

# STOP THE RAZOR 2017



**EDUCATION**  
AGAINST EXTINCTION

Stopping  
the demand  
for rhino horn  
in Viet Nam



Helping children  
save future generations of  
rhinos  
in Zambia





Rhinos & the IUCN Red List

## Black rhino

*Diceros bicornis*

**In-situ population\*** 5,040–5,458

**IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION**  
**Critically Endangered** Considered to be facing an **extremely high risk** of extinction in the wild

<CR>

## Northern white rhino

*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*

**Population** 3 (Kenya, introduced)

**IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION**  
**Critically Endangered** Considered to be facing an **extremely high risk** of extinction in the wild

<CR>

## Southern white rhino

*Ceratotherium simum simum*

**In-situ population\*** 19,666–21,085

**IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION**  
**Near Threatened** Is close to qualifying for or is likely to qualify for a threatened category in the near future

<NT>

## Javan rhino

*Rhinoceros sondaicus*

**In-situ population\*** 61–63

**IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION**  
**Critically Endangered** Considered to be facing an **extremely high risk** of extinction in the wild

<CR>

## Greater one-horned rhino

*Rhinoceros unicornis*

**In-situ population\*** 3,500+

**IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION**  
**Vulnerable** Considered to be facing a high risk of extinction in the wild

<NT>

## Sumatran rhino

*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*

**In-situ population** ~100

**IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION**  
**Critically Endangered** Considered to be facing an **extremely high risk** of extinction in the wild

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## The state of the rhino

When I think back to 2001, the year I joined Save the Rhino, one of the hardest parts of our work was trying to explain to the general public why, a decade after the end of the previous poaching crisis, rhinos were a worthy and deserving cause. Now, nearly a decade after the current poaching onslaught began, the most difficult aspect for us is keeping the issue in the public eye. The media now only covers the most horrific or unusual incidents, such as the one at Thula Thula Rhino Orphanage, the shooting of a rhino in a French zoo, or the 12 days in July during which 23 rhinos were killed in Hluhluwe-Imfolozi Park. But for the rangers in Africa and Asia, the stress and strain of the last nine or 10 years are unimaginable.

Cathy Dean | Chief Executive Officer

## Helping rangers save rhinos

Some 80% of our grants in 2016–17 were in support of rhino monitoring and protection programmes: ensuring that the ranger teams had the kit and equipment needed to do their jobs, and good quality accommodation to come back to, with solar lighting and hot water: a few creature comforts to make long and dangerous deployments a little more comfortable.

Another great project to have emerged in the last 2–3 years is "ForRangers", an initiative developed by two individuals—Sam Taylor and Pete Newland—who work in Kenya for Borana Conservancy / 51 Degrees Ltd, two of the programmes supported by Save the Rhino.

In their spare time, they—and others that they have recruited to the cause—put on or take part in events (a dinner, several ultramarathons and other extreme endurance events) to raise funds from which to make grants for the welfare of rangers (not just those in Kenya or those working with rhinos but across sub-Saharan Africa) who risk their lives daily to protect Africa's endangered species.

ForRangers' grants have paid for uniforms and equipment, for anti-venom supplies, for education/support bursaries for the widows/children of rangers killed in action and, most recently, for a helicopter medical evacuation after a group of rangers from Borana Conservancy and the Northern Rangelands Trust were



ambushed while on an operation, on behalf of the local community, to retrieve stolen cattle.

We, meanwhile, are fundraising to launch a training programme in financial literacy for rangers in Laikipia, Kenya. Many of the rangers have only minimal education, and are not well-equipped to make informed choices about the risk-reward equation of an immediate bribe versus a year's salary, let alone 25–30 years' service.

With a growing economy in Kenya, the upwardly mobile population's first-world desire for material possessions combined with an aggressive marketing culture equates to many spending beyond their means.

