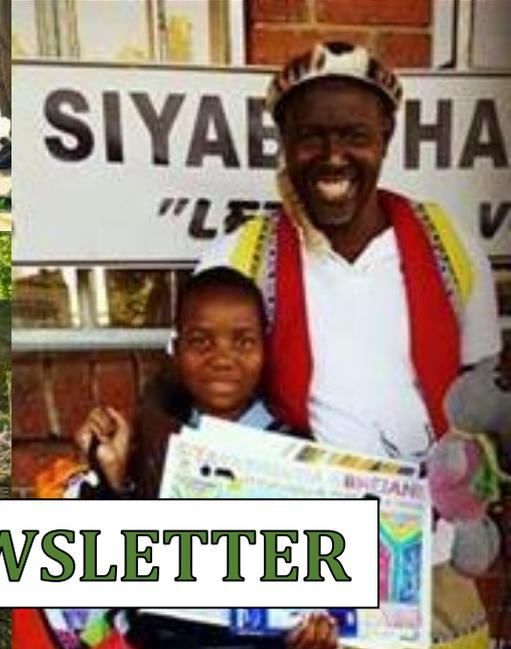


Project RHINO

STOP WILDLIFE CRIME



2018 THIRD QUARTER NEWSLETTER



Message from Project Coordinator *(CHRIS CALLIERS)*

The period covered by this newsletter has been filled with many positives. The attention has in the last month been firmly on the rhino with World Rhino Day having been celebrated on the 22nd of September.

There were a few new things this quarter, namely the start of the expanded Project Rhino K9 Unit with 4 new dogs and 3 new handlers, as well as a new engine for the ZAP-Wing aircraft.

We also had the release of the updated national poaching stats for 2018. A total of 508 rhinos have been poached (31st August) compared to 691 at the same time in 2017. We must take the results as good news in that the overall numbers are down, but we must also be mindful of some additional facts which we need to be able to conclusively say that the situation has improved. What we don't know is the total number of rhinos that are currently in South Africa and the subsequent status i.e. the rate of growth or decline. All such data is out of date. Having such information is vital to understanding the impact of losing 7 651 rhinos since 2007 and for making informed meta-population management decisions.

Another concern is that from the incursion data in the Kruger Park, it is clear that the intent to poach has not diminished as the number of

incursions have increased from 1 702 in 2017 to 1 873 this year. A further 400 poachers have been arrested this year as well.

We also got to celebrate, on 31st July, World Ranger Day, which recognizes the men and women on the front line putting their lives at risk to protect and conserve wildlife and wild areas. It was sad that the Kruger Park lost their first ranger in decades to a poacher. Respect Matabula was a young ranger who had made an impression on many in his budding career. His passing shows us how we need to ensure rangers are well trained, equipped and managed to face the real threats of the job.

We must take hope with the many positives achieved, but we are not in a position to let down our guard, as highlighted by the numbers above and the fact that 58 elephants have also been poached so far this year in the country. Project Rhino will continue to provide the current support to reserves with the projects that we have initiated to address wildlife crime at a landscape level. These interventions are always directed from the ground up to ensure project relevance and effectiveness.

As always, thanks to the Project Rhino team and the supporters who have made it possible to achieve everything over this past quarter.



Introduction

Did you know that there has been a 9,000% increase in poaching in less than a decade? That since 2008, more than 7,638 African rhino have been lost to poaching? That more than 5,476 rhinos (excluding the 508 this year so far) have been poached in the last 5 years? That the tipping-point, in which more rhino are being poached than are being born, is approaching South Africa's white and black rhino populations?

This is the sad reality, but statistics like this are what keeps us going, what keeps us working harder, joining forces, creating more awareness, training rangers harder, educating more kids about conservation, raising more funds for our projects – giving more to save the species.

The last quarter has flown past as the Project Rhino team have been working full steam to ensure that all our projects are running smoothly and trying to raise funds to keep them going, expanding and creating more opportunity for the world to get involved.

