

Project RHINO

STOP WILDLIFE CRIME



2018 HALF YEAR NEWSLETTER



Introduction

Unbelievably, the first half of 2018 has flown past and has been chock-a-block with new and expanding projects to support our member reserves in anti-poaching and the protection of our wildlife. We believe that there is a lot of value in meeting with the rhino reserves and Project Rhino members and therefore ensure a meeting every quarter. 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.

Project Rhino would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Tandem Tyres who sponsored the Project Rhino, Rhino Art Rig with 5 brand new tyres! Tandem Tyres, in partnership with Project Rhino, donated 109 tyres to the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Reserves and 14 tyres to private and community rhino reserves, totalling an incredible donation of 128 tyres!

In this photo, Richard Mabanga, the Project Rhino, Rhino Art Representative, collects the donated tyres from the Tandem Tyres Warehouse.



Hard work has gone into the K9 unit expansion project, expanding the unit from one to five K9's which gives the unit tracking and detection capabilities. A huge big thank you to Duncan Paul who has assisted with the expansion of the project, the donation of valuable equipment as well as the use of a vehicle for the first six months of the project.

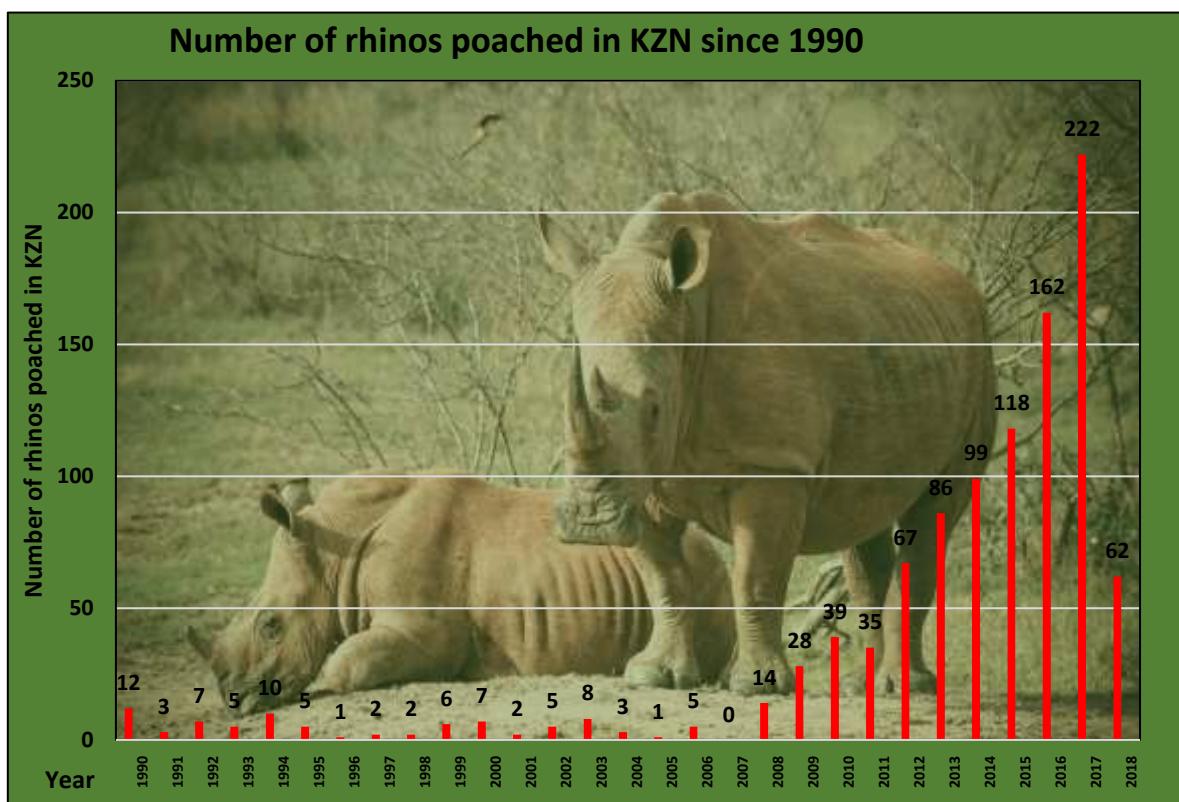
Our Rhino Art team has been very active in keeping the conservation awareness and education going by visiting many schools in KZN, the Eastern Cape and Mpumalanga. We have also met with some of our key supporters, Mr Price Sport, Tandem Tyres and the American Consulate.



