



## Protecting the world's last free ranging Black Rhino

### Type of priority area

Indigenous and Community Conserved Area (ICCA)

Conservancy

### Primary objective

Management Effectiveness

Livelihoods

### Target groups

Local Communities

Youth

### Main activity focus

Management Plan

Threatened Species

Capacity building

**Duration**  
01.09.2020 – 01.09.2022

**Type of grant & project budget**  
Medium Grant | 200,000€

**Location**  
Namibia, Southern Africa

**Protected & Conserved Areas**  
Etendeka Concession, Palmwag Concession, Uibasen Twyfelfontein Communal Conservancy, Huab Communal Conservancy, Sesfontein Communal Conservancy, Sorris Sorris Communal Conservancy, Torra Communal Conservancy, Anabeb Communal Conservancy, Doro Nawas Communal Conservancy, Khoadi-Hoas Communal Conservancy

**WDPA ID**  
555542988; 555542989; 555542921;  
555542924; 555542943; 555542957;  
555542951; 555542941; 555542916; 555542922

**BIOPAMA RRIS Link**  
<http://rris.biopama.org/country/na>

### Project Lead

Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) Namibia

### Description of the project

Through the support of the BIOPAMA project, SRT will purchase SMART capable devices and train staff and rhino rangers to use them during field patrols. The devices are a key component to ensuring accurate rhino monitoring data which is captured in the longest running black rhino database around the globe. The project will further focus on training for SRT trackers and rhino rangers in advanced rhino monitoring and securing the scene of crime if they come across a deceased rhino to ensure forensic evidence is secured for the investigation team. Funds will also be utilized to purchase a much needed radio communication system and complete work on field camps used by the monitoring teams to safely overnight in the field during their 21 day patrol cycles.

The project will help develop a conservancy rhino conservation recognition scheme which promotes national and international recognition for conservancies directly contributing to the rhino ranger programme. A similar recognition scheme will be introduced for private sector tourism operators who are conducting rhino tracking. Through BIOPAMA's support, SRT Namibia will continue hosting conservancy workshops on the rhino ranger programme to actively promote ways to improve the sustainability of the program. Other activities include assistance in drafting of a rhino tourism policy, and a rhino ranger programme strategic plan, focused on financial sustainability.





#### Diagnostic Tools Used

SMART patrol report



#### The BIOPAMA Action Component Objectives Addressed

The project will enhance the management and governance of priority protected areas by addressing existing limitations through strengthening on-site infrastructure/equipment for patrolling, controlling poaching, developing capacity of staff. Furthermore, the project will support local communities' initiatives aiming to enhance the livelihoods of local people while effectively contributing to protected areas management.



#### Priority Need Addressed

SRT has long recognized the importance of conservation as a rural and sustainable development tool. To this end SRT has included support to communal conservancies as a core pillar in the strategic plan, in line with the national CBNRM policy. Rhino tourism earned around US\$250,000 for communal conservancies in 2017. Over the years we have developed a rhino trekking viewing protocol which is grounded on conservation principles of low disturbance and guest interaction with locally employed rhino trackers. SRT has helped to facilitate three contracts between communal conservancies and private sector partners and has worked to support these relationships to ensure that maximum income reaches conservancies. This income provides a sustainable income based on conservation principles and has helped to diversify the livelihoods of a large number of community members who are directly and indirectly engaged in conservation and tourism. At a local and more practical level, support from this project will ensure that rhino tourism and the rhino ranger program remain sustainable. The rhino ranger programme has been noted as one of the most innovative community based rhino conservation initiatives in Africa ([link](#)). SRT believes that the approach of incentivising local participation in conservation has contributed significantly to the reduction of poaching in the landscape. In terms of climate change adaptation, we believe that income from rhino monitoring has provided a sustainable form of alternative livelihood income for the approximately 50 community based rhino rangers currently working in the region. These rangers form part of the beneficiaries of the project.



#### The change the project implementation will bring for the protected areas

The implementation of the project will strengthen the monitoring efforts of black rhino in ten targeted protected areas which covers approximately 20,000 square kilometres. Eight protected areas which consists of communal conservancies will become less reliant on donor funding for monitoring of black rhino and become more self-sustainable. Through policy development, the project will mitigate potential negative environmental and social impacts.

This project is financed by the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States through the BIOPAMA Programme. The contents of this material are the sole responsibility of Save the Rhino Trust Namibia and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the EU nor of the DACPS.

Photo credits: Andrew Beck, SRT

The project Protecting the world's last free ranging Black Rhino is financed by the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States through the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme.

BIOPAMA assists the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to address their priorities for improved management and governance of biodiversity and natural resources. BIOPAMA provides a variety of tools, services and funding to conservation actors in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The BIOPAMA grant-making facility is managed by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and supports projects on the ground to strengthen the management and governance of protected and conserved areas, with a total budget of 21 million Euros.