



# Rhino Recovery Fund



# Rhino Recovery Fund

ESTABLISHED IN 2020

GOAL

TO PROTECT RHINOS FROM WILDLIFE CRIME AND RESTORE THEIR LANDSCAPES

## Overview

The rhino's most distinguished feature, their horns, are prized for false medicinal purposes and are traded on the black market. Thousands of African and Asian rhinos have been killed for this destructive trade, with two Asian rhinos on the verge of extinction. Additionally, human development is robbing rhinos of their habitats, especially in Southeast Asia, where the rarest rhinos are found.

But there is still hope for rhinos. The Rhino Recovery Fund (RRF) believes with the right support, most rhino species can recover their populations.

## Strategy

The Rhino Recovery Fund has two primary investment strategies:

**Rhino Landscapes** We restore functioning landscapes for rhinos and support projects that protect and provide safe habitat for rhinos and all wildlife living within those habitats. We focus on protected area management and projects that ensure rhinos are relevant to the communities they live alongside.

**Rhino Guardians** We invest in projects designed to protect African and Asian rhinos through intelligence-driven operations that disrupt illegal wildlife trafficking. We also work with partners to reduce demand for rhino horn.

The RRF supports innovative projects that benefit both people and rhinos, and that encourage everyone to embrace rhinos and participate in their recovery.

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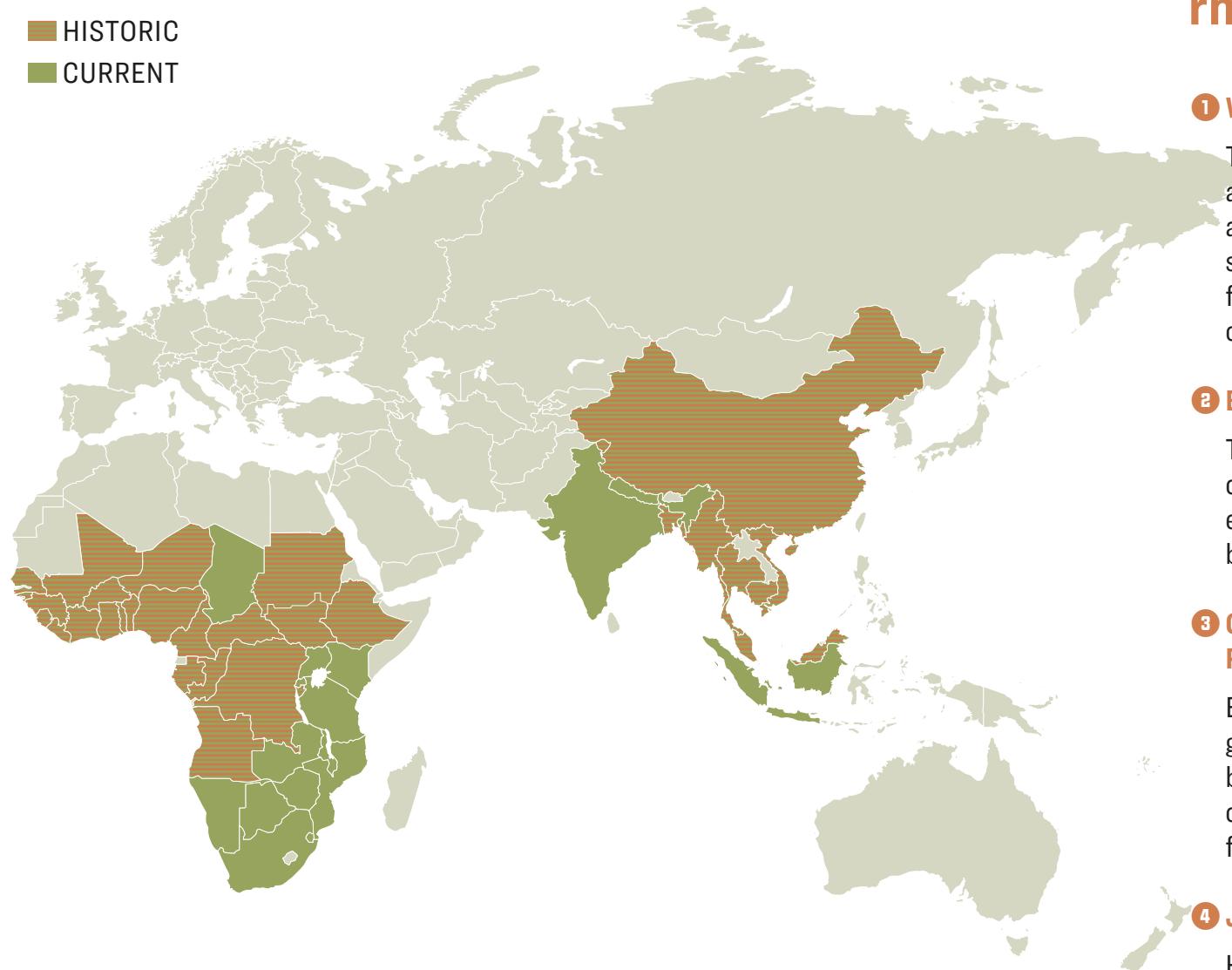


