

Reasons to save rhinos

1. Rhinos have been around for more than 50 million years

Rhinos have been an important part of a wide range of ecosystems for millions of years; we must not let them join the dodo in extinction.

2. Rhinos are an integral part of the ecosystem

Rhinos are huge mega-herbivores and impact greatly on their environment by shaping the landscape. By browsing and grazing they open up access for other species, enabling the survival of a variety of different animals. Rhinos also create wallows, which are used by other species for bathing and drinking, and rhino dung is an important fertiliser and source of food for smaller insects and other organisms.

3. Rhinos are an umbrella species

When protecting and managing a rhino population, rangers and scientists take into account all the other species interacting with rhinos and those sharing the same habitat. When you protect the rhino, you help protect all the other species that share their habitat.

4. Protecting rhinos provides community benefits

Funding rhino conservation programmes provides direct community benefits through employment, engagement and education. Rhinos are also one of the 'Big Five' and are incredibly important for tourism, which brings money for national parks and local communities.

5. Rhino conservation programmes need our help

Protecting and managing a rhino population is a real challenge that costs energy and money. Rhino-range countries need our financial support, and benefit from shared expertise and exchange of ideas.

6. Humans have caused the drastic decline in population numbers

The decline in rhino populations is due to humans. Poaching, land encroachment, illegal logging, political conflict and climate change are all human induced problems. It is up to us to halt this decline.

7. Rhinos are critically endangered

Rhinos are on the brink of extinction and need our urgent help to save them. If poaching continues at the current rate, then overall rhino populations could start to decline in less than two years. At this rate rhinos will be extinct by 2026. It is important we preserve rhinos for future generations.

8. Rhino populations have recovered in the past

One hundred years ago, there were only around 50 Southern white rhino left, however concerned conservationists brought the species back from the brink of extinction, and there is now over 20,000 individuals. This proves that well-planned and executed measures really can work, and that is why we must not stop now.

In addition, recent history has shown us that demand reduction measures can be successfully achieved in Asia. Demand for rhino horn has reduced in countries such as Japan, Korea and Taiwan. So we are positive that this can - and will - be done again.



For more about the current status of each rhino species, there's a wealth of information on the Rhino Info section of our website www.savetherhino.org/rhino_info, including population figures, fact files about each of the rhino species and more on the different threats to rhinos.

You can also read the latest updates from Save the Rhino daily on our Twitter account @savetherhino