As a result, individuals get themselves into serious debt. Kenya has fairly draconian banking laws, and while large un-backed loans are available, failure to meet the payments can result in bailiffs seizing all possessions. The catastrophic impact this can have may drive someone to risk aiding a poacher for the sake of quick financial relief.

\*In the countries in which they naturally occur

# Poaching in numbers 2006–17

Data provided by the African Rhino Specialist Group in the table below shows the breakdown of the number of rhinos killed per country per year. A few things to highlight:

- The current crisis took off (in terms of the proportion of cases/overall national rhino totals) in Zimbabwe in 2008
- Once the 'soft' targets (Zimbabwe's national parks) had been largely emptied, the poaching gangs shifted their attention to South Africa
- South Africa is still the country experiencing the highest number of rhino poaching incidents, but that's partly a reflection of rhino distribution in Africa: about 80% of the two African species of rhino are found in South Africa
- Kruger National Park is still the area most targeted by poachers, but KwaZulu-Natal has seen a dramatic rise in incidents during 2017
- There was a significant spike in poaching in Kenya in 2013 (59 rhinos killed), which represented some 5% of the national population. Most national rhino strategies aim to grow their populations by 5% per year, so poaching off-take at this level, plus natural mortalities, could lead to static growth or even an overall decline in numbers
- Similarly, there was a spike in Namibia in 2015, when 94 rhinos were killed by poachers
- In both Kenya and Namibia, new law enforcement initiatives have resulted in a decline in poaching incidents. It's too soon to say that either country has solved the problem
- Mozambique's own rhinos were poached years ago; this table's figures relate to animals from Kruger National Park that strayed across the border and were then killed
- In Asia, the story is quite different. Nepal, which has a long history of community engagement with rhino conservation, has only had a handful of incidents in the last decade. Forty-one Greater one-horned rhinos were killed in 2013 (India); 35 in 2014 (34 in India, one in Nepal), and 24 in 2015 (India). In general, more rhinos drown every year in the annual monsoon floods than are killed by poachers. But no-one's complacent
- There have been no known poaching incidents involving Javan or Sumatran rhinos since 2006; though in July 2017, a man was arrested in Aceh, northern Sumatra, in possession of a horn from a Sumatran rhino. The horn is reportedly antique, rather than from a fresh carcass

Table 1 | Number of rhinos killed (Per country, per year)

Country	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016*	Total
Botswana	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	4
DR Congo	-	-	2	2**								4
Kenya	3	1	6	21	22	27	29	59	35	11	10	224
Malawi	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	1	6
Mozambique	-	9	5	15	16	10	16	15	19	13	5	123
Namibia	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	4	30	94	59	193
South Africa	36	13	83	122	333	448	668	1,004	1,215	1,175	1,054	6,151
Swaziland	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	3
Tanzania	-	-	2	-	1	2	2	-	2	2	-	11
Uganda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zambia	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Zimbabwe	21	38	164	39	52	42	31	38	20	50	30	525
<b>Total</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>426</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>1,123</b>	<b>1,323</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>1,159</b>	<b>7,245</b>
Poached/day	0.16	0.17	0.72	0.55	1.17	1.46	2.05	3.08	3.62	3.69	3.17	

\*Estimate. \*\*All rhinos presumed nationally extinct in DRC post-2009 | Credit: IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group

## Not just numbers ... The impact on rangers

Virtually all of the field programmes that Save the Rhino supports have been targeted by rhino and/or elephant poachers. Rangers are being shot at by well-armed gangs and too often killed. Sitting at our desks in central London, we can only imagine what it's like to be a ranger going out on overnight patrol.

We might moan about a crowded tube in rush hour or the internet

connection failing for a few hours, but it's nothing, really.

And imagine what it's like for the families of rangers, who—in addition to seeing husbands, wives, fathers or mothers off to a dangerous job each and every day—are themselves often intimidated and physically threatened by poachers who may live in the same communities.



AM VITAL