



Ceratotherium simum

Common name: **White Rhinoceros**Latin name: **Ceratotherium simum**Local name: **وحيد القرن-الخرتيت**

ECOLOGY

Type:

Wild

Role in Ecosystem:

White rhinos graze on vast amount of grasses, and therefore help to increase the biodiversity of grasses and potentially prevent the wildfires.

HABITAT

The White rhinoceros lives in Africa in long and short-grass savannahs, primarily in southern Africa.



Food

Herbivore

Rhinos feed almost exclusively on short grass. Since they lack upper incisors, they use their square lips which are adapted to their diet.

They drink whenever they find water, but can survive for up to 5 days without it.



Movement and Communication

Communication:

Rhinos communicate with various sounds, such as sneezes and honks. They use body language using their ear ears, tails and posture. They also use their urine and dung as a form of communication.

Rhinos have a very good sense of smell and hearing. Its vision, however, is poor, and is better at discerning moving objects than stationary ones.

Movement:

Rhinos are surprisingly fast and agile, and can run at speeds up to 50 km/hr.



Social Habits

Social

White rhinos live in herds of up to 14 animals, most of which are females and their calves, with one dominant male.

Male rhinos are usually solitary and highly territorial, marking their territories with dung piles and defending them aggressively. They will allow female and juvenile rhinos to pass by their territories, however.



Reproduction

Viviparous

White rhinos breed throughout the year. The gestation period lasts between 16 to 18 months, and a period of two to three years between pregnancies. The newborn calves weigh around 100 – 150 pounds. The calves will stay with their mother for about 2 – 3 years. Rhinos reach sexual maturity at around 4-5 years, but females will start to reproduce when they are 6-7 years of age, and males around 10-12 years of age.



Attributes



Appearance:

The White rhinoceros is one of the largest land mammals, second only to the African elephant. Its skin is nearly hairless except its ears and tail. It has a large, stocky trunk, short legs, small ears, and a square lip, which characterizes it from othe rhino species.

The white rhinoceros has two horns, with the front one larger than the back, which grow continuously throughout its life.

Size:

Male: 360-420 cm (12-14 ft) Female: 360-420 cm (12-14 ft)

Horns can reach up to 140 cm for the front horn and 50 cm for the back horn.

Weight:

Male: around 2,300 kg (5,100 lb) Female: around 1,800 kg (4,000 lb)

Lifespan:

40-50 years.

INTRODUCTION

The white rhinoceros is one of the largest land mammals, second only to the African Elephant, and the largest living rhinoceros species. It is characterized with two large horns on its snout, and thick armor-like skin. It has square lips which are adapted to grazing.

The rhinoceros is hunted for its horns, which pushed it to the brink of extinction. However, conservation efforts are helping the population recover.

In Sudan, the rhinoceros was the emblem of the country from its independence and until the reign of Nimeri.

Since the entire population of rhinos were in the southern states, there is no more rhinos in the contry since the separation of South Sudan.

One of the last members of the Northern White Rhinoceros was named Sudan, as it was born in South Sudan.

LIVELIHOODS AND CULTURE

Human interaction

Rhinos are hunted and killed for their horns. The major demand for rhino horn is in Asia, where it is used in ornamental carvings and traditional medicine.

Cultural value

Due its size, toughness and horn, the rhinoceros is considered a symbol of strength, indurance and protection.

It also represents wildlife and nature.

Cultural expression

The rhinoceros was chosen as the emblem of Sudan upon its indepenec in 1956. It was meant to represent strength, as well as reflect the vast geographical and wildlife diversity of the country.

THREATS

The white rhinoceros is classified as near threatened.

They are threatened by illegal hunting, habitat loss and political conflict.

The white rhinoceros has become extinct in Sudan after the separation of South Sudan in 2011, since the rhinoceros population was found in the southern states.

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