

# RHINO RANGER INCENTIVE PROGRAMME UPDATE 2016



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# Overview

In 2011, in the face of an escalating poaching threat, local community leaders and game guards saw the need to improve their capacity to protect the rhino on their lands and better fulfill their obligations as 'Rhino Custodians'. A small group of dedicated field conservationists together with support from the Ministry of Environment and Tourism formed an informal working group that sought to provide targeted support to these Communal Rhino Custodians. Our first initiative was to design and implement a programme to strengthen and expand the capacity for Communal Rhino Custodians to monitor the rhino on their lands.

## **We called this the Rhino Ranger Incentive Programme.**



This program utilizes specialists from dedicated field-based organizations, namely Save the Rhino Trust, Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation and Minnesota Zoo, to train a new generation of "rhino rangers" - highly talented groups of local people, chosen by and accountable to their communities to conduct rhino monitoring and, more recently, lead rhino tracking tourism activities and provide local outreach. The program provides an enhanced training curriculum, state-of-the-art rhino monitoring and field patrol equipment, performance-based cash bonuses and non-monetary awards that enable and incentivize rhino ranger teams to complete quality patrols. Once rhino ranger teams acquire the basic skills needed to effectively monitor the rhino on their land and pending necessary approvals, training in rhino tourism will help guide the development of community-led rhino tourism activities that would improve rhino security by generating the critical finances needed to sustain rhino monitoring and enhancing the value that people place on keeping rhino alive.

**At the heart of this approach is the belief that a future for Africa's wild rhino will only be secured when poaching is simply not tolerated by the local people, when rhino become more valuable alive than dead, and where innovative solutions - grown from the grassroots - are supported through authentic partnerships between Local Communities, Government, NGOs and Private Sector.**

# Communal Rhino Custodian Support Group

## Conservancy Rhino Ranger Extent



SRT: Save the Rhino Trust  
 IRDNC: Integrated Rural Development & Nature Conservation  
 NNF: Namibia Nature Foundation:  
 MET: Ministry of Environment and Tourism  
 MNZoo: Minnesota Zoo

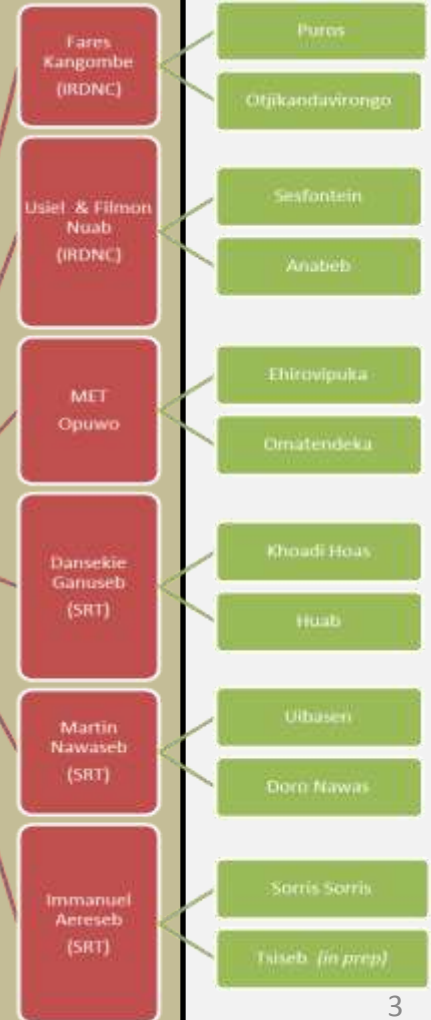
**North Area Manager**  
 Boas Hambo (SRT)

**Coordinating Advisers**

- Dr. Jeff Muntifering (MNZoo & SRT)
- Simson Uri-Khob (SRT)
- John Kasaona (IRDNC)
- Erwin Tjikua (MET)
- Piet Beytell (MET)
- Lesley Karutjaiva (SRT)
- Basilia Shivute (IRDNC)
- Andrew Malherbe (NNF)
- Sebulon Hoeb (SRT)
- Russell Vinjeveld (IRDNC)

