

# guide to rhinos

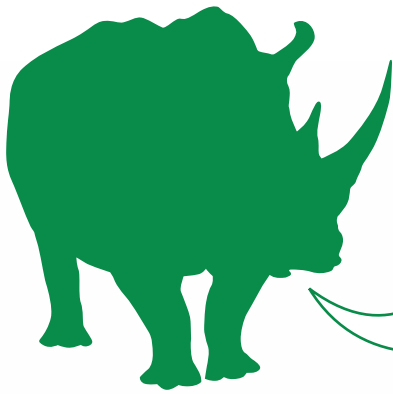


**environmental affairs**  
Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**UNITE AGAINST POACHING**



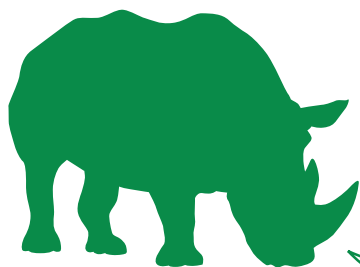


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# foreword



South Africans are shocked and angry that our rhino population is facing this onslaught from unscrupulous poaching syndicates. Everyone remains concerned about the plight of these ancient animals, especially since they have become the focus of alleged international poaching syndicates bent on feeding the illicit trade in rhino horn.

The spate of rhino poaching has strengthened our determination to work tirelessly to address the scourge of rhino poaching. While our government continues to play a major role in preserving these iconic animals, the private sector also plays an important part. Of the estimated 20 000 rhino in South Africa, around 25 per cent are privately owned. As a means of addressing the poaching scourge, the Cabinet in July approved that South Africa prepare and submit a rhino trade proposal for consideration at the 17th Conference of Parties (CoP) of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 2016.

The Cabinet also approved the establishment of a Task Team to assist in preparation for the CoP17 CITES, and ensure issues such as the appropriate model for trade, additional control measures and potential trade partners are addressed. The decision to table a proposal at the next CITES CoP was not taken lightly. It followed an extensive public consultation process, nationally and internationally. My appeal is that trade should not be viewed in isolation from all our endeavours to save our rhinos. We will not allow our rhino population to be decimated on our watch.

We are aggressively implementing new and amended legislation and policies, reviewing existing programmes to ensure they meet the needs of those who fight the war on poaching on the ground, and constantly exploring new alternatives to end this scourge. Details of these initiatives are outlined in the pages of this booklet.

Our rhino population may still be viable and stable, but it will require concerted cooperation from government, NGOs and the private sector – the involvement of all – in order to end the on-going poaching of our rhino. Through the Department's work inside and outside South Africa, it has become abundantly clear that no community or country can work on its own to combat wildlife crime. That is why we are working to improve cooperation with NGOs, non-profit organisations and community-based structures.

Protecting our rhino is everyone's responsibility.

**Edna Molewa, MP, Minister of Water and  
Environmental Affairs, September 2013**

## glossary

### **onslaught**

things that come at the same time and are difficult to deal with

### **unscrupulous**

willing to do things that are unfair, dishonest or illegal

### **scourge**

something that causes a lot of trouble or harm

### **iconic**

very famous and well known, and believed to represent a particular idea





At the end of the 19th century, which coincided with the proclamation of Umfolozi Game reserve in 1897, only few white rhino were left in Zululand and Mozambique. By 1960, the population had steadily grown to 700 in Umfolozi, which then led to Operation Rhino – the relocation across South Africa and to zoological gardens worldwide – thus securing the free-ranging white rhino population in Africa, which now stands at about 20 000 animals.

The Kruger National Park played a major role in the recovery of this species, now accounting for about 53% of the rhino in South Africa. The white rhino became extinct in the Lowveld by around 1896, with the last living specimens recorded in the dense Nwathimhiri bush south-east of Skukuza in 1895.

In 1961, the first white rhino were reintroduced to Kruger and in the ensuing 12-year period, a total of 345 white rhino were relocated successfully from the Umfolozi Game Reserve. White rhinos in Kruger have increased steadily at about 9.5% per annum, and by 2010 there were just over 10 000 animals – by far the largest rhino population in the world.

The last black rhino (*Diceros bicornis minor*) in the Kruger National Park was seen in 1936, and in 1971 the first black rhino from Natal were released in the park. In total, 78 black rhino were relocated there (far fewer and much later than the white rhino), the last ones arriving in 1998. Kruger's black rhino population is currently estimated at around 650 animals, which also makes it the largest black rhino population in the world.

Black rhino population trends also show a healthy 7% per annum growth rate and the park can accommodate significantly more of these rare animals. It is important to introduce more black rhino, especially from smaller populations that cannot sustain such a healthy growth rate. The Kruger National Park's black rhino population has also contributed to the conservation of black rhino internationally by donating 44 animals to establish new populations in South Africa, Malawi, Zambia and Botswana. Poaching is a current threat to all rhino populations in Africa, and in 2012/2013, the Kruger National Park lost 821 rhino to poaching. SANParks is tackling this problem at both national and international levels, and a number of poachers have been apprehended and poaching networks busted.

It is for this reason that we are excited about every effort made by all South Africans in the fight against rhino poaching. This is not only encouraging, but it has become a necessary movement to push back the evil deed of killing our heritage to a point of extinction.

Lastly, it is important to continue in our efforts as a human race to Unite Against Poaching and ensure that the perpetrators, some living among ourselves, are dealt with accordingly following the precepts of the law. It is our belief that Someone, Somewhere knows of Someone Committing this Crime against our Precious African Giants.

