

# THE RHINOCEROS: TEN REASONS FOR HOPE



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It's no secret that things are looking grim for many species of wildlife, including the stout and sturdy rhinoceros. This issue of ZOO NOOZ explores all things rhino related, and we hope to inspire readers to take action to save these majestic animals. Rhinos are facing an unprecedented crisis, but there are glimmers of hope. Through determination, cooperation, and hard work, there are some victories to share. With your ongoing support, we will continue our fight to save the mighty rhinoceros.

**1 BILL ME:** San Diego Zoo Global is a staunch supporter of AB 96, a California bill that will prohibit a person from buying, selling, or importing with intent to sell elephant ivory or rhinoceros horn. This bill will eliminate loopholes and enhance enforcement of wildlife laws to help end the slaughter of elephants and rhinos. We hope this bill will go into effect this year.

**2 SOUTHERN COMFORT:** In the early 1900s, the southern white rhino had been hunted to near extinction. The

surviving 50 animals were taken to a national park, protected by armed guards, and eventually rebounded. Today, there are over 20,000 of them. While rhinos are still in great peril, three of the five remaining species are slowly increasing in number. The San Diego Zoo Safari Park has bred rhinos according to the Species Survival Plan and 93 southern white, 68 greater one-horned, and 14 black rhinos have been born here.

**3 SAMPLES ON ICE:** The Frozen Zoo® at our Institute for Conservation

Research has banked living cell lines from 214 individual rhinos, as well as gametes and stem cells, to ensure genetic lineages live on. Our Reproductive Physiology division has developed artificial insemination protocols and shared techniques with other zoos to improve rhino reproduction.

**4 STRIKE!** Bowling for Rhinos has been a longtime annual fundraising event, begun in 1990 by the American Association of Zookeepers. AAZK chapters around the country raise \$400,000 for rhino conservation each year. To date, this event has raised over \$5,408,000 to help rhinos make a comeback.

**5 ACTING ACTIVISTS:** From actors to athletes, celebrities are using their influence to inspire others to help wildlife instead of destroy it. What's not to like?

**6 BUCKING TRENDS:** Nepal is the only country that can boast zero poaching of rhinos since February 16, 2013. Their wildlife crime control is a collaboration between the Nepalese army, police, government officials, community, and international organizations. Nepal's most-wanted wildlife criminal, a rhino poaching ringleader, was arrested in January 2015, thanks to Interpol's first global fugitive operation targeting environmental crimes.

**7 MIRACLE BABY:** In 2012, poachers struck with a vengeance in a wildlife reserve in South Africa. In March, a female rhino was found alive but severely injured with her horn removed (two males were also killed in the attack). After 10 operations and massive doses of tender loving care, Thandi recovered from her brutal wounds. In January 2015, this hardy survivor gave birth to her first calf!

**8 BACK TO THE WILD:** Over 30 greater one-horned rhinos have been bred in zoos and released into the wild.

One male from the Safari Park was moved to the Cincinnati Zoo, and his male offspring was released into a park in Indonesia, where he successfully sired offspring of his own.

**9 BOOTS ON THE GROUND:** San Diego Zoo Global employees manage the rhino Species Survival Plan (SSP), greater one-horned rhino studbook, serve on rhino conservation boards, and are founding members of the International Rhino Keeper Association. One Safari Park keeper became part of an elite anti-poaching brigade in South Africa.

**10 HOME ON THE RANGE:** It is critical to connect people to wildlife; the human factor can make or break rhino survival. Observing a rhino with her calf trotting beside her can be life changing! Feeding a rhino can leave an indelible impression. San Diego Zoo Global provides rhino education through our parks, websites, curriculum, and school group workshops. Learning about rhinos and their challenges is one way to help them live another day.

## Be a Hero for Wildlife

Fighting species extinction and creating a future in which people and wildlife can thrive together is a collaborative effort—and you are a vital part of that. Discover how your support impacts the survival of species at the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Conservancy website: [endextinction.org](http://endextinction.org). As a Hero for Wildlife, you help protect endangered animals, ensuring they are here for generations to come. Thank you!

[endextinction.org](http://endextinction.org)