

The difference between Black & White Rhino

Black Rhino (Hooked-lip Rhino) (*Diceros bicornis*)



The Swazi word for Black Rhino is “Upejani”

Black rhino numbers have dwindled from 70 000 to only 3 600, due to habitat loss and poaching. The West African Black rhino is extinct.

Facts:

Weight:	800 - 1 400kg
Height:	1,4 - 1,7m
Anterior Horn:	0,5 - 1,3m
Posterior Horn:	0,2 - 0,55m
Lifespan:	30 - 40
Speed:	50km/h
Habitat:	grassland, savannah & bushveld
Interesting Fact:	they can live 5 days without water

- They are smaller than the white rhino.
- They have a small hooked shaped mouth for feeding.
- Black rhino are often found in thick vegetation.
- Females will often run in front of her calf to clear a pathway.
- They are short-tempered and extremely aggressive.
- They are very solitary and seldom join up with other individuals.

White Rhino (Broad-mouthed Rhino) (Ceratotherium simum)



The Sotho word for white rhino is “Mogohu”, and the Zulu word is “Umkombe”.

There are about 14 500 white rhino left.

Facts:

Weight:	1 800 - 2 700kg
Height:	1,5 - 1,8m
Anterior Horn:	0,94 - 1,02m
Posterior Horn:	0,2 - 0,55m
Lifespan:	40 - 50
Speed:	50km/h
Habitat:	grassland, savannah

- They are larger than black rhino.
- They have a very broad flat mouth.
- A white rhinos' natural head posture faces downward.
- They have a very distinct hump above the shoulders.
- They have a prominent fold of skin at the lower part of the shoulders.
- They are social animals and move in groups.
- White rhino are normally found in very open areas.
- The calf normally runs in front of its mother.
- The mother uses her horn to direct the calf by tapping it on the rear.
- They are less aggressive.

There is no colour difference between the two rhinos.

“The Dutch people named the white rhino the "Weid mond rhino", meaning “Wide-mouth rhino”. The English thought they were saying "white", so it was all just a misinterpretation of the name”.

<http://www.rhinoresourcecenter.com/species/white-rhino/>

