

Borana's third generation

For the first time in 21 years, Kenya recorded zero rhino poaching in 2020. This huge achievement would not have been possible without community engagement, law enforcement, and collaboration, which are the key pillars of this success.

Isabelle Parsons | Conservation and Sustainability Officer, Borana Conservancy

At Borana, we work carefully across these pillars to ensure that our rhinos and other wildlife are safe today and can thrive in the future. We're proud that this work has helped us achieve zero rhino poaching for the past six years (the last poaching incident was in July 2015). But of course, rhinos need more than just safety. Managing habitats and populations to ensure populations are healthy and growing is just as important.

Following an incredible year in 2020, when we saw a record number of rhino births, population growth has slowed, as expected, as calves are cared for by their mothers. However, our rhino population is strong and, despite the impacts of Covid-19, 2021 has continued to bring exciting news.

In May 2021, Allie, the first calf born on Borana after rhinos were introduced in February 2014, had her very own calf. Allie's calf, who is yet to be named, is the first of the third generation of black rhinos on the Conservancy – a huge milestone!

Additionally, Allie's mother, an 18-year-old black rhino named Callisto, gave birth to her fourth calf on Borana just a few months earlier, in December 2020. Callisto has had the highest number of calves on Borana since the introduction.

As well as sensational new births, we've also been updating and upgrading our facilities across the Conservancy to boost the land available for our new and existing black rhinos.



THIS AND MAIN IMAGE: SHAUN KOUSELY



GS: 077M 07/02/2021 217

Some areas within Borana had excellent black rhino browse, but no available freshwater, which meant that the rhinos were not able to utilise this space. Thanks to support from the Holtzman Wildlife Foundation, four water points have been established to increase water availability and encourage rhinos to move into these new places. With freshwater now accessible, both black and white rhinos are beginning to create new territories. This will allow for more even dispersal of the rhino population across the Conservancy, helping us to increase the number of rhinos at Borana – something that is essential as our third generation of rhinos begins to grow!

We remain extremely grateful to the Borana rangers who spend their days working tirelessly to keep rhinos like Allie, Callisto and their calves safe. It's thanks to these extraordinary men and women that our rhinos are increasing, and poaching remains at zero – something that we hope continues for years to come!



IMAGES: BORANA CONSERVANCY/UNLESS NOTED

