

SAVE OUR RHINOS

an Amdec Group Project

7th June 2016

Dear fellow conservationist

Hardly a day goes by without news appearing on social media about the continuing demise of the rhino; it's gratifying that so many people care enough to constantly remind the world about the full extent of rhino and elephant poaching.

Numerous pictures of baby rhinos & elephants protected by their mothers appeared in media on Mother's Day on the 8th May.



Pictures: John Wilson

Sadly many are orphaned; one can't imagine the trauma these young animals would endure if their mothers were slaughtered in front of them. You may have seen the graphic images of two poached rhinos in Rietvlei Nature Reserve near Pretoria. One of the attacked rhinos was pregnant and nearing the end of her pregnancy; so three Rhinos died in one poaching incident.



Pictures: AfricaGeographic

I'm sure that all of you saw Kenya's dramatic ivory burn on the 4th of May when 105 tons of ivory tusks were set on fire; however you may not have noted that 1.35 tons of rhino horns were destroyed at the same time - some 6,500 elephants and 450 rhinos killed for their tusks and horns – staggering! To quote the Kenyan Wildlife Service it was done to send out a strong message *“that it will never benefit from illegal ivory & rhino horn captured from poachers or seized in transit,”* as well as to illustrate *“a zero tolerance policy and laws against poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking.”* Certainly a strong message!

Meanwhile in South Africa, the debate rages on about legalising the trade in rhino horn; last November the Guardian reported that *“A South African judge lifted a domestic ban on trade in rhino horns, in a direct challenge to government policy put in place in 2009 to try to stem rocketing poaching numbers.”* Two South Africa game breeders *“launched the legal action, saying it was their constitutional right to sell rhino horn – what they describe as a renewable resource.”* The government announced soon after this that it would appeal the ruling. This comes ahead of the CITES Conference of the Parties which South Africa is hosting in September.

Interesting times! What are your views?

Thank you for your support towards the rhino initiative.

For those of you who have already donated towards the “Save our Rhinos” initiative, thank you. For those who are still considering making a donation, however small, please see the banking details for the Amdec Group Rhino Project trust account below.

The Amdec Group will match every donation made.

Regards

John Wilson

Chairman,
The Amdec Group

Bank:	First National Bank
Account Name:	Amdec Investments (Pty) Ltd Trust Account
Account No:	5016 118 0035
Branch:	RMB Corporate Banking Cape Town
Branch Code:	250 655
Reference:	Rhinos & Name of Donor