



RHINO RECOVERY FUND

September 2024
World Rhino Day



COMMUNITIES AND LIVELIHOODS

Local communities across Africa are vital to rhino conservation. In some regions where rhinos once faced the threat of extinction, reformed poachers are earning new livelihoods as rangers, using their knowledge to protect the very species they once hunted. They're not alone in their efforts. Some communities living alongside rhinos tirelessly work to sustain the land and its biodiversity through numerous projects. This type of community engagement leads to holistic conservation and is essential for the Rhino Recovery Fund (RRF) to achieve long-term rhino protection and foster coexistence between people and rhinos.

Building on community-driven approaches where possible, the RRF invests in projects that strengthen ties between grantees and neighboring communities. This includes funding ranger salaries in Namibia, supporting nurseries and habitat restoration in Indonesia, and aiding collective land management in Zambia. These efforts create a win-win scenario. When local communities become the first line of defense for wildlife, they see economic growth from new jobs and food security in their restored landscapes.

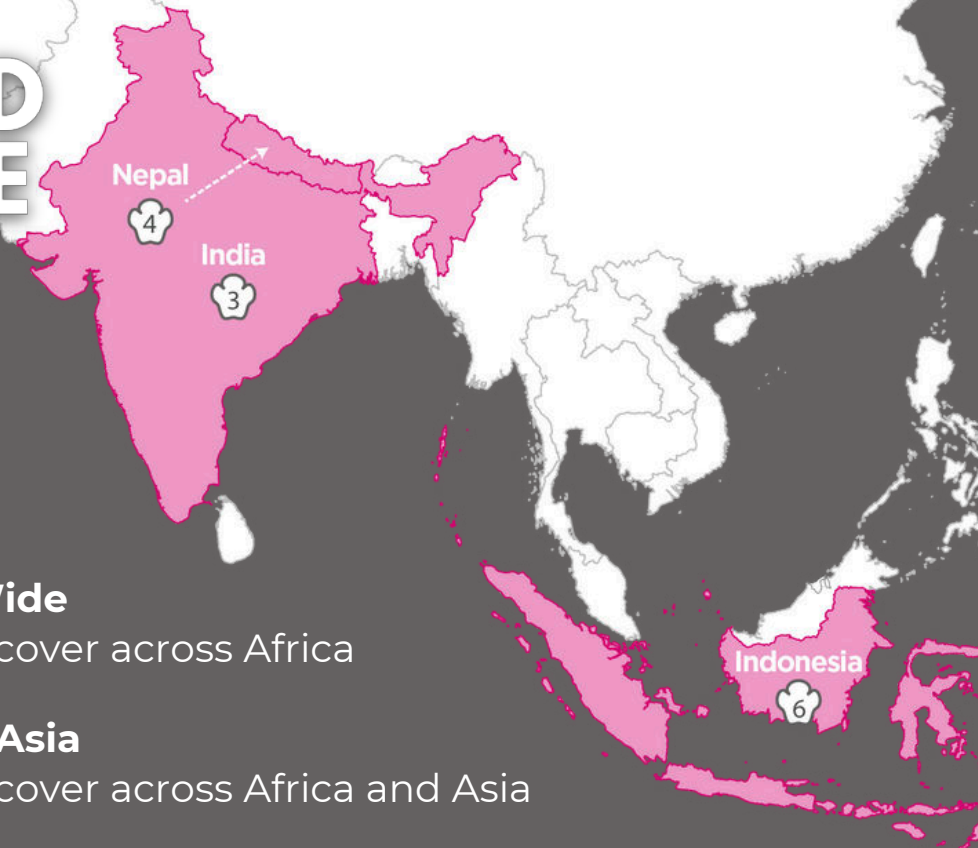
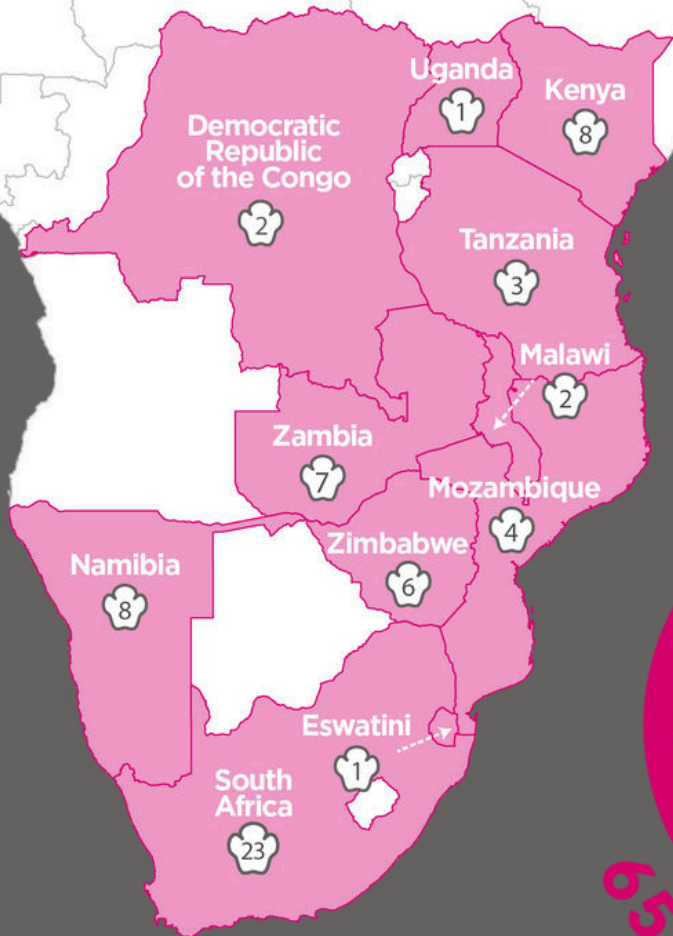
The positive impact of these collaborations cannot be understated. When they effectively communicate, local communities and conservation organizations create a steady flow of information. Community members share valuable insights with conservationists, and in return, grantees provide research and updates back to the communities. This approach helps ensure that both rhinos and local communities can thrive for years to come.

