

Aneis de Vida

The Circle of Light Magazine

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Issue 20

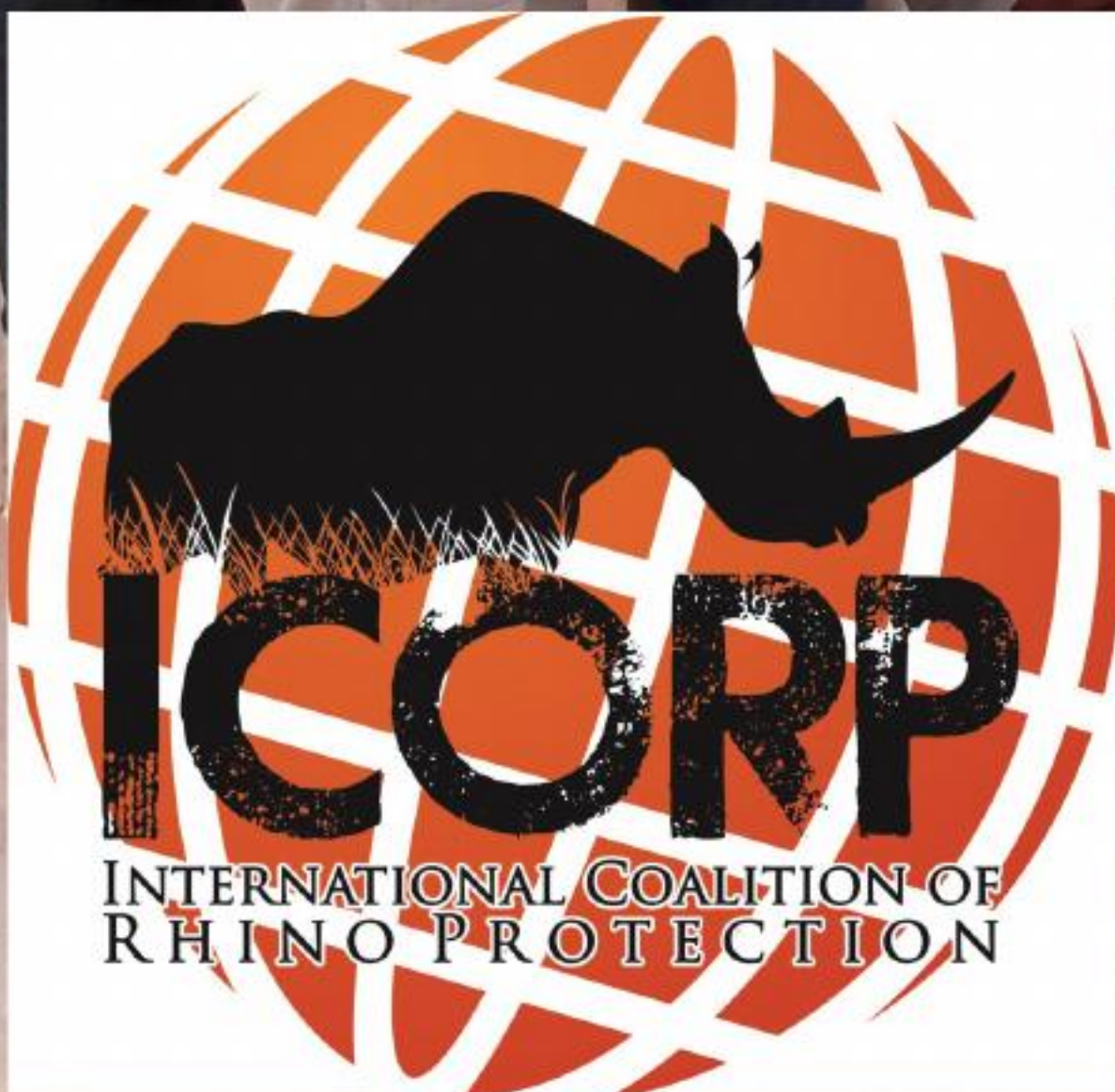
May 2016



Marc Mc Donald

and

ICORP



By
Marc Mc Donald

International Coalition of Rhino Protection (ICORP)

We are fighting a war – a war to keep animals alive.

