



If you make arrangements directly with the project, quote The Expedition Project!

## Volunteer Information Document 2023



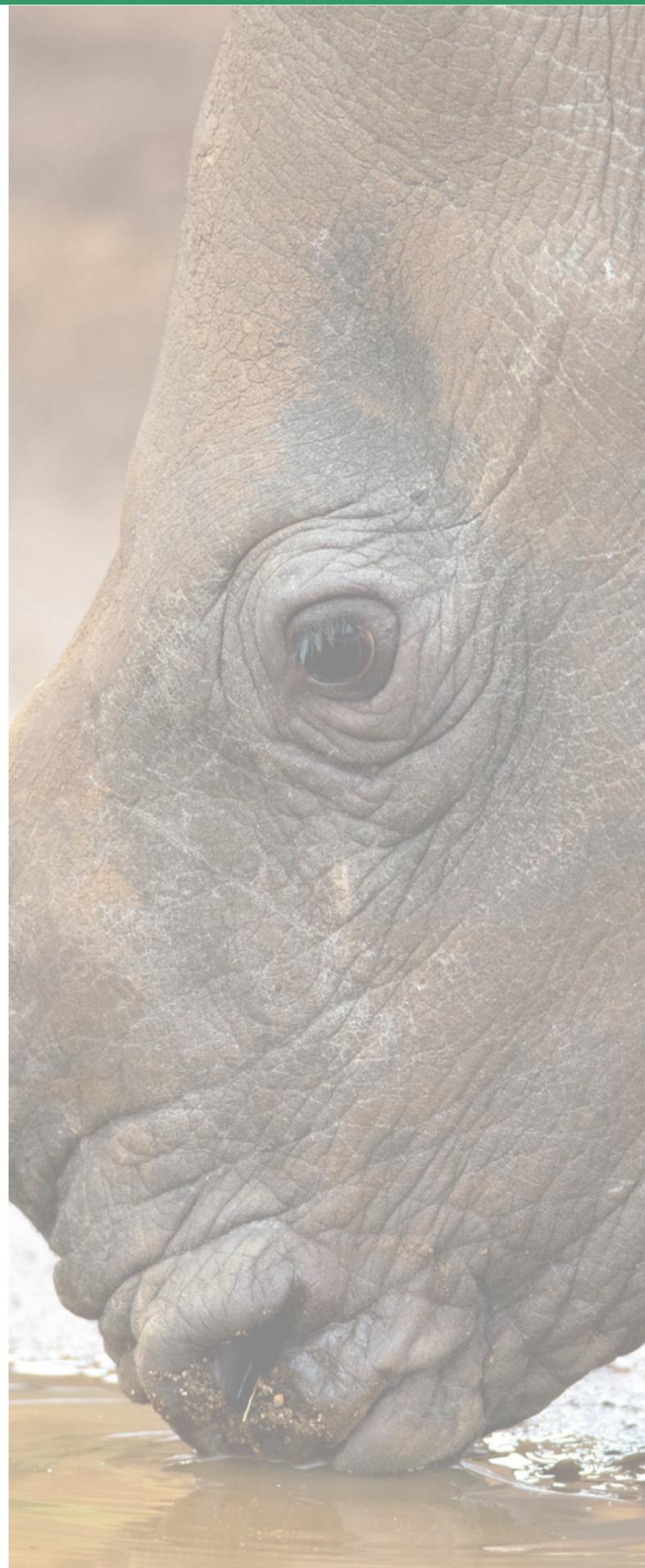
## About the Zululand Rhino Orphanage

The Zululand Rhino Orphanage (ZRO) is a specialised facility set up to assist rhino owners in KwaZulu-Natal South Africa to care for injured and orphaned rhino calves. The goal is to rescue, rehabilitate and then release them back into the wild when they are ready.

The ZRO was established in 2017 when a previous regional orphanage was unfortunately attacked by poachers and had to close for safety and security reasons.

The Zululand Conservation Trust (ZCT) stepped in and built a new facility in a secret location to provide a safe home to the two black rhinos, two white rhinos and one hippo orphan who survived the attack.

ZRO has since taken in a number of rhino calves and have successfully release 8 rhino orphans back into the wild!