At the end of July, the Game Rangers Association of Africa hosted the Annual Rhino Conservation Awards to give glory and thanks for the work of the fearless conservationists

that have dedicated their lives to this endless pursuit to protect our natural heritage. The odds are often stacked against them, but they take that fight on, every single day. Project Rhino salutes the field rangers in the world that commit their lives to looking after our wildlife.

Project Rhino collaborates further to tackle all forms of poaching: An Anti-Poaching symposium was held in the KZN Midlands at WESSA Umgeni Valley on the 4th August. The symposium brought together representatives from many different organizations that united make up the Anti-Poaching Collaboration Network. The scope of this network is immense. It reaches from Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife to SAPS and includes the SPCA, FreeMe Wildlife Rehabilitation, Project Rhino, Starlite Aviation, KZN Wildlife Honorary officers, the Endangered Wildlife Trust, WESSA, SA Can, KZN Hunting and Conservation and Netcare 911 amongst others. Together, this team is working together to fight all forms of poaching in KwaZulu-Natal. This will include more specifically tackling poaching in rural areas beyond game reserves.



Statistics:

Number of Rhinos poached in KwaZulu-Natal since 2000
(31 August 2018)



Number of Rhinos poached in South Africa since 2000
(31 August 2018)





Reserve Support: ZAP-Wing:

The last three months at ZAP-Wing have been very productive with good sightings. High temperatures were reached (with cockpit temperatures reaching 42°C), combined with extreme winds (35kts) and rain, which has made the flying challenging, but not enough to stop it. The new aircraft engine has been operating flawlessly and the fuselage fabric is holding up well. 62 Hours have been flown and the ZAP-Wing responded to two emergency call outs.

Thula Thula staff spotted poachers inside their reserve, the ZAP-Wing was contacted and soon arrived on the scene. The poachers were flushed out of the reserve empty handed by aircraft and ground staff

At Somkhanda Game Reserve, there were suspicious personnel spotted outside the reserve by the ZAP-Wing on a patrol. The group consisted of 5 male suspects with 12-15 dogs, 50 meters from reserve fence line. Suspects hid in treeline when the aircraft orbited overhead. Ground units were called in and the ZAP-Wing aircraft vacated the scene.

During a routine fence line patrol, a deceased dog was spotted by the ZAP-Wing, just inside Manyoni Game Reserve, along a road. The Reserve manager was immediately contacted and informed.



Reserve Support: Project Rhino K9 Unit

In less than six months, the Project Rhino K9 anti-poaching unit has proven to be efficient in the detection of wildlife products, arms and ammunition and the tracking and location of suspects in a number of reserves in the Zululand area. At the moment, the Unit has four trained and area adapted tracker dogs as well as a detection dog based in Hluhluwe town. Two of the tracker dogs are helicopter trained which drastically decreases response times to an emergency call out or crime scene. During the last three months, the K9 tracking unit has been called out by Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (poaching threat), Thanda Game Reserve (shots fired), Thula Thula Game Reserve (poaching incident) and Manyoni Game Reserve (poaching threat).

The Detection Unit was called out to the Mun-Ya-Wana Conservancy to assist with the apprehension of eight (8) suspects and six (6) vehicles at the Mhlosinga control gate and assisted at numerous SAPS roadblocks. The Manyoni incursion resulted in K9 Mali being deployed to search a dwelling in the Mkuze area.

Our K9 Unit was also present during the Manyoni Rhino Ride to assist with the security during the race as well as creating awareness to the public about the K9 Unit.

Project Rhino would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Duncan Paul on receiving the WESSA Individual Award for his immense contribution towards rhino conservation in KwaZulu-Natal.

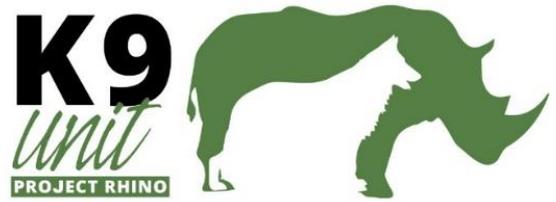


Duncan has been giving the Project Rhino K9 Unit enormous support, from a vehicle donation, financial donations, experienced guidance and a true interest and care for the dogs and the protection of our wildlife and stopping wildlife crime.