**Dr David Mabunda, CEO Kruger National Park**  
**September 2013**

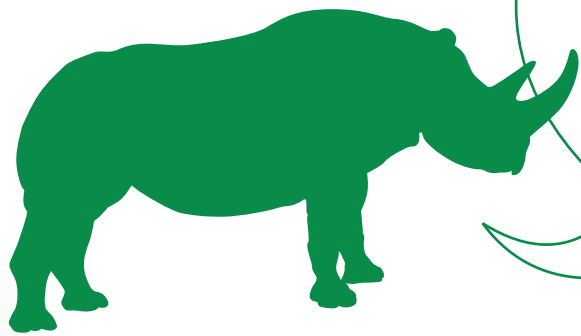
#### **endeavours**

a formal effort to do something, often new and difficult

#### **decimated**

to spoil or destroy something





Read all about me, then

help  
save me!

All hoofed animals are generally referred to as ungulates. In Africa, rhinos and equids (horses and zebras) are the only ungulates to have an odd number of toes.

## How many species of rhino are there?

### African rhino species

- Black rhino, *Diceros bicornis*
- White rhino, *Ceratotherium simum*

### Asian rhino species

- Greater one-horned (Indian) rhino, *Rhinoceros unicornis*
- Sumatran rhino, *Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*
- Javan rhino, *Rhinoceros sondaicus*

## What are the differences between black and white rhinos?

- The biggest difference between the two animals is size – white rhinos are almost twice as big as black rhinos.
- In white rhinos there is a big difference in the size of their two horns – the front one is always longer. In black rhinos either one horn or the other is longer.
- Black rhinos are more temperamental and excitable than white rhinos.

### Physical differences:

White rhino		Black rhino	
Pointed, tufted ears		Rounded ears	
Flattish back with hump near middle		<u>Concave</u> back	
Elongated head, usually held down		Rounded head, usually held up	
Square upper lip for grazing		Pointed, <u>prehensile</u> upper lip for browsing	
Young usually runs ahead of mother		Young usually runs behind mother	
Tail curled above the back		Tail held out straight when alarmed	
Not recorded to have <u>lesions</u>		Some have lesions on the side of the body	

## glossary

### ungulates

hoofed mammals

### temperamental

changing from one mood to another very quickly

### lesions

damaged skin or wounds

### concave

curved inwards or downwards



## What is the horn made of?

The horn is made up of keratin. It grows from the skin and is not attached to the skull, but rests on the frontal (nasal) bone. It continuously grows at about 6–10 cm a year.

## What are rhinos' senses like?

Their eyesight is poor, but hearing and smell are both very good. Rhinos are able to smell humans on foot from at least 200 m if there is a slight wind in their favour. The ears move independently even while the animal is sleeping, and rhinos are instantly alert to strange sounds.

## What enemies do rhinos have?

The adults have few enemies, with humans having by far the largest impact. Young rhinos, particularly newborns, are feeble and unstable. They are often attacked by lion and clans of spotted hyena.



Rhino and lion in close proximity (Trevor Carnaby from *Beat about the Bush*)

## How do rhinos defend themselves?

Rhinos are able to defend themselves because of their size, thick skin and horns. Their senses are well developed and help them detect danger. The only real defence calves have is that their eyesight is slightly better than the adults. They also stay close to, and rely on, their mother for safety until they are three years old.

## How do rhinos interact with each other?

Adult black rhinos are mostly solitary, although they may form groups of up to 12 individuals. Mother and daughters may stay together for long periods of time, while females that do not have offspring join a neighbouring female. Conflict usually arises when outsiders enter an area already utilised by a crash of rhino. During courtship, conflict over a female may result in the death of one of the competing males.

### prehensile

capable of grasping something, such as a branch

### keratin

a protein material that is the major part of nails, claws and hooves

### crash

the collective name for a family or group of rhino; also sometimes called a herd or a stubbornness of rhino!



## Other interesting facts

### RHINO ARE THE SECOND-LARGEST LAND MAMMALS AFTER ELEPHANT

The white rhino and greater one-horned rhino weigh about 1 600–2 300 kg; are about 1.8 m in height; and 3.5–4.5 m in length. The smallest rhino species is the Sumatran rhino with a height of 1–1.5 m. The black rhino's weight is 800–1 100 kg; and height 1.6–2 m.



### DESPITE THEIR LARGE SIZE, RHINOS ARE FAST AND AGILE

They can run 50 km/h for short distances and can turn on a 'dime'.

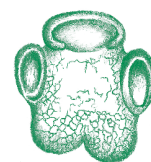


### SCIENTIFIC TESTING HAS CONFIRMED THAT RHINO HORN IS NOT MEDICINE

International research has shown that the illegal trade in rhino horn poses the greatest threat to rhinos. Scientific research has shown that rhino horn holds almost no medicinal value. But in some traditional circles it is still believed it can treat high fevers and cure cancer. Because rhino horn consists largely of keratin, it means it has the same health effect as chewing your finger nails.

### RHINOS HAVE THREE TOES ON EACH FOOT

Although rhinos, along with hippos and elephants, are referred to as pachyderms, rhinos are actually more closely related to tapirs and horses. Rhinos, tapirs and horses are found in the order of Perissodactyla (odd-toed ungulates).



White Rhino



Black Rhino

### RHINOS CAN BE TRAINED

Rhinos living in zoos need plenty of mental stimulation for good health. Captive rhinos are trained using treats and clickers to understand several commands, so that keepers and vets can perform thorough health examinations, especially on their sensitive feet. Rhinos can also learn their names, and most of them enjoy human attention, such as a good scratch.



## glossary

### dime

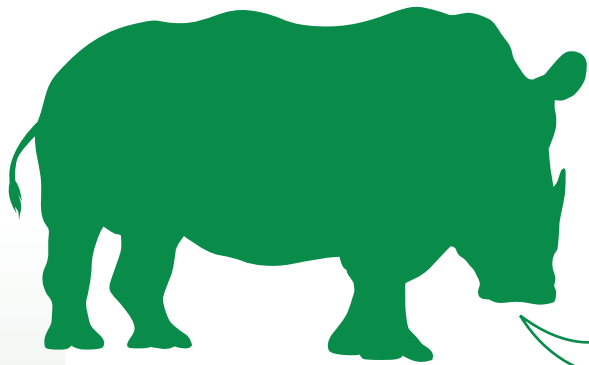
an idiom for something that can turn around very fast; a dime is a small USA coin (it is also sometimes said you can turn on a 'tickey' – an old small SA coin)

### pachyderms

large animals with thick skin, such as rhinos, elephants and hippos

### tapirs

animals with long noses that live in tropical forests



# Learn about rhinos' habitats

## Rhino species and their habitats

Two species of rhino live in Africa: the white rhino and the black rhino.