Pictured: Care for Wild, an RRF grantee, employs local people in their rhino rehabilitation program.

RHINO RECOVERY FUND PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD



NUMBER OF PROJECTS PER COUNTRY



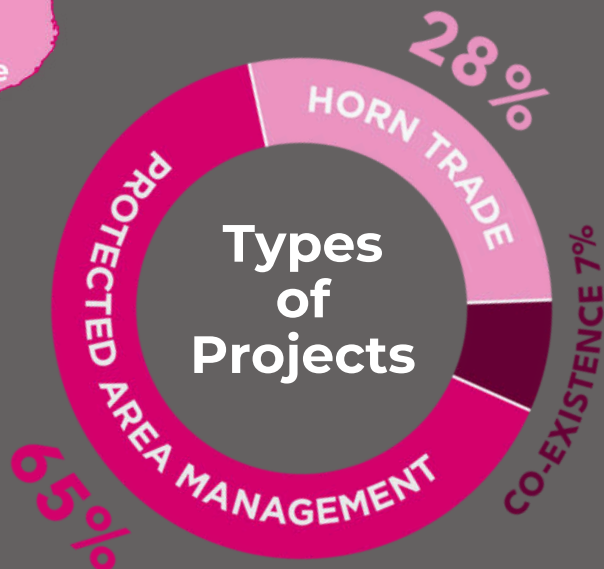
Africa-Wide

Projects cover across Africa



Africa & Asia

Projects cover across Africa and Asia



To date, the Rhino Recovery Fund has granted **\$5.8 million**, investing in



87
PROJECTS



14
COUNTRIES



FIVE SPECIES, ONE MISSION SAVING ALL RHINOS

A conservationist cares for an orphaned calf in the Barberton Nature Reserve. (c) Care for Wild

Barberton Nature Reserve Security Expansion Care for Wild South Africa

Over the last decade, around 8,900 African rhinos have been lost to poaching and are still being poached at a high rate. Care for Wild has multi-disciplinary teams involved in the rescue and rehabilitation of rhinos orphaned by poaching. The RRF provided emergency funding to expand Care for Wild's reserve into a 4,570 acre protected area with a six-member Anti-Poaching Unit. This expansion has allowed the first crash of rhinos to be released into the newly protected area and provide additional secured land for black rhino habitat. The reserve is co-owned by communities, provincial conservation agencies, and private landowners.

