino zones, neighbouring villages, and major access roads.

MAIN IMAGE SRT

Right: The plane is prepared for take-off at Tsumkwe

Below: The sun sets over black rhino habitat in the Kunene Region

Centre: Andrew is congratulated for getting his Private Pilot's License from David de Groede, owner of the Swakopmund Flight School and Dawid Visser, his instructor



To further strengthen Namibia's long-term rhino conservation strategy, SRT's Chief Operations Officer, Andrew Malherbe, began a training course for his Private Pilot Licence (PPL) at Swakopmund Flying School. His training has been a major step towards developing an in-house aerial wing for SRT; this wing will dramatically improve the efficiency of rhino monitoring and logistics across Namibia.

Reflecting on his progress, Andrew said:

'I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunity to pursue my PPL, thanks to the funding from Zoo Krefeld through Save the Rhino. Having aerial capacity at SRT is a massive boost to our conservation effort. Eyes in the sky help to keep rhinos safe and an aerial wing will certainly bolster the patrol capacity and coverage of SRT.'

The addition of aerial capacity has changed how teams monitor black rhinos. The remote project site at Nyae Nyae Conservancy was previously only reachable from the Kunene Region, SRT's 'home', by a 13-hour drive across rough terrain. In a plane the same journey now takes a mere three hours, freeing up valuable time and resources. Aerial travel also allows for continuous observation across the landscape. As the team flies between project sites, pilots and passengers can locate rhinos, verify sightings, assess conditions on the ground, and respond swiftly to emergencies.

Together with the mules and donkeys of the Mounted Patrol Units, vehicle-based security units, and SRT's extensive foot-patrol network, the new aerial capacity allows the team to cover the vast landscape more efficiently and to respond to threats faster. This enhanced capacity will bolster Namibia's national Black Rhinoceros Management Strategy (2021-31), ensuring that all Key 1 and Key 2 populations remain closely monitored and protected.

Continued collaboration and sustained support are essential to ensure that these security measures not only prevent losses but also enable Namibia's black rhino populations to thrive. From the ground to the skies, Namibia's rhino guardians continue to adapt and innovate. The addition of aerial patrols marks another major milestone in the country's long-standing commitment to protecting its iconic black rhinos, ensuring these remarkable animals continue to roam freely across Namibia's wild, open landscapes for generations to come.

Sadly, the pilot flying the plane in the main photo, **Dr Nad Brain**, has recently passed away. Dr Brain was both a registered wildlife veterinarian as well as an experienced bush pilot, making his passing a great loss to Namibian conservation. Andrew learnt a great deal from him during their time flying together at Palmwag and Tsumkwe.

It's a Man's Man's Man's World



When you think of rangers working in some of Africa's remotest national parks, perhaps you're imagining men in full camouflage in a hostile environment. But as James Brown's famous song goes, the man's world 'wouldn't be no thing, nothing without a woman or a girl'.

**Ignoring the double negative,
James was right!**

Claire Lewis | Technical Advisor
to the North Luangwa Conservation Programme
and Frankfurt Zoological Society-Zambia

In common with many other areas, in North Luangwa National Park, in Zambia's Luangwa Valley, women have traditionally been vastly under-represented in the wildlife conservation sector. Women's share of employment in this field was minimal, even in entry-level positions such as the community scouts, who are hired from communities surrounding the Park for wildlife policing and protection.

For the last five years, the North Luangwa Conservation Programme (NLCP) has placed a greater emphasis on gender, diversity, equity and inclusion to address this imbalance.





Efforts have focused on increasing female representation in the Park's wildlife sector by focusing on training for female and male staff and their spouses; spousal visits to the Park to increase understanding of the work involved; and equipment, kit and resources to cater to women's needs in the field.

As one aspect of this work, we've held a series of training sessions for our law-enforcement teams working within the Park and the surrounding Game Management Areas to address the deeply rooted perceptions of gender roles within conservation enforcement.

During 2024, a total of 40 women and 116 men participated in the sessions, which provided a platform for critical reflection on the roles and responsibilities of men and women in society. The training explored how these roles impact women and aimed to deepen participants' understanding of gender differences and the dynamics of power.

A key focus was on identifying who holds power in society and how gender equality can benefit community-based resource management and decision-making

A key focus was on identifying who holds power in society and how gender equality can benefit community-based resource management and decision-making. Discussions emphasized how balanced representation, in which both women and men have equal rights and opportunities, leads to more inclusive and effective natural-resource

management. Participants acknowledged that traditional male-dominated decision-making structures often marginalize women, limiting broader community progress. Through these discussions, many participants recognized the disadvantages of excluding women from leadership roles, especially in areas such as land ownership and governance of natural resources.

During the training, it was observed that men are often given greater authority in decision-making, while women are expected to remain silent, even on matters that directly affect them. Participants reflected on how these norms perpetuate inequalities and weaken conservation outcomes. The sessions helped participants understand that gender inclusion is not only about fairness, but also about improving effectiveness in conservation work by ensuring all voices are heard and valued.

Future gender-awareness sessions will continue to be facilitated for law-enforcement personnel to normalize gender diversity and inclusion within our structures. These efforts aim to break the long-standing norm of law enforcement being



ALL IMAGES: MAMA MEADOWS PHOTOGRAPHY

Opposite: Careers vary from working in the operations and infrastructure workshop to being part of the Rhino Monitoring Unit

Above: Childcare is a key consideration when the teams of the Rhino and Elephant Protection Unit and Rhino Monitoring Unit are carrying out their work



associated predominantly with men, and to create an environment where both men and women can contribute meaningfully to conservation efforts.

Meanwhile, our female rangers, vehicle mechanics, drivers, canine handlers and rhino monitors are a highly valued part of our team.

Step up for Rangers!

World Ranger Day has been celebrated every year since 31st July 2007, to mark the 15th anniversary of the International Ranger Federation (IRF). The day is all about honouring the incredible work rangers do and remembering those who've lost their lives or been injured while on duty – a horrifying average of 150 rangers a year.

In 2021, we also started celebrating World Female Ranger Day on 23rd June to shine a spotlight on the amazing women working in conservation and anti-poaching. To show our support for both men and women in protecting wildlife and wild landscapes, we kicked off our 10-day 'Step Up for Rangers!' campaign in late May.

Rangers are essential in conservation, not just for protecting endangered species like rhinos and their habitats, but also for keeping an eye on and maintaining those habitats. But the reality is, even basic gear such as boots, socks, uniforms and hats can make a huge difference to their safety, effectiveness, and morale. It shows rangers that people from all around the world have their backs while they carry out their vital work.

Thanks to matching funds from our sister non-profit, Save the Rhino International Inc., and other generous supporters, we were able to double the donations made during the campaign. That meant we could offer £5,570 in grants to two incredible reserves in South Africa – Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park (HiP) and uMkhuze Game Reserve (MGR) – both home to black rhino populations. We reached out to Dirk Swart, one of the Section Rangers at HiP, and Eduard Goosen, the Conservation Manager at MGR, to see how they'd like to use the funds.

