



INTERNATIONAL
RHINO
FOUNDATION



ANNUAL REPORT | 2017



LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

The year behind us has been one of high hopes, hard work, and ups and downs - another year filled with challenges in the ever-changing world of rhino conservation. Despite difficulties, our belief that together we can do great things was consistently reinforced by like-minded individuals and organizations sharing our vision and work ethic. We continue to be humbled by the generous support provided by people like you, which allows us to continue to carry out impactful work in rhino range countries. We remain committed to being administratively lean, with more than 93 percent of our revenue going straight to rhino conservation programs.

Our programs in Africa and Asia always aim to benefit the people living alongside rhinos. In Zimbabwe, the Lowveld Rhino Trust's 'Rhinos for Schools' program negotiates agreements with local communities in the buffer zones of Save and Bubiye Valley Conservancies. If rhino populations increase in the areas next to the communities, their schools receive supplies, including textbooks and other items. If adjacent rhino populations decrease (due to poaching), the funds then are re-directed towards anti-poaching activities. The program to-date has benefitted 145 community schools, and created a stronger feeling of rhino 'ownership' and a commitment to rhino conservation from local citizens.

Rhino poaching across Africa slightly decreased from last year, with roughly 1,109 rhinos lost in 2017, compared with 1,165 in 2016. Multi-pronged approaches, combining heightened protection, enhanced intelligence, strategic translocations, de-horning, and other measures have combined to have a positive effect. Despite somewhat reduced numbers, we still must remain vigilant - the rhino poaching crisis is far from over.

In Indonesia's Ujung Kulon National Park, two new Javan rhino calves were born. The tiny population of Javan rhinos numbers no more than 67 individuals, so every birth is vital. This population is protected by five four-man IRF-funded Rhino Protection Units, with each unit comprising three members recruited from local communities, and one park guard who is authorized to make arrests.

In Indonesia, the \$2.4 million Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary expansion is well underway, with new roads, gates, fences, a quarantine facility, and an upgraded laboratory completed. IRF's partner, Yayasan Badak Indonesia, working with local contractors and labor, will double the size of the facility to create the global center of excellence for Sumatran rhino conservation, propagation, and research. The Sumatran rhino is easily the world's most endangered large land mammal. Our vision, once the expansion is completed, is to expand the Sanctuary's population



with more breeding animals to safely produce as many Sumatran rhino babies as possible.

We are sad to report the passing of one of our own this year - long-time IRF Strategic Advisor Mike Dee, retired mammal curator at the Los Angeles Zoo. Mike was instrumental in helping us to get the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary up and running in the mid-1990s.

Although challenges will persist well into the future, we are confident that, with your help, we will continue to rise to meet them. IRF, our partners, and our donors will prevail through hard work, passion, optimism, and partnership.

Your belief, like ours, that a small group of dedicated individuals can make a difference is critical to our success. We are grateful to each and every one of you who has joined us to ensure that rhinos survive well into the future.

With our thanks,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Susie Ellis' and the signature on the right is 'John Lukas'.

Susie Ellis, PhD
Executive Director

John Lukas
Board President

Left: The Greater one-horned rhino population was once as low as 200 individuals. Thanks to protection and habitat management, the population is now more than 3,550.

STATE OF THE RHINO

JAVAN RHINO

(*Rhinoceros sondaicus*)

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

63-67

POPULATION STABLE

Ujung Kulon National Park is Indonesia's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, the largest remaining tract of lowland tropical forest on the island of Java, and home to the world's last surviving population of the critically endangered Javan rhino. Based upon video camera-trap research and monitoring activities, 63 - 67 rhinos are believed to live within the park, with evidence of breeding by several animals. Only about 40% of Ujung Kulon National Park is considered suitable habitat for the rhinos, and the park is believed to be close to carrying capacity. IRF's program of controlling the growth of the invasive Arenga palm in the Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area within Ujung Kulon has successfully increased available habitat and made room for nine new rhinos using the rehabilitated area.