Project Rhino is most grateful to Phil and Lesley Dunkelberger for their significant donation which allowed for the establishment and implementation of the current expanded unit. Without their most generous support, the Project rhino K9 Unit would not have been possible.

We would also like to give a special thanks to WESSA Lowveld and K9's for Africa for the loan of the dogs as well as Wissing Estate and WESSA KZN for the generous support to our K9 Project.

Julia Nicholson and her team from "Blankets for Baby Rhinos" has been amazing in handcrafting blankets for each dog in the K9 unit, as well as a blanket and beanie for each dog handler to make sure our team is warm and looked after in the cold winter months.



Thank you to Neil and Shenley Cairns from Naviganti who contributed to the erection of the new kennels for the dogs in Hluhluwe Town.



Our K9 Unit is sponsored by MSD Animal Health who provides the dogs with Bravecto to ensure that they stay in good health and are tick free.

You can help this hard working team by sharing and supporting the K9 Global Giving Project: <https://goto.gg/34530>.





Reserve Support: Project Rhino Horse Unit



The Project Rhino, Mounted Rangers GlobalGiving Accelerator Programme has, thanks to our generous donors, met - and exceeded - our \$5,000 target!

The first project that we will be tackling with this money is to erect a predator proof fence around the horse unit at Nqumeni section in the Hluhluwe Game Reserve, as they lost 3 horses to lions last year and the fence is in dire need of upgrade.

Project Rhino also managed to assist Spioenkop Game Reserve with 40 bales of hay as additional food for their horses during the final winter months when food resources in the veld were scarce.

A huge big thank you to Epol and RCL Foods for assisting with sponsoring Epol cubes for the HiP Horse unit.

Reserve Support: Dehorning

To date, Project Rhino has contributed towards the dehorning of 79 rhino in our state, private and community owned member reserves, of which 50 were white rhino and 29 were black rhino.

Not only do we assist with the funding of the dehorning, but we also make use of the opportunity to create awareness and ensure that the world is informed of the rhino poaching crisis in South Africa and that we need all the help we can get to try and save the species.

We thus worked with national and international media teams on such dehorning events to make sure that they understand the extent of the problem, and the unfortunate reasons for having to do this to these animals. We try and ensure that these media teams get



as much information as possible (and the correct information), to spread the word across the globe.





Reserve Support: Dehorning (Continues...)

During the month of September, we hosted a Brazilian media team as well as the UK based BBC team on dehorning events in two different rhino reserves.

Project Rhino also contributes to global research as we believe that the scientific results of these studies will assist in making more informed decisions on where we should focus our energy. We therefore assist students with as much information as possible to research and come up with the answers to the current challenges we face.

Here is an extract of such work done by Tinashe Marange on the perceived effectiveness of dehorning rhinoceroses in Africa:

“Despite, both proactive and preventative measures implemented to curtail rhino poaching all have proven insufficient and these critically endangered rhinos

continue to be excessively poached. Rhino populations have continued to decline precipitously thus, as a final bid to protect rhino populations, Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authorities that manage approximately 800 black and white rhinos have declared all rhinos will be dehorned in due course. Dehorning rhinos is still a grey area with limited scientific evidence reporting its success and several papers have questioned whether this contentious method of dehorning is an effective method to reduce poaching. Therefore, this project will determine the current perceptions of several practitioners, non-profit organisations, chief executive officers of non-profit organisations who do and do not practice rhino dehorning alongside academics. The project aims to determine whether experts deem dehorning an effective method to deter poachers whilst evaluating the social and managerial aspects involved.”