[rhinorecoveryfund.org](http://rhinorecoveryfund.org)

# Rhino Range Countries

Rhinos lost a significant amount of their habitat and population in the last century.

■ HISTORIC  
■ CURRENT



## Rhino Status IUCN Redlist

### AFRICAN RHINO

<b>Black Rhino</b>	Critically Endangered Population increasing
<b>White Rhino</b>	Near Threatened Population decreasing

### ASIAN RHINO

<b>Javan Rhino</b>	Critically Endangered Population stable
<b>Sumatran Rhino</b>	Critically Endangered Population decreasing
<b>Greater One-horned Rhino</b>	Vulnerable Population increasing

# Individual goals for the five rhino species

## 1 WHITE RHINO

To halt the decline in numbers and establish projects that allow white rhinos to live safely, including outside of formally protected areas and community owned land.

## 2 BLACK RHINO

To increase numbers in each current range-state and to establish new populations in black rhino historical range.

## 3 GREATER ONE-HORNED RHINO

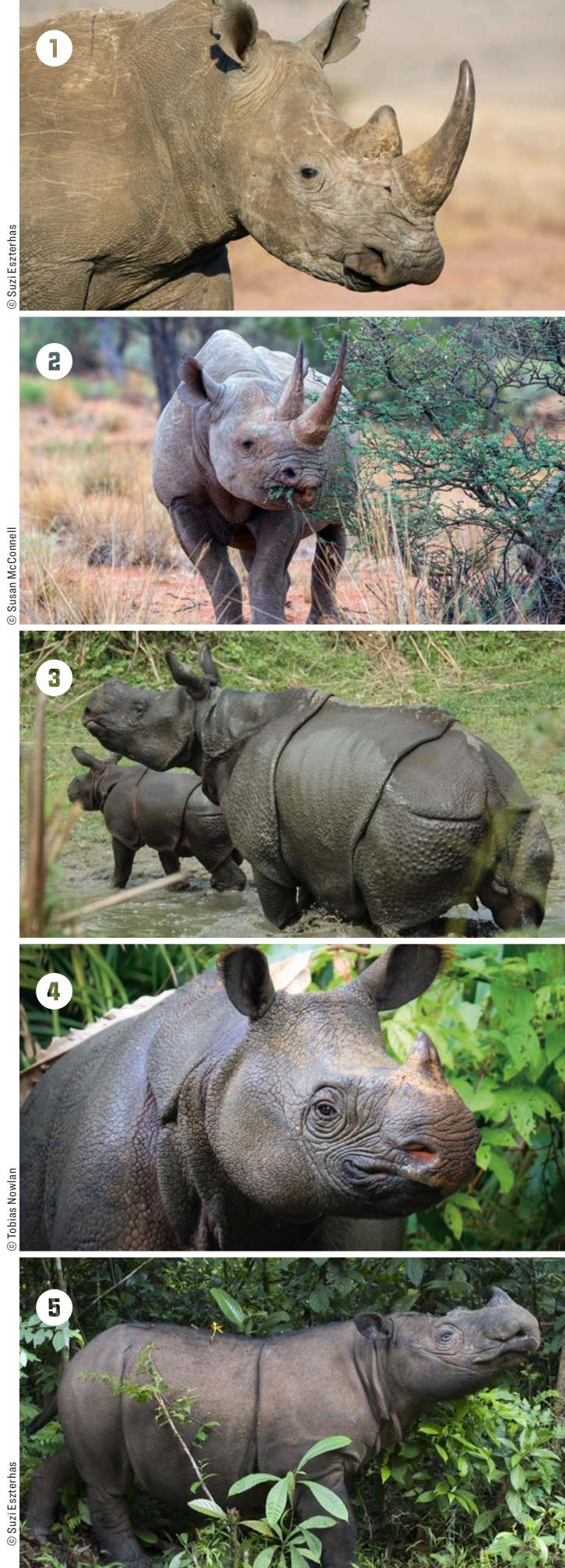
Establish and add to new greater one-horned rhino breeding populations in the current range within the next five years.

