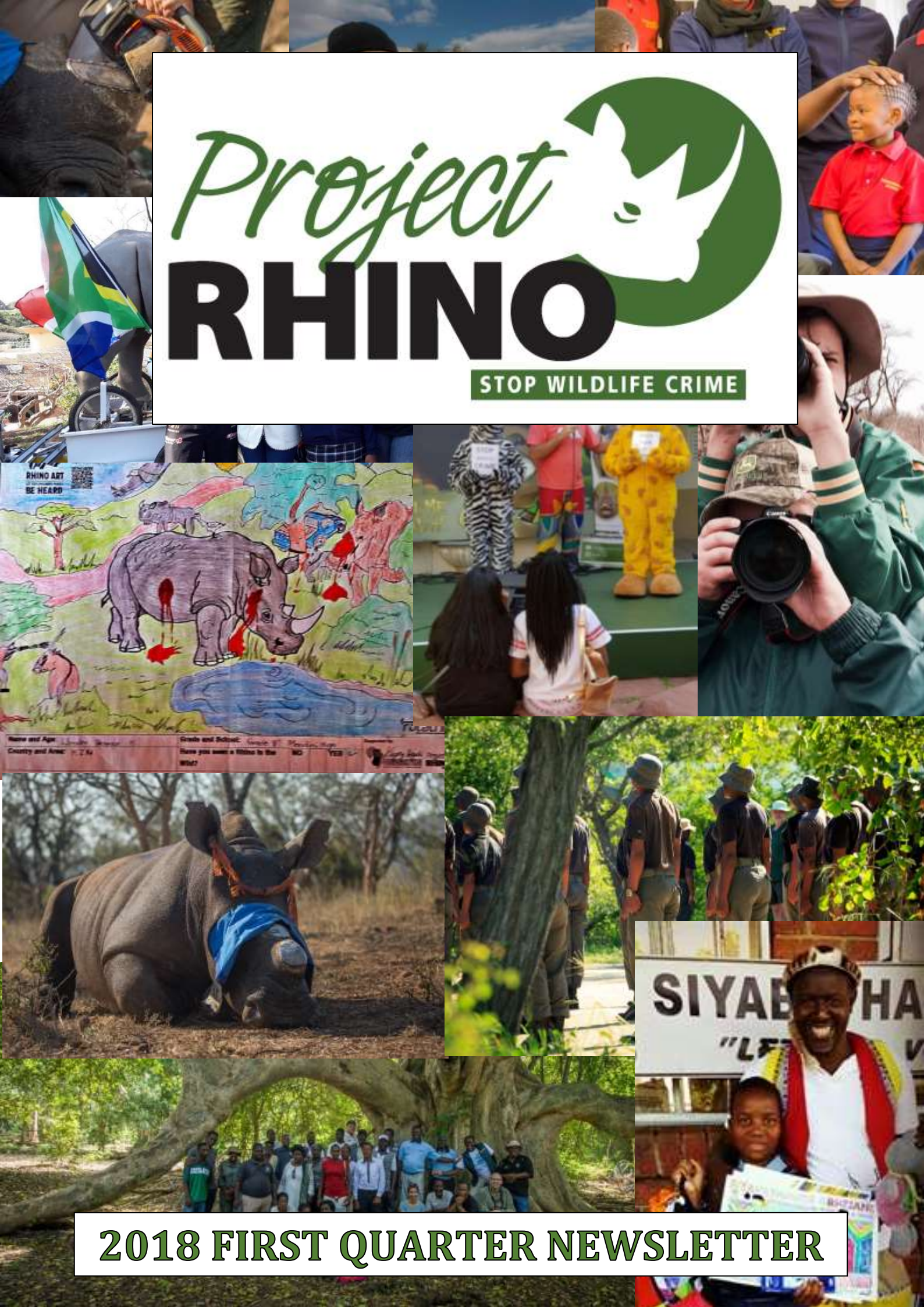


Project RHINO

STOP WILDLIFE CRIME



2018 FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER



Introduction

"When you tug at a single thing in nature, you find that it is attached to the rest of the world" - John Muir.

