

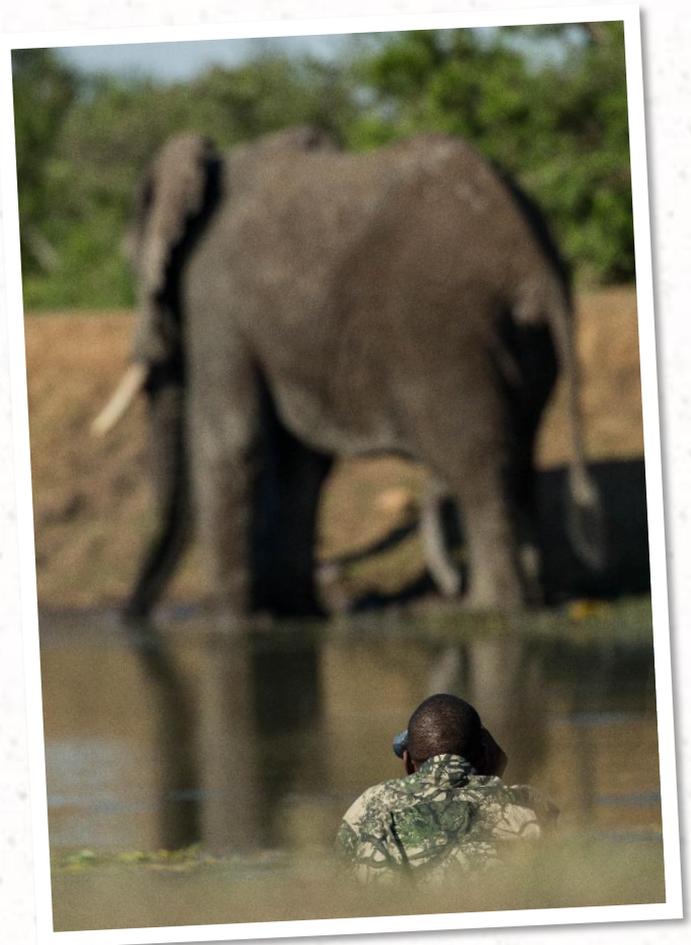


RANGER AND RESERVE SUPPORT

WHAT IS THE NEED?

More than 5,500 rhino have been poached in South Africa in the last 5 years, equating to almost one rhino every 8 hours. Rangers and anti-poaching teams are often referred to as the first line of defence in the escalating rhino poaching conflict in KwaZulu-Natal, as well as other mounting wildlife crime issues.

Reserve security costs are climbing – a factor unknown just 8 years ago - and KZN's private and community-owned game reserves are now paying as much as R2 million per annum to employ more anti-poaching staff or hire private wildlife security companies, plus invest heavily in increased perimeter security and technology. With limited resources available, it is imperative that they are channelled to strategic and priority needs.





WHAT DOES PROJECT RHINO DO?

Project Rhino aims to get all member reserve rangers up to the highest level possible to counter the threat of wildlife crime. Our rangers need ongoing support to maintain morale and improve their skills and abilities in the face of heavily armed poaching gangs.

I. Reserve Support

Project Rhino provides support to state, private and community members in areas where reserves need it most – this includes supplying them with equipment such as sleeping bags, binoculars, first aid kits, GPS devices and radios.

II. Ranger Training

Project Rhino also provides rangers with skills training and in-field mentorship to improve their skills in a number of areas. Over 100 rangers benefit annually from accredited 'Counter Insurgency Tracker Training' & 'Section 49-Use of Force' training, offered in partnership with the Game Rangers Association of Africa and SA Wildlife College. These training courses help rangers to deal with poaching incursions, including tracking suspects and dealing with poaching incidents correctly to ensure that perpetrators are not released on legal technicalities.

At the request of the reserve managers, and where funding support is available, training is also offered in aspects such as security, mentorship, protected area management and well-being Psycho-social support.