SUMATRAN RHINO

(*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*)

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

< 80

POPULATION DECREASING

Fewer than 80 Sumatran rhinos are thought

to survive on Earth, with three small populations on Sumatra in Bukit Barisan Selatan, Gunung Leuser, and Way Kambas National Parks, plus a small handful of animals in central Kalimantan. Sumatran rhinos are being lost at a rapid rate – the species was declared extinct in Malaysia within the past decade. Poaching for horn for traditional Asian medicine caused the initial decline of these species and still remains a threat. This threat is exacerbated by small population effects, human encroachment, the potential for catastrophic events, and invasive plant species. Priorities for the species include continued protection by anti-poaching units, and the capture and translocation of isolated animals to managed breeding facilities.

GREATER ONE-HORNED RHINO

(*Rhinoceros unicornis*)

VULNERABLE

3,550-3,600

POPULATION SLOWLY INCREASING

By the early 1900s, hunting and habitat loss had reduced greater one-horned rhino numbers to fewer than 200 individuals in northern India and the lowlands of Nepal. Thanks to strict protection by government authorities, the population has rebounded to more than 3,550 today. Most of India's rhinos – an estimated 2,650 individuals –

are found in Kaziranga, Manas, and Orang National Parks and the Pobitora Wildlife Reserve in the state of Assam, with more than 280 individuals in protected areas in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Nepal holds more than 640 greater one-horned rhinos. Poaching remains a significant threat to this species, particularly in Assam, although the number of poached rhinos has decreased annually for the past 6 years due to intensive protection.

BLACK RHINO

(*Diceros bicornis*)

CRITICALLY ENDANGERED

5,042-5,455

POPULATION POSSIBLY STABLE

Black rhinos are at continued risk from poaching, particularly in South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. Despite this, thanks to intensive anti-poaching efforts, black rhino numbers remain relatively stable as births slightly offset both natural mortality and poaching losses. Black rhinos occur in South Africa, Namibia, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Swaziland, and Botswana. The highest priorities for safeguarding this species are to bolster anti-poaching activities, and to maintain intensive monitoring and active management of wild populations.

WHITE RHINO

(*Ceratotherium simum*)