The first quarter of 2018 has been jam-packed and exciting as Project Rhino works together with its member organisations to support our member reserves in anti-poaching and the protection of our wildlife. Project Rhino in conjunction with the Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA) and the Southern African Wildlife College already conducted 4 training courses, which trained 42 managers and field rangers in various essential skills.

The Project Rhino K9 Unit has developed a strategy out of the pilot period that we have been running the detection dog service for the Zululand reserves. The K9 Unit Strategy has further been informed by attending two workshops, one hosted by Ezemvelo Wildlife and the Endangered Wildlife Trust and the other hosted by the USA Fish and Wildlife as well as Save the Rhino and Elephant Foundation and was organized and run by Michalea Butorova and Kirsty Brebner.

We have officially launched our Horse anti-poaching unit, which is based in Hluhluwe iMfolozi Game Reserve. The unit consists of 7 horses and 5 rangers who patrol up to 30 km per day. The horses were donated by Lauren Louwrens of Kokstad. Lauren also trained the groom (Shokhwakhe Gumede of the Somkhele mine area) and acts as a consultant in the Equine department of the unit. All rangers have Cyber trackers and their movements and distances can be monitored each day.

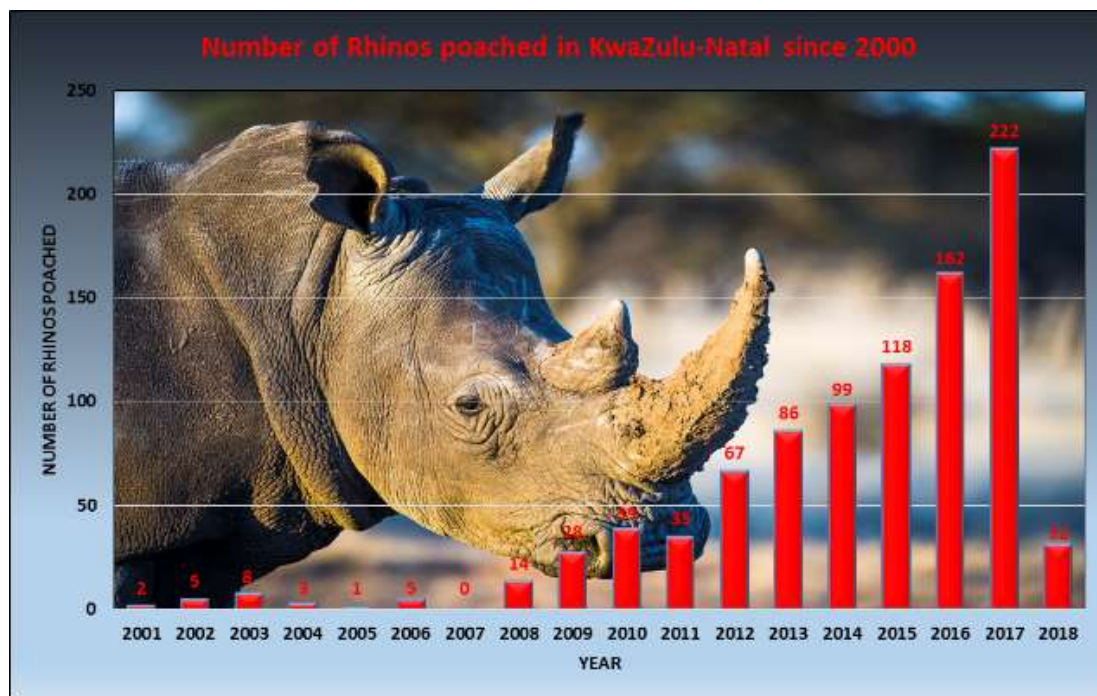
Project Rhino believes that there is a lot of value in meeting with the rhino reserves and Project Rhino members. In this first quarter Project Rhino facilitated the Zululand reserves meeting, Midlands Wildlife Security Initiative (MWSI), Community meeting to map out current, planned and needed community work and have had our member organization meeting. We have also visited the Zululand and Midlands Reserves which keeps us informed of the needs on the ground and how we need to respond with agility. Our Rhino Art team has been very active in keeping the awareness and education going by visiting many schools in KZN and the Eastern Cape. We have also met with some of our key supporters, Mr Price Sport, Tandem Tyres and the American Consulate.