### 1 BLACK RHINOS HAVE THREE SUB-SPECIES

- the southwestern black rhino live mostly in the western parts of southern Africa;
- the south-eastern black rhino live in the eastern parts of southern Africa; and
- the eastern black rhino are found in eastern Africa.

Black rhinos prefer areas with lots of shrubs, usually part of a well-developed woodland or thicket. They also like to live quite close to water for drinking as well as bathing and mud-wallowing. Black rhinos can therefore live in a wide variety of habitats. These range from forests to savanna woodlands and shrubs; and from sea level to altitudes of 2 700 m above sea level.

### 2 WHITE RHINOS HAVE TWO SUB-SPECIES

- the southern white rhino living in southern Africa; and
- the few individuals of the northern white rhino in eastern Africa.

White rhinos prefer landscapes with lots of grass cover and open scrubland. They also need permanent water, shade and quite flat ground.



(Clive Walker from *The Rhino Keepers*)



(Clive Walker from *The Rhino Keepers*)

#### mental stimulation

encouraging the rhino to do something for its benefit and good health



# Rhinos and the ecosystem

## The relationship between rhino and the ecosystem

- Both species of rhinos can be thought of as ‘ecological engineers’ – they change vegetation that can create habitat for other species.
- Black rhinos feed on shrubs and small trees and may often open up areas that have experienced bush thickening or encroachment. The pathways that they create provide access routes for other species.
- White rhinos are key role-players in creating grazing lawns – areas of high-nutrient concentration where several other grazers, such as wildebeest and buffalo, can feed on highly nutritious grass.
- Both species can have influences on nutrient cycling. They can also provide food for insects, such as dung beetles, through the vast amount of dung produced on a daily basis.
- Rhinos can be seen as keystone species as their influence on ecosystems is large even though other species may be much more abundant than rhinos.



(Clive Walker from *The Rhino Keepers*)

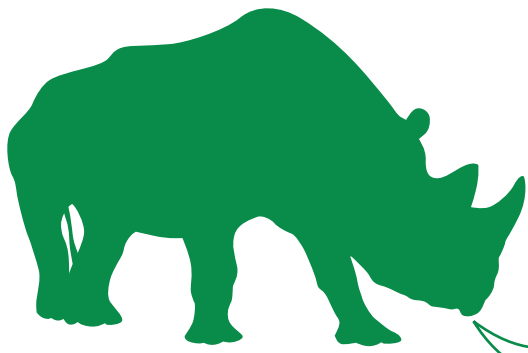
## glossary

### encroachment

the invasion or thickening of aggressive undesired woody species resulting in an imbalance of the grass:bush ratio

### keystone species

these are highly important species because they have a big influence on ecosystems



# What are the threats to rhinos?

- South Africa is home to 39% of the world's black rhinos – during 2012 just over 2 000 black rhinos lived here.
- South Africa is home to 93% of the world's white rhinos – during 2012, nearly 19 000 white rhinos lived here.

## The three major threats to species like rhinos

1

### HABITAT REDUCTION AND DESTRUCTION REDUCE AVAILABLE AREAS

This is relatively minor seeing there are so many formal protected areas and private properties that carry suitable habitats for both species of rhinos.

2

### DISEASES

There are very few disease-related threats to rhinos – both in the past and currently.

3

### ILLEGAL KILLING OF RHINOS

This is by far the greatest threat. The horns are sold in the Far East as ornamental decorations or various forms of traditional medicine. The illegal killing resulted in a dramatic decline of rhinos up to the end of the 1980s. With incredible effort, conservationists have managed to increase the numbers of both species. But since then, a renewed poaching attack is threatening to ruin these successes. Between 2008 and mid-2013 more than 2 000 rhino had been poached in South Africa for their horns. If this continues, rhino numbers will seriously decline by 2016.



Skulls of poached rhinos in the '70s and '80s at Wereldsend in Damaraland. (Clive Walker from *The Rhino Keepers*)





# Help **save** the **rhinos!**

## Ways of saving rhinos

There are several options that are being discussed about ways to save rhinos. The reason for poaching rhinos is directly associated with the price that a poacher can get for a rhino horn. So conservationists need to think about what would happen if management intervened. The price of horn would then increase with more users, but less horn available. The ways that conservationists can respond to this are the following:

### 1 PROTECT RHINO ASSETS IN AREAS WHERE THEY LIVE

Successful protection of rhino assets reduces the available supply of horn. This means that the price of horn would probably increase. There are two ways to do this:

- Rhino assets can be protected by technology that directly involves the rhino:
  - dehorning
  - chemically treating horns
  - fitting satellite technology to rhinos
  - implanting micro-chips into horns
  - obtaining DNA samples for horn

These methods would discourage poachers from killing a rhino. They would also link poachers to cases once they were captured.



Black rhino in holding pen in 1998. The horn has been tipped prior to releasing into the wild in order to minimise any injury to other rhinos. (Clive Walker from *The Rhino Keepers*)

## glossary

### conservationists

people who work to protect the environment from damage or destruction

### technology

advanced scientific knowledge used for practical purposes

### DNA samples

a collection of chemical substances that are found in all living things containing genetic information

- Rhino assets can be protected by technology that first detects when a poacher has entered an area where rhinos live, and then when a poaching incident has taken place:
  - aerial-based detection sensors placed on drones
  - cellphone-based network sensors
  - shot detectors
  - night-vision equipment

This type of technology helps to improve the chances of capturing a poacher, preferably before a rhino has been killed.

