

Save the Rhino International: Recent initiatives

Introduction

Save the Rhino International's vision is for all five rhino species to thrive in the wild for future generations.

We began fundraising for *in situ* rhino conservation programmes in 1992 and were formally registered as a charity (number 1035072) in 1994. We are governed by the Charity Commission for England and Wales, and our accounts are externally audited each year. We have a team of seven staff, based in central London, and a Board of eight Trustees

Review of 2015-16

During the past year, we have carried out a range of activities under each of our five strategies for conserving viable populations of rhinos in the wild, e.g.:

1. Raising funds to protect and increase rhino numbers and population distribution in African and Asian range states
 - Our accounts for 2015-16 have not yet been audited, but we expect to have raised over £1.6 million
 - We gave out £1,064,047 in grants, of which 71% was for rhino population monitoring, protection and range expansion
2. Facilitating the exchange of technical support and information between rhino conservation stakeholders
 - Organised the logistics for the 2016 IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group meeting, held in February 2016 in Kruger National Park. This involved booking flights, transfers, accommodation and conference facilities for 70 participants from 16 countries; work to edit the meeting proceedings is ongoing
 - Supported the post of Administrator for the Association of Private Land Rhino Sanctuaries in Kenya, who is working alongside the Kenyan National Rhino Coordinator to deliver the *Conservation and Management Strategy for the Black Rhino in Kenya 2012-16*
 - Acted as coordinator for some 20 European zoos who provide financial / technical support for *in situ* rhino conservation efforts
3. Ensuring that local communities in key rhino areas benefit from employment, capacity building, education, outreach and the sustainable use of natural resources
 - Worked with Chester Zoo and the Zoological Society of London to support and mentor field staff working on environmental education programmes: Rafiki wa Faru in Mkomazi National Park in Tanzania; and Lolesha Luangwa in North Luangwa National Park in Zambia
 - Successfully applied to the UK government's Darwin Initiative for a three-year grant entitled "Harmonising land use in Save Valley Conservancy in south-eastern Zimbabwe", which will see the formation of a Joint Venture partnership between Senuko Ranching Pvt Ltd and the Gudo Community Development Trust
4. Developing and delivering behaviour-change campaigns to reduce the demand for rhino horn in consumer countries
 - Continued our support for the behaviour-change campaigns being run by Education for Nature Vietnam and TRAFFIC-Vietnam, and to share lessons learned from them with other NGOs. Approximately 14% of our grants went on these demand-reduction efforts
 - Compiled preliminary data documenting the involvement of Chinese nationals' involvement in the illegal wildlife trade in rhino horn
5. Raising awareness throughout the world of the need for urgent global action on rhino conservation
 - Organised / participated in a series of events to highlight the work being done in the field, including the annual Rhino Mayday (held in June 2015 in conjunction with Chester Zoo and the International

- Rhino Keepers' Association); the EAZA Rhino Taxon Advisory Group meeting in Wroclaw, and a number of London-based events for our supporters, at which field programme staff gave presentations
- Developed “Thorny issues” discussion articles for our website, which examined issues including the development of synthetic rhino horn and the role of transportation industries in the illegal wildlife trade

Internally, our main innovation during 2015-16 was to move onto a new customer-relationship-management database, Salesforce, which went live on 1 April 2015. A year later, we are seeing considerable returns on our investment of time and money. As 2016 progresses, we aim to be ever-more efficient and effective, so that we can best support field programmes in their efforts to tackle the poaching crisis and build their rhino populations.

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