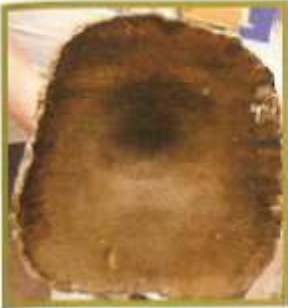


## What makes them different...

All rhino horns have a concave base with a sponge-like textured appearance. Rhino horns can be over 1 meter long!



The shape of the base of white rhino horn is generally squarer while black rhino horns (bottom) are generally circular.

White rhino horns are normally larger and wider than those of the black rhino.

**White rhino, *Ceratotherium simum simum*** (southern white rhino) are grazers and have a square shaped

top lip to clamp onto tufts of grass.

**Black rhino, *Diceros bicornis* spp.** are browsers and have a pointed top lip used to hook branches into their mouth when eating.



Under a microscope, rhino horn looks like compressed hair (Photo: UKZN) but chemically, they are more similar to our fingernails.



Rhino horn is composed of keratin which is a fibrous protein found in the outer layer of our skin which helps to make us waterproof, makes calluses on our feet and gives our hair and fingernails strength.

Rhino horn has been recovered in its entire state, chips, powder, slices and blocks of various sizes. Silver candelabras, dinner gong supports, carved ornaments from whole or pieces of horn have all been found.

Virtually all consuming countries now prohibit the importation of rhinoceros horn and most prohibit domestic sale, but some illegal trade continues.

**It is illegal to possess rhino horn in South Africa without a permit.**



## Myths and legends...

### Rhinos continue to be poached for their horn.

Horn has been used in traditional Asian medicines for centuries. In China, Taiwan and South Korea rhino horn is used in the treatment of fever, strokes, epilepsy, nosebleeds and dermatitis.

acceptable substitutes have been identified, there is a strong belief that rhino horn usage is irreplaceable in certain situations. An experiment done in South Africa showed that in preparations and doses similar to that used in Traditional Chinese Medicine and up to 10 times that concentration, rhino horn had no effect of reducing fever in humans.



The Chinese people's use of rhino horn has been the carving of figurines, bowls, cups and plates. It was believed that strong alkaloid poison in the food would have re-acted in a notable way with the crockery made of rhino horn, thus providing a warning of its presence.

The only places where rhino horn is considered an aphrodisiac is in Northern India and Gujarat. There is no wide belief or use of rhino horn in the East, to enhance sexual performance.

