

*Project*  
**RHINO**



STOP WILDLIFE CRIME

# HALF YEAR REPORT 2019



PHOTO CREDIT: GERHARD VAN DER WESTHUIZEN



## INTRODUCTION

The rhinoceros's historical story has been largely successful. They used to consist of 30 genera spread across the world including Eurasia and North America. Today only 4 genera and 5 species exist, but on a significantly smaller footprint. The success of rhinos were because they were adaptable, with species thriving in a range of habitats. How ironic is it that the first rhino to appear in archaeological records during the Oligocene were large, but hornless animals. Evolution of the rhino led it to possess a horn and in some cases two horns. Today, some of the very attributes that allowed it to be such a successful mammal are threatening all five species and unfortunately it is happening at a rate that will deny adaptation through evolutionary processes.

The recent poaching statistics from the South African government should still be keeping the alarm bells ringing. More rhinos are being poached than are being born. A tragedy that unfortunately has played out over a decade, which in today's day of media and instant access, is strangely a long time for people that have been numbed by the severity of the situation. The fact that the largest rhino population in the world has decreased by 51% this century seems to have passed many by. What does this number do to our total rhino population in the country? We don't know, which is a concern as the strategy for half the number of rhino is surely needing to be different to the current one?

Project Rhino continues to try and keep the rhino landscape connected and supported to have growing rhino populations. It is only through this collaboration that we will be effective. As such we extend our gratitude to all those that provide continued resources and support to enable success.

**Did you know?** The black rhino in Africa seems to have originated in Europe whilst the white rhino was last in the evolutionary chain, but is the most specialised and exclusive to the African continent.





# Project RHINO

STOP WILDLIFE CRIME



**MONITORING.PROTECTING.CONSERVING.TOGETHER.**

## PROVINCIAL STATISTICS



**PROJECT RHINO FOUNDING MEMBERS:**

African Conservation Trust | Black Rhino Range Expansion Project (WWF) | Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife | Game Rangers Association of Africa (GRAA) | KZN Directorate for Priority Crimes (HAWKS) | Magqubu Ntombela Foundation | Midlands Wildlife Security Initiative | Phinda Private Game Reserve (& Beyond) | Space for Elephants | Thanda Foundation | Thanda Private Game Reserve | The Lawrence Anthony Earth Organisation | WESSA | Wildlife ACT Fund | Wildlands Conservation Trust | Wilderness Action Group | Wilderness Foundation | Zululand Rhino Reserve | Zululand Wildlife Security Initiative

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 c/o African Conservation Trust (Secretariat), 8 Old Main Road, Hillcrest | PO Box 310, Linkhills, 3652

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## NATIONAL STATISTICS

8132 rhinos poached in SA since 2009, 1074 have been in KZN, 253 arrests so far in 2019, 316 rhinos poached this year till June. White rhinos in South Africa declined by 51% in Kruger National Park (the worlds largest population of rhinos in the world) and 26% in other state-owned parks and game reserves from 2012 to 2017. Even though precise estimates are not available for the number of rhinos on private land, available data indicate that the number of rhinos on private land in South Africa continued to increase over the same period by approximately 27%. White rhino populations are decreasing whilst some good news is that black rhino populations were increasing. During the period of January to June 2019, the number of rhino poached countrywide was 316. This was a decrease compared to the same period in 2018 when 386 rhino were killed for their horns.

Ref: Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries reports back on rhino poaching in first six months of 2019, 31 July 2019 [https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/barbaracreecy\\_rhinopoaching\\_sixm](https://www.environment.gov.za/mediarelease/barbaracreecy_rhinopoaching_sixm) onthreportback\_july2019

### RHINO POACHING STATISTICS / 1 Jan - 30 June 2019



**environmental affairs**

Department:  
Environmental Affairs  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Provinces and national parks	2018 1 Jan - 30 June	2019 1 Jan - 30 June
SANParks	222	190
Gauteng	1	5
Limpopo	19	15
Mpumalanga	31	11
North West	37	17
Eastern Cape	9	1
Free State	2	8
Northern Cape	1	3
Kwa-Zulu Natal	64	66
Western Cape	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>316</b>

While elephant poaching has decreased substantially in the Kruger National Park during 2019 in comparison to the same period for 2018, 8 elephants have been poached in the KNP so far this year (January to June 2019).

WILD HEART WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

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# ZAP-WING



Project Rhino salutes you Ian Waghorn  
AKA #Captainwags!

After almost 18 months, over 500 flight hours, 8 poachers caught from the air countless memories, it was time for our ZAP-Wing Pilot, Ian Waghorn to move onto his next adventure.

On behalf of the Project Rhino team and all the Zululand rhino reserves we would like to thank Ian for his tireless work to help us keep our rhino and wildlife safe in the Zululand landscape. It was an honour to have him as part of our team.

