

SAFETY POINTS TO BE FOLLOWED.

- **Always** follow the guide's instructions.
- We encourage closed shoes and long pants since you will be walking in the bush.
- Be aware of snakes and other wildlife.
- Always move in a single file.
- Keep at least a 10 metre distance from the rhinos.
- Relative silence, while walking and by the rhinos is essential.
- Running, noise or quick actions will scare the animals.
- Should the rhinos show signs of charging,
 - Listen to your guides instructions.
 - Move near a tree ready to climb.
 - Stand behind a large tree if available.
- For the safety of our wildlife, keep your trash eg. plastic bags, plastic bottles etc. in your bags / vehicles ready to dump them in any of our dust bins at the reception block or main gate.

**** SPEED LIMIT 30 KM/H
(\$50 FINE FOR SPEEDING)**

**** LITTERING IS PROHIBITED
(\$ 20 FINE FOR LITTERING)**

**YOU ENTER THIS PREMISES AND DO RHINO TRACKING AT
YOUR OWN RISK. RHINO FUND UGANDA, ZRWR AND/OR ZIWA
RHINO SANCTUARY, CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR
ANY INJURY OR DEATH INCURRED ON THIS SANCTUARY**

RHINO TRACKING GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

The future of the rhinoceros is in grave danger. Once roaming freely throughout Africa, this amazing and prehistoric looking creature enjoyed vast populations and wide open ranges. However, due to an increase in the human population and extensive poaching activities over the years, its numbers have decreased severely, creating worldwide concern. Uganda's rhinos became extinct in the early 1980's. Rhino horns fetch a high price on world markets where they are sold to be made into sword and dagger handles, medicines and aphrodisiacs. In addition, rhinos have an extremely slow reproductive rate, breeding only once every two to three years and bearing only one calf, further diminishing chances for survival of the species.

The Uganda National Parks handbook of 1971 describes that the Eastern Black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*) was found in Kidepo Valley (50 animals) and Murchison Falls (150-200 animals) National Parks. The Black rhinoceros was most plentiful in the Chobe area.

The Northern White Rhinoceros (*Diceros simus cottoni*) was transferred from West Madi to the Pakuba area of Murchison Falls NO, so from the west to the east of the Albert Nile. A total of 12 animals were trans-located in 1961 and 1964. In 1970 the population had increased to 16 animals.

Due to the civil unrest, rhinos were poached to extinction. The last rhino in Uganda was seen in 1982.

Rhino Fund Uganda, in collaboration with communities and with the Governments Institutions responsible for wildlife, has completed the establishment of a sanctuary for the breeding of White and Black Rhinoceros. After a viable population is bred on the sanctuary, and provided the safety situation on the parks is secure, rhinos will be released in their original habitats, e.g. Kidepo Valley and Murchison Falls National Park.

The estimated maximum carrying capacity of the sanctuary is 38 White rhino and 9 Black, at total of nearly 50 rhinos. The first rhinos were trans-located from Solio Ranch in Kenya in July 2005. Two more Southern White rhinos were offered as a donation by Disney Animal Kingdom in Orlando, Florida, and arrived at our sanctuary in October 2006.

Your visit to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary will play a part in the success of our education and awareness program, help to support the local communities and assist with the rhino breeding program

ZIWA RHINO SANCTUARY FACTS

- We identify our rhinos by the shape of their horns, and the nicks which have been put in their ears. Your guide will tell you which rhino are which.
- All our rhinos are approximately 10 years old.
- The first four rhinos from Kenya are: Taleo (m), Moja (m), Bella (f) and Kori (f). The two rhinos from the USA are: Hassani (m) and Nandi (f) Taleo is our dominant male.
- Obama is the newest addition to our rhino population and was born on the sanctuary to mother Nandi on the 24th June 2009. This was an Historic event as Obama is the first rhino calf born in Uganda in at least 28 years !
- Our rhinos are the only 7 wild rhinos in Uganda
- Bella had a still born calf in March 2008.
- Rhino can travel up to 10km a day, with an average of 3km per day.
- Armed Rangers and Askaris monitor our rhinos 24/7, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- We used to have 2 groups of rhino consisting of 3 rhinos in each group. The rhinos joined into one group for a year but due to fighting for dominance we sometimes have three groups of rhino to monitor.
- The sanctuary has an electrified perimeter fence (2 meters high with 14 strands) this is solar powered, thus ensuring the security of the sanctuary. The total length of this fence is 60km.
- We also have an education and community program which covers different age groups. Educational material includes learning tools regarding the urgent need to conserve this rare species, the value of biodiversity in Uganda, the rhinos place in local and global ecosystems, the impact of conservation on the community and the importance of conservation efforts worldwide.
- Approximately 60% of our education and law enforcement staff are community members
- Most of the crafts currently sold in our Craft Shop at reception are produced locally and surrounding communities are encouraged to produce items related to rhinos and to nature in general.
- Part of our community upliftment project is to teach local women and men to produce quality crafts and initiate income generating activities including beekeeping, poultry etc.