Dirk shared that, after discussing it with the other Section Rangers, they decided the priority would be buying canvas boots with Kevlar protection for field rangers and staff repairing the Park's fences (*above, below*). He explained, 'When boots get old, the rubber softens, and thorns can easily penetrate through, which makes walking long distances really tough. New boots will help keep our team comfortable and safe while they work. Any extra funds will go toward socks.'

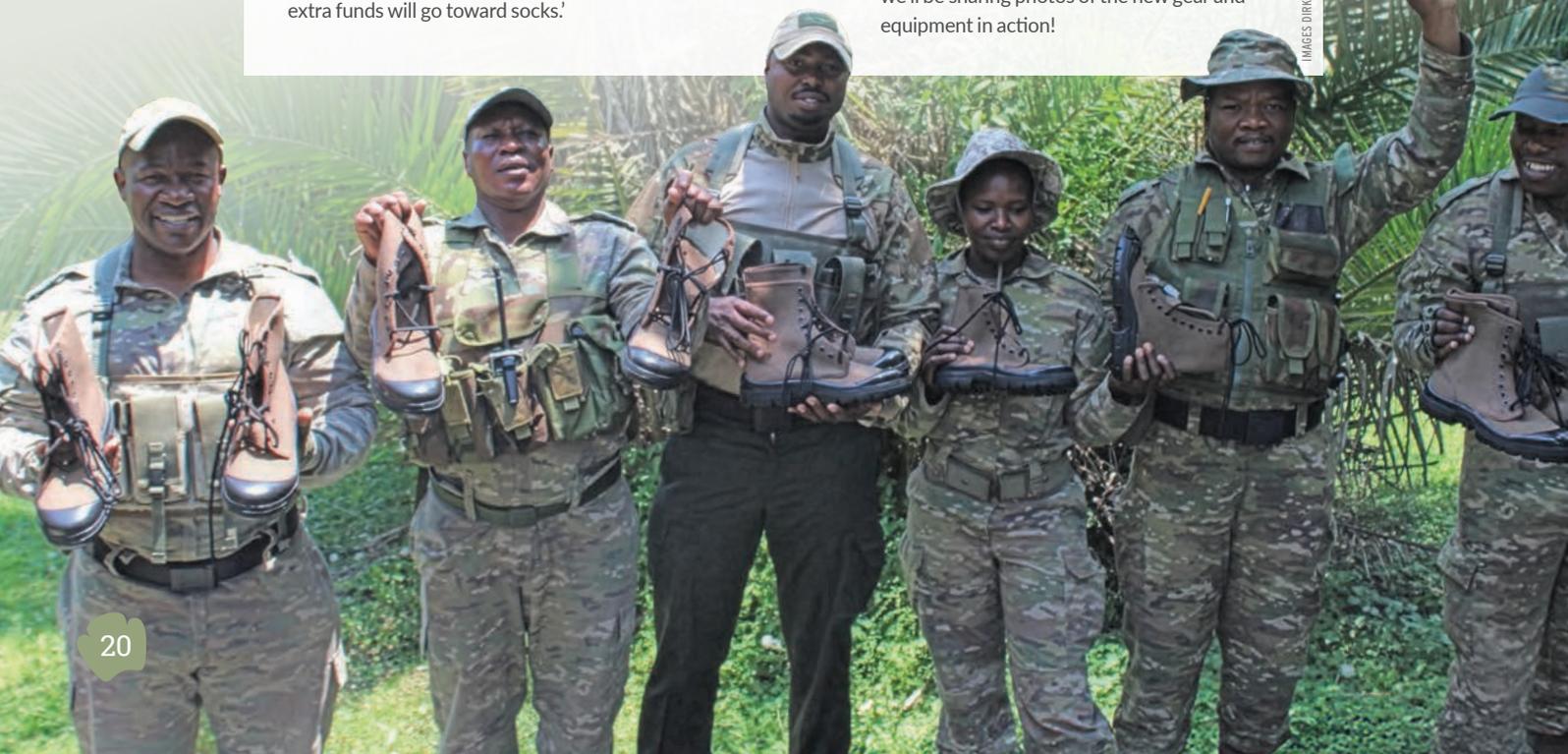


Eduard and his team also put their heads together to figure out how to use their share of the appeal. They decided it would go towards:

- Two Garmin collars and trackers for the uMkhuze K9 unit
- Two Garmin handheld radios for ground-to-air communication
- Eight sets of webbings
- 200 ready-to-eat ration packs for overnight patrols
- Two pairs of night-vision monoculars
- A HikVision camera to monitor one of uMkhuze's gates

We can't thank our donors enough for supporting the Step Up for Rangers campaign. Stay tuned to our social media channels, where we'll be sharing photos of the new gear and equipment in action!

IMAGES DIRK SWART



A Look Back at the 2025 London Marathon

The London Marathon is one of the biggest moments in our challenge event calendar and we are so grateful to everyone that joined our team this year.

Together you helped us raise a staggering **£121,818** to conserve rhinos in Africa and Indonesia.



Warren Dean Lloyd

👉 Unforgettable so happy I have the privilege to be a part of this year's team.

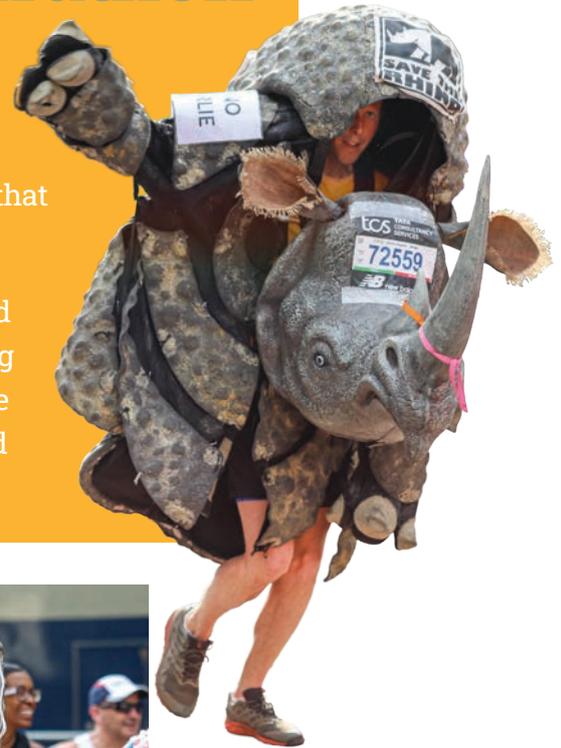
'I will definitely be coming back.'



Top left: Thank you to Calum Lyle

Above: Thank you to Stuart Barton

Bottom of page: Thanks to Andy Delderfield



Above: Thank you to Charlie Jones

Left: Thank you (again) to Kellie Clark

Below: Thank you to Eva-Marie Banschbach

And thank you to all our fabulous runners not pictured here



Anastasya Leissner

👉 Thank you so much for the support you guys provided.

'It was such a privilege to run and fundraise for this amazing charity.'

