



KALAHARI

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ABOUT

Kalahari Conservation Society (KCS)

Kalahari Conservation Society (KCS) is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) that was inaugurated by the then President of the Republic of Botswana, His Excellency, Sir Ketumile Masire, in 1982.

This is a membership-based organisation. The Society was formed in recognition of the pressures of development on Botswana's wildlife and the general environment. The Society diversified from being exclusively wildlife oriented to a more holistic and integrated biodiversity conservation. KCS is the oldest environmental NGO in Botswana and has been effective in undertaking its lobbying activities through advocacy and assisting government in policy making as well as collaborating with other NGOs, the private sector and government departments to contribute to the conservation of Botswana's environment and wildlife resources. Since its establishment, the Society has grown rapidly, receiving recognition both within Botswana and internationally. Environmental conservation views, aspirations, problems, concerns and request are presented to government through various representations using the power of dialogue. In addition, KCS is represented in the High Level Consultative Council (HLCC). KCS bestows patronship on each serving Presidents for the Republic of Botswana and the current patron is His Excellency, Lt. General Seretse Khama Ian Khama.

KCS earned its much well-deserved reputation as a concerned and effective conservation organisation through its efforts to promote and support appropriate conservation policies in Botswana and regionally. KCS views are usually presented through well-researched positions.

Membership

KCS membership is voluntary and consists of ordinary, family, corporate, life and honorary members. The membership is also open to school clubs. An application form must be completed to become a member. Corporate membership to the Society is open to any voluntary association, trust or a private corporate entity as well as parastatals. Internationally KCS is a member of IUCN, the World Conservation Union.

Vision and Mission

The vision of KCS is to encourage, and in some cases finance, research into issues affecting resources and their conservation, to promote and support policies of conservation towards wildlife and their habits and to promote the knowledge of Botswana's rich wildlife resources and its environment through education and publicity. Our mission is to provide professional and independent advice to the government, NGOs and private sector through lobbying and advocacy, as well, as providing support services to members.

Branches

There are efforts to resuscitate branches across the country. Members and non-members outside Gaborone are encouraged to contact our Public Relations office for further information.

Sources of KCS Funds

KCS's source of funds comes from membership subscriptions, donations, charges on project implementation and provision of services to development partners. There are also various ways of raising funds which include publications, events and selling of safari merchandise. KCS also undertakes trans-boundary projects including some large-scale projects in natural resources management where it charges administration fees to sustain itself.

Publications

Currently KCS has a quarterly newsletter that is regularly sent to members.

Achievement

The following are some of the projects KCS has contributed towards their successful completion;

- The 'Every River Has Its People' Project
- Lion Research in Makgadikgadi Pans
- The establishment of the Harry Oppenheimer Okavango Research Centre (HOORC)
- Okavango fish parasite Project
- Okavango Lion Project
- Jackal Project
- Okavango Crocodile Project

- Capacity Building for NGOs and CBOs
- Leopard Ecology in Khutse Game Reserve
- The ecological zoning of the Okavango Delta
- Community Based Natural Resources Management Projects (CBNRM)
- Launch of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) - Botswana Chapter
- Management plans for the Chobe National Park, Moremi Game Reserve and Gaborone Game Reserve, Water provision in National Parks and Game Reserves
- Flamingo research project
- Stakeholder participation in river banks management.

Services Offered By KCS

- Promotion of the conservation of the natural environment of Botswana, which includes flora and fauna
- Promotion, sponsorship and conducting of research in flora and fauna and their management, conservation, population dynamics, movement, behavior and the relationship between species and their habitats
- Act as a repository for information on all aspects of the aforementioned and to disseminate information by all available and practical means
- To carry out, promote and or sponsor education in conservation of the natural environment and the value thereof
- Monitor Implementation of agreements, legislation, regulations, bye-laws, licensing procedures and other activities which are related to the objectives of the Society.
- Facilitate stakeholder participation in biodiversity conservation
- Management of research projects
- Collaborate with various development partners in project development, management and implementation.

KCS Events:
KCS AGM – 22 June 2011

KCS Fundraising Dinner Dance
11 November 2011

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Log onto
our Website and
learn more about
KCS
www.kcs.org.bw

BECOME A MEMBER

Join the KCS and learn more about environmental issues and enjoy many other benefits as well.
For more details and membership application form turn to [page 7](#)

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Africa's rhinos face the worst poaching crisis in decades

By Nicki Chadwick -IUCN Media Relations Officer



White Rhino bull *Ceratotherium simum* Lucky Mavrandonis

Well equipped, sophisticated organized crime syndicates have killed more than 800 African rhinos in the past three years – just for their horns. With the most serious poaching upsurge in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Kenya, Africa's top rhino experts recently met in South Africa to assess the status of rhinos across the continent and to identify strategies to combat the poaching crisis.

"Although good biological management and anti-poaching efforts have led to modest population gains for both species of African rhino, we are still very concerned about the increasing involvement of organized criminal poaching networks, and that, unless the rapid escalation in poaching in recent years can be halted, continental rhino numbers could once again start to decline," says Dr Richard Emslie, scientific officer for the IUCN Species Survival Commission's (SCC) African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG). South Africa alone lost 333 rhinos last year and so far this year has lost more than 70. Most rhino horns leaving Africa are destined for Southeast Asian medicinal markets that are believed to be driving the poaching epidemic. In

particular, Vietnamese nationals have been repeatedly implicated in rhino crimes in South Africa.

Black rhinos (*Diceros bicornis*) currently number 4,840 (up from 4,240 in 2007), whilst white rhinos (*Ceratotherium simum*) are more numerous, with a population of 20,150 (up from 17,500 in 2007). Population numbers are increasing, however, with the rise in poaching, there is still cause for concern due to inadequate funding to combat well-resourced organized criminals. Rhino experts urged greater cooperation between wildlife investigators, police and prosecutors; magistrates and judges to be more sensitive to rhino issues; and assistance in developing new tools and technologies to detect and intercept rhino poachers and horn traffickers. While the number of arrests has increased there is an urgent need for improved conviction rates and increased penalties for rhino-related crimes in some countries.

The AfRSG commended recent initiatives to combat poaching. These include the establishment of a National Wildlife Crime

Reaction Unit in South Africa, increasing protection throughout the rhinos' range, DNA fingerprinting of rhino horn, regional information sharing and engaging with the authorities in Vietnam. In addition, wildlife agencies are working closely with private and community rhino custodians, as well as support organizations, to protect rhinos. "In South Africa, a large number of rhinos live on private land. Rhino management, including control of rhino horn stockpiles and security, needs to be improved and coordinated among rhino holders," says Simon Stuart, Chair of the IUCN Species Survival Commission. "This is essential if we are going to face the poaching crisis head on." In some countries, white rhinos are still hunted as trophies. The group noted that some professional hunters have demonstrated questionable and unethical behavior, adding that improved management of the allocation and monitoring of hunting permit applications, especially in some South African provinces, needs urgent attention.