MONITORING. PROTECTING. CONSERVING. TOGETHER.



Statistics:



Reserve Support: ZAP-Wing:



During the last three months we have had major repairs done to our aircraft. This included new covering, a new engine, new engine mount and repairs to the tail and tailwheel. Not only was this financially costly, but hugely time consuming. Once all repairs are complete, we will virtually have a brand new aircraft.



Due to the fact that our aircraft was grounded, we called on the assistance of the Ezemvelo Honorary Officers Airwing. They assisted us with 3 volunteer pilots and 3 different aircrafts. We flew 70 hours in April and May. We utilized a Bantam B22j, Savannah S and Kitfox 7, which are all aircrafts suited for aerial patrols and surveillance.

We have also started doing patrols at Thula Thula Private Game Reserve, which is a new addition to the ZAP-Wing members. Major upgrades to the airfield have been done in order to welcome the Project Rhino K9 Unit. We are in the process of creating accommodation at the airfield for volunteers or dog handlers.





Reserve Support: Project Rhino K9 Unit

There have been two rhinos poached in the private and community reserve sector during the last 6 months, incursions relate more to meat poaching and are being handled by Reserve Managers.

Eric Dickson, our K9 Manager attended a Footwear Impression Recovery Course during June, which he successfully passed. This skill will be an added service to the private and community reserves when needed.

Preparations for the expansion of the K9 Unit was the main focus in the last three months. Our K9 unit increased from 1 to 5 dogs from the 1st July. It now has 4 trained and area adapted tracker dogs, and Eric's Mali as the detection dog. Watch the space! This project will be run from Hluhluwe Town, which is minutes away from the Hluhluwe airfield and Rhino 9 SAPS Team that can immediately respond to emergencies as one unit. Two of the tracker dogs are helicopter trained and this will speed up the response time to an emergency call out or crime scene dramatically. The location of Hluhluwe Town makes it much easier to get to all the surrounding rhino reserves. Some of the reserves have volunteered to erect satellite camps for one dog handler and canine, in order for the K9 team to work with their APU teams for consecutive days. This will allow the different teams to get to know each other and learn to work with one another to really reap the benefits of the K9 team.



Mali did four detection demonstrations for media groups, member reserves, sponsors and Mr Price Sport visiting the ZAP-Wing base. Day and night patrols in and around private reserves were conducted persistently.

Reserve Support: Project Rhino Horse Unit



The Project Rhino Horse Unit in Hluhluwe Game Reserve is doing really well. Miss Ursina Rusch from WWF has been brilliant in offering her time and skills as a level 3 riding instructor, to assist the horse rangers to improve their riding and horsemanship skills. Miss Rusch has managed to assist with lessons every time she is in the close vicinity of Hluhluwe.



Dr Jacques Flamand has kindly assisted us with health inspections on all horses and has given us guidelines on how to manage the individual horses to ensure that they maintain the best health. Between Dr Flamand and Miss Rusch they have also assisted to draw up a priority needs list for the horse unit.

"Horses play a big role in our activities; my section is covering big areas. I'm always trying my best to make a difference in this war zone, rhinos are our life, and we are here for them." - Sibonelo Zulu, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Section Ranger.



Project Rhino will, under the Project Rhino Horse Unit, be working with other member reserves where horses are currently being used to protect rhino and other wildlife.