I lay quietly for hours on the last hot and humid night of December 2013. Wondering what the new year would bring. It was pitch black out there, fortunately I had a thermal imaging camera ... waiting ... listening ... for the footsteps of a poaching gang that we had been following for days. The frogs stopped calling and I knew they were close to where we lay waiting to ambush them.

Slowly and carefully I lifted myself up, looking through my field viewer and saw three of them approaching about 120m away. They were armed. They stopped in their tracks, my heart was pounding, the one with the heavy calibre rifle started to cock and lock the rifle, opening the bolt and the round got flung to the ground. He kept on chambering round after round – I counted 2, 3, 4. He was practicing before they got to the poor Rhino that would be grazing some-

where ahead. My APU (anti poaching unit) were ready. My name is Marc Mc Donald and I have made it my life's commitment to protect the wildlife in Southern Africa. Having spent several years on the front lines in Mozambique and having received severe death threats I came out to Australia, to reflect on the serious situation happening in Southern and Central Africa with regards to the iconic Elephant and Rhino. The poaching is out of control, with over 300 Rhino already poached in 2016 while 1250 were slaughtered last year. The number of Elephant poached in the last 3 years exceeds the 35000 mark.



ICORP got gounded as I fully understand the frustration of not having the proper equipment to fight the wave after wave of well organised, funded and equipped poaching syndicates. I wanted to do something for the rangers on the front lines risking their lives. Such as the 5 rangers in the Garamba National Park

in the DRC in April. 3 of the rangers died of their wounds whilst the other two lay in hospital with serious injuries..

These brave men and women need to be equipped and trained to be a step ahead of the poachers. So ICORP identified 4 projects that are extremely important to succeed in combating poaching on the ground.

We are supporting and assisting rangers in Malawi and other APU's with equipment, we are also assisting the families of the rangers with important necessities for the women such as birthing kits, mosquito nets and vegetable seeds for their respective food gardens. We are funding, training and supplying the K9 dog units to areas where they need additional assistance to curb the serious poaching activity. ICORP has identified a Rhino Orphanage looking after the little calves left terribly traumatised by the slaughter of their mothers and who were left to die and some having to deal with badly harmed bodily injuries from machete wounds or even gun shot wounds.

The only way we can seriously begin to stop and even curb this onslaught is by having corporate and individual assistance via funding and sponsorship of equipment

that is channelled to the various projects/areas in need. We are very well aware of where the funds are needed and our recipients are contacted directly and supply us with the exact equipment information and support needed to help them.

Please help us to help them as we need to win this war. It is not about egotistical people, it is about a real and sobering situation on the ground, the killing fields of Africa's flagship species.

It is about halting the myths and traditions alive in Asia. Rhino horn has zero medicinal use, and ivory being smuggled into the Southern Sudan to feed the extremist

wars, child smuggling and more.

The dedication of all the ranger teams remains excellent but the need to boost the morale of all on the ground is extremely important. They are all working under extreme risk and stress. ICORP is standing in the gap by providing for these brave unsung hero's. Making sure that the small rhino calves get the best treatment and vet care possible. And by training K9 dog units and handlers and furthermore to assist the families of the unsung hero's – with much needed items.

If you are at all able to donate something toward this

undertaking – no matter how big or small the amount, the banking details are as follow.

Bank Name: ANZ

Account Name:

International Coalition of Rhino Protection (ICORP)

Account Nr: 22696007

BSB Nr: 016580

Stand with ICORP, and whatever you donate, know that it will help us to help them.

There is a saying in Mozambique:

Kalimambo

which means

THANK YOU





You Can Make a Difference

Donations can be made to:

Bank Name: ANZ (Australia)

Account Name:

International Coalition of Rhino Protection (ICORP)

Account Nr: 22696007

BSB Nr: 016580