

TEACHERS OF GEOGRAPHY, SCIENCE AND HISTORY: RHINO CONSERVATION!

Want to involve your students in rhino conservation in Africa?

Want students to learn through real world experiences?

Want to discuss issues with people who protect and conserve wildlife?



The Cattle for Wildlife program is a not-for-profit program. Its aims are conservation and education. Assisting endangered rhinos and other species, Cattle for Wildlife works with the OI Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya.

www.olpejetaconservancy.org

There are various ways to get involved. Created in by an Australian teacher with 25 years' experience, previous schools' involvement have included:

- Integration in the Australian Curriculum in order to teach Science, Geography and History. This has included discussions with OI Pejeta rangers and conservationists
- Raising cattle in order to financially assist those who are working to save rhinos
- Raising funds in order to assist the plight of rhinos

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WHAT IS CATTLE FOR WILDLIFE?

Cattle for Wildlife is an innovative Australian initiative designed to financially assist Kenya wildlife rangers who risk their lives daily protecting the endangered black rhino and critically endangered northern white rhino. The threats to the rangers' lives are very real – approximately 1,000 rangers worldwide have been killed by poachers and militia in the last ten years. Supporting the rangers and their families provides the best opportunity to protect the endangered rhinos. *Cattle for Wildlife* works in partnership with OI Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya, the largest black rhino sanctuary in East Africa. The *Cattle for Wildlife* programme also works in conjunction with Australian schools and pastoralists.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAMME WORK? Participating Australian farmers raise cattle on behalf of the Kenyan rangers who receive payment from the sale of the cattle. If no rhinos are poached the rangers receive the full proceeds. If some poaching occurs, then reduced funds are provided. Normally rangers earn as little as \$4 a day. Their crucial work needs to be rewarded and this also acts as a deterrent to poaching. This model safeguards the investment of donors as funds are only handed over to the rangers when rhino conservation outcomes are delivered. We have also had direct donations for the rangers.

WHY CATTLE? The Kenyans who protect rhinos on OI Pejeta have been semi nomadic cattle farmers for generations. They have strong emotional and cultural connections to cattle. *Cattle for Wildlife* seeks to build links between them “owning” cattle in Australia and wildlife conservation.

HOW CAN YOUR SCHOOL GET INVOLVED?

There are many educational opportunities available through school participation in *Cattle for Wildlife*. Schools can link with local cattle farmers who are raising cattle as part of the *Cattle for Wildlife* program or develop new relationships with farmers in their area who may wish to get involved with the program. Students can also learn about the processes involved in raising cattle, explore the differences experienced by Australian and Kenyan pastoralists and learn more about the threatened rhinos they are helping to save. There may also be opportunities to link with other participating schools, with the corporate sector involved in supporting the program and with conservationists in Kenya.

EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES

Schools involved in the program have integrated their involvement with *Cattle for Wildlife* into the Australian Curriculum into wider topics. High Schools have developed units in the Geography and History components at grade 9 and 10 level. District Schools have helped raise cattle in their Agricultural programs. Communication with OI Pejeta Conservancy, including through Skype, has provided authentic experiences for students. For ideas, discussion or to see developed units please contact Mark Prichard. program and with conservationists in Kenya.