Olga Boryslawska

👉 I want to thank you for this amazing opportunity.

'I will always be grateful for it. It was really the most amazing weekend of my life!'

SPORTSGRAPH



The Rhino Specialists



governance issues, and uneven benefits for some, the Reserve has created 48 jobs and shows how lions, rhinos, and tourism can be a catalyst for growth. The visit really drove home the point that true conservation isn't just about protecting ecosystems, it's also about social, cultural, and economic factors. It's all about building trust, resilience, and a shared vision for long-term success.

You might remember **The Specials**, a British ska band that topped the charts in 1980 with 'Too Much Too Young' – their most iconic song was 'Free Nelson Mandela' from 1984. Funnily enough, around the same time, the African Rhino Specialist Group (of which I'm currently the Chair) started meeting; back then, we were joined up with African Elephant Specialist Group.

Dave Balfour | Chair, IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group

I have to admit, it often feels like we're trying to juggle a lot (sometimes too much!), though I can't really claim many of us are all that youthful anymore. Our group is a mix of about 45 members, including Jo Shaw and Cathy Dean from Save the Rhino, and we get together every three years for our meetings (above). Last time, in 2022, we had to do it virtually because of the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. So, it was a real treat to finally meet up in person for six days this February at Bonamanzi Game Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal. Zoom, MS Teams, and email are all great, but there's something special about being in the same room with the top minds in rhino conservation to tackle some of the biggest challenges facing us today.

We're dealing with serious issues, like ongoing droughts, challenges with our sampling techniques, limited reporting from some areas, and national policies that can hold us back. During our sessions, we focused a lot on the need for genetic diversity, adaptive planning for rhino populations, and making sure our conservation efforts align with the values of local communities. There was also a lot of buzz around new tech, especially AI and spatial tracking, which are becoming really important tools for the future of conservation.

And, of course, we couldn't resist a couple of field visits – some of the best conversations happen on those bus rides. One stop was at Somkhanda Game Reserve, a community-owned conservation project run by the Gumbi people. Despite challenges like poaching,



The other destination was Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, where we got a first-hand look at rhino conservation efforts. We checked out population monitoring, trends in poaching, and boma management. We also learned about advanced systems for deploying rangers. On the way back, we got stuck by a flooded river, which gave us a bit of an unexpected detour but also plenty of time for reflection and a few informal group photos. The experience was a reminder of the importance of adaptability, teamwork, and the daily challenges of rhino conservation in a changing world.

One of the most important outcomes of our time together was identifying six key strategic lessons for the future of the African Rhino Specialist Group. These included the need for science-based decision-making, exploring new spaces and captive breeding options, developing climate-informed strategies, securing sustained funding, fostering community-driven conservation, and improving governance.

Rhino conservation is endlessly fascinating, and it takes people from all kinds of backgrounds and disciplines to tackle these complex challenges. Maybe we need a new song title: Done Loads at the Right Time.

From the Ground to the Air

uMkhuze's new Rhino Monitor is off to a Flying Start

Wherever rhinos occur, ensuring they are effectively monitored is critically important, whether by mounted patrols searching for black rhinos in the remote deserts of Namibia's Kunene region or camera traps photographing Javan rhinos in the forests of Indonesia.



Ultimately, knowing the size, demographics and health of a given population, allows park managers to make informed decisions on how to maximise their growth. Given the incredibly wide variety of geographies in which rhinos live, methods must be tailored species by species, population by population, site by site. Having one of the only two original populations of black rhinos in South Africa, uMkhuze Game Reserve have long recognised rhino-monitoring work as a fundamental element of their

IMAGES: JASPER VISSER

conservation efforts: keeping tabs on individuals; checking for signs of injury, reproductive issues or malnutrition.

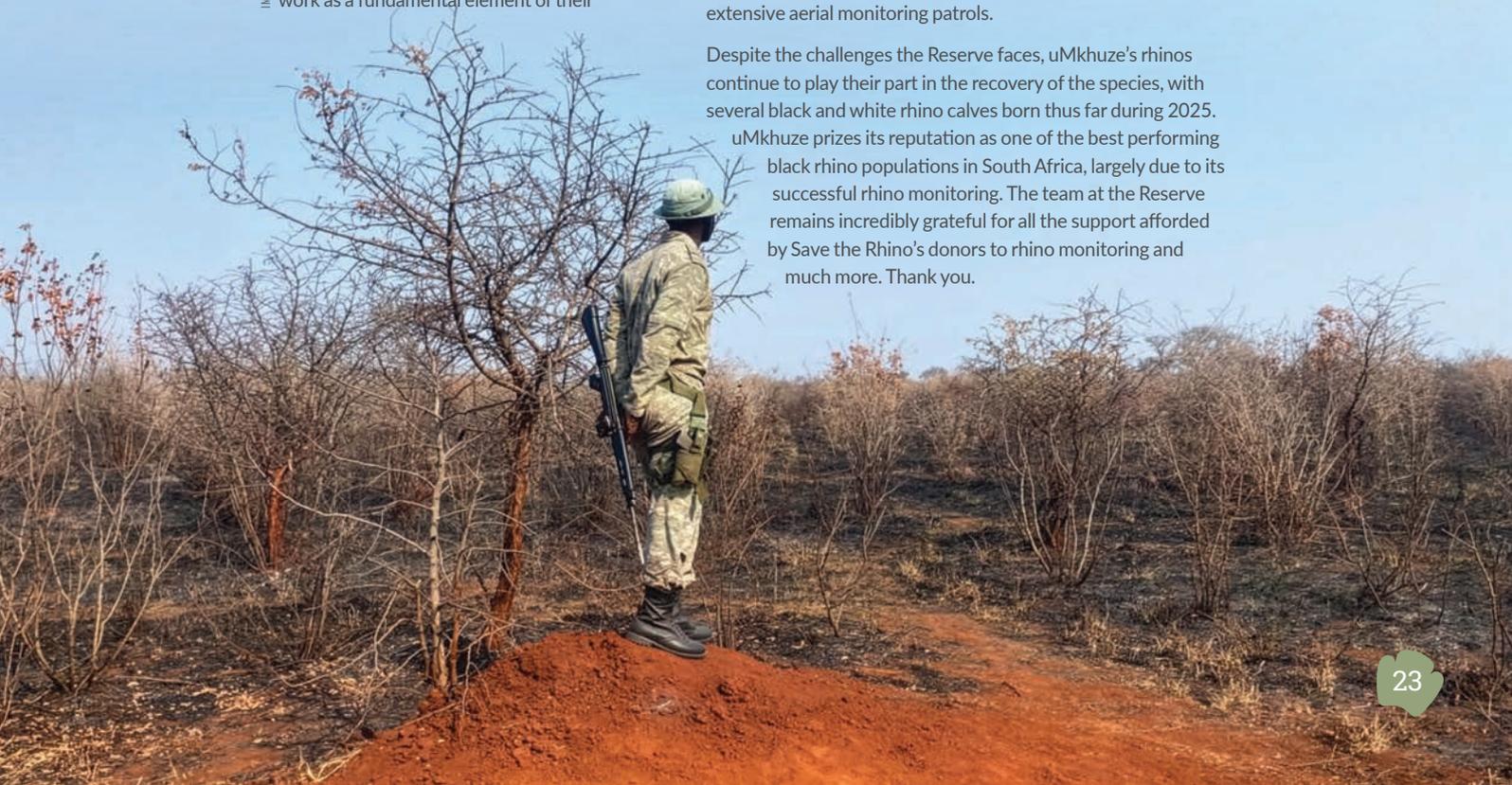
In 2024, all monitoring had to be put on hold. The Reserve's previous Rhino Monitor had applied for a job elsewhere, and the position was now vacant. Four months later, new recruit Jasper Visser (*centre, left*) took up his duties; the 4-month hiatus, and consequent reduced number of rhino sightings, only served to highlight the position's importance and the urgency of his task.

