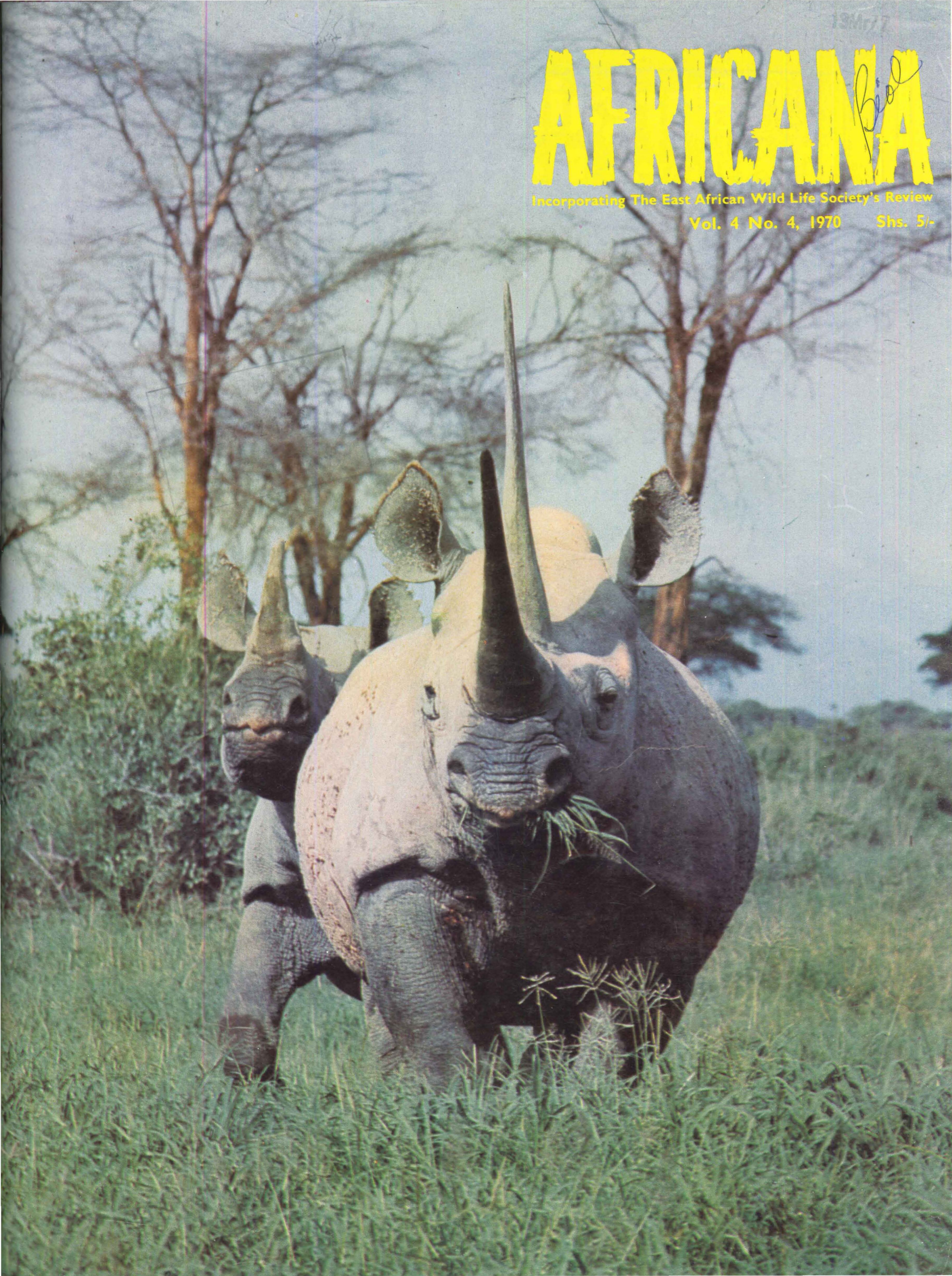


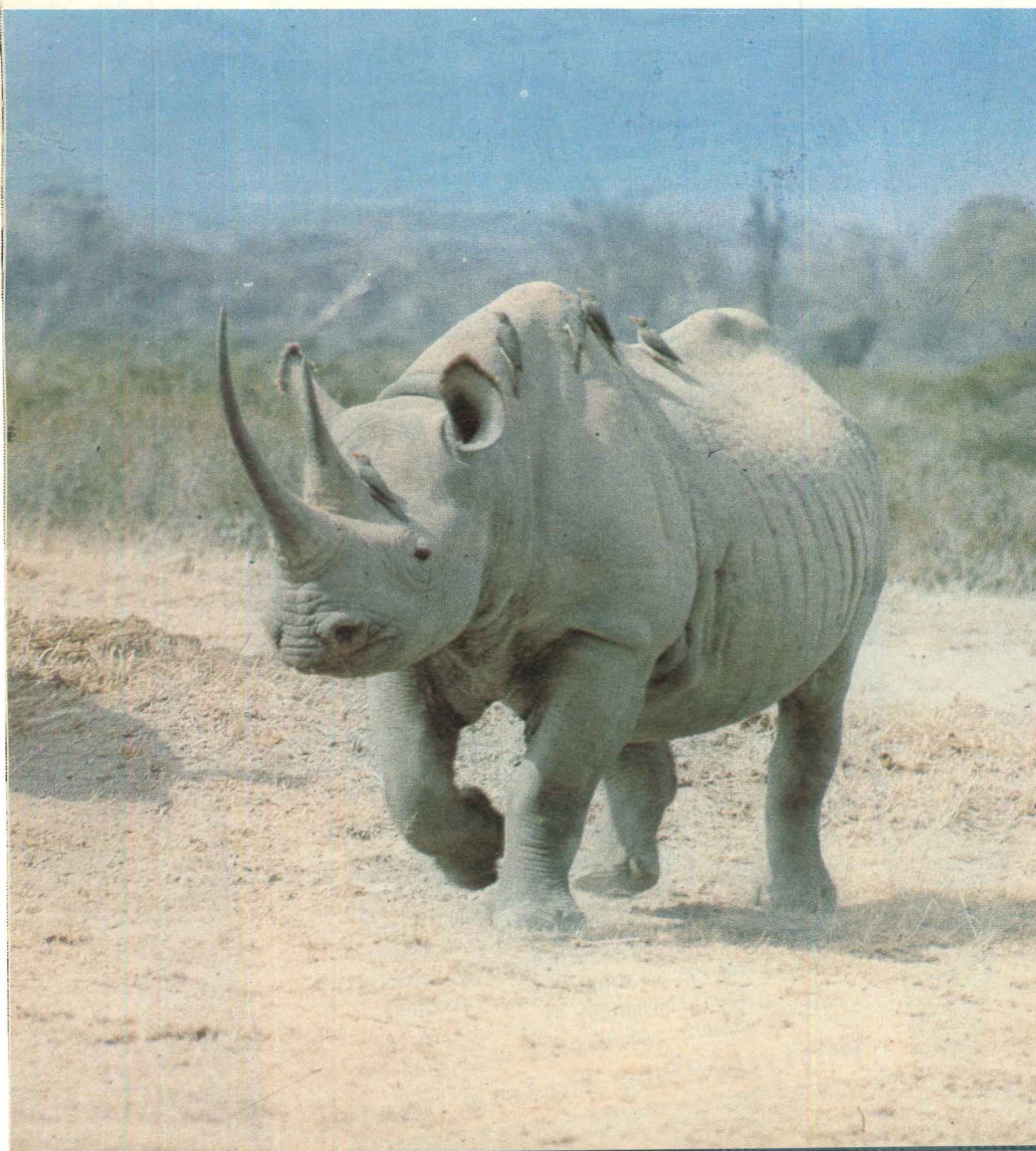
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AFRICANA

Incorporating The East African Wild Life Society's Review

Vol. 4 No. 4, 1970 Shs. 5/-





Noted photographer
FRANTS HARTMANN, ARPS,
writes on

RHINO

THE RHINOCEROS always reminds me of a prehistoric monster, surviving — almost by mistake — to the present time. There are two species of Rhino in Africa: the “Black” and the “White”, the “White” dividing into two sub-species — the Southern and the Northern races.

The “Black” and the “White” rhino, within the genus, are different animals — almost as different as black and white, indeed — although the colour is a misleading description of either of the two species.

The colour of each ranges from dark grey to light grey, depending on habitat, and indeed “White” is a complete misnomer representing merely a bad translation of the Afrikaans word *weit*, wide, wide-lipped.

