

OPERATION STOP POACHING NOW



As we reported in the last issue of *The Horn*, earlier this year Africa's top rhino experts met in South Africa to assess the status of rhinos across the continent. They reported that the black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) population is at 4,880 (up from 4,240 in 2007) and that the white rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*) population is at 20,165 (up from 17,500 in 2007). But these modest increases mask the real picture. **We are facing a poaching crisis.** Sophisticated crime syndicates have killed over 800 African rhinos in the past three years and there is no sign of the threat abating.

Cath Lawson | Office and Communications Manager

This issue of *The Horn* is all about working collectively to conserve rhinos and a collective approach is what this year's appeal is all about. Rather than focus on one rhino species, one country, or one project, working with our partner, the International Rhino Foundation, we've decided to take a cross-country approach and tackle the issue of poaching. In 2010, South Africa alone lost 280 rhinos. This year, as of 25 September, South Africa has lost more than 220 rhinos. Rhino poaching is a very real, ever-increasing threat and needs to be addressed now.

South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Kenya have the four biggest populations of black* and white* rhinos, collectively holding 96.1% of the world's black rhino population and 98.8% of the world's white rhino population and so that's where we going to focus our efforts. Worryingly, the most serious upsurges in poaching have been seen in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

In an effort to combat rhino poaching, experts at the African Rhino Specialist Group urged greater cooperation, assistance and training from law enforcement, military, and judiciary agencies, particularly assistance in developing new tools and technologies to detect and intercept rhino poachers and horn traffickers. In response, we're in the process of working with each of the four target countries' leading rhino conservationists and wildlife authorities

to identify urgent needs for the teams working on the ground to protect the rhino. These needs might be anything from a tent to specialised training.

Some of the needs that have already been identified include:

- **Equipment** Microchips and microchip scanners, track sticks/CyberTracker, basic field ranger equipment, crime scene equipment, DNA collection kits, tags and data loggers, vehicles, hand-held radios, collars for WRS satellite, GPSs, metal detectors, cameras, night-vision equipment, thermal imaging equipment
- **Training** Footprint-lifting and scene-of-the-crime photography; scene-of-the-crime Advanced, Train-the-trainer and Basic courses; DNA collection, specialised

field ranger, recruitment techniques and standards, basic field ranger training, in-service training, investigations and intelligence

- **Liaison** Protocol documents, rhino coordinator, risk assessments, local Wildlife Crime Working Group
- **Field activity** ear-notching, translocations, stockpile management, staff selection, flying time, use of dogs, substance detector, dehorning
- **Research & development** Transmitters, revision of legislation, DNA analysis, reward funds, information management

And now we're asking for your help to meet some of these needs. Rhino poaching is no longer *ad hoc* or opportunistic. The poaching threat has become well-equipped, sophisticated and dangerous beyond belief. The time to stop poaching is now.

••• DONATE •••

Online Visit our appeal page at www.justgiving.com/OperationStopPoachingNow

Telephone Call us during normal office hours (Mon - Fri, 10am - 6pm) on (+44) 020 7357 7474

Post Send a cheque made out to **Save the Rhino** with 'Operation Stop Poaching Now!' written on the back, to Save the Rhino, 16 Winchester Walk, London SE1 9AQ

Spread the word Even if you cannot donate, please help us by telling friends, family and colleagues about **Operation Stop Poaching Now**

You can keep up to date with the appeal by becoming a fan of Save the Rhino on Facebook or by following us on Twitter (@savetherhino)

IMAGES TOP TO BOTTOM: LOWVELD RHINO TRUST, MPT, DAVE HAMMAN, MARK DAVIS, DAVE ROBERTSON



All for a substance that has no medicinal value



RHINO BRAAI

Get together with friends and family to organise your own braai in support of our **Operation Stop Poaching Now** appeal.

A 'braai' is Afrikaans for 'barbecue'. It is common for families and friends in South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe to get together over an open flame to enjoy good food and good company, and perhaps even share a drink as the sun sets over the horizon. So what better way to raise funds for our **Operation Stop Poaching Now** appeal than holding your own braai?

It's so simple we've made a foolproof step-by-step guide:

- Step 1** Invite some people you like
- Step 2** Prepare food
- Step 3** Make fire (grrrrr)
- Step 4** Cook food
- Step 5** Eat yummy food
- Step 6** Ask well-fed and watered guests for a contribution to **Operation Stop Poaching Now**

Once you have held your braai, you can send the money you raise to **Save the Rhino** in a variety of ways:

- **Send a cheque** made payable to **Save the Rhino** and post to: Save the Rhino, 16 Winchester Walk, London SE1 9AQ. Write 'Rhino braai' on the back
- **Call 020 7357 7474** normal office hours and make a donation using your debit/credit card
- **Donate via our Justgiving appeal page**
www.justgiving.com/operationstoppoachingnow

And don't forget to forward us your stories and photos so we can thank you and spread the word. Get in touch with jo@savetherhino.org for more details.



AND WHEN THERE'S TOO MUCH RAIN FOR A BRAAI...

Our fantastic supporters have been out and about doing crazy activities and running fab events to raise money for the rhinos.

Guy Dviri is embarking on the Mongol Rally, driving in a 'woefully unsuitable vehicle' across a third of the Earth's surface from the UK to Mongolia to 'see what happens'.

Jon, Ursula and Charlotte did a jailbreak – setting off from Surrey University to see how far they could get in 36 hours without spending any money on transport. They got all the way to Bruges and back!

Bath Skeptics in the Pub decided to run a geek pub quiz on what was coincidentally 'Geek Pride Day' and 'Towel Day' (on which Douglas Adams fans honour his life and work). As Douglas was Save the Rhino's founder Patron, the Skeptics decided to donate profits from the event to us. 'It seemed fitting that we would celebrate the life and work of Douglas Adams while raising funds for a cause that he felt so passionately for' says Hayley Stevens, Skeptic.

Raising money on our behalf doesn't have to be about running a marathon or climbing a mountain. You could run a small event or activity — a bake sale or a dinner, for example. Have a think about what you enjoy doing, and turn it into a fundraiser. We're more than happy to support you, and are ready and waiting to hear your ideas!

FUNDRAISING THOUGHTS

Simply ask for a donation from your guests If you're feeling inspired, you could source some items for a raffle or play some games, asking people for a donation to take part. Tug-of-war, rounders, space hopper races and treasure hunts are all classics.

giftaid it **Remember to ask for gift aid** For every £1 donated, we can claim back an extra 25p from the UK government for UK taxpayers. You can get gift aid forms from Save the Rhino.

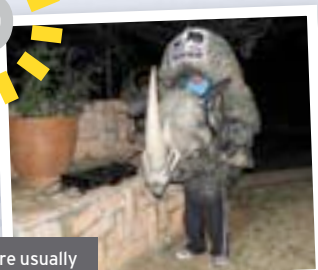


IDEAS

Food Boerewors, sosatie, rock lobster, sweet chilli lamb chops, mackerel, chicken and sundried tomato burgers, sweet potatoes, pork spareribs. See braai.com/recipes for recipe ideas.

And don't forget the Rhino Peri-Peri Sauce
www.kalaharipepper.com

Drink Dawa African Cocktail, Castle, Tusker, Robsons, Lion, Savanna Cider, Ginger Beer



Rhinos are usually vegetarian!

Save the Rhino cannot accept liability for any loss, damage or injury suffered by you or anyone else as a result of taking part in a fundraising event. Please take great care when handling food and work to basic rules for safe preparation, storage, display and cooking.