NEAR THREATENED

19,682-21,077

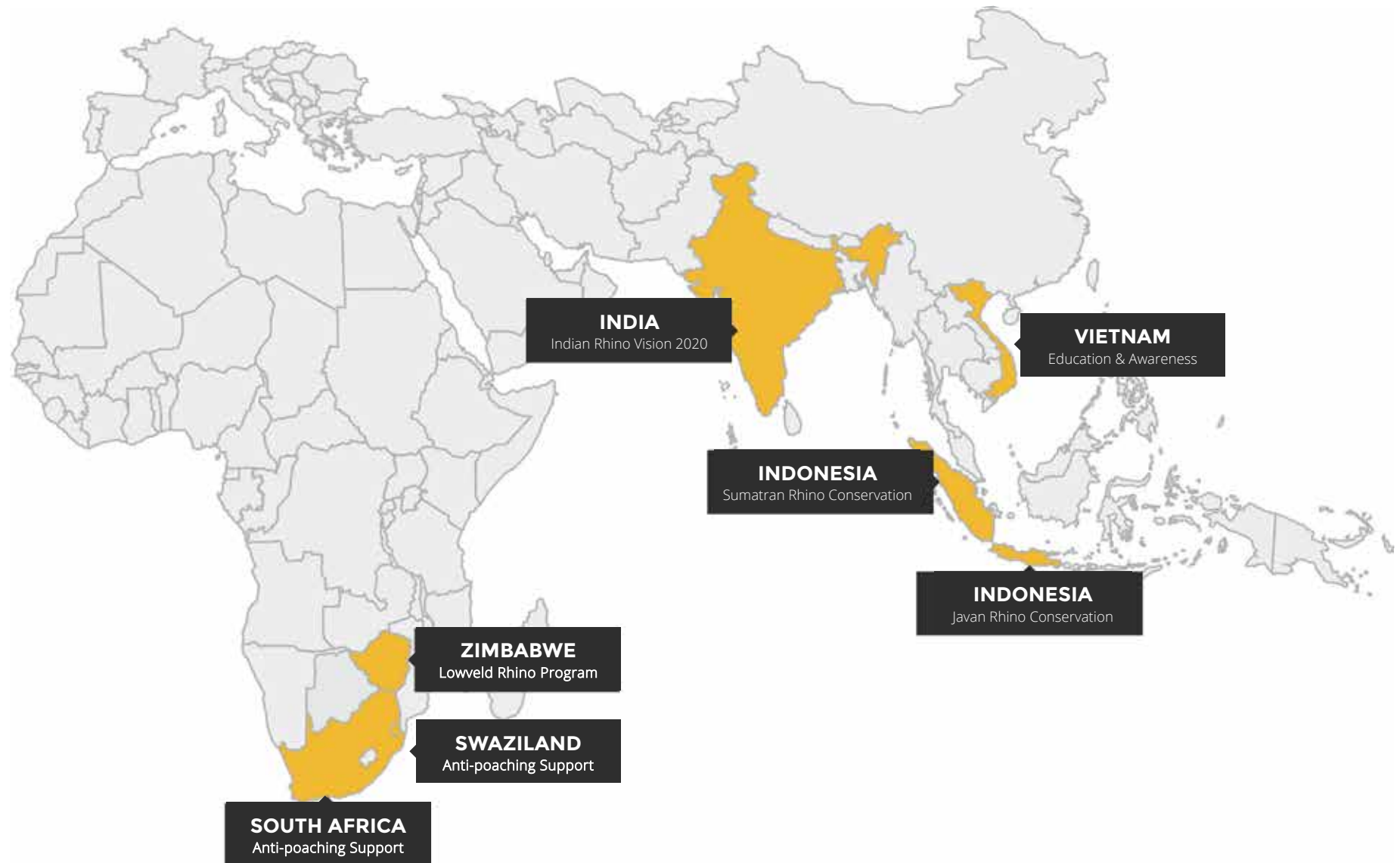
POPULATION POSSIBLY STABLE

After many years of growth, the white rhino population is now barely holding steady with the current poaching crisis. White rhinos occur in South Africa, Namibia, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Swaziland and Uganda, with South Africa holding more than 90% of the world's population. Poaching is thought to have decreased slightly in 2016 and 2017, but even with this slight reduction, rhino populations can barely keep up with poaching losses. As Kruger National Park gets its poaching under control, other provinces in South Africa are now targets, especially KwaZulu Natal and Eastern Cape Provinces, as well as neighboring countries like Zimbabwe and Namibia. The highest priority for ensuring this species' survival is to step up intensive protection efforts, especially for the largest populations, and to increase international pressure on range country governments to enforce their wildlife crime laws.

Right: Weighing up to three tons, the white rhino is the largest rhino species and the largest land mammal after the elephant.



WHERE IRF WORKS



HOW IRF WORKS

Almost 30 years ago, intense, organized poaching reduced Zimbabwe's black rhino population at an alarming rate. In response, a group of concerned individuals and institutions founded the International Black Rhino Foundation in 1989 to assist black rhino conservation in Zimbabwe through efforts in the wild and in captivity. In part because of the International Black Rhino Foundation's support, poaching was brought under control and Zimbabwe's black rhino population began to stabilize and increase. In 1993, recognizing that the escalating crisis facing all five rhino species was not receiving the attention it deserved, the International Black Rhino Foundation expanded its mission and became the International Rhino Foundation.

All five rhino species are in terrible peril - from poaching, forest loss, and habitat conversion, and from human settlements encroaching on their habitats across Africa, Indonesia, and India. IRF works to protect particularly threatened rhino populations and their habitats in the wild, while also supporting management of and research on captive populations that will facilitate better management for wild populations. IRF operates *in situ* programs in Asia and Africa, targeting populations most in need of and most appropriate for intensive protection and management.