Key to monitoring in uMkhuze has been the use of camera traps, which are placed around water holes and along paths often used by rhinos to supplement data from daily foot patrols. Whilst they have proven to be incredibly effective at collecting data, their use is tedious, requiring continual maintenance, collection of memory cards and photo processing to identify individuals – and there are often thousands of images! Camera traps are also renowned for being susceptible to trampling by the local elephants, creating another task for the Rhino Monitor: camera replacement.

Ground-based monitoring work isn't usually enough on its own. It can be difficult to see and identify rhinos through thick vegetation, and that is where uMkhuze's Foxbat aircraft shines. It has proven invaluable, coming in at a fraction of the cost of a helicopter flying the same distances searching for rhinos. Jasper holds a Private Pilot's Licence, and he and uMkhuze's Conservation Manager, Eduard Goosen, both undertake extensive aerial monitoring patrols.

Despite the challenges the Reserve faces, uMkhuze's rhinos continue to play their part in the recovery of the species, with several black and white rhino calves born thus far during 2025.

uMkhuze prizes its reputation as one of the best performing black rhino populations in South Africa, largely due to its successful rhino monitoring. The team at the Reserve remains incredibly grateful for all the support afforded by Save the Rhino's donors to rhino monitoring and much more. Thank you.



How Climate Change is Reshaping Rhino Habitats

Across the world, water shapes the landscapes that surround us, carving rivers, feeding wetlands, and nourishing grasslands. It sustains the habitats where wildlife eat, rest, and raise their young. These delicate systems underpin all life on Earth, yet they are changing rapidly.

Rivers change course, wetlands shrink, and the consequences ripple outward – forcing animals and people to adapt, compete, and survive. In Laikipia County, Kenya, prolonged droughts have become more frequent and severe, leaving rivers dry and pastures bare. The once-reliable Ewaso Nyiro River, which supports wildlife through the dry season, now often runs shallow or disappears entirely.

As grasslands dry and water sources shrink, rhinos rely on limited rivers and water points within the conservancies to survive. The pressure of parched landscapes concentrates wildlife in these remaining pockets.

Competition for limited resources amplifies natural pressures: dominant bulls clash over territories, mating attempts falter and calves face greater risk of mortality. As a dry season stretches on, the search for water shapes every aspect of rhino life, from their movements and social behaviours to the survival of the next generation.

In southern Africa, the arid Kunene Region of Namibia paints a similar picture. Here, the desert-adapted South-western black rhino (*Diceros bicornis bicornis*) wanders vast

distances in search of moisture-rich plants. These extraordinary animals survive on sparse, drought-hardy shrubs and succulents, drawing the water they need from the plants themselves – a feat of endurance few others could match. However, even resilience has limits. When seasonal rivers fail to flow, the vegetation withers and the fine ecological balance of the desert begins to tilt.

Each dry season stretches on longer than the last, testing not only the strength of the rhinos, but the endurance of the rangers who watch over them and the communities who depend on the same fragile landscapes. In this ancient desert, the absence of rain defines life itself.

In South Asia, shifts in the water cycle swing the pendulum. Changing monsoon patterns in India and Nepal are disrupting the delicate system that has sustained life for centuries. In India's north-eastern state of Assam, intense and unpredictable floods have become the new normal. Where the annual monsoon floods once nourished grasslands vital for the survival of the Greater one-horned rhino (*Rhinoceros unicornis*), today's erratic cycles instead devastate habitats, strand wildlife, and increase the risk of disease. In West Bengal, heavy rainfall is



Top: Monsoon floods have long been a natural phenomenon in the habitats of Greater one-horned rhinos, but they are changing

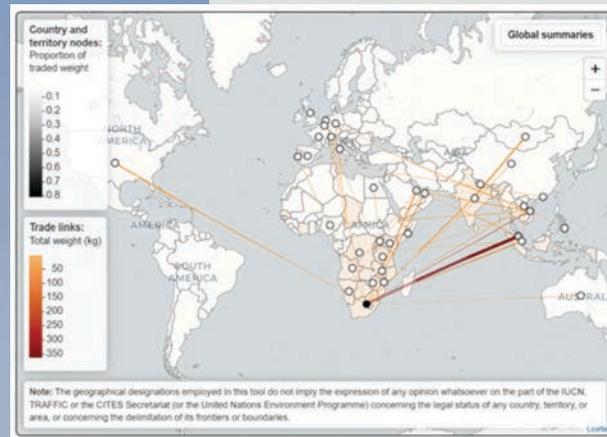
Centre, right: The Kunene region of north-west Namibia and Laikipia in northern Kenya have both experienced the impacts of severe droughts recently, causing great challenges for people and wildlife alike



Tracking Rhino Horn Trade

Sharon Baruch-Mordo | Senior Specialist, Elephant and Rhino Trade, TRAFFIC.

An interactive online dashboard was developed by TRAFFIC, funded by Save the Rhino International and the International Rhino Foundation (IRF), to provide insight into rhino population statistics and



the global dynamics of the illegal rhino horn trade.

The dashboard (above) accompanies a recently published report commissioned by the CITES Secretariat and co-authored by TRAFFIC and the Rhino Specialist Groups of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. TRAFFIC and IUCN have produced a rhino report for the CITES Conferences of the Parties since 2009, and this latest report was considered at the twentieth meeting CITES CoP in late 2025. Thanks to the support of Save the Rhino and IRF this is the first time that such a report is accompanied by an interactive visual tool making the underlying data easier to explore and understand.

The dashboard presents both rhino population and illegal trade statistics by country, while also visualising the global movement of illegal rhino horn products. Through an interactive world map displaying rhino range states and the frequency and weight of traded horn products between countries, users can click on any country to view rhino numbers, seizure figures, and international illegal trade connections. This information enables conservationists, enforcement agencies, and policymakers to better identify where threats are most concentrated and target their efforts more effectively.

The report found that 150 seizures involving rhino horn were recorded between 2021 and 2023, representing an estimated 1.8 tonnes of horn equivalent to roughly 716 whole horns. With the world's largest rhino population, South Africa remains at the centre of the trade, accounting for 66% of global seizures by weight and representing 90% of seizures within African rhino range states. Significant trade links connected South Africa to both Malaysia and Viet Nam, following large-weight seizures of 160 kg and 139 kg respectively.

