



THE Horn NEWS UPDATE

Issue 4 Autumn 1999

In memory of Kenya's Rhino Man

It was the first day of August and I had recently arrived in Kenya to follow the translocation of eighteen black rhinos which Save the Rhino International had helped fund. An email was waiting for me - it was from Jane at the office in London and read. "Michael Werikhe is sick and was admitted to hospital ten days ago. Can you find out more?"

It had been on Michael's recommendation that we supported this translocation programme and I had been surprised not to have seen him here in Nairobi National Park with the capture team. I phoned the hospital immediately and with some surprise was put straight through to Michael himself, and yet he was not himself at all, in fact I had to ask him twice to repeat his name. It must be the drugs, I thought, but as no one seemed able to tell me what was wrong with him I decided to

fly to Mombasa to find out for myself. Armed with biltong, Swiss chocolates and magazines I arrived at the Pandaya Memorial Hospital. I was shocked to find Michael surrounded by friends and family, heads bent in solemn prayer. An aunt of his, I think, was leading these and I was invited to join in, but I held back, not wanting to intrude and, whilst Michael could not see me, I could see him, and I was unprepared for what I saw.

Propped up by a couple of pillows he lay naked but for a sheet over him. A drip fed him through his nose and, through his glasses, his eyes looked this way and that, rolling around, out of control. He was frightened, and yet it was obvious how much he fought against it by the way his legs moved around, as if on an imaginary bicycle. Kenya's Rhino Man - who had walked across continents to publicise the rhino's plight - was reduced to this helpless state.

The only thing I could do was to guarantee payment for stronger drugs, which he didn't respond to. Michael died less than forty eight hours later on Monday 9th August at 10.00am. Africa had lost an incredible ambassador, the conservation world a prodigy, and I, a friend.

The first time I saw Michael Werikhe was when he gave a talk about rhinos. It was at the Nairobi Park Main Gate and, under an acacia tree, this studious looking man talked eloquently about the state of the black rhino.

The armchair conservationists of Nairobi listened attentively, for they knew this man was the future for wildlife conservation. They also all wanted him to work for them. It was rare for an African to take up a cause of this nature and, having walked continents to publicise the rhino's plight, they needed no convincing of his commitment. But Michael was not to be bought, and he remained defiant that he could be more effective working independently, driven by his own passions, not by the dictates of a bureaucratic organisation.

As for me, his words left an indelible stamp on my memory, but it wasn't for another six years that we were to meet. I had set up Save the Rhino International and, in its third year, I felt it was time to do a walk of our own. I wanted to publicise the plight of the rhino to the people of Africa - the ultimate guardians of wildlife.

Michael Werikhe lived and worked in Mombasa,

and this was where I wanted to start our walk, ending up on the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. I remember vividly our first meeting outside the Castle Hotel in Mombasa. He had put on some weight since I last saw him but the energy was there and it was infectious.

We talked for hours about rhinos, people, and the fundraising expedition I was planning.

He agreed to become the Patron of the walk and,



without any resistance from his employers, took three or four days off to retrace the route with me. Three months later I returned to Mombasa with a team and rhino costume. Michael hadn't wasted any time, and with boundless energy and efficiency he had whipped up tremendous local support for the walk. The press were briefed that the Rhino Man was on the move again and thus covered it from every angle. Somewhat embarrassed, but in high spirits, I remember walking through Mombasa, the traffic at a halt and people lining the streets cheering! Accompanying us were hundreds of school children, they surrounded the rhino costume and held up a banner saying "Conservation on the move". I began to realise who had been behind all this: Kenya's conservation hero was on the road again and we were very fortunate to be a part of it. It didn't take me very long to realise that Michael's priorities lay with the rural communities who lived side by side with wildlife. Whenever I →

The Horn Newsletter

Editor Jane Morris
Sub-Editor Jo Shaw
Production Neil Bridgland

Save The Rhino International
Winchester Wharf, Clink Street, London SE1 9DG

Tel 0171 357 7474
Fax 0171 357 9666
E-mail save@rhinos.demon.co.uk
Internet http://www.savetherhino.co.uk

Director David Stirling
Events Manager Neil Bridgland
Projects Manager Jo Shaw
Events Co-ordinator Robin Lines
Rhino Drum Co-ordinator Tim Burley

Registered Charity no. 1035072

Design Paul Allen
Photography Mike Hearn
James Nairne
Nigel Charman
Print Edward Dudfield Ltd

Patrons Douglas Adams, Martina Navratilova
Trustees Robert Devereux (Chairman), Tim Evans,
Christina Graham, Peregrine Moncreiffe,
George Stephenson, James Sunley,
Tim Torrington
Rhino Elders Tom Kenyon-Slaney, Tammy Maier,
Mark Millington, Gerald Scarfe, Patrick
Sheriff, Edward Strange, Robert Swan,
William Todd Jones, Rupert Younger

Sand Rivers Rhino Trust, Tanzania

Following our introduction of Sand Rivers as a new SRI project in the last editions of 'The Horn' we are pleased to announce that Save the Rhino International and The Wellcome Trust have pledged a total of £13,800.00 to the Sand Rivers Rhino Project in 1999.

The Sand Rivers Rhinoceros Trust is situated within the Selous Game Reserve (GR), the largest protected wildlife area in Africa and a designated UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The demise of the black rhino throughout Africa over the last three decades is well documented, but the black rhino population of the Selous is believed to have been cut by 98% over an intense ten year poaching period between 1976 and 1986.

The SRI and Wellcome Trust funding has enabled the Project Coordinator, Hassan Sachedina, to continue the surveillance of the 55,000 sq ft Selous GR over the last 6 months, throughout the wet season.

The infrastructure within the park has been developed - a road has been cut to allow access to the Northern area, and rangers facilities at the base station at Kidai have been improved.

Monitoring the rhino by foot patrol is difficult as the thick vegetation and widespread water sources during the wet season scatters the population. And severe poaching in the area has meant that the Selous rhino have become nocturnal and secretive. We tackled this with aerial survey flights. No rhino carcasses were observed and the flights acted as a deterrent to poachers.

