HELPING RHINOS

helpingrhinos.org

#BeMoreRhino

Why are Rhinos Endangered?

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Number: 1175762

WHY ARE RHINOS ENDANGERED?

Rhinos are being illegally hunted (poached) for their horns. In some countries, people believe that the horn is a special medicine, and even believe it has magical powers. They grind it up into a powder and dissolve it into a drink. They believe this can cure them of illness like cancer and make them stronger. Powdered horn is very expensive, so only very rich people can afford to buy it.

This is NOT true! Rhino horn is made from something called **KERATIN**, which is the same thing your fingernails and hair are made from. You can see what it looks like in the picture on the left. It can't help cure illness or do anything special at all. Until people start to believe this, rhinos will be poached and will remain endangered.

If things don't change, then they could be extinct by the time you are 20!

In some countries, rhino horn and elephant tusks, are carved to make ornaments for people's homes. Ivory is also used to make piano keys.

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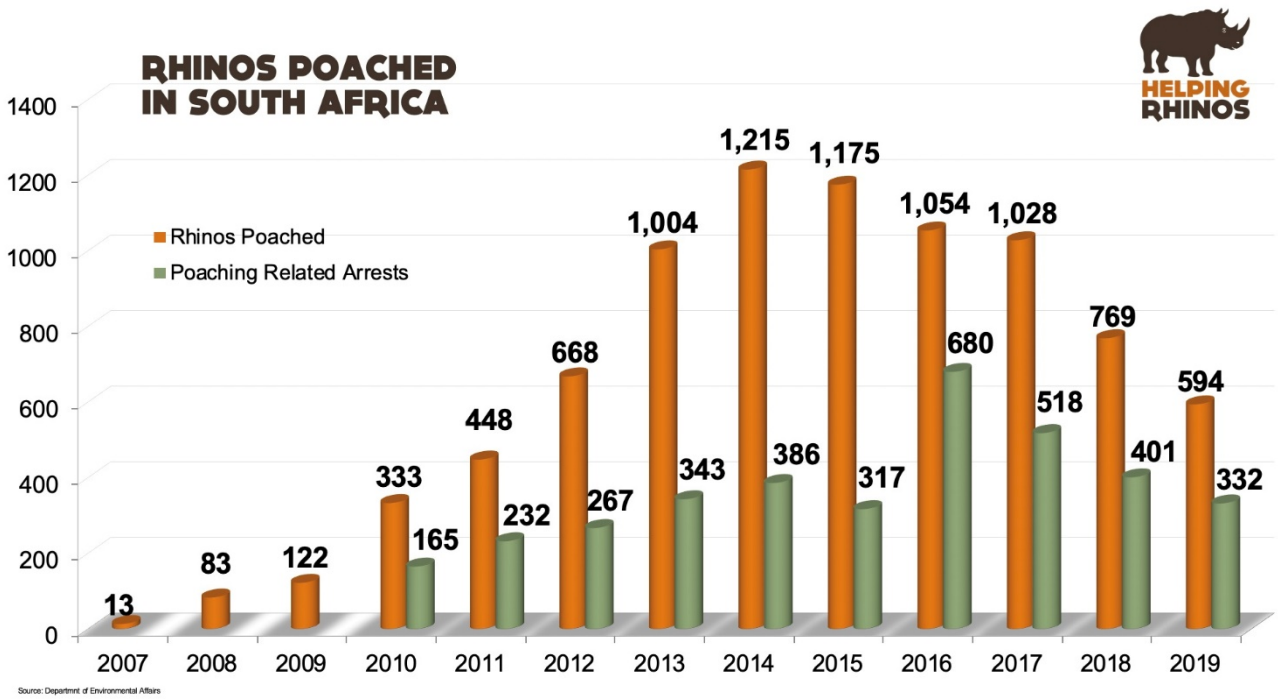
Rhino Poaching Statistics

- 1970, there were 70,000 rhinos in the world across all five species. Today, there are less than 30,000.
- Between 1970-1992, 96% of black rhinos were wiped out by poaching in Africa, making it critically endangered.
- Rhino poaching statistics from 2007 to 2019 are below:



DEFORESTATION AND HABITAT LOSS

There are many animals who are endangered not just rhinos including elephants, pangolins, giraffe, tapir and tigers to name only a few.

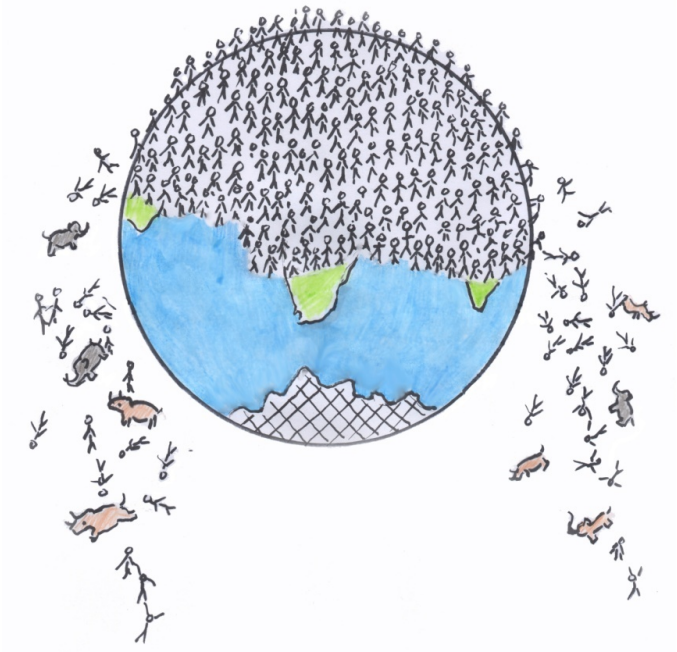
One reason why all these animals are becoming endangered is because of deforestation. This means that their natural habitat is being destroyed, usually because the land is needed for farming, for crops and palm oil, or for building. Until recently, the Amazon rainforest in South America was being deforested at about the rate of two football fields every single second.

Things have improved in the Amazon, due to the efforts of conservation groups (people who care about the planet and work to find ways to stop this type of destruction), and other groups of people who are trying to save natural habitats before it is too late.

AN OVERCROWDED WORLD

In both Africa and Asia the natural habitat of the rhino, elephant and pangolin is disappearing as people build more and more villages and towns and take over wildlife habitat land for farming. This is forcing them to live in smaller and smaller areas with other animals and means there is less food and water available for them.

There are just too many people on our planet! Throughout the world, people are using up land and water too fast. We need to find a better way to share it amongst ourselves and with all the world's animals, and to make less waste. Everyone can do little everyday things which can help people and animals to have a better life.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Look at the grid below, and tick the boxes to show the things you already do

	Me	My Family	My School
Reuse bags and plastic bottles			
Do not use plastic straws			
Save and reuse paper			
Turn off lights if you leave a room			
Do not leave the television on if you are not watching it			
Have a quick shower or small bath, and do not run the tap unless you really need to			
Tell 5 people about endangered animals			