**South Area Manager**  
 Martin Nawaseb (SRT)

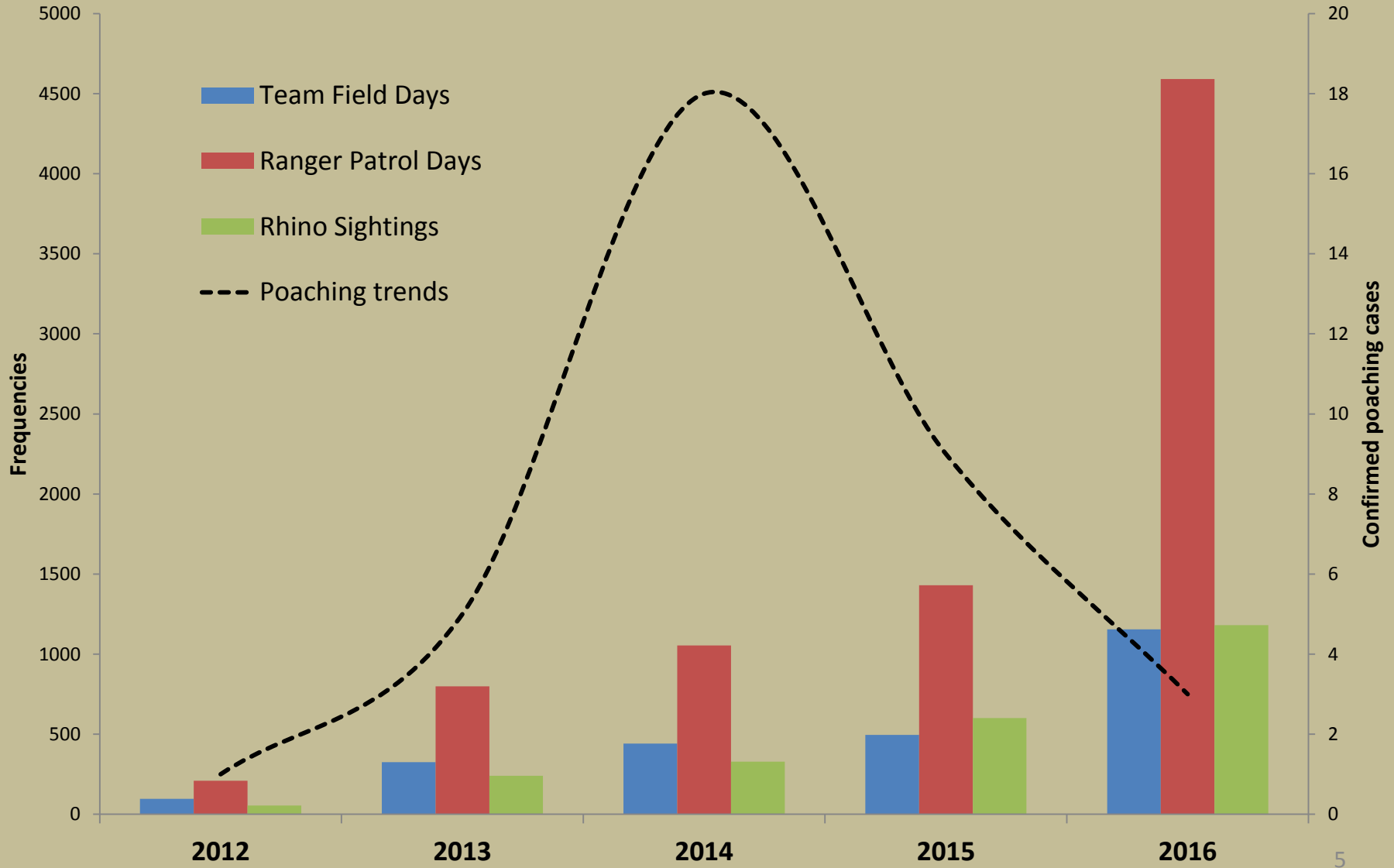
**Ministry of Environment and Tourism's Rhino Custodianship Programme**



