



DAILYNEWS NEWS

Africa's white rhino population is under pressure from poaching and continues to decline - 2022 state of the rhino report reveals



Kruger National Park is home to the largest number of rhinos, but it is also where 82 were poached in this year alone. File Picture: Armand Hough/ African News Agency (ANA)

Published Sep 23, 2022



Written by
Daily News Reporter

SHARE



Listen to this article



0:00 / 4:56 1X



Durban — The International Rhino Foundation (IRF) has revealed that Africa's white rhino population, under pressure from poaching, continues to decline.

This was according to the IRF's State of the Rhino report which is published every September.

Story continues below Advertisement

The report documents current population estimates and trends, where available, as well as key challenges and conservation developments for the five surviving rhino species in Africa and Asia.



"The rhino crew made a big entrance for World Rhino Day!"

2 days ago

0:32

IRF executive director Nina Fascione said: "As has been the case in recent years, the overall population of the world's five rhino species has again declined, standing at just over 26 000 now."

"This is a very troubling trend, of course, but fortunately, it's not all bad news."

More on this



- **World Rhino Day: Private sector playing increasing role in conserving SA's rhino population, says Minister Creecy**
- **World Rhino Day: Conserving rhinos is about more than just stopping poachers**
- **KZN mom pens children's book to raise awareness of rhino poaching**
- **Two suspects travelling from KZN to Gauteng arrested with two 'recently extracted' rhino horns**
- **Three would-be poachers try to outsmart authorities but are arrested in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park**

The IRF said the Asian Rhino Specialist Group (AsRSG) announced that the greater one-horned rhino, found only in India, Nepal and Bhutan, has increased to 4 014 individuals after a biannual survey was completed in early 2022. The population is growing largely due to the governments of India and Nepal creating habitats for rhinos, while also preventing poaching.

STATE OF THE RHINO 2022



The International Rhino Foundation's 2022 state of the rhino report reveals how Africa fared. | International Rhino Foundation

It said that poaching remains a threat, but authorities in India have had great success in significantly reducing poaching, through intense security and strict enforcement of wildlife crime laws. In 2021, there was only one recorded poaching incident. There has been only one recorded incident in the first half of 2022 as well.



The IRF said that the African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC) released a report in 2022, The African and Asian Rhinoceroses - Status, Conservation and Trade, which estimates there are currently 22 137 rhinos in Africa: 6 195 black rhinos and 15 942 white rhinos. The overall number has decreased 6%, from 23 562, since the last Specialist Group report in 2017.

Story continues below Advertisement



The special bond between a rhino calf and his caregiver in Kenya

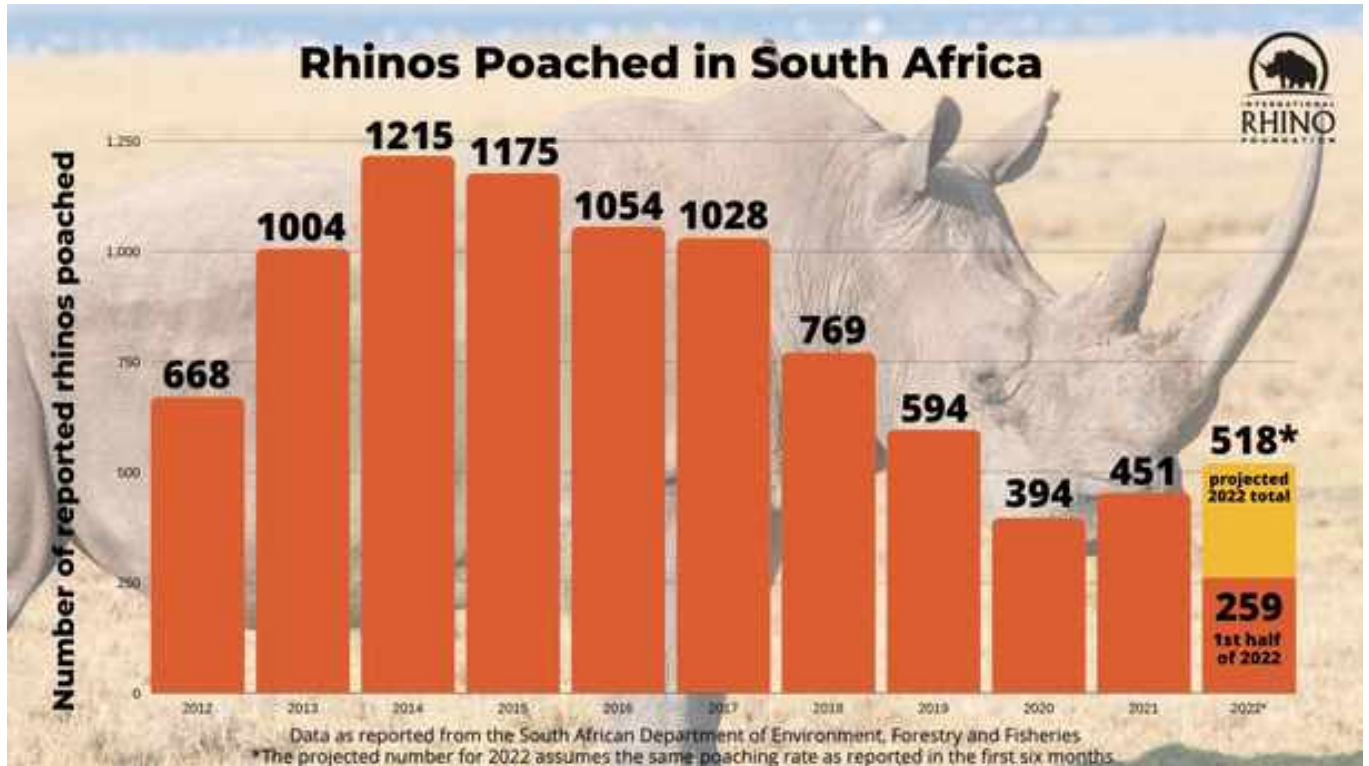
Poaching remains the greatest threat to African rhinos. Since 2017, there have been 2 707 recorded rhino poaching incidents in Africa, 90% of which took place in South Africa. In 2020, when governments implemented Covid mitigation measures, including lockdowns, there was a significant reduction in poaching – from 3.9% of the continental population in 2018 to 2.3% in 2021. Now that travel has reopened, poaching is on the rise again.

