

Large Scale Community-based Rhino Conservation in North-west Namibia - 2019 Update



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Conservancy Rhino Ranger Incentive Program Overview

In 2011, in the face of an escalating poaching threat, local community leaders and game guards saw the need to improve their capacity to protect the rhino on their lands and better fulfill their obligations as 'Rhino Custodians'. A small group of dedicated field conservationists together with support from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism formed an informal working group that sought to provide targeted support to these Communal Rhino Custodians. Our first initiative was to design and implement a programme to strengthen and expand the capacity for Communal Rhino Custodians to monitor the rhino on their lands.

We called this the Rhino Ranger Incentive Programme.



This program utilizes specialists from dedicated field-based organizations, namely Save the Rhino Trust, Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation, Namibia Nature Foundation and Minnesota Zoo, to train a new generation of "rhino rangers" - highly talented groups of local people, chosen by and accountable to their communities to conduct rhino monitoring and, more recently, lead rhino tracking tourism activities and provide local outreach. The program provides an enhanced training curriculum, state-of-the-art rhino monitoring and field patrol equipment, performance-based cash bonuses and non-monetary awards that enable and incentivize rhino ranger teams to complete quality patrols. Once rhino ranger teams acquire the basic skills needed to effectively monitor the rhino on their land and pending necessary approvals, training in rhino tourism will help guide the development of community-led rhino tourism activities that would improve rhino security by generating the critical finances needed to sustain rhino monitoring and enhancing the value that people place on keeping rhino alive.

At the heart of this approach is the belief that a future for Africa's wild rhino will only be secured when poaching is simply not tolerated by the local people, when rhino become more valuable alive than dead, and where innovative solutions - grown from the grassroots - are supported through authentic partnerships between Local Communities, Government, NGOs and Private Sector.

Where We Work – a rugged, remote wilderness in north-west Namibia



West Kunene Black Rhino Landscape

- Rated a Key 1 Population by IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group
- Roughly 25,000 sq km (6 million acres)
- 13 Communal Conservancies
- 2 Tourism Concessions
- 4 ethnic groups (Himba, Herero Nama/Damara, Riemvasmaak)
- Very low human population

Our Community-centered Theory of Change



If Local people are authentically **ENGAGED AND EMPOWERED** to protect rhinos

And if they possess the **TOOLS, SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE, AND MOTIVATION** to perform key rhino protection duties which **IMPROVE THEIR OVERALL WELL-BEING**

And if their efforts are properly **CO-ORDINATED AND PLANNED** through a **LEGITIMATE, LOCAL-LEVEL INSTITUTION** with government endorsement

And if **INCOME-GENERATING MACHANISMS** are established **LINKED TO THIS INSITUTION** that provide **BENEFITS TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

Then the local community view this work as helping **PROTECT A VALUABLE RESOURCE** and **INVEST IN ITS PROTECTION**