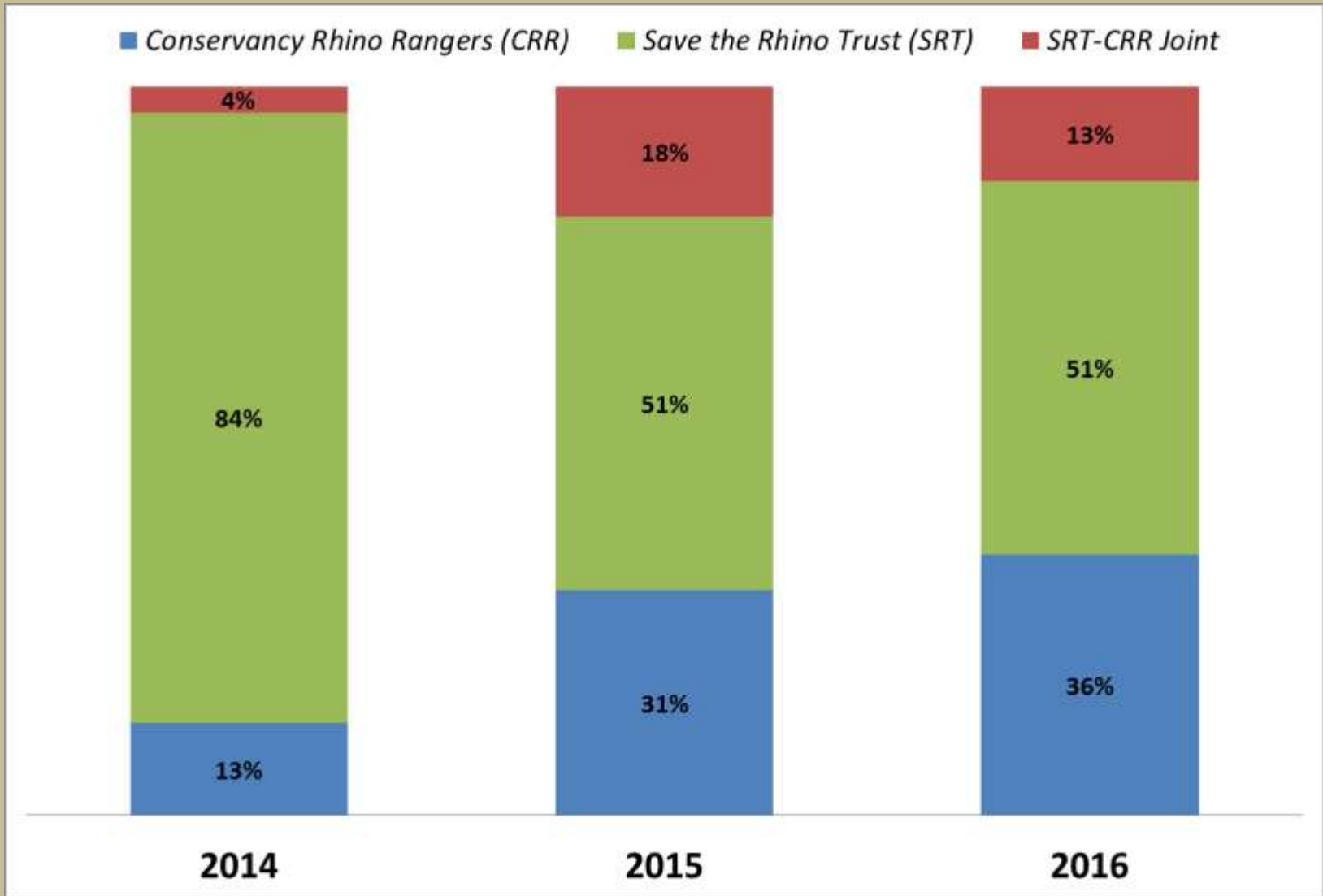
# Key 2016 Milestones

- **Conservancy Rhino Ranger field days & Ranger rhino sightings increased by 260% and 184%, respectively, from 2015 (page 5)**
- **Relative rhino monitoring contributions by Conservancy Rhino Ranger-led rhino sightings has nearly tripled since 2014 and currently provide more than one-third of the overall rhino sightings for the region (page 6)**
- **The number and associated contributions of field-based organizations supporting Conservancy Rhino Ranger teams increased dramatically since its inception in 2012, and particularly last year expanding from 3 organizations in 2015 to 9 in 2016 (page 7)**
- **The number of Conservancy Rhino Rangers actively involved in leading tourism activities and associated rhino sightings has increased dramatically from 2 in 2014 to 11 in 2016 (page 8)**
- **Save the Rhino Trust's cost per processed rhino sighting has been cut in half since (page 9)**
- **Significant funding was secured and a baseline survey was conducted to structure and initiate a Rhino Pride Campaign targeting schools, farmers and youth (page 10 – 14)**
- **Voluntary reporting rates from local informers increased by 10% since 2015 and 10 fold since 2014**
- **Poaching rates decreased by 66% from 2015 and with only 3 confirmed cases in 2016**

