custos

- Renosterkalf vir Augrabies
- Kruger Park's key grasses

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Inhoud ○ Contents

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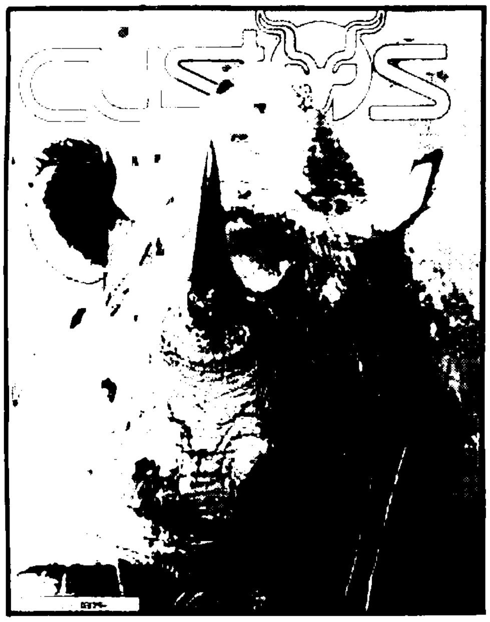

Cover photograph: Black rhino by Anthony Hall-Martin.
Voorbladfoto: Swartrenoster deur Anthony Hall-Martin.

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Volgende uitgawe

Van kleins af word kinders geleer dat daar net een goeie slang is en dit is 'n dooie een. In 'n reeks van sewe artikels wat in April begin en al om die ander maand geplaas sal word, probeer Jo Lynn om die vrees vir slange en die wolhaarstories wat oor dié reptiele vertel word, die nek in te slaan. Ook slange moet bewaar word.

Next issue

Man is brought up to believe that the only good snake is a dead one. In a series of seven articles, starting in April and running in alternate issues, Jo Lynn will try to place the fear of and tall stories surrounding snakes in perspective and show that conservation applies to them too.

Outlook ○ Uitkyk ○ Outlook

Die slagspreuk van die Nasionale Parkeraad is "custos naturae". Dit beteken "beskermer van die natuur" — vandaar die naam *CUSTOS*.

The motto of the National Parks Board is "custos naturae", meaning "guardian of nature" — hence the name *CUSTOS*.

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Tydige optrede

Tydige optrede is die towerwoorde wat byna daagliks in 'n omgewingbewaringskonteks gebruik word, byvoorbeeld met betrekking tot oorbevolking, skade aan die osoonlaag, uitwissing van bepaalde ekosisteme soos reënwoude, ondeurdagte landboumetodes wat erosie tot gevolg het en besoedeling.

Baie van hierdie vraagstukke is vir Jan en alleman bloot vae konsepte wat hom tog nie direk raak nie. Maar wanneer elkeen die gevolge aan die lyf begin voel, sal dit in meeste gevalle ongelukkig te laat wees om die agteruitgang om te keer.

'n Goeie voorbeeld van tydige optrede was toe KwaZulu se Buro vir Natuurlike Hulpbronne verlede jaar tien swartrenosters van die Ndumu-wildreservaat (p. 24) aan die Nasionale Krugerwildtuin geskenk het. Die beweegrede hiervoor was Ndumu se ligging aan die Mosambiekse grens. Die buro het gemeen dat die interne struwelinge en nypende voedseltekort net oorkant die grens die swartrenosters se kwesbaarheid net verder sou verhoog.

Nog 'n swartrenoster-suksesverhaal is die hervestiging van ses diere in die Augrabies-waterval Nasionale Park. 'n Tweede renostertjie (p. 10) is teen die einde van verlede jaar gebore — ongetwyfeld 'n teken dat die diere goed aangepas het.

Waar omgewingsvraagstukke na verwagting in die toekoms 'n al-hoe-groter invloed sal hê, is dit belangrik dat die kind vroeg al 'n positiewe gesindheid jeens die omgewing sal ontwikkel. Op die formele en informele opvoedingsinstansies rus 'n groot verantwoordelikheid om dié bewustheid (p. 23) te help ontbrand.

Custos hoop om met die nuwe *Junior Custos* wat van April in die tydskrif ingesluit sal word, 'n nog groter bydrae tot omgewingsopvoeding te lewer. Die eerste reeks sal spesifiek oor nasionale parke handel en later uitbrei na ander onderwerpe.

Timeous action

Timeous action is the magic word used almost daily in an environmental conservation context, especially with regard to aspects such as over-population, the depletion of the ozone layer, pollution, the elimination of certain ecosystems such as rain forests and negligent farming methods resulting in erosion.

For the man in the street, many of these problems are merely vague concepts which do not affect him directly, and by the time he has come to realize the effects of these aspects, it will, in most instances, be too late to repair the damage which has already been done.

A good example of timeous action was observed last year when KwaZulu's Bureau of National Resources donated ten black rhinoceroses from the Ndumu game reserve to the Kruger National Park (p. 24). This move was prompted by a realization of Ndumu's precarious location on the Mozambique border. The Bureau was of the opinion that the internal disputes and acute shortages of food just across the border would increase the rhinoceroses' vulnerability.

Another black rhinoceros success story is the relocation of six specimens in the Augrabies Falls National Park. A second rhinoceros calf (p. 10) was born at the end of last year — undoubtedly a sign that the animals have had no problem adapting to their new environment.

Since environmental questions are expected to have an ever-increasing effect on the future, it is vitally important that we encourage our children to develop a positive attitude towards the environment from an early age. The responsibility to kindle an awareness of the environment rests heavily on formal and informal educational institutions (p. 23).

Custos hopes that the new *Junior Custos*, to be included in the publication from April, will make a positive contribution to environmental education. The first in the series will deal specifically with the national parks, and will later be expanded to deal with other topics as well.