



PROGRESS TO DATE ON NAKURU NATIONAL PARK

Kenya's First National Rhino Sanctuary

As a result of a paper written by Mr. Jenkins — *The Black Rhino Management Plan* — Kenya and its President, President Daniel T. Arap Moi, M.P., decided to establish special Rhino Sanctuaries to arrest the plight of the Black Rhino. These sanctuaries, if successful, entail an elaborate infrastructure which include, amongst other items, the enclosure of the sanctuary by an electrified fence erected on a barbed perimeter line, which acts as a break and road for maintenance purposes, the establishment of an internal radio network for security and maintenance purposes, the provision of a complex water supply to avoid overloading of areas around the natural water supplies, which are also subject to weather conditions and the establishment of attendant Permanent Management Offices with the Sanctuary.

The first of these Rhino Sanctuaries is Nakuru National Park where work began in August 1986. The Government of Kenya in conjunction with Rhino Rescue Society, which was launched in March of 1986, mobilized their resources to begin work on this elaborate and extensive project which will cost an estimated 10,000 to complete its initial phase. Thereafter, as the management and breeding expand, further equipment will be ordered for research and monitoring of Rhinos.

The first aspect to be tackled was the fence which is a seven foot high fence consisting of twelve strands of wire, six of which are electrified and carry a current of 1000 volts. This fence is designed to keep the animals within the Park and the others out of the Park. The total fence to be approximately 74 kilometres by March some 55 kilometres had

been erected and it is hoped to complete the entire fence by the end of April 1987, thereafter the infrastructure will continue to be established.

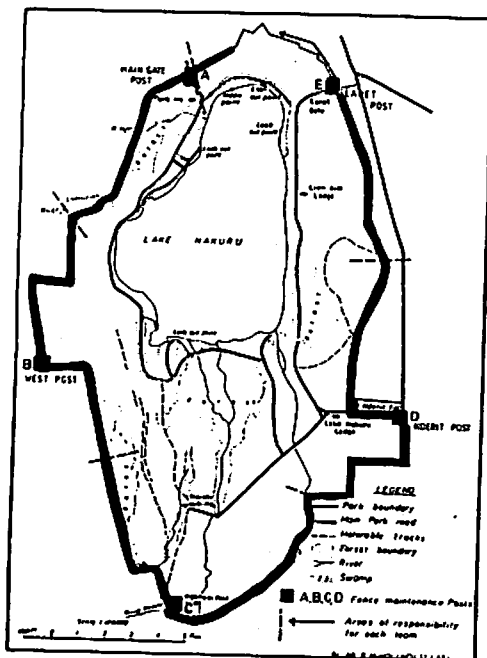
The first settlers in this area at the beginning of the century discovered a mineral deficiency which transpired to be some form of cobalt deficiency. The Imperial College of Science and Technology with financial assistance from The People's Trust for Endangered Species from the United Kingdom funded the services of Doctor Ian Thornton and Mr. John Mascall to carry out a preliminary survey in conjunction with the Kenya Veterinary Department on the soil, vegetation and blood of animals within the Park. Results of this critical survey should be out within the next few

months and based on these preliminary results special salt licks will be placed in the Park to overcome these mineral deficiencies. Thereafter, Mr. Mascall will carry out a three year survey within the Park to determine more accurately and more thoroughly the on-going effects and solutions to these deficiencies, known as "Nakuru-itis", and the costs of this survey will be financed by the People's Trust for Endangered Species in conjunction with the Rhino Rescue Trust.

The New York Zoological Society has also agreed to fund Mr. Fred Waweru to carry out a two year vegetation survey to establish how many animals, including Rhino, the Park can support. The Sanctuary is also faced with the problem of a good, regular fresh water supply and a comprehensive water survey has been carried out. As a result, a number of boreholes and wells will be established to augment the existing small and often precarious supplies from old boreholes and rivers which are not always permanent.

The new Director of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Department, Doctor Perez Olindo, is training up two crack teams, one of which will be charged with the responsibility of controlling potential poaching and the other with the monitoring and management of the Park and the Rhino Sanctuary therein.

With the present rate of progress it is hoped to translocate the first Rhino into the Park by the end of May 1987. Initially fifteen Rhino will be translocated and after results of the mineral and vegetation surveys have established the carrying capacity of this first Sanctuary, the remainder will be introduced.



Nakuru National Park: Fence line completed to date.

STUDYING THE RHINO HORN TRADE

Chrysee Perry Martin

In the wake of the poaching spree in which gained momentum in the Esmond and I began investigating the trade in rhino horn. It was widely known that the horn was bought by people who used it as an aphro-

disiac. I had just completed a book on the traditional wooden sailing ships of the western Indian Ocean, and I learned that their survival depended on smuggling opportunities. How could these boats compete with modern means of transport? We found that gold, watches, radios, Zanzibar cloves and even people were clandestinely moved by dhow from one port to another, and in and out of secluded coves, so why not rhino horn?