The survey found that poaching has severely depleted the Selous population, there are thought to be just one hundred rhino remaining in Selous, this tiny number forms 70% of the total black rhino population in Tanzania.

The remaining rhino are fragmented throughout the Selous ecosystem and this small population of isolated individuals has a high risk of genetic problems through inbreeding.

The short-term aim at Sand Rivers is to fit radio-collars on as many of the rhino as possible, making it easier to monitor and protect the scattered population.

The long-term aim is to establish a fenced sanctuary where they can be guarded from poachers and will form a viable breeding population.

Radio-collars will ease the procedure of translocating them to the new sanctuary. To establish a project such as this will require a great deal of research and funding, SRI will continue to support this essential work and will keep you informed of developments.

Jo Shaw

→ spoke to him from London his persistent worry was that of the weather and what effect it would be having on the farmers. He knew that a drought, coupled with hungry elephants, would break them and further widen the divide between African people and wildlife. Consequently, most of the conservation work Save the Rhino funded in Tsavo was community based.

Over the next few years Michael made numerous trips overseas to the US and UK. He became one of Disney's Conservation Heroes alongside such luminaries as Jane Goodall and George Schaller. Earlier this year he was invited by the UK Rhino group as African keynote speaker for the "Mayday for Rhinos" at the Royal Geographical Society. However, his most important work was back at

home with his people. His ability to make himself heard, to be respected by so many people, stemmed from his insistence to remain independent and receive no special benefits. Some say he had a Saint-like quality about him, but most Europeans never understood him, particularly the ones who lived in Africa. How could this humble African devote so much of his time to conservation and not want to benefit from it?

His altruism knew no bounds, and on his death the BBC World Service nominated him 'African of the Millennium' - a fitting tribute to a man who, with no formal training or financial backing, showed what could be done with determination and faith in Africa and its people.

David Stirling

MICHAEL WERIKHE CONSERVATION FUND APPEAL

THE DEATH OF MICHAEL WERIKHE IN MOMBASA, KENYA ON 9TH AUGUST 1999 WAS A GREAT LOSS TO THE CONSERVATION WORLD AND TO AFRICA.

Nominated as the BBC's African of the Millennium and known internationally as Kenya's Rhino Man, Michael walked across three continents to raise funds and awareness for the plight of the rhino. He was Patron of SRI's 1994 Kilimanjaro Climb and worked tirelessly, not only as Save the Rhino's voluntary representative in Kenya, but also in an independent capacity. He was driven by his passion for rhino conservation and his deep humility. Most recently Michael came to us with the proposal to translocate 16 rhino across Kenya to improve the breeding rate and increase numbers throughout the country. All at SRI were shocked and saddened to learn of his death and are committed to keeping his name alive by establishing the Michael Werikhe

Conservation Fund.

The primary and long-term aim of the Michael Werikhe Conservation Fund is to continue Michael's life's work of protecting and re-establishing the rhino in Kenya, focusing particularly on Tsavo National Park. In Michael's own words "The future of the rhino is in Tsavo". The rhino flourished there historically and this programme will ensure it will do so again.

There are now 54 black rhino in Tsavo National Park.

The money will be used to provide ongoing security for the translocated rhinos whilst they become established in their new habitat in Tsavo National Park.

Please give what you can, all money donated will go directly to the Fund.

TO HELP US CONTINUE MICHAEL'S INVALUABLE WORK, PLEASE FILL IN THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN IT TODAY TO - MICHAEL WERIKHE CONSERVATION FUND, C/O SAVE THE RHINO INTERNATIONAL, WINCHESTER WHARF CLINK STREET LONDON SE1 9DG

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____ Daytime Phone No. _____

I enclose a cheque / postal order / CAF voucher payable to
MICHAEL WERIKHE CONSERVATION FUND Amount £ _____

Please debit my credit card (VISA/Access/Mastercard/Switch)
Amount £ _____

Credit Card No _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

Expiry Date ____ / ____ / ____ Issue Number (Switch only) ____ / ____

Rhino Adventures 2000

Rhino Trek Nepal - March 2000 Led personally by Doug Scott, the first Briton to climb Mt Everest, the Rhino Trek Nepal takes place in the Annapurna region of this wonderful Himalayan country. The six-day trek will take in the area of the Annapurna Peaks, plus Machapuchare, the spectacular 'Fishtail' peak. The finale to the trip will be an elephant-back safari in Royal Chitwan National Park, where you may be lucky enough to see Indian rhinos, Bengal tigers, and a whole host of other wildlife.

Sponsorship requirement: £2,300

Rhino Cycle Namibia - May 2000 The 2000 challenge will be based entirely on the hugely successful 1999 Rhino Cycle Namibia - why not refer to the article on page 6.

Sponsorship requirement: £2,300

Rhino Cycle Zimbabwe - June 2000 Following in the footsteps of Dr Livingstone, the Rhino Cycle team will follow the mighty Zambezi River from Victoria Falls to Lake Kariba and Matusadona National Park. You will be cycling during Zimbabwe's winter so the conditions will be perfect - cool mornings, warm days, and clear blue skies. The Zambezi Valley is a wild area and you will cycle through the Chizarira Hills, close to Chizarira National Park, before arriving at Matusadona. Here you will have the opportunity to meet game rangers and track rhino whilst walking in the park.

Sponsorship requirement: £2,300

Rhino Climb Kilimanjaro - October 2000 At just under 20,000ft, Mount Kilimanjaro is the world's highest free-standing mountain and rises spectacularly out of the Serengeti plains close to the Kenya/Tanzania border. The slopes of this volcanic mountain support a range of ecosystems, from tropical rainforest to snow and ice, and from the summit there are incredible views of the Masai grasslands below. After descending the mountain, you will transfer to Tsavo National Park, Kenya, where you will witness the programme to restore the local rhino population and attempt to spot these wonderful animals whilst walking in the bush.

Sponsorship requirement: £2,400

Uganda Challenge - November 2000 SRI is joining forces with the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund to stage the first charity challenge in a country known as the Jewel of Africa. The trip will combine a trek to the summit of Mount Elgon (4300m) with two days of white-water rafting on the River Nile, close to its source at Lake Victoria. Proceeds from the trip will be split between SRI's projects in East Africa and Dian Fossey's projects in Uganda. As an optional extension to the challenge adventurers will have the exciting opportunity to track the rare mountain gorillas in the Virunga mountains.

