



**WILDLIFE
ACT FUND**

Wildlife Africa Conservation Team Wildlife ACT

Wildlife ACT is a one-of-a-kind wildlife-monitoring organisation that focuses on the following key conservation elements:



- Delivering time and expertise to provide adequate management, capture, transport for the reintroduction of endangered and threatened species to new areas (focus on African Wild Dog, Cheetah, Black Rhino & Vultures).
- Finding and funding the right equipment needed to effectively monitor endangered and threatened species.
- Training field rangers to effectively monitor endangered and threatened species, by using the right approaches and technologies to minimise disturbance.
- Establishing and running sustainable, focussed wildlife monitoring projects.

BLACK RHINO WORK

1. WWF - Black Rhino Range Expansion Project

Wildlife ACT has assisted BRREP every year since the commencement of the project in 2004. Since its inception the project has translocated a total of 135 Black Rhino to new reserves in South Africa.

Wildlife ACT's role within the project includes:

- The ordering, horn drilling and installation of all monitoring devices, specifically the horn transmitters and ankle collars.
- Helping to identify release locations within the selected BRREP release sites.
- Carrying out an intensive pre-release monitoring training course, to



prepare reserves and all staff for Black Rhino management and monitoring.

- Carrying out all post-release monitoring training with selected rhino monitors on the release site.
- Carrying out all immediate post release monitoring on the site, this can be anywhere from 1 to 6 months depending on the reserve.
- Carrying out follow-up monitoring and evaluations on all BRREP sites, this varies from reserve to reserve, but anything from annually to quarterly.
- Assist or run rhino monitoring projects in founder or release populations.
- Assisting in the supply of equipment to existing founder populations, such as camera traps and binoculars.



2. Zululand Rhino Monitoring Projects

Wildlife ACT assists Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife with the monitoring of their rhino on the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, Mkhuze Game Reserve and Tembe Elephant Park. This is done effectively using opportunistic rhino sightings by dedicated wildlife monitoring teams, but most effectively using camera traps. Populations living in dense Zululand Bushveld are often very cryptic and difficult to see and with no internal VHF tracking devices these Black Rhino are difficult to monitor. Well-placed camera traps allow our monitoring teams to effectively take



Dr. Morgan from Wildlife ACT assisting Dr. Pete Morkel while inserting a transmitter in a Ngorongoro Black Rhino horn, 2014

count of these cryptic individuals and assist with the monitoring of these populations effectively.

On the community owned Somkhanda Game Reserve Wildlife ACT has established and fund a dedicated team of 5 rhino monitors which sole responsibility is the monitoring of the reserves Black & White Rhino populations.

3. Ear Notching and Horn Transmitter Operations

Wildlife ACT assists and supports ear notching and horn drilling operations, for VHF transmitters, on Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife parks, community reserves and private reserves. Individuals are ear notched with specific combinations so that each individual can be identified in the field, while the VHF transmitters are used on smaller populations where such management interventions are feasible. Wildlife ACT provides funding, ground support and assistance for these operations and in the follow up field-training and monitoring process.



Dr. Morgan training field rangers on VHF in the Ngorongoro Crater, 2014