## 4 JAVAN RHINO

Help secure the only wild population of Javan rhinos and support the establishment of an additional secure habitat and translocation initiative.

## 5 SUMATRAN RHINO

To protect any remaining wild Sumatran rhinos, particularly in areas that allow for natural breeding and ecosystem protection.



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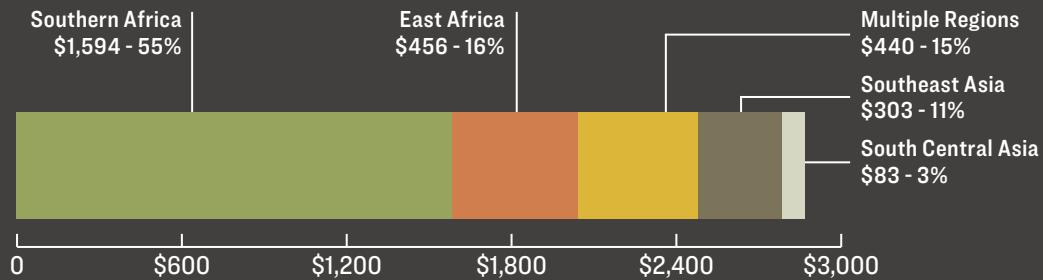
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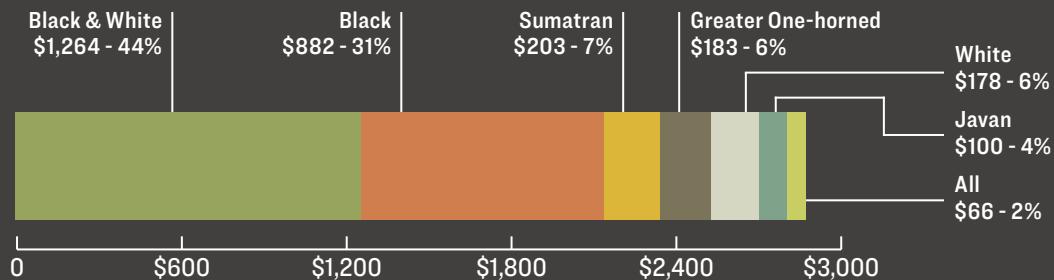
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# \$2.9M granted to 37 projects

## ALLOCATION PER REGION *in Thousands of US Dollars*



## ALLOCATION PER SPECIES *in Thousands of US Dollars*



## ALLOCATION PER TYPE OF PROJECT *in Thousands of US Dollars*



Source: WCN, October, 2022

# Overall our funds have reached 70% of all rhino populations, including:

- ▶ The only remaining viable wild populations of Sumatran and Javan rhinos
- ▶ The most significant greater one-horned rhino population in Assam, India
- ▶ All of the key rhino populations in East Africa
- ▶ The only black rhino population in Zambia
- ▶ The reintroduction of black rhinos in Zimbabwe
- ▶ The black rhino population of Namibia's desert