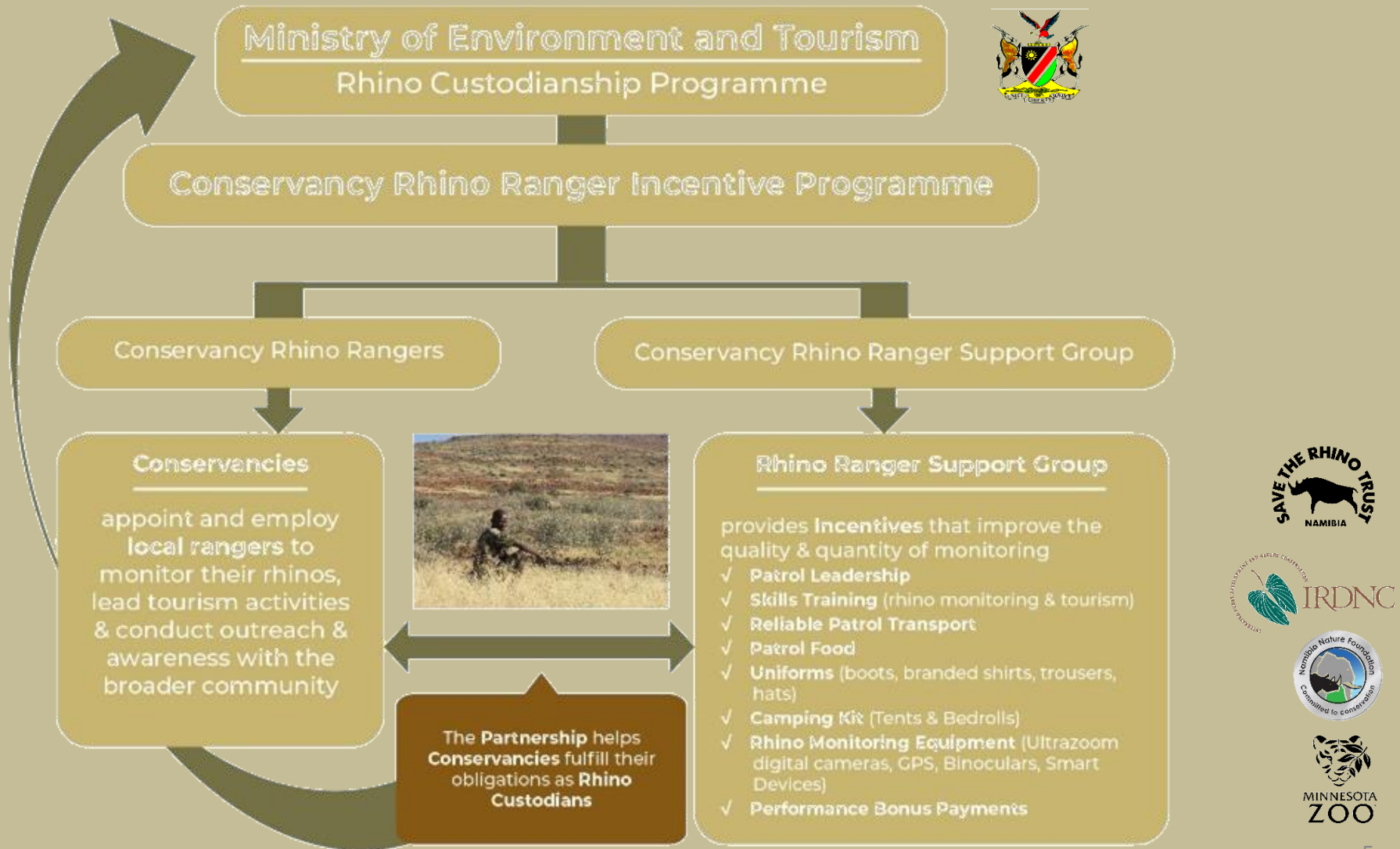
Then the **QUALITY AND QUANTITY** of rhino monitoring will increase and the **RELATIONSHIP (OWNERSHIP) BETWEEN LOCAL PEOPLE AND 'THEIR' RHINOS** WILL STRENGTHEN

Then rangers will be seen as **'HEROES'** in their community, **GAINING RESPECT AND AFFECTION** and **POACHING WILL BE LESS TOLERATED**

Then poaching levels will remain low or absent and **THE RHINO POPULATION WILL EXPERIENCE POSITIVE GROWTH**