Reserve Support: Ranger Training



**SOUTHERN AFRICAN
WILDLIFE COLLEGE**

Project Rhino funded another training course for 8 rangers from state and community owned reserves in developing critical counter insurgency tracking skills.

The course is accredited through the South African Wildlife College and has been identified by reserves as a priority to improve ranger capability. The course was run on a member reserve which replicated the unique conditions which rangers in the Midlands are faced with. The same course will be conducted in Zululand in November for the Zululand Reserve Rangers.

General comments and feedback from the Course Facilitator: “The training was once again very well received by the candidates. The Field Rangers have had little exposure to rhino poaching and so had no experience of tracking in this way. Once they were into the system and seeing the benefits they really enjoyed it.



The candidates do not carry GPS and Compass so this was new to them. They have now seen how this can increase accuracy in reporting and in follow up times. They were exposed to different areas and times of the day for trailing. The fact that they were always successful gave them confidence in the system and their team. This helped make for a very positive course.”



Youth Engagement: Rhino Art



Since the inception of Rhino Art in 2013, we have conducted conservation education and awareness work in 24 countries!*

A youth group (15) was taken for a wildlife walk with Nunu Jobe in the Nqumeni Section of Hluhluwe Game Reserve as part of their conservation education and awareness training. We also hosted a successful Kids Camp (24) at Somkhanda Game Reserve. Numerous conservation awareness soccer matches were played and we hosted The Uthingo Foundation to join us for World Rhino Month in Zululand.



Nothing has changed, with Project Rhino, Rhino Art - *Let Our Children's Voices Be Heard* Project growing from strength to strength and to date it has had an incredible year, reaching youth far and wide, specifically in KZN and the Eastern Cape.



Project Rhino, Rhino Art partnered with The Uthingo Foundation to assist us with fundraising, increasing skills and enhancing our work.



The awareness and conservation education has been done by incorporating innovative activities such as sport, into the wildlife awareness messaging and conducting youth camps in reserves. During this quarter

Sarah Jones from Tusk and Horn New Zealand joined the Rhino Art team during their visit to Hlabisa and Phembeni schools. Our good friend and longstanding support musician, Qadasi, joined the Rhino Art team at schools during World Rhino Month to create a festive music vibe.

The Uthingo Foundation - Pilot Project:
 "We wanted to make a difference somewhere, and we knew the people that could help us along the way. We presented our ideas to Project Rhino managers, and to our disbelief they shared the exact same vision as we do. Expanding their Rhino Art programme and increasing their impact in local communities to achieve connectivity and reduce wildlife conflicts. And there was born The Uthingo Foundation, working for "People for the Environment".

*Africa: South Africa, Mozambique, Swaziland, Botswana, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Chad. Asia: Vietnam, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Macau, China Nepal. Other: Germany, Netherlands, USA, South America.



Community Engagement: Food Security

The three gardens at Vezukukhanya, Sibhekokuhile and Siyaphaphama Early Childhood Development Centres (ECDs) in Kwalobe (on the outskirts of Mkhuze Game Reserve) are flourishing under the care of the school teachers and mentors from African Conservation Trust (ACT). The fresh produce is included in the crèche's daily meal plans, providing the children with valuable nutrition to help prevent stunting and malnourishment.

In this quarter, ACT offered a 5-day training programme to community members so that they could help care for the gardens in the long term. This was enthusiastically received by the community, who enjoyed learning about the permaculture techniques and weren't afraid to get their hands dirty during the practical lessons. The school representatives were also delighted to receive some personal protective clothing and are enjoying daily harvesting from their gardens.



Youth Engagement: School Kids Camp

In memory of...

In our Half Year Report, we reported that the upgrade of Nyandu Camp had been completed and was ready for Youth Camps! The sign at Nyandu Camp was

designed to commemorate two special spirits whose lives were taken from us far too early.