These programs also provide significant benefits for other threatened species and the entire ecosystems in which the animals live. In all its field programs, IRF works closely with local communities to ensure that people living in closest proximity to rhinos, most of whom are also struggling as a result of poverty and environmental degradation, serve as active partners and reap direct benefits from conservation efforts.

IRF believes that local, on-the-ground organizations are the best and most knowledgeable stewards of rhinos and their habitats. We collaborate closely with like-minded conservation organizations and government agencies in each of the range countries in which we work. Our local partners in Indonesia, India, Vietnam, South Africa, and Zimbabwe have the technical expertise, local knowledge, and relationships to achieve lasting conservation results and to help IRF achieve its goals.

Right: An adult white rhino can produce as much as 50 pounds of dung per day!





2017 CONSERVATION HIGHLIGHTS



SUMATRAN RHINOS

Left: IRF's Indonesian partner organization, Yayasan Badak Indonesia, completed the first part of the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary expansion, building new roads, gates, fences, a quarantine facility, and an upgraded laboratory. We are in the process of doubling the size of the SRS to create the global center of excellence for Sumatran rhino research and breeding.



JAVAN RHINOS

Opposite page, top left: Camera trap footage revealed two brand-new Javan rhino calves in Ujung Kulon National Park. With an estimated global population of only 63 - 67 individuals, each new birth is a big deal! Thanks to intensive, ongoing protection by Rhino Protection Units, not a single Javan rhino has been poached in Ujung Kulon in more than 20 years.



SOUTH AFRICA

Opposite page, right: Thanks in part to dehorning the majority of its rhinos and implementing new security measures including a digital radio system for rangers and vehicle recognition technology at park gates, South Africa's Phinda Private Game Reserve didn't lose a single rhino to poaching in 2017, despite a 50% increase in poaching in other parts of KwaZulu Natal Province.



ZIMBABWE

Opposite page, bottom left: Conservation can't succeed unless local communities benefit. Zimbabwe's Lowveld Rhino Trust runs a Rhino Conservation Awareness Program in 145 primary schools within the Save and Bubye Valley Conservancies' buffer zones. Students look forward to the annual rhino quiz competitions. In return for a community successfully conserving rhinos, each school receives supplies, including textbooks and exercise books.





ZIMBABWE'S LOWVELD RHINO TRUST

The Lowveld Rhino Trust protects Zimbabwe's most important rhino populations, monitoring and managing black and white rhinos in Save Valley Conservancy and Bulye Valley Conservancy. The Lowveld conservancies (Save, Bulye, and Malilangwe) had populations of 457 black rhinos and 284 white rhinos at the end of December 2017. The rhino conservation program in the Lowveld built up the Critically Endangered black rhino population in that region from 4% of the national total in 1990 to 89% by December 2017 - quite an achievement in a challenging political environment.

The Lowveld Rhino Trust and its partners never let their guard down, implementing a comprehensive program that supports anti-poaching efforts, tracks and monitors rhinos, treats injured rhinos, rehabilitates and returns orphaned rhinos to the wild, translocates rhinos from high-risk areas to safer locations, and works with local communities to build support for rhino conservation.

Like other rhino populations, the Lowveld's rhinos have long been targeted to feed illegal markets in Asia. More than 750 rhinos have been poached in Zimbabwe since 2000. Bulye Valley Conservancy faced considerable poaching pressure in 2017 with multiple gangs operating in the area, including some ex-employees. Throughout the year, the Lowveld Rhino Trust worked closely with Zimbabwean and South African authorities, Interpol, and TRAFFIC to facilitate the arrest and prosecution of poachers and illegal traders. Late in 2017, the Trust helped Zimbabwean authorities prepare a case against a poacher who was arrested after killing two black rhinos in the Bulye Valley Conservancy. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Left, clockwise from left: While monitoring, LRT staff collect snares set for rhinos and other large mammals. LRT rehabilitated these two orphans and released them back into the wild. IRF has helped to expand the hand rearing facilities for rhinos orphaned by poaching in the Lowveld.

