

Numbers of black rhino on the rise

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Conservationists have quiet cause for celebration over a rise in the numbers of the African black rhino. The numbers of the animals in the wild have risen by several hundred. The rhinos had been poached to a level of near extinction, but efforts to protect them have paid dividends. Black rhinos are still endangered and are at risk of extinction, but conservationists are hopeful their numbers will continue to grow. The International Union for Conservation of Nature reported that there were 4,845 black rhinos in Africa in 2012. This number rose to around 5,630 in 2018, an increase of 2.5 per cent per year over the six years. The Union said the numbers bode well for saving the species.

A lot of effort has been put into saving the black rhino. These include relocating the beasts into areas less frequented by poachers, ensuring a better male-to-female ratio to aid reproductive success, and stronger legislation to protect the species. The Union said: "The continued slow recovery is a testament to the immense efforts made in the countries and a powerful reminder that conservation works." It added: "There is no room for complacency as poaching and illegal trade remain acute threats. It is essential that the ongoing anti-poaching measures and intensive, proactive population management continue, with support from national and international actors."

Sources: *theguardian.com* / *independent.co.uk* / *metro.news*

Writing

Poachers should get huge fines and lengthy prison sentences. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

conservationist / celebration / rhino / extinction / endangered / risk / species / effort / beasts / poachers / reproductive / legislation / illegal trade / management

True / False

- a) Conservationists are having a party for the African black rhino. T / F
- b) African black rhino numbers have increased by over 1,000. T / F
- c) African black rhinos are now no longer endangered. T / F
- d) African black rhino numbers rose by 2.5% for six years. T / F
- e) Conservationists have created a better mix of male and female rhinos. T / F
- f) Rhino numbers have gone up without the help of new laws. T / F
- g) Conservationists say no one should be complacent. T / F
- h) A conservationist group wants stage actors to help the rhinos. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. cause | a. at risk |
| 2. poached | b. actions |
| 3. dividends | c. visited |
| 4. endangered | d. huge |
| 5. bode well | e. hunted illegally |
| 6. frequented | f. laws |
| 7. legislation | g. reason |
| 8. immense | h. severe |
| 9. acute | i. benefits |
| 10. measures | j. show promise |

Discussion – Student A

- a) How important is conservation?
- b) How good is this news?
- c) What do you know about rhinos?
- d) What more can we do to help protect rhinos?
- e) Why are animals and plants becoming extinct?
- f) Do you think the black rhino will survive?
- g) What other species should we help?
- h) What do you think of rhinos?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Conservationists have quiet cause | a. by poachers |
| 2. rhinos had been poached to a level | b. poaching measures |
| 3. efforts to protect them have paid | c. saving the species |
| 4. Black rhinos are still | d. reproductive success |
| 5. the numbers bode well for | e. conservation works |
| 6. areas less frequented | f. for celebration |
| 7. better male-to-female ratio to aid | g. for complacency |
| 8. a powerful reminder that | h. dividends |
| 9. There is no room | i. of near extinction |
| 10. ongoing anti- | j. endangered |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How effective is conservation?
- What do you think of poachers?
- What punishment should we give doctors?
- What laws are needed to protect endangered species?
- What can we do about the illegal trade in endangered animals?
- What would you say to poachers?
- What questions would you like to ask the conservationists?

Spelling

- quiet cause for baoreicnetl
- The rhinos had been pdceoha
- a level of near tonexciitn
- ndedreaegn and at risk
- rnoisincatosvste are hopeful
- the numbers bode well for saving the iceesps
- relocating the sestba
- aid edrrvetiuopc success
- stronger ltogniselia
- a tasnmetet to the immense efforts
- There is no room for ocnpcamelcy
- intensive, pvociaret population management

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. e	3. i	4. a	5. j
6. c	7. f	8. d	9. h	10. b

Role Play

Role A – CCTV

You think CCTV is the best way to protect endangered species. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): education, no logging or prison for poachers.

Role B – Education

You think education is the best way to protect endangered species. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): CCTV, no logging or prison for poachers.

Role C – No Logging

You think no logging is the best way to protect endangered species. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): education, CCTV or prison for poachers.

Role D – Prison for Poachers

You think prison for poachers is the best way to protect endangered species. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): education, CCTV or no logging.

Speaking – Conservation

Rank these with your partner. Put the best conservation methods at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|
| • CCTV | • Reverse climate change |
| • Education | • Prison for fur traders |
| • No logging | • Breeding programmes |
| • Less pollution | • Prison for poachers |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	F	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.