The illustration for the Nyandu Camp sign board was done by a very talented artist who was taken from this earth in September 2008. Mark Coetzee worked for most of his life at EKZNW as a graphic designer and illustrator. He was the Design Studio manager when his life was cut short by a plane accident. His whole life revolved around conservation and he was especially passionate about birds of prey and rhinos. There is a memorial to Mark in the Vulture Restaurant building at Giant's Castle. His spirit is forever flying high.

The second spirit commemorated in the sign is a beautiful black rhino cow simply known as WF2. She was one of the first black rhinos to be introduced into



Weenen Nature Reserve when it was first proclaimed in 1973. WF2 had as many calves as she could have had in the 40 years she was alive.

Black rhino females calve for the first time at 6 or 7 years of age and thereafter they have a calving interval of 24 - 30 months. This means that WF2 could have had at least 13 offspring. She was unfortunately poached recently.

WF2 will always be remembered by the EKZNW staff at Weenen, and those that visit this lovely reserve whenever a black rhino is seen. She certainly did her bit for her species. – Frik Lemmer (Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, Weenen).

The official opening of Nyandu Camp will be taking place on Wednesday 10 October 2018.

WORLD RHINO MONTH *Special Edition*

Every day is World Rhino Day for Project Rhino, but during September, which was World Rhino Month, we made an even bigger effort to raise awareness to save the species, as their future is in our hands.

Project Rhino's daily objective is to support all our rhino reserves in the fight against wildlife crime.

We celebrated World Rhino Month with a range of activities that we had lined up throughout the month to raise awareness.



Sole Salon and Spa ran a special on their facials where 10% of all facials were contributed to Project Rhino to raise funds and awareness throughout the month of September.

They used the slogan: "No-one in the world needs a rhino horn, but a rhino."



Centre in Pietermaritzburg did their share to support Project Rhino in the fight against rhino poaching during World Rhino Month. A huge big thank you to Con Malherbe and the Coffeeberry team for their

Coffeeberry Café, at the Cascades Lifestyle



enthusiasm to support the cause and to raise awareness. Coffeeberry Café featured rhino awareness kids activities during September month with a large stuffed rhino toy that was up for grabs!

Crossways Hilton, Rockafellas in Pietermaritzburg and the Airborne Café at the Pietermaritzburg Airport displayed Project Rhino information table talkers to create further awareness.

Project Rhino joined the FESPA Africa show at Gallagher Estate in Johannesburg, as the beneficiary of REX Screen and Digital Supplies who specifically created limited edition rhino designs for their screen and digitally printed t-shirts with all proceeds donated to Project Rhino.



We hosted a stand at the Hilton Arts Festival, where we raised funds and awareness. A huge big thank you to Diana Martin from Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife for assisting us with a gazebo and information banners as well as the magnificent stuffed rhino toys that she made for us

WORLD RHINO MONTH

in her private capacity! Thank you also to the St Annes Girls who assisted us with manning the stand and selling the raffle tickets.



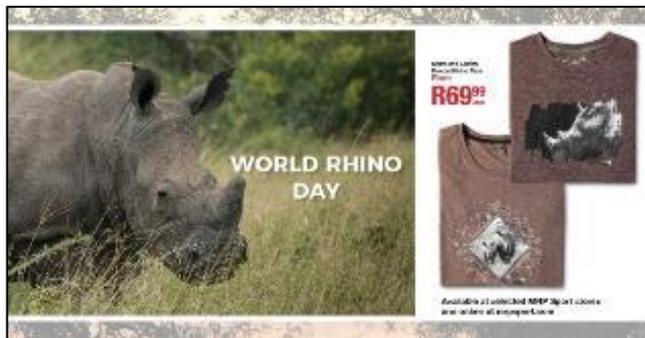
We did numerous dehorning activities with international media teams in a number of our member rhino reserves.

Our Rhino Art – *Let Our Children's Voices Be Heard* team has been going non-stop, reaching over 20 000 kids, hosting The Uthingo Foundation and running youth camps, visiting schools around reserves and educating the youth on why conserving our wildlife is so important.