Rhinos belong to a group of animals classified as “odd-toed”, to which Zebras also belong. Spoor of the rhino, with its three toes, is easily distinguishable from that of hippo, which has four toes.

“Black” rhino have always been characterized as aggressive, truculent and unpredictable; yet who *could* remain peaceful and indifferent when being sought out by hunters and poachers over the centuries?

The rhino’s aggressiveness may well account for its survival into present times. Only 75 years ago, the Black Rhino was plentiful throughout most of East, Central and Southern Africa. By the turn of the century, however, rhinos in their thousands had been shot and, in South Africa, had been brought near to extinction. Even so, they remained plentiful in East Africa.

The White rhino is docile and mild-tempered, which makes it very vulnerable to poaching, and it has therefore been an easier target for the hunters than has the Black rhino.

By 1890, the White rhino had been declared extinct in Southern Africa, but about a dozen of the species were later found to survive in Zululand. From this small nucleus has descended the present Southern race of White rhino, of which some are now in East Africa.

With agricultural development and expanding settlement, the Black rhino’s former distribution has been drastically reduced. It is now found in only very few areas outside the National Parks.

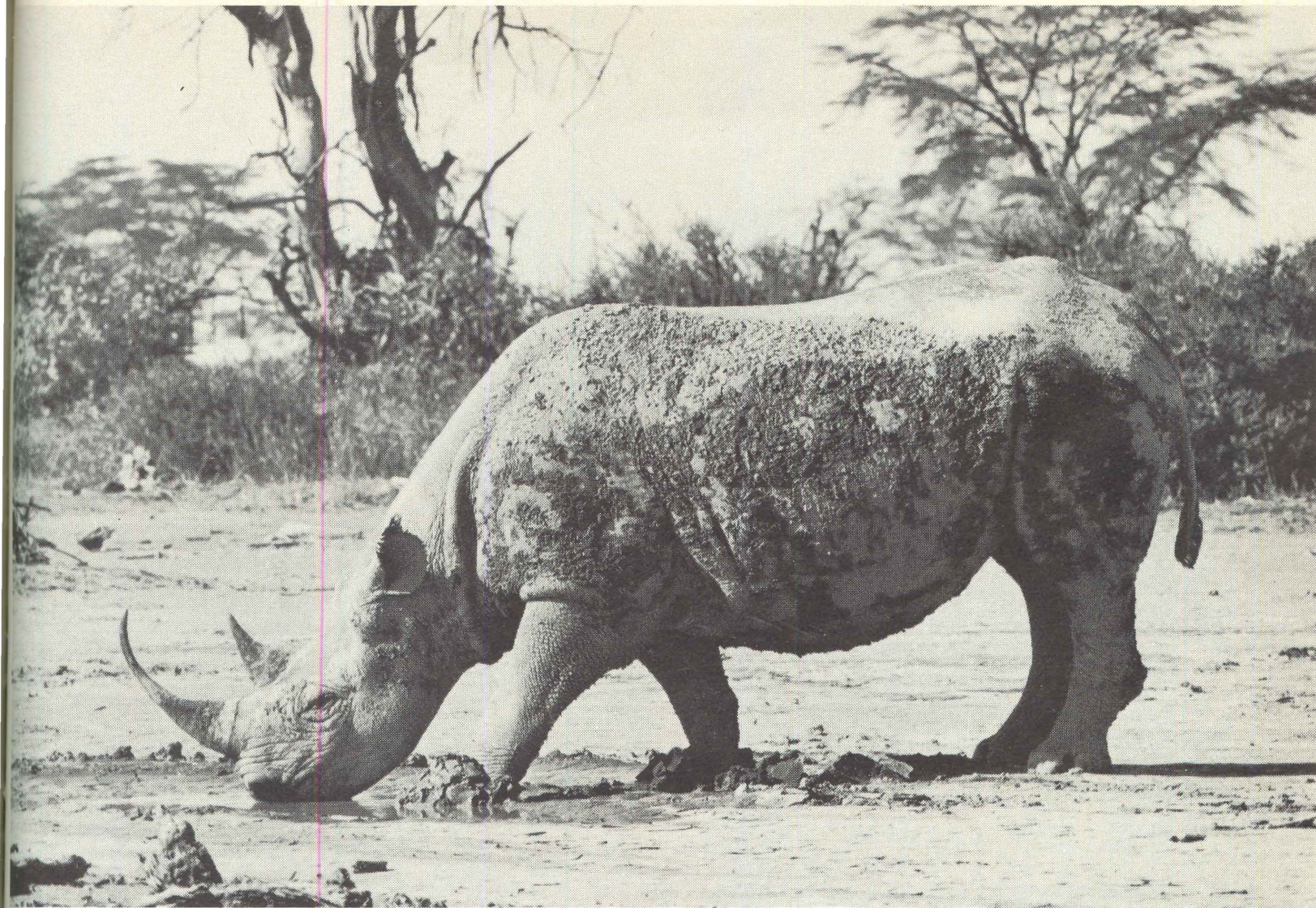
In the past, game control measures were based on extermination. Now, with the introduction of immobilization drugs and modern translocation techniques, new possibilities exist for the survival of both rhino species.

