



Zoo Support for Rhino Conservation 2025-26

Introduction to Save the Rhino International

Save the Rhino International is a UK-based charity (No. 1035072) working towards a future where all five rhino species thrive in the wild. Established in 1994, Save the Rhino supports and collaborates with expert conservationists, rangers, communities and organisations around the world.

Through targeted funding and long-term partnerships, the charity helps to accelerate rhino population recovery by strengthening law enforcement and anti-poaching initiatives, disrupting organised crime networks linked to the illegal wildlife trade, and amplifying the resilience of critical rhino habitats. Save the Rhino International is committed to safeguarding the future of rhinos and their landscapes, and empowering the individuals that depend on them.

Vision: All five rhino species thriving in the wild: as evidence of effective landscape conservation for nature and people.

Mission: Global collaboration with partners to improve the conservation status of rhinos.

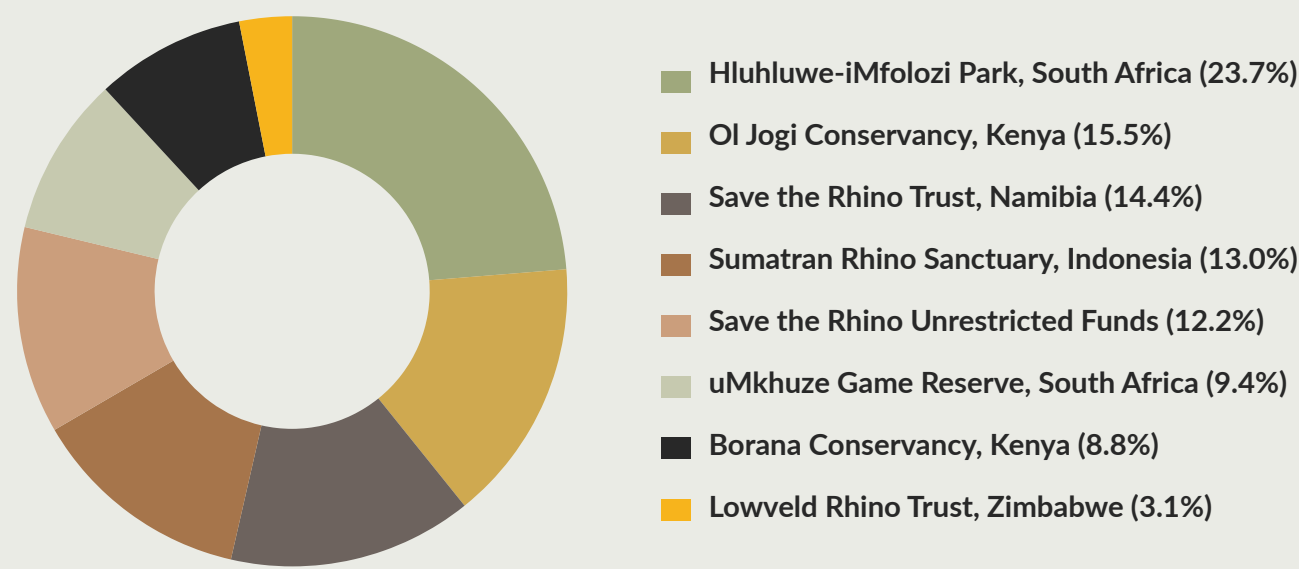


Thank You

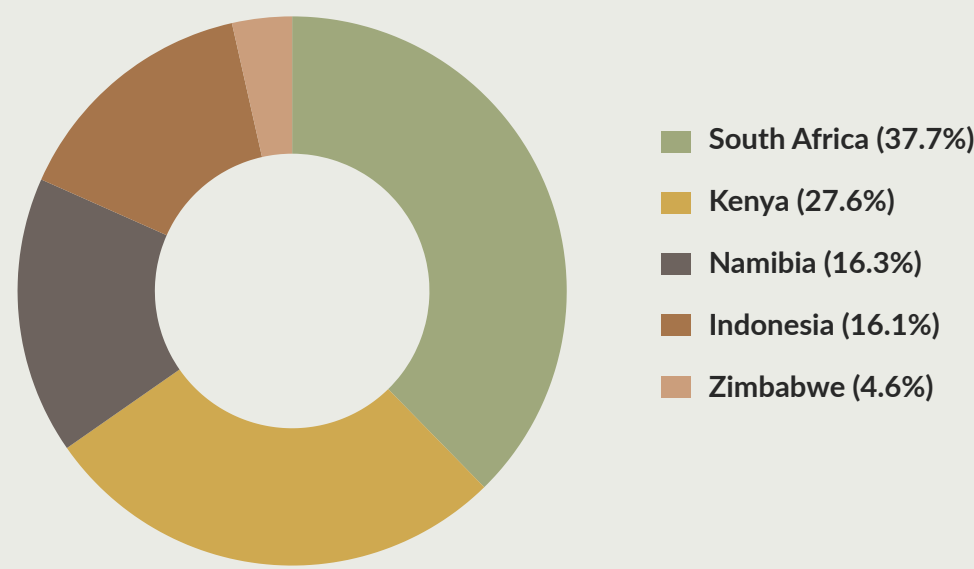
On behalf of everyone at Save the Rhino International, and our incredible partners working on the ground every day, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to you for your continued support for rhinos this past year and beyond.