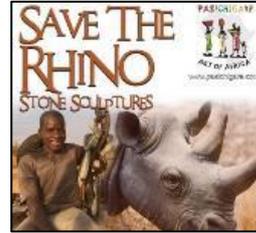


We have shared an awareness campaign through GlobalGiving to raise funds for our K9 and Horse Unit. Our K9 Anti-Poaching team have been deployed to 7 reserves during the course of September and have conducted daily patrols in our member rhino reserves.

With the slogan: "Their horns, our Pride: Wildlife is part of our South African heritage." MRP Sport has been a longtime supporter of Project Rhino to fight for the survival of our rhinos. During the month of September, MRP Sport had a special on their



Outdoor/Trails Rhino T-shirts, with 10% of the sale of any rhino shirt going towards Project Rhino's ongoing fight against rhino poachers. They also promoted our Zapper App to make quick and convenient contributions to Project Rhino.



The Pashichare Stone Art Team created sculptures out of soap stone, which we sold at the Hilton Arts Festival to assist with the awareness campaign. Images of these sculptures can soon be found on our website on the Project Rhino Market Page.

Project Rhino also supported the Rhino Peak Challenge that took place on World Rhino Day (22 September) to raise funds and awareness to save our bearded vultures and rhino. This year Project Rhino supported Nkosinathi Ntoyi, the Operations and Co-ordinations Manager at Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife who aimed to run the challenge in 480 minutes!



Project Rhino also challenged all schools in KZN to participate in a "Civvies Day For Rhino" during the month of September, where each learner paid R10 to wear Civvies to school and in this way assist Project Rhino to raise awareness and funds for all our projects to try and stop wildlife crime.

A huge big thank you to The Ridge Primary School in Pietermaritzburg and Port Edward Primary School in the South Coast that participated in this worthy cause.



Eden College, in their continuous efforts to assist Project Rhino to save our rhino, sold raffle tickets at their Eden Fest during World Rhino Month, to win a 2 night stay at Bayala Private Safari Lodge and Camp.

WORLD RHINO MONTH

All proceeds from the raffle ticket sales will contribute directly to Project Rhino projects. Eden College did a cheque handover of R13,370 to Project Rhino.



Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife (Ezemvelo) launched its MAHALA FRIDAY's initiative during September month, as part of celebrating World Rhino Month, Tourism and Heritage Month as well as commemorating World Tourism Day. This initiative was aimed at encouraging the local communities to visit nearby Game Reserves. During MAHALA FRIDAYS, the first 200 South Africans were allowed free entry to all Ezemvelo Game Reserves. As if affording local communities' free access to nearby Reserves was not enough, Ezemvelo also invited Schools to participate in Ezemvelo Heritage Week Celebrations during 17th – 21st September 2018. During this week, interested schools were taken on educational tours where they enjoyed viewing amazing wildlife in all participating Ezemvelo Game Reserves.

WILDERNESS FOUNDATION AFRICA

If you have ANY information related to wildlife crime, please sms or leave a message on the tip-off line

078 696 9494

Project RHINO
WILDLIFE OPERATIONS GROUP

VERY URGENT: If you have ANY information related to Wildlife Crime, please sms or leave a message on the tip-off line 078 696 9494

Project RHINO

STOP WILDLIFE CRIME

WILDERNESS FOUNDATION

AFRICAN CONSERVATION TRUST

EZEMVELO KZN WILDLIFE

WILDLANDS

WILDLIFE ACT

WESSA

EARTH ORGANIZATION

SPACE FOR ELEPHANTS

MIDLANDS WILDLIFE SECURITY INITIATIVE

MANYONI

HAWKE

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ZULULAND WILDLIFE SECURITY INITIATIVE

