

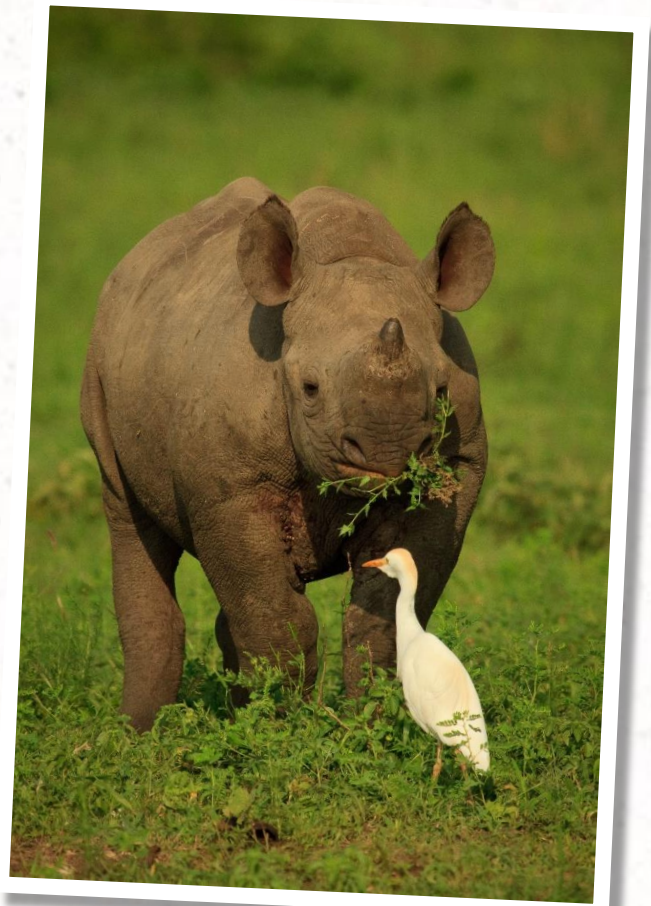


SUPPORTING THE PROJECT RHINO K9-UNIT

WHAT IS THE K9-UNIT?

The Project Rhino K9-Unit currently consists of four trained and area adapted tracker dogs, as well as Mali, the detection dog. The unit supports a number of game reserves, stretching from Pongola to Mtubatuba, and assists in aspects such as SAPS road blocks, reserve vehicle checks, night patrols and tracking of suspects.

The K9-Unit is based in Hluhluwe, minutes away from the Hluhluwe Airfield and Rhino-SAPS Team, so that both can immediately respond to emergencies as one unit. Two of the tracker dogs are helicopter trained and this will speed up the response time to an emergency call out or crime scene dramatically.



WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Working dogs are used worldwide in the fields of conservation and law enforcement as they can perceive the smallest scents and have a highly-evolved ability to discriminate between odours. Dogs can detect hidden or illegal items such as arms and ammunition, wildlife or animal products. Tracking dogs are also valuable in locating suspects, or vital forensic information at crime scenes, which in turn contributes to successful arrests and prosecutions.

WHAT IMPACT HAS THE K9-UNIT MADE?

The K9-Unit has proven to be highly effective in the detection of wildlife products, including finding the carcasses of critically endangered white-backed vultures, and the tracking and location of suspects. Although they have an enormous area to cover, their presence at road blocks and reserve entrances continues to act as a major deterrence to those involved in wildlife crime.



HOW CAN WE HELP?

The K9 Unit needs are many, and finding funding to support their activities remains a constant challenge. We have created an international GlobalGiving fundraising page, for anyone to donate towards the Unit (<https://goto.gg/34530>). You, or your organisation, may want to help by sponsoring an item on our list of needs (see the Project Rhino website for more information). You can also help by following the ACT and Project Rhino Social media pages and sharing support and awareness for the project.

