Black Rhino
The Endangered Giant

The Black Rhino is one of the largest animals to have ranged the African savanna and has been a fixture in African lore for many years. Today, however, this giant of the grasslands is on the brink of extinction. Its numbers have decreased from several hundred thousand animals in 1900 to less than 4,000 today.

Note the word "Endangered" stamped across this Tanzania issue celebrating "Lionism and Wildlife Conservation."

One of a 1997, six stamp issue from Zimbabwe re: CITES - the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

Black Rhino Range
Historic (Red)
Current (Yellow)

Illegal poaching for the international rhino horn trade is by far the greatest threat to these animals. The horns are used in the making of traditional medicines. The net result of this illegal trade is the elevation of black rhinos conservation status to "Critically Endangered".

A 1972 Rwandan issue featuring Akagera National Park. Rhinos are re-located there for their safety and for breeding purposes.

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND FIRST DAY COVER

Determined efforts by national governments and conservation groups have resulted in black rhino numbers having stabilized over the past 25 years. That number, however, remains critically low and more is required if we are to save this beautiful and unique animal from extinction.