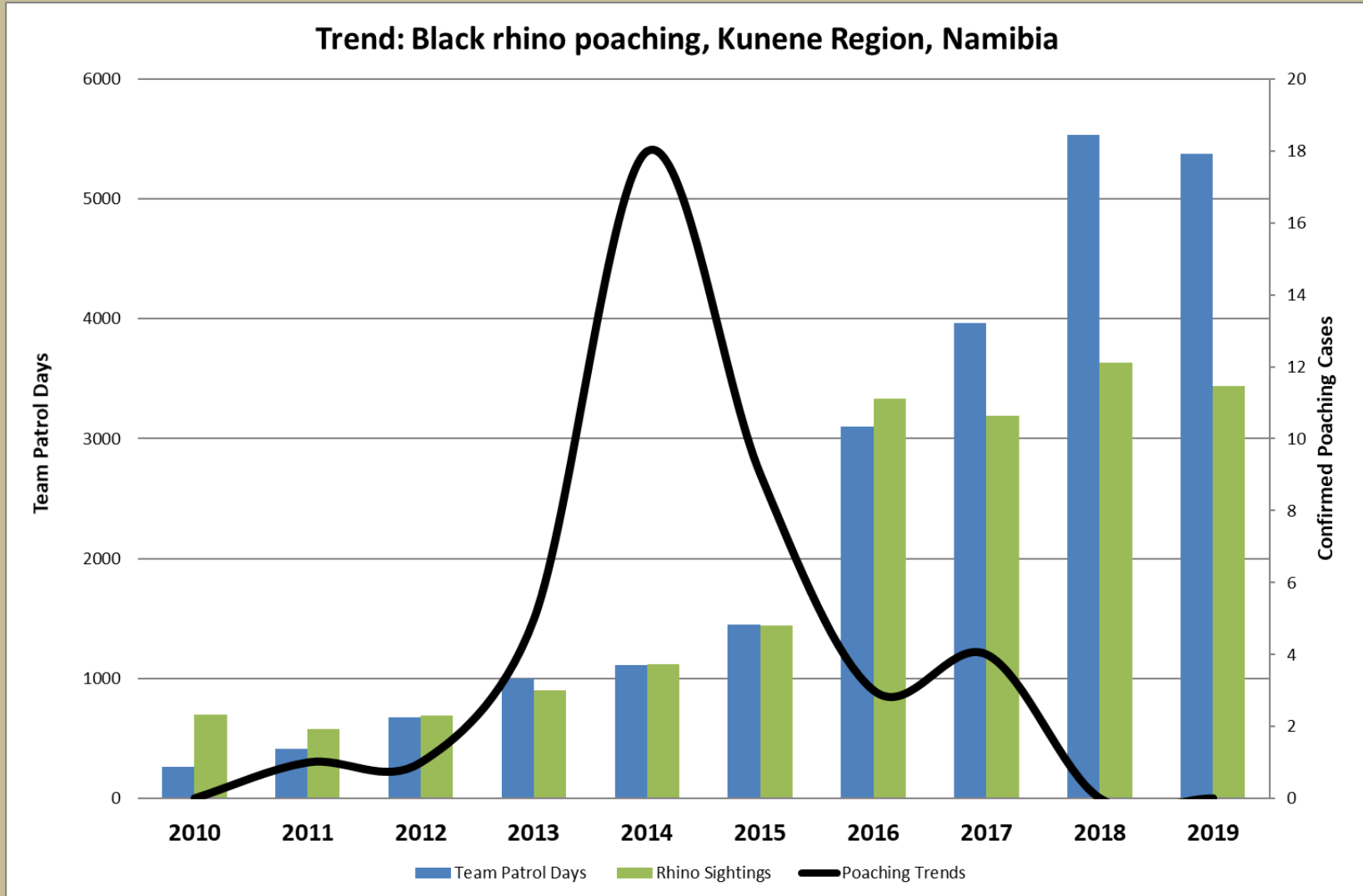
How We Work – a collaborative, integrated approach