In the same breath we are excited to welcome Patrick Fennemore who will be standing in for us for 8 weeks until we have found a permanent pilot for our Bushcat. Patrick was born in Durban and learnt to fly at Virginia Airport. He spent two years instructing and then moved up to Botswana to fly there for another two years. He then decided to take on an adventure and moved to Papua in Indonesia to fly rice and supplies to the local people there.

Since the start of the year, ZAP-Wing has flown 256 Hours with 28 hours being for reaction and 228 being patrol flights. The latest reaction was at Somkhanda where the spoor of 3 suspects were detected. The ZAP-Wing arrived within 40 minutes of the call out and patrolled the area from the air while the APU followed the spoor on the ground. Unfortunately the spoor left the reserve before the culprits were caught. Luckily there were no carcasses detected.

The Hluhluwe community has also been contacting ZAP-Wing to assist with general crime in the greater Hluhluwe landscape. ZAP-Wing contributed to the successful arrest of a group that were storing counterfeit products in the area.

Our eyes in the sky play a massive security and wildlife monitoring role in the landscape and is valued by the greater Zululand community.

A huge big thank you to Dr. Flamand and Black Rhino Range Expansion Project (BRREP) for the ongoing assistance with funding to keep this service operational.

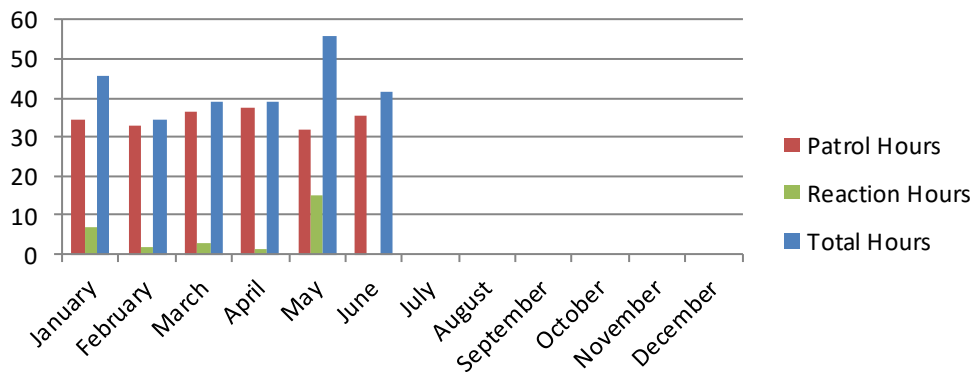
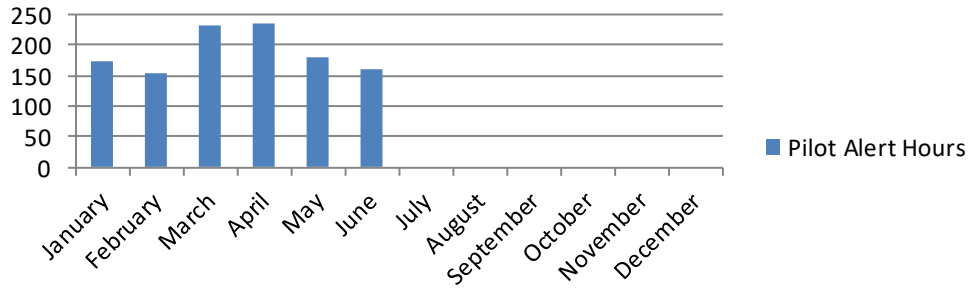
PHOTO CREDIT: ETIENNE GERBER



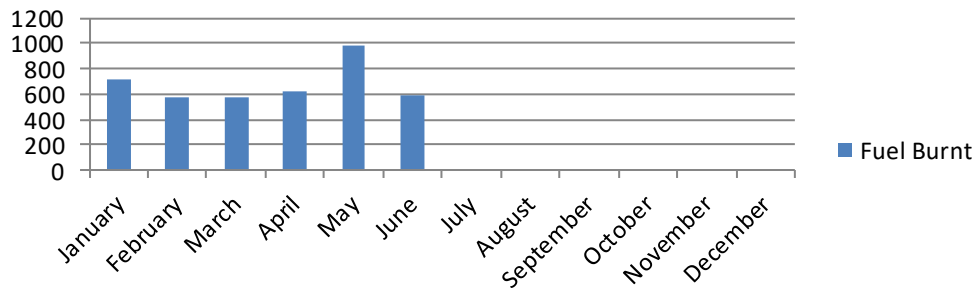
# Project RHINO

STOP WILDLIFE CRIME

## Pilot Alert Hours



## Fuel Burnt



### PROJECT RHINO FOUNDING MEMBERS:

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# RESERVE SUPPORT: RANGER TRAINING

