

CONSERVATION

the fight against poaching

At the beginning of the twentieth century, hundreds of thousands of rhinoceroses roamed Africa and Asia. Today, they are under severe threat from illegal wildlife trade, habitat loss and organised criminal networks. Rhino horn continues to command an extremely high price on the black market, placing immense pressure on remaining populations



ONGUMA ANTI-POACHING UNIT

The biggest threat our wildlife currently faces is poaching. This is due to the high value of rhino horn, ivory and other animal products. Rhino poaching in Namibia has increased dramatically in recent years. During 2017 and 2018, Onguma lost 15 black rhinos to poaching.

Recently, we have seen an increase in the sophistication of the methods used by poachers. We are up against highly sophisticated criminal networks and have therefore implemented robust counter-poaching initiatives to combat the crisis. As a result, we now have a well-trained, fully equipped Anti-Poaching Unit patrolling our 35 970 ha private nature reserve day and night.

In order to keep our rangers safe and to enable them to do the best possible job of tracking down and apprehending poachers, they need to be equipped with the best tools and technology for the job.

Since the Anti-Poaching Unit was established at Onguma, we have seen a dramatic decrease in poaching. They have successfully apprehended poachers on multiple occasions and collected evidence to assist in successful prosecutions. We firmly believe these achievements are the result of our team's passion, hard work and constant presence on the ground.

As the custodians of this unique nature reserve, it is our duty to protect the local wildlife. Not only rhinos, but every species that calls Onguma home. Without our input and protection, many species could become extinct as illegal wildlife trafficking continues to threaten vulnerable species.

Visiting Onguma is not only about experiencing wildlife in a natural environment, but more importantly it is about helping to protect it.

If you would like to make a difference, please support our Anti-Poaching Unit to help protect our rhinos.