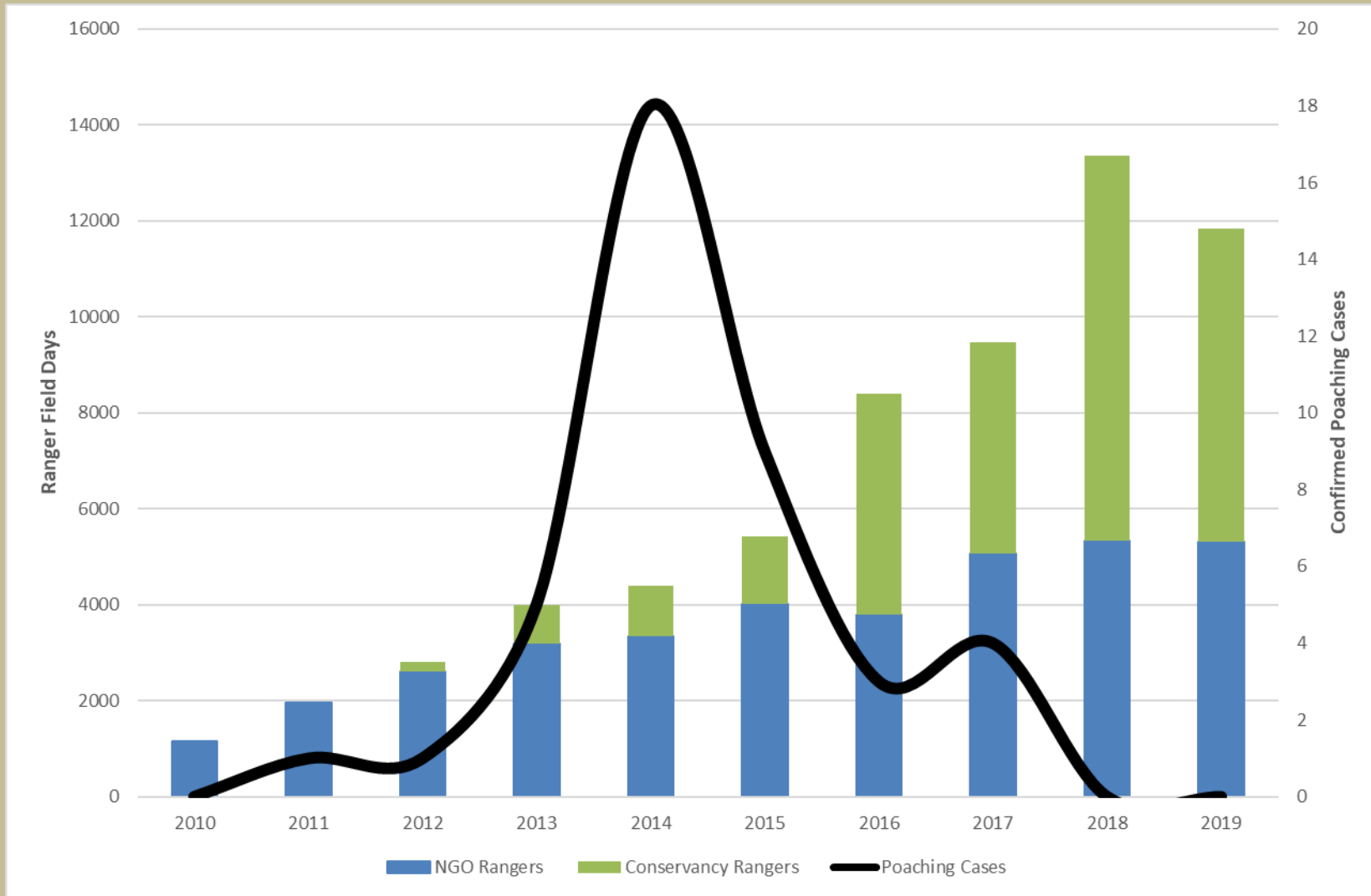
The strength in our approach is the genuine collaborative nature of how we work. This team approach has helped increase patrol effort by over 1,200% since the poaching began in 2012. Here a patrol team comprising NGO (SRT), Conservancy Rhino Rangers, Conservancy Game Guards and Namibian Police.