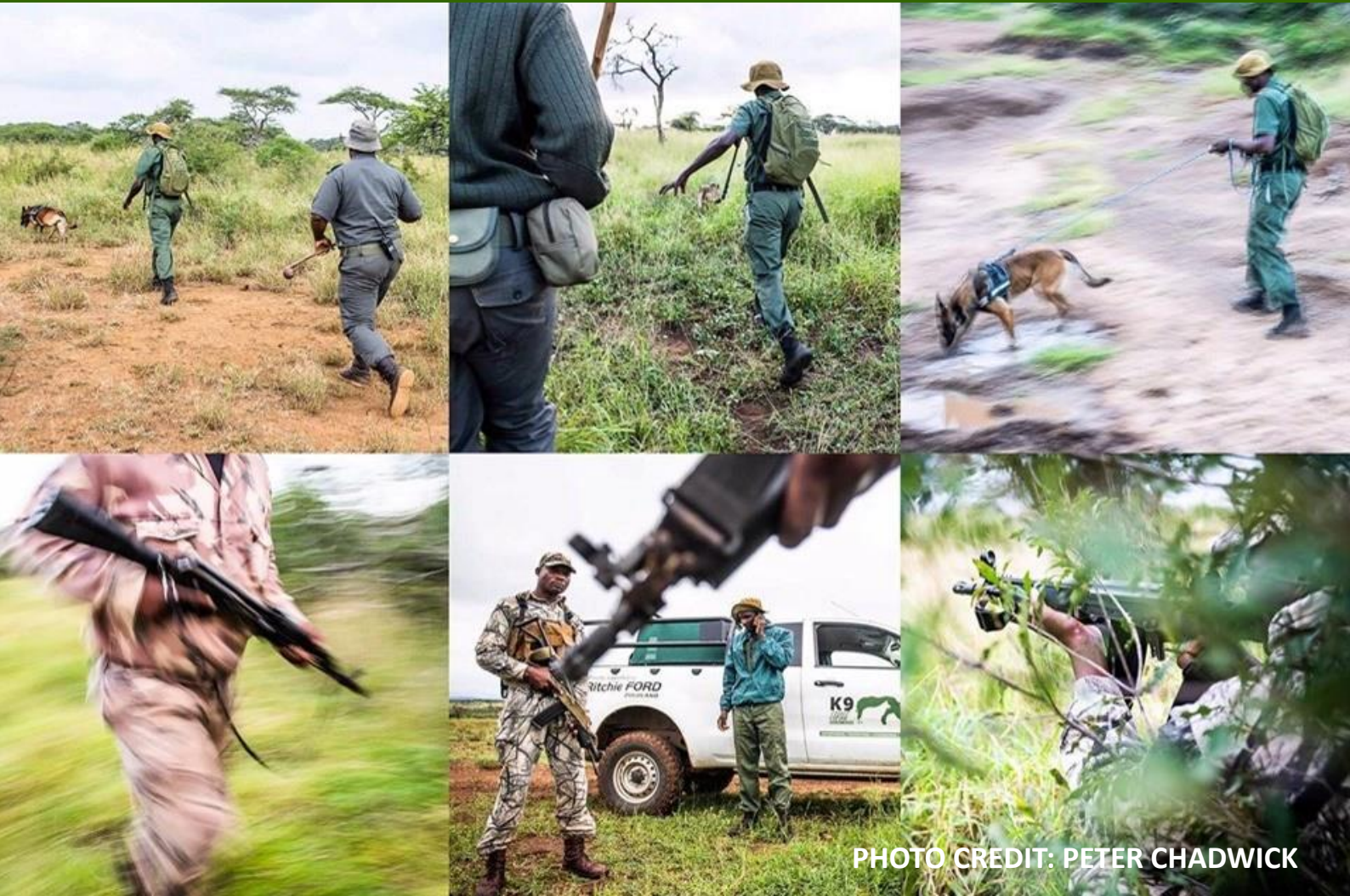


PHOTO CREDIT: PETER CHADWICK

As funding this year is very limited, ranger training has been put on the back burner until we have raised the necessary funds to continue. We have however through the support of the Game Rangers Association of Africa carried out ranger mentoring and integrated operational training.

## "Stop Rhino Poaching

We must not allow ourselves to grow numb.  
Grow numb to the conflict and horror.  
The horror that wildlife crime brings.  
We must constantly be reminded of its pain and its sufferings.  
Wildlife crime brings sufferings and death to both man and animal.  
Only when we remain reminded can we awaken.  
Awaken to say NO MORE!  
Awaken to take the steps necessary.  
The steps needed to end its horrors.  
The steps needed to end wildlife crime.  
Remember wildlife crime is an injustice to both man and animal!