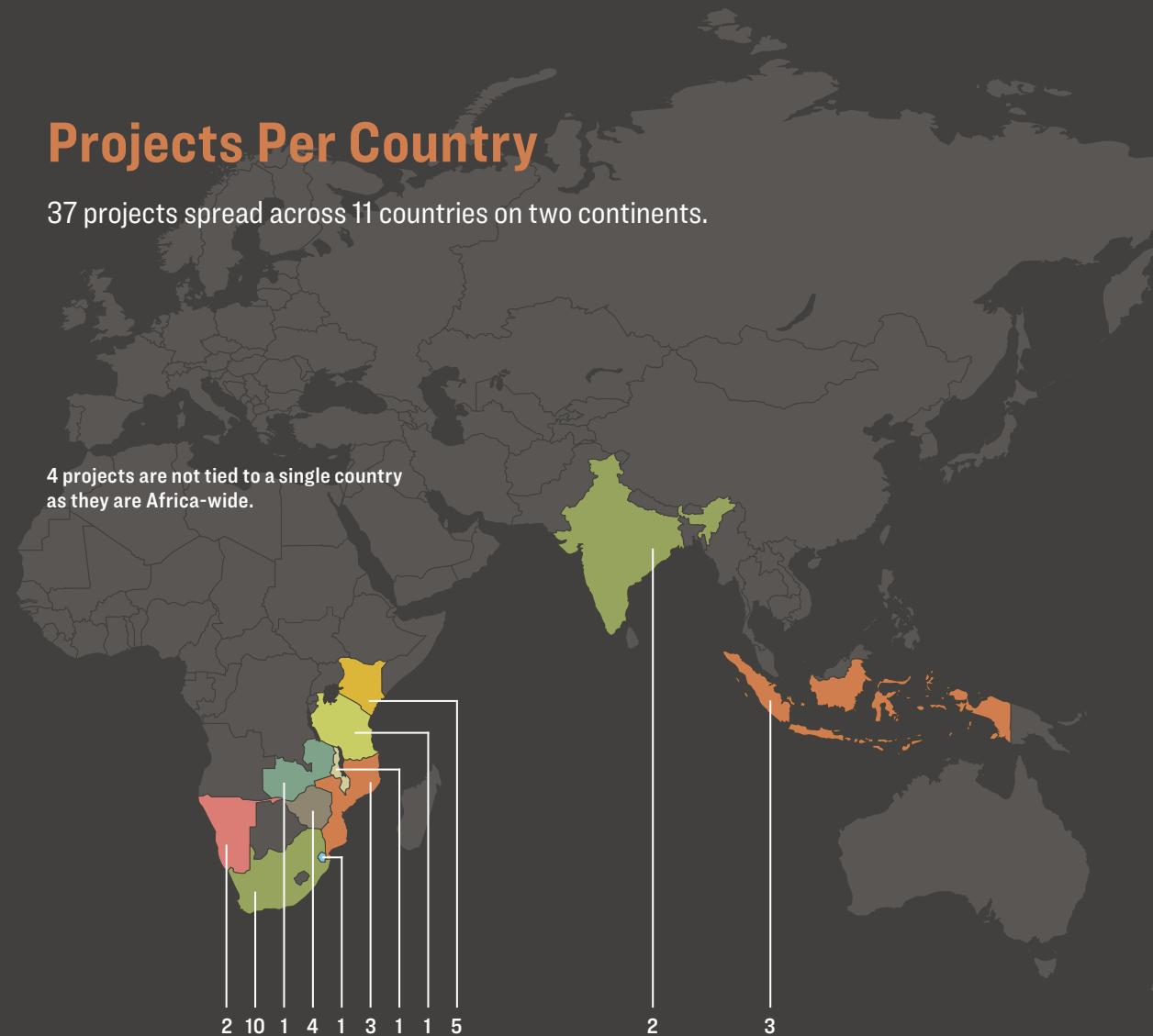
# Types of Projects We Fund

- ▶ Protection and biological management of rhinos in their natural habitat
- ▶ Protected area management, including constructive law enforcement
- ▶ Strengthening local pride and support for rhinos and raising the profile of rhinos locally, regionally, and around the world
- ▶ Illegal wildlife trade disruption through intelligence-led interventions
- ▶ Rhino horn demand reduction with responsible local organizations
- ▶ Strategic convenings to bring together rhino conservationists, communities, development specialists, governmental officials, sustainable finance experts, and agencies dealing with wildlife crime disruption
- ▶ Innovative ways to increase funding for rhino conservation

# Projects Per Country

37 projects spread across 11 countries on two continents.

4 projects are not tied to a single country as they are Africa-wide.