## 2 REDUCE THE DEMAND FOR HORN IN CONSUMER COUNTRIES

This would need to take place at the same time as the above method of protecting rhino assets. It is a very complex process because telling people that traditional ways of using horn for medicine is wrong can be seen as culturally discriminating. Even so, several media and advertising campaigns are in progress.

## 3 SUPPLY HORN IN SOME OTHER FORMAT

This method may directly influence the price of horn. There are several ways to supply horn – selling it is only one way – but the outcomes are uncertain. Within the legal requirements internationally and within countries, different ways for supplying horn are limited. South African authorities are therefore forced to protect rhino assets – and to improve their ways of doing this. What is needed is the collapse of organised criminal networks. This would have a big influence on society through links with drug trafficking, prostitution and arms dealing.



(African Avenue)



### **drones**

unmanned aerial craft used for surveillance and other military uses

### **discriminating**

treating someone unfairly because of their beliefs

### **format**

the arrangement or makeup of something



## Dehorning of rhino

Black rhino being dehorned in Savé Valley Conservancy (Chap Masterson)



### PRACTICAL CONCERNS ASSOCIATED WITH DEHORNING

- Economic concerns
- Horn re-growth and the ideal frequency of re-dehorning
- The ideal population coverage for dehorning
- Potential impacts of dehorning on the tourism value of rhinos
- Potential impacts of dehorning on the live-sale value of rhinos
- Security issues associated with the storage of horns from dehorning

### POTENTIAL PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH DEHORNING

- Behavioural, social and ecological implications of dehorning
  - Male rhinos use their horns during fights over territory or dominance. So removal of the horn could reduce the ability of a bull to keep his territory or status.
  - They use the horns to defend calves from other rhinos.
  - They use them to defend calves from predators.
  - The mothers guide their calves using their horns.
  - They use them for digging for water, breaking branches, reaching for branches and removing bark.
- Implications for anti-predator defence

Black rhino calves are affected by predation by lions and spotted hyenas. Therefore dehorning them could affect their ability to protect themselves.

## glossary

### germinal layer

a layer of cells from which new tissue is constantly formed

### immobilised

unable to move

## POTENTIAL VETERINARY PROBLEMS

- Dehorning can cause damage to the horn base if it is cut too close to the germinal layer. This means there could be a deformed horn when it regrows.
- When a rhino is immobilised, there are risks involved. However, new drugs and methods are helping to lower the risk.

Deformed horn re-growth in a white rhino dehorned in South Africa (W. Boing)



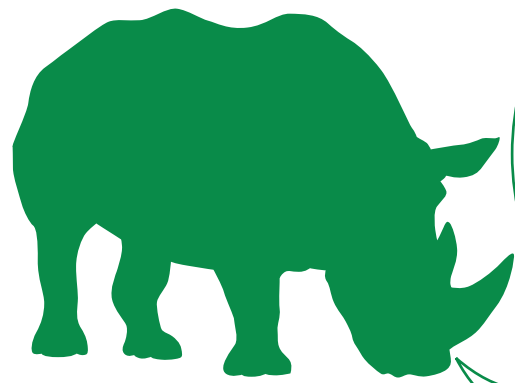
### Will dehorning ever be considered for South Africa?

Dehorning on its own is not enough to stop poaching. However, in small populations of rhino it can be used as a security intervention, but extra security must also be in place. It is not an option as a security intervention in large populations or in national parks.

The decision of whether to dehorn a rhino population or not will depend on a number of factors:

- the level of poaching threat;
- the level of security in place;
- the availability of funds; and
- the size, location and distribution of the rhino population in question.

Management of rhino	Poachers
Live rhinos are sold or traded.	Rhinos are cruelly killed.
The revenue that is generated is used to improve protected areas and to help poverty.	Ways for generating revenue are lost when poachers do management.
Selective removal led to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demographic cascades</li> <li>• Indirect long-term effect on genetic integrity of the population</li> </ul>	Selective removal through poaching led to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More adults were killed than were available in the populations.</li> <li>• The population structure was affected. Poaching is not toned by ecological management models or adaptive feedback loops.</li> </ul>



# Take **action**

## – bring an end to rhino poaching!

### Introduction

South Africa's rhinos are in crisis and could be extinct within a decade. This is a message often heard when discussing the high levels of rhino poaching in South Africa.

The message is correct in two ways:

- If nothing is done to stop rhino poaching, the number of rhino in South Africa will start to decline by 2016.
- The poaching of the country's rhinos to feed an alleged traditional medicine market is a threat to South Africa's national security. It threatens part of our national heritage and the future of the country's tourism industry.

The reality of rhino poaching, particularly in the Kruger National Park, is a major challenge.



Black rhino horns on display in a medicine shop in Taiwan in the early 1990s. (Rhino Museum Archives)

### What is the government doing?

- The Department of Environmental Affairs, the provincial conservation authorities, SANParks and departments within the Security Cluster have joined hands to fight the scourge of rhino poaching.
- In 2011 the government declared that the illegal killing and trade of rhinos and rhino horn was a threat to national security.
- The issue of rhino poaching was given to The National Joint Security Committee (NATJOINTS) in 2011 and *Operation Rhino* was established. The purpose was to help the National Strategy on the Safety and Security of Rhino in South Africa that was adopted in 2010.

### glossary

#### **alleged**

claimed to be true, even though it hasn't been proved

#### **scourge**

something that causes a lot of trouble or harm



## What other measures have been introduced?

- There is increased use of existing and new technologies. For example: drones; dog units to sniff out rhino horn, ivory and abalone being smuggled through our borders.
- There has been paramilitary training of anti-poaching units, especially in the Kruger National Park. This means that rangers can effectively act against well-armed, bush-savvy poachers. These poachers are well trained in the handling of arms and animal tracking, and are able to survive for up to two weeks while tracking a rhino.
- An amount of R75 million has been allocated by the Department to SANParks to combat rhino poaching for the 2013/14 to 2015/16 financial years. This will be used for hiring and training of additional rangers.