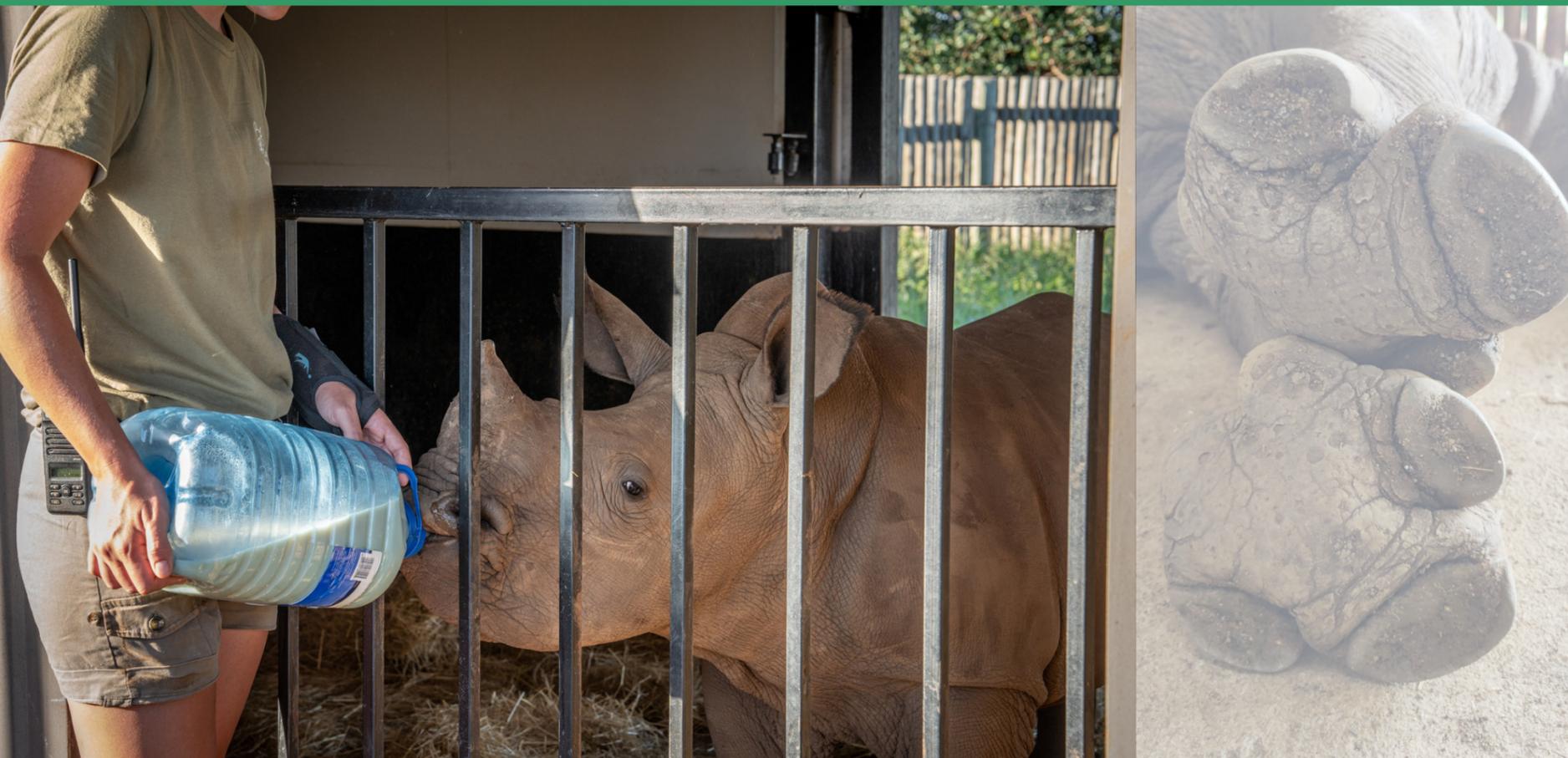


# About the volunteer experience

The facility is closed to the public to avoid stress to the orphans but the good news is that you can come and volunteer with us! As a volunteer you don't only get the chance to meet the orphans but you will also help the staff with the day to day tasks and get involved in some behind the scenes conservation and reserve management activities that might be happening on the reserve (rhino horn trimmings and pangolin monitoring). Our volunteer experience is very intimate as we can only accommodate two participants at a time. This means that you will be personally involved in all of the duties, have a full experience and have the chance to learn a lot. You will really contribute and make a difference to the conservation world.