Sponsorship requirement: £2,500

If you are seeking inspiration as to why you should go on a Rhino Adventure Challenge, why not read the article on page 6 about the Rhino Cycle Namibia 99.



Save The Rhino Trust

The Namibian Black Rhino Fund (NBRF) was established by Save the Rhino International (SRI) in 1994 to provide ongoing support for the rhino populations in Namibia. As an endowment fund, its annual interest from the fund will be available for rhinos in Namibia forever. With the addition of income from the Rhino Cycle Namibia the capital fund total is now nearly £100,000.

We regret that the Chairman of the NBRF Alastair Holberton has resigned his position due to other commitments. We wish him luck and thanks for all his hard work and fundraising. We hope he will remain a firm supporter.

Last year's income was sent to Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) in April. SRT is an independent Namibian organisation which began monitoring the unique desert dwelling black rhino in the Kunene region of Namibia in the early 1980s following an increase in poaching.

In 1984 there were around 60 rhino - there are now 120, and recent surveys show that the population continues to increase. These rhino form the largest free-ranging population in the world.

SRT work with game guards from Namibia's Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) to patrol over 20,000 sq kms of desert in the West Kunene Conservancy (formerly Kaokoland and Damaraland).

Camel patrols led by Mike Hearn (supported by Rhino Rescue and David Shepherd Conservation Fund) are used to access the more inhospitable areas.

SRT works very closely with the local community, involving them in the project and training them to work as game scouts and park rangers, therefore enabling them to gain benefits from their habitat. Support of the local people is integral to the future of the desert dwelling rhino as many people live within close proximity of the rhinos home ranges.

Thanks to the hard work of SRT poaching has been reduced to a minimum and the rhino population has steadily increased - the project is an excellent example of practical community conservation.

The income from the NBRF will be used to finance the monthly rations for the trackers, as well as wages, vehicle running costs and maintenance. We are pleased to be supporting the Director of SRT, Blythe Loutit, and all her team in this vital and very well-respected project.

Jo Shaw 

Rhino Drum Productions

Starting in the office in late September, I realised what a huge project Rhino Drum Productions will turn out to be.

Thanks to a generous donation I have been employed to begin planning for a season of festival performances next summer which will continue to educate in a bright, colourful and inclusive way the message of responsibility towards wildlife and the wilderness.

Whilst the array of huge costumes, provoking images and eclectic performers will go on to hold the attention of audiences across the U.K. next year, it should also pave the way for a tour of African schools in years to come.

I am beginning now to embrace the whole project and recognise that the future of Rhino Drum lies in the artistic genius of its creators, and the hard work and determination of a large number of people over the past three years. I believe that with the support Rhino Drum already enjoys it cannot fail to continue creating successful enlightening performances that contribute to the profile of Save the Rhino International as a whole.

Tim Burley 🐘

The Kenya Translocation

Dawn in Nairobi National Park and Duncan, my cameraman, and I were waiting patiently for the prearranged gathering. This was the game capture unit from the Kenya Wildlife Service and for the past week they had been tranquillising specific black rhinos, loading them into crates and moving them, by road, down to Tsavo East National Park. With an extra sixteen black rhino in Tsavo East the population will increase to fifty four, the largest population of free ranging black rhino in East Africa. The vast National Park of Tsavo had been the main stronghold for black rhinos before they were decimated by poaching in the seventies. By the late eighties there was not a single one left!

Funds raised by Save the Rhino International from Chester Zoo and a group of Eton school boys had secured fifty per cent of the translocation costs and as donors we were invited along on this cold winter's morning to film the day's proceedings.

The spotter helicopter soon took off, the advance ground team had identified a suitable animal for darting and in minutes the low loader lorry, carrying the crates and the entourage of other 4 wheel drive vehicles, snaked through the park in search of this unsuspecting animal.

I was part of the ground crew and Duncan was filming from the helicopter. We stopped on

the plain to see the helicopter hovering just above the ground. It was hard to see the rhino for the dust the chopper was throwing up but it soon became apparent that there were two rhinos, a mother and her sub-adult calf. They had chosen to dart the younger animal and now they had the job of separating mother from daughter. An extraordinary thing happened. Tormented by the helicopter and demonstrating her fierce maternal instincts, the mother rose on her hind legs and struck the helicopter! Meanwhile the daughter had charged down into a gorge. The drug was now taking hold, the rhino staggered helplessly at the bottom of the gorge and collapsed. This was going to be a difficult recovery.

The first on the scene was the head vet, Tom Mboya. He was already checking her pulse and taking blood samples whilst the other vets arrived to give her various injections of antibiotics. Her ears were notched for future identification and after much heaving and pulling we managed to get her in front of the crate. An antidote was injected and with some gentle slapping she awoke and was made to stand up. Twenty people then pushed her and she staggered into the waiting crate. After being winched onto the low loader she set off on the road to Tsavo East - ten hours away!

I was particularly surprised at how tame the

UPDATE FROM KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Kaziranga National Park in North East India has the largest single remaining population of Great One Horned or Indian rhinos. A survey in April 1999 estimated that there was a total of 1,649 rhinos in Kaziranga. There are also 76 rhino in the Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary and an estimated population of 46 rhinos in Orang National Park. Orang National Park also has an estimated population of 23 tigers.

In Autumn last year the whole North Eastern area of India, including the three parks, was hit by terrible floods, initially it was feared that several hundred rhino could be lost. Fortunately the problem was not as bad as was originally thought, only 39 rhino were killed as a result of the situation. In addition 34 rhino were poached in the park between January 1998 and February 1999. The good news is that there has been a 40% total increase of the population in Kaziranga National Park over the last 5 years and to date there have been no reports of serious flooding this year.

Following our Emergency Appeal to assist with the situation in Kaziranga National Park last Autumn we have an update on the situation from Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI).