The data also expose the adaptability of trafficking networks. Qatar and the United Arab Emirates have recently emerged as transit hubs for illegal rhino horn shipments, while seizures relating to China, Hong Kong SAR, and Mozambique declined. These shifts could reflect both improved enforcement and demand-reduction measures as well as evolving trafficking routes.

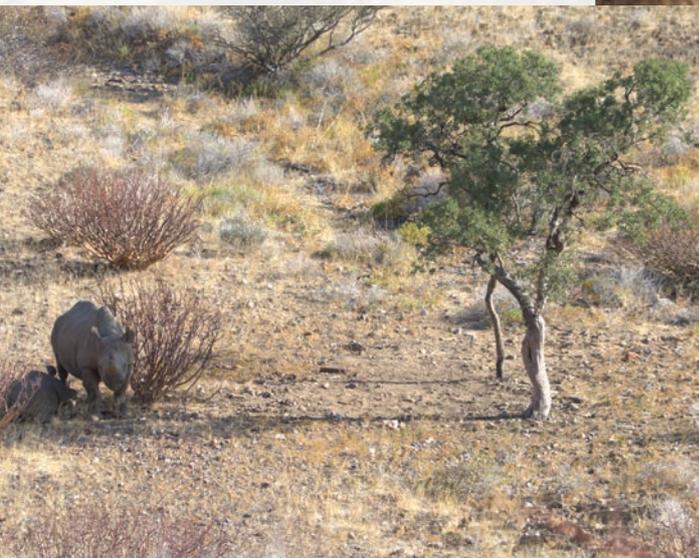
By bringing these patterns to life through an interactive map and visual analytics, the dashboard offers an intuitive way to explore trade routes, volumes, and country roles. The dashboard enables evidence-based responses to wildlife crime and supports international collaboration to disrupt trafficking networks from synthesis of the complex data. Ultimately, the data underscores the need for priority action, coordinated enforcement against organised crime, and targeted demand reduction efforts to protect rhino populations from the ongoing threat of illegal trade.

causing rivers to swell and burst their banks, inundating protected areas and sweeping away vulnerable individual rhinos – some rescued, some stranded, and, tragically, some dead, with carcasses washing up as far away as Bangladesh.

Even coastal ecosystems are not immune. In Indonesia's Ujung Kulon National Park – the last refuge of the Javan rhino (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) – rising sea levels threaten to submerge the low-lying forest. At the same time, the Park lies in a region prone to tectonic and volcanic activity, leaving the Park vulnerable to tsunamis, like the one triggered by the 2018 Anak Krakatau eruption, which devastated parts of the Park's coastline. Here, water is both the giver and the taker of life: the same coastal tides that help sustain the Park's lush vegetation could one day flood the ground on which this species – just – survives.

Across the globe, a common truth emerges: the survival of rhinos depends on the water that flows through their landscapes. Whether drowning the land or drying it to dust, the entire ecological balance shifts when water no longer follows centuries-old cycles.

By supporting the protection and restoration of habitats, and promoting sustainable land and water practices, Save the Rhino International strengthens efforts to shield wildlife and communities from the worst impacts of climate change.



Kenya Rhino Range Expansion

Building a Future for Black Rhinos

In the 1980s, Kenya's black rhinos stood on the brink of extinction, victims of a devastating poaching crisis that swept across the continent. Over the past three decades, through careful planning, collaboration, and a stalwart commitment to protect what was nearly lost, Kenya has brought its rhino population back.

Jamie Gaymer | Lead, Kenya Rhino Range Expansion

Today, Kenya is one of Africa's most important strongholds for black rhino, representing nearly 80% of the Eastern black rhino subspecies (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*). Despite this incredible rebound, a lack of connected and secure habitat means the national population has reached carrying capacity in many sanctuaries. Expanding safe, well-managed rhino range is therefore critical to ensure continued population growth and long-term genetic viability.



The Kenya Rhino Range Expansion (KRRE) programme was established in 2025 as a dedicated non-profit working closely with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), the Wildlife Research & Training Institute (WRTI), and the Association of Private and Community Land Rhino Sanctuaries (APLRS). Its mandate is to support rhino range expansion objectives as encapsulated within the Recovery and Action Plan for the Black Rhino in Kenya (2022–26). Kenya's forward thinking Black Rhino Plan

is focused on creating new, secure habitats to sustain and grow viable breeding populations, as well as strengthening landscape-level connectivity between existing sanctuaries. In parallel with the national rhino expansion strategy, KRRE is committed to develop approaches that will support new nature-based economies and local livelihoods for communities and conservancies inhabited by black rhino.

Rhino conservation in Kenya has made significant progress in recent years. Loisaba Conservancy received rhinos for the first time

ALL IMAGES KRRE



CONVENTION ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN ENDANGERED SPECIES

CITES CoP20 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan



Dedicated efforts from teams on the ground are critical for rhino conservation. However, real change in the level of threat to the five

rhino species is dependent upon effective international policies to control the illegal trade in rhino horn. As demand for rhino horn comes from countries other than those in which they live, action is essential in countries where horn is consumed and those through which it is trafficked as well as rhino range states.

CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is the international governmental agreement working to ensure that trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten species survival. In 2025, CITES is marking 50 years of regulating the world's international wildlife trade. 185 countries, known as Parties, are joined to the Convention and meet in-person every two to three years at a Conference of the Parties or CoP. The twentieth CITES CoP happened in Samarkand, Uzbekistan in November and December 2025. Save the Rhino co-hosted a side event with the International Rhino Foundation, Parties and rhino experts to review how CITES can best support impactful rhino conservation (*above*).

What did it mean for rhinos? For each CoP, the CITES Secretariat commissions the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) African and Asian Rhino Specialist Groups and TRAFFIC to produce a report on African and Asian Rhinoceroses Status, Conservation and Trade. This report collates information including live rhino numbers, poaching losses and seizures of rhino horn from the Parties. The Secretariat uses the report to make recommendations about actions to be taken by Parties where illegal markets for rhinoceros horn exist and by those affected by rhinoceros poaching and trafficking. Parties report back to the CITES Secretariat on their progress, making this an important mechanism to direct and monitor enforcement actions along the transnational rhino horn supply chains.