Reserve Support: Dehorning & Facial Reconstruction

Project Rhino has put a lot of energy into assisting our KZN rhino reserves with the dehorning of their rhino to try and prevent poaching from taking place and in the process buy time to find alternative solutions to save this iconic species. We have assisted with the dehorning of 39 rhinos during the last 6 months, helping 5 reserves to fight the battle.



Project Rhino, along with Love Africa Marketing, hosted a media week in northern KZN reserves with national and international media teams to give them a firm understanding of the poaching issues that we are faced with on the ground, as well as the effort that goes into protecting our rhino and other wildlife. It was also aimed at informing the media of how much effort is still required to counter the real threat of rhino poaching. Unfortunately not many people realize the intensity of the current situation, which is possibly because it has not been well covered in the media of late. This media week was made possible only with the support of our key partners and donors: Wildlife ACT, On Safari Africa, Wildlands, Emvokweni Community Trust, Green Trust, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and African Conservation Trust.

When doing hands-on field work, we try to give our donors and supporters an opportunity to see the work that we do on a day to day basis and therefore try to involve them in our projects as much as possible to ensure that they understand the critical situation that the rhino population is really facing.

In this quarter we hosted Mr Price Sport, who has been a loyal donor to Project Rhino and has made an incredible impact on making projects possible.



"Wildlife is part of our South African heritage and we all have a responsibility to protect that. The MRP Sport Head office team embarked on a conservation mission, where a rhino darting operation was made possible through Project Rhino. This project saw the successful dehorning of 2 white and 1 black rhino. A necessary prevention measure and reality considering the current poaching threat in the province. We give huge thanks to true unsung heroes in the field who work tirelessly and selflessly to monitor the situation on the ground in attempt to protect our rhino. MRP Sport is a proud sponsor of Project Rhino." – Mr Price Head Office Team.



Dehorning & Facial Reconstruction continues...

We also had to do a follow up procedure on Thembe, the rhino who received severe facial injuries from a previous poaching incident. Duncan Paul and his family joined us for this experience. Five learners (Environmental Representatives) from the St Annes College in Hilton also accompanied us.



"A group of St Anne's Enviro Reps, along with Mrs Forrest and Mrs Van Deventer, recently accompanied three wildlife Vets and two funding organisations (Project Rhino and Saving the Survivors), to observe the progress of Thembe, a rhino whose horn was poached 8 years ago. Thembe was attacked on a private reserve in Ladysmith and is still on a long road to recovery. Her horn was hacked off of her face, damaging her entire nasal cavity making it difficult for her to breath. After her wound was neglected for several years the organization stepped in to fund treatment and a facial reconstruction surgery that will increase the quality of life. It was an amazing experience and sparked many ideas of how us, St Anne's girls, can make a difference and contribute to this campaign." – St Annes Enviro Reps.





Youth Engagement: Rhino Art



The Project Rhino, Rhino Art Program has had an incredible six months so far this year, over 83 schools have been reached and more than 47 668 learners have received the Rhino Conservation Awareness Message. Rhino Art kicked off in Empangeni and surrounding areas this quarter. KwaNogcoyi Primary School was the most wonderful school as they have passionate teachers, such as Miss Rosemary Mthembu who really assisted with coming up with new ideas and suggestions to take Rhino Art to a next level. It is quite evident that teachers at the schools want to find out more about how they can stimulate the learners. The teachers would like take them on school trips to reserves to really experience the bush and understand what we are trying to conserve and save.

On the 11th May, Richard Mabanga, the Project Rhino, Rhino Art Representative, was invited by the national radio station Ukhoozi FM to join in on a talk about conversation regarding wildlife and community conflict, hosted by Dumsane Ndimande.

On the 7th June, Richard was invited by a local radio station in Richards Bay, North Coast Radio, to talk about the Rhino Conservation Crisis. Rhino Art and the education of the youth on conservation ethics (#SIYABATHANDAOBHEJANE) was the highlight of the discussion, hosted by Fundiswa Mnguni. On the 20th May, Richard was invited to represent Project Rhino on TV Biyela to highlight the rhino crises and the impact it has on the tourism economy and job creation. He also provided input on the project pilot of opening the Cultural Village called Mkhosana at Obuka next to Thula-Thula Game Reserve. The elders in this village requested that Project Rhino address this issue to the chief and chief's council, to ensure that the Rhino Conservation Awareness message is spread as far and wide as possible.