(African Avenue)

## What new legislation or policies have been introduced by the Department?

- *The Revised Norms and Standards for the Marking of Rhino Horn and for the Hunting of Rhinoceros for Trophies* – these were introduced in 2012 to put stricter controls in place for the issuing of rhino hunting permits, hunting of rhino and the transportation of the horn. It resulted in a big reduction in the number of hunting applications received. It also included a compulsory requirement for the submission of samples for DNA profiling.
- *The National Environmental Management Laws First Amendment Act (NEMLA)* – this is aimed at strengthening the regulatory and enforcement requirements to prevent the abuse of the permitting system. It was signed into law by President Jacob Zuma in July 2013. It is the first of a two-part legislation dealing with the management of our environment. It was decided in 2012 to split the law because the subjects covered are so big, and this included poaching.

### What makes the NEMLA First Amendment important?

- NEMLA makes sure that even a person who has *knowledge* of a crime being committed can be charged and convicted of the offence.
- NEMLA makes existing legislation firmer. For example: Presently, professional hunters, hunting outfitters and trainers only register in individual provinces. If they are non-compliant in one province, they apply to operate in another province. This new law means that these individuals must now be nationally registered.

### **bush-savvy**

people who know a lot about the bush and can move around quietly with confidence

- NEMLA makes sure that any specimens in transit through the country must have the necessary documentation. This will help prevent the movement of illegal specimens.
- NEMLA will also strengthen the regulatory and enforcement provisions in the hunting industry. It will allow the Minister to limit the number of permits that can be issued to protect a species. An issuing authority will in future be able to suspend, defer or refuse a permit.



Carcass of a poached white rhino. (Clive Walker from *The Rhino Keepers*)

## What is the Rhino Issue Management (RIM)?

RIM was set up in 2012 to help the development of a common understanding of main issues concerning the protection and sustainable conservation of rhinos. The team investigated rhino conservation, rhino safety and security, as well as rhino commerce and trade. They then made recommendations to make sure of the future survival of the rhino in a sustainable manner. Some of their recommendations are already in place.

They discovered that there is *no single solution* to the rhino poaching scourge. All efforts will need the employment of a range of strategies in different areas.

### Taking hands worldwide to curb rhino poaching

CITES is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. It is an international agreement between governments aimed at ensuring that international trade in listed specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species.

South Africa, like all CITES member states, adheres to the international agreement voluntarily. CITES is legally binding on all parties. This means that it does not replace national laws, but it provides the country with a framework that needs to be respected to make sure that we protect all species, through proper and sustainable management, from future extinction.

Source: CITES

## glossary

### sustainable

capable of continuing for a long time at the same level

### compliance

the practice of obeying a law, rule or request

### legislation

a law or set of laws

## South Africa works internationally to save the rhino

### CITES

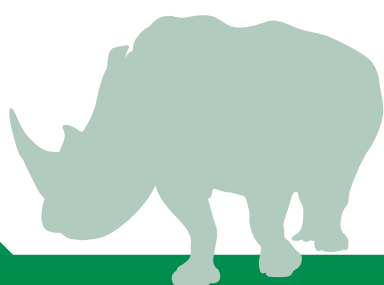
- At the 16th Conference of Parties of the CITES in March 2013, the South African government hosted a series of Side Events to start an international discussion on what is being done to conserve the country's rhino population.
- South Africa has signed a Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the affected consumer countries such as Vietnam and China. The MoU with Vietnam on cooperation in the field of Biodiversity Conservation and Protection was followed by the signing of an Implementation Plan that was set out May 2013. This Plan is particularly aimed at reinforcing efforts to address rhino poaching. It also promotes cooperation in law enforcement and compliance with CITES regulations.
- The Action Plan includes the following:
  - building capacity and promoting participation of international organisations and non-governmental organisations in the process;
  - the sharing of efforts to improve CITES enforcement measures, including CITES permitting;
  - the supply by Vietnam to South Africa of a list of all registered hunters in the country as they would be the only persons allowed to hunt legally in South Africa; and
  - joint verification of hunting applications as well as the import and export of hunting trophies and related specimens.

The following are also important: capacity building; the transfer of skills including DNA sampling and monitoring; and the creation of a gene bank.

- The MoU with China on cooperation in the fields of Wetland and Desert Ecosystems and Wildlife Conservation is also aimed at curbing the current scourge of rhino poaching. It does this through cooperation in law enforcement, compliance with international conventions and other relevant legislation on the basis of equality and mutual benefit. An Implementation Plan will also be provided.



A blindfolded white rhino bull is guided towards a crate that will hold him during his relocation in 1997. (Rhino Museum Archives)





## REGIONAL COOPERATION

In its attempt to address poaching, SANParks streamlined the ranger and protection services, including joint operations with South African and Mozambican law enforcement agencies. SANParks anti-poaching strategy also includes cooperation with officials from Limpopo National Park, as well as other initiatives around the park including alliances with strategic partners and focused work in neighbouring communities.

MoUs are being negotiated with regional partners, including Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia.

### ANTI-POACHING STRATEGY IN KNP

The Ranger Corps is now under unified command with one dedicated Support Section to ensure a high state of readiness. A Ranger Support group was established to make sure there is spiritual and psychological support to rangers and their families.

The organisation brings together the Air Wing, Protection Services, Special Rangers and rangers in a streamlined organisation. All operations are coordinated from a Joint Operation Centre from where all participants in the rhino war are guided.