MONITORING. PROTECTING. CONSERVING. TOGETHER.



Statistics:



ZAP-Wing:

2018 is the 7th year of fixed-wing operations for the Zululand Anti-Poaching Wing (ZAPWing). ZAPWing continues to provide an essential reactive and proactive function as one of the tools in the Anti-poaching toolbox.



Etienne Gerber

Sadly we had to say goodbye to Etienne Gerber, our ZAPWing Pilot, who has been with ZAPWing from the very start and played a huge role in assisting Project Rhino KZN and all the rhino reserves with eyes in the sky to prevent and limit wildlife crime as far as possible.

We do however welcome Ian Waghorn into our team as our new ZAPWing Pilot. Ian is 24 years old and have a passion for aviation and in particular, Tailwheel and classic aircraft. Ian has over 1300 hours total time flying.



Ian Waghorn

Noteworthy events: 2x Giraffe carcasses found (natural causes)
2x Giraffe orphans found
0x Poaching incidences

Number of flights performed:	50
Number of hours flown:	92
Distance covered:	6731
Number of Reserves flown for:	7





Reserve Support: Ranger Training



It has been a very busy start to the year with our training support. Project Rhino with their member organization the Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA), worked with the Southern African Wildlife College to conduct the following training with the Field Rangers and Managers of our rhino reserves to date this year:

- 20-26 January 2018: Counter Insurgency tracking training (CITT) – **8 rangers**
- 5-9 February 2018: Counter Insurgency tracking training (CITT) – **10 rangers**
- 26 February - 2 March 2018: Advanced First Aid Training (GRAA and Thin Green Line Foundation) – **12 rangers**
- 5-9 March 2018: Advanced weapons handling and night operation training. – **12 rangers**

The feedback from the reserves that had rangers attending the courses all concurred that ranger training courses were amazing and said that their rangers were very impressed and happy with all the knowledge that they have gained. It was emphasized that there is a need for future ranger training in all above categories.

Reserve Support: Project Rhino K9 Unit



The 3-month trial period for the Project Rhino K9 Anti-Poaching dog unit is completed and the feedback from all the Zululand rhino reserves were very positive and supportive of the project and the benefits that it would bring to the Zululand landscape to prevent wildlife crime. Within the first 3 months, the Project Rhino K9 Unit was present at SAPS road blocks, reserve vehicle checks and night patrols. In March, Project Rhino submitted a K9 strategy at the workshop that was hosted by Ezemvelo Wildlife and EWT. We are very excited about the future plans of this unit as we are planning to increase

the unit with 2 more dogs and dog handlers that will be based at the ZAPWing airfield in Hluhluwe town. This would ensure that the unit is easily accessible for all reserves that need assistance, the reaction time will be shortened to get to any scene, areal assistance will be immediate, and the unit is situated next to SAPS Rhino 8 unit for immediate assistance making a quick reaction team a possibility.





Reserve Support: Project Rhino Horse Unit



The Project Rhino Horse Unit that is based in Nqumeni Section in Hluhluwe Park, now consists of 7 horses to assist with anti-poaching patrols. The section ranger of Nqumeni, Sibonelo Zulu, who manages the horse unit said that the horse patrols make a massive difference as on foot the rangers can only patrol approximately 12km per shift, whereas on horseback they can cover a distance of 30km per shift. The horses are well habituated to wildlife, but the fence around the Nqumeni camp where the stables are situated needs to be upgraded as they lost 3 horses to lions last year. Dr Jacques Flamant will also be doing a general checkup on the horses at the end of April to ensure that they are all in good health and Mrs Ursina Rusch will be assisting in basic training of the horse unit rangers. The unit is however in need of new tack, from saddles, bridles, grooming kit etc.

