

## Rhino Cam - An Insight from a Rhino's Point of View

In this news video from the BBC, new camera technology is helping the authorities to protect Rhinos from poaching (illegally killing animals) and also learn about their lives.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdCQAWzM8jg>

### Warm Up Questions

What animal would you like to be able to talk to? Why?

Would you rather go on Safari on Africa or go see animals in Antarctica?

What animal represents you? Why?

Could you be vegan? Why or why not?

### Listening Questions

How long has Paul O'Donohue been studying Rhinos?

Step by step, how is the camera fitted to the Rhino?

How can the Rhino cam stop poachers?

What does Paul need?

How long have Rhinos been on the planet?

### Discussion

Do you think we should spend all this money to protect animals?

If a camera was following you 24 / 7 what would you do differently?

Would you like to work with animals?

## Transcript

It's the world as you have never quite seen it before. From the point of view of a Rhino. Listen carefully and you can even hear it breathing. These extraordinary pictures come from a small camera fitted into the Rhinos horn by British scientists. They hope it will be a key weapon in the fight against poaching.

We need to catch the poacher red handed and that's what we are setting out to do and that's what we can do. Doctor Paul O'donohue has worked in Rhino conservation for 15 years.

Okay, so we just knocked out another Rhino

The BBC gave him a camera to film the unique trial in South Africa.

A hole is drilled into one of the Rhinos horns and a camera inserted. it is, apparently, a painless procedure. the idea is to use a range of technology to catch poachers.

We are going to fit rhinos with monitors, bio-loggers, heart rate sensors, pressure sensors, that will detect the precise moment a rhino is killed. it's basically a burglar alarm for Rhinos.

You can sort of see the quality of the image that we get from it.

Paul's team has adapted existing surveillance technology. There system uses both mobile phone and satellite communication.

That insures that we will always be able to send an alert to rangers as to say that there is a problem with this animal. This is where it is.

Incredible quality isn't it.

Rangers will spend and probably, quickly get to the animal.

And that's the key. Millions of pounds a year are spent on trying to protect Rhinos. Armed guards patrol thousands of hectors of land. But only a handful of poachers have ever been caught. With this system if an animal is shot the heart monitor triggers an alarm, the anti-poacher unit is alerted, the camera starts filming.

Poachers will know that when they pull a trigger on a rhino a helicopter there in ten minutes. What happens currently is poachers don't kill one rhino and leave. Ten, twelve, fifth-teen Rhinos killed in one or two nights. it's poaching outbreaks and we can stop this. It's outbreaks of poaching that are decimating Rhinos throughout the world.

Back at base Paul's team is able to watch live pictures from what he's called "rhinocam". he now has backing from the authorities in South Africa to roll out the program. His team needs more funding but he has support from some of the worlds largest conservation charities.

It's British ingenuity at its best really and we believe it has the absolute potential to be a game changer in the global fight against poaching.

Rhinos have been on the planet for 60 million years. They could be hunted to extinction within a decade. The hope is that rhino cam could help to save them.