

# Poaching

By Emma & Carys

Poaching...a path to the end of a species. It means when animals, such as elephants and rhinos are killed because they possess something that is considered to be valuable, such as their ivory tusks and horns. The result of poaching – the extinction of a species.

To prove how catastrophic poaching can be, it has been proven that in 2013 there were 250,000 rhinos living in Africa. That has now tragically fallen to only 90,000. It is a similar case with elephants- at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century there were 4 million African elephants and approximately 100,000 Asian elephants and 35,000- 40,000.

People poach because if they are poor and need money, the only way they can make money is by killing elephants and rhinos and selling their tusks and horns to the highest bidder; usually to countries in the east.

So far, we have discussed the reasons why people poach and its tragic consequences. This is what happens when people poach.



China, Thailand and Korea are just a few countries with markets for horns and tusks. China, for example, use tusks and horns in their traditional medicine, despite there being scientific evidence claiming that calcium found in tusks and horns

doesn't contribute to improved health. Poachers will do anything they can to kill an animal. The result of poaching is devastating. Unfortunately, this means people are having to keep animals in enclosures. Rhinos, for examples, have to be kept in close proximity to humans so they are not killed. Rhinos are allowed to roam freely in the morning near their enclosures.

The issue of poaching is going to continue unless we do something to help. In the world, there are many charities to help preserve the species – charities such as Worldwide Wildlife Fund and United for Wildlife are example charities that support endangered species, allowing the public to donate money on a monthly basis or indeed adopt an animal.

In conclusion, we have discussed reasons why people poach, where the tusks and horns go, what it is like living as

a Rhino and ways of preserving a species. In our opinion , poaching has to stop, full stop. These animals should not go through all of this trouble just so people can buy ivory carvings for decoration purposes.

Thank you for listening. I hope you now have some idea of what poaching is and now you can help stop it and tell others.