# Conservancy Rhino Ranger field days & Ranger rhino sightings increased by 260% and 184%, respectively, from 2015



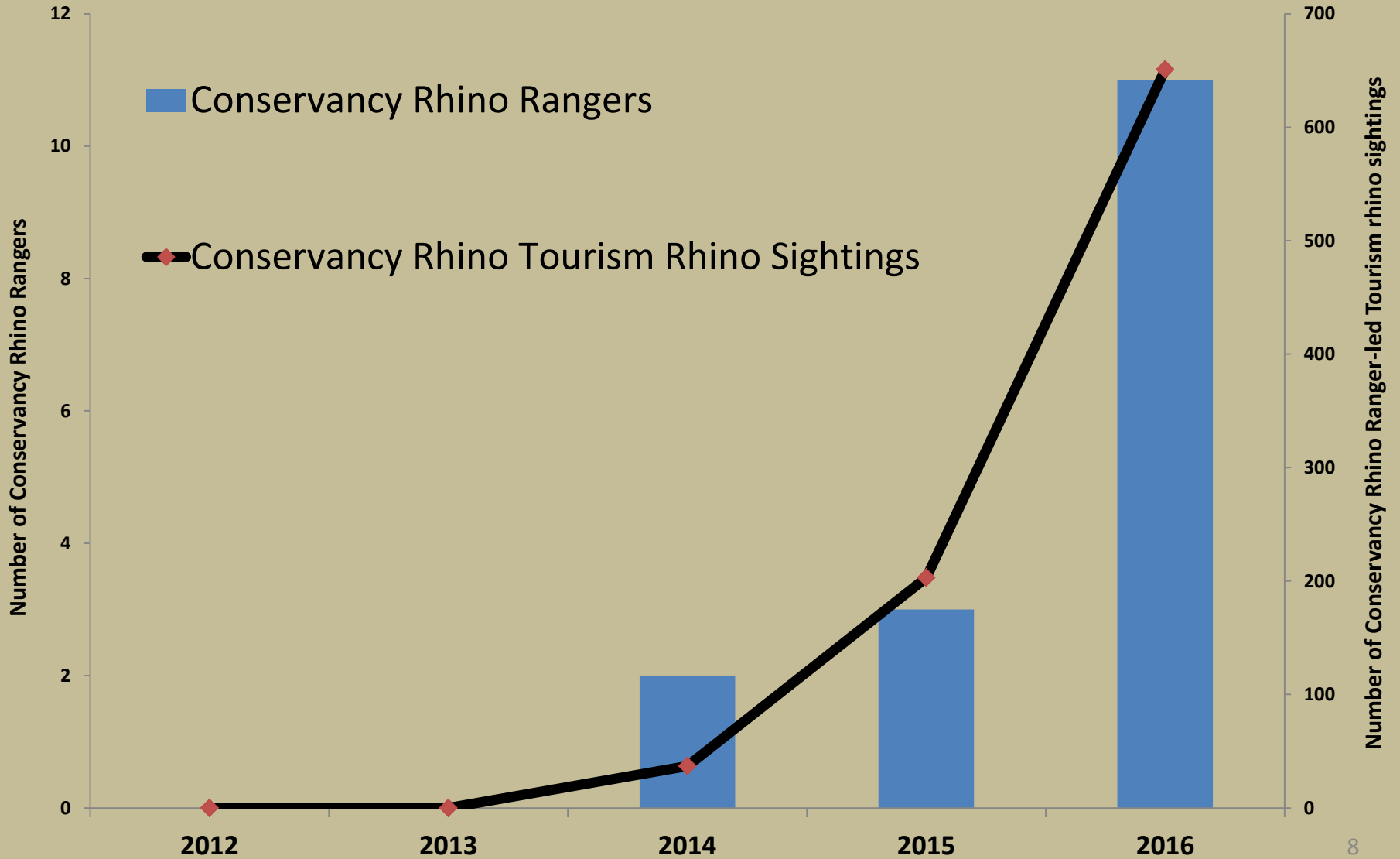
**Relative rhino monitoring contributions by Conservancy Rhino Ranger-led rhino sightings has *nearly tripled since 2014* and currently provide *more than one-third of the overall rhino sightings***



