

Rhino poaching



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A total of 333 rhinos were illegally killed in South Africa in 2010, including ten critically endangered black rhinos, according to national park officials. The yearly total is the highest ever experienced in South Africa and nearly triple 2009 when 122 rhinos were killed in the country.

The rhinoceros is very large animal in size but not mistaken for its size it very fast when running can reach speeds of 30 – 40 miles per hour which is about the same as a NASCAR racing car coming straight for you. The rhinos skin is soft and quite sensitive to sunburns and insect bites and you wonder why a rhino rolls in the mud its to protect it from the sunburn and insects. Rhinos can message each other by leaving piles and piles of dung to inform the other rhinos about the area and since rhinos can smell well they can get a lot about what the environment is like.

Kruger National Park is one of the largest game reserves in Africa. It covers 18, 989 square kilometers (7, 332 sq mi) and extends 360 kilometers (220 mi) from north to south and 65 kilometers (40 mi) from east to west. To the west and south of the Kruger National Park are the two South African provinces of Limpopo and Mpumalanga. In the north is Zimbabwe, and to the east is Mozambique. It is now part of the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, a peace park that links Kruger National Park with the Gonarezhou National Park in Zimbabwe, and with the Limpopo National Park in Mozambique.

The park is part of the Kruger to Canyons Biosphere, an area designated by the United Nations Education and Scientific Organisation (UNESCO) as an International Man and Biosphere Reserve (the " Biosphere"). The park has 9 main gates that allow entrance to the different camps. Kruger National Park was hit the hardest losing 146 rhinos to poaching in 2010; the park is home

to the largest populations of both white and black rhinos in the country. Rhino poaching across Africa has risen sharply in the past few years, threatening to reverse hard-won population increases achieved by conservation authorities during the 20th century.

Poaching is being committed by sophisticated criminal networks using helicopters, night-vision equipment, veterinary tranquilizers and silencers to kill rhinos at night while attempting to avoid law enforcement patrols. These criminals are very advanced because they use new technology. People in Asia and Vietnam are promoting and motivating people to go out and kill rhinos.

The reason people are poaching so many rhinos is because they are after its horn which is a prized possession in Asia medicine and is on a high demand. They believe that the rhinos horn has the cure for cancer but there has been no medical investigation to place this assertion true or false. After there had made a scientific study to prove that rhino horns do not have any healing properties but contains keratin which is a protein found in hair and nailes there is a high demand coming from China and the main cause of this is because of the new found wealth in China where it is used in medicine and as a aphrodisiac. “ We don’t go to China and steal their panda bears” says Pelham Jones who is by the looks of it is unhappy about rhino poaching. To stop this laws must be enforced strongly in both Africa and Asia where all trade in rhino horn is illegal.

People are committing to educate and keep people who don’t know about rhino poaching updated by means of public speaking like going out to schools and speaking to the children or making presentaions which are

available to all through global media like the internet by blogging and writing articles to jog and raise awareness about this crisis in South Africa. It is said that emotions are the best way of getting to the people because people will feel bad after they see what is happening to the rhinos when they get slaughtered and when they realise that in 10 or 20 years time at the rate at which the poaching is going their children will not be able to see the rhino because they will be extinct.

The country has enforced stronger laws to deal with this dilemma because it is becoming a big problem. Police and men patrolling for poachers numbers have been increased drastically so that there is no shortage of man power when it comes to arresting the poachers. Media such as news reports on t. v have been broadcasting rhino statistics to inform people