Money raised during the Appeal and donated by Save the Rhino International was used to repair boats which are essential for access to the parks during the floods. Initially this was earmarked for Kaziranga, but as sufficient funds had been allocated it was used to repair urgently needed boats in Pabitora and Orang.

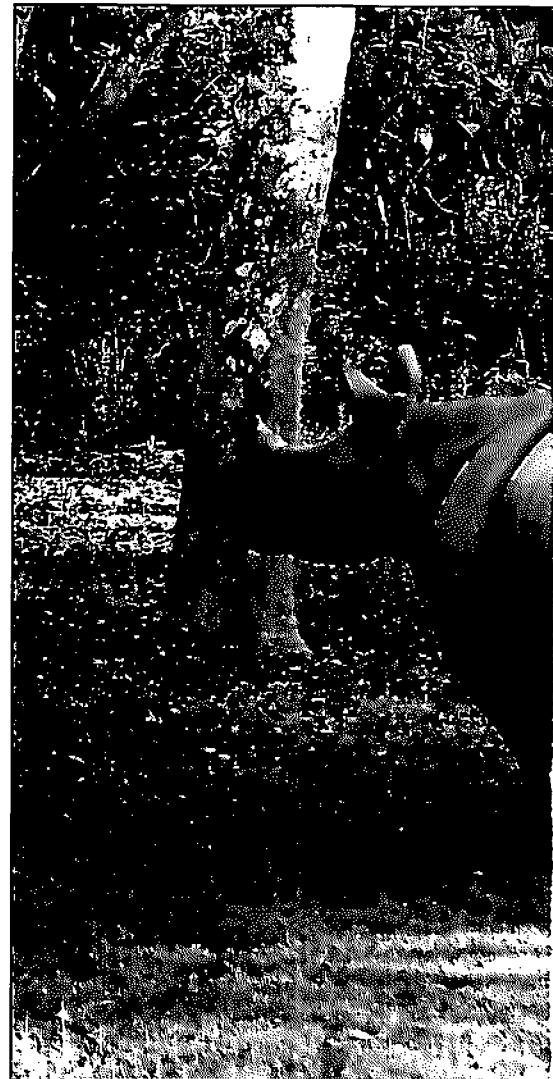
When Kaziranga flooded animals moved across the National Highway 37 onto higher ground and were at risk from speeding vehicles and subject to intensive poaching. Funding has been used to establish patrols which will stop poaching and protect the rhino and other animals on the road. The project will cover food, lodging and travel for 20 people, plus a project co-ordinator and hire costs for a 4WD vehicle.

Clipper Teas, a sponsor of SRI, very kindly arranged the donation of 3 industrial sized water filters, one for Kaziranga, Pabitora and Orang. These will provide drinking water for the dedicated teams of rangers.

WPSI will be maintaining the Emergency Fund established during the floods as it provides the park Directors with the means to act swiftly and at short notice if an emergency situation occurs. Funds will be available not just for flooding, but any crises such as a sudden upsurge in poaching or an outbreak of disease. The fund will be managed by Kulajyoti Lahkar who is working for WPSI, making sure that it is effectively utilised. He will also follow up poaching information and ensure that accused poachers and rhino horn traders are effectively prosecuted through the courts.

Thanks to everyone who responded so generously to the Kaziranga Appeal. SRI will be continuing to support the fund with income from Rhino Trek Nepal. Anyone wishing to donate directly should contact SRI on 0171 357 7474.

Jo Shaw 🐘



Programme

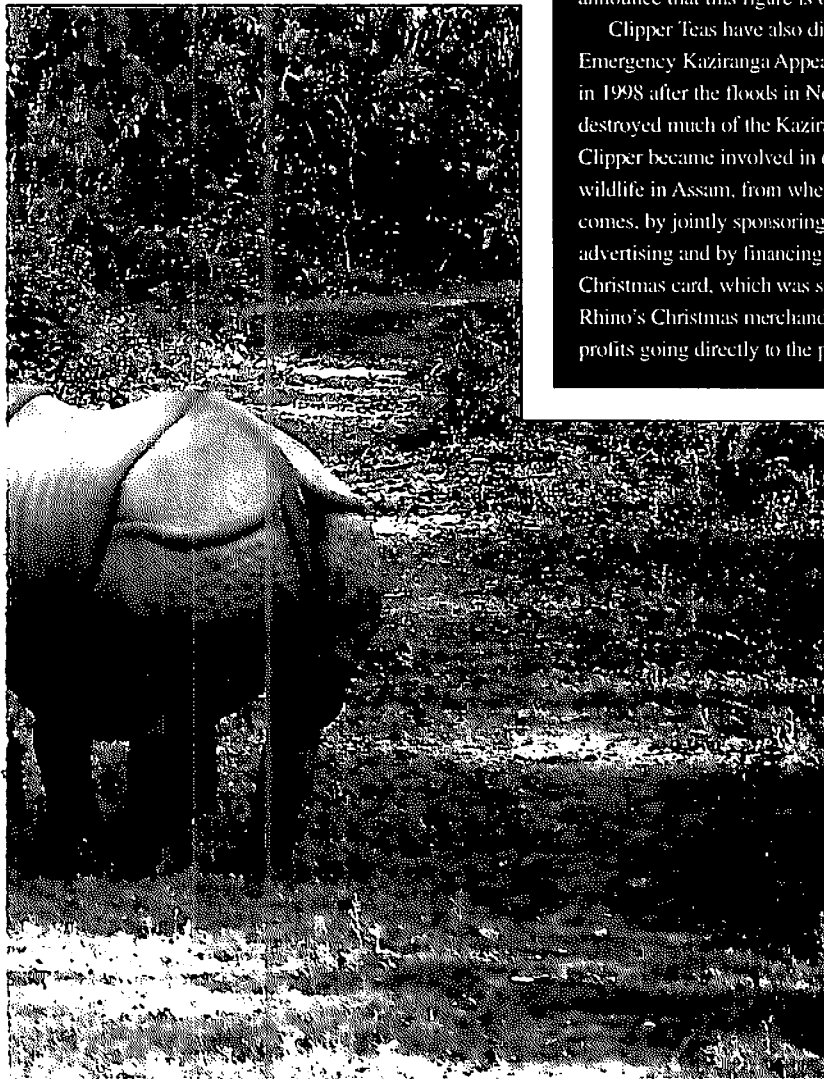
translocated rhinos became once in their bomas (enclosures) at the other end. After one week they would take browse straight from your hand. By the end of the second week these animals would be set free into their new home, the vast conservation area of Tsavo East.

