



## THE ZULULAND ANTI-POACHING WING (ZAP-WING)

### WHAT IS ZAP-WING?

The Zululand Anti-Poaching Wing (ZAP-Wing) supports rhino security operations and provides daily helicopter reaction and fixed-wing aerial surveillance to 26 state & private game reserves in northern KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) – more than 300,000 ha of wildlife habitat.

ZAP-Wing undertakes daily aerial patrols, assists rangers and APU teams in the pursuit of poaching gangs, transports APU teams, SAPS and even K9 units into remote areas, investigates suspicious vehicles, notifies game reserves of unusual activities around their boundaries and helps to locate missing rhinos in difficult terrain.

ZAP-Wing has been recognised at a national level for its proactive approach and numerous successes in preventing rhino poaching incidents.





## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

KZN has lost more than 940 rhino in the last decade and is under sustained and increasing attack from poaching syndicates linked to well-funded international criminal organisations. Northern KZN hosts the province's biggest rhino populations, spread out across a vast region on state, private and community-owned game reserves. However, its proximity to Mozambique where the greatest rhino poaching threats originate from, makes it extremely vulnerable.

ZAP-Wing is a partnership between the provincial conservation agency Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and Project Rhino. It is the first integrated aerial anti-poaching programme in South Africa to combat wildlife crime from the air and its value also extends to other wildlife at risk of poaching, not just rhino. Benefit is also being seen from joint operations with law enforcement agencies.

## WHAT ROLE DOES ACT PLAY?

ACT's 2011-2012 fundraising campaign, *Skydive for Rhinos*, played a key role in the foundation of the ZAP-Wing airbase. Today, ACT holds the lease for the Hluhluwe Airfield which serves as an Anti-Poaching Ops Centre: a fully equipped, dedicated airfield base for ZAP-Wing and related state & private anti-poaching activities. It is also used as the Zululand command centre for Operation Rhino 10 – the national SAPS anti-poaching programme.



## HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The programme survives entirely thanks to the support of public, corporate, foundations and international donors. In addition to the daily operating costs of the airfield, one light aircraft, pilot and hangar assistant, we are currently looking for assistance in expanding the programme to more game reserves asking for ZAP-Wing's support.

There are a number of ways you can support the programme: by following our social media pages and spreading awareness, purchasing a Project Rhino shirt from Mr Price Sport stores, joining [Litres for Education](#) and mentioning Project Rhino when you refuel, making a direct donation to the [Rhino Fund](#) or starting your own campaign with Project Rhino as a beneficiary.