# The number and associated contributions of field-based organizations supporting Conservancy Rhino Ranger teams have increased dramatically since its inception in 2012, growing from 1 to 9

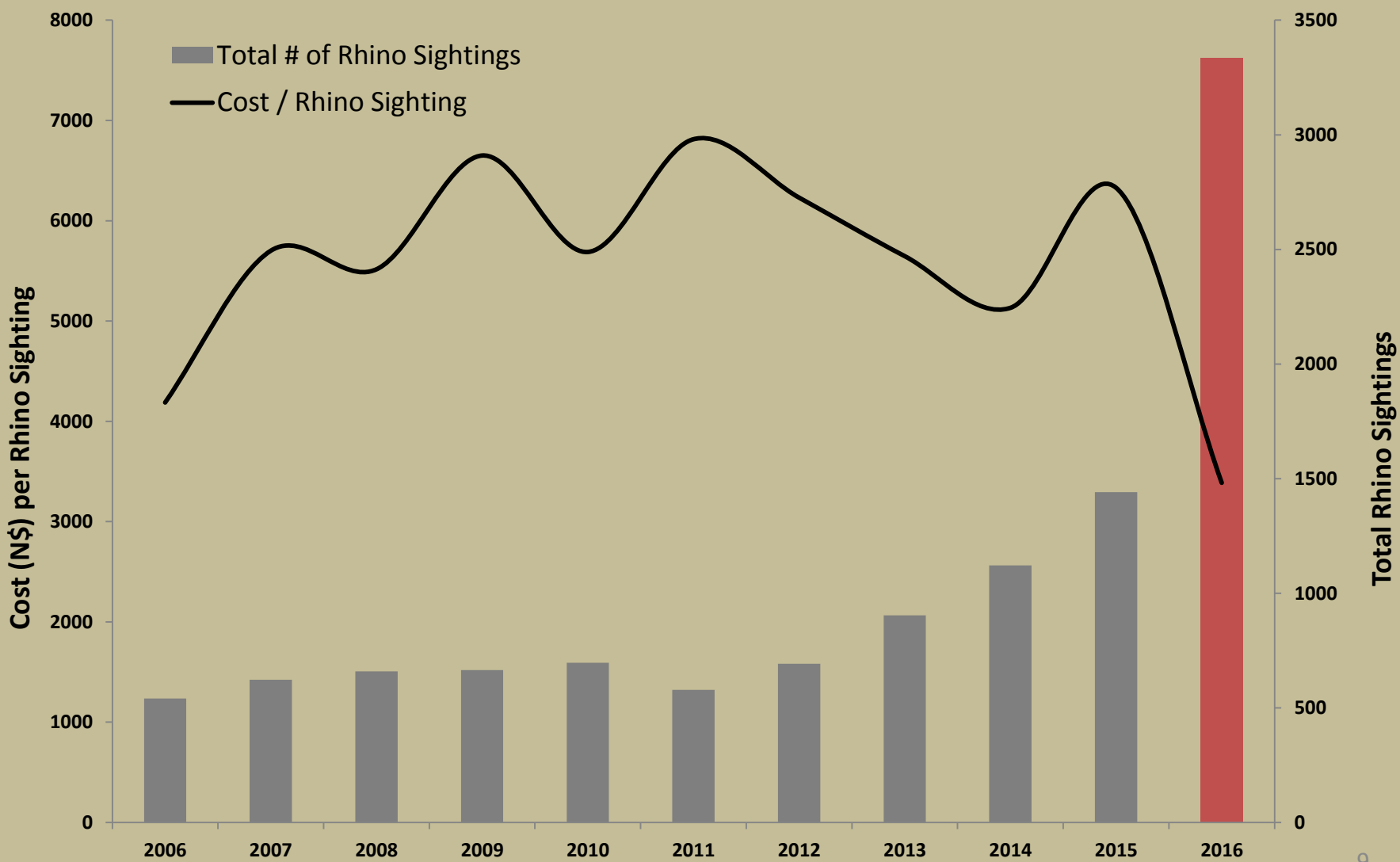


# The number of Conservancy Rhino Rangers actively involved in leading tourism activities and associated rhino sightings have increased dramatically from just 3 in 2015 to currently 11





By promoting and practicing a collaborative approach, especially with Conservancy Rhino Rangers, monitoring has become much more cost-effective as the overall cost per processed rhino sighting has decreased dramatically



