

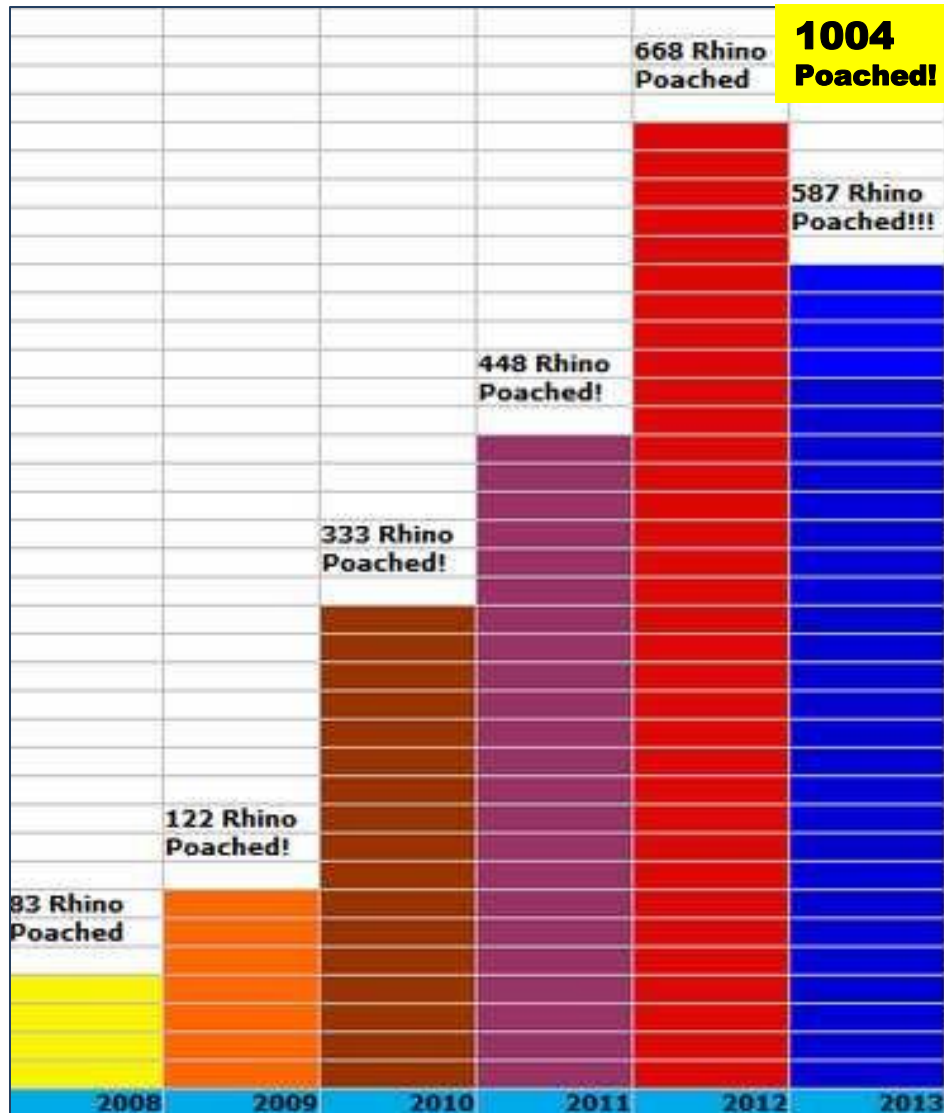
COMMUNITY WHITE RHINO CONSERVATION A REVOLUTION IN LAND USE AND CONSERVATION

**A Joint Project of Local Communities, Resource Africa,
and South African National Parks**

Dhaneshree Dani Ndebele
BSc. BSc. Hons, MSc (Ethnobotany)



- “...we are willing to spend R3,750 per rhino per year on keeping them alive and they are willing to spend R2,4 million per dead rhino. Who do you think is going to win this one?
[Mike t’Sas-Rolfes]” Robertson (2013)5



795 Rhino poached as at 12 October 2014



Millions spent on campaigns, research, grants, protection, prevention, litigation, policing, demonstrations, media outreach.....etc.....



Have we tried everything???

Protecting a species through
sustainable use













Project Management Design??