The translocation operation was a great success and I was particularly encouraged by the all African team who conducted it with such efficiency.

These translocated rhino have increased the Tsavo rhinos' home range of 1,800 square kilometres to 2,800 square kilometres. Already at full stretch, the anti-poaching unit have a big task ahead of them. SRI is fully committed to supporting the continued protection and monitoring of these fifty-four animals.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to Chester Zoo for their very generous contribution to the programme. We look forward to an on-going working relationship with them as we support in-situ conservation programmes together. We would also like to thank our new Patron, Martina Navratilova, for her generous donation which will go towards maintaining security for these rhinos in their new home.

David Stirling



Working partnerships

As a way of diversifying from our traditional events fundraising and increasing our income and support, Save the Rhino has recently been working at establishing mutually beneficial partnerships with suitable ethical or conservation focused organisations. The organisations gain in reputation from their public association with a high-profile wildlife charity, and from their funding of specific conservation projects. Save the Rhino gains from this financial support of our field projects, and from the various joint ventures which are undertaken as a result of the partnerships. Two such successful working partnerships are with Clipper Teas and Chester Zoo.

CLIPPER TEAS AND SAVE THE RHINO

With Clipper Teas we have been using the tried and tested on-pack promotion formula. For every pack of Organic Assam and Organic Breakfast tea sold in major supermarket chains and health food shops a donation is given to Save the Rhino. With the growth of organic brands and subsequently of Clipper who are leading organic tea producers, this has resulted in a donation of three to four thousand pounds per year to Save the Rhino. However, because the donation is sales-related we are delighted for both parties that we are able to announce that this figure is on the increase.

Clipper Teas have also directly supported the Emergency Kaziranga Appeal which SRI launched in 1998 after the floods in North East India destroyed much of the Kaziranga National Park. Clipper became involved in directly protecting the wildlife in Assam, from where their organic tea comes, by jointly sponsoring the appeal's advertising and by financing an SRI-Clipper Christmas card, which was sold through Save the Rhino's Christmas merchandising catalogue, with profits going directly to the project.

By buying Clipper's Organic Assam and Organic Breakfast tea bags, you will be making a small but significant contribution to Save the Rhino.

CHESTER ZOO AND SAVE THE RHINO

Because of their enthusiasm for supporting in-situ conservation, Chester Zoo has entered into a very exciting partnership with SRI in Tsavo East National Park, Kenya. Together we have match-funded the Kenya Wildlife Service's own fundraising efforts to support the translocation of sixteen black rhino from Nairobi National Park to Tsavo East. This programme presented both organisations with a remarkable opportunity to help to secure the future of the black rhino by reestablishing the unique Tsavo conservation area as its breeding ground. This is the best chance for the survival and proliferation of the black rhino in East Africa since the slaughter began thirty years ago.

The translocation operation took place in August and September of this year and went extremely smoothly, the eighteen rhino having all been re-released safely into Tsavo. Because of Chester Zoo's active interest in the project and appreciation of the importance of Tsavo as the traditional rhino stronghold of East Africa, they will be playing an active role in the future of the rhinos that have been moved back there, as well as in the ranger team that protect the rhinos round the clock.

Through our association with Farside Africa we will be able to offer members of Chester Zoo bespoke safaris to Kenya where they will visit Tsavo and experience this exciting project first-hand.

If your organisation, or any that you know of, would be interested in a pro-active and beneficial association with Save the Rhino, please contact our Director, David Stirling.

Jane Morris

Clipper Teas

Formed in 1984 by husband and wife team, Mike and Lorraine Brehme, Clipper Teas takes a fresh approach to tea with the simple belief that high quality teas should be available to all without compromising the people who produce it, the environment or your health.

Clipper Teas are dedicated supporters of improving trading relations with the developing world as the single most effective way of reducing world poverty. They have worked with the Fairtrade Foundation since 1992, helping to define criteria for large tea estates worldwide. Clipper was the first tea company in the world to be awarded the Fairtrade Mark in 1994.

Leading the way in Organics, Clipper Teas was the first tea company to launch a range of high quality Organic teas and the first British company to produce a mainstream, high quality Organic Instant Coffee. Both the tea and coffee are award winners.

SRI would like to take this opportunity to thank Clipper Teas for their very generous support, we look forward to continuing our positive relationship.

Memories of the Rhino Cycle Namibia, June 1999

Namibia has long been a strong focus for Save the Rhino International's project funding so it was perhaps appropriate that the inaugural Rhino Adventure challenge should take place in this wonderful country.

After eighteen months of planning and recruiting at Save the Rhino International's HQ in London, forty-eight cyclists boarded the Air Namibia jumbo on Saturday 5th June at Heathrow - oh, and their bikes. We were heading off to take on the arid lunar landscape of Damaraland, home to Africa's last truly wild rhino population.

On arrival at Windhoek International we were met by the staff of Safari Drive - our hosts for the next week and, after a short briefing, we boarded the Encounter Overland trucks for the day-long transfer to Uis, the beginning of the challenge.

The sun had set by the time we arrived in Uis and the terrain had changed dramatically from bushveld to sandy desert landscapes. As the team began to reassemble their bikes, which had been broken down into boxes for the flight, we had our first impression of the cycling competence of the team.

It was obvious we had the full range, from novices to real enthusiasts. Some were finished in minutes, whereas others seemed to struggle for hours with their bikes. Our reward was a traditional goat braai at the lively bar beside the pool of the guest house.

The team was rudely awoken just before dawn. This was to become a daily event that the night-owls in the team had to get used to - there would be no lie-ins on this challenge!

After eighteen months of planning it was fantastic to see forty-eight cyclists lined-up in the cool desert morning, all excited and ready for the grand send-off. As the first rays of sunlight appeared over the dunes, we were off!