Indeed, some rhino horn in the 1970s was smuggled by dhow out of Kenya's coastal city, Mombasa, but no one knew its ultimate destination. It was not until we went to North Yemen and found rhino horn being carved into dagger handles that we were able to determine that here was the major market in the world for the protuberance on the forehead of Africa's second largest land mammal.

Conservationists were stunned: North Yemen is a very small country, one of the poorest in Arabia, and at that time had a population of only six million. However, a revolution followed by a war opened up North Yemen to the rest of the world in the 1970s, and Yemeni men, who were suddenly free to travel abroad in search of better opportunities, were bringing back home the

equivalent of \$3,000,000 a day. Naturally, they wanted to spend their money on prestige items, especially on daggers with rhino horn handles which formerly had been the prerogative of the ruling Imam's family. We estimated that from 1972 to 1978 eighteen tonnes of rhino horn had been imported into North Yemen, and that perhaps an average of 1,000 rhinos in Kenya alone were being killed every year during this period to meet the demand for dagger handles.

Our figures indicated that North Yemen was taking half of Africa's poached rhino horn, and conservation organizations asked us to find out where the rest was going. Rhino horn had been a legal export from Kenya until 1976. Sales were mostly handled by the Mombasa Ivory Room, where auctions for a variety of wildlife trophies were held twice a year. From official statistics we discovered that since the 19th century Southeast Asia had been buying rhino horn from Kenya. The price paid for it had risen from less than a dollar a kilo in the 1860s to \$3.15 in 1914, \$22.68 just prior to the Great Depression (during which it dropped back to \$7) and then went up to \$32 in 1969. Once the Yemenis began buying large quantities, the world market price increased tenfold, and by 1979 the horn was selling for \$500 a kilo.

Would the Chinese in Southeast Asia have continued buying it at that price? Since its export from Kenya was now illegal, the only way to find out was to go to Southeast Asia. In Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and Bangkok we visited

the traditional pharmacies. However, when we asked for stimulants for male virility, we were offered tiger penises (you soak them in brandy for a month and then drink a few sips of the brandy every night before going to bed), deer antlers and musk, kidneys of freshwater otters, bears' paws and geckos — no rhino horn.

Yet there was plenty of rhino horn available in the medicine shops, and in 1979 when we made this first survey, we found that most of it was of African origin and that it was selling for about \$11 per gram. Often a rhino horn would be set on a bed of cotton wool placed on a crystal platter and kept in a display case along with Korean and American ginseng. There was no doubt that the Chinese of Southeast Asia were competing with the Yemenis for the supply of rhino horn, and that the demand was high. We learned that the Chinese use it to treat high fevers — the most feared ailment in tropical Asia. At least since the Tang Dynasty Chinese had imported it from Borneo, and it is quite possible that the famous Chinese Admiral, Cheng Ho, who came to Malindi on the Kenya coast in the early 15th century, took African rhino horn back with him.

When rhino horn prices escalated in the mid-1970s, there was tremendous growth in the economies of Southeast Asia — and a resurgence of the belief in the efficacy of traditional medicines. Consequently, the Chinese in these countries did not hesitate to pay the higher prices. Esmond discovered on a later trip to South Korea and Japan that people there, too, use rhino horn as a fever-reducing drug. On mainland China he learned that shavings left over from the carving of dagger handles in North Yemen were imported by large factories in Beijing, Shanghai, Tientsin, Chengtu and Tsingtao for producing patent medicines to reduce fever, improve eyesight, cure laryngitis, etc. These are in turn exported all over eastern Asia and earn considerable amounts of hard currency for China.

By 1983 Esmond and I had enough knowledge of the international trade in rhino horn to show where direct action should be taken against it in Southeast Asia. Conservation organizations backed a new proposal of Esmond's in 1985 to try to stop the trade, and by 1987 all the remaining major consumer countries had banned rhino horn imports. The last one was Singapore, but it took a United



Yemeni men selling Djambias

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FUND RAISING EVENTS



ONDON RHINO BALL

Rhino Rescue Ball was held in London November 1986 and raised a nett of £500. The Ball attracted more than 1000 guests including Kenya's Minister for Tourism and Wildlife. Commenting on the support given to the project in London Mr. Omanga said "we felt delighted that so many of you have given so generously for the project taking place a long way from here."

NAIROBI RACE MEETING

Standard Newspapers included a Rhino Rescue Plate race in their meeting on 1st February 1987 and during this a total of K£450 was raised.

ONDON DINNER

His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh kindly attended a dinner in London for the Rhino Rescue Trust on 12th March 1987 which was most successful. Among the guests were Sir Leonard Blakeney who was, until recently, High Commissioner to Kenya, Lord Dulverton, Lord Boardman, Ted Hughes the Poet Laureate who has kindly promised to write a poem for the benefit of the Rhino and from America, Lars Svoboda and Mr. Feldstein.

