

# RHINO POACHING

**By Brandon C. and Bella J.  
12th Grade**

# INTRO (BRANDON)

- ❑ Rhino poaching has become a serious issue over the last decade. Primarily popular in Southern Africa, Rhino poaching numbers from 2007 - 2014 increased by 9,246% in just a 7 year span. Rhinos are poached for their horns which are in high demand in Asian countries such as Vietnam and China. Since 1977 international trade of rhino horns has been banned, however the black market still allows for this type of trade, at the peak of market rhino horns sold for 65,000 USD per KG (notably more than gold or cocaine) in recent years it is more like 25,000 per kg,
- ❑ Rhino horns are made out of keratin just like human hair, fingernails
- ❑ Rhino horns are in high demand because in many Asian countries, people believe the horns have medicinal use, scientists have disproved this notion but there is still demand for the horns
- ❑ To consume the horns are usually ground up into a powder and mixed with water.



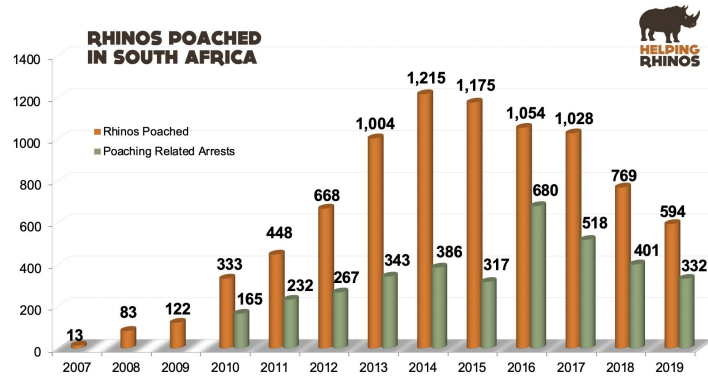
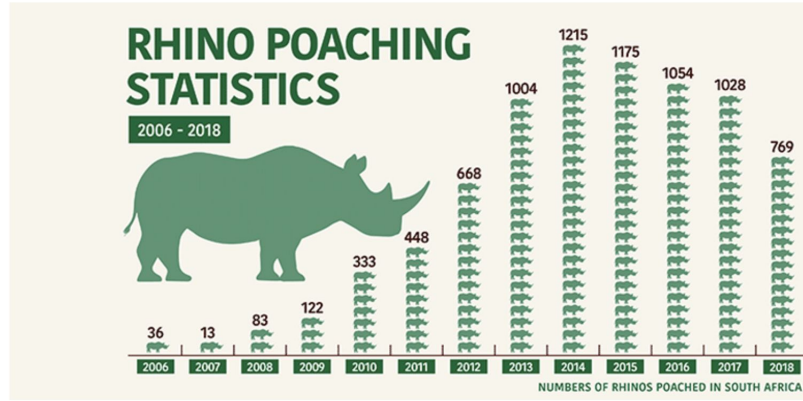
# ASIA (BRANDON)

- ❑ Traditional Asian Medicine has utilized Rhino horns for over 2000 years for a wide array of illnesses and techniques such as fever, pain relieving, hangover remedies, cancer and lastly to honor terminally ill relatives
- ❑ Rhino horns are now also being used as a symbol of wealth that serves as a type of status symbol. The horns are often smuggled from country to country in the form of jewelry.
- ❑ A survey in Vietnam from 2013 showed that people of wealth often used rhino horns as gifts to business associates, friends and family



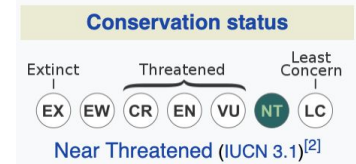
# TYPES OF RHINOS (SA) (BELLA)

Rhino statistics in South Africa



White Rhino (Southern Africa and Kenya)

- Between 2015 and 2017 the White Rhino population decreased by 15% and despite rangers protection of the species in The Kruger National Park (where most of them reside) they are constantly under threat
- ± 18,000 are left (9k at Kruger)



Black Rhino (Southern Africa)

- In 1970 there were 65 000 Black Rhinos, now there are ± 5,500 left



# INTERNATIONAL POACHING LAWS (BELLA)

The Kruger National Park (largest game reserve in South Africa)

- In 2019 there were 2,014 rhino-poaching related attacks in the park
- Which lead to 327 rhinos being “lost”
- 178 poachers were arrested at Kruger and 332 throughout the country
- South Africa’s law enforcement lacks an efficient capture method when faced with the issue of poachers and it is usually left to game rangers in the park to find and capture the poachers themselves
  
