

Rhino Monitors by Dave Strydom

The Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy monitors start their day at first light, so that they can get into the area where they last had visual contact with the rhino the day before. Once they find the spore they follow it until they once again get the rhino visual.

That may sound simple and easy but in fact these rhino move great distances overnight, up to 20kms sometimes and over and through rough terrain. Our young bull often does this. Once he is found he has to be chased back - always at a run, and that in itself is a marathon. Only when he is back home safe do the monitors let up. Many is the time that they walk into the elephant and they are not too friendly at times, especially the cows with calves.

There are times that for days on end it rains, but the monitors are still out there. They know the importance of our charges. That goes for winter as well. They try and look smart at all times and are always very respectful.



We try and help with anti-poaching and we do have great success, every raid that goes on will involve one or two of our monitors. We put up road blocks at various points with the Police and that means being out all night. All of our monitors are proud of the job and do it with great enthusiasm and have the rhino at heart.

We are grateful for the help we get from the Conservancy scouts who have worked alongside our monitors and have done outstanding work for the Conservancy. I would like to say a special thanks to them all for their help and support they have given me and my team.