Black Rhino Landscape Conservation Frankfurt Zoological Society Zambia

The Rhino Recovery Fund (RRF) supported the Frankfurt Zoological Society in enhancing conservation efforts around Zambia's sole black rhino population. As black rhinos face an extremely high risk of extinction in the wild, and even went locally extinct in Zambia in the 1990s, this project aims to secure the rhino population that was reintroduced to the area in the 2000s and maintain a "zero-poached" status. The RRF backs the North Luangwa Conservation Program, a partnership implementing an integrated landscape approach with multiple stakeholders to protect these critically endangered rhinos.

Gonarezhou National Park White Rhino Reintroduction & Meta-population Management Frankfurt Zoological Society Zimbabwe

The Gonarezhou Conservation Trust, working alongside government and private partners, is implementing a white rhino reintroduction program in Gonarezhou National Park, building on the success of the 2021 black rhino introduction. With the Rhino Recovery Fund's support, the Trust aims to establish a sustainable population, alleviating pressure on existing groups and boosting the management of smaller rhino populations interconnected throughout Zimbabwe. This ambitious project seeks to restore a species that faced local extinction in Gonarezhou 31 years ago.



A black rhino feeds under the protection of the Gonarezhou Conservation Trust (GCT) in Zimbabwe before being released into the wild (first RRF project with GCT). (c) Markus Hofmeyr

Protecting Wild Sumatran Rhinos in West Leuser Leuser Conservation Forum Indonesia

The Rhino Recovery Fund (RRF) provided support to the Leuser Conservation Forum (FKL) to protect Sumatran rhinos in Indonesia's Leuser Ecosystem. Despite maintaining zero poaching since 1992, Sumatran rhinos remain Critically Endangered, with less than 50 individuals left in the wild. The Leuser Ecosystem houses the largest, possibly only, viable wild population, making it crucial for the species' survival. The RRF is supporting FKL in expanding their ranger program, monitoring biodiversity, reforesting degraded areas, and educating local communities. This work aims to increase the Sumatran rhino population, restore ecosystem health, and foster long-term stewardship among local residents to ensure the species' future in its last stronghold.



A patrol team winds their way through the Leuser Ecosystem by river. (c) Leuser Conservation Forum



A greater one-horned rhino bathing in the river in Chitwan National Park, Nepal. (c) Catalin Grigoriu

Safeguarding Greater One-Horned Rhinos and their Habitat Greenhoo Nepal Nepal

The Rhino Recovery Fund is supporting Nepal's efforts to recover its greater one-horned rhino population from the brink of extinction. With the latest census recording just over 750 rhinos, of which 90% are concentrated in and around Chitwan National Park, this project aims to assess current safeguard measures for both the rhinos and their habitat. The work includes evaluating the environmental impacts of regional development plans and assisting local authorities and communities in enhancing coexistence with rhinos to ensure sustainable outcomes.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

While three of the five remaining rhino species are Critically Endangered, there is still time to turn things around. With continued support from generous donors, the Rhino Recovery Fund can focus on the most impactful projects to save rhinos, many of which rely on the vital involvement of local communities.

Please know how grateful we are for every donation. Rhinos, who have roamed our planet for millions of years, are finding safer ground again because of you. Every contribution helps to protect them, their habitats, and the local people who share their landscapes. Together, we can ensure that rhinos have a permanent place in the wild.



WCN

Wildlife Conservation Network



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