Below: Black rhinos have a 16 month gestation.



SAVING SUMATRAN RHINOS

With our local implementing partner, Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI), IRF uses a multi-faceted approach to Sumatran rhino conservation, including protecting rhinos and other mega-fauna and their habitat by funding Rhino Protection Units (RPUs) in three protected areas. At the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, we fund research on and captive breeding of the species and outreach to local communities, including education and alternative income programs.

YABI now operates nine RPUs in Way Kambas National Park and 11 in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park, two of the three remaining habitats for Sumatran rhinos. This includes eight new units hired and trained over the past year. All RPUs spend at least 15 days per month on patrol in key rhino areas in each park.

Poaching and other illegal activities are ever-present threats. Although the RPUs have successfully deterred rhino poaching for many years, they regularly encounter numerous cases of encroachment, illegal hunting and fishing, and forest theft. In Way Kambas, illegal logging and collection of forest products are the biggest challenges, while in Bukit Barisan Selatan, encroachment and poaching of small mammals and birds remain the biggest threats.

Two of the new Way Kambas RPUs exclusively protect the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary (SRS), operated in partnership with YABI. The SRS is a 250-acre complex where seven Sumatran rhinos reside in large, natural rainforest habitats and receive state-of-the-art veterinary and husbandry care. The SRS rhinos are part of an intensively-managed research and breeding program that aims to increase the population of captive rhinos that hopefully can someday be reintroduced back into the wild.

In February 2016, recognizing that the SRS was at capacity, IRF and YABI created a plan to double the size of the SRS. Expanding the Sanctuary has put it on the path to becoming the world's Center of Excellence for Sumatran rhino research and breeding -- the only place where rhino experts from around the globe

come to study these critically endangered animals, with the aim of learning as much as possible about the species to aid the survival of their counterparts in the wild.

Phase One of the SRS expansion, which included land clearance, road construction, installation of fences, and construction of new pens, quarantine facilities and a new laboratory, was completed in 2017. Phase Two will include construction of a new office and visitor center, an ambassador animal pen, additional dorms for staff, a well and generator building, and new guard posts for the RPUs.



Above: RPUs record measurements of wild rhino footprints so they can track rhinos. Vets at the SRS compare the wild footprints to records in order to help determine the age of calves. **Right:** Andatu, now five years old, was the first calf born at the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary.





JAVAN RHINO CONSERVATION

With our partner, Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI), IRF operates a comprehensive program to monitor, protect, and ultimately increase the population of Javan rhinos in their only known location on earth: Ujung Kulon National Park. Due to the tireless efforts of our five Rhino Protection Units (RPUs), there have been no recorded incidents of rhino poaching in the past 20 years.

In 2017, the five Ujung Kulon RPUs continued their regular patrols of the park, covering more than 3,355 miles. RPUs only saw Javan rhinos a handful of times - a testament to their shy and secretive nature. The RPUs found cases of illegal activities, primarily consisting of illegal logging, illegal fishing, and bird hunting. In each instance, the RPUs documented evidence, destroyed the illegal equipment, and drove the perpetrators from the park.

RPUs also protect Ujung Kulon's population of Javan rhinos by patrolling and maintaining the new habitat we created for the rhino population in the Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area (JRSCA). The area now includes 13,100 acres of habitat, but 4,200 acres of this area is covered by the invasive Arenga palm.

Since 2014, IRF has funded teams of local villagers to remove Arenga and expand the habitat available for Javan rhinos in Ujung Kulon. To date, these teams have cleared more than 50 acres - the equivalent of around 100 football fields. Rhino food plants are now growing well in the cleared areas, and rhinos have started to move in.

