

Name _____

The Role of a Rhinoceros in the Ecosystem

Short Answer Key

1. An “ecosystem engineer” is an animal that changes its environment in ways that help other species. Rhinos are an example because they clear plants and spread seeds.
2. During the dry season, rhinos dig into riverbeds to find water, creating waterholes for smaller animals.
3. Rhinos eat fruits and leaves, which help them spread seeds.
4. Rhinos are threatened by habitat loss and poaching.
5. Conservationists protect rhinos because they play a key role in maintaining healthy ecosystems and supporting other animals.

