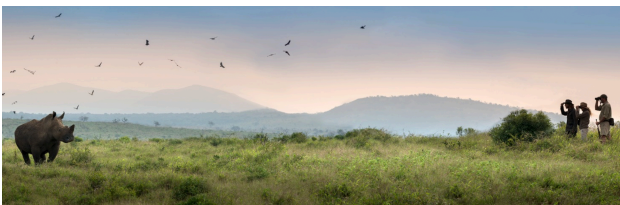


Phinda Private Game Reserve, South Africa

Phinda Private Game Reserve is a 70 000 acre private game reserve situated in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. Phinda's protected wildlife encompass Africa's big five in addition to 436 bird species, living across seven distinct ecosystems, including rare sand forest.

At Phinda (meaning *Return*), 28 622 hectares of farming land was reclaimed for wildlife. Cheetah, rhino and pangolin are actively protected, with many locally extinct species having been re-introduced over the last 30 years. Along with Africa Foundation, the reserve works closely with neighbouring communities, employing locally and investing in community education and welfare. Sustainability practices are a daily priority and include the elimination of plastic bottles and a focus on energy-saving initiatives.



Ashia-Phinda Cheetah Project

In this pioneering collaboration between Ashia Cheetah Sanctuary and &Beyond Phinda Private Game Reserve, cheetahs born in captivity are returned to the wild of a protected reserve to increase genetic diversity - an Achilles heel for a threatened species like the cheetah. Reduced genetic diversity or inbreeding comes at a high price: reduced litter size, physical deformities, susceptibility to disease, lower cub survival and compromised fitness. In the course of this project, the introduced cheetah will be closely monitored and data will be gathered for a scientific study to gauge the potential of similar introductions on other reserves.






Pangolin Re-introduction Project

The endangered pangolin is the planet's most-trafficked animal due to the demand for their scales in Chinese and Vietnamese traditional medicine. Being locally extinct in Africa for decades, &Beyond in cooperation with the African Pangolin Working Group have re-introduced the species to its once natural habitat. Constant monitoring, research and protection against poachers is vital to keeping the species alive in Phinda.

White Rhino Conservation

In 1991 the White Rhino was introduced to Phinda for conservation purposes. 30 years later the population has grown enough to translocate some rhinos to countries like Rwanda in order to establish a brand new founder population there.

Impact:

-  Re- introduction of locally extinct species
-  Community education and employment
-  Species re-research and protection against poachers