It is the rangers that battle against the organised fingers of wildlife crime.  
It is the rangers that protect Africa's iconic wildlife.  
The wildlife that is the baseline for conservation.  
The baseline for allowing the development of sustainable socio-economic opportunities.  
Opportunities that can bring relief to an impoverished continent.  
Wildlife crime kills those opportunities.

You can support the rangers through supporting;

[Ranger Protect](#) where you can sponsor life and disability insurance cover for a ranger,  
[Game Rangers Association of Africa](#) that provides multiple benefits to rangers on the African Continent,  
[Project Rhino](#) that supports rangers and rhino reserves in KwaZulu Natal South Africa.

Be brave enough to leave a comment on how you are supporting rangers this World Ranger Day!" - Peter Chadwick





Ordinary People doing something  
Extraordinary for SA's Rhinos





# Skydive for Rhinos

Ordinary people doing something  
Extraordinary for SA's Rhino

## SAVING RHINOS FROM 10.000 FT

After two extremely popular Skydive for Rhinos campaigns in 2011-2012, Durban Skydive Centre and Project Rhino are bringing the event to Zululand – home of the black and white rhino.

YOU can experience the intense thrill of free falling from 10,000 ft over the African bushveld, whilst contributing to urgent anti-rhino poaching initiatives.

### When and Where?

19-25 August 2019

Hluhluwe Airfield, Zebra Street, Hluhluwe, 3960

### Cost?

R5,000 per participant, with all proceeds going to Project Rhino's conservation initiatives.

### More Info?

Find us on Facebook: @skydiveforrhinos or online: [www.projectrhinokzn.org](http://www.projectrhinokzn.org)

Skydive for Rhinos has always been about ordinary people going to extreme lengths to pledge their support for our wildlife. Join us for an opportunity of a lifetime and help us to make a difference by skydiving for our rhino!





Ordinary People doing something  
Extraordinary for SA's Rhinos



19 - 25 August 2019  
Hluhluwe Airfield



## Skydive for Rhinos Registration Form

If you would like to participate in the **Skydive for Rhinos fundraising campaign** kindly fill in the form below and email it to [info@projectrhinokzn.org](mailto:info@projectrhinokzn.org).

Full Name			
Email			
Contact Number #1 (Easiest to reach you on)		Contact Number #2	
Residential Address			
Age		Sex	
Have you skydived before?			
Are you committed to raising funds for conservation?			
Do you have any disabilities?			
Do you have any heart conditions?		Do you weigh less than 100 kg?	
Preferred Date and Venue of Skydive			
Signed		Date	

Please note that you will not be permitted to jump if you have a heart condition or weigh over 100kg and will be required to sign an indemnity form before you jump. A minimum of R3000 must have been deposited into the Project Rhino account by **31 July 2019** for us to cover the logistical costs.

If you have any further questions please feel free to contact us:

Project Rhino Carlien Esterhuizen: [info@projectrhinokzn.org](mailto:info@projectrhinokzn.org)

Cell: 083 312 4014

African Conservation Trust Kira Macdougall: [kira@projectafrica.com](mailto:kira@projectafrica.com)

Office: 031 765 3957





## K9 UNIT

**K9**  
*unit*  
PROJECT RHINO



We are delighted to share a brief summary of our K9 team's activities over the last three months, as the Unit has been incredibly busy in the Zululand landscape. Not only does our K9 unit tackle wildlife crime, but also assists in the broader community to reduce crime in general.

Just in the last week the Project Rhino K9 unit was called out twice by the South African Police Service to assist in robberies in the Greater Hluhluwe Area. The first was a robbery in Hluhluwe Town, upon which the K9's successfully tracked down two suspects close to the N2 highway where the robbers were apprehended. The second call from the South African Police Service was for the K9 team to assist with tracking down wildlife poachers on a game farm on the outskirts of Hluhluwe Town. The K9's successfully followed the poachers' tracks for over 7 kilometres and found items on the tracks such as a double barrel hunting rifle, hunting knives and axes.

Our K9 Unit has also been called out frequently to surrounding game reserves (private, community and government reserves) to assist the various reserves' Anti-Poaching Units with wildlife crime incidences that occurred. The K9's are trained to fly in helicopters, which minimizes the time it takes the team to arrive at the scene of the crime, increasing the success rate in catching the perpetrators. The Unit does not only respond to incidences, but are deployed on a daily basis to our Member Rhino reserves, where they do training with the various reserves Anti-Poaching Units. They also do training exercises with the Project Rhino Air Wing to ensure that they are they are fully ready when an incident occurs.

Spook, our Dutch Sheppard puppy, who joined us as an eight-week old black ball of fluff, is officially in training and is currently busy with obedience training, imprinting training, ball drive training (basis of detection work) and prey drive training (basis of tracking work). Her training will ensure that she is a dual purpose K9 with tracking and detection capabilities. Being based in Zululand at the moment, Spook is gaining valuable exposure to local working conditions, and is already confident around the varied scents and sounds found in the Zululand bush.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to IFPCP our service provider, Alpha Security, WESSA Lowveld, MSD Animal Health, Mr Duncan Paul, Mr Michael Rea and Ms Sharon Hahn and OnePlan for your kind donations over the period – we would not be able to function without your support and generosity.