YOU CAN HELP US FURTHER BY:

- ❖ Becoming a member
- ❖ Adopting a rhino
- ❖ Sponsoring a ranger
- ❖ Sponsoring an education workshop
- ❖ Buying some of the locally made gifts in the Craft Shop
- ❖ Coming and staying – either in a guest house, backpackers or camping
- ❖ Making a Donation

RHINO FACTS

You are going to see Southern White Rhino (*Ceratotherium simum simum*). There is one other type of rhino in Africa - the Eastern Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis*). The Northern White Rhino is very close to extinction only around 12 left worldwide and these are all in captivity. Kenya Wildlife Society is negotiating that some of these are released in Kenya.

The White Rhino differs from the Black Rhino in a number of physical ways. The White has a square mouth, as opposed to the Black's prehensile (hook-lipped) mouth. In fact the name White derives from the Dutch word "wijd" meaning wide, referring to the White Rhinos wide mouth. Although the White and Black rhino are the same color, the Black Rhino is far smaller than the White. One further indication of which species you may encounter is that the White Rhino has a pronounced hump.

White Rhino

Shoulder Height: 1.7m (5ft 6 inch)
Weight: 2159 kg (4730 lbs)
Gestation Period: 16 months
Food Preference: Grazer
Maximum Speed: 45 kph (28 mph)
Longevity 45 years

Black Rhino

1.6m (5ft 3 inch)
1000 kg (2200 lbs)
15 months
Browser
45 kph (28 mph)
40 years

Record Horn Length (White Rhino): Front: 158cm (63 inch)
Rear: 56cm (23 inch)

Record Horn Length (Black Rhino): Front: 135cm (54 inch)
Rear: 46cm (18 inch)

DIET & FEEDING

The White Rhino is the largest of pure grazers. Its wide square mouth enables it to graze very efficiently on short green grass; the grass is cropped by the action of its sensitive lips, and not cut with its teeth. Up to 30 species of grass constitutes the White Rhinos diet. This is the contract to the Black Rhino who is a browser. The White Rhino drinks water quite often, about twice daily, usually from dusk onwards and are quite dependent on water availability.

SOCIAL STRUCTURE

Adult males are solitary animals, and maintain and defend their defined territories. All available range is divided up, and held by two thirds of the mature bulls. The other third of the male population lives as satellites on their territories. The owners of the territory may become conditioned to his presence, if they are appropriately submissive in his presence. Adult bulls pronounce their territory by frequent urine spraying, as personal "out houses" and they return to the frequently.

Identifying the particular species by examining its midden is easy to do, simply look at the composition of the dung. Since white rhino are purely grazers their dung is quite fine and only contains grass. Black Rhino dung, on the other hand is quite course and consists of twigs, sticks, pieces of bark, thorns and even the remainder of leaves.

The adult females by contrast live within overlapping home ranges within these territories. They are rarely solitary, associating in pairs or with their most recent offspring. A juvenile is rejected at two to three years, when its mother calves again. It then attaches itself to another member of the same age and sex.

AGGRESSION

One very significant difference between the two species needs must be mentioned. Black rhino are many times more aggressive than White rhino. They will charge with little or no provocation and really live up to their reputation and classification as dangerous game. White rhino on the other hand tend to be quite docile under most circumstances and should not be aggressive unless given a reason to be so. Mothers with calves of either species are only to be observed at a safe distance.

Therefore it is of critical importance to follow our ranger guides instructions and directions at all times.



COMING BACK HOME

Visit www.rhinofund.org, call (+256) 772713410 or email angie@rhinofund.org
for more information