

A STORY OF HOPE

### RHINOS WITHOUT BORDERS

Rhinos Without Borders aims to ensure the survival of rhino, by creating viable breeding populations of the species, through translocating 100 rhino from high risk poaching areas in South Africa to comparative safety in the wilderness strongholds of Botswana.

#### **PARTNERSHIP**

The project is a joint fundraising and implementation initiative between &Beyond, Great Plains Conservation and the Botswana Government.

The initiative's success is testament to what can be done when the tourism sector, which benefits the most from Africa's wildlife, stands united to play a meaningful and positive role in conservation. While &Beyond and Great Plains Conservation have taken the leadership role in this project, we view it as a collaboration with the entire travel industry and look forward to encouraging more of our travel partners to work towards this common goal. Together, we have raised \$4.6million and have pledges amounting to a further \$110 000. We believe that, if we all work together, we have a greater chance of helping to save Africa's wild places, which we all depend on for our success.

#### A BRIEF HISTORY

The project was born out of the first ever private game reserve donation of rhino to another country, during which &Beyond translocated six white rhino from &Beyond Phinda Private Game Reserve in South Africa to Botswana's Okavango Delta. Facilitated in partnership with RHINO FORCE, this conservation

coup was generously funded by lead sponsor Motorite Administrators. After years of negotiation and planning, the initial translocation of the Rhinos Without Borders project begun in early 2013 with the full support of the Botswana Rhino Management Committee.

Botswana was carefully selected for its extremely low poaching rates, thanks in part to its "no tolerance" policy when encountering potential threats. Each rhino, when translocated, is fitted with specially designed telemetry devices for ongoing research and monitoring purposes.

As part of the process of transferring skills and preparing for the arrival of the rhino, &Beyond provided intensive tracking and monitoring training for game scouts from Botswana, held at &Beyond Phinda Private Game Reserve. The game scouts were familiarised with the use of the satellite collars and tracking equipment intended to monitor the movement and behaviour of the six rhino after their release. A portion of this equipment, as well as anti-poaching uniforms and binoculars, was supplied by the Chipembere Rhino Foundation.

Following the success of this project with all six of the translocated rhino thriving in their new habitat, &Beyond then partnered with Great Plains Conservation in 2014 to move an additional 100 rhino from South Africa to the relative safe haven of Botswana.

#### **PROBLEM**

 Rhino poaching in South Africa is at an all-time high, with more rhino lost to poachers than born per year.

#### SOLUTION

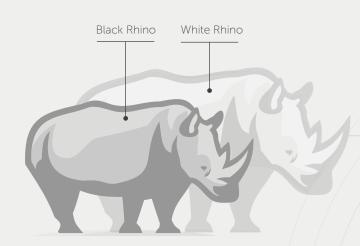
 &Beyond and Great Plains Conservation have partnered to translocate 100 rhino from South Africa to Botswana.

#### WHY TRANSLOCATIONS?

- Rhino are taken from existing high density populations that are attracting more and more poaching, and released in an area that has few numbers of rhino and an excellent anti-poaching record.
- By creating multiple populations of rhino in a number of geographic regions, we are making it harder for poachers to operate than by having one concentrated population in one country.
- By moving the rhino to Botswana, we are creating new breeding nodes for the species. Having more than one viable breeding population of rhino helps diversify their gene pool and increase the rhino breeding rate.
- On a purely practical level, the initiative is also helping to increase the number of rhino in Botswana, assisting wildlife authorities in reaching their objective of growing the rhino population in the country.

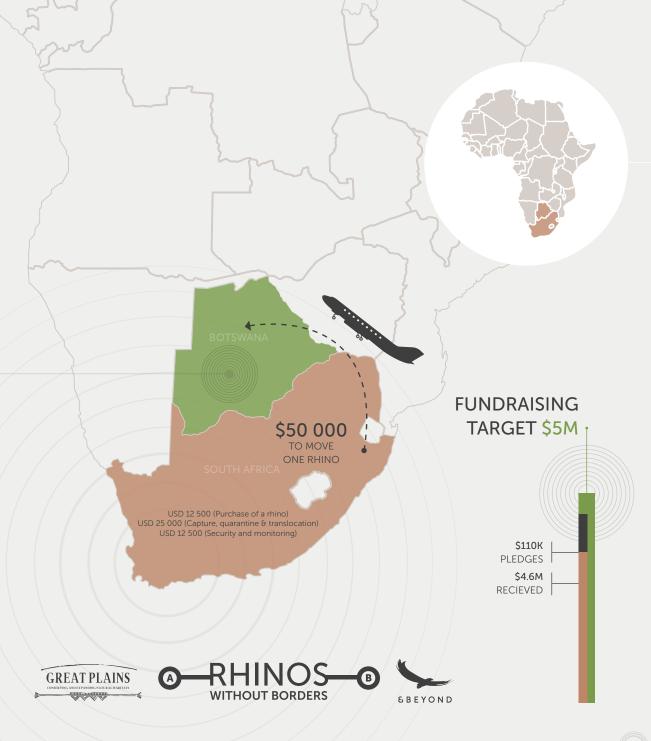
## A GLOBAL EFFORT TO SECURE ON-GOING SURVIVAL

