



White rhinos aren't white. The name is thought to be a corruption of the Afrikaans word for "wide," referring to lip size.

**Rhino Revival** The African southern white rhinoceros has stepped back from the precipice, reaching a population of 17,500—large enough and genetically diverse enough to survive. The turnaround is stunning. At the end of the 19th century this fearsome yet relatively placid grass-eater, which can grow to more than 5,000 pounds, was nearing extinction, a victim of indiscriminate hunting.

Then in 1895 a remnant population of 40 or fewer rhinos was located. In a long-term project, South Africa set aside a game reserve,

now Hluhluwe-Umfolozi Park, to nurture them. By the 1960s private landowners had also begun building white rhino herds so trophy hunters could take a shot at a few each year; the fee is currently about \$40,000. Making rhino ranching profitable was key to saving the animals, says Michael Knight, head planner for national parks. Another species in South Africa, the aggressive black rhino, lives a solitary life that makes protecting it more of a challenge. Like other rhino species, it is clinging to survival. —Chris Carroll

#### A RANGE OF RHINOS

The southern white (left) has walked away from endangered status. Other rhinos remain in peril.

#### Near threatened

**Southern white** (Africa)

#### Endangered

**Indian** (Asia)

#### Critically endangered

**Javan** (Asia)

**Sumatran** (Asia)

**Black** (Africa)

**Northern white** (Africa)