The IRP said white rhinos are decreasing primarily due to poaching losses. The population has decreased by almost 12% in the last four years, from an estimated 18 067 to fewer than 16 000 today.



“Because they are more numerous and because of their more social nature, white rhinos are particularly hard hit by poaching,” said Fascione.

Story continues below Advertisement



The International Rhino Foundation shows a projected rhino poaching figure of 518 since 259 rhinos have been poached in the first six months of 2022. | International Rhino Foundation

The IRF said Africa’s other species, the black rhino, suffered a drastic decline at the end of the 20th century.



1:18



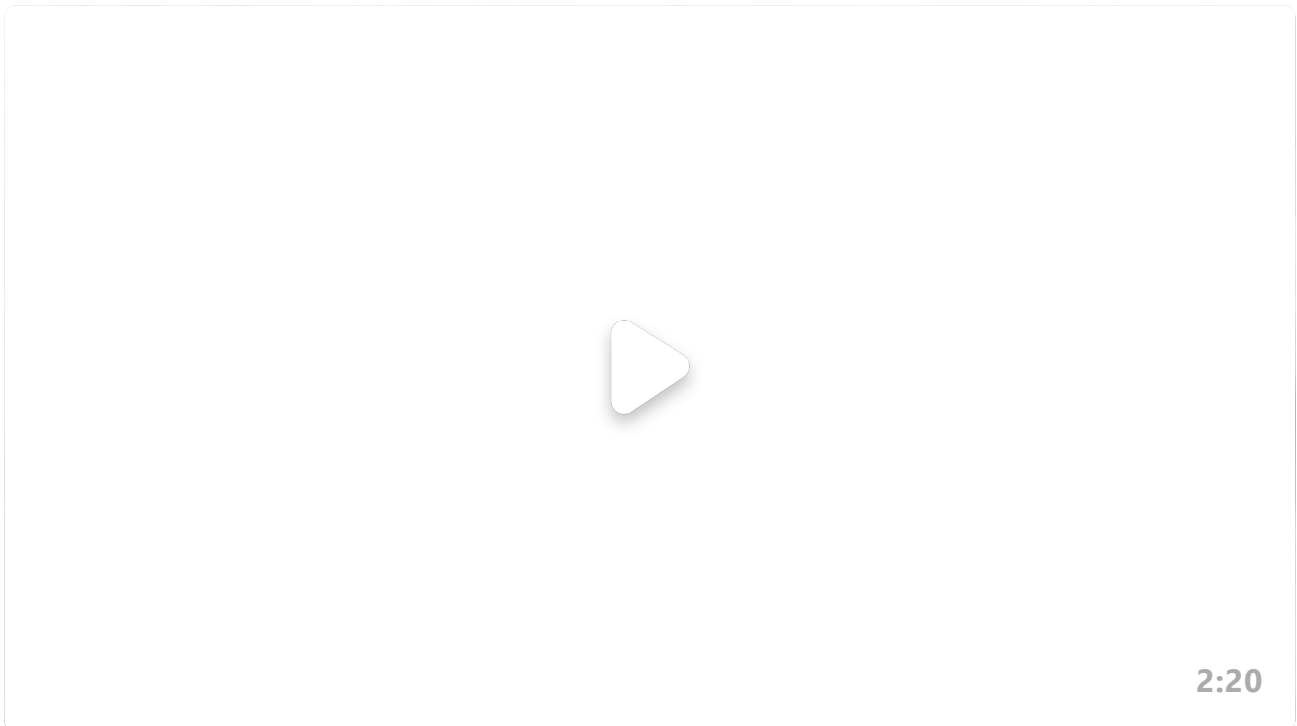
The Rhino Whisperer: Wildlife vet Pierre Bester relocates and rewilds rhinos

Between 1970 and 1993, the population of black rhinos decreased by 96% from approximately 65 000 to only 2 300 surviving in the wild. Since 1996, intense anti-poaching efforts and strategic translocations to safer areas have allowed the species to slowly recover. Poaching still looms as the greatest threat.