CITES functions by subjecting international trade in specimens of different species to different levels of control dependent upon certain criteria. At CoPs, Parties can propose amendments to the listing criteria of their populations of species, including rhinos, and therefore the level of control over international trade in their specimens, such as rhino horn. Any such proposals are discussed and voted upon by the Parties and must achieve two-thirds support to be accepted. At CITES CoP20, Namibia submitted proposals to amend the listing of both their white and black rhino populations to allow international trade of their horn stockpile. Parties considered these proposals and the effectiveness of controls to regulate any legal horn sales and horn stockpiles as well as controls to prevent illegal horns entering the proposed legal trade mechanisms and the risks to other rhino populations. Ultimately, neither proposal was accepted and all international trade in rhino horn remains illegal.

in over 50 years and Segera welcomed a founder population of black rhinos in May. At the end of 2025, there are three conservancies applying to host rhinos in Central Kenya. In Tsavo West National Park, the KWS is driving a flagship project within the national plan with the support of the KRRE. This exciting project includes the construction of new ranger bases, fence realignment, digital radio networks, and ecological monitoring systems. Each of these milestones represents a step toward to relocating surplus rhinos from saturated sanctuaries into new, secure, and productive habitats.

KRRE builds on the foundation laid by recent translocation successes at Sera Community Conservancy, Loisaba and Segera Conservancies, and commitment from key Kenyan rhino conservancies that have hosted rhinos for decades, such as Ol Jogi, Lewa, Borana and Ol Pejeta. The programme ambition is to facilitate the establishment of more than 20 new rhino conservancies across Kenya over the next decade. These converted ranges will generate local jobs from increased ranger capacity and new tourism opportunities, stimulate conservation-linked enterprise, and enhance ecological resilience, delivering biodiversity and socio-economic gains.

We work with both the public and private sectors to help advise and fund key rhino projects, as well as to strengthen governance, human rights compliance, and socio-economic partnerships with local communities and county governments. As KRRE grows, the continued collaboration between the Government of Kenya, the community sector and Kenya's private landowners will remain essential.

Save the Rhino has been a key partner throughout this journey. From its early involvement in Kenya's national rhino strategy development and long-standing support for many of Kenya's rhino conservancies, Save the Rhino has strategically supported sustainable rhino conservation efforts for more than a decade. Our enduring partnership continues today, with Save the Rhino providing financial and strategic support to the KRRE initiative, ensuring that lessons from Kenya's past four decades of rhino conservation inform a new generation of successful rhino conservancies.

Together, we are safeguarding one of the last strongholds of the Eastern black rhino, securing critical landscapes for generations to come and ensuring that range expansion delivers inclusive and equitable benefits for Kenyans.

Rhino Dynasties

Over the decades, the strong social structures and individual characters that black rhinos develop during their lifetimes become sagas intertwined with the life histories of the rhino conservationists involved in their management.

Raoul du Toit and Natasha Anderson | Lowveld Rhino Trust

All images: Efforts to recover populations of this Critically Endangered species have not been without challenges, from the impacts of snaring to the practice of getting rhinos into their crates for translocations to establish new populations

Far right: *Inunwa being loaded for relocation*

Three black rhino cows from Zimbabwe provide fascinating examples of rhinos with different chapters in their conservation history. The 2000s were challenging years for wildlife conservation in Zimbabwe due to the political environment and resulting insecure land tenure. Inunwa, Sitholiwe, and Floppy lived in a group of over 30 rhinos north of the city of Bulawayo, on what had been a cattle ranch.

Their home was turned into diminishing and insecure patches of habitat, fragmented by subsistence farming and small-scale mines. Inunwa and the other founders of this population had previously been moved there from the Zambezi Valley to escape the impacts of cross-border poaching in the early 1990s.

The rhinos settled well and showed strong population growth for slightly more than a decade before the property owners were forced off their land. From experience elsewhere, Lowveld Rhino Trust (LRT) were concerned these rhinos would be picked off by poachers if they were not rescued and translocated to a safer area. Approval for the move was eventually granted, but not without ongoing political challenges meaning the operation required very careful strategic



ALL IMAGES: LOWVELD RHINO TRUST



planning and was undertaken using three helicopters and a fixed-wing aircraft.

The operation began in the sweltering heat of October 2005 with 30 black rhinos found alive to try and

save. A third of these animals had already been snared with heavy duty mining cable leaving some scarred by their wounds. Floppy (*above*) was so-named as her ear permanently flopped due to an injury from a snare; other rhinos still had snare cables embedded in their flesh.

Four animals were so badly injured they did not survive the translocation. The oldest rhino in the group was the ex-Zambezi cow Inunwa, now about 30 years old.



More sensitive than they appear, black rhinos form strong connections with other members of their species that live in the vicinity

Above: Inuwa's calf is sedated while Inuwa is loaded for relocation

The youngest was one month old Chain (*below*) – so small he was translocated in a compartment of a modified lion crate on the back of a pick-up.

The 26 survivors settled into their new home in Buby Valley Conservancy (BVC) with 54 other refugee rhinos recently translocated by LRT from other insecure areas. Like those translocated before them, these new immigrants

showed an uncanny ability to seek out familiar animals in their vast new landscape. Inunwa settled in next to Sitholiwe who in turn neighboured Floppy. To date, these three females have produced 40 progeny in BVC. Collectively, over the 20 years since they were moved, the 26 rescued rhinos have produced 120 offspring.

Of course, there have also been losses – both poaching and natural. Inunwa (*top right*) has since died of old age. She was found by LRT's monitors while tracking her granddaughter, who visited her grandmother's bones site. The tracks of rhino's relatives and neighbours have often led patrols to the bodies of sometimes long-dead rhinos, indicating that relationships between rhinos may be much deeper and more durable than we realise. When Floppy's daughter died, leaving behind a 19-month-old orphan, it was Inunwa's great-grandson Ivan who joined up with the vulnerable calf for over a year.



Below: Sitholiwe and calf resting with a BVC bull



In 2021, when selecting rhinos to create a new population in Gonarezhou National Park (GNP), particular attention was given to their social bonds.

Chain, the tiny calf who arrived more than 15 years previously, was selected for the move along with some of the females in his home range. On release in GNP, Chain established his new home range encompassing his familiar females from Buby Valley. These females have all gone on to quickly produce calves in their new home – further contributing to the recovery of this magnificent species.



Running for Rhinos and Rangers

ForRangers Ultra 2025

Over five days and covering 230 km, runners from around the world ran alongside and were protected by wildlife rangers at the 2025 ForRangers Ultra in Kenya. Together, this year's runners raised more than £125,000 for ranger welfare.



“The two-way exchange of support and gratitude between the rangers and the runners is a feeling that tops the fulfilment charts. It’s a true win-win experience!”

Now in its eighth iteration, Save the Rhino International, ForRangers and Beyond the Ultimate worked harder than ever before to create more meaningful interactions between ranger and runner. Each runner received a Save the Rhino wristband with one instruction: pass it on to a ranger! By the end of

the Ultra, hardly any runners still had their band. Instead, they appeared on the wrists of rangers, small symbols of powerful interactions shared along the route.

We also drew on our work with primary schools in the UK, sharing heartfelt letters from students with runners to hand to rangers they met along the way. These messages of thanks and admiration from children thousands of miles away showed a deeper understanding of the value of protecting wildlife.

With temperatures plummeting overnight, and participants camped out in tents, sleep-filled nights were few and far between, but still the runners faced everyday head on, with optimism and excitement, overall morale remaining high.