- Kruger has also implemented the practise of dehorning the rhino
  - This method is essentially safely removing the part of the horn above the skin so that if approached by poachers there will be no reason to kill the rhino as it won't have a horn
  - Usually poachers will sedate the rhino remove the horn starting from below the skin and then proceed by leaving the rhino to bleed out causing it do die
  - This method is difficult to maintain as game rangers have to be keeping the rhinos horns at a desired length

UN (CITES)

- The Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species implemented a ban on tiger bones and rhino horn in 1977
- But in South Africa they have decided to lift the ban on domestic trade of rhino horn because they believe if it is legal, it will reduce the mass consumption, as it will be less desirable to have it and possibly devalue it

# IMPORTANCE OF RHINOS (BRANDON)

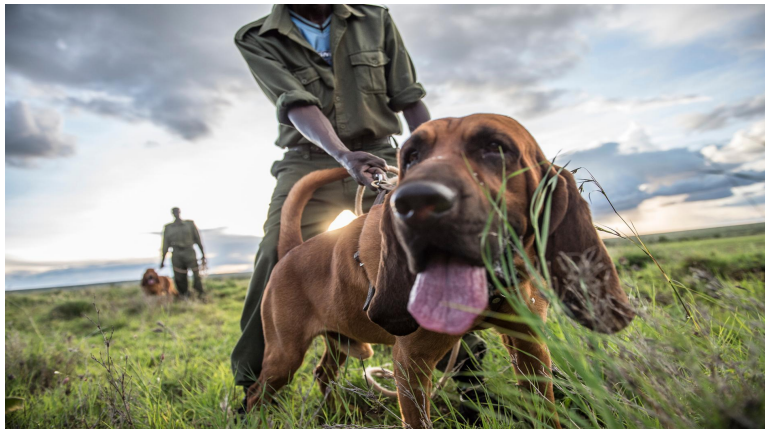
Rhinos have been around for millions of years and they are crucial to our world's ecosystem. They help shape their respective landscapes by consuming vegetation. This benefits other animals in these areas as well.

Citizens of the communities that Rhinos live in rely on the natural resources within rhinos habitats. Also, Rhinos are a popular sight for tourists, which help the local people of these areas.

Rhinos are considered an umbrella species, meaning they insight change in the environments they inhabit. If these environments are to change, it will threaten the lives of many other species. Also Rhinos play a crucial role in protecting other animals such as elephants and buffalos.

# COVID-19 IMPACT ON POACHING (BRANDON)

- Covid-19 has put endangered species at even greater risk
- Conservationists must also protect animals against this invisible threat in addition to poachers
- Many Wildlife safaris that house some of the most critically endangered species are being shut down due to Covid-19.
- The lack of tourism during these challenging times means that many conservationists are getting laid off or taking pay cuts. The decrease in anti-poaching patrols means poachers may be even more active
- In the month of March during the first week of lockdown there was a spike in poaching where 7 rhinos were killed



# OUR PLEDGE (BELLA)

Spread awareness about Rhino Poaching via Social Media! **Follow our Instagram Page: [saving\\_the\\_rhinos](#)**

Raise money within our community and our online community to virtually adopt a Rhino through the WWF (World Wildlife Fund) and if we have remaining money we will donate it to Saving Private Rhino.

Please check out our instagram which you can donate using the venmo in the bio to adopting the Calhoun virtual rhino!

IG: [saving\\_the\\_rhinos](#)

(We were going to sell Rhino Force bracelets which are made in South Africa and use the money we raise to adopt a virtual Rhino on the WWF website under Calhoun's name and if we had remaining money we will donate it to Saving Private Rhino.)

<http://www.rhinoforce.co.za>

<http://savingprivaterhino.org/>

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/>

/





# BIBLIOGRAPHY

[https://wwf.panda.org/knowledge\\_hub/endangered\\_species/rhinoceros/african\\_rhinos/](https://wwf.panda.org/knowledge_hub/endangered_species/rhinoceros/african_rhinos/)

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2020/04/wildlife-safaris-halted-for-covid-boost-poaching-threat/>

<https://news.mongabay.com/2020/02/rhino-poaching-in-south-africa-declines-for-fifth-straight-year/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhinoceros\\_poaching\\_in\\_Southern\\_Africa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhinoceros_poaching_in_Southern_Africa)

<https://www.unenvironment.org/news-and-stories/statement/official-statement-reversal-ban-trade-rhino-and-tiger-parts-china>