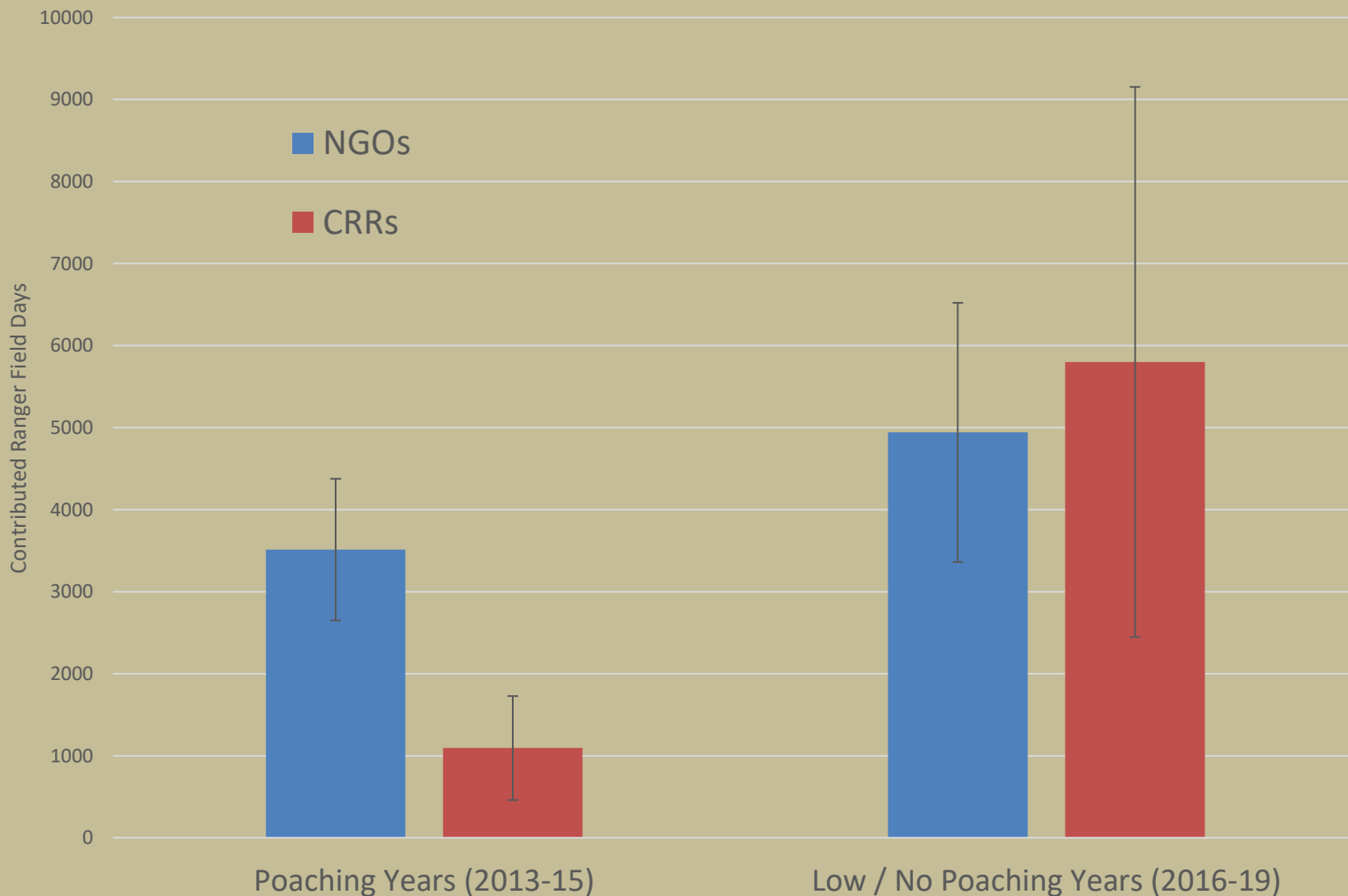
The relationship between the **reductions in poaching rates** (*solid black line*) and **local engagement in rhino protection** (i.e. Rhino Ranger patrol effort) bolstered by our team approach. *2019 outputs mirrored the record-breaking effort in 2018 demonstrating that the achievements can be sustained*