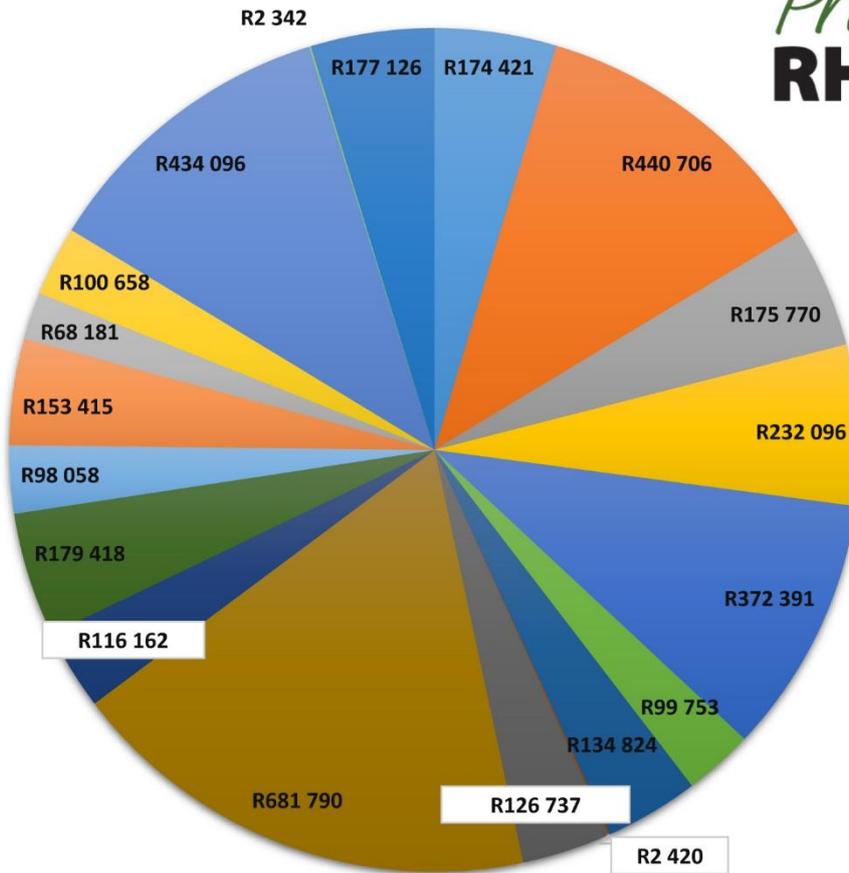
BLACK RHINO RANGE EXPANSION PROJECT

MONITORING. PROTECTING. CONSERVING. TOGETHER.



Distribution of funding

Project Rhino 2018 Distribution of Funding: R3 770 362,60



- Unspecified
- Airfield
- Community Engagement
- Reserve Support: Mkhuze
- PR Assistant
- Weenen Game Reserve Fund
- Dehorning Operations
- Bushcat
- Rhino Art KZN
- Youth Ambassador Project
- Secretariat Expenses
- Insurance, PAYE, Financial Admin
- Tracker Dog Project
- Pilot
- Rhino Art E Cape
- Ranger Training
- PR Coordinator
- World Youth Wildlife Summit 2018
- Horse Units



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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Project Rhino Staff

Chris Galliers
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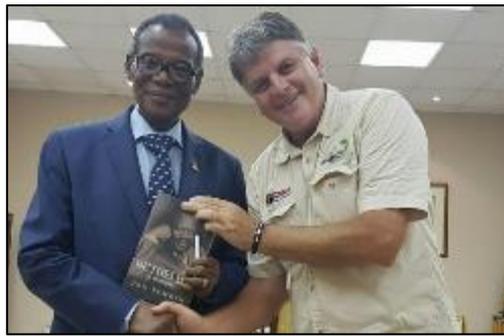
Carlien Esterhuizen
Project Rhino Assistant



Ian Waghorn
Project Rhino ZAPWing Pilot



Grant Fowlds
Project Rhino, Rhino Art



Richard Mabanga
Project Rhino, Rhino Art



Eric Dickson
K9 anti-poaching dog unit manager



Dave Pattle
Project Rhino, Rhino Art EC



Melumzi Matiwane
Project Rhino, Rhino Art EC



Jabulani Gogo
Zapwing 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."