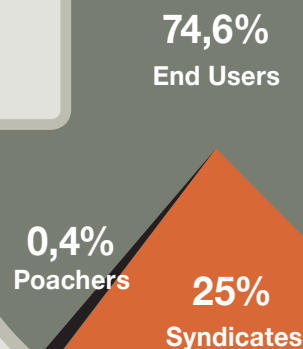




Rhino Poaching Arrests Jan-Nov 2011

Poachers **166**
 Couriers **22**
 Buyers **9**
 Exporters **2**
 (Source: *the Hawks*)



Monetary Exchange % within the Poaching Ladder for Rhino Horn per Kg. (Estimates)

Figures translated into % by Wildside sourced from the WRSA/ PROA RHINO SUMMIT, November 2011

Fuelled by the high demand for rhino horn in China and Vietnam, rhinos are being killed for their horn, while greed drives the chain of highly organised poaching syndicates.

THE HARD FACTS

South Africa is home to more rhino than any other country in the world (93% of the African population) with approximately 18,000 white and 1,900 black rhino. In the past 45 years, Africa has lost around 100,000 rhino. In the past three years approximately 1,000 rhinos have been killed by poachers in South Africa. Between 1 January 2011 and 15 November 2011 South Africa had lost around 370 black and white rhino and this is expected to rise over 400 before the year's end. One of the issues compounding the threat of extinction is that the birth rate begins to decline as a result of ever-increasing poaching and thinning out of populations and dispersement.

Roughly 60% of rhinos killed by poachers have been killed in the Kruger National Park, with Limpopo and KwaZulu-Natal hard hit. Private reserves are equally affected, as poachers turn their attention to these rhino populations too.

CRUEL, LOW RISK, HIGH-PROFIT CRIME

"Today's sophisticated poaching syndicates operate with high-tech equipment, including helicopters, night-vision equipment, veterinary tranquilizers, automatic weapons and silencers. The crisis is being driven by organised criminal networks who see rhino poaching as a relatively low-risk, high-profit crime. These networks include spotters, poachers, middle-men, national-level couriers or buyers, exporters and finally, the end-users," says Sheelagh. The price of rhino horn is now more expensive than cocaine.

199 rhino poaching-related arrests were made in South Africa in 2011 (see table), but with a conviction rate of only 3%, this is little consolation. However, there is growing acknowledgement

from the South African Police Service (SAPS), the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and justice departments that improved evidence collection, leading to successful prosecutions and stiffer sentences is needed.

A step in the right direction is the recently established National Wildlife Crime Reaction Unit which will work alongside South African National Parks, SAPS and the Hawks.

SOURCES AND CONTACTS

With special thanks for the information, statistics, and time provided.

African Conservation Trust: Sheelagh Antrobus www.projectafrica.com Tel 033 342 2844

Endangered Wildlife Trust: Drs R Emslie & M H Knight, IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group and the Rhino Management Group.

Endangered Wildlife Trust: Yolan Friedmann, CEO. www.ewt.org.za. Tel 011 372 3600 and Rynette Coetzee, Project Executant: Compliance and Enforcement Project, Law and Policy Programme. rynetec@ewt.org.za

Private Rhino Owners Association: Pelham Jones. pelham@vibe.co.za

WEBSITES

www.ewt.org.za (Most useful fact sheets available)

www.savingrhinos.org. (More information on state funded research in China)

www.stoprhinopoaching.com (Video footage, detailed material and good updates)

[www.youtube and face book](https://www.youtube.com/rodneitherhino): Stop Poaching Our Rhino, email rodneitherhino@gmail.com (To be inspired by a group of young people who are making a difference)

www.rhinorecureproject.com (If you want more information on ectoparasiticide)

Project Rhino KZN: Visit www.wildsidesa.co.za for all the contact details of the founding members. **W**