# A typical day with us



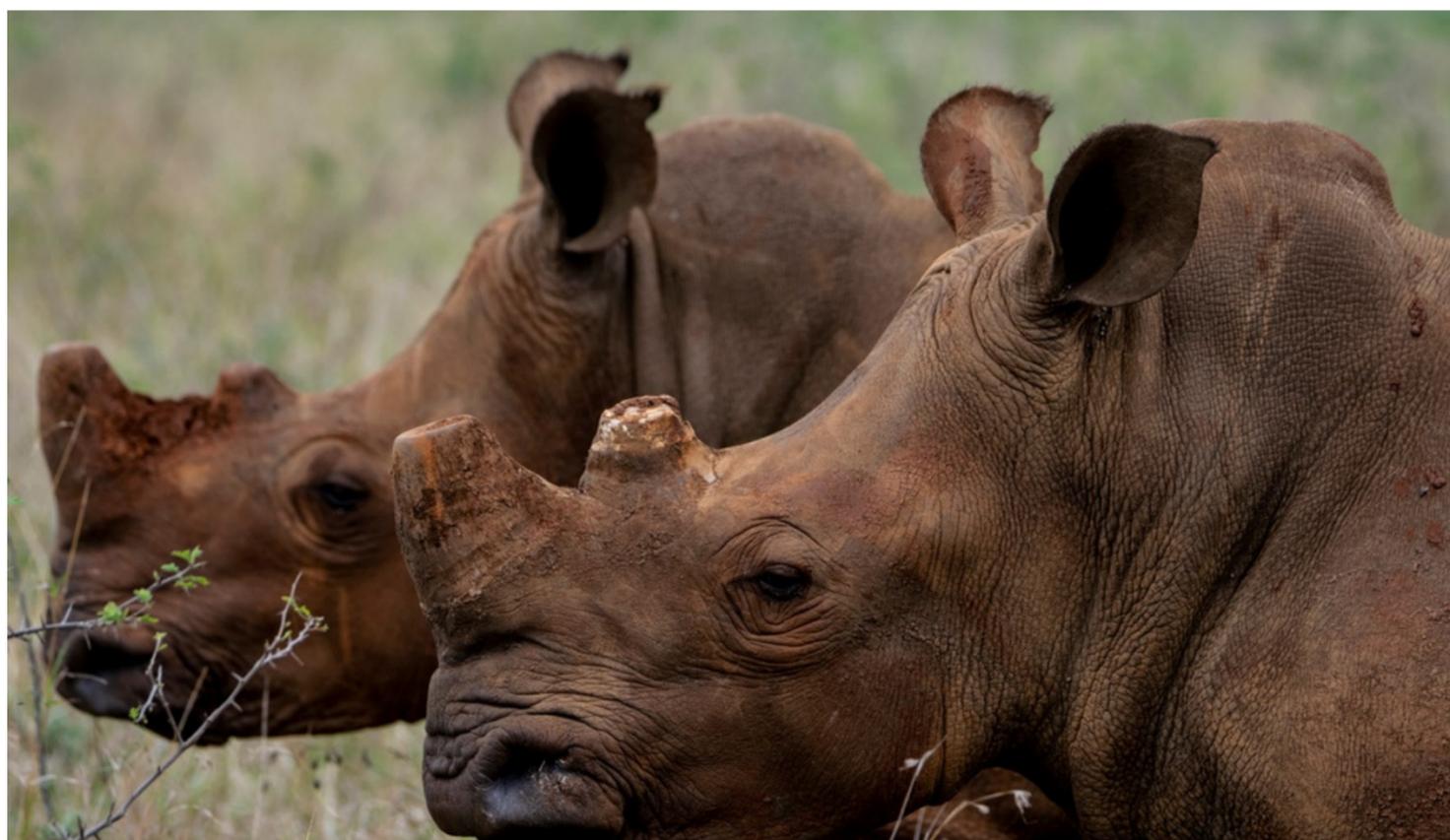
Your day will start as early as 5am in summer or as late as 7am in winter and will begin with feeding and letting the orphans out into their day boma. We also weigh them once a week before letting them out. After letting them out you will assist with cleaning their night bomas which includes removing dung, replacing old hay and feed, cleaning water troughs etc. After this you will weigh and prepare the dry food (teff and lucerne) for the rest of the day. Typically this process takes about two hours. Milk feed times depend on the age of the current orphans. There could be anything between one and six feeds during the day as well as the possibility of night feeds. During the middle of the day you will have some time to relax. If you like to keep busy then you can assist with other duties such as simple admin and data input, gardening, taking footage of the orphans for us or anything else that you can come up with. This is also when you might get the opportunity to get involved with some community and conservation work. In the afternoons or early evenings you will assist with bringing the orphans back in for the night as well as making sure that they have enough dry food.