The following initiatives are in place:

- The reaction capability is currently being expanded with specific emphasis on the air, canine and special ranger elements.
- Rangers are continuously retrained on a customised course, in close cooperation with the Wild Life College, to adapt to new doctrines and operational challenges.
- Applicable technologies are being explored in close cooperation with the CSIR. A unique set of such capabilities will be utilised to ensure surveillance, detection and early warning.
- On the western boundary, an agreement was signed and implemented to ensure close cooperation on specifically anti-poaching operations with all the private game reserves. Projects in communities are aimed at cooperation and ownership in the fight against poachers.
- In Mozambique agreements and plans are being implemented to cooperate with the Limpopo National Park, the concessions under Luco Turismo, the Mozambique Police and NGOs to ensure a buffer zone of allies.



(African Avenue)

## glossary

### doctrines

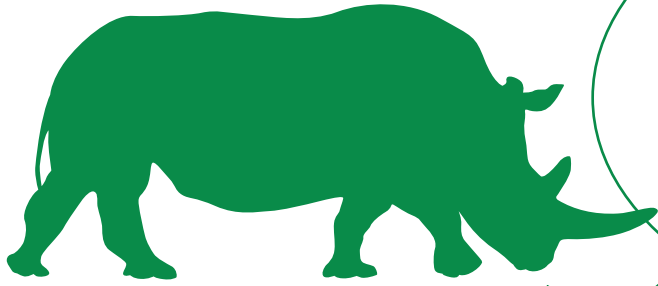
things that are taught;  
beliefs and opinions

### challenges

things that need a lot  
of skill, energy and  
determination

### buffer zone

an area of land  
between two forces



# Why is there a campaign to stop poaching?

## Reasons why there is a campaign

- Rhino poaching is an illegal activity.
- The organised crime of poaching will lead to the end of our valuable rhinos.
- Focused awareness campaigns can help to stop the increase in the selling of rhino horn. These should not only be carried out in the supplying countries (South Africa), but also in countries where there are current (and new) demands.
- Rhino poaching denies the future generation the right to see *live* wild rhinos and not just captive rhinos in a zoo or a cage.



A combined capture operation of ten black rhino by Kruger National Park and KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources. They were taken from Ndumo Game Reserve and relocated to Kruger for safe keeping in 1989. (Clive Walker from *The Rhino Keepers*)

## Potential benefits of saving the rhino

- Livelihood goals can help improve poverty. This is because human wellbeing and economic success is guaranteed. For example:
  - Direct benefits (income, food security, health)
  - Indirect benefits (capacity building, reduced vulnerability, governance, empowerment)
- Social responsibility projects improve the development of infrastructure.
- We can be proud of our heritage as Africans – this can never have a price put on it.
- Tourism potential is a great benefit. As the rhino is one of the Big Five, it helps generate revenue for us and this helps to stop poverty.
- Jobs are created through various conservation careers.
- Revenue has funded the education of students at tertiary level and helped with skills development.

## glossary

### infrastructure

the set of systems within an organisation that affect how well it operates

## Rhinos – symbols of power and might

The African leadership looked at the character of the rhino and at how it resembled their chieftaincy. Generally across Africa, traditional chiefs have been associated with, for example, the mountain and the crocodile. They are symbols of power and authority. The crocodile rules the waters, and these waters represent the kingdom, ruled by the king. In some societies, the king is referred to metaphorically as a mountain, as he represents solitude and dominion over the surroundings.

- It is not surprising that the rulers at Mapungubwe decided to symbolise their leadership with the rhino.
- The rhino is the second-largest land mammal in Africa after the elephant. So the rulers at Mapungubwe might also have chosen the rhino for its sheer size. The king is the 'biggest' person in the kingdom so he needs to be represented by a *big* animal.
- The black rhino is also known for its dangerous behaviour, unpredictability, power and solitary life. The king, like the rhino, was supposed to live a solitary life. At Mapungubwe this solitude is seen from the chief staying separately on the Hill away from the commoners. They stayed in the valleys surrounding the Hill. The chief's place was therefore not accessible to everyone within the state.
- Chieftaincy or rulership demanded that the king become unpredictable like the black rhino. Unpredictability meant safety and power for the king. In other words the king's subjects were not supposed to know exactly what he did, and how he would react. The king was supposed to be a revered being, closely linked to the ancestors.



The gold-foiled rhino represents the past splendour of the long lost kingdom of Mapungubwe, the 800 AD settlement at the confluence of the Limpopo and Shashe rivers. (Sian Tiley-Nel)

## glossary

### metaphorically

intended to represent a particular aspect of someone or something that compares it in a similar way to something else

### dominion

ruling over something

### revered

having a lot of respect or admiration for something



## How can YOU help to save rhinos?

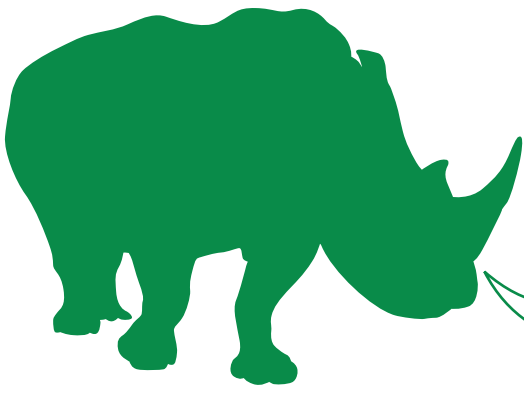
Information is essential to help conservationists stop criminal networks. These networks influence all society, not just the rhinos. So it is your civil duty to provide information, of whatever kind, to do with rhinos or any suspicious behaviour around rhinos.

- Now that you know about the importance of protecting our rhinos, you can spread the message.
- As a patriotic South African, you will be proud of your heritage.
- You can report anonymously any information you may have by contacting tip-off lines: **0800 205 005, 08600 10111** or **Crime-Line** on **32211**.
- Don't buy rhino horn products!
- Protection of rhino assets is costly and several organisations do fundraising – you can contribute to these, but make sure that you deal with a credible organisation listed on the RAGE website <http://www.rhinorage.org/Friends.aspx>.