During the 2024–25 financial year, you and your fellow zoo partners raised £148,738 - a truly remarkable collective achievement.

Grants by Programme 2025-26 (£197,223)



Grants by country 2025-26 (£173,238)



Between 1st April 2025 and 31st March 2026, your generosity – and that of your visitors – exceeded all expectations once again, with £197,223 raised. This means that, since the EAZA Rhino Campaign of 2005-06, our incredible zoo partners have collectively contributed almost £2,500,000 to rhino conservation.

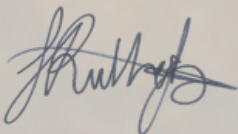
Rhino conservation is expensive, and that reality has rarely been felt more starkly than since January 2025, when the US Government's Stop Work Order was imposed. Funding from previously reliable sources, such as the United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), was either frozen or cut entirely, sending shockwaves through rhino conservation programmes – and wildlife conservation more broadly – across the globe. Save the Rhino has had to piece together funding from zoos, individuals, companies and grant-making organisations to try to cover essential ongoing conservation work.

When I began working with our zoo partners in August last year, one of the first things that struck me was a concern shared by some partners: that the funds they raised felt like a drop in the ocean, that they couldn't possibly make a meaningful difference. I want to address that directly: nothing could be further from the truth. Time and again, colleagues working in the field tell me just how profoundly the support of zoos like yours matters to them, and what it genuinely enables them to accomplish.

Whilst significant funding gaps remain, you have stepped forward with tremendous generosity to help bridge them. Thanks to these contributions, rangers at a remote outpost now have access to refrigerated fresh food via a newly installed solar-powered system; worn uniforms have been replaced; a vital ranger training course - delayed for more than a year - has finally gone ahead; monitoring activities in key rhino-bearing reserves are progressing well; and the Sumatran rhinos at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary – a species unlikely ever to be found in a zoological collection again – are receiving world-class veterinary care and nutrition. Each of these outcomes is, in no small part, down to you. In the pages that follow, I am delighted to share stories from this past year that your support has made possible.

As ever, please don't hesitate to reach out if you'd like to discuss anything further. I would love to hear from you.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jimmy Rutherford', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jimmy Rutherford
Grants Manager

Rhino Monitoring and Security Capabilities Bolstered in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, South Africa

Perhaps best known as being the origin of all surviving Southern white rhinos (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) alive today, Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park is also home to one of southern Africa's most important populations of South-central black rhinos (*Diceros bicornis minor*). Protecting these animals across such a vast and varied landscape is no straightforward task. Poaching pressure, challenging terrain, and the sheer scale of the Park all demand strong monitoring systems, rapid response capabilities, and reliable field intelligence - and that is precisely where your donations have made a difference.

Thanks to donor support, Wildlife ACT and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife continued to strengthen these efforts throughout 2025. Security camera traps deployed across the Park detected more than 50 poaching incursions during the last year, helping teams respond more quickly and proactively to threats. Field teams also travelled thousands of kilometres to maintain and expand the camera network, despite the logistical demands of working in remote areas.

Central to protecting any black rhino population, however, is a detailed, up-to-date understanding of the animals themselves: how many there are, where they range, what condition they are in, and their age and sex. In 2025, the black rhino monitoring programme took significant strides forward on all these fronts. A dedicated Black Rhino Monitoring Coordinator, Michael Langley, was appointed in June, joined by an additional Black Rhino Monitor, and a fully equipped basecamp for the monitoring team was completed and occupied by August. These developments have meaningfully improved coordination between field teams, Park management, external monitoring partners, and law enforcement. The results speak for themselves: rhino-sighting rates nearly tripled during the second half of the year, providing a far clearer picture of population trends and habitat use across the Park.

Technology has played an equally important role. Tracking devices fitted to selected rhinos have already helped locate injured animals, detect carcasses, and record the arrival of new calves. As coverage has expanded, so too has the team's ability to respond swiftly whenever concerns arise.

Furthermore, extensive dehorning operations, combined with the dedication of teams working across the Park, meant that 2025 saw a 68% reduction in the number of rhinos poached as compared to the previous year.

Taken together, these efforts are helping to shift rhino conservation in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park towards a more coordinated, data-driven model, one better equipped to protect this globally important population for the long term. The results of this collective effort are already tangible. With your continued support, we hope to see this progress sustained – and built upon – in the years ahead.