Once out of Uis (which took about 30 seconds) it was straight into the wilderness. The vast desert plains of Damaraland and 200 miles of rocky tracks lay ahead.

Our finish point would be the oasis of Palmwag - home to Save the Rhino Trust - a swimming pool and a fully-stocked bar! On

that first morning it seemed an awfully long way away.

After an hour or so I found myself alone on a vista point with no other cyclists in sight. The plains stretched for a hundred miles in every direction and the silence was total - words cannot do it justice! A little later I met up with some team members at one of the regular rest and drink stops who were similarly stunned by their first true wilderness experience.

After just a few hours, Namibia had already blown everyone away and it was only going to get better the deeper into Damaraland we pedalled.

As the morning progressed, the heat and the

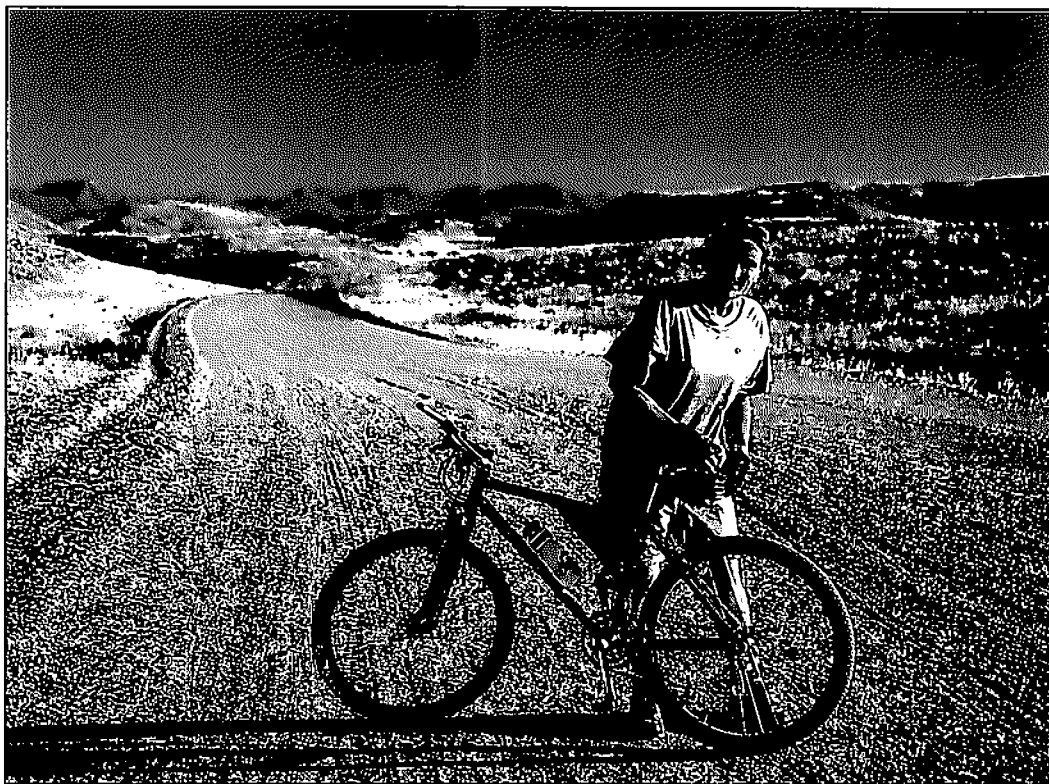
There were plenty of smiles around the campfire as the incredible desert sky revealed itself above. After gazing at the milky way I headed off to bed leaving a gaggle of cyclists around the fire. What a wonderful first day!

This was to be the pattern for the next four days. Rise at dawn, cycle all morning, get to camp as the heat was becoming oppressive, relax in the shade through the afternoon, evening games of football and sundowners on the highest accessible vista point, followed by a feast under the stars. It was a wonderful pattern to slip into!

Along the way there were many memorable moments: the serenity of cycling alone,

awesome views, phantom elephants when sleeping out under the stars, chance meetings with Save the Rhino Trust tracking teams, and football with local communities... The list is too long for this article - you'll have to try it for yourself!

It was with mixed emotions that the team arrived at Palmwag - exhilaration at completing the challenge, but sadness too at leaving the desert



wilderness. Coupled with a series of killer hills the reality of a true challenge began to hit home. Gallons of sweat and numerous applications of sunscreen later, the team made it into camp one by one. There was a huge cheer as the final two staggered in, roughly two hours after the first arrival.

Our first night camp was in a riverbed underneath the ubiquitous camel thorn trees which provided shade for our well-earned lunch, cold drinks and afternoon rest. The afternoon drifted very happily towards sunset. Those who weren't playing football in the soft sand of the river bed climbed a nearby kopje for a sundowner as the setting sun turned the desert into a canvas of fiery red, yellow and orange.

Dinner was a revelation for most as they had been expecting standard camping and carbohydrate-loading stodge. There were many surprised faces as a starter of fresh salad was followed by a feast cooked over the open coals.

Showers, the swimming pool, a fantastic braai and the company of staff from Save the Rhino Trust all contributed to a wonderful celebration night which was well deserved by the entire team, cyclists and support crew alike.

Early next morning it was off to Etosha National Park for a safari to mark the end of the trip. Divided into three trucks we managed to see most of Etosha's game: big cats and lots of elephants and antelope. Only half the team managed to claim a sighting of the ultimate prize: black rhino. It was a shame that not everyone saw one, but if the rhinos were common we wouldn't have been doing the challenge in the first place!

All in all it was an incredible trip, many of the team members have pledged to return to Namibia and several have already signed up for other Rhino Adventures - perhaps you should join them!

The wilderness of Waterberg

I met Trygve Cooper when he spoke about Rhinos and Wilderness at the Royal Geographical Society for Save the Rhino International in March 1999 and found him totally awe-inspiring. This was nothing compared to seeing him at work in Waterberg Plateau Park and discovering what he, and his team, have achieved there.