Whilst there was a constant atmosphere of determination and excitement, taking on an Ultra can also be a really emotional experience. Everyone participating has their why; from a passion for supporting rangers and wildlife, to dealing with grief; overcoming the limits of a past health struggle, or pushing through personal mental battles.

This meant that bonds formed quickly between the runners, as they leaned on each other for support and shared their personal stories. Runners who joined the race alone, ended up with companions to tackle each tough route with, forming unique bonds and lifelong memories.



Gillian and Keith Silverthorn (above)

'The best five days of my life so far started on my 65th birthday' said Gillian.

“I don't know how to describe it; from the animals we saw on the way, rhino, elephant, buffalo, giraffe, zebra and many more. We even got introduced to Bella an orphaned black rhino. The course was tough and challenging with the heat added in but every time I felt like grinding to a halt a ranger popped out of a bush, and I soon remembered the reason I was out there doing it.

'I don't think you can quite imagine what these rangers do until you've seen them and listened to their stories around the fire pit in the evenings from Raj from Save the Rhino, Kris from Beyond the Ultimate and the rangers themselves.

'When I finished, I said never again but the blisters are healed, and the exhaustion seemed to disappear as I crossed the finish line, and I know I'll be back.'

Below: Barbara McNulty crosses the finish line on the last day of the ForRangers Ultra 2025



Chris Gordon (right)

'The ForRangers Ultra is truly a once in a lifetime experience – highly recommended. Perhaps I can twist your arm to sign up to support our wildlife rangers? And if not, at least reach into your pockets and donate a little to this important cause.

“After a few beers, my arm had been twisted into signing up to run the ForRangers Ultra by my neighbour, Flick Taylor. While I had previously run the London Marathon for Save the Rhino back in 2003, I am certainly not a regular long-distance runner. 230 km over five days, 'You must be mad!' I was told repeatedly (often by my wife).

'By the time the race came, I was ready, or at least I thought I was. Day Two was a brutal reality check – a tough 10 km climb to start the day left me struggling through to the finish – hot, exhausted and dehydrated. Through those tough moments, I kept going, thinking of the generosity of all those friends and family that had kindly sponsored me, and thinking of why I was running – to raise money to support these incredible wildlife rangers'.



Michelle Bergsma (right)

'The ForRangers Ultra isn't just a race. This event is an opportunity to commit to a purpose that is sure to fill your heart.

“Fundraising is fulfilling in any circumstance, but being able to directly see the positive impact those efforts have on the individual rangers brings it to the next level. The two-way exchange of support and gratitude between the rangers and the runners is a feeling that tops the fulfilment charts. It's a true win-win experience!

Fundraising and financials 2024–25

Our commitment to you

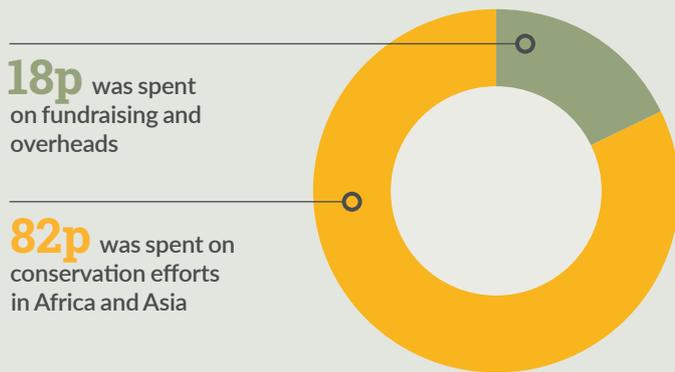
We are committed to using the money we receive wisely, making sure that every penny donated has the biggest impact for rhinos, the people conserving them and the landscapes they roam.

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.

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

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

In the 2024–25 financial year, **for every £1 donated to Save the Rhino:**



Statement of financial activities

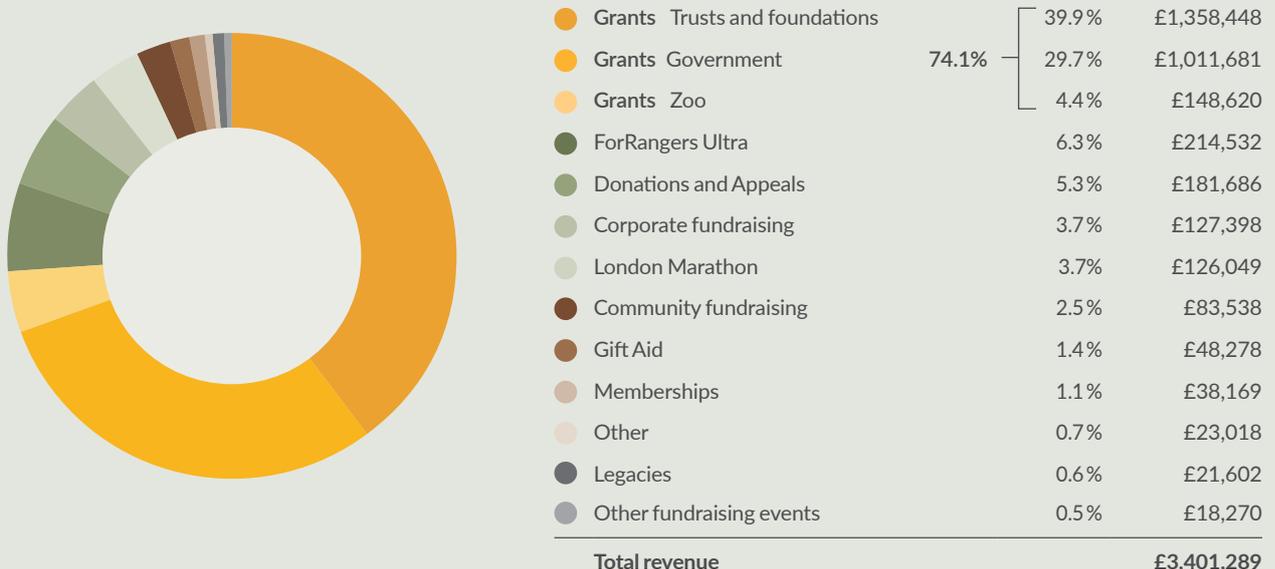
Below is an overview of our financials, from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

For the year ended 31 March 2025

Incoming resources	
Donations and legacies	£ 854,332
Charitable activities	£2,534,349
Other trading activities	£10,587
Investments	£2,021
Total incoming resources	£3,401,289
Expenditure	
Raising funds	£619,544
Charitable activities	£2,859,915
Other	£4,577
Total expenditure	£3,484,036
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	(£82,747)
Transfers between funds	-
Net movement in funds for the year	(£82,747)
Reconciliation of funds	
Total funds brought forward	£1,216,499
Total of funds carried forward	£1,133,752