*Illegal trade in rhino horn is a continuing problem, posing one of the greatest threats to rhinos today.*



Final preparations to partially rouse a black rhino bull, ropes in position around the head and hind leg. Local helpers, vets and rangers man the ropes and guide him into the container for the long journey to Kruger. (Clive Walker from *The Rhino Keepers*)



# games

## about rhinos

### How much have you learned about rhinos?

#### CROSSWORD PUZZLE

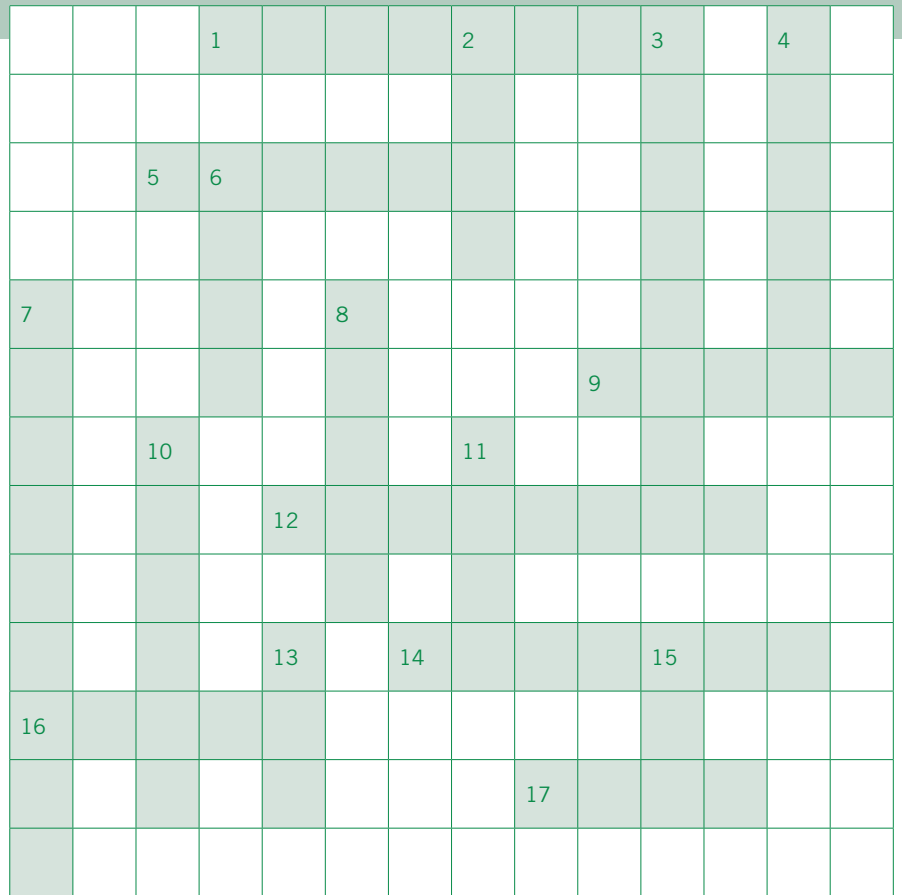
Fill in the missing words to complete the crossword.

#### Across

1. \_\_\_\_\_ are by far the greatest threat to rhinos. (8)
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ National Park is the biggest national park in South Africa. (5)
9. A herd of rhinos is called a \_\_\_\_\_. (5)
12. Rhino horn is used as \_\_\_\_\_. (8)
14. Rhino horn is made from \_\_\_\_\_. (7)
16. Young rhinos stay close to their mothers for \_\_\_\_\_ years. (5)
17. The \_\_\_\_\_ is a natural enemy of the rhino. (4)

#### Down

2. Rhinos use their \_\_\_\_\_ to protect themselves. (5)
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ rhino is the smallest rhino species. (8)
4. \_\_\_\_\_ are the second-largest land mammal in Africa after elephants. (6)
6. Donations can be made to \_\_\_\_\_ to help protect rhinos. (4)
7. All hoofed animals are generally referred to as \_\_\_\_\_. (9)
8. \_\_\_\_\_ is the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora. (5)
10. Conservationists will sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ a rhino to help protect it. (6)
11. There are \_\_\_\_\_ rhino species in the world. (4)
13. \_\_\_\_\_ is an acronym for the Department of Environmental affairs. (3)
15. There are \_\_\_\_\_ African rhino species. (3)



#### ANSWERS

##### Across

1 4 poachers 5 Kruger 6 three 7 ungulates 8 CITES 9 crash 10 dehorn 11 five 12 medicine 13 DEA 14 keratin 15 two 16 three 17 lion

##### Down

2 horns 3 Sumatran 4 rhinos 5 RAG 6 RAG 7 ungulates 8 CITES 9 crash 10 dehorn 11 five 12 medicine 13 DEA 14 keratin 15 two 16 three 17 lion

## WORD SEARCH

Find the bold words in the block of letters below (there are 12 words in total). The words could run across or down, or diagonally up or down. Circle the words when you have found them. We have circled the first one as an example.

**Rhinoceros** – these belong to a group of five species of odd-toed ungulates, two of which are native to Africa and three to southern Asia.

**Keratin** – this is the key structural material making up the outer layer of human skin.

**Perissodactyla** – odd-toed ungulates fall into the order Perissodactyla.

**Pachyderms** – these are commonly used to describe elephants, rhinoceroses and hippopotamuses.

**Ecological** – the scientific study of interactions among organisms and their environment.

**Species** – this means a group of organisms capable of interbreeding and producing fertile offspring.

**Decline** – this refers to the reduction or lowering of something.

**Tourism** – is travel for recreational, leisure or business purposes.

**Predation** – describes a biological interaction where a predator (an animal that is hunting) feeds on its prey (the animal that is attacked).

