

Tintswalo Property Group commits to widespread rhino conservation through TREC

The Tintswalo Property Group (Tintswalo) has launched the Tintswalo Rhino Extreme Campaign (TREC), an initiative designed to increase awareness of the massacre of the rhino population in Southern Africa. This project forms part of Tintswalo Safari Lodge's commitment to facilitate growth in the rhino population in the nearby Manyeleti Game Reserve and Western Kruger National Park.

Along with the assistance of the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) and Game Reserves United (GRU), TREC will create a comprehensive intelligence network that will pre-empt and warn the campaign of any attempted rhino poaching. This will be coupled with a fully trained and effective team of field rangers, ready to respond to any threat of poachers entering the reserves.

"With the continuing increase of reported rhino deaths on a daily basis, something needs to be done in order to help these magnificent creatures. We certainly don't want future generations only frame of reference for a rhino to be in a book," says Lisa Goosen, Tintswalo Property Group CEO. "The more attention we can bring to this worthy cause, the more support we can garner to stop rhino numbers declining."

Tintswalo Safari Lodge will have hands-on involvement in the project, and collaborate with the field rangers responsible for protecting the rhino. The campaign will also be documented by world renowned Photographer and Film Maker, Steven Lyon, for use in creating global awareness of TREC and the plight of the rhino.

With Tintswalo Safari Lodge situated within the game reserves, management and staff have kept abreast of the rise in rhino killings which lead to the initiation of TREC. The initiative also foresees getting involved with local communities, through educational drives to enlighten the local youth on the importance of rhino conservation so they too can make meaningful contribution to the safety of rhinos, through creating awareness and supporting prevention.

The rhino population has depleted drastically in South Africa in recent times, with the country having lost 1 632 rhino to poaching in only four years, representing a value of R1.2 billion in rhino. Last year saw the worst period in the modern era, with a total of 668 animals recorded to have been poached in South Africa in 2012, a 50% increase from the previous year of 448. Of this total, 63% were poached in the Kruger National Park. This deplorable situation has not improved in 2013, with the number of recorded deaths equating to two rhino deaths per day.

The project seeks to not only protect the rhino and promote repopulation, but also to inform communities on how they can do their part in saving these majestic beasts.

As part of the TREC campaign, Tintswalo Safari Lodge's Head Ranger, Fritz Breytenbach, will be embarking on a 1 000km walk through the two game reserves to raise further awareness of the plight of the rhino. The public as well as corporate companies can get involved in the walk by sponsoring Breytenbach's journey, with all proceeds going towards rhino conservation.

Goosen concludes that the company intends for the TREC initiative to make a noticeable impact in rhino conservation.

"The Tintswalo Property Group maintains that the rhino is an essential and proud part of the heritage of South Africa, and that every effort should be placed into ensuring that future generations can witness these creatures in action.

"As such, we are immensely proud of the TREC initiative, and through helping to save the rhino in the Manyeleti and surrounding game reserves, we intend to play our part in contributing positively to the survival of the species."

For more information about how you can become a TREC sponsor, contact TREC directly on +27 15 793 9015 or email them at trec@safari.tintswalo.com. If you would like to sponsor the campaign contact Yvonne@tintswalo.com or call 082 602 3042.

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