# Qualities we look for in volunteers

Please understand that we have the responsibility of caring for wild and traumatised rhino orphans and we can't afford to make any mistakes with them. The orphans can be very demanding and sensitive and we need to trust the people who will be interacting with them to not lose all of the progress that we have made.

- Friendly and passionate
- Prepared to work hard and be a team player
- Willing to do physical work and get dirty
- Physically fit and prepared to work long hours
- Have a true love for wildlife and a genuine concern for conservation and community
- Honest and willing to abide by strict rules concerning sharing sensitive information



## Requirements

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Minimum stay of two weeks               | It will take you a little while to get into our routine. Volunteers usually start feeling comfortable after about a week. The longer you stay the more chances you have of being involved in different activities on the reserve such as rhino horn trimmings and pangolin monitoring.  |
| Travel insurance                        | We suggest checking out <a href="http://www.worldnomads.com">www.worldnomads.com</a>  |
| Physically fit and willing to get dirty | Volunteering at the orphanage is a beautiful and rewarding experience but it is not all fun and games. You will be required to work hard and assist in cleaning bomas and sleeping areas which includes removing dung, replacing old hay and feed, cleaning water troughs etc.  |
| Independent                             | This will include cooking for yourself. We have an <b>age restriction of 21</b> years old and we kindly ask you to self-evaluate if you are ready and really interested in this kind of experience.   |
| Self-sufficient                         | We will involve you in as many activities as we can depending on what is happening and how busy things are but there might be some very quiet days where you will have to entertain yourself. You can chill in your room, read a book, watch series or enjoy the company of the rhinos and report back on their behaviour. If you do not like to be alone then we strongly suggest that you come with a friend. |

# Costs

2 weeks

ZAR 20 000

3 weeks

ZAR 28 000

4 weeks

ZAR 36 000

5 weeks

ZAR 42 000

6 weeks

ZAR 48 000

- Costs will **cover** accommodation and all activities
- Costs will **not cover** flights, airport transfers and food
- There is a minimum of 2 weeks stay and dates will be subject to availability
- Please note that we can only accommodate two participants at a time, and they will be required to share a room

## **Optional add-ons** (costs subject to change):

- Full travel support and flight assistance before, during and after your volunteering (starting at ZAR 1 000)
- Airport Transfer (two people at ZAR 5 000)
- E-learning courses on wildlife conservation, veterinary medicine and more (1 module for ZAR 750 or 3 modules for ZAR 2 000)
- A night at a nearby game lodge after your volunteering (starting at ZAR 4 000)



# How to reach us

We are situated in northern KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. For security reasons we will only send out our exact location to participants once they have confirmed their booking. The closest airport is King Shaka International Airport in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. A connecting flight can be booked from King Shaka International Airport to Richards Bay Airport where we can arrange for a transfer to our facility at an additional cost.

## Accommodation and facilities

Our accommodation is quite unique! It is a comfortable converted container with two single beds, a drawer, a personal bathroom with basin, mirror, toilet and shower. The container is also equipped with an air conditioner and Wi-Fi is available. The kitchen is communal but big and fully equipped. You will have access to a fridge and cupboard for your personal food. We do not provide food but we will plan trips to town once a week. We have covered parking available for vehicles.

### What to pack

#### For work:

- Gumboots
- Hat
- Head torch (one with a red light/filter would be best)
- Old clothes that you are willing to get dirty
- Rain jacket
- Socks
- Sunscreen
- Walking boots
- Warm jacket and warm clothes if you are coming during the winter season

