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The number of rhinos poached across the country in 2022 was the highest in a decade. Photo: Anita, pixabay

ENVIRONMENT

BETTER PROTECTION FOR ENDANGERED RHINOS

Save The Rhino Trust serving Nyae Nyae area/ no poaching cases as of 2020

Windhoek (jd/imvdw)

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Windhoek (jd/imvdw) - The Save The Rhino Trust (SRT) started work last year in the Nyae Nyae Conservation Area in the northeast of the country on behalf of the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT). The area borders Khaudum National Park, where the MEFT, with support from the SRT, now hopes to improve black rhino conservation.

It is a positive development for the SRT: "The MEFT's request to double our Rhino Rangers program is a recognition of the success of the SRT in the Kunene region over the past four decades. New conservation jobs have already been created in Nyae Nyae, and more are to come. Expanding our rhino territory will have a very positive impact on the endangered rhino population," said Andrew Malherbe, SRT's Chief Operating Officer.

According to the company, there have been no cases of poaching in the areas monitored by the Save The Rhino Trust since 2020. This is in extreme contrast to the record levels of rhino poaching recorded by the MEFT across Namibia last year.

Protection by rhino rangers in the Nyae Nyae area is of particular importance. In addition to the endangered black rhinos, the endangered white rhinos also live here.

However, preventing poaching and expanding its range are not the only achievements that the SRT has achieved over the past year. This also includes the establishment of a mounted protection unit that patrols with the help of mules, regular health checks for the rangers, the introduction of a digital system for data collection during field work and some community projects.