\* Not adjusted for inflation

# Initiated baseline survey work to help structure a Rhino Pride Campaign targeting schools, farmers and youth in or near the Rhino Range



## School Learners

**142 school learners** between grades 7 and 9 representing **120 different home villages across five schools** within four conservancies including Sesfontein, Anabeb, Torra and ≠Khoadi //Hoas

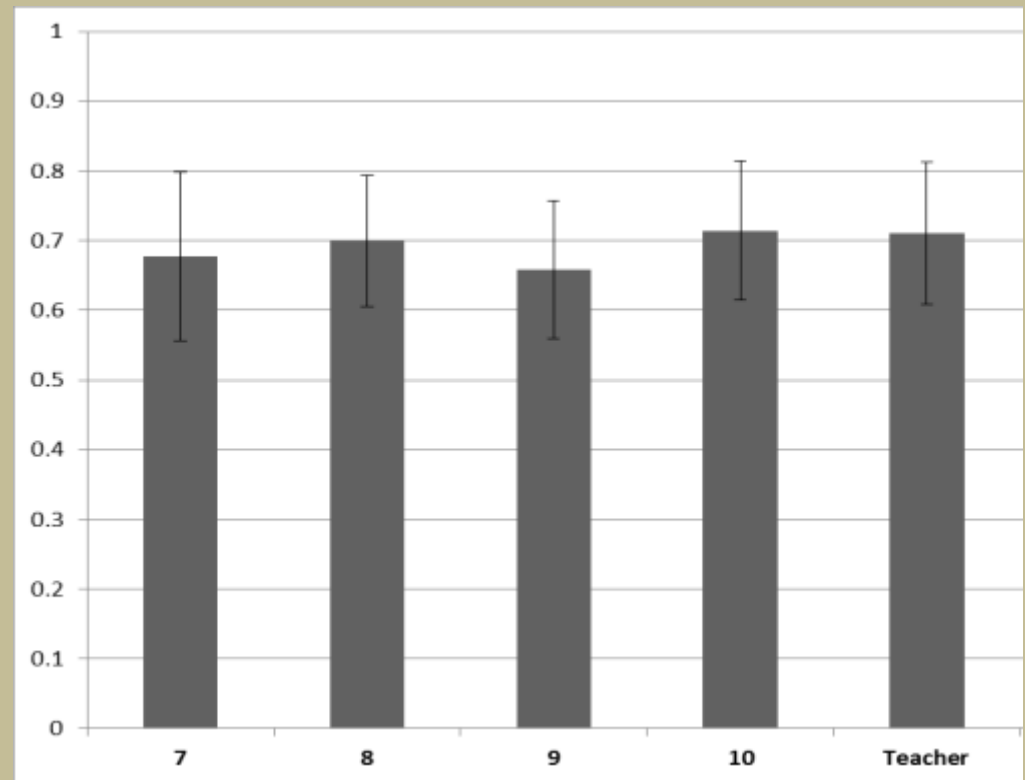
## Farmers

**80 rural farmers across 13 villages** within two conservancies, Torra and ≠Khoadi //Hoas

# School Learners existing Rhino Knowledge was roughly 70%

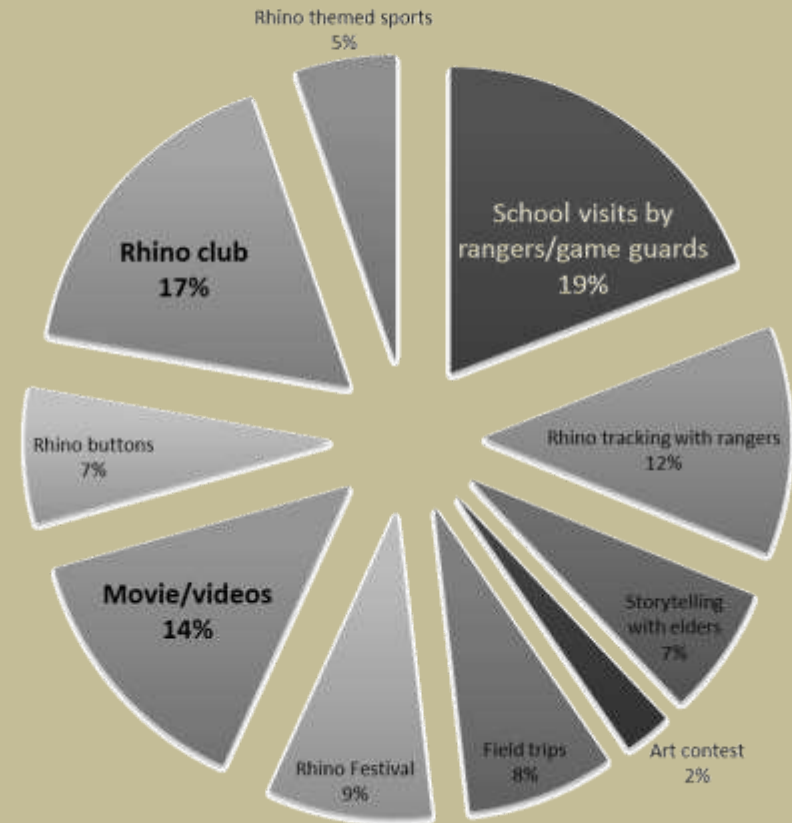


*Average score (% correct) out of the 15 rhino knowledge questions by grade level.*



# School learners would like to be visited more by the rangers to learn about their work

What activities would you like to be conducted with yourself and other learners to better understand and protect rhinos



# School learners' Perceptions and Attitudes towards rhino were very positive with an overall average indication rate of 79%

Question Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
If the poaching continues, our black rhinos will become extinct within our lifetime	6%	16%	14%	24%	40%
Our black rhinos are very unique	4%	9%	21%	36%	30%
Protecting our black rhinos should be a conservation priority	2%	9%	12%	48%	28%
We can all help protect our black rhinos	5%	1%	6%	41%	46%
Our rhinos provide benefits to our community	6%	2%	13%	45%	33%
I am proud to have black rhino in our area	8%	6%	7%	54%	25%
I am proud of our Conservancy, Game Guards and Rhino Ranger's effort to protect our black rhino	5%	5%	7%	43%	40%
I am willing to help protect our black rhino	4%	7%	5%	47%	38%
I will share what I learned about black rhino with my family and friends	4%	3%	4%	39%	50%
<b>OVERALL AVERAGE</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>37%</b>

# Farmer attitudes toward rhino was also very positive at 93%

Question	Question Statement	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly Agree
41	I am proud to have rhino in this area	0%	0%	1%	37%	62%
