



## Rhino Facts and Figures: A stocktake on World Rhino Day 2022

At the end of 2021, Africa had at least 22,137 rhinoceroses (rhinos)

- 6,195 black and
- 15,942 white rhinos

Asia had at least 4,124 rhinos, comprised of:

- 4,014 greater one-horned rhinos in India and Nepal
- 76 Javan rhinos (all in one national park in Indonesia) and
- 34-47 Sumatran rhinos in Indonesia

*Dr Mike Knight, Chair of the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group said, “Thanks to collaborative effort, we have seen a modest increase in Africa’s black rhinos. There has been a decline in the more numerous white rhinos over the last three years. Africa’s rhinos still face huge challenges from illegal killing orchestrated by adaptive transnational crime syndicates. We need to remain constantly vigilant to threats and look for opportunities to further rhino conservation and the importance of rhinos to society”. Interviews/quotes available.*

*Dr Sam Ferreira, Scientific Officer of the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group said, “We are excited by innovative approaches supported by new ideas, knowledge and working together allowing Africa to create rhino legacies that help link living landscapes to local livelihoods”. Interviews/quotes available.*

*Mr Bibhab Talukdar, Chair of the IUCN Asian Rhino Specialist Group said, “Despite diverse challenges, two species of Asian Rhinos – Greater One Horned and Javan Rhino – has been marching forward with increasing population trends in the past few years due to proactive conservation measures initiated by the range State government agencies. Sumatran rhino, however, would need more time for recovery activities on the ground to secure its population. Poaching has been greatly controlled in Asian rhino range States, which is indeed good news”. Interviews/quotes available.*

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### WE CELEBRATE

**Three species: black rhinos, greater one-horned rhinos and Javan rhinos are on the increase**

- Black rhinos increased 3.0% per annum from 2017-2021.
- Greater one-horned increased 3.7% per annum over this period.
- Javan rhinos increased 4.4% per annum over this period.
- In Asia, the total number of rhinos increased 3.2% per annum, 2017-2021.

### WE ARE CONCERNED

**Two species: white rhinos and Sumatran rhinos are on the decline**

- White rhinos down 3.1% per annum from 2017-2021.
- Sumatran rhinos decreased 13% per annum over this period.

- In Africa, the total number of rhinos decreased 1.6% per annum, 2017 to 2021

### **The world lost many rhinos**

- At least 2,707 rhinos were illegally killed in Africa from 2018 to 2021.
- In Asia, 11 greater one-horned rhinos were poached from 2018 to 26 April 2022.
- Detection of carcasses in dense rainforests remains a challenge.
- No Sumatran rhino carcasses were found to explain the substantial population declines.
- The failure of Parties to submit reports on illegal killing is a matter of ongoing concern.

### **Ratio of convictions to arrests remain low**

- The overall ratio of convictions to arrests was relatively low in 2019 and 2021 (16.1% and 16.7% respectively).
- The ratio of convictions to arrests was relatively high in 2018 and 2020 (21.3% and 21.2% respectively).

## **WE ACKNOWLEDGE**

### **Africa-wide, the rate of poaching decreased**

- Rate of poaching is the number of animals killed in proportion to the total number of rhinos in the population.
- The overall rhino poaching rate across Africa declined from 3.9% of the continental population in 2018 to 2.3% in 2021.
- Regardless of increased security costs, private ownership increased to 53.2% of South Africa's white rhinos.

### **Increased arrest rates and improved prosecutions**

- From 2018 to 2021, African range States reported 1,588 arrests for crimes that involved rhinoceroses.
- During this period, 751 prosecutions for crimes involving rhinoceroses occurred within African range States.
- 300 of these resulted in subsequent convictions.
- Average rates of convictions per year from 2019 to 2021 was 35.1%.
- Arrests decreased from a high of 493 in 2018, to a low of 275 in 2021.

### **Increased collaboration**

- Combined law enforcement and community approaches deter poaching attempts.
- Important elements included participation by local people in developing and implementing protection initiatives.
- Combined operations that benefits situational awareness, access control, motivation of staff, and monitoring of rhinos.

## **WE MOURN**

### **Deaths of rhino heroes**

- Rangers and conservationists, the amazing people who so fearlessly protected them.

## **WE RESPECT**

### **Range States with successes**

- Namibia is the stronghold for black rhinos (2,156 out of 6,195, 34.8% of the continental population).

- South Africa a close second (2,056 or 33.2%), followed by Kenya (938 or 15.1%) and Zimbabwe (616 or 9.9%).
- South Africa has the vast majority of white rhinos (12,968 out of 15,942, 81.3% of the continental population).
- Smaller populations in other range States are increasing.

#### **Range States with challenges**

- South Africa had a decline from the previous estimate of 15,625 at the end of 2017.
- Although South Africa has the most rhinos (68% of all rhinos in Africa), 90% of all poaching was in South Africa (2,436 rhinos).
- Botswana experienced substantial declines of white rhinos from 452 to 242 and black rhinos from 50 to 23 from 2017 to 2021.

#### **WE PROVIDE HOPE**

#### **Collaborative partnerships of co-design and co-management offers a great future**

- Across four sub-species, rhinos that have some form of management partnership tend to perform better.
- Increased participation by indigenous people and local communities creates robust outcomes for rhino and people.