Source: WCN, October 2022



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## Grantees Supported by the RRF

Aaranyak  
African Conservation and  
Community Foundation  
African Conservation Trust  
African Parks  
Association of Private and  
Community Land Rhino  
Sanctuaries  
Bhejane Trust  
Big Game Parks  
Care for Wild

Conserv Congo  
Dambari Wildlife Trust  
Frankfurt Zoological Society  
Flying for Wildlife  
Greater Kruger Environment  
Protection Foundation  
Gonarezhou Conservation Trust  
International Rhino Foundation  
Karingani Game Reserve  
Leuser Conservation Forum  
Loisaba Community Trust

Mozambique Wildlife Alliance  
Munywana Conservancy  
Project Rhino  
Save the Rhino Trust Namibia  
Save the Rhino International  
Tsavo Trust  
Wilderness Foundation  
Wildlife ACT  
Wildlife Crime Prevention

## Successes

- ▶ The RRF has invested in almost every major rhino range area in the world, and we continue to expand and support new, significant rhino recovery projects across Africa and Asia. Our funding has aided programs that support all five remaining rhino species, demonstrating the effectiveness of the RRF's reach since its launch in 2020.
- ▶ The RRF issued two grants to the Leuser Conservation Forum to establish a rhino protection unit in an area that doesn't currently have any active patrolling presence. Indonesia's Leuser ecosystem is a vital habitat for endangered wildlife and the last place in the world that is a collective home to orangutans, elephants, tigers, and the most endangered of the five rhino species, the Sumatran rhino.
- ▶ The RRF is providing critical support to the Laikipia area of Kenya, where the largest population of eastern black rhinos exists. This grant to Laikipia Conservancies Association (LCA) will allow for the planning of additional range expansion. Once completed, LCA and the Association of Private and Community Land Rhino Sanctuaries (under the management of Kenya Wildlife Service) will move more than 50 eastern black rhinos into the expanded Laikipia range. This will fast track the recovery of this black rhino subspecies.
- ▶ The RRF has issued several grants to Frankfurt Zoological Society to continue proper rhino monitoring in Tanzania and establish a plan to help rhinos safely exist in an area encompassing the Ngorongoro Crater and Serengeti National Park. This is an enormous landscape that spans more than 11,580 sq. miles (nearly the size of Maryland). This area is now home to the largest free-ranging eastern black rhino population in the world.
- ▶ Care for Wild in South Africa protects the largest group—over 100 individuals—of orphaned white rhinos in the world, and two grants from the RRF have helped secure the safety of these orphans and ensured that the 18 oldest of these rhinos will be rewilded into a large reserve made up of community, public, and privately owned land. This is part of an innovative coexistence grant, a first for the RRF.

To date the RRF  
has supported:

**37**  
projects

**31**  
grantees

**11**  
countries

The RRF has  
raised:

**\$5.3**  
million

to support  
on-the-ground  
conservation  
efforts.

As of October, 2022



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“The impact of COVID-19 on African Conservation has been catastrophic. The loss of revenue through tourism has resulted in thousands of job-losses and the rhinos risk being poached due to lack of resources. WCN’s Rhino Recovery Fund offered significant support, ensuring we could maintain critical conservation functions and keep our rhinos safe. We have lost zero rhinos to poaching in 2020 thanks to organizations like the RRF.”

—Jamie Gaymer,  
Association of Private and Community  
Land Rhino Sanctuaries



Save the Rhino Trust



© Chris Galliers

“One year after reintroducing black rhinos to Gonarezhou National Park, five new calves have been born, bringing the population to 34 rhinos. The Rhino Recovery Fund’s financial and technical support was critical to the success of this project. Ongoing RRF assistance will be crucial as we continue to monitor these rhinos. Our relationship with the RRF is extremely important to us and will allow us to continue this complex conservation work.”

—Hugo Van der Westhuizen,  
Gonarezhou Conservation Trust



**Rhino  
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[rhinorecoveryfund.org](http://rhinorecoveryfund.org)

The Rhino Recovery Fund is managed by:



**WCN**

Wildlife Conservation Network

[wildnet.org](http://wildnet.org)



Cover photo: Black rhino and calf, South Africa. By sarah moorcroft/EyeEm  
Design: Monica DuClaud

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