“IRF was founded 30 years ago based on concerns over this decline, but there is good news today for the black rhino in Africa,” said Fascione.

Story continues below Advertisement

The AfRSG estimates a 12% growth in black rhino populations in recent years, from approximately 5 495 individuals in 2017 to more than 6 000 today.

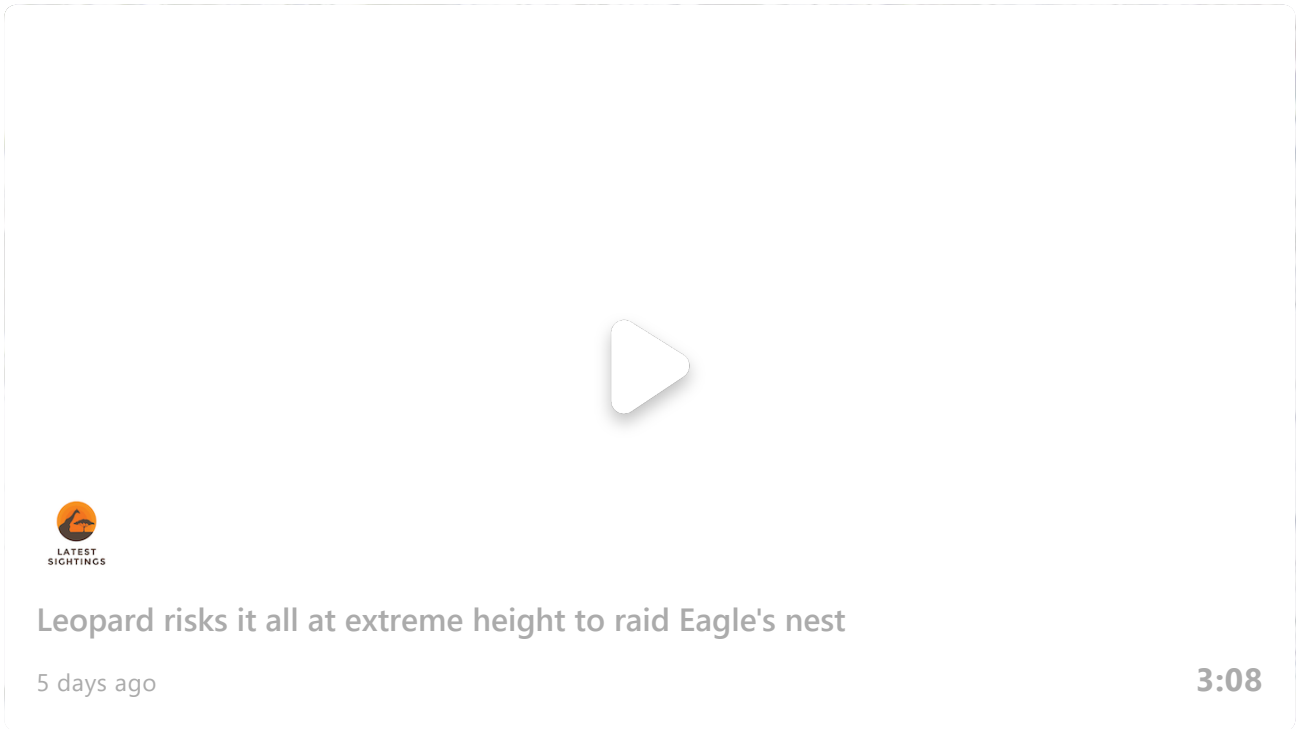


South Africa: More than 30 orphaned young rhinos relocated to keep them safe



The IRF said South Africa accounts for about half of the total black rhino population and is also home to most of the world's white rhinos. Again, poaching is decimating populations, 259 rhinos have been poached for their horns in the first six months of 2022, 10 more than were poached during the same time frame last year. The Kruger National Park, which is home to the largest population of rhinos in the world, has reported 82 rhinos poached this year.

Daily News



LATEST SIGHTINGS

Leopard risks it all at extreme height to raid Eagle's nest

5 days ago 3:08

Next video

2:12	5:46	2:17	
Two buffaloes and 20 elephants are no match f...	Hyena Tries Drowning Rival	Leopard Teaches Cubs How to Cross the Road	Baby Buck Swe River as Mothe
LATEST SIGHTINGS 1 week ago	LATEST SIGHTINGS 1 week ago	LATEST SIGHTINGS 2 weeks ago	LATEST SIGHTINGS 2 weeks a

Powered by  OOVVUU

RELATED TOPICS:

- CONSERVATION
- ENVIRONMENT
- SANPARKS
- INDIA
- POACHING
- WILDLIFE
- ANIMALS