The purpose of Waterberg is to breed and maintain populations of rare and endangered animal species in Namibia. White and black rhino have been successfully translocated to the park as well as buffalo, tsessebe, roan and sable antelope. There is also a supplementary feeding project for the highly endangered cape vulture.

Waterberg is split into roughly two halves - one side of which is maintained as a wilderness area and is totally undisturbed. There are no artificial waterholes, no roads and no footpaths. Access is strictly limited to minimize human impact. I was lucky enough to be included on a four day trail in the Wilderness area with Trygve.

The only previous experience I had of rhinos in the wild was being charged by a black rhino at dusk. I had never felt so alive or experienced anything like the rush of adrenaline.

On trail in Waterberg I was very excited but also slightly apprehensive about the idea of coming face to face with another black rhino on foot.

On the first morning we tracked three female white rhino and sat quietly as they walked past us. I had never seen wild white rhino before and was amazed by their size and by how much calmer they seemed than their

black cousins. As we moved away we heard thundering and crashing in the bush behind us, and saw glimpses of an enormous white bull chasing them through the scrub.

We walked further away from the camp. As we crossed an area of thick bush, Trygve turned and whispered "Get Back", then shouted "'RHINO, GET BACK". I clambered the nearest kopje. It was a sub-adult black bull, as shocked at the sight of us as we were by him. He stopped his charge, wheeled around and ran away. Now we needed to track him to determine his ear-notch for the rhino monitoring team. Walking through the bush knowing that black rhino are around and could charge at any time is the most wonderful and frightening feeling there is. I followed immediately behind Trygve, my eyes and ears straining to detect any signs of the rhino. Half of me wanted to run as fast as I could in the opposite direction, half of me itched to get as close as possible. Eventually we climbed a kopje and saw the rhino in the bush on the other side. He had not yet been ear-notched, but Trygve recognized him as an individual who had been seen many times before in the surrounding area.

In ten days at the Park I saw a total of thirteen rhino, more than I could ever have dreamed. I had the very good fortune to take part in a moonlight twenty-four hour court at a hide. During that night I saw seven rhino, including the huge white bull I had seen on trail, and at one point the fantastic sight of four black rhino drinking at a waterhole together. Considering the solitary

nature of these magnificent animals and how few remain, it was a truly inspiring sight. To me this was tangible proof that the money raised by Save the Rhino is making wonderful things happen.

Save the Rhino's latest funding - money raised by the SRI office in Cape Town - will pay for a new radio system. This will make an incredible difference to the park, as the current radio system can only be used within one third of the park and is very unreliable. Having an effective communications system will make day-to-day logistics far more efficient. Some funds will also be used to pay for the latest ear-notching programme at Waterberg, including the black rhino who charged me.

The Waterberg project would not be such a success if it were not for the dedication of the whole team - Trygve, Trish, Tom, Mark, Kino and all the rangers and trackers. It is five years since a poacher has been seen in the park. Mark Berry and the anti-poaching team are working hard to maintain this record, and to ensure they are ready should the poachers ever return. The monitoring team continue to build up information about the ecology and behaviour of rhino in the park.

Save the Rhino International in London are providing the whole team with regular guaranteed funding from the Namibian Black Rhino Fund (NBRF) that they can rely on and plan for. With this support Waterberg Plateau Park will continue to provide a safe habitat for the rhino and other endangered species.

Jo Shaw

Running Rhinos

Save The Rhino International (SRI) has always looked towards individuality, innovation and a sense of personal achievement in its activities. This is typified by our long history of involvement in endurance events, marathons in particular. The rhino costumes have competed in many of the world's most gruelling running events. Appearances across three continents have drawn vital attention to the importance of conservation and raised thousands of pounds in the process.

The association with the London Marathon, now in its ninth year, gains momentum annually. No other charity can claim the media recognition SRI attracts with its herds of renegade rhinos storming around the streets of our capital each April. With a team of a dozen rhinos and a further fifty 'zoo keepers' London Marathon 1999 raised in excess of £60,000 for SRI. The target for the London Marathon 2000 is £75,000.

The rhino teams imminent assault on the Big Apple is certain to impress our NY compatriots as always. Projected revenue of £25,000 makes the New York Marathon a vital part of our endurance event itinerary.

As well as the London and New York Marathons, teams of running rhinos will be travelling to Boston, South Africa and Europe over the next six



months to raise funds. SRI actively supports individuals or groups wishing to run on our behalf in any running event they choose.

If you want to be part of the most famous London Marathon team of all, contact Robin at the Rhino Office directly on 0171 357 7474. The thirty-two pound rhino costume not mandatory!

Robin Lines

Chester Zoo working with Save the Rhino

Chester Zoo has held three species of rhinos over the last ten years but most recently has been working exclusively with Black Rhinos. Chester Zoo's first Black Rhino calf was born in 1967 and our most recent calf, Manyara, in 1998. We are an active member of the European Endangered Species Programme (EEP) and recently a number of transfers to and from other collections have been made which are important to maintaining the health of the managed zoo population of this magnificent and critically endangered rhinoceros.

Chester Zoo's association with and support for Save the Rhino began in 1994 when the zoo made a three-year commitment to fund the costs of game guard protection in Garamba of Northern White Rhinos, then totalling only 32 animals worldwide. This longer term commitment for conservation programmes set a precedent later followed by other funding organisations and one that Chester has been keen to repeat elsewhere. Chester in addition to supporting Save the Rhino continues to assist long term projects in Nigeria, the Philippines and India whilst also supporting a wide range of smaller projects.

Chester Zoo's philosophy is that as a conservation organisation with a mission to help save endangered wildlife it must work together with other like-minded organisations and individuals to ensure the survival of threatened wildlife worldwide. This is clearly also the aim of Save the Rhino International and we look forward to continuing co-operation into the next millennium to assist the survival of rhinos worldwide. They deserve and need our support.

*Roger Wilkinson, General Curator - Higher Vertebrates and Research,
North of England Zoological Society, Chester Zoo*

DON'T FORGET, FOR JUST £15 PER YEAR YOU CAN JOIN THE RHINO DIRECT CLUB, YOU'LL RECEIVE ALL THE LATEST SAVE THE RHINO INFORMATION AND SUPPORT RHINO PROJECTS IN THE FIELD.

