

Botswana Rhino Relocation and Reintroduction Project

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Begun in 2001, the Botswana Rhino Relocation and Reintroduction Project is a true success story: Collaborative conservation efforts between Wilderness Safaris, Wilderness Wildlife Trust, Botswana's Department of Wildlife (DWNP) and the Botswana Government have realised a dream with the successful reintroduction of black and white rhino into the Mombo area of the Moremi Game Reserve and elsewhere in the Okavango Delta, and no less importantly, the subsequent monitoring and protection of these animals.

2012 was another successful year for the project, during which the rhino monitoring team worked very closely with the DWNP's Anti-Poaching Unit as well as the Botswana Defence Force, with regular patrols throughout the areas where reintroduced rhinos have settled.

More births in the past year once again indicate a continually growing and healthy population in optimal habitat. Several horn implant operations were also carried out to enable continued rigorous monitoring and security of the existing free-ranging populations.

This rigorous monitoring has become even more meaningful in the face of the massive onslaught of rhino poaching across our borders in South Africa where unprecedented levels of rhino poaching to fuel the demand for rhino horn in Asia are currently decimating the population.

