

RHINO COVID-19 CRISIS | RHINO COVID-19 CRISIS

IT'S UP TO ALL OF US

Covid-19 is putting rhinos at risk

From the sudden tourism shutdown to the decline in global economies, our partners around the world have been heavily impacted by the pandemic. Yet, while so much of everyday life has been put on hold, rhinos continue to need protection.

When the initial effects of the pandemic were being felt by our partners in Africa and Asia, we knew we had to do something to help. Many had lost significant funding overnight, and paying for essential, yet simple, items, was already becoming tough.

Your response during the first phase of the campaign was incredible.

You raised more than £22,000 TO SUPPORT rhino conservation in NAMIBIA, INDONESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA

Protecting the extraordinary DESERT-ADAPTED BLACK RHINO

Save the Rhino Trust, Namibia

Every rhino is special, but the rhinos roaming across Namibia's vast Kunene region are extraordinary. To survive in the harsh desert, they have adapted to go without water for up to four days and to browse on the usually poisonous 'melkbos' without any ill-effects.



STEVE AND ANN TOON

To protect and learn more about these unique rhinos, rangers at Save the Rhino Trust have been deterring poachers and collecting vital information about the rhinos' daily habits since 1982. In that time, the black rhino population has trebled, but they still face an intense poaching threat, and the Covid-19 outbreak has made everything much more difficult.



The pandemic meant that tourism in the region stopped overnight. Tourism that contributed significantly to rhino protection, supporting the costs of ranger salaries, rations and equipment.

Your donations so far have helped to provide food and equipment for rangers, and to repair vehicles that are used each day: making sure that rangers can keep patrolling the wild Kunene region of Namibia, protecting the special desert-adapted black rhino for the future.

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PROVIDING PROTECTIVE equipment for rangers

Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, South Africa

In March, like many places across the world, Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park (HiP) went into lockdown; no visitors were able to come into the Park for more than three months.

During this time rangers had to keep going. They couldn't let the Park's endangered wildlife – including black and white rhinos, elephants, lions, and wild dogs – be put at greater risk. To abide by strict movement protocols, some rangers had to remain on site when lockdown began, meaning they would have to work for more than six weeks without seeing their families. It was an extremely tough time for everyone at HiP.

Of course, the huge loss of income from tourism meant that budgets had to be cut back, at a time when they needed more resources than ever: not only did everyday costs still need to be paid for, including rations, fuel and salaries, but every ranger now urgently needed extra equipment to keep them safe from Covid-19. No one could have predicted that this personal protective equipment would be necessary.

Thanks to your donations, HiP was able to cover some of these extra costs, purchasing more masks, gloves and hand sanitiser, making sure that every ranger, their team, and wider community, is better protected from Covid-19.

**How you can
CONTINUE TO
SUPPORT RHINOS
during Covid-19**

Together we can make a difference

Your support so far has made a huge impact on teams across Africa and Asia. But Covid-19 is not the only threat that impacts rhino conservation today.

In this crisis there's a very real danger that many of the conservation successes of the past few years might be lost – things could very easily go into reverse.

PATROLLING FOR EXTREMELY RARE RHINOS

Rhino Protection Units, Indonesia

Deep within the rainforests of Indonesia live two extremely rare rhino species: Javan and Sumatran rhinos. Combined, there are fewer than 160 of these animals left. With such fragile populations, safeguarding the remaining Javan and Sumatran rhinos is vital.

For more than 25 years, expert Rhino Protection Units (RPU) have protected these two vulnerable species 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Thankfully, these teams were able to continue their important job throughout the lockdown, trekking through dense jungle in teams of four to track rhinos, remove snares, and secure essential rhino habitat. Despite great challenges, RPUs have been key to maintaining an incredible zero poaching record of Javan and Sumatran rhinos for 14 years. But Covid-19 threatened the future of these specialist units.

The huge economic impact of Covid-19 caused a 30% shortfall in the annual RPU budget: funding that is essential to keep Javan and Sumatran rhinos safe.

Your generous donations contributed to making up this shortfall. You provided enough funding to pay for three Rhino Protection Units for one month, and also purchase essential kit and equipment that's needed for each patrol.



INTERNATIONAL RHINO FOUNDATION

**DONATE TO THE RHINO
Covid-19 Crisis appeal:**

**Online: [www.savetherhino.org/
rhino-covid-19-crisis](http://www.savetherhino.org/rhino-covid-19-crisis)**

**Or text: COVID19RHINO
to 70085 to donate £10**

Texts cost £10 + one standard rate text.