

LIFESAVING LIFT:
An endangered black rhino is relocated within South Africa via helicopter to a safe location. Fewer than 2,000 black rhinos are left in South Africa.



BIOLOGY: CONSERVATION

RHINO AIRLIFT

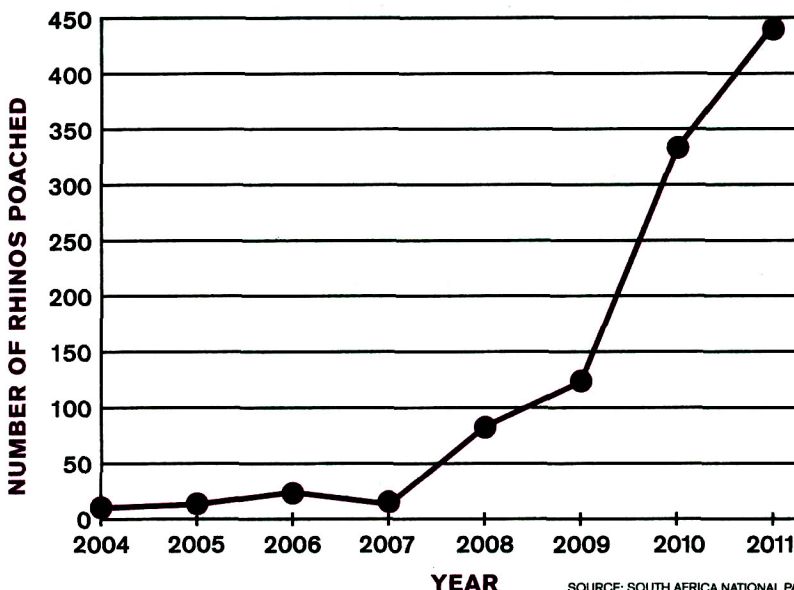
Nineteen black rhinos recently went for a helicopter ride in South Africa. Sedated and suspended below the aircraft, the animals were carried 1,609 kilometers (1,000 miles) away to a new location safe from poachers. This might not seem like a great way to travel, but conservationists say it's the gentlest and quickest way to transport the huge animals.

Though it's illegal to hunt most rhinos, many are still killed for their horns. The horns are used in traditional Asian medicines and can sell for up to \$30,000 each. The World Wildlife Fund Black Rhino Range Expansion Project protects rhinos by partnering with landowners to set aside areas where relocated rhinos can live safely away from hunters. So far, the group has successfully moved 120 rhinos.

— Natalie Smith

RHINO POACHING

About 21,000 black and white rhinos remain in South Africa, but their numbers are being diminished by illegal hunting. What is the trend in the number of black and white rhinos poached since 2007?



SOURCE: SOUTH AFRICA NATIONAL PARKS

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