Camera trap data show that at least nine rhinos have visited the JRSCA area (including a mother and calf), and at least three rhinos have permanently moved into the new JRSCA habitat. As community workers continue to clear the Arenga palm to make room for more rhino food plants to grow, we anticipate that even more rhinos will move into the restored habitat.



Left: IRF Indonesia Coordinator, Sectionov Inov, and JRSCA staff pose in front of recently cleared plot.

Bottom: Within three months, rhino food plants begin to grow and rhinos move in.
Right: Javan rhino in Ujung Kulon National Park.





OPERATION: STOP POACHING NOW

Southern Africa (South Africa, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, and Namibia) continues to bear the brunt of global poaching pressure, and there are many programs and needs that merit support. Since 2012, through a campaign called OPERATION: Stop Poaching Now, the International Rhino Foundation has raised and awarded more than \$1,265,000 in grants to various organizations and critical reserves in southern Africa to strengthen security and anti-poaching efforts. This program also supports initiatives to reduce demand for rhino horn in consumer countries.

STOPRHINOPOACHING.COM

IRF has provided core support to our partner, StopRhinoPoaching.com, for the past several years. This small and dynamic South Africa-based organization seeks out, identifies, and helps to coordinate projects to support the safety of larger rhino populations in South Africa. StopRhinoPoaching.com also advises IRF on strategic investments in anti-poaching activities in the region.

GREAT FISH RIVER NATURE RESERVE

South Africa's resplendent Great Fish River Nature Reserve holds one of the continent's most significant and rapidly growing southern black rhino populations. With a 2017 grant from IRF, Great Fish built and equipped three new guard posts in strategic locations around the reserve, renovated an old post that had been long-neglected, and built a new ranger base in the eastern region of the reserve. Experienced rangers have been stationed at the posts so that they can quickly respond to poaching incursions.



OPERATION EMBRACE

Rangers are the backbone of protection for rhinos and other species. Their work is often dangerous, difficult, unappreciated, unrecognized, and unknown. It is extremely stressful, not just for the rangers but for their families. Rangers are increasingly finding themselves in combat situations when the job that they signed on for was something significantly different. IRF supports Operation: Embrace, a ranger program in South Africa's Kruger National Park that provides wellness services for rangers who have been engaged in front-line encounters.

PHINDA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

South Africa's Phinda Private Game Reserve, created in 1991, is home to significant black and white rhino populations. IRF provided a grant to Phinda for ranger training and support, and for technology to enhance rhino-related security and operations in the reserve. The funding has allowed the reserve to deploy 20 additional camera traps and roll out vehicle recognition technology at reserve entry gates.

VIETNAM

Part of dealing with the poaching crisis involves reducing demand for rhino horn in consumer countries. We provide funding to Education for Nature-Vietnam (ENV), a local non-profit based in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. ENV creates rhino-focused public service announcements and TV and radio advertising campaigns to encourage the public to report rhino crimes through a toll-free National Wildlife Hotline. They also work closely with the government and the business community to crack down on illegal wildlife trade. Education for Nature-Vietnam recently worked with Vietnam's National Environmental Police to raid the home of a suspected rhino horn trader, seizing 18 rhino horns. The trader, who is suspected of leading a criminal network operating from Africa that smuggles rhino horn, ivory, and other endangered wildlife into Vietnam, was subsequently sentenced to 13 months in prison.

Left, clockwise from top: The prehensile upper lip of the black rhino allows it to grasp leaves and branches. Education for Nature-Vietnam works to reduce demand for rhino horn by dispelling mystical beliefs. Elise Serfontein, Founding Director of StopRhinoPoaching.com and IRF partner visits with a tame white rhino.

Right: IRF ensures rangers have the essential equipment they need in the field, including binoculars, night vision goggles, uniforms, camping gear, etc.



INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT IN INDIA

Greater one-horned rhinos living in Assam, India face a constant threat from poaching that keeps population growth low (approximately 2% per year). In 2016, Assam lost 23 rhinos to poaching. Only ten rhinos were lost in 2017, but this decrease is at least partially due to historic flooding in the region, which likely made it very difficult for would-be poachers to get to the rhinos.

