



March 2022

Rhinos Without Borders

Collaboration update

The inspiration for Rhinos Without Borders (RWB) was a response to the dire situation that was facing rhinos in Africa in 2014. With rhino poaching at an all-time high, concerned conservationists needed to be proactive. Great Plains Conservation and andBeyond, two leading conservation and tourism companies, teamed up to translocate rhinos from South Africa in order to create new source populations in Botswana's wild places.

The initial aim of the project was to create new viable breeding populations to broaden the Botswana rhino gene pool, while also populating an ideal habitat for rhino and increasing the range, and in this way spreading the risk.

In 2019, the steering committee of RWB assessed that the project, in partnership with the Botswana Government, had achieved our initial aim to establish a substantial new wild population of rhinos. The success of this project was evident in the fact that every sexually mature female translocated by RWB had given birth to a calf, with a tally of over 62 births. The committee therefore made the decision to migrate the project's focus away from translocations to the active monitoring of these rhino.

Rhinos Without Borders' experienced monitoring teams on the ground and in the air, worked daily with the Botswana Government, the Department of Wildlife & National Parks (DWNP), the Botswana Defence Force (BDF), and other rhino conservation stakeholders to monitor the translocated rhino.

With the collaborative translocation and agreed three-year period of post-translocation monitoring following the last released rhinos now past, &Beyond will be stepping out of this partnership, and leaving the stewardship of the programme to Great Plains Conservation.

Both organisations will now move forward as independent entities. The remaining assets and funds will be utilised by Great Plains Conservation for the continued monitoring of the RWB rhinos remaining in the Delta, and by &Beyond to support the Botswana Government in related rhino and other conservation endeavours.

This eight-year collaboration is marked by a mutual respect, and gratitude for the combined expertise that was instrumental to its compounded achievements.

We are grateful for the generous support of donors that made this collaboration and its successes and learnings possible, and we will continue our wholehearted commitment to the future of rhinos in our respective capacities.