Rhino Art had a special request from Bay Primary School in Richards Bay to visit their school and raise awareness.



Mpumalanga schools were also visited this quarter. The Matsulu Township area has approximately 100 000 residents and is a wildlife and rhino poaching hotspot in Mpumalanga. During the Rhino Art visit to Matsulu 6 324 learners were reached and received the Rhino Conservation Awareness message.



Proficiently lead by passion - Dave Pattle is the Eastern Cape coordinator of Rhino Art and his dedication is complemented with a solid team. The first Group of schools in 2018 in the Eastern Cape were done in the Little Karroo area of Somerset East and Cookhouse. A select group of 10 children were taken on a Wildlife Camp to Kuzuko, part of Legend Lodges in the Suurberg, for a weekend in Nature. We thank Kuzuko Lodge

for this generous opportunity. Melumsi Matiwane has been very active in the Grahamstown area doing rhino Awareness in Schools. In February, a team was taken to old faithful Hendrik Kanise who have supported two World Rhino Summits with pupils. The Twizza brand have been amazing with support - thanks to Liezl Hullet for this field support in rural schools.



Youth Engagement: School Camps



It is with great pleasure that we announce that Nyandu Camp in Weenen Game Reserve is now complete. This facility will be used for school and youth camps to educate the youth on conservation issues and give the learners the opportunity to experience a hands on bush experience.

Eight tents have been erected. Each tent has an additional protective sail over the roof to protect it from the sun, to ensure that it has a longer lifespan.

Each tent is erected on a concreted platform, raised from ground level to ensure that the tents do not get waterlogged during rain. The pathways were mapped out and filled with crusher run aggregate. A brand-new fire pit has been built, with concrete seats around for students to sit around the fire in the evenings. The size of the fire pit was also made big enough so that one could braai on one side and still have a fire going on the other side. All materials have been purchased locally and a certified builder (Mr Maqanda) and his staff from the local community were contracted to do the building. This is to get communities to benefit from being adjacent to parks. A big thank you to our sponsors and the Ezemvelo Honorary Officers who have made this project possible.



Community Engagement: Food Security

Northern KwaZulu-Natal includes some of the poorest and most underdeveloped areas in South Africa. In the village of Kwajobe, situated north of the Mkhuze Game Reserve for example, less than 5% of households have access to piped water and 8% have access to electricity for cooking and lighting. There are few employment opportunities, whilst the pay-offs from assisting illegal poaching syndicates can be equivalent to several years' basic wages. Project Rhino, together with partners like African Conservation Trust (ACT), is working in these communities to help meet basic human needs so that they can concentrate on becoming active participants in wildlife conservation.

ACT agriculture teams are establishing ecological food gardens at three crèches in the greater Kwajobe region to support daily feeding schemes. The crèches – Vezukukhanya, Sibhekokuhile and Siyaphaphama – look after 167 children, aged 0 – 6 years. The eco-agricultural (permaculture) techniques serve to protect the environment and have shown to produce crops that are more resilient to changing weather conditions, improve water usage and reduce soil erosion.





Fundraising events

GlobalGiving Accelerator Programme



Project Rhino, under African Conservation Trust, was accepted into the GlobalGiving Accelerator Programme, which is an online crowd funding campaign for non-profits around the world.

We chose Mounted Rangers: Fighting rhino poaching from horseback as our Accelerator project with which we had to raise \$5,000 from 40 donors in three weeks.

Thanks to our generous donors, we met - and exceeded - our \$5,000 target and we now have a permanent position on the GlobalGiving platform which means we benefit from corporate relationships, online fundraising tools and connections with global donors. Even better, we have raised valuable funding for the Horse Units operating in Project Rhino Reserves.