NAIROBI CITY PLAYERS

On 8th May 1987 Nairobi City Players are donating the first night of a Musical at the National Theatre, "The Old Time Music Hall", at the National Theatre. Tickets will be available from the National Theatre, the Rhino Centre and from members of the Fund Raising Committee.

BIBIANA GROUP OF SINGERS

In May of 1987 the Bibiana Group will donate eight shows throughout Kenya in aid of the Trust, a preview of which will be in the Sanctuary on the day of the official opening. It is hoped that a considerable sum will be raised from their generous offer to support the Rhino Rescue Project through Rhino Rescue Trust.

SPONSORED BICYCLE RIDE

In May of 1987 three young men, Patrick Shah, Zoher Suleimanji and Deepak Sharma hope to cycle from Nairobi, via Lodwar to Lake Turkana in aid of Rhino Rescue — any support that can be given them will be greatly appreciated.

NAIROBI RHINO RESCUE BALL

It is the intention to hold a Nairobi Rhino Rescue Ball later in the year — details of this will be available in due course. There will be several functions during the evening to entertain the participants and raise extra funds.

SOTHEBYS AUCTION

On 26th October 1987 an auction will be held in London by Sothebys. Many artists and sculptors, among them David Shepherd, Simon Combes, Philip Blacket, Rob Glen, Terry Mathews, Bob Kuhn, Mike Ghauri, Mark Coreth (who had little choice since the Chairman of the Appeal is his father!), have very kindly pledged their support. A spectacular Lot at the Auction will be "A Safari to end all Safaris" which is being kindly organized and donated by Aris Grammaticas as a splendid contribution to the Appeal.

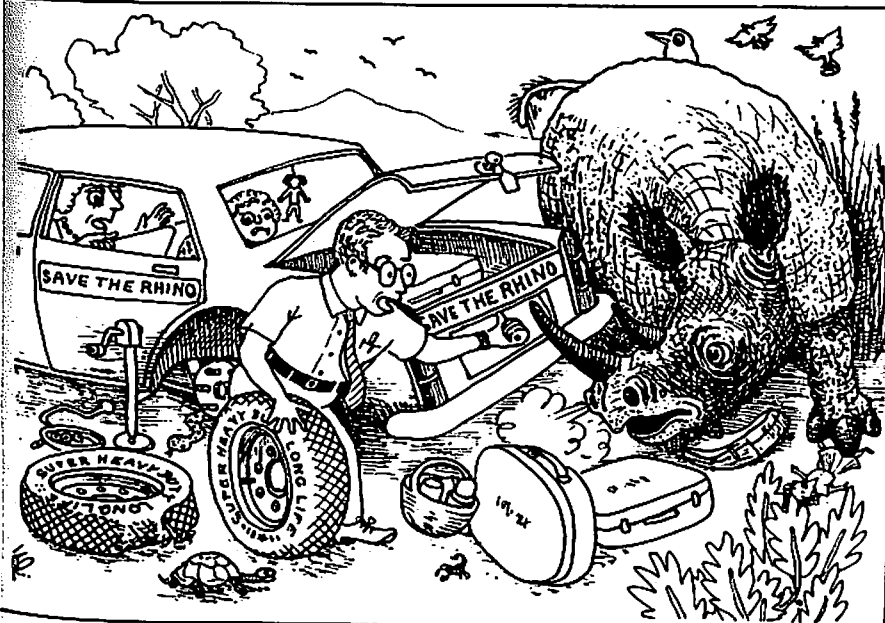
STUDYING THE RHINO HORN TRADE

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States Congressional Hearing in September, 1986, at which the Director of Wildlife Conservation and Management in Kenya and Esmond both testified, before agreement was reached with the Singapore government.

In March, 1987, Esmond went back to North Yemen for the fifth time. In late 1986 Yemeni government officials had agreed upon a six-point strategy plan to curtail the making of daggers with rhino horn handles. Although illegal since 1982, imports of rhino horn had continued to come into North Yemen, and here, as in Southeast Asia, it is necessary to monitor continually the trade. On this latest trip Esmond found that only part of the strategy plan had been initiated so far, but the Foreign Minister promised that all of it would be in effect by December.

Our studies have shown that the demand for rhino horn has decreased significantly since 1980 in the main consuming countries. We believe we have successfully encouraged the use of substitutes, in particular, water buffalo horn in North Yemen and saiga antelope horn in Southeast Asia. Our main regret is that we did not embark upon this research earlier, but perhaps there would not have been ample support for action to be directed against the trade in the 1970s. Traditionally in the Western world, the rhino was until remarkably recently suited for little more than satire: "Rhinoceros, your hide looks all undone. You do not take my fancy in the least: You have a horn where other brutes have none: Rhinoceros, you are an ugly beast" (Hilaire Belloc, *The Bad Child's Book of Beasts*, 1906).



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