Relative rhino monitoring by Conservancy Rhino Rangers has *substantially increased since 2014* and currently contribute towards 60% of all verified rhino sightings

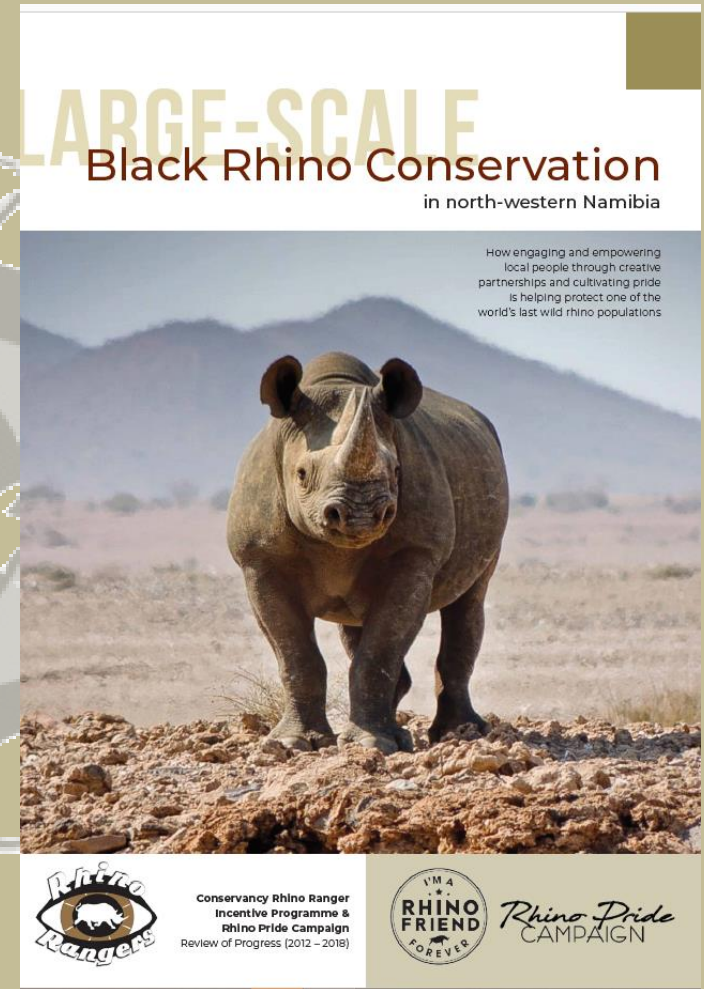


While the increase in patrol effort from NGOs between the poaching and low/no poaching years was small, the increased contribution by the local communities (with NGO support) was substantial – further demonstrating the importance of engaging and empowering local people in combating poaching



