



ILLEGAL HUNTING OF RHINOCEROS WORKSHOP

Rhino poachers are in for a torrid time. This is the clear message emanating from a three day workshop on the illegal hunting of rhinoceros held in Durban on 21, 22 and 23 June 1989.

The workshop was convened by the KwaZulu Bureau of Natural Resources under the auspices of the Rhino and Elephant Foundation and attracted delegates from most southern African conservation bodies.

The aim of the workshop was to devise practical, operative strategies to ensure the conservation of rhino in the region. This step was necessitated by the alarming decline of rhino and extensive poaching activities throughout southern Africa.

The delegates, all of whom were practical field men with many years of experience to contribute, paid particular attention to law enforcement and management strategies as well as the important aspect of neighbour relations.

Owing to the obvious need for secrecy, many of the details discussed at the workshop could not be made public. Delegates were, however, unanimous in their agreement that the workshop had been a success. Mr Clive Walker noted that an important development at the workshop was to place greater emphasis on communicating with people living adjacent to areas where rhino occur.

"In the past, conservationists generally have been guilty of paying too little attention to this aspect", he said. "It was now, however, clear that communities living adjacent to game reserves had to receive more tangible benefits from the game reserves and thus have a share in the conservation of these areas".

Another aspect noted by Mr Walker was the question of low salaries paid to fieldmen which urgently requires addressing if we wish to retain the best-trained and motivated force. For far too long the conservation cause has lost experienced men, no matter how dedicated, who are lured away to the private sector. They are, after all, in the front line in the defence of rhino and we can no longer afford to lose men of this calibre.

RHINO AUCTION RAISES R116 000

An auction of 52 paintings and sculptures of the black rhinoceros was held at the Everard Read Gallery on 22 November 1989, and raised R116 220 for the Rhino and Elephant Foundation.

Organised by Style Magazine and the Everard Read Gallery, the auction featured works by numerous artists including Arlene Amaler-Raviv; Armando Baldinelli; Gerhard Batha; Debbie Bell; Norman Catherine; Richard Chambers; Reshada Crouse; Keith Dietrich; Jean Doyle; Zakkie Eloff; Nel Erasmus; Bronwen Findlay; Pippa Hobbs; Robert Hodgins and Retief van Wyk; Noel Hodnett; Karen Jarosynska; Tadeusz Jarosynski; Keith Joubert; Marlene Kapitza-Meyer; William Kentridge; Gregory Kerr; Gillian King; Isolde Krams; Braam Kruger; Berenice Michelow; Angela Murray; Andre Naude; Sheila Nowers; Nina Romm; Pieter Roux; Allan Schwarz; Lucky Sibiya; Penny Siopis; Pippa Skotnes; Richard Smith; Helmut Starcke; Simon Stone; Giulio Tambolini; Martin Tose; Clive van den Berg; Clementina van der Walt; Ronnie van der Walt; Louis van Heerden; Gail van Lingen; Andre van Vuuren; Andrew Verster; Harold Voigt; Margaret Vorster; Jeremy Wafer; and Sonja Zytkow.

We sincerely thank everyone whose contributions made the evening a great success.