PHOTO CREDIT: ETIENNE GERBER





PHOTO CREDIT: ETIENNE GERBER

MSD Animal Health  
The Science of Healthier Animals™

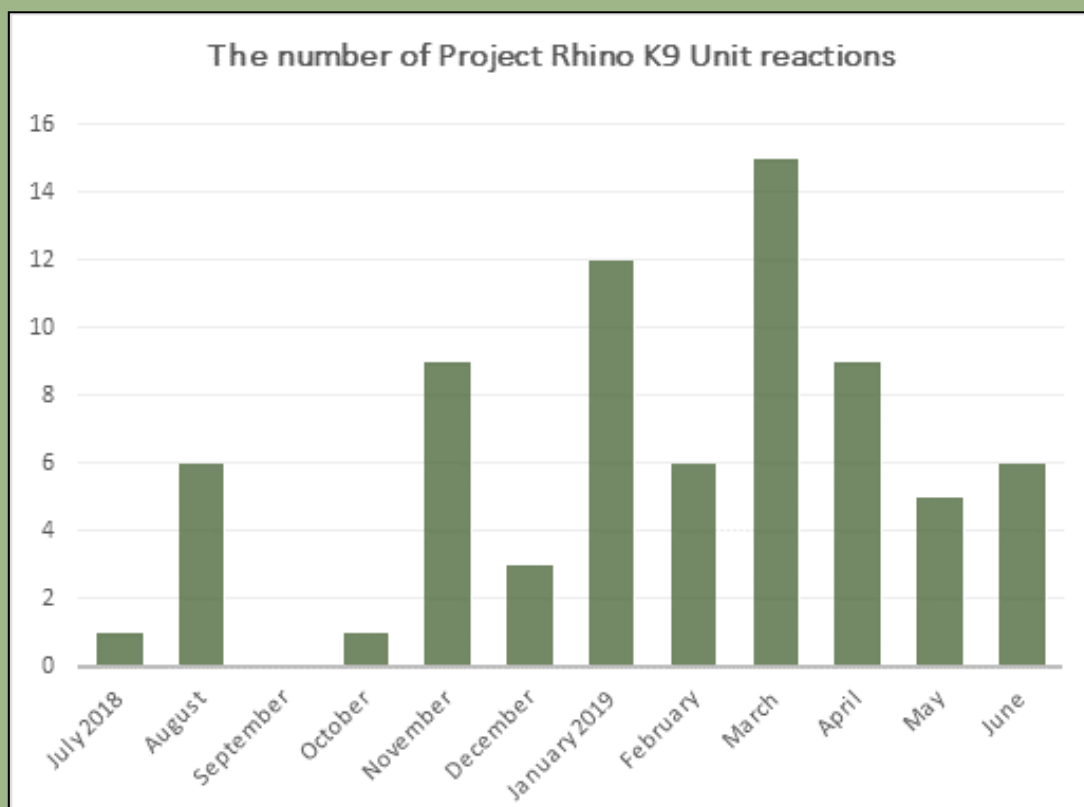
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- Est. 1945 -  
marltons  
PET · CARE · EXPERTS

Hills™

Thank you to Hills for assisting us with reduced costs for our dogfood and Marltons for the incredible donation of dog treats, beds, leashes, toys, beds, blankets and bowls for our K9's! A special thank you to Adele Vincent who has assisted us furiously with fundraising to keep our K9 unit operational.

Total number of reactions/call outs in the last 12 months:





# RESERVE SUPPORT: HORSE UNIT



PHOTO CREDIT: CHRIS GALLIERS

In June, Kim Isaacs and her team hosted an Equine Ride4Rhino “Paper Chase” and Country Market event at Seaton Estate in Ballito as a fundraiser for Project Rhino . It was an incredible event , with riders having a fantastic time, dressing up and riding along a picturesque route to the beach. Quadasi and Maqhinga was the headline act, who aside from promoting Zulu culture, traditional music and social cohesion have been actively involved in rhino conservation, working alongside the Kingsley Holgate Foundation and Project Rhino as Rhino Art Ambassadors. Kim and her team managed to raise a whopping R40 000 for rhino conservation with this fantastic event, which we are hoping to make an annual event on the Conservation calendar.

We are delighted to report that to date we have raised \$6,278.64 on the GlobalGiving platform for our mounted rangers! This has made (and continues to make) a tremendous difference to the teams on the frontline - a huge thank you to you, our generous donors!