IRF's intelligence team has established a network of people in Assam to assist in preventing rhino poaching, and to aid in identifying poachers and traders operating in Assam and across the region. We rely on this critical intelligence network to gather information concerning the movement of poaching networks in and around rhino areas, which is then provided to the appropriate authorities. With advanced warning, authorities can better prevent poaching incursions, and increase the rates of suspect apprehension, arrest, and prosecution.

In April 2017, at the request of the Assam Forest Department and police, IRF's Intelligence Specialist helped investigate a case in which a rhino horn was found at the scene of a car accident. Our specialist was able to work with police to obtain a confession from the suspect and locate the rhino carcass and other evidence. The Intelligence Specialist also helped police gather evidence leading to the arrest of two illegal traders in August. They were arrested in possession of the heads and skins of two clouded leopards, a bear head and skin, a wild goat head with antlers, four otter skins, a hornbill beak and bones of different animals weighing nearly two pounds. In September 2017, a Special Task Force arrested two suspects in Kaziranga National Park in possession of AK47s, M16s, and more than 300 bullets. In another incident, two people with multiple weapons and tranquilizers were arrested. IRF's Intelligence Specialist helped gather evidence and prepare court cases against all these suspects, along with many others. Every time weapons are removed from poaching networks, rhino lives are saved.

Right: Greater one-horned rhino hides in tall grasses.

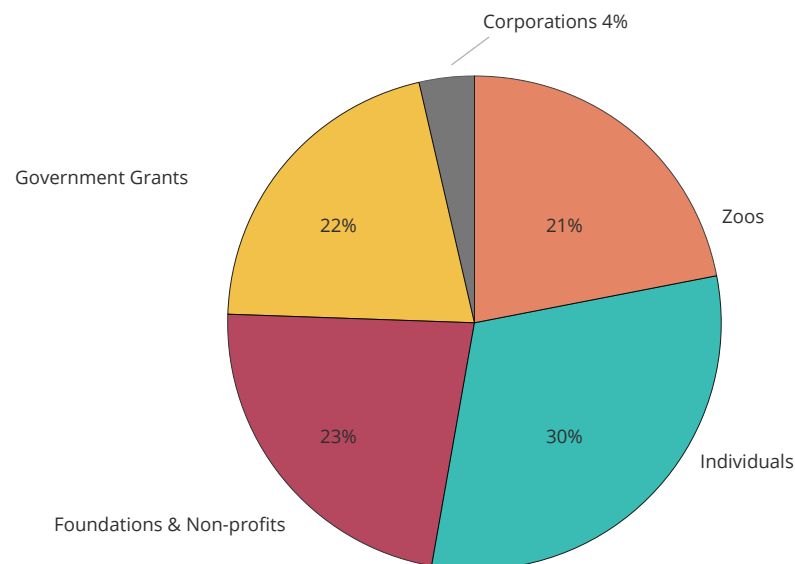
Bottom: In addition to protecting rhinos, rangers deal with wildlife crime involving many species.



