



Eastern Black Rhinoceros

Diceros bicornis michaeli



Timu Mbano

I was born **January 26, 2001**.

I am the female rhinoceros here. You can tell me apart by my **lighter colored skin** and my **larger horns**.

I am known for my **mischievous** and **affectionate** attitude. I play around my enclosure, but also like to take long mid-day naps.

You can find me and my friend Kianga at the **Land of the Giants**.

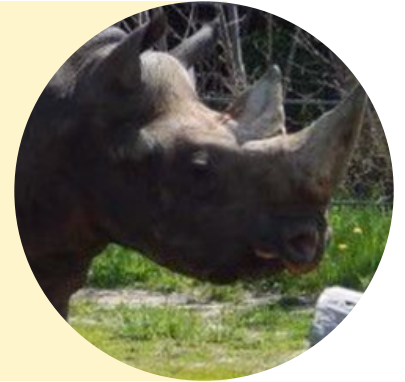
Kianga

I was born **September 16th, 2003**

My name means **"sunshine"**.

I am the male rhinoceros here. You can tell me apart by my **darker colored skin** and my **sharper, more defined horn**.

I am more **nervous** and **timid**, but I am **curious** and **inquisitive** about my surroundings.



BLACK RHINOCEROS AT A GLANCE



- Unlike the square lipped white rhinos, I have a **prehensile pointed upper lip** to grab plants.
- I am a **browser** so I eat twigs, woody shrubs, small trees, and grass.
- At the zoo, my favorite foods are hay, alfalfa, and fresh fruits.



- I have **two horns** on my head. They are made out of **hard keratin**, the same thing your nails are made of.
- I use them **dig up roots, breaking branches, and for defense**.



- I am a **pachyderm** which means I am a **mammal** with **very thick skin**.
- My skin is **rough** and **thick** to act like another layer of **protection**.

Adult:

4.5-6.0 ft tall at shoulder

10-12.5 ft long from head to tail. 1,750-3,000 lbs.

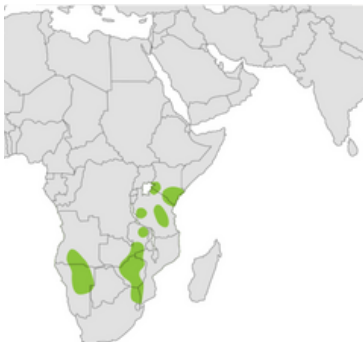


Front horn is larger than the back horn; averages around 19 inches long

Avg. life expectancy in native habitats: 30-35 years

Avg. life expectancy in human care: 45 plus years

WHERE ARE NATIVE BLACK RHINOCEROS HABITATS LOCATED?



Historically, you would of found these rhinoceros from South Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, down through Kenya into north-central Tanzania. Currently, they are found in Rwanda, Kenya and Tanzania. Black rhinos live in scrublands, tropical and subtropical grasslands, mountain forests, savannas, and floodplains.

Black Rhinoceros Behaviors

BROWSING

Black rhinos are not grazers like white rhinos, but browsers. This means they grasp and like eat mainly leaves, high growing fruit, shrubs, and shoots.

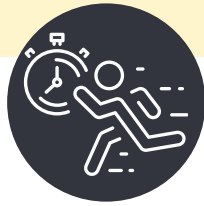
I use my upper lip to grab food. I can eat up to 52 pounds of food daily. YUM!



PACING

Rhinos will walk along the boundaries of the enclosure to check their territory. They will mark spots with urine to make sure no intruders come cause trouble

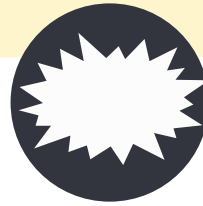
If you see us pacing, we may be patrolling our territory



CHARGING

If they feel like there is danger or an intruder, they will charge. They don't do it unprovoked, but it is a lead up of confusion and irritation.

I will charge if I feel uncomfortable and my warnings have not been heard. Please give me space!



WALLOWING

Even though rhino skin is thick, it is sensitive. They will often roll in mud or water to cool down and protect themselves from the sun.

I am applying my sun protection to prevent me from getting sun burnt.

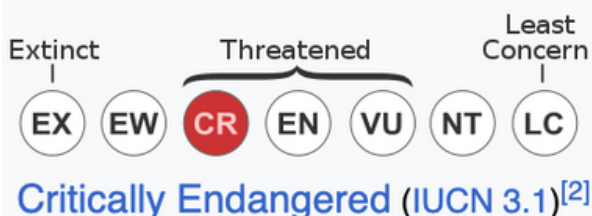


- Black rhinoceros are **solitary** animals. Only when they are looking for a **mate** will they seek each other out.
- Black rhinos have a **mutualistic relationship** with **oxpecker birds**. The oxpeckers **eat parasites** off of the rhino's skin, and in return warn rhinos of approaching predators.
- Rhinos use **scent marking to identify themselves** to other rhinos through urine spraying.

Black Rhino Conservation

The primary threat to black rhinoceros is poaching. In certain cultures, their horn is highly revered in traditional medicine and is believed to have health benefits when consumed. However, health benefits are highly inconclusive.

They are currently listed as **critically endangered**; however, protected populations are seeing an **increase**. Human disturbances such like **military exercises** and **civil unrest** are fragmenting habitat range.



How can we help?

We can help rhinoceros by participating in World Rhino Day. This day is the best way to educate and bring awareness to conservation action for our horned friends.

In addition, your visit to the zoo directly supports and helps organizations that help fight poaching and help conservation action for the rhinoceros.