Project Rhino recently interviewed Sibonelo, a section ranger from Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park (HiP), on the impact the equine units are having to the poaching crisis. HiP is the oldest proclaimed nature reserve in Africa, consisting of 960 km<sup>2</sup> of hilly topography. It is home to the Big Five and renowned for its rhino conservation, breeding the species back from extinction under Dr Ian Player and Operation Rhino in the 1950s and 60s. Sibonelo believes that the horse unit has been incredibly impactful, and has made it much easier for rangers in his section to cover long distances and reach different parts of the Park. He says, “Horses will always be the best for area coverage... we always pick up poachers’ tracks and carcasses in time because we check all hotspots in the morning quickly with horses. My field rangers prefer to ride horses in the morning to check river crossings and paths, rather than walking on foot.” A lack of funding is a key challenge to the Horse Unit, and Sibonelo is currently receiving donations of bags of horse feed to sustain the unit from Epol. Ideally, he would also employ additional horses and team members as his rangers are working incredibly long hours; “It is difficult, because the guys work at night and you expect them to be out again in day time doing horse patrols ... We are hoping that one day we will have enough staff and can split them into two teams.” Project Rhino is committed to supporting Sibonelo’s horse unit as much as we possibly can to help relieve some of the pressures that they are experiencing. Our fundraising focus for this period is on buying bags of feed, as well as supporting a groom with a small monthly salary.

Please support the cause by following this link:<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/support-mounted-rangers-fighting-rhino-poaching/>



# TANDEM TYRES

## GIVING PROJECT RHINO HORNS



A dehorning intervention by Project Rhino

### Rhino Poaching persists at an alarming rate

within South Africa and in particular within the KZN game parks. This fact together with an ingrained affinity for conservation, compelled **Tandem Tyres** to find a way to get involved in order to combat the senseless and inhumane massacre of South Africa's national treasures. The result has been to align with **Project Rhino**, which was formed in 2011 to unite the conservation community against rhino poaching. **Project Rhino** has been recognised by both the Mail &

Guardian newspaper and the Game Rangers Association of Africa as a leader in the fight against rhino poaching.

Now in its 7th year, **Project Rhino**, continues to bring together organisations like **Tandem Tyres** who have a common vision and goal. That goal is "a world where both White and Black Rhinos are once again flourishing in not only KZN, but throughout Southern Africa; forever free and safe from the disastrous effects of poaching."

Some **5 key projects** and programmes have been identified to spearhead this

strategic intent namely:

- DEHORNING INITIATIVE
- RANGER & RESERVE SUPPORT
- THE ZULULAND ANTI-POACHING WING (ZAP-WING)
- COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
- FUNDRAISING, PUBLIC AWARENESS & ACCOUNTABILITY

However, it costs an enormous amount to keep initiatives like ZAP-Wing air support and the K9 tracker dog unit in the field. This is where **Tandem Tyres**, has been able to assist.

Through the support of our loyal customers, **Tandem Tyres** has been able to donate a cheque of **R150 000** to **Project Rhino** in support of its various programmes.

**Tandem Tyres** felt compelled to act and have committed to donating for every Rhino tyre sold in South Africa. The funds raised will go towards better equipping our game rangers, along with fitting their vehicles with the tyres needed for the rugged terrain in the fight against poaching.

This cheque represents the first of many, so a huge thank you to our **Tandem Tyre** customers and your support of our **Rhino Tyre** brand. With your continued assistance, together with **Project Rhino**, we can all play our part in protecting our Rhino and staving off the overall, bigger environmental crises facing South Africa and its neighbours.







# HELPING TO KEEP THE RHINO IN THEIR ELEMENT

**OTR**

**Truck**

**Taxi**

For years, Rhino Tyres has delivered a range of high quality tyres at great value across the globe for OTR, TBR and PCR vehicles. Distributed exclusively throughout South Africa and Africa by **Tandem Tyres**, Rhino's high-tech, and Euro-star rated design offers superior resilience and reliability for any need, in any terrain.



# RHINO TYRES



# RHINO ART

LET OUR CHILDREN'S VOICES  
BE HEARD



**SIYABATHANDA OBHEJANE**  
WE LOVE OUR RHINOS



**RHINO ART**

LET OUR CHILDREN'S VOICES

**BE HEARD**

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

THIS SCHOOL IS A PROUD SUPPORTER  
OF RHINO CONSERVATION

*Kingsley Higate*  
FOUNDATION

Project  
**RHINO**  
KENYA



# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT: RHINO ART: MEET THE TEAM



Richard Mabanga believes that he will be the first Zulu man that will Skydive for Rhinos in his traditional attire during the week of 19-25 August! Richard is the Rhino Art - Let Our Children's Voices Be Heard Thousand Facilitator in KZN. By the start of the June school holidays, he had visited 73 schools and reached 26 602 youth with a rhino conservation message! Richard has been an integral part of the Project Rhino team for several years, connecting communities - especially those bordering game reserves - with conservation. He played an active role in both the inaugural 2014 World Youth Rhino Summit and the 2015 Winter Summit as well as an education and awareness trip to Vietnam in 2016.