Conservancy Rhino Rangers - Key 2019 Milestones

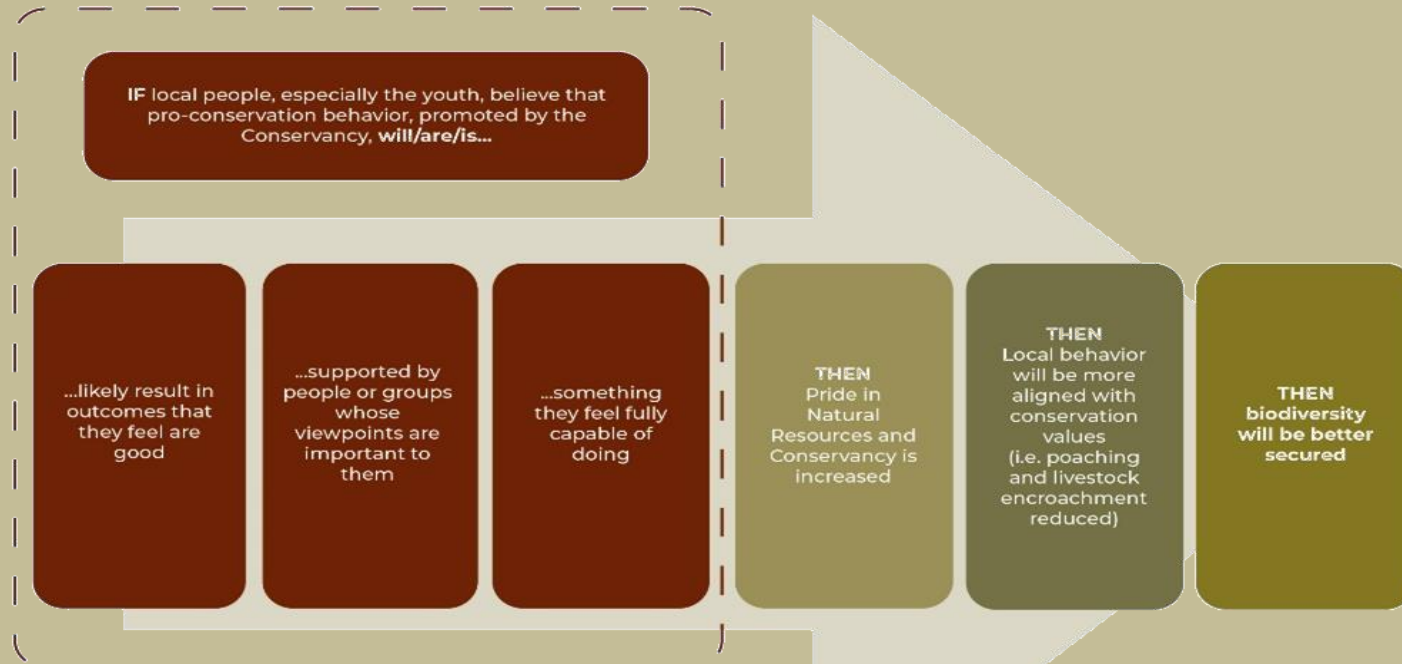
- We have now gone 30 months (26 August 2017 – 25 February 2020) with ZERO poaching
- All patrol effort and event indicators remained exceptionally high in 2019, demonstrating that the record-breaking achievements of 2018 can be sustained
- Our 6 Year Review Book was published in Namibia



Rhino Pride Campaign 2017 onwards



Rhino Pride CAMPAIGN



World Rhino Day events were a huge success again engaging thousands of local youth in soccer & netball tournaments, live music, speeches by dignitaries & designed to raise **Rhino Pride**

WORLD RHINO AWARENESS DAY

I AM A RHINO FRIEND FOREVER

20 September 2019

PERFORMANCES BY:
TULISAN, PIRI GURE,
ANTI VORENASY AND MORE!

“WELCOMING AND OPENING OF EVENT”

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES BY:
PETER JOSEPH !AUXUB
AND THE BIG BOYS