Reserve Support: Dehorning



7 years ago, this rhino's horn was hacked off by poachers. During the first quarter of 2018, Project Rhino, with the help of Saving the Survivors and Wildlife Solutions managed to assist with the 3rd operation to reconstruct her face.



She was injected with local anesthetic on both sides of her face to ensure that the procedure was as painless as possible.

A cast was put over the open wound by drilling into the rhinos skull to keep the cast in place and give the open wound an opportunity to heal. This cast was expected to last between 6-10 weeks.

The incredible story of this rhino cow is not just that she survived poachers hacking off half her face, but has recovered to such an extent that she has had two calves in the last 7 years.



As a preventative measure, to ensure that the calf does not run the risk of getting poached like her mother, the calf was successfully dehorned.





Youth Engagement: Rhino Art



The youth have the enormous responsibility to ensure that our wildlife is looked after and preserved for many generations to come. Therefore it is of utmost importance for Project Rhino to ensure that we reach as many kids as possible with our Rhino Art Movement.

This quarter alone, the Rhino Art team has reached a total a staggering **26 823** children;

- 23 000 children in KZN and
- 3 823 children in the Eastern Cape.

Youth Engagement: School Camps



A huge project completed in this first quarter of 2018 was the Nyandu Camp at Weenen Game Reserve in the Natal Midlands. This camp will be used for educational excursions to educate the youth about the bush and wildlife and give them first hand bush experience. The first camp is scheduled for the end of April. There will be a minimum for 4 kids camps hosted by Project Rhino this year. A great big thank you to the Jonny Louw Memorial Trust, Mr and Mrs Hancock, Peter Eastwood, Pips Findley and Antoinette Phillips for assisting in the funding of this project.

Community Engagement



Project Rhino attended a Zululand Community Conservation and Engagement workshop on the 18th of January 2018. The aim of the meeting was to get to know what everyone is doing with regards to their local communities and see where the different reserve and NGO's work overlap to help coordinate projects to be more effective in our operations. The goal was to pull everyone's resources together and work as a team to be more efficient and successful in overall community projects. Each person was asked to present on