### South Africa to Botswana

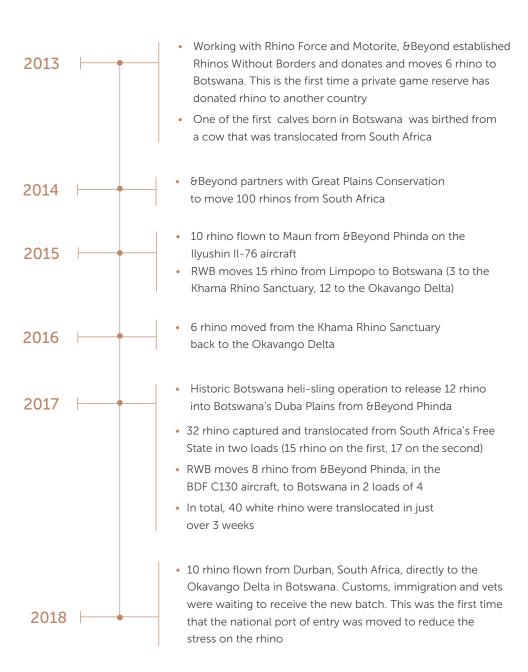


We'll develop a new breeding node away from the present clusters of breeding efforts





### RHINOS WITHOUT BORDERS TIMELINE



# **RWB MOVE** 100 RHINO PLANNED FOR 2019 10 IN 2018 **52** IN 2017 **25** IN 2015



## RHINOS WITHOUT BORDERS

#### PROJECTS HIGHLIGHTS AND LEARNINGS

Rhino horn remains one of the most sought after animal products in the illegal wildlife trade. Its value is greater than gold, making rhinos high-value targets for poachers.

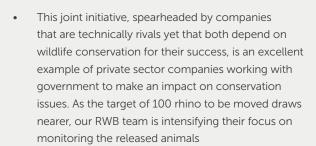
#### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Thanks to the generosity of concerned donors around the world and the 130 years of combined experience on our expert translocation team, 87 rhino have been moved to safety and the remaining 13 will be translocated in 2019. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone that has contributed to this project. It costs USD 50 000 to translocate just one rhino, so every contribution, big or small, truly has made a meaningful difference to the plight of the rhino.

#### **RALLYING A RHINO ARMY**

Moving enormous endangered animals across country borders is no small feat. It involves mountains of paperwork; obtaining countless government permits from import, export and veterinary permits, to tax clearance, insurance, and CITES (Convention of the International Trade in Endangered Species) permits; securing funding and sponsorship; building access roads; erecting world-class electrified capture and quarantine bomas to house and protect the rhino before their eventual transport and release back into the wild; and training the team in charge. It takes a small army, quite literally, to save a rhino.

#### **LEARNINGS**



- Planning for translocations is a serious challenge due to the unpredictability of the time taken to issue the CITES removal permits
- Rhinos Without Borders sees private companies working with the governments of two countries to benefit conservation
- Rhinos Without Borders serves as a success story to stimulate new projects. While it is true that rhino conservation faces critical challenges, we aim to stimulate the debate and believe conservation can only benefit if we all work together



## TRANSLOCATION FAST FACTS & FIGURES

This was the first full partnership between competing wildlife tourism companies for a shared conservation goal. It was also the most experienced team ever assembled for an international rhino translocation.

- Combined years of wildlife translocation experience:Dr Dave Cooper (35 years)Les Carlisle (37 years)
  - Grant Tracy (32 years)
  - Dr Markus Hofmeyr (26 years)
- Most rhino ever flown in one aircraft
  [Ilyushin II-76] for an international
  free-release translocation
- 50 Biggest international rhino translocation in one year
- 32 Rhinos in two loads (15; 17) making this the biggest international road translocation of rhino
- 1 First time a CITES import port was moved to reduce stress on the rhino. All the required Botswana port authorities moved to a remote bush strip in the Okavango Delta
- 87 Rhino translocated from South Africa to the comparative safety of Botswana to date
- 22 Rhino calves born in Botswana, from translocated rhino
- 1 Operations centre has been set up in Botswana for monitoring and surveillance

## JOURNEY WITH US

Just by travelling with &Beyond, our guests make a meaningful difference to the land, wildlife and people of the areas we operate in. We invite you to travel with heart and embark on an unforgettable journey with us in Africa, Asia, and South America's iconic destinations.

- **T** +27 11 809 4300
- E safaris@andBeyond.com

## GET INVOLVED

Our wonderful array of participatory experiences offer guests the opportunity to gain first-hand knowledge of our conservation and community initiatives.

#### Selected lodges offer guests experiences such as:

- Rhino and elephant conservation experiences, turtle nesting and hatching adventures, and guided research experiences with conservationists
- Tours of neighbouring communities, their schools and healthcare facilities
- Various guided cultural experiences that allow guests to interact with the engaging cultures of Africa, Asia and South America

Travel with heart on our selection of Impact Small Group Journeys and Philanthropic Journeys:

Impact Small Group Journeys

- Phinda Impact Small Group Journey
- Oceans Without Borders Impact Small Group Journey
- Endangered Eight Impact Small Group Journey

Philanthropic Journeys

- Travel with Purpose South Africa
- Travel with Purpose Kenya

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We will be translocating the remaining 13 rhino in 2019. However, there are continued costs involved in the monitoring, security and protection of these endangered animals. Should you wish to make a donation towards the ongoing protection of rhinos, this can be done securely through the Africa Foundation.

#### SOUTH AFRICA

By Credit Card through a secure facility administered by GivenGain.

www.africafoundation.givengain.org

#### UNITED KINGDOM

Through Africa Foundation (UK), a separate independent organisation registered with the UK Charities Commission.

www.africafoundation.org

#### UNITED STATES

Through Africa Foundation (USA), a separate independent public charity organized under the laws of the United States.

www.africafoundation.org