



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 2 (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\* 67

**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 ~ 80

**IUCN RED LIST CLASSIFICATION**

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

<CR>

# State of the RHINO

Cathy Dean | CEO

This year brought with it some good news: rhino poaching in Africa decreased – slightly –

during 2017. However, more than 1,000 rhinos were killed for their horn and the past 12 months have brought with them some devastating situations. Thankfully for now, the global rhino population is still increasing and holding steady, but only just. It is the dedicated work of rangers and conservation managers across Africa and Asia that we have to thank for this. They continue to do the best they can to keep rhino populations alive, saving these iconic animals for years to come.

## How to stop poaching? Follow the value!

When rhinos are poached, criminals make money. Of course, it isn't just rhinos: the global trade in illegal wildlife products is thought to be worth US\$17 billion and is among the five most lucrative global crimes.



SARAH NELSON

Those involved with poaching are connected to international criminal syndicates, meaning that money or other assets can pass through many countries. Proceeds from rhino horn trafficking may be laundered through property and other transactions, involving multiple jurisdictions, making it very difficult to trace the origins.

In October this year, in an initiative led by the Duke of Cambridge's United for Wildlife, leaders in the financial sector joined together to sign the Mansion House Declaration, which identifies clear, tangible actions that can be taken to detect and stop illegal wildlife trade by improving how suspicious money flows are tracked, with the same techniques as those used for investigating money laundering.

Investors, banks and wildlife experts will now work more closely together to deliver real impact, increasing awareness of the illegal wildlife trade within the financial sector, identifying unusual activity earlier and providing more intelligence information to specialist law enforcement agencies, while also supporting this joint work and other similar mechanisms in different sectors.

This declaration could not come soon enough. Increasing collaboration between businesses, legal agencies and conservation organisations will further disrupt criminal networks, arresting and prosecuting those at the top of the syndicates. Asset forfeiture and frozen bank accounts will surely mean that the financial risks of facilitating the illegal wildlife outweigh the rewards.

\*In the countries in which they naturally occur

# Poaching in numbers 2006–17

The current crisis took off – in terms of the impact of cases on national rhino populations – in Zimbabwe in 2008. Before this, in the early 2000s, poaching numbers across Africa had been at record lows. The table below shows the breakdown of the number of rhinos killed per country per year.

- Once the 'soft targets' in Zimbabwe were exhausted, poaching gangs turned their attention to neighbouring countries. South Africa, which is home to around 80% of Africa's rhinos, was hit hard, with huge increases from 2009 to 2014. South Africa is still the country experiencing the highest number of rhino poaching incidents today – 1,028 in 2017. Most poaching incidents in South Africa are taking place in Kruger National Park, but an increasing proportion of incidents are occurring in other major parks and reserves, such as Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park in the KwaZulu-Natal region.
- On the plus side, poaching has decreased in Kenya and South Africa this year, the two countries that hold most rhinos. However, a total of 36 losses were seen in Zimbabwe,



as compared to 30 in 2016. In Tanzania, after 2016 saw zero poaching, two rhinos were killed in 2017. Reports of incidents in Botswana in the first eight months of 2018 suggest that this could be the next target for the gangs. We know the figures won't disappear overnight, and unfortunately the syndicates' methods and networks also continually evolve. That's why it is so important we keep going. The fall in overall poaching numbers is a positive step, but we have a long way to go before rhinos are safe and thriving.

- In Asia, the three species of rhino all exist in much smaller numbers than in Africa. Poaching continues to be a threat, but populations are also heavily affected by habitat losses. As far as we understand, no poaching incidents of Javan or Sumatran rhinos have taken place in recent years, but, with fewer than 100 of each species, they are at a tipping point. The crucial objectives for these two species are to improve breeding success, to prevent habitat loss through deforestation, to consolidate Sumatran stragglers and to establish a second population of Javan rhinos.
- For Greater one-horned rhinos, the story is a little different. There have been several dozen poaching incidents during the last decade and poachers in Assam are using more sophisticated weapons. Given the relative proximity of these areas to key rhino-horn markets (China and Viet Nam), community engagement is a critical path to success for the Greater one-horned rhino. This communication between anti-poaching teams and villages is also vital to track down poachers and convict those found guilty. Without successfully prosecuting perpetrators, the incentive to poach will remain high.

Table 1 | Number of rhinos killed 2006–17 (Per country, per year)

Country	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017*	Total
Botswana	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	4
DR Congo	-	-	2	2**									4
Kenya	3	1	6	21	22	27	29	59	35	11	10	9	233
Malawi	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	1	1	-	6
Mozambique	-	9	5	15	16	10	16	15	19	13	5	2	125
Namibia	-	-	-	2	2	1	1	4	30	94	59	32	226
South Africa	36	13	83	122	333	448	668	1,004	1,215	1,175	1,054	1,028	7,179
Swaziland	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	3
Tanzania	-	-	2	-	1	2	2	-	2	2	-	2	13
Uganda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Zambia	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Zimbabwe	21	38	164	39	52	42	31	38	20	50	30	36	561
<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>1,109</b>	<b>8,355</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	3.03*	

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



Instagram

meet\_the\_rhinosavers



## Meet\_the\_RhinoSavers

A huge thank you to each and every one of our young rhino supporters who are dedicated to helping raise funds and awareness across the world for rhino conservation. Here are some recent highlights that impressed and inspired all of us at Rhino HQ.



326 likes

**felix\_b** :: This year, instead of lots of presents for his fifth birthday party, Felix asked his friends to put money in a box to help save the rhinos. Felix raised an amazing £240.

**#birthday #rhino #dinos**

**johnBoy** hope you had a fab birthday

**allRhinos** that's a gorgeous train cake

**addy\_R** We rhinos are fans

JUNE 2

Add a comment...



286 likes

**treehouse\_fundraiser** :: Save the Rhino members Jake, Fin and Maisy organised a fundraising open day for friends and family by the treehouse in their garden. On a warm summer's day, they served cakes, ice cream and held a raffle, raising £220 for rhino conservation. **more**

**deedee33** Hang on in there!

**jane\_mikey** Save me some ice cream

SEPTEMBER 10

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**sticky\_fingers\_baking** :: Siblings Ilyan, Isabella and Kyal sold homemade cupcakes, granola bars, pretzel bark, lemonade and hot chocolate at a business fair in Nairobi, Kenya. They asked customers to donate their change to Save the Rhino, raising £250.

**#cake #lemonade #conservation**

**allRhinos** super bakers

**kton9** well impressed

MAY 28

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**Isaac\_bike** :: Isaac donates £3 a month from his pocket money to Save the Rhino. He wanted to do more so he completed a 5-mile sponsored bike ride, raising £200. Isaac was awarded a special badge for his charity work by his local beaver scouts. **more**

**#cycling #scouts #conservation**

**keeling310** keep on cycling issac

**sonny23** love your pics — keep posting

JUNE 2

Add a comment...



191 likes

**crash\_kids** :: South African group 'Crash Kids' hosted a fundraising 'Crash Social' for their local schools. The event, which raised £315, featured a DJ, blue lemonade and a "thought wall" where everyone could write a message about rhino conservation.

**mrsRhino** super serious lemonade

**crashOut** wow was it legal?

**mysterons** yeah dude: save me some.

4 DAYS AGO

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