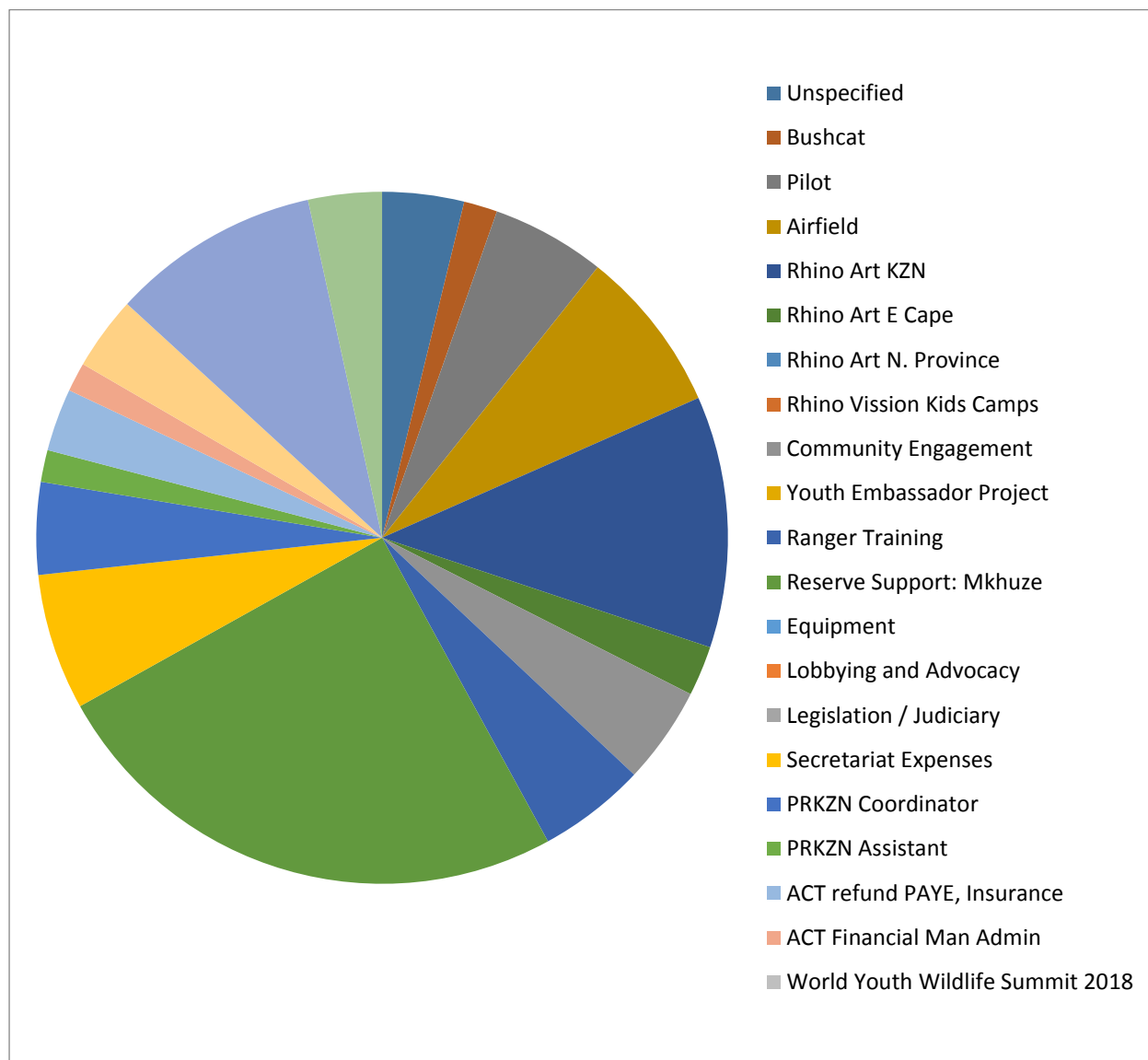
their organisation/reserve's focus with regards to community conservation and development initiatives:

- Outline of scope of work being carried out
- Plans for 2018
- Foreseen impact of work and philosophy behind programmes.



Distribution of funding

Quarter 1: Expenditure



Funds Received for the year 2018 to date	R703,073.86
Funds Expended for the year 2018 to date	R1,353,742.59
Difference	-R650,668.73



PROJECT RHINO FOUNDING MEMBERS:
 African Conservation Trust | Black Rhino Range Expansion Project (WWF) | Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife
 Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA) | KZN Directorate for Priority Crimes (HAWKS) | Magqubu Ntombela Foundation
 Midlands Wildlife Security Initiative | Phinda Private Game Reserve (& Beyond) Space for Elephants
 Thanda Foundation | Thanda Private Game Reserve | The Lawrence Anthony Earth Organisation | WESSA | Wildlife ACT Fund
 Wildlands Conservation Trust | Wilderness Action Group | Wilderness Foundation
 Zululand Rhino Reserve | Zululand Wildlife Security Initiative

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K9 anti-poaching dog unit manager



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Project Rhino, Rhino Art EC

Melumzi Matiwane

Project Rhino, Rhino Art EC



Thank you to our DONORS and SUPPORTERS!

"What motivates us daily is the dream of both White and Black rhino species thriving in KwaZulu-Natal and far beyond - forever free, forever secure from poaching, well managed and protected.

Today we strive to protect the world's last remaining African Rhino species, so that tomorrow they will still continue to play their vital role in our continent's irreplaceable and beautiful ecosystems. We honor their uniqueness as one of the primary protector species of Africa's great wilderness areas. We know you feel the same and thank you for your support."