Both the Black and the White rhino have been translocated to safety, in considerable numbers, with the aid of immobilization techniques.

From areas allocated for settlement, and from places where poaching spelled the ultimate end, both species have been reintroduced into areas where they once were exterminated. They have also been moved to new habitats within East Africa’s National Parks and reserves.

In these projects, the East African Wild Life Society has played a major fund-raising role and in finding money for rescue operations.

The Black rhino is about 5’ 6” high at the shoulder, and it weighs about 1½ tons. Both sexes have horns (which are not really horns, but are hair-like fibres) growing from the nose skin.



ENORMOUS BULK, yet good speed.

Both the Black and the White rhino have been — and are still — slaughtered unmercifully by poachers for the sake of this horn. In Far Eastern countries, the horn is believed to have aphrodisiac properties, but population explosion figures from these countries hardly indicate the need.

The Black rhino has a prehensile upper lip and is a browser. Its habitat ranges from mountain forests to semi-desert bush country. Although the Black rhino is also found in West Africa, it is more numerous in eastern Africa.

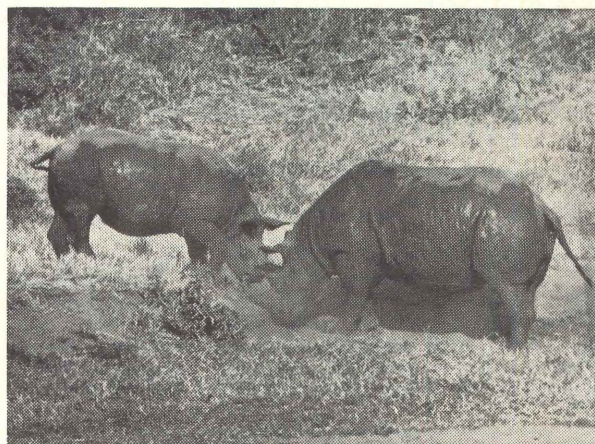
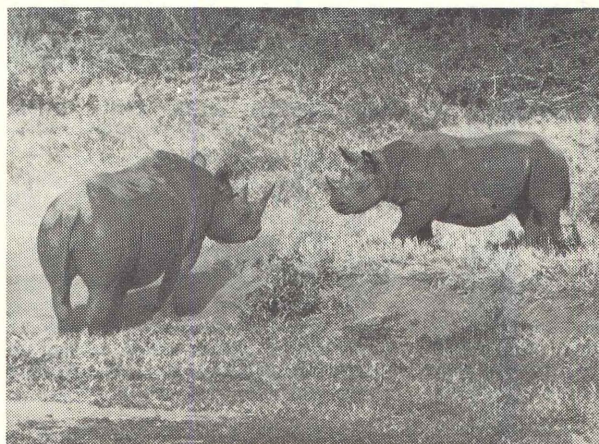
Both species are dependent on water for survival. Kenya's 1961 drought took heavy toll of the Black rhino population of Tsavo Park, the changing habitat of which — through elephant depredation — also caused hardships to the species.

Rhino are quite capable of digging when no surface water is available, however, and I have often seen holes dug by rhino in dry river-beds.