Martina joins the rhino team

We are delighted to welcome Martina Navratilova as new Patron of Save the Rhino International. Whilst Martina needs no introduction as one of the greatest women tennis players, her love and commitment to Africa and its wildlife is less well known. We look forward to a successful relationship and to working closely with her in the future.

After three and a half years of dedicated service, initially as Events Manager and more recently as Assistant Director, Jane Morris is leaving SRI to explore pastures new at Macmillan Cancer Relief. All at the Rhino Office, and I'm sure all those who have come into contact with Jane as part of a marathon team, at a party, or through sponsorship partnerships, wish her the very best of luck in her new role. Neil Bridgland and Robin Lines, as Events Manager and Marathon Manager, continue to build fantastic teams to participate in the Rhino Adventures and Marathons. Jo Shaw is moving across the rhino house from Office Manager to Projects and Fundraising Manager. We are delighted to welcome Tim Burley to the new position of Rhino Drum Project Coordinator, and are currently recruiting a new Office Manager. With David Stirling continuing his dedicated work as Director, the revised Rhino Team is ready for the challenges of the next Millennium.

We are also very grateful to our committed team of volunteers who donate one day a week to helping the rhino office run more smoothly. Thanks to Sacha Robinson, Andrew Brown, Raquel Mertin, Meera Shah, Berni Smith and Ella MacPherson. A big thank you also to Jacqui Delort, who after a year of volunteering, on a weekly basis, has moved on, and to our long-suffering helpers and friends, Paul Harrison, Paul Markham and Craig Ritchie.

Jo Shaw

**FOR LATEST UPDATES FROM
SRI CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
www.savetherhino.co.uk**



Events Calendar

1999

10th December

"MY NOSE IS KILLING ME!",

All night @ The Drome, London Bridge

2000

March

"RHINOS AT THE DOGS",

Wimbledon Greyhound Stadium

10th - 20th March

RHINO TREK NEPAL

16th April

LONDON MARATHON 2000

13th May

MAYDAY FOR RHINOS 2000

19th - 28th May

RHINO CYCLE NAMIBIA

June - August

RHINO DRUM TOUR

9th - 19th June

RHINO CYCLE ZIMBABWE

August

MICHAEL WERIKHE MEMORIAL WALK,

Tsavo National Park, Kenya

September

EDINBURGH MARATHON

October

RHINO CLIMB KILIMANJARO

THANKS...

There isn't room here to thank all the wonderful people who have helped and supported us, but special mention must go to Clipper Teas, Chester Zoo and Edinburgh Zoo for their support of our field projects.

Also everyone who has helped out with our design and printing - Definitely Design and Marketing, especially Paul Markham for his fantastic designs and endless patience, Paul Allen, Robert Home, Hubbard Print and Edward Dudfield Limited, Douglas Adams for our new iMac, Duncan Thomsen at telepathic for visuals.

Special thanks to Paolo, Tim and all at Motion Pixels for our beautiful website.

Thanks to all who have helped promote Rhino Adventures - Cotswolds Outdoor, Taunton Leisure, Blacks, Field and Trek, Roxton Bailey Robinson, Encounter Overland.

And those who make the adventures happen - Alliance Air, Air Zimbabwe, Air Namibia, Safari Drive, Sandycare Safaris, Time for Africa Safaris, Safari Par Excellence and Specialist Trekking.

Everyone who's helped out at our fabulous music events and parties particularly the Givet crew, all at Ninja Tunes and Coldcut, Helen Mason, Shiv, Rufus and sponsors Red Stripe, Red Bull, Jose Cuervo, Po Na Na.

The Rhino Drum project could never have taken place without funds from the Thoresen Foundation and inspiration and support from William Todd-Jones, Duncan Bridgeman, Fly by Nite Transport, Cherry Pie, SSE, Eskimo Noise and all the Rhino Drum musicians, performers and others who've kindly donated their talents and time.

And everyone else, you know who you are, thanks very much.



SAVE THE RHINO INTERNATIONAL

Winchester Wharf, Clink Street, London SE1 9DG
Tel: +44 (0)171 357 7474 • Fax: +44 (0)171 357 9666

e-mail: save@rhinos.demon.co.uk • Internet: <http://www.savetherhino.co.uk>

November 1999

Dear Supporter

1999 has seen the launch of our latest product, Rhino Adventures. The inaugural cycling challenge in Namibia combined with a visit to one of the rhino projects was a resounding success. The adventure programme for 2000 and beyond is varied and exciting with two further cycle challenges to Zimbabwe and Namibia, a chance to climb Mt. Kilimanjaro and join one of the UK's, most famous Himalayan climbers, Doug Scott on a trek in Nepal.

Promoting these conservation adventure holidays with little or no advertising budget is a challenging task for us here and I would urge you to send on the flyer to anyone you think would be interested. For full itineraries on all of the activities please contact Neil here on 0171 357 7474 or email save@rhinos.demon.co.uk

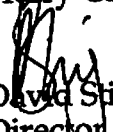
Our Autumn newsletter, "The Horn" has further details on our first challenge to Namibia as well as updates from our projects in Kenya, Tanzania, Namibia and India.

The last rhino party of the millennium will be at the Drome, London Bridge on Friday 10th December. Tickets are just £12 in advance and are likely to sell out so we recommend that you pre-order them from the office on 0171 357 7474.

We have a membership that represents less than 10% of our database and in order to keep you informed of our activities we would urge you to consider joining the Rhino Direct Club for just £15.00 per annum. This will enable us to keep you up to date with all our projects and allow us to maximise our income to support our extensive rhino programs in Africa and India. We will be contacting you in the New Year with the new membership forms and hope very much that you will take up this offer and become one of our members.

Please fill in and return the form below to help us use our resources appropriately and save yourself from receiving unwanted mail.

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for 2000!


David Stirling
Director

.....
Full Name Daytime tel. no.
Address..... Post code

Please send me information about			
Rhino Adventures	Yes/No	Music Events	Yes/No
Lectures	Yes/No	Rhino Merchandise	Yes/No
Please remove me from your mailing list		Yes/No	