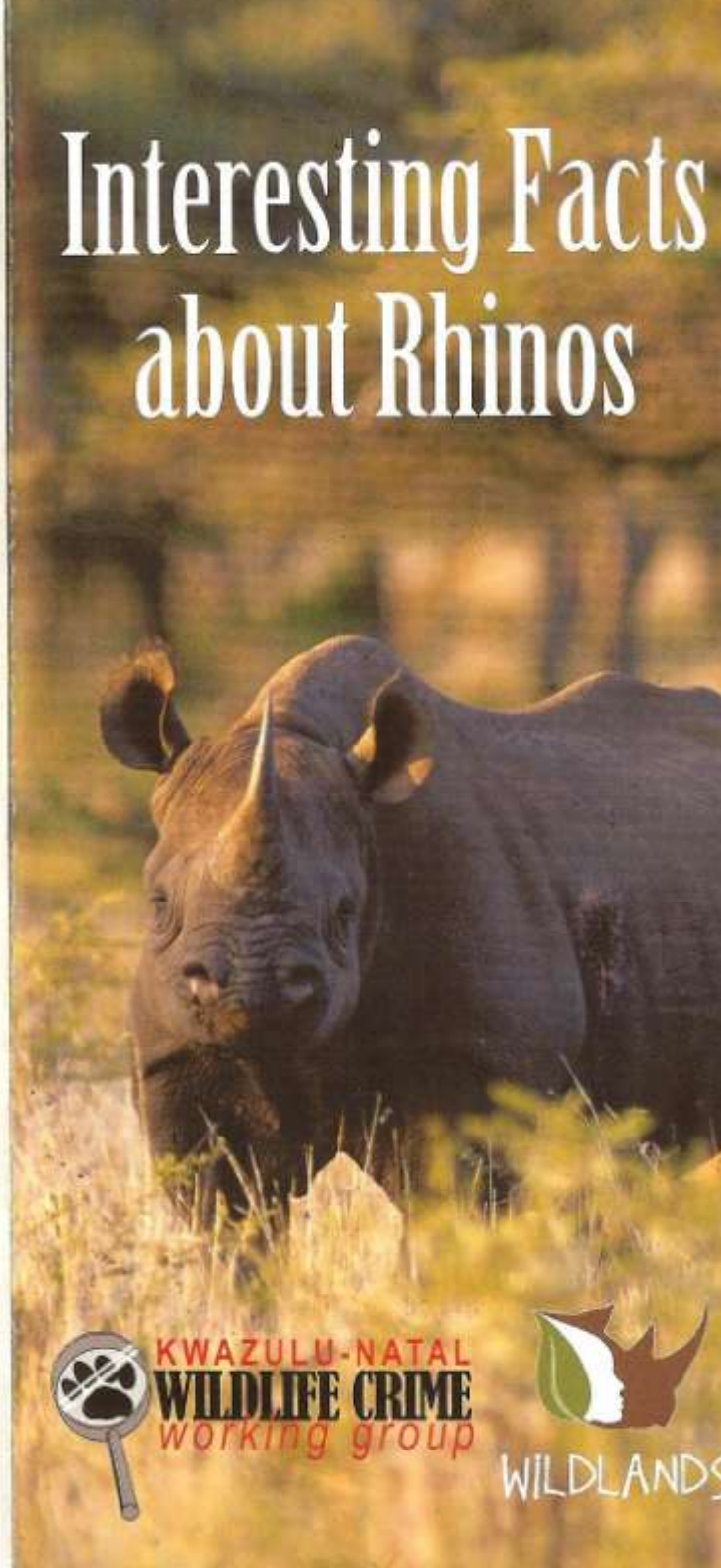


In addition to the major consuming markets, the trade in manufactured medicines with rhino horn as an ingredient is a global phenomenon involving many countries around the world, including South Africa (Mulliken and Haywood, 1994).

A second major source of demand centres around Yemen and other parts of the Arabian peninsula where rhino horn is used for the production of traditional dagger handles called jambiyas (Yemen) or khanjars (Oman).

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# Interesting Facts about Rhinos



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WILDLANDS

The Indian rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) lives primarily in northern India and Nepal. Their segmented hide looks like a formidable coat of natural body armor. Flexible skin between the thicker hide "plates" allows them to shift as the rhinoceros moves. Indian rhinos only have one horn. There are about 2 000 Indian rhinos left in the wild.