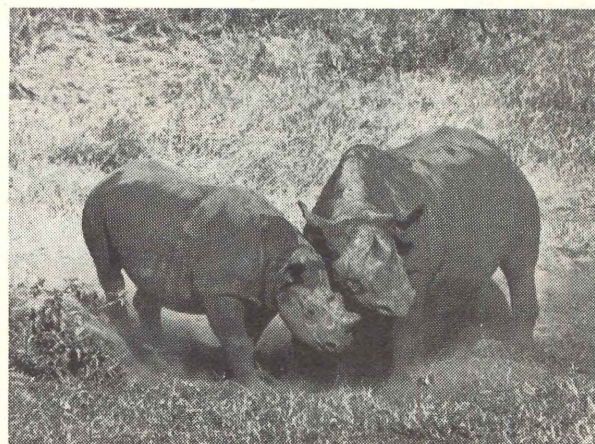
In areas inhabited by the Black rhino, two features do not escape the observer: First, the dungheaps, which the Black rhino deposits in selected places; and secondly, the well-worn tracks and paths the big animals make through dense bush.

The rhino is a slow breeder — which also accounts for its dwindling numbers — and there is an interval of about three years between the birth of each calf, although the gestation period is from 11 to 13 months.

(Contd. overleaf)



FOUR-PHASE TUSSLE at a salt lick aptly depicts the rhino's irritability.





RHINOS

(Continued from previous page)

The calf of the Black rhino always follows close on the heels of its mother. In the case of White rhino, it is the other way round — mother following the calf.

The rhino's relation with other animals is varied. In the case of elephants, it is not good; but both the Black and the White rhino are fre-

quently seen in close proximity to other herbivora.

Rhino calves especially fall prey to lion and there is an account of a Black rhino being killed by a large crocodile in the Tana River, in 1907, although this may have been an exceptional instance.

Man still remains the rhino's greatest adversary.

In most areas, rhino are seen in association with Cattle egrets and Oxpeckers and the activities of bird and animal are of mutual benefit.

The rhino is always infested with ticks, which embed themselves into softer parts of the skin. Oxpeckers climb about on the bulky animals, getting free meals. In return, the rhino — endowed with good hearing and sense of smell, but poor eyesight — is alerted to any approaching danger by the oxpecker's hissing call.

The temperament of the Black rhino varies from area to area. I have always found Black rhino in Kenya's Tsavo Park area ill-tempered compared with the Black rhino in

Ngorongoro Crater, or in Amboseli. Thus, when photographing rhino, one must always treat the subject with caution.

A National Parks' Ranger usually knows the individual animals of his area and advises if an approach at close quarters can be made. It is always good practice never to drive too close to a rhino in the first instance. Approach in stages. When a rhino knows that a car is in the vicinity, it usually either makes off or accepts its presence only at a reasonable distance.

THE White rhino — perhaps even more interesting than its Black cousin — was also once widely distributed in Southern Africa and along the West bank of the Albert Nile.

As neither rhino species can swim, the Nile provided a natural barrier to distribution of the White east of the Nile. Climatic and vegetational changes in prehistoric times may account for the separation of the White at these two distant points, several thousand miles apart.

In East Africa, White rhino have been introduced into both Murchison Falls National Park and Meru National Park, where they formerly have been known to have existed. But conditions match well the animal's natural habitat in other parts of Africa.

The White rhino, a grazer, is much bigger (about 6' 6" at the shoulder)

KITENGE

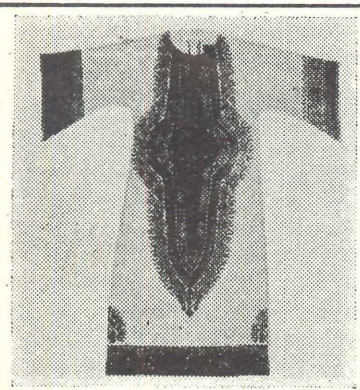
LADIES': DRESSES - EVENING DRESSES - TROUSER SUITS - PONCHOS - BLOUSES - SKIRTS

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PROFILE
of some
of the
world's
biggest
animals

than the Black and weighs up to 3½ tons — the biggest land animal after the elephant.

Both species of rhino are conservative in their habits and find it difficult to search for new areas, if in need of food or water, or if harassed by poachers.

The rhino serves as a good example of an animal, completely dependent on the will and desire of man — first, merciless slaughter, re-

cently balanced by intensive protection and conservation.

It is still subject to the dangers of poaching and the encroachment of human settlement and activity, but conservationists have successfully protected both species of rhino beyond what was at first thought possible.

The rhino still provides the biggest challenge to scientists and conservationists in ensuring its future survival.

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