Grant Fowlds is a passionate conservationist whose family, amongst others, pioneered a wildlife project that is now Amakhala Game Reserve - a leading tourism brand based in the Eastern Cape. As a speaker and ambassador for Project Rhino, he has brought a conservation message to audiences across several countries including south-east Asia. Grant has worked with rural communities throughout southern Africa in human-wildlife conflict, demand reduction and alternate sources of income via tourism and building range expansion parks. He shares the vision of African Explorer Kingsley Holgate, to reach one million youth in community conservation for rhino, elephant and gorilla as well as other endangered species in a simple art project in schools - Rhino Art - Let Our Children's Voices Be Heard. He has recently finished a book about his experience titled "Saving the Last Rhinos—the life of a Frontline conservationist."

Dave Pattle is the Rhino Art - Let Our Children's Voices Be Heard Eastern Cape Coordinator. Based in Port Elizabeth, he rolls out education and awareness and fundraising initiatives in response to the poaching crisis. He is no stranger to volunteering having previously served as an Honorary Ranger for the Addo Region. He's supported by a fantastic team of volunteers who give freely of their time in reaching the youth of the Eastern Cape with a #conservation message!

Melumzi Matiwana is the Rhino Art - Let Our Children's Voices Be Heard Eastern Cape Facilitator, a role that allows him to educate the youth about conservation and be a role model within his own community. He's passionate about getting kids excited to spend time in the bush and learn more about the iconic rhino! Your enthusiasm is contagious Mazzi!





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: FOOD SECURITY



Agricultural mentors from African Conservation Trust (ACT) and Project Rhino, together with teachers and community volunteers, have been hard at work caring for the crèche food gardens in the KwaJobe/Cezwane region, on the outskirts of Mkhuze Game Reserve and iSimangaliso Wetland Park.

Together, they have established thirteen (13) food gardens to support Early Childhood Development (ECD) feeding schemes. ACT was delighted to receive a donation of 21 boxes of vegetable seeds from Pep Africa, which have been given to the crèches and a number of families in the area. We are also exceptionally grateful to the HCI Foundation, who has granted us funding to provide agricultural training to a number of the crèche parents. This means that families will be able to grow their own healthy vegetables at home and even better nutrition for these young children in their vital development stages.

In addition to providing agricultural mentorship, the KwaJobe team have also been active in a number of community days, run together with the local municipality and other NGOs working in the region. We celebrated World Water Day (22 March), cleaning alien invasive plants from the Umthala River, participated in a community conservation workshop on World Environment Day (5 June), and provided garden training to pupils from uBombo Junior Primary School on Mandela Day (18 July). All of these activities continue to reinforce the Project Rhino brand and conservation message among community members.





# WORLD YOUTH WILDLIFE SUMMIT 2019

Let our voices be heard...

W: [www.youthrhinosummit.com](http://www.youthrhinosummit.com)

E: [info@youthrhinosummit.com](mailto:info@youthrhinosummit.com)



In less than 50 days and building on the success of the 2014 World Youth Rhino Summit and 2015 Winter Summit, Project Rhino will host a third world youth wildlife summit to empower youth leaders to become ambassadors for wildlife conservation. 150 youth delegates, educators, speakers and conservation experts will gather at the Southern African Wildlife College from September 21 to 24 for the 2019 World Youth Wildlife Summit!

So far, delegates from organisations and schools from South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia, New Zealand, Vietnam and the UK are applying to attend. The 2019 World Youth Wildlife Summit provides a platform for passionate youth to engage with conservation experts, debate and discuss critical wildlife crime issues, and experience African wildlife first-hand. Our aim is to empower, engage, equip and educate future conservation leaders from across southern Africa, the UK and Vietnam!

The late Dr Ian Player, world-renowned rhino conservationist and speaker at the 2014 World Youth Rhino Summit, at the time suggested that the older generation pass the baton on to the youth.

Driven by criminal organisations and rebel militias, the illegal wildlife trade is estimated to be worth up to \$23 billion. Wildlife poaching also puts human lives at risk, as it is estimated that over 1 000 park rangers have been killed in the line of duty over the past 10 years.

The summit will maintain a focus on rhinos as an iconic species, but also broaden its emphasis to other threatened African animals such as the elephant, pangolin and lion.

A panel of wildlife experts and activists will engage with the delegates and challenge them to develop possible solutions to the current threats of wildlife crime.

If you would like to sponsor a delegate please contact Francois du Toit [ceo@projectafrica.com](mailto:ceo@projectafrica.com) . Follow the Summit on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/YouthWildlifeSummit](http://www.facebook.com/YouthWildlifeSummit)) as we announce our speakers and share exciting programme details!



