



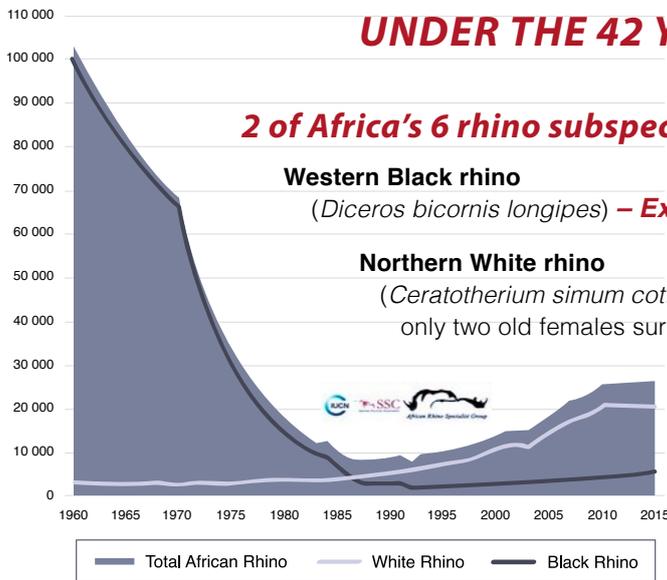
# LEGAL TRADE for RHINO SURVIVAL

## Building a global alliance

whereby rhinos will survive – and thrive – in the wild;  
where they, the rhinos, can provide financially for their own protection,  
together with the long-term welfare of African parks and all species that inhabit them,  
while bringing meaningful sustainable benefits to rural communities.

In 1977 – 42 years ago – in good faith, international trade in rhino horn was banned.

## THE BAN HAS FAILED



Estimated Numbers of African Rhino 1960-2015

Africa's Black rhino has become a **critically endangered species.**



Photo © Quintus Strauss

2015-2017 severe drought hit the rhino heartland of south-east Africa causing an untold number of White rhinos to perish.

It is said that there were 100 000 in 1960. Now there are only about 5 000 – a loss of 95%.

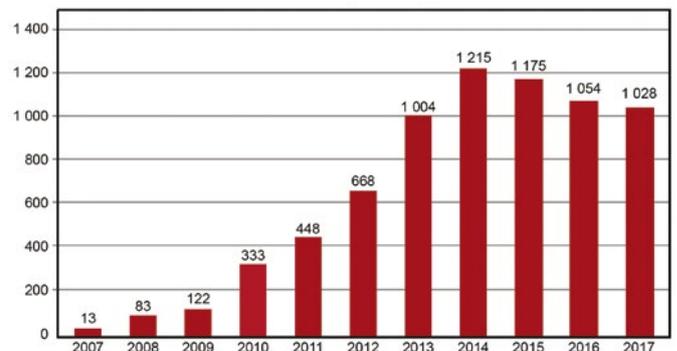
Recent numbers of Black and Southern White rhinos are not available but it is clear that Africa's biggest rhino populations continue to decline due to horn poaching...

**Every 8 hours at least one rhino is killed by horn poachers in South Africa alone!**

■ Rhinos have passed the tipping point – more are being poached than are being born.

■ Well over 1 000 Game Rangers have died while protecting rhinos and elephants in Africa.

Recorded rhino poaching losses in South Africa alone, 2007-2017.



The drop in number of rhinos poached is no reason to celebrate – this is inevitable when there are fewer rhinos on the ground to poach and when those that remain are more difficult to access.

To continue with the *status quo* is a recipe for rhino extinction.  
**LEGAL TRADE IN RHINO HORN CAN AND MUST TURN THIS AROUND**

# The risk and cost of keeping rhinos has become prohibitive

African parks and other rhino custodians are struggling to survive. Private rhino owners in South Africa own more rhinos than the rest of Africa put together and are a source for restocking in future – but many are now being forced to give up on their rhinos including, in August 2018, the world's

two biggest private rhino breeders who own **over 10% of the global rhino population**. Now over 300 000ha has been lost to rhino conservation, which equates to habitat for 7 500 rhinos – this is a 50% decline in available habitat since 2016.

*While rhino poaching is surging, rhino habitat is shrinking... a double-edged sword for Africa's rhinos*



Photo © Quintus Strauss

**Yet rhino horn is more valuable than gold – and better than gold, it is a self-renewing sustainable resource.**

Gold can only be mined once, while rhinos breed and their horns keep growing, making it doubly sustainable. Horn can be harvested ethically and painlessly from the same animal repeatedly, **without killing a single rhino.**

It is untenable that Africa owns this vast and valuable self-renewing resource but due to the ban on legal horn trade **criminals are taking 100% of the revenue from horn while rhino custodians are paying 100% of the cost of protection and production, and communities are deprived of any benefits.**

Massive horn stocks exist that could be converted into much-needed cash if the ban was lifted.

*How can the world deny Africa an annual multimillion-dollar sustainable, legal and moral trading possibility from its own resources, desperately needed to fund Nature conservation?*

## LEGAL, ETHICAL, SUSTAINABLE USE is proven to be a successful policy

■ In Kenya where sustainable use has been banned for 40 years, the **wildlife estate has reduced by more than 80%**. An in-depth EU-funded study by one German and six Kenyan scientists completed in 2016 recorded **“extreme wildlife declines”** of 68% – confirming more than two-thirds of Kenya's wild animals were gone.

By contrast, in South Africa, where sustainable use and commercialisation has been practised, over the same period of time **the area of land under conservation has more than tripled and the number of wild animals has grown 20 times.**

■ **Many wild species have been saved from extinction** by sustainable use and commercialisation – vicuña in South America, reindeer in Lapland, caribou in Canada, and in southern Africa, the Nile crocodile, ostrich and black wildebeest, to name but a few species that are now safe as a direct result of sustainable use.

■ **Over 90% of the world's White rhinos occur in southern Africa, where the species was saved from extinction through sustainable use and where by far the majority of rhino range states support a legal trade in rhino horn to prevent rhino extinction.**

*“Without trade, there is no financial model to keep rhinos on private land, or even to finance rhinos on state land. All other issues are secondary.” – Professor Brian Child, August 2018*

## A sensible, disciplined LEGAL TRADE PROTOCOL is urgently needed

A strictly controlled, transparent system such as the proposed rhino horn Central Selling Organisation (CSO) based on the “Smart Trade” model is seen as the logical way forward, to serve the long-term best interests of Africa's rhinos and for the benefit of Nature conservation and rural communities. An International Trading Protocol must be approved by all interested parties and registered with CITES, which will be able to perform the task for which it was created – **to control trade for the benefit of wild species.**

**The legal trade alternative will transfer rhinos from being liabilities into assets; it will take incentives away from criminals and give them to legitimate stakeholders. This is the reversal of fortune that rhinos so desperately need.**

**ILLEGAL OR LEGAL TRADE? – THE CHOICE IS STILL OURS**  
if only we can see through the propaganda of those who don't own rhinos