Community

- 100% Ownership and management of the land and the wildlife (The African White Rhino will be a Keynote Species)

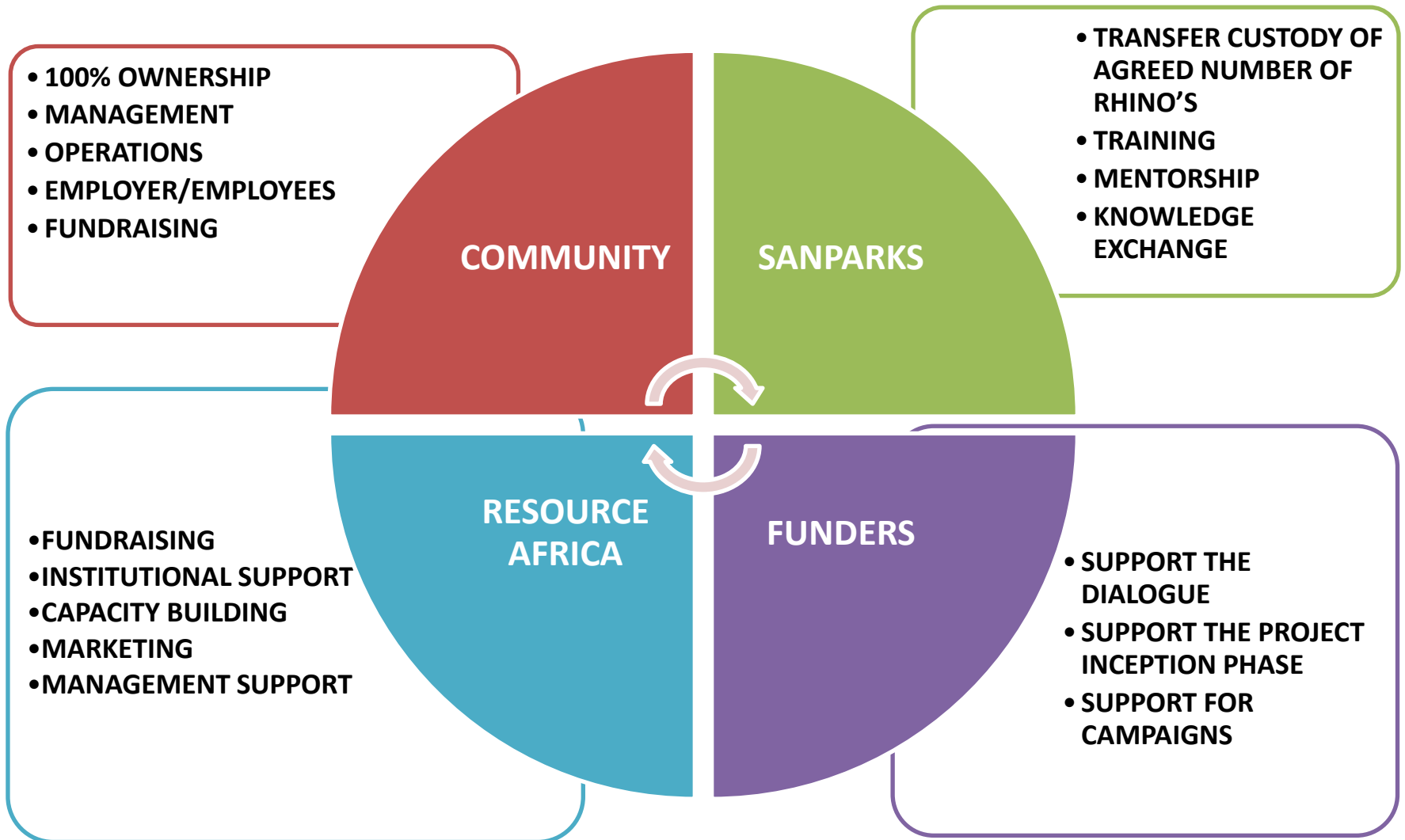
Resource Africa

- Institutional and management support, mentorship and capacity building

SANParks

- Hand over custodianship of agreed numbers of wildlife as well as to provide game ranger and security training and support,

Roles and Responsibilities



Key features of a community rhino farm

- 1. All farms will be located on traditional land OR INSIDE KNP on restored land OR on established reserves restituted to communities.**
- 2. Farms will be managed according to rules of common property (as per E. Ostrom, M. Murphree et al)**
- 3. Farm will be surveyed, registered and fenced: boundaries will be determined with the support and agreement of the Traditional Authority**

Protection of the Rhino within the Community Conservation Area



The initial harvest of horns when the rhinos are introduced to the project area will yield about 4kg per adult rhino



Dehorning is a painless operation which appears to have no adverse impact on the rhinos

Rhinos will be dehorned at the time of stocking and regularly thereafter. The horn will be microchipped and DNA tagged before being stockpiled

In order that dehorning acts as a deterrent to illegal hunters, subsequent dehornings may be fairly frequent (less than 2 years)



Benefits of Community farms with white rhino as a keystone species

FARMS WILL:

- 1. Offer a sustainable, non-lethal supply of horn that is a safe alternative to illegal hunting BUT ONLY IF A LEGAL MARKET EXISTS**
- 2. Provide intensive armed protection on a scale that Sanparks cannot provide**
- 3. Create an entry for communities into the farming and breeding industry, and create sustainable jobs on a significant scale**
- 4. Create a potent incentive to protect rhino, currently the most valuable terrestrial species on the planet**
- 5. Promote an understanding of the value of the species, and the necessity of protection**
- 6. Become a source of information about illegal hunting**
- 7. Support other species e.g. buffalo, antelope, zebra for breeding and tourism purposes**

CASH FLOW OVER FIVE YEARS

The scenario examined in this slide is for an all-male conservation area of 16km² with 64 rhino using the trade scenario

Price of horn  US\$10,000/kg

No trade in horn Inception of legal trade
Year 1 Year 2 Year 3 Year 4 Year 5



*Price paid for horn
before legal trade*

*Price of horn increases at 10%
per annum from Year 3 onwards*

Horn Production is assumed to be  kg/rhino/year

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	
Horn yield	128	128	128	128	128	kg
Horn price	10,000	10,000	10,000	11,000	12,100	US\$/kg
Horn Value	1,280,000	1,280,000	1,280,000	1,408,000	1,548,800	US\$
Additional horn sales Years 1 & 2			853,333	938,667	1,032,533	US\$

TOTAL POTENTIAL PROJECT BENEFITS (in USD \$)

<u>Community Benefits</u>	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Totals
Annual dividends	918,528	918,528	1,530,880	1,683,968	1,852,365	6,904,269
Field staff wages	341,400	349,935	358,683	367,650	376,842	1,794,511
Office staff salaries	66,000	67,650	69,341	71,075	72,852	346,918
TOTALS	1,325,928	1,336,113	1,958,905	2,122,693	2,302,058	9,045,697
Funds in bank account						619,853



Implications for SA and CITES

1. **Rhino farming is made possible by the existence of demand for an extremely valuable commodity: the high price of the horn is largely influenced by the perception that it is a non-renewable resource**
2. **Demand is unlikely to decline in the foreseeable future**
3. **Military enforcement and protection is essential but not sufficient to stop the illegal hunting of rhinos**
4. **The illegal trade in rhino horn is almost certainly going to cause the collapse of South Africa's rhino population**
5. **Rhino farming is already a reality in the private sector: it is severely constrained by the ban on trade, cf community farms.**
6. **Extending it to rural communities adjacent to protected areas has the advantage of putting the brakes on illegal hunting and simultaneously creating permanent jobs and income: It offers a sustainable source of income to communities**
7. **Farming is in the best interests of all stakeholders in the trade, and it will ensure the survival of the rhino**

Implications for SA and CITES

- 1. Community rhino farming will only become successful once a free and open market is established, firstly in SA and subsequently internationally.**
- 2. Trading could commence with the establishment of a futures market in South Africa – no international trade initially**
- 3. Genetic coding, tracing of horns, packaging and storing can all be used to ensure the safety and preservation of horn: a sophisticated and transparent supply chain must be established. The technology already exists!**
- 4. Trade must be open, and could be established in a number of ways: the horn can be stored safely, and traded on the JSE, for example. A country-to-country deal via a restricted market is still going to attract corrupt practices**
- 5. A once-off sale of horn will have only one outcome – it will enable the traffickers to replenish their stocks safely and at less cost, and will have no impact on illegal hunting**



SUSTAINABLE USE / SUSTAINABLE INCOME

Resource Africa and local communities could play a decisive role in achieving a legal trade in rhino horn and enabling communities to benefit from it
IF AND WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT!!!

Agreement between producers and buyers on a workable selling system is essential

Put the community's interests first

**We need to
AGREE**

**We need to
TRUST**

**We need to have a
CONTRACT**

**We need
TRANSPARENCY**

**DISTRIBUTION
OF BENEFITS
TO THE
HOUSEHOLD
LEVEL**

**1.
INTRODUCTION**

**2.
AGREEMENT**

**3.
INSTITUTIONAL
STRUCTURES**

**4.
PROJECT START UP**

**5.
RUNNING PHASE**

**6.
TRADE DIALOGUE**

**7.
PROMOTIONAL
ACTIVITIES**

**What if a legal trade in rhino horn does not
materialise at the next CITES CoP in 2016
(or subsequent CoPs)?**

***The contribution of community rhino farms to
rhino conservation, poverty alleviation and the
economy more than justifies the experiment.***

Which do you prefer?

Rhino on a farm, safely de-horned



Rhino shot, horn cut off while animal still alive