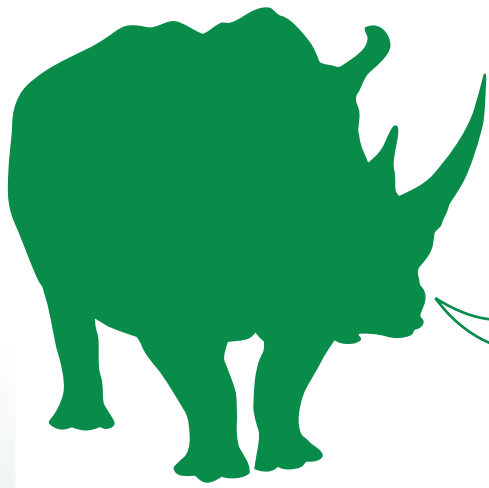
**Heritage** – this refers to an inheritance of fauna and flora, geology, landscape and landforms, as well as other natural resources.

**Anonymously** – this means to withhold your identity so people don't know who you are.

**Illegal** – something that is prohibited or not authorised by law.

W	K	D	G	U	W	O	T	A	T	L	D	V	W	H	V	R
Z	U	E	D	Q	R	T	V	J	M	J	L	X	Q	I	Z	O
P	A	C	H	Y	D	E	R	M	S	U	L	N	J	L	G	Y
N	K	L	H	G	J	I	H	M	P	N	P	K	L	L	C	A
E	H	I	D	B	N	E	I	B	V	O	E	A	A	E	L	E
W	O	N	L	D	N	G	N	Y	L	S	R	C	Y	G	R	Y
L	F	E	G	Y	D	O	O	A	W	Y	I	G	T	A	P	O
F	Z	K	X	L	O	L	C	T	N	G	S	N	K	L	E	F
T	U	D	S	V	M	Q	E	E	O	M	S	C	T	S	I	A
T	D	N	Q	Y	E	T	R	L	N	K	O	A	Y	P	O	N
O	B	P	S	M	P	J	O	D	E	L	D	P	D	V	W	O
U	T	M	W	P	R	C	S	V	T	O	A	A	H	C	E	N
R	B	K	A	M	E	H	O	E	W	H	C	E	E	L	S	Y
I	L	G	E	C	D	C	F	A	Y	O	T	U	R	I	L	M
S	L	K	E	R	A	T	I	N	O	P	Y	U	I	T	K	O
M	W	J	H	S	T	G	V	E	X	C	L	E	T	I	Y	U
Z	E	Y	B	H	I	Q	A	W	S	V	A	G	A	T	I	S
L	I	B	S	Y	O	K	T	J	Y	X	L	P	G	M	U	L
T	I	P	N	A	N	D	S	B	S	E	H	I	E	O	O	Y





# Acknowledgements

The Department of Environmental Affairs and South African National Parks would like to thank all those who made this publication possible.

## CONTRIBUTORS

The Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Mrs Edna Molewa

Mr Fundisile Mketeni, Deputy Director General: Biodiversity and Conservation in the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA)

Dr Moscow Marumo, Chief Director: Biodiversity Economy and Sustainable Use, DEA

Dr David Mabunda, Chief Executive: SANParks

Dr Hector Magome, Managing Executive: Conservation Services

Maj Gen (retired) Johan Jooste, Commanding Officer Special Projects: Kruger National Park

Dr Sam Ferreira, Large Mammal Ecologist: SANParks and Chairman of RAGe

Mr Livhuhani Matsila, Snr General Manager: People and Conservation

Isaac Phaahla, Media Specialist: SANParks

Dr Howard Hendricks: Senior General Manager: Policy and Governance, SANParks

Mr Albi Modise, Chief Director: Communications, DEA

Mrs Maria Moate, Manager: Environmental Education and Awareness, SANParks

Mr Reynold Thakhuli, General Manager: Communications, SANParks

Ms Eleanor Momberg, Deputy Director: Communications, DEA

Mr Chrispen Chauke, Manager: Cultural Heritage

Project Coordination: Mrs Maria Moate, Manager: Environmental Education and Awareness: SANParks

Designed and produced by Jacana Media (Pty) Ltd in 2013

10 Orange Street, Sunnyside, Auckland Park 2092, South Africa  
+2711 628 3200, [www.jacana.co.za](http://www.jacana.co.za)

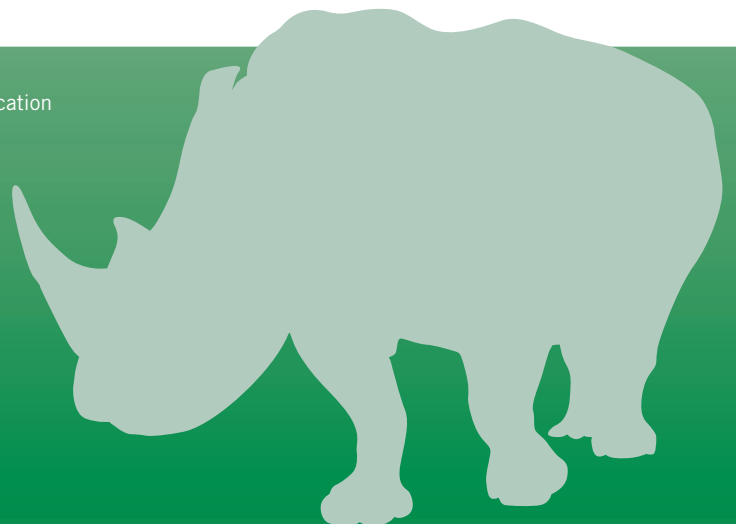
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ISBN 978-1-4314-0979-2

Cover images: Clive Walker from *The Rhino Keepers*

Job no. 002091



# save our rhino

Help to stop the scourge of rhino poaching by reporting  
any incidents or tip-offs to:

**0800 205 205 / 0860 10111 / Crime-Line 32211**



**environmental affairs**

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Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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