Tight Security Means Another Successful Year for Ol Jogi Conservancy, Kenya

Once pushed to the very brink of extinction within its borders, Kenya's black rhinos have made a remarkable recovery, with the country now harbouring the third-largest population on the continent of this Critically Endangered species. Kenya also holds by far the greatest number of the rarest subspecies – the Eastern black rhino (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*). Sustaining that recovery demands strong anti-poaching measures, careful biological management, long-term monitoring, and close coordination between conservancies and national conservation bodies.

One of the most important sanctuaries for this subspecies is Ol Jogi Conservancy in Laikipia County. Spanning 58,000 acres of open grasslands, acacia thickets, and dramatic rocky outcrops, the Conservancy provides both habitat and protection for Eastern black rhinos alongside a remarkable array of other threatened species, including reticulated giraffe (*Giraffa reticulata*), Grévy's zebra (*Equus grevyi*), African wild dog (*Lycaon pictus*), and cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*).

Thanks to the support of our zoo partners, Ol Jogi was able to strengthen rhino protection efforts across the landscape and in neighbouring rhino areas throughout the year, while also contributing to the wider work of the Association of Private and Community Land Rhino Sanctuaries (APLRS). This work feeds directly into Kenya's *Black Rhino Recovery and Action Plan (2022–2026)*, which guides rhino conservation strategy across the country.

Perhaps most tellingly, Ol Jogi recorded zero rhino poaching attempts within the Conservancy last year, a testament to the dedication and skill of its ranger team. The threat, however, remains. With insecurity increasing to the north during the second half of the year, maintaining tight security remained as important as ever. Ranger teams logged 17,443 patrol hours between January and December – averaging more than 12 hours per team each day – with enhanced surveillance systems and improved rapid-response capacity further strengthening protection across the landscape. Alongside this, expanded monitoring systems are providing an increasingly detailed picture of rhino movements and habitat use.

The Conservancy also continued to develop its LoRaWAN monitoring network, weaving tracking technology more fully into ranger patrols and field operations. New rhino ear-tag technology was trialled during the year and, whilst early deployments encountered some technical challenges, the lessons learned are already informing future improvements to rhino-tracking devices – a valuable step forward in its own right.

Together, and with your support, these efforts are helping to build a more resilient and coordinated conservation landscape. Sustained rhino population growth in Kenya's existing rhino sanctuaries, including Ol Jogi, means that there are highly productive source populations for the creation of new rhino populations – range expansion – in other parts of Central Kenya and Tsavo.



Technology as a Force-Multiplier in uMkhuze Game Reserve, South Africa

Just like other rhino populations across southern Africa, the black and white rhinos of uMkhuze Game Reserve continue to face the very real and persistent threat of poaching, driven by the illegal international trade in rhino horn. KwaZulu-Natal is home to one of the highest densities of rhinos anywhere in the world, making it a prime target for poaching syndicates. Rising poaching rates across the Province in recent years have placed mounting pressure on reserves and conservation authorities alike. Smaller reserves are particularly vulnerable, as poachers can move in and out quickly before escaping by vehicle. uMkhuze faces additional pressures of its own: its proximity to the Mozambique border, recent funding shortages, and ongoing staffing challenges within Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife have made protecting its rhino populations especially demanding.

Against that backdrop, the progress made at uMkhuze this past year is all the more encouraging. The Reserve has continued to strengthen its law enforcement and monitoring capacity through a combination of ranger patrols, bolstered canine units, and expanded technology systems designed to support frontline teams. Rhino monitoring has been progressing well, which is no small achievement given the difficult weather conditions that hampered tracking and field operations at times during the year. The deployment of remote-sensing camera traps has been particularly valuable, helping monitoring teams maintain consistent coverage and gather reliable data on rhino movements and activity across the Reserve.

Remote-monitoring infrastructure has also been expanding. Five new LoRa gateways were established during the second half of 2025, improving communication and surveillance coverage and helping teams respond more effectively in what remains a challenging and high-risk environment.

Ultimately, the measure of success in rhino conservation is population growth, and here uMkhuze has delivered results that should give real cause for optimism. The white rhino population achieved a growth rate of 15% following several births, while the black rhino population grew by approximately 12%, both of which were significantly above the annual target of 5%. For a Critically Endangered species like the black rhino, every calf born represents a meaningful contribution to its long-term survival. Figures like these are a clear indication that the protection, monitoring, and habitat management efforts being supported at uMkhuze are working. Your support has played a part in that – and it shows.

“We will not stop fighting to achieve this, but the harsh reality is that we are becoming more and more reliant on external donor support. We just cannot do it on our own. We are extremely grateful for all the support that we have received, and this motivates us to keep giving our best.”