42	Having rhino in this area improves my life	5%	0%	6%	46%	42%
43	I receive benefits from having rhino in this area	5%	1%	14%	42%	38%
44	It is my responsibility to help protect our rhino	0%	0%	4%	47%	49%
45	I am willing to help protect our rhino from poachers	0%	0%	0%	46%	54%
<b>OVERALL AVERAGE</b>		<b>2%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>49%</b>

# Key Objectives for 2017

1. Continue to build capacity for Conservancy Rhino Rangers in Rhino Conservation Tourism
2. Continue improving overall patrol effectiveness by developing a new suite of non-monetary incentives that compliment existing financial rewards
3. Fully launch a new Rhino Pride Campaign targeting local school learners, farmers and youth within or near the rhino range that improves knowledge, attitude and pro-rhino behaviour
4. Complete a 5 Year Review
5. Assess potential mechanisms that may improve the programme's long-term financial sustainability
6. Pilot whether our collaborative, incentive-based approach can also be applied to strengthen local-level monitoring for other key species such as giraffe (together with Giraffe Conservation Foundation)
7. Share lessons learned and help develop an emerging community-based monitoring and conservation programme in north-west China for endangered Asian Wild Horse

# We thank all our loyal Supporters

- **The Nature Conservancy, Houston Zoo, The Minnesota Zoo Foundation, B2Gold, Nature Friends, Conservancy Safaris Namibia, Tourism Supporting Conservation (TOSCO), Conservation Travel Foundation, WWF-Namibia and Namibia Nature Foundation.**
- **Partners: Thirteen Communal Conservancies (Drupembe, Puros, Otjikondavirongo, Sesfontein, Anabeb, Omatendeka, Ehirovipuka, /Khoadi #Hoas, Torra, Doro !Nawas, Sorris Sorris, //Huab, Uibasen/Twefelfontein), Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Save the Rhino Trust, Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation, Conservancy Safaris Namibia, Journeys Namibia, Camelthorn Safaris, Wilderness Safaris Namibia, Ultimate Safaris and Minnesota Zoo**