21-22 September 2019

SOCCER TOURNAMENT AND
AWARD CEREMONY

📍 KHORIXAS, KUNENE REGION

Event ends 22 September 2019

Refreshments available!
For more information, call +264 81 823 7015



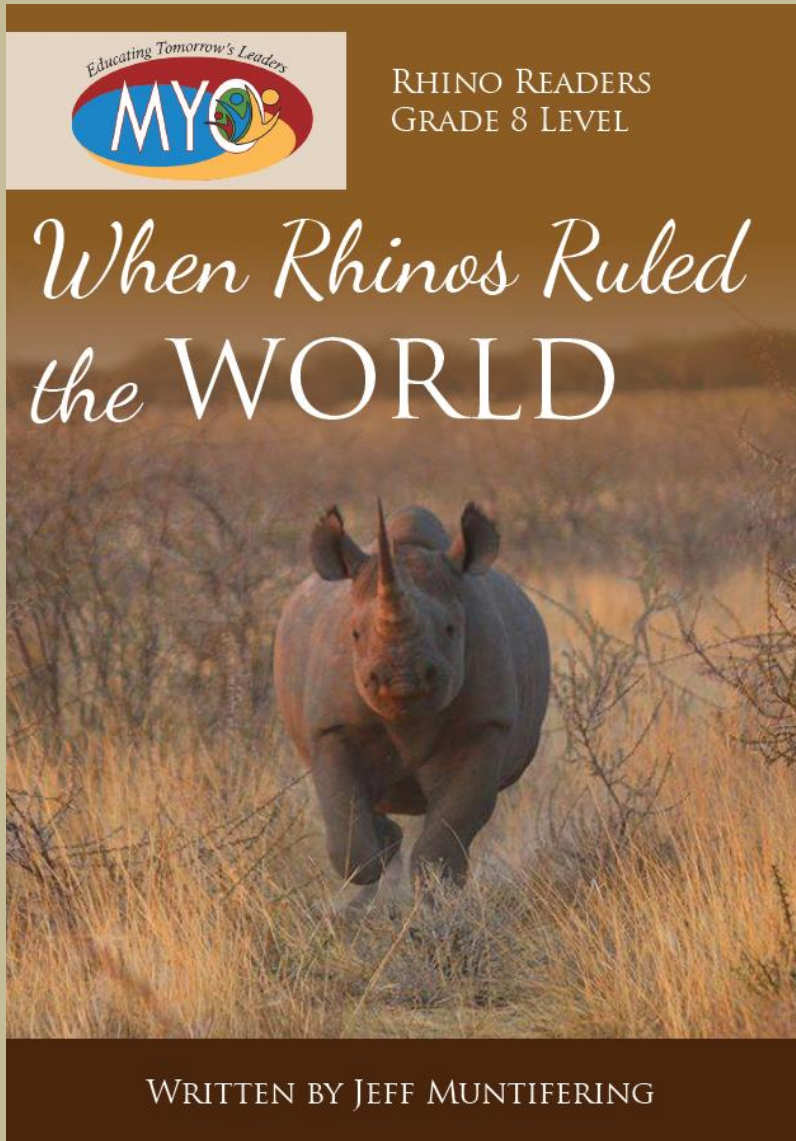
Rhino Pride Parades took place such as this march in Khorixas led by the Ministry of Environment and Tourism's Deputy Minister engaging hundreds of local youth



More than 50 Rhino Pledges by Conservancy Leadership in the far north-west Namibia were made or renewed using a Rhino Friend frame to state their pledge publically in front of their peers



Conceptualized and began developing materials to support a new 'Reading with Rhinos' program to connect Rhinos with Improving Literacy Rates (to be implemented in 2020)



- Over 8,000 books were donated by Minnesota-based Books for Africa and shipped to Namibia
- Together with local education partners at Mondessa Youth Opportunities, 8 new Rhino Books were written and published
- A pilot project to engage at least 6 local schools to improve literacy rates through 'Reading with Rhinos' was designed & recently funded

We thank all our loyal Supporters

LOYAL DONORS

USAID, US-INL, Houston Zoo, North Carolina Zoo, Minnesota Zoo Foundation, Great Plains Zoo, Phoenix Zoo, SwissAfrican Foundation, Conservation Travel Foundation, Nature Friend Safaris, Christian Dietrich Foundation, Nakara and Namdeb

In-direct support provided by: The Nature Conservancy, Save the Rhino International, Tusk Trust & USFWS

FIELD PARTNERS

Thirteen Communal Conservancies (Puros, Otjikondavirongo, Sesfontein, Anabeb, Omatendeka, Ehirovipuka, /Khoadi #Hoas, Torra, Doro !Nawas, Sorris Sorris, //Huab, Uibasen/Twefelfontein, Tsiseb), Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Save the Rhino Trust, Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation, Namibia Nature Foundation, Conservancy Safaris Namibia, Camelthorn Safaris, Journey's Namibia, Ultimate Safaris, Wilderness Safaris Namibia and Minnesota Zoo