Saving animals the high-tech way

Tech firms Dimension Data and Cisco have teamed up to save rhinos in South Africa, and are looking to help protect these animals in the following countries next
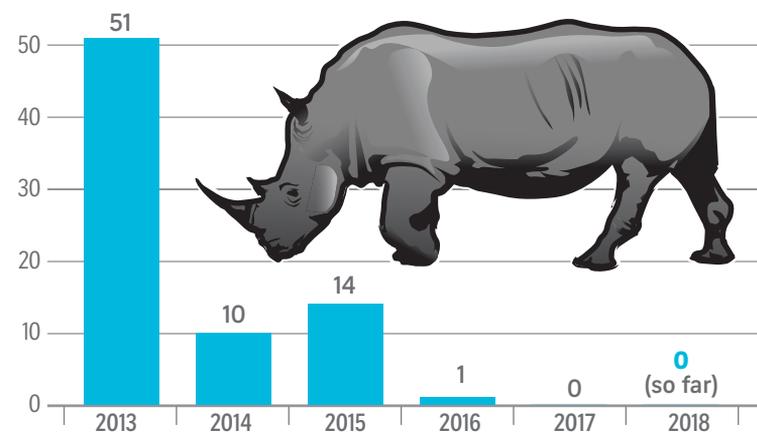
Zambia, Kenya, Mozambique

India

Off the coast of New Zealand

Rhinos lost to poaching in the reserve

- 2013: 51
- 2014: 10
- 2015: 14
- 2016: 1
- 2017: 0
- 2018: 0 (so far)

Also some data from the past three years

	2015	2016	2017
Fence crossings	75	25	2
Fence cuts	29	12	0
Shots heard	8	6	4

What the project involves

- Closed-circuit television cameras mounted on 72km of electric fencing
- Biometric scanners at all four gates to collect visitor data
- Magnetic sensors on the ground to detect incoming vehicles
- Thermal imaging cameras to track wildlife and poachers in the dark
- Sensor tags for visiting vehicles to track their location
- Acoustic fibre lines that set off an alarm when crossed or cut
- Long-range, low power technology allowing smart objects to communicate over long distances

How poachers work

- Poachers typically work in teams of two or three people
- Sometimes, they buy information on a rhino's location from people working in the reserves
- One shoots the rhino, the others help to cut and carry the horn away
- If discovered by park rangers, they often shoot to kill

Rhino facts & figures

South Africa is currently home to

about 70% of the remaining rhinos in the world – most of which reside in the Kruger National Park.

NOTE: Many of the poachers who target rhinos in Kruger National Park come from neighbouring Mozambique.

AFRICA

Kruger National Park

SOUTH AFRICA

MOZAMBIQUE

In 2014, 1,215 rhinos were killed by poachers. This is equal to

1 rhino being killed every 8 hours.

If this persists, rhinos will go extinct in South Africa

by 2025.