#### For leisure:

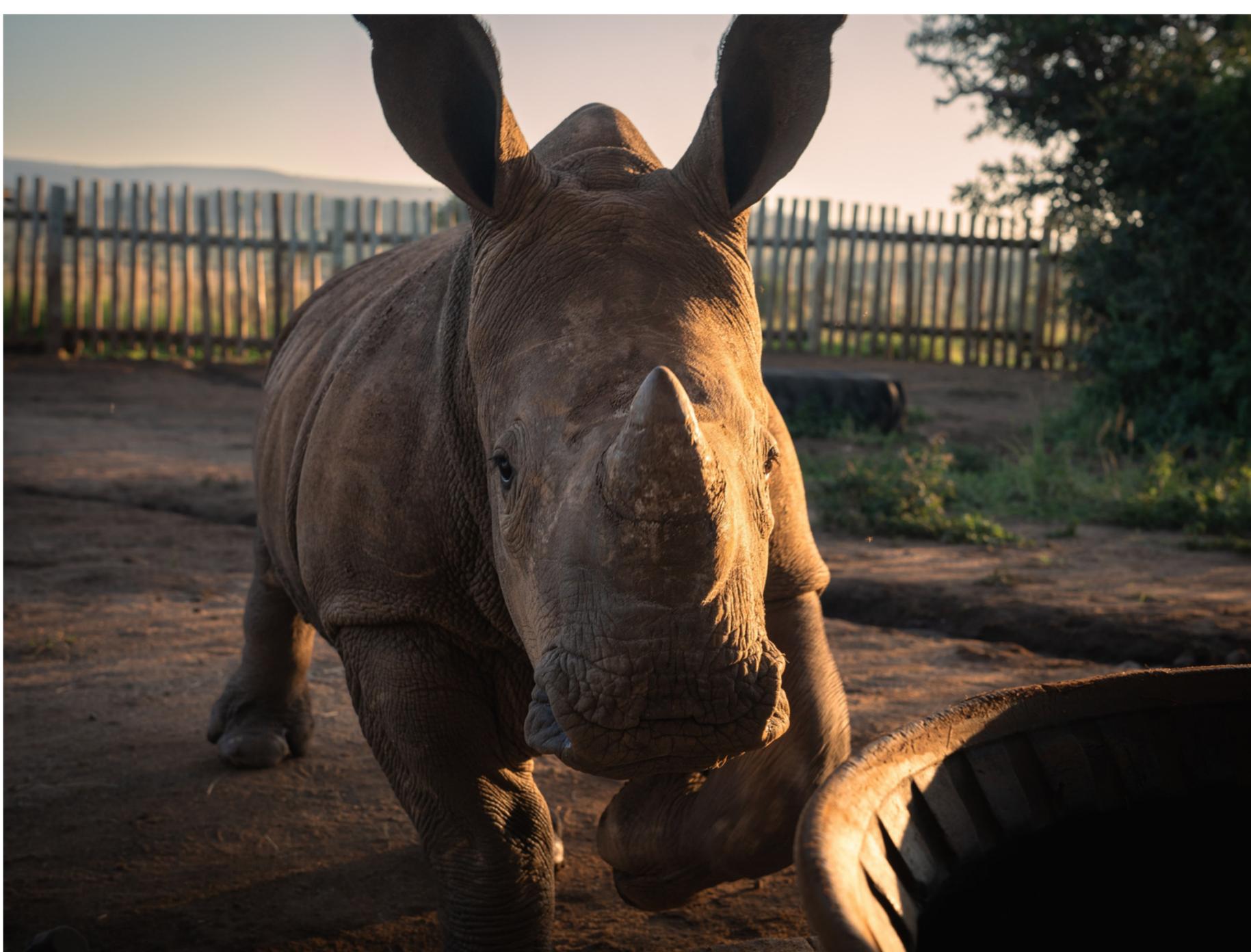
- Books
- Camera
- Comfortable clothes
- Laptop and other devices
- Notebook/journal
- Sandals/slops

#### Extras:

- All toiletries
- Insect repellent
- Towels

### Recommended shopping list

- Bread
- Butter
- Cereals
- Cheese
- Coffee and tea
- Eggs
- Frozen vegetables
- Garlic
- Large bottles of water
- Meat
- Milk
- Mushrooms
- Onions
- Pasta and noodles
- Peppers
- Potatoes
- Rusks
- Salad leaves
- Snacks
- Sugar
- Tomatoes
- Various condiments including salt and pepper
- Washing powder



## Useful information

- We are situated in a low-risk malaria area in Northern KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. We advise you to consult with your doctor for any vaccinations or about the use of malaria tablets before travelling to South Africa.
- South Africa has nine different provinces and there are 11 official languages! In KwaZulu-Natal the two main languages spoken are Afrikaans and Zulu but you will always be able to communicate in English.
- Zululand is humid with sunny days and cold mornings/evenings during winter (April-October) and rainy and HOT days during summer (November-March).
- The South African currency is the Rand (ZAR) and it is the only currency you can use here but credit/debit cards are widely accepted and recommended. We recommend that you do not travel with too much cash on you. You will be able to withdraw money from a safe ATMs.
- For visa requirements we suggest that you to check with the South African high commission in your country of residence.
- The international dialling code for South Africa is +27 or 0027. While at the orphanage you will have access to Wi-Fi to make calls and keep in touch with your friends and family.
- Your accommodation will have electricity for you to charge electrical devices, however, you will need to bring the correct adapter plug (three round pin). The voltage in South Africa is V220.