

# Project RHINO

STOP WILDLIFE CRIME



## HEARTFELT GRATITUDE

On behalf of the Project Rhino team, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to each and every one of our loyal supporters who voted to help us secure the European Outdoor Conservation Association grant.

The response was truly overwhelming, and we are deeply grateful for the trust and enthusiasm you've shown in our mission.

Although we didn't secure the grant, the outpouring of support has been incredibly meaningful to us. The exposure and awareness generated for our work have been invaluable, and we're thrilled to have had the opportunity to share our mission with a wider audience.

We're committed to continuing our conservation efforts, and we're grateful for your ongoing support.

## WINGS OF PROTECTION: A NEW ERA FOR PROJECT RHINO!



We are beyond thrilled to share some game-changing news that will take our conservation efforts to new heights – literally! Thanks to the incredible support of the Brady Hunter Foundation, we've secured a brand-new savannah plane for our aerial operations!

This fantastic development means Zululand now boasts not one, but TWO vital aircraft:

- ✈ A patrol aircraft to keep a watchful eye on our precious reserves
- ✈ A response aircraft to swiftly respond to any conservation threats

With this enhanced capability, we'll be able to protect our wildlife and reserves even more effectively.

But that's not all! We are also excited to welcome Bertus Nagel as our new Operations Manager in Zululand, overseeing the Project Rhino airwing and K9 unit. Bertus brings invaluable expertise to the team, ensuring our operations run smoothly and efficiently.

In a major milestone for our Midlands region, we have launched the first-ever Midlands Aerial Patrol Wing (MAPWing)! Pilot Ross MacBey will be taking to the skies, providing critical support to our conservation efforts. We're thrilled to have Ross on board!

A huge thank you to the Brady Hunter Foundation for making this possible. Together, we're making a real difference in the fight against wildlife crime and conservation.

## ON THE PROWL: LATEST FROM THE K9 UNIT



We are thrilled to share the remarkable achievements of our K9 units! Building on our existing K9 units and services, we are excited to announce the expansion of our K9 capabilities to 5 new member reserves that previously didn't have access to our K9 services. This additional unit has hit the ground running, making a significant bust within just 2 weeks of operations, catching rhino poachers and retrieving 4 rhino horns!

### Training for Excellence:

To ensure our K9 handlers and K9s continue to excel, we've scheduled three intense 2-week training sessions for the year with renowned K9 specialist Johan van Straaten. This expert guidance will guarantee our team receives the best training and support possible.

### March Milestones:

Here is a snapshot of our K9 unit's impressive performance in March:

- Total Hours Trained: 125
- Foot Patrols: 1785km covered on foot
- Vehicle Patrols: 3950km patrolled by vehicle
- Fence Patrols: 639km of fence lines secured

We're incredibly proud of our K9 team's dedication and hard work. Their efforts are making a tangible impact in the fight against wildlife crime.

We would also like to acknowledge [First Car Rental](#) and [Stellantis](#) for their incredible support in donating a vehicle to Project Rhino. This vehicle has been a game-changer, enabling us to deliver K9 food, transport fuel for our airwing, facilitate Community Conservation activations, and escort donors to our projects.

A massive thank you should also go to [Trusty Pet Food](#) for committing to support our K9 units with nutrition for the next 12 months. Thanks to their generosity, we've been able to keep our hardworking conservation canines strong and healthy in the field.

## EMPOWERING YOUNG SWIMMERS THROUGH THE OCEANS 8 CHARITY SWIM 2025

Do **YOU** want to make a difference?



It is less than 50 days to the Oceans 8 Charity swim, happening on 14 and 15 June at DUC, Point Water Sports Club, Durban.

Swimming has the power to change lives - especially for youth from underserved communities.

That's why we're spreading the word about an inspiring initiative: The Oceans 8 Charity Swim Youth Development Swimmers Program.

In 2024, four young athletes and their coach from Durban's Lamontville Swimming Academy (LSA) experienced their first open water event through Oceans 8. With the support of an anonymous donor and their dedicated coach, these swimmers completed more than just a 1-mile swim - they gained belief in themselves and their potential.

LSA teaches children from township communities how to swim, promoting water safety and offering a positive path forward. Oceans 8 is helping take that mission further.

### What's Next?

In 2025, the Oceans 8 team aims to invite 10 young swimmers (5 girls and 5 boys) to participate in the 1 mile leg of the event, but they need help to make it happen.

A donation of R1,700 will support one swimmer's Oceans 8 dream and provide them with their entry, costume, cap, medal, event goodie bag, transport and meals!

All donations are eligible for Section 18A tax certificates.

Do **YOU** want to make a difference?

You can support a swimmer and share this opportunity with your community. Together, we can create real impact - both in and out of the water.

Email [info@oceans8swim.co.za](mailto:info@oceans8swim.co.za) for more information.

## DIVE INTO ACTION FOR CONSERVATION!



© Meta AI

Calling all ocean lovers and swimming enthusiasts!

We're just 4 spots away from a splashy sold-out team!

Join Project Rhino's Oceans 8 Charity Swim team and make a splash for conservation!

**Choose your challenge:** 8 or 16 miles

**Sign up:** <https://www.howler.co.za/events/oceans-8-charity-swim-2025-2b01>

Come swim with us and support Project Rhino's mission!  
**Let's make waves together!**

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**PROJECT RHINO BALL FOR CONSERVATION**  
**CIRQUE DE LUMIÈRE**



We're thrilled to invite you to our annual gala event, Cirque de Lumiere, taking place on September 27th at the stunning Durban International Convention Centre.

Join us for an unforgettable evening of spectacular entertainment and splendor, all while supporting our mission to protect and conserve rhino populations in KZN.

Date: September 27th

Time: 18h00 for 18h30

Location: Durban International Convention Centre

Mark your calendars for a night of luxury, fun, and giving back!  
We look forward to seeing you there!

## RUN FOR RANGERS 2025

ARE YOU AS TOUGH AS A RANGER?



## Lace up for a cause!

Calling all running enthusiasts!

You've got a chance to make a real difference in the lives of South Africa's brave Game Rangers. The Run for Rangers event is still open for entries, taking place from July 25-27 at Babanango Game Reserve.

### Why run?

This Premium Adventure event honors the courage and sacrifice of Africa's wildlife protectors, raising vital funds for their noble work. Inspired by the fearless rangers on the frontlines against poaching, Harry Bailey founded this event after completing a remarkable 100km run in 2022 at just 18 years old.

Get involved! Visit the Run for Rangers website:

🏃 Enter the event: [Run For Rangers Entry Form 2025](#)

**It's tough, but it will change your life!**

**THANK YOU FOR STANDING WITH US IN THE FIGHT TO PROTECT OUR RHINOS!**



As always, we would not be able to do the work that we do without YOUR continued help and support. This community is phenomenal and we are grateful beyond words.

**THANK YOU.**

Yours in conservation,  
The Project Rhino Team



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[info@projectrhinokzn.org](mailto:info@projectrhinokzn.org)

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