

## New bags from old bags.

A charity located in St. Petersburg, Russia, are making use of the tonnes of litter and waste which pile up in the streets and bins every year. Sifting through the mountains of trash, the workers at 99recycle find materials which can be best reworked into items of clothing and accessories. In 2020, 99recycle won an award for their products which include: pencil and laptop cases, school bags, backpacks, skateboards and even a bicycle! They encourage people to think carefully before throwing out items which could be reused or recycled.

So far they have reused 70 tonnes of plastic and used this to create new products- which is great news for the environment.



## Endangered rhino population increases.

Nepal's population of their endangered one horned rhinoceros has increased by 16% over the last 6 years. This makes Nepal the third country in the world to record an increase in the number of their native rhinoceros.

The new National Rhino Count 2021, estimates the current number stands at 752 individuals up from 645 in 2015. Rhinos were counted across the country between March 22 and April 10, including within four national parks, including Chitwan.

In the 1960s there were only around 100 left in the country.

"The overall growth in population size is indicative of ongoing protection and habitat management efforts by protected area authorities, despite challenging contexts these past years," said Ghana Gurung, WWF representative.

Meanwhile in Africa, during 2020, not one rhino was killed or lost its horn due to poaching. A record which had not happened since 1999. Long may it continue, and these beautiful creatures can live safely and in peace.

# Happy News

## Wildflower corridor scheme launched to boost insect numbers

In response to the declining numbers of insect and minibeast in Great Britain, a conservation group called Bugline are working to create B-Lines- a network of insect friendly highways for the creatures to live in.

Sadly, insects and small animals are at risk from habitat loss, pesticides, removal of grassed gardens and pollution. As a result of human damage, the insect population is believed to have shrunk by over 76% in the last 30 years.

To increase the number of wildflower-rich places, the areas need to be large enough to provide everything that pollinators need to thrive. Through regional projects, they have worked with water companies, schools, businesses, farmers, highways managers and local authorities. To date, they have created over 450 hectares of wildflower-rich habitat for pollinating insects across England, Scotland and Wales – that's the equivalent of 450 football pitches!

If you want to see if you live on or near a B-Line and want to make your garden more insect friendly, please visit <https://www.buglife.org.uk/blog/b-lines-what-is-it-all-about/> for more information, or even purchase some wildflower seeds and get sowing!

## Reindeer bridges built to connect broken habitats



Every year, millions of animals migrate to and from warmer climates to build nests, give birth to their young and find better feeding grounds. This is no different to the mass migration of Sweden's reindeer population. However, as one of Sweden's largest motorways passes straight through the centre of the reindeer territory, many were sadly being struck by cars, being killed, or severely

injured. To combat this, a team of inventors have created animal viaducts over the motorway. The animals can cross safely on the grass and tree filled bridge, with humans in cars travelling safely underneath. These schemes have been used in the past- such as hedgehog highways, but this new larger invention paves the way to helping larger animals move safely through their habitat. How wonderful!