Thank you to everyone who shared our posts, supported our stand at the Shongweni Classic and donated their hard-earned money so generously. Special thank you to Salty Mermaid, Rhino products, the Australian Rangers and Unicorn Tack for their support.



Salty Mermaid Swimwear - Who would have thought that bikinis could save rhinos...

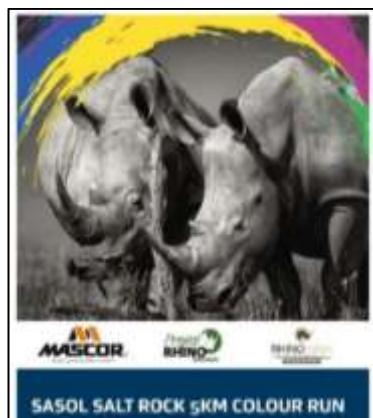


Salty Mermaid designer bikinis, are donating 10% of all sales of their Africa range of bikinis to Project Rhino and during the Global Giving Accelerator Campaign they contributed 100% of their bikini sales for 24 hours to the Project Rhino Mounted Rangers project!



Sasol Salt Rock 5KM Colour Run!

Sasol Salt Rock hosted a super exciting colour run on Saturday the 23rd of June to assist Project Rhino to raise awareness to the public about saving our rhino and stopping wildlife crime! It was a great event that was brilliantly supported with over 110 runners entering the run! R5 500 was raised to support Project Rhino in our efforts to make a difference. A huge congratulations to Rauol Krimm who won the lucky draw to win a night for two at Rhino Ridge Safari Lodge worth R10 000.





Children's book on rhino by the Rhino Group at Stockholm International School

The Rhino Group at Stockholm International School created, compiled and published a children's book on rhino, with some fun facts to inform the world on how important it is to look after our wildlife and our natural heritage. Not only did this group help with creating awareness, but they also managed to raise R7 000 to assist Project Rhino to support all the rhino reserves in KZN to save our wildlife.

Pasichigare Stone Art for Rhinos

We have also started an initiative with Pasichigare, they are a campaign that help rural artists in Zimbabwe that market their stone sculptures. They will be donating 20% of all sales to Project Rhino.



Rhino Quality Shoe Polish

Project Rhino entered into a brand sharing agreement with Rhino Shoe Polish. Rhino Shoe Polish Products was launched in June of 2006, with the mission of providing top-quality shoe polish and shoe care products at very affordable prices in South Africa. Rhino shoe polish decided to approach Project Rhino as they felt it important to assist in trying to save our rhino and protect our wildlife and natural heritage. They now contribute 10% of all rhino shoe polish sales that Project Rhino can secure. Please support the cause and buy some shoe polish! There are a range of different color polishes to choose from as well as shoe brushes and polish kits.



Jewellery for Rhino...

Project Rhino is also selling the most beautiful sterling silver bracelets, necklaces and earrings with rhino charms on them, as well as lapel pins and more colorful, casual beaded bracelets. All net proceeds go directly to the Project Rhino Projects.





Upcoming events

September is World Rhino Month, with 22 September being World Rhino Day. Project Rhino will be celebrating Rhino month along with many other businesses with events that will be hosted to assist to try and save our rhino.

Sole Salon and Spa September Special...



Sole Salons and Spas will be running a special on all of their facials for the month of September and 10% of all facial income will be contributed to Project Rhino Projects.

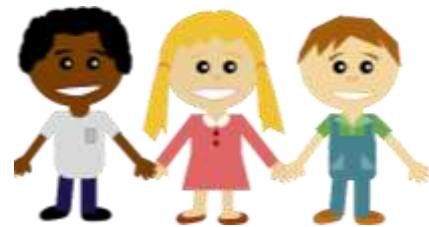
Hilton Arts Festival...

The Hilton Arts Festival is taking place from 14th - 16th September where Project Rhino will be hosting a stand for the 3 days. We will be sharing information on all our projects and will have many of our partners selling items to raise money for the cause. You can look forward to artwork from Pasichigare, Peter Stuart, Cherie Clark calendars, Rhino Shoe polish kits and much, much more! We look forward to seeing you there!



