



## OCEANS 8 CHARITY SWIM - IMPACT OVERVIEW

As the Oceans 8 Charity Swim heads into 2026, it's worth reflecting on the tangible impact this event has delivered over its three editions. Funds raised through Oceans 8 have directly supported Project Rhino's frontline conservation work, helping protect wildlife and strengthen response efforts where pressure is greatest.

Project Rhino works to safeguard wildlife, support conservation teams, and assist reserves carrying the heaviest burden of rhino protection. This work is only possible through collective effort — swimmers, supporters, and partners coming together to turn time in the ocean into real protection on the ground.

***Below is a snapshot of the impact Oceans 8 has made in support of Project Rhino to date.***





## 2023 - R154,595 RAISED FOR PROJECT RHINO

Funds raised during the 2023 campaign strengthened several core areas of rhino protection across KZN:

- Enabled ZAP-Wing's fixed-wing aircraft to continue flying patrols over 26 game reserves, provided emergency helicopter reaction capacity, and maintained the law-enforcement Ops Base at the Hluhluwe Airfield — a critical hub for coordinated security operations in northern KZN.
- Contributions also reinforced frontline protection teams, including K9 units, mounted equine rangers, and field rangers who work around the clock in high-risk environments.
- Several emergency dehorning operations were supported.
- Conservation education was also strengthened through Rhino Art – Let Our Children's Voices Be Heard, reaching more than 11,466 children within communities living closest to the poaching crisis.



## 2024 - R140,215 RAISED FOR PROJECT RHINO

2024 was a year of significant pressure for rhino conservation in South Africa. A total of 499 rhinos were poached nationally — with 325 of these in KwaZulu-Natal.

Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park (HIP) experienced the highest losses and responded with an urgent, large-scale dehorning programme to deter poachers. All available resources were redirected here to crisis manage smaller reserves with large rhino populations who faced heightened risk of becoming the next targets. To prevent this, Project Rhino committed to supporting these vulnerable reserves through urgent dehorning operations.

Funding enabled the full dehorning of the entire Pongola Game Reserve rhino population, ensuring that Pongola did not become a new focal point for poaching syndicates. This intervention required skilled veterinary teams, helicopter support, specialised medication, and close coordination between conservation partners.

**The 2024 campaign helped deliver life-saving action during one of the most challenging years for rhinos in recent history.**





## 2025 - R242,416 RAISED FOR PROJECT RHINO

**The 2025 Oceans 8 Charity Swim provided essential support to two key areas of rhino security: K9 ranger training and reserve dehorning initiatives.**

- Poaching syndicates continue to evolve in both sophistication and strategy. Funding from Oceans 8 made it possible to invest in advanced training for K9 handlers and their dogs. Courses focused on man-tracking, suspect apprehension, and specialised scent detection - upskilling teams to identify incursions earlier, track poachers more effectively, and respond with greater confidence.
- Dehorning remains one of the strongest deterrents available for reserves facing high poaching pressure. Funding supported multiple dehorning operations across Project Rhino member reserves. These operations require extensive logistics: experienced wildlife veterinarians, helicopter hours, specialised immobilisation drugs, safe handling procedures, and coordinated reserve support teams. Each dehorning action represents a direct intervention to keep individual rhinos safe.

**Thank you for standing with Project Rhino.**

**The impact is real and together the work continues into 2026.**