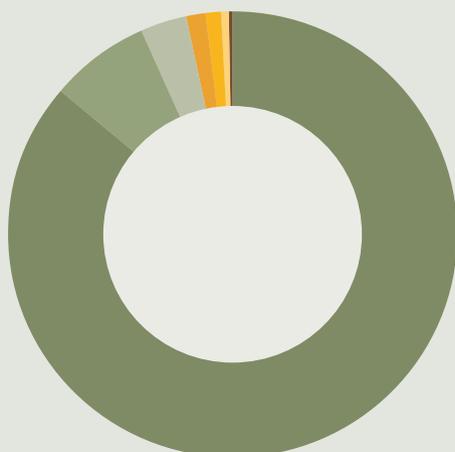
Fundraising by area

Total income for the year ended 31 March 2025



Grants by species

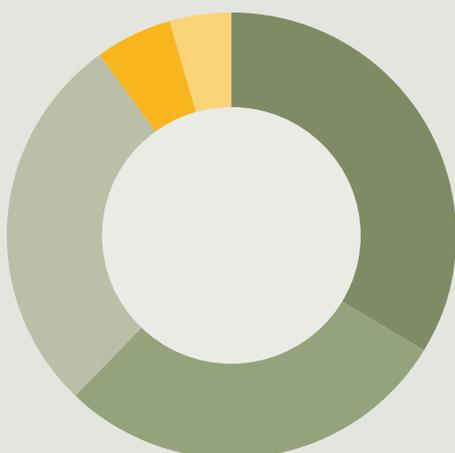
Total income for the year ended 31 March 2025



White and Black	84.1%	£2,221,040
Black (South western)	8.2%	£216,854
Black (South central)	4.1%	£109,337
Sumatran	1.5%	£40,436
Miscellaneous	1.1%	£29,159
Javan	0.7%	£17,317
Black (Eastern)	0.3%	£7,017
Total		£2,641,161

Grants by objective

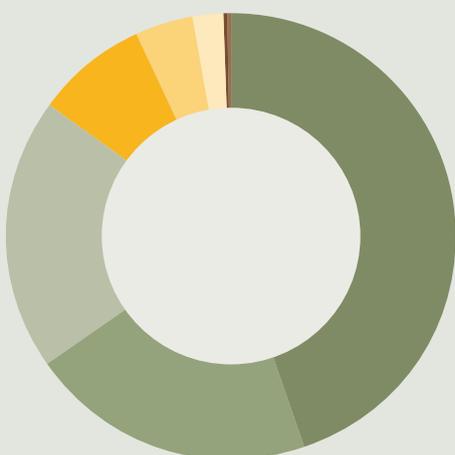
Total grants awarded for the year ended 31 March 2025



Capacity Building	33.8%	£891,555
Protection and Investigations	28.7%	£756,800
Biological Management	27.8%	£734,672
Engaging Communities	5.4%	£143,396
Coordination	4.3%	£114,738
Total		£2,641,161

Grants by location

Total grants awarded for the year ended 31 March 2025



Kenya	44.7%	£1,181,401
Namibia	20.6%	£545,012
South Africa	19.7%	£519,986
Africa (miscellaneous)	8.1%	£215,153
Zambia	4.1%	£109,337
Indonesia	2.2%	£57,752
UK	0.2%	£6,560
Zimbabwe	0.2%	£5,959
Total		£2,641,161

Rounding errors mean figures may not add up exactly to 100%.



Rhino cap From £27

Show your support for Rhino conservation.

100% organic cotton with recycled, rPET peak. Features an adjustable YKK metal buckle for adjusting size. Various designs and colours*.



Kid's t-shirts

From £15

Printed front only or back and front.

100% organic cotton. Various designs and colours. Sized by age, 3 to 12 years.*



Unisex hoodie From £45

Printed front only or back and front.

100% organic cotton. Various designs and colours.*



Become a member

Your membership can help rhinos thrive for generations to come

When you become a member, you help fund the vital fieldwork that protects endangered rhinos and the communities who share their landscapes.

Your support makes a real difference.

Join from £4.50 per month or £50 per year

Shop the Wild & Wonderful Collection

Celebrating rhinos and the beauty of their wild homes

We're excited to unveil our latest merch collaboration: a celebration of rhinos and the wild places they call home.

This collection features the incredible work of **Trista Yen | Miss Noproblem** (left), an illustrator and storyteller whose dreamy, emotion-filled art has captured hearts around the world.

All our merchandise is made with sustainability in mind, using organic or recycled materials and planet-friendly inks. Every item is designed to be loved, worn and reused, helping protect the wild places rhinos call home.

Shop the Wild & Wonderful Collection
savetherhinoclothing.com/wild-and-wonderful



Asian Rhino water bottle £22

This bottle is perfect for everyday use at work, school or on outdoor adventures.

High-grade stainless steel 500ml water bottle with double-wall construction. Insulated for hot or cold liquids. Leak-proof cap.



Rhino Trio iPhone case £40

Protect your iPhone made from 100% biodegradable materials and printed in a renewable-energy powered facility.

iPhone 12 to iPhone 16 Plus. One colour.
7 different designs available.

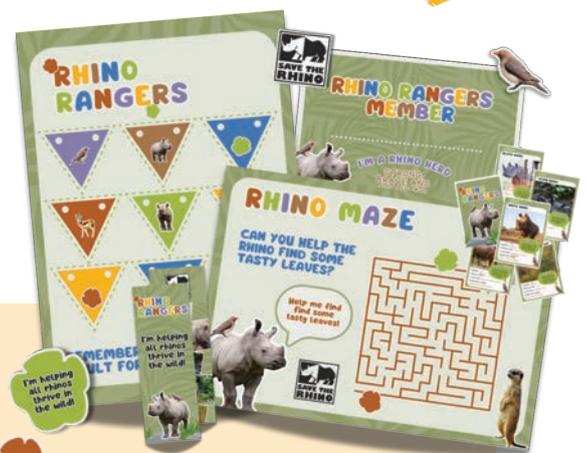


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*Colours shown are matched as closely as printing process allows. Please check the sizing chart provided on each garment page. See our website for more details about payment options and T&Cs

Personalised goodies From £15

Personalise lots of our Rhino goodies in the Wild and Wonderful collection for the rhino fan in your life.



RHINO RANGERS

KIDS' MEMBERSHIP

As a Rhino Rangers member, you'll get:

- A posted Rhino Rangers pack (above) with goodies including a membership card and certificate, a Rhino Ranger badge, bookmark, keyring, activity sheets, stickers and five rhino fact cards (one for each species)
- Regular emails featuring rhino facts, stories and downloadable activities.

Become a Rhino Ranger today!



INTERNATIONAL RHINO FOUNDATION
COURTESY OF THE INDONESIAN MINISTRY OF FORESTRY

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George Stephenson | *Chair*

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Benedict Allen

Christina Franco

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Fergal Keane

Francesco Nardelli

Friederike von Houwald

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Jim Hearn

Kenneth Donaldson

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Design and layout

Alex Rhind

Printing Park Communications
www.parkcom.co.uk

This magazine is printed using 100% vegetable-oil based inks on a paper containing 100% Environmental Chlorine Free (ECF) virgin fibre sourced from FSC-certified forests.

On average 99% of any waste associated with this production will be recycled.



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