



BLACK RHINOCEROS

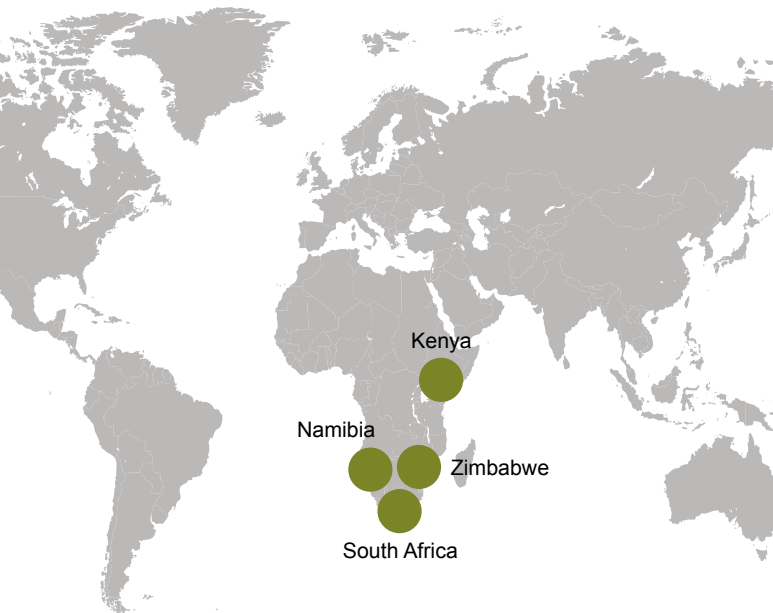
The black rhinoceros; in spite of its name is actually grey. They have a reputation for being inquisitive and rather aggressive in the wild. Read on to discover more interesting facts about them.



Where they live

Black rhinos live in a wide variety of habitats, from desert areas to wetter forested areas in African countries such as South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Kenya.

www.org.uk/wildlife/african_rhino/



CHARACTERISTICS

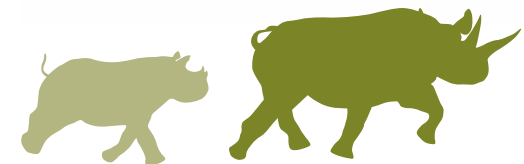
- They have two horns which are made of keratin – the same material as your fingernails.
- They can weigh anything between 800-1,300kg.
- They have a characteristic pointed upper lip, which is adapted for grasping leaves and twigs.
- They love to wallow in the mud. It keeps them cool as they sleep in the sun. They tend to plod along, but can reach speeds of up to 34mph when they are startled, making them a dangerous animal to disturb!

DID YOU KNOW

If a young rhino wants to play, it will toss or wave its head from side to side while approaching its desired playmate.

FAMILY

Female black rhinos usually give birth to a single calf every two to four years. Adult male black rhinos are mostly solitary but adult females and young rhinos can be sociable.



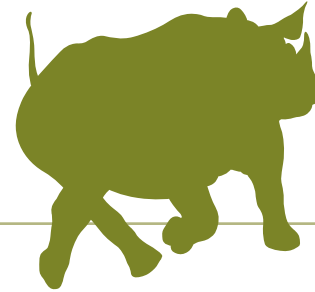
VIDEO

Watch footage:

- arkive.org/black-rhinoceros/diceros-bicornis/video-02.html
- arkive.org/black-rhinoceros/diceros-bicornis/video-08.html

FEEDING

- They feed on the leaves and twigs of a variety of woody plants and herbs.
- They usually eat when it's cool, like at dawn and dusk.
- They spend most of their day resting in the shade or wallowing in shallow water holes, coating their skin in mud to protect it from the harsh sun and biting insects.

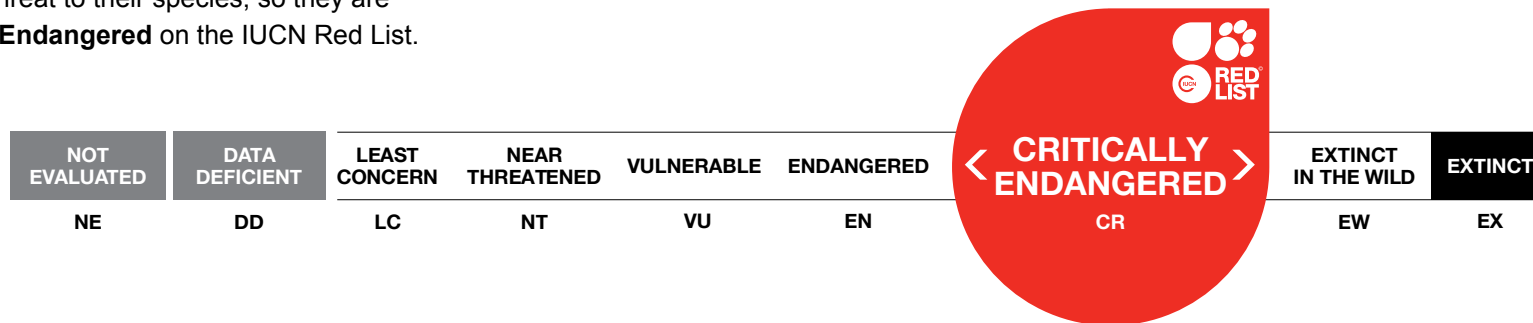


DID YOU KNOW

Black rhinos have poor eyesight but a keen sense of smell and hearing.

CLASSIFICATION

Poaching is still a key threat to their species, so they are classified as **Critically Endangered** on the IUCN Red List.



STATUS

Poaching of rhinos for their horns remains the greatest threat to the species. Habitat loss has contributed to their population's decline, in particular humans settling on lands they call home.

Thanks to successful conservation and anti-poaching efforts, the total number of black rhinos in the wild has grown to about 5,000 - there were less than 2,500 in the early 1990s.