Civvies Day for Rhino...

Project Rhino will be putting out a call for action from all schools in KZN to participate in Civvies day on 21st September, where all learners pay R10 to wear Civvies to school and all net proceeds go to support the fight against rhino poaching.





Upcoming events continue...

uMkhombe Experience...

Mpeti Game Reserve in Zululand will be hosting the uMkhombe Mountain Bike Challenge from 21-23 September, check out the uMkhombe Facebook Page for details.

uMkhombe CHALLENGE
IN SUPPORT OF PROJECT RHINO

Date: 21 – 23 September 2018
Venue: Mpeti, Mkuze, KZN
Distance: 25km / 50km off-road MTB Trails

Limited entries are available with accommodation. 20 entries will be allowed for day riders on Saturday @R2500 pp which includes Breakfast and Lunch. Cash bar available
For any additional info contact Daniela 0333602248
daniela@mpeti.co.za
Follow us on uMkhombe MTB Challenge

All net proceeds will go to Project Rhino

uMkhombe CHALLENGE
IN SUPPORT OF PROJECT RHINO

Event Programme

Friday	Saturday	Sunday
14:00 Check-in	6:30 Breakfast	6:30 Breakfast
16:00 Registration and briefing	8:00 25km/50km MTB Challenge Starts	8:00 25 km MTB Challenge Starts
17:30 Pre-drinks around home (Meet & greet)	11:00/12:00 Lunch on the hill	11:00/12:00 Lunch
18:00 Zulu Dancers	17:30 Pre-drinks & canapés	14:00 Check-out
19:00 Dinner	19:00 Dinner	
After dinner delight	Auction after starters	

uMkhombe CHALLENGE
IN SUPPORT OF PROJECT RHINO

Price includes 2 nights' accommodation, all meals and entry fee. Drinks are excluded, cash bar available

Mpeti Main Lodge R6500pp
7 luxury chalets, sleeps 2 guests per chalet

Family Villa R4000pp
Luxury unit, sleeps 8 guests

Sasane 1&2 R3500pp
Group accommodation, sleeps 8 guests per unit

Bushcamp R3500pp
Group accommodation, sleeps 10 guests

As accommodation is limited, we have allocated Sasane and Bushcamp strictly for riders. Main Lodge and Family Villa can be shared with non-riders

World Ranger Day - 31 July 2018

Project Rhino will be celebrating World Ranger Day along with its members. We will be sharing all the ranger day celebrations from our member reserves. This is an important day to give absolute recognition to rangers for the critical role they play in protecting the world's wildlife and wild areas. Project Rhino equips rangers with the confidence to do their job by providing key training and equipment. To help us do more please make a donation.



HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR RHINO

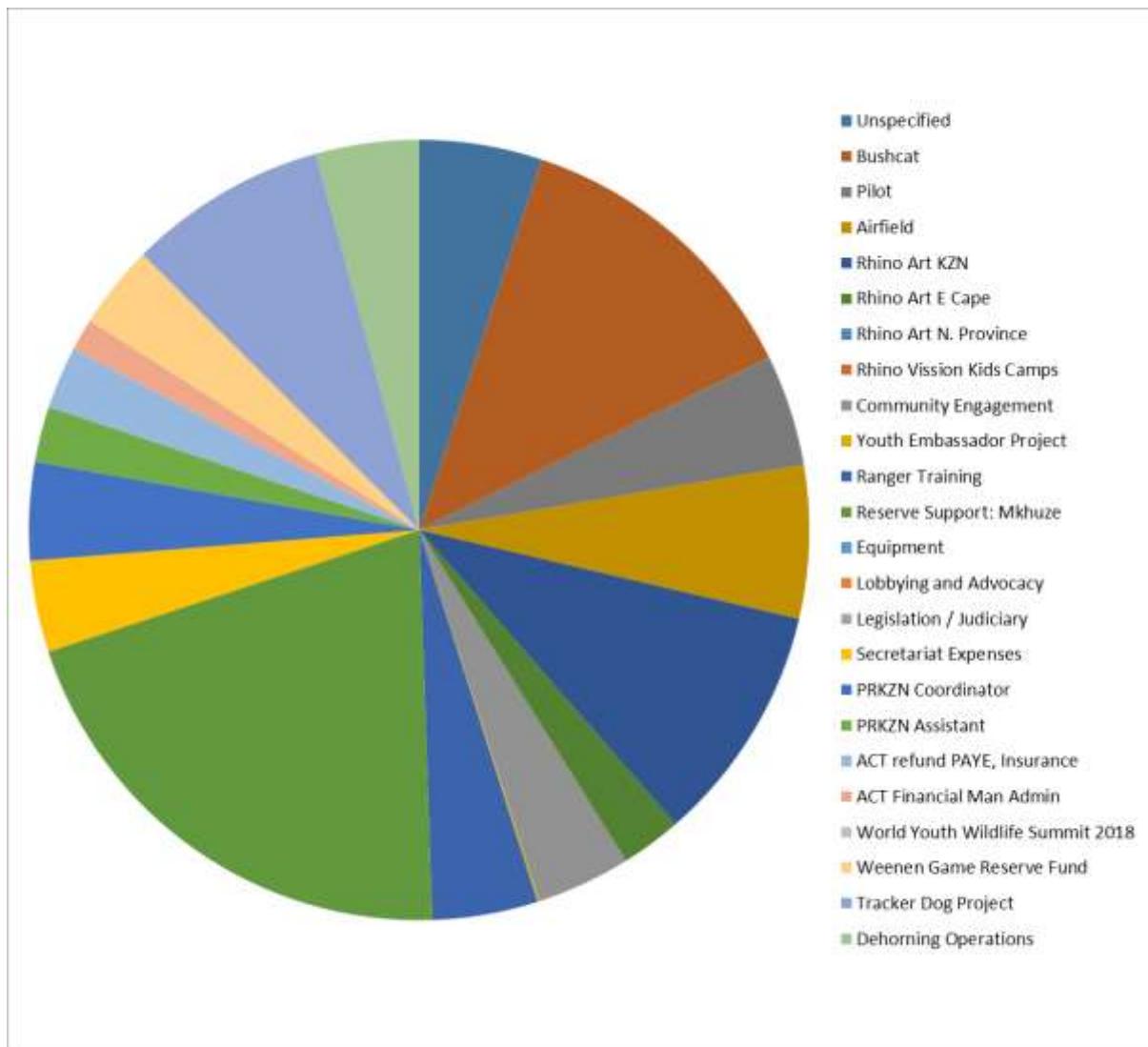
- MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION:**
Account name: Rhino Fund
Bank: First National Bank
Branch: Mafikeng (250 000)
Account #: 027 420 0018
Swift code: FNBNZA
- ZAPPER**
- ADD R100 (OR MORE) TO A DEBIT ORDER EACH MONTH**
- ADD PROJECT RHINO AS A BENEFICIARY TO YOUR EVENT**
- JOIN OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS TO GET ALL THE LATEST UPDATES AND TO ASSIST IN SPREADING AWARENESS ON OUR RHINO.**
[Facebook: /projectrhinoza](https://www.facebook.com/projectrhinoza/)

DONATE: <http://www.givengain.com/cause/3213/projects/11081/>



Distribution of funding

HALF YEAR EXPENDITURE:



Bank balance carried over from previous month:	R 1 218 129.77
Funds received:	R 413 390.00
Less expenditure for this month:	R 649 326.16
Balance remaining:	R 982 193.61



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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Richard Mabanga
Project Rhino, Rhino Art



Melumzi Matiwane
Project Rhino, Rhino Art EC



Eric Dickson
K9 anti-poaching dog unit manager



Jabulani Gogo
ZAP-Wing Hanger Assistant



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."