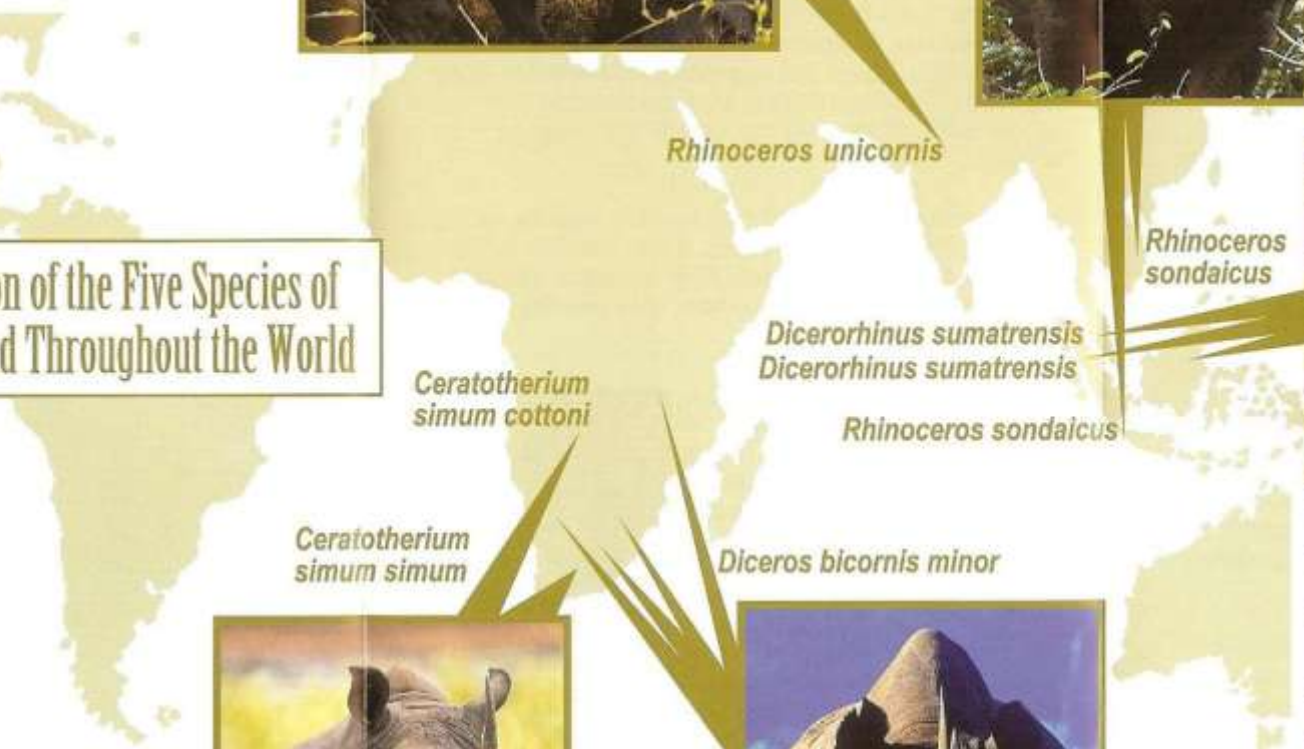


*Rhinoceros unicornis*



The Javan rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) is similar in appearance to the Indian rhino. Once widely distributed throughout Southeast Asia, Java, Sumatra and northern India, the Javan rhinoceros is currently found in just two areas: Cat Tien National Park in Vietnam (only 5 animals) and Ujung Kulon National Park (UKNP) on the island of Java, in Indonesia (between 40 and 50 animals).

## Distribution of the Five Species of Rhino Found Throughout the World



*Rhinoceros sondaicus*

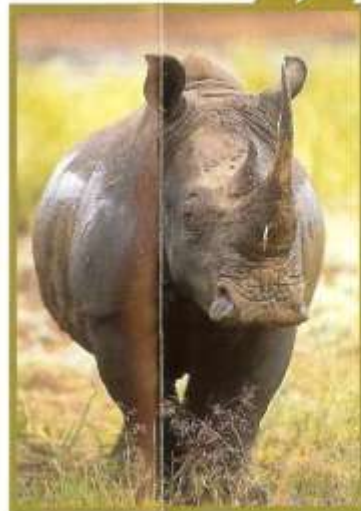


*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*  
*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*

*Rhinoceros sondaicus*

The Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) has a body covered in a patchy coat of shaggy hair. It is the smallest of the five known rhinoceros species. The Sumatran is listed as critically endangered as fewer than 400 Sumatran rhinos live in isolated pockets of wild habitat in Malaysia and Indonesia, and only about 50 of the animals are thought to exist in Sabah.

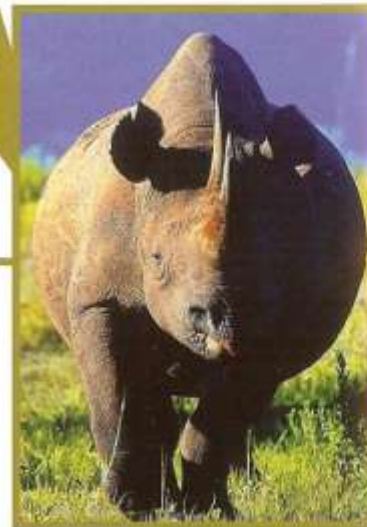
*Ceratotherium simum simum*



The northern white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*) is restricted to Garamba National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo and numbers only a handful of animals.

The southern subspecies of white rhinoceros (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) occurs in the savannas and open woodlands of south-east southern Africa with the largest population today found in South Africa. There are 17 500 in the wild (2007).

*Diceros bicornis minor*



The distribution of the Black Rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) is primarily in South Africa, Namibia, Kenya and Zimbabwe. There are four recognised subspecies of Black Rhinoceros: *D. b. bicornis*; *D. b. minor*; *D. b. michaeli*; and, *D. b. longipes*. *Diceros bicornis minor* is the subspecies most commonly found in South Africa. Their numbers total 4 200 in the wild (2007).