**WORLD YOUTH  
WILDLIFE  
SUMMIT**



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

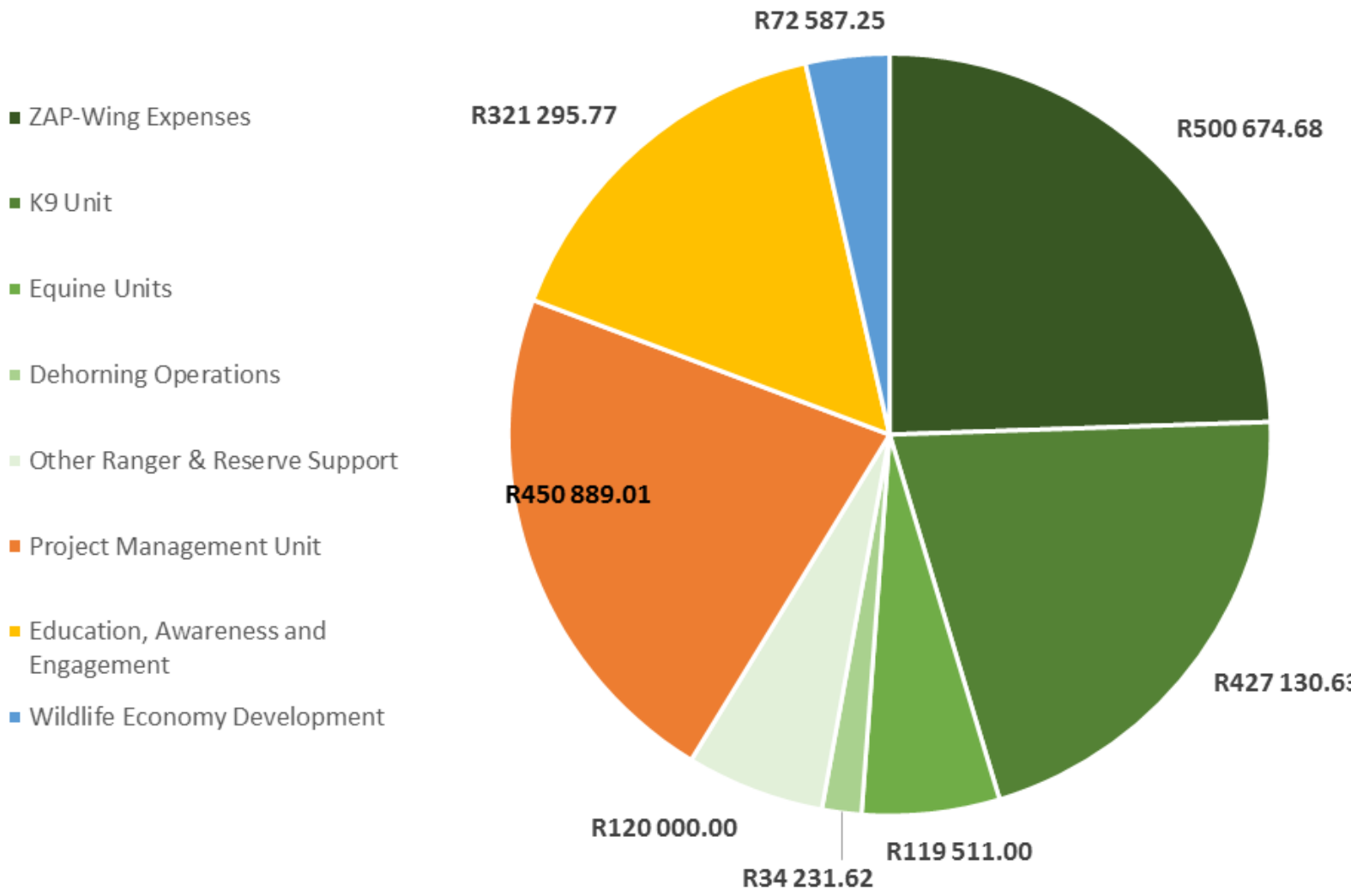


**VUKANOW**



## DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDING

### Project Rhino 2019 Expenses To Date



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# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS & SUPPORTERS



*“What motivates us daily is the dream of both White and Black rhino species thriving in KwaZulu-Natal and far beyond - forever free, forever secure from poaching, well managed and protected.*

*Today we strive to protect the world’s last remaining African Rhino species, so that tomorrow they will still continue to play their vital role in our continent’s irreplaceable and beautiful ecosystems. We honor their uniqueness as one of the primary protector species of Africa’s great wilderness areas. We know you feel the same and thank you for your support.”*

PHOTO CREDIT: CHRIS GALLIERS