FINANCIALS

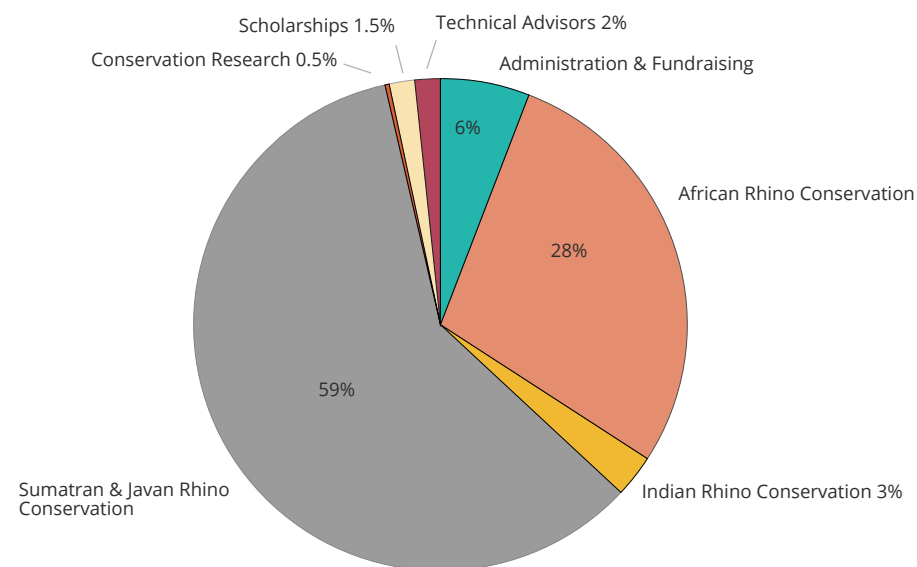
2017 REVENUE

Individuals	\$1,055,053
Foundations & Non-profits	\$767,402
Corporations	\$120,757
Zoos	\$705,807
Government Grants	\$749,998
IRF Store	\$15,183
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS	\$3,399,017
Interest Income	\$12,685
TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,426,885



2017 EXPENSES

African Rhino Conservation	\$786,630
Zimbabwe Black Rhino Conservation	\$456,014
Zimbabwe Black Rhino Special Projects	\$57,202
Southern Black Rhino Sustainability Program	\$4,185
Botswana Black Rhino Translocations	\$74,818
Operation: Stop Rhino Poaching Now	\$194,411
Indian Rhino Conservation	\$77,860
Indian Rhino Vision 2020	\$77,860
Sumatran & Javan Rhino Conservation	\$1,660,469
Sumatran Rhino Conservation	\$1,441,893
Javan Rhino Conservation	\$218,576
Conservation Research	\$8,432
Technical Advisors	\$50,892
Scholarships	\$39,014
TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$2,623,297
Administration & Fundraising	\$166,505
Professional Services	\$25,594
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2,815,396





The International Rhino Foundation's strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, and a Gold Seal of Transparency from Guidestar, America's largest independent charity evaluators. More than 93% of IRF's funds go directly to our local partners.

EIN: 75-2395006

Combined Federal Campaign Charity: #42511



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All of the work described in this report is possible because of our donors. Thank you to each and every one of you!

\$100,000+

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WAYS TO GIVE

IRF's success in saving rhino populations around the world depends on communities, businesses, and people like you. There are many ways to help.



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Visit rhinos.org/give to make an online donation using our secure server with your credit, debit card, or checking account.



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Make checks payable to "International Rhino Foundation" and mail to: International Rhino Foundation, 201 Main Street, Suite 2600, Fort Worth, Texas 76102



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Call (540) 465-9595 or email info@rhinos.org to learn how to donate stocks or securities to IRF.



MAKE A MONTHLY DONATION

When you make a monthly commitment to IRF, you help provide a stable flow of support that is vital for critical conservation efforts. Visit rhinos.org/give for more information.



SHOP RHINO

Show your support for rhinos and contribute money for rhino conservation by purchasing IRF apparel and items made in rhino-range states from our Rhino Shop. Visit rhinos.org/shop today!



ADOPT-A-RHINO

Help ensure Sumatran rhinos endure for future generations by "adopting" one from the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary. Visit rhinos.org/adopt to see available options.



GIVE IN SOMEONE'S HONOR

Giving a charitable gift donation is a great way to show someone you care and to spread the word about the importance of protecting rhinos! Visit our website or e-mail info@rhinos.org to make a gift donation.



GIVE IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE

Honor the memory of a friend or relative who supported wildlife conservation by donating in their name. Visit our website or e-mail info@rhinos.org to learn more.



ESTATE PLANNING

Remember IRF in your will by giving a bequest of cash, stocks, or annuities. Please call us at (540) 465-9595 to discuss estate planning further.

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