



COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP TRANSLOCATES WHITE RHINO FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO TANZANIA

March 2025

An innovative collaboration between a South African wildlife conservancy, its safari industry members and partner communities has supported the introduction of white rhino from South Africa to Tanzania through a partnership with Tanzania's Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT), as well as the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA). Facilitated by luxury safari company &Beyond, the project is aimed at translocating southern white rhino donated by the Muniwana Conservancy from South Africa's KwaZulu-Natal Province to the Ngorongoro Crater in Tanzania. The Muniwana Conservancy is a collaboration of private and community landowners that include &Beyond Phinda Private Game Reserve, as well as Zuka Private Game Reserve, Makhasa Community Trust and others.

"For over thirty years &Beyond has actively supported the conservation of endangered species like white rhino through collaborative and often ground-breaking wildlife translocations," says Tony Adams, &Beyond Conservation & Community Impact Director. "We are honoured to have been invited by Tanzania's Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism to facilitate the sourcing and translocation of the animals for this groundbreaking project. Initiatives such as these are a proven conservation strategy in ensuring the survival of endangered species such as white rhino, which are increasingly threatened in their historical habitat in Southern Africa."

White rhino were initially reintroduced to &Beyond Phinda Private Game Reserve in 1991, with 26 animals moved in what was then the largest translocation of this species ever undertaken. Since then, the Muniwana Conservancy has played a pivotal role in a series of white rhino projects. These include the pioneering translocation of the species to Botswana in partnership with Great Plains Conservation and the Botswana Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP). In 2021, the Muniwana Conservancy supported the historic translocation of 30 southern white rhino to Akagera National Park; a collaborative endeavour in partnership with African Parks and the Rwandan Development Board. A further groundbreaking initiative was the translocation of 16 southern white rhino to Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which was accomplished in June 2023 in collaboration with African Parks and the Institut Congolais pour la Conservation de la Nature.

The recent translocation is an important step towards the Tanzanian government's long-term goal of establishing viable, genetically diverse breeding populations of the species in the country. The NCA has been identified as the ideal initial implementation area thanks to multiple factors, including habitat type and the existing security measures already in place. The translocation is one of several that will be taking place in a phased manner, with the ultimate goal being 36 donated white rhino.

"While we are aware that the Ngorongoro Crater is not part of the historic range for southern white rhino, we believe that the current project falls within the conservation strategy described as 'assisted colonisation' in terms of the guidelines laid down by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)," explains Muniwana Warden, Dale Wepener. "This occurs when a species that is under pressure in its natural habitat is intentionally moved and introduced to an area outside its historical range with the view of ensuring the survival of that species."

Documented research has shown that white rhino populations can grow rapidly when put in a suitable habitat and afforded effective reserve management and protection. Assessments carried out and shared by Tanzania's Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism support Ngorongoro Crater as such a habitat. It is the intention of the MNRT to create a breeding founder population that will one day serve as a source population for the introduction of

southern white rhino to other protected areas in Tanzania and reintroduction to their former historic ranges in Africa.

The factors taken into consideration include extensive habitat surveys of ecological requirements such as grazing capacity, and adequate water and security. Security and management effectiveness assessments carried out showed that there is adequate capacity, resources and infrastructure to protect the rhino. The NCAA has a solid track record of protecting and securing the globally significant population of critically endangered black rhino that already exists in the area.

“Wildlife translocations always involve a certain element of risk. However, the research and preparations done by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism, working with the NCAA, as well as the professionalism of the translocation teams, has kept this risk as low as possible,” adds Wepener.

“We are especially proud that, as members of the Munywana Conservancy, we have been able to contribute towards the success of conservation in other parts of Africa,” comments Makhasa Community Trust Chairman Thokozani Mlambo. “Having experienced both the economic and environmental benefits that can come through wildlife management, we are thrilled to have had the opportunity to be part of a project to boost both of these in another part of our continent.”

The Munywana Conservancy served as a source for the rhino that were translocated. The animals were flown to Tanzania and released into temporary bomas, or enclosures, in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area. Here they will undergo a period of habituation before being released into their new habitat. The animals were accompanied by a team of translocation and veterinary specialists throughout this time. Post-release monitoring and management is key to the project and, while &Beyond will be providing guidance and advice, this will be carried out by the Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority. A number of rhino have been fitted with high-tech tracking devices and the protective measures already in place for the management of the Crater’s black rhino have been extended to the new population.

“We are excited to be part of this conservation project and look forward to seeing the rhino thrive in their new home,” concludes Anton Louw, Zuka Private Game Reserve Managing Director, and Munywana Chairman.

ISSUED BY: media@andBeyond.com

T +27 11 809 4300 | F +27 11 809 4511

www.andBeyond.com

ABOUT &BEYOND

Established in 1991, &Beyond strives to leave our world a better place through the delivery of extraordinary guest experiences and our care of land, wildlife and people. We are a bespoke tour operator for sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, South America and Antarctica. We also own and manage 29 lodges and camps across 3 continents, as well as a luxury expedition yacht. Together with our long-standing community and conservation development partner, Wild Impact (previously known as Africa Foundation), we positively impact 75 communities and directly conserve our footprint of 1 million acres. Our aligned 2030 vision is to scale our impact through partnerships to support the conservation of an associated 40 million acres of key biospheres and to double our 2020 impact investment, while offering discerning travellers a rare and authentic experience of the world as it should be.

ABOUT THE MUNYWANA CONSERVANCY

The Munywana Conservancy, a collaboration of private and community landowners which include the Makhasa Community Trust and Zuka Private Game Reserve, is a protected wildlife conservation area spanning 29 866 hectares (73 800 acres). The conservancy has a historic foundation; in 2007, &Beyond Phinda Private Game Reserve returned 9 085 hectares (22 449 acres) to its ancestral owners, the Makhasa and Mngobokazi communities, both of whom requested that the land continue to be used for conservation purposes. The reserve also pays testimony to a number of successful conservation endeavours and groundbreaking research, which have been instrumental to the protection of threatened species including rhino, cheetah, pangolin, lion and elephant. Wildlife translocations of rhino and cheetah from the Munywana Conservancy continue to support new source populations of rhino and cheetah.

ABOUT ZUKA PRIVATE GAME RESERVE

Zuka Private Game Reserve is the cornerstone property of thus far, 10,300 hectares of pristine and protected wilderness. Founded by Tara and Jessica Getty in 2001 it shines as an integrated conservation model. Zuka Private Game Reserve is their dynamic living stadium of restoration, impact and legacy; integrating land, wildlife, ocean, ecology, regenerative farming and community development for the future of the natural world.

ABOUT MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND TOURISM (MNRT)

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Tourism (MNRT) of the United Republic of Tanzania, is responsible for the management of Natural, Cultural and Tourism resources. In terms of wildlife, the present network of wildlife Protected Areas (PAs) in Tanzania is comprised of 14 National Parks, the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA), 38 Game Reserves and 43 Game Controlled Areas.

ABOUT NGORONGORO CONSERVATION AREA AUTHORITY (NCAA)

The Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) is a well-established entity under the Tanzanian government, dedicated to the effective management of the Ngorongoro Conservation Area (NCA). Gazetted in 1959, this area is a multiple land-use system which combines both human economic development and wildlife conservation, and forms part of the Serengeti ecosystem. The NCA's rich biodiversity of five habitats supports a wealth of wildlife and includes a significant population of eastern black rhino (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*).