



## SUPPORTING THE PROJECT RHINO HORSE UNITS

Our dedicated mounted rangers constantly put their lives on the line while protecting our rhino populations from well-equipped and organised poachers. Project Rhino is equipping and supporting these Horse Units operating in selected game reserves in KZN.

### WHY DO GAME RESERVES NEED HORSE UNIT TEAMS?

A staggering increase in poaching has devastated the South African rhino population, with a total of 1028 rhinos killed for their horns in 2017, and an additional 508 reported by the DEA for the first half of 2018. The mounted rangers and loyal horses of game reserve Horse Units are part of the last stand in this war. As South Africa is the primary custodian of the world's rhino population, it is a war that must be won.

### WHERE ARE THE HORSE UNITS LOCATED?

At the moment, mounted horse patrols are operating in four game reserves in the KZN Midlands, as well as Hluhluwe-iMfolozi, KwaZulu-Natal's flagship reserve, in the Zululand region. An additional three game reserves are wanting to establish horse units in the near future.



## WHY ARE HORSE UNITS SO EFFECTIVE?

Mounted rangers have a higher vantage point, helping them to see above the long summer grass. Horses are able to patrol quietly and extend the daily patrol from 10 km on foot to 30 km on horseback. As a result, rangers are far less fatigued when contact with poachers is made. Response time is much shorter for a mounted ranger, thereby improving the chances of a poacher's apprehension before a rhino becomes a statistic.

## WHAT CHALLENGES DO THESE UNITS FACE?

Horse Unit rangers experience severe conditions in the African bush whilst monitoring the rhinos in their care. In addition to combating incursions by poachers the rangers must traverse rough terrain and be wary of attack by lion and leopards.

Almost all of these reserves are operating on shoestring budgets and are in urgent need of items such as basic riding equipment, secure stabling, veterinary care and feed, as well as training for rangers.



## I WANT TO HELP?

We have created an international GlobalGiving fundraising page, for anyone to donate towards the Unit (<https://goto.gg/33870>).

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.