Eduard Goosen, Conservation Manager,
uMkhuze Game Reserve



Updates From the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary and an Emerging Partnership in Gunung Leuser

Once widespread across Southeast Asia, the Sumatran rhino (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) is now one of the world's most endangered mammals, with fewer than 50 individuals believed to remain. Poaching and habitat loss have driven the species to the edge, but today it is the size and isolation of the surviving populations that pose the greatest threat to their future. Many sub-populations are so small and fragmented that rhinos simply cannot find one another to breed, resulting in dangerously low birth rates and a growing risk of inbreeding.

Virtually all of the last wild individuals are confined to Gunung Leuser National Park, which holds the largest – and only viable – sub-population. A single known individual persists in the forests of East Kalimantan in Borneo, and a second Bornean specimen is held in captivity in Kelian Sanctuary in Kalimantan. In Way Kambas National Park, sniffer dogs have recently detected dung that initial tests suggest may belong to Sumatran rhinos: a discovery that conservationists are watching with cautious excitement.

Despite the precariousness of the species' situation, there are genuine reasons for hope, and your support is central to them.

Way Kambas is home to the Government of Indonesia's Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS), a 620-acre facility run by Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI) in partnership with the International Rhino Foundation. It currently cares for 10 rhinos, including two youngsters born in 2023 as part of a carefully managed breeding programme aimed at establishing a viable insurance population. Throughout 2025, all the rhinos at the Sanctuary continued to receive exceptional daily care, with veterinary teams closely monitoring their health, nutrition, and development.

Particular attention has naturally been paid to the two youngest residents: Indra, a young male born in November 2023, and Anggi, a young female born in September 2023, are both thriving. By March 2026, Indra weighed 565kg and Anggi 558kg. Both have now been weaned and have been separated from their mothers; they are enjoying their independence in large, forested paddocks of their own. This is a significant milestone for a species whose every birth matters enormously.

Across the Sanctuary, the other rhinos remained in excellent health throughout the year. Minor digestive, seasonal skin conditions and other medical issues were identified and treated promptly, while ongoing laboratory testing and disease surveillance work continued to strengthen long-term health monitoring across the entire group.



© Nick Garbutt, image courtesy of the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry

2025 also marked an important new chapter: alongside supporting the conservation breeding efforts in the Sanctuary, Save the Rhino began supporting the monitoring and protection of the wild population in Gunung Leuser National Park in northern Sumatra. CEO Jo Shaw and Grants Manager Jimmy Rutherford both visited the Park in February and July 2025 respectively to meet the teams of Forum Konservasi Leuser (FKL), an organisation carrying out protection efforts there.

Following those visits, Save the Rhino made its first grant to FKL to support a Wildlife Protection Team (WPT) for a 12-month period. This team patrols an area in west Leuser, dismantling snares and monitoring rhinos through tracks, signs, and camera trap imagery. The forests they protect are among the most biodiverse on Earth, sheltering not only Sumatran rhinos but also Sumatran tigers (*Panthera tigris sondaica*) and Sumatran elephants (*Elephas maximus sumatranus*), making every patrol an act of conservation that reaches far beyond a single species.

With Thanks to Our Zoo Partners

- Bioparco di Roma
- Colchester Zoological Society
- Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens
- Dublin Zoo
- Erlebnis Zoo Hannover
- FONDATION Le PAL NATURE
- GIVSKUD ZOO - ZOOTOPIA
- Lee Richardson Zoo
- Manor Wildlife Park
- National Zoo & Aquarium
- Oasys MiniHollywood Reserve
- Odense ZOO
- Openature Foundation
- Parc Animalier de La Barben
- Parc animalier et botanique de Branféré
- Parc Zoo du Reynou
- Parc Zoologique de Lille
- Parc Zoologique de Paris
- Fundación Parques Reunidos (Zoo Aquarium de Madrid & Selwo Aventura)
- Potter Park Zoological Society
- Réserve Africaine de Sigean
- Rotterdam Zoo
- Wow Safari Peaugres
- Safaripark Beekse Bergen and Dierenrijk / Stichting Wildlife
- Salzburg Zoo
- Serengeti-Park Hodenhagen
- Tallinn Zoo
- Touroparc Zoo
- West Midlands Safari Park
- WILDLANDS Adventure Zoo Emmen
- Wilhelma Zoological & Botanical Garden
- Yorkshire Wildlife Park and the WildLife Foundation
- Zoo de La Boissière du Doré
- Zoo de Montpellier
- Zoo du Bassin d'Arcachon
- Zoo Hodonín
- Zoo Krefeld
- Zoo Magdeburg
- Zoo Osnabrück
- Zoo Santo Inácio
- Zoo Schwerin
- Zoo Zlín



© Marcus Westburg



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