



# JEJANE KHALUMA

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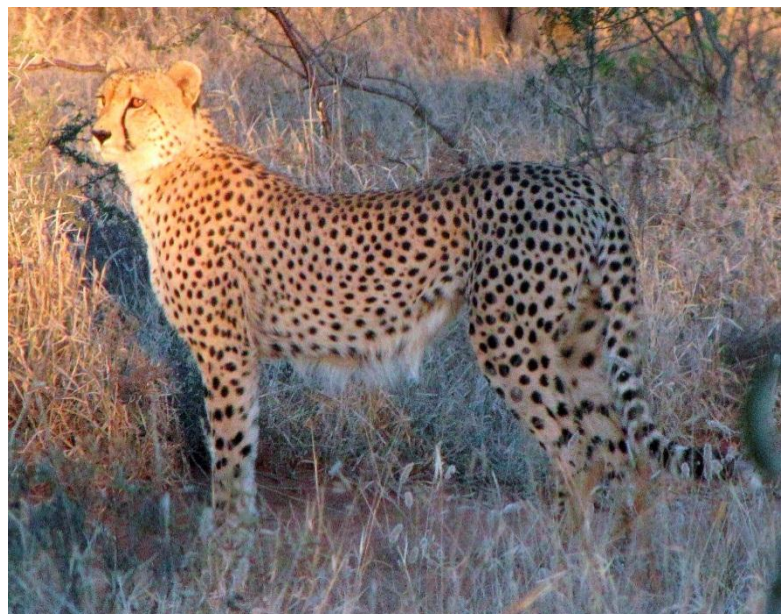
### FEED BACK FROM OUR MEMBERS

**Niall Houston (Site 27)** currently visiting Jejane from Ireland sent me the lovely photograph below – “I thought that you might like this photo – I am sure that it is a female bushbuck (the alternative was a female Nyala). This is the first one that I have seen on the farm in more than 10 years of visiting. She was very nervous and spent about 5 – 10 minutes before actually taking a drink.” *[Lovely photograph Niall – your identification is spot on - definitely a Bushbuck ewe (Tragelaphus scriptus) – they are present on Jejane and not often spotted as they usually feed at night or early morning. Normally you would not see them out in the open during the day unless it was very cool – which I assume was the case on this occasion They are very shy and cautious as you observed. They are predominantly browsers but do supplement their diet of leaves with a little grass. Mainly sighted in the riverine adjoining the drainage lines. There is a pair resident near the bush camp and are spotted fairly regularly by our staff at the village near the gate. Funnily enough there have also been several sightings near the Tsakane Staff village as well. Perhaps they have developed a taste for discarded mealie pap! Interestingly bushbuck lambs are born in dense undergrowth and remain hidden for the first four months of their life. – Jim]* and from Niall a few days later.....



“We saw this cheetah (See photograph on the right) late in the evening on the Indlulamithi Road near the River Road junction. It seemed as though it was waiting for another cheetah but we couldn’t see more than this one. It looks as if it is a male so one can only assume that it was looking for a brother? We were delighted to see it and it looked in fine condition. This is only the second one that I have seen here.”

Members continue to follow the progress of the leucistic buffalo calves with great interest. The



lovely white pelt shown in the photograph below on the left is now a cappuccino coffee colour shown in the photograph by Colin Anderson (Site 7) below on the right. Amazing how quickly the calves have grown!



## RHINO POACHING THREAT

### Killing Fields: Africa's Rhinos Under Threat

By HANNAH BEECH / BEIJING AND HANOI AND ALEX PERRY / PILANESBERG AND HARARE Monday, June 13, 2011



Investigators dig for bullets inside a poached rhino as the manager of a South African game reserve covers his face in disgust (Dominic Nahr / Magnum for TIME)

Nestled in the golden bush grass of an open savanna, a black rhinoceros lies on her side. Her head is haloed by a dried pool of blood. The animal's horns have been sawed off at the stump. Her eyes have been gouged out. "That's a new thing," notes Rusty Hustler, the manager of South Africa's North West Parks and Tourism Board, whose job includes tracking the escalating number of endangered rhinos poached for their body parts. "The Vietnamese have started keeping the eyes for medicine."

Hustler and an animal pathologist begin the post-mortem. The stench and the proliferation of flies and maggots indicate that the beast, which was found at the Shingalana private game reserve by a local guide, has been dead at least a week. Eight bullet cartridges are scattered near the carcass. Wearing white boots and blue latex gloves, the pair gets to work, sharpening a series of butcher's knives, and then ripping into the rhino. A metal detector is passed over the exposed flesh. After an hour, the metal

detector squeaks, and then emits a louder shriek. The pathologist reaches the heart. "That's the kill shot," says Hustler, slicing the heart to uncover an inch-long slug.

The South Africans rest and survey their grisly work. In 1993 international trade in rhino horn was banned by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), which now includes 175 member countries and regions. But somewhere, almost assuredly on an illicit route to Asia, the horns and eyes of a 9-year-old female *Diceros bicornis* are traveling, destined for often desperate people who believe in the mystical curative powers of the rhinoceros.

Unlike the elephant, its pachyderm cousin, the rhinoceros possesses little of the majesty needed to evoke worldwide sympathy. It is shy, low-slung, and seriously near-sighted. It does not dazzle with its intelligence. Yet for millennia, these bulky lawn mowers have entranced humans with the agglutinated hair that makes up their horns. Ancient Arabs carved dagger handles from it; Yemen was a popular destination for the animal's parts through the 1980s. Western colonialists in Asia and Africa lined their parlours with rhino-horn trophies and sometimes fashioned ashtrays out of the beasts' feet. Most of all, though, rhino horn was prized in Asia for its purported medicinal value. Ancient traditional Chinese medicine texts recommended the powdered horn for ailments like fever and arthritis, and modern-day practitioners have prescribed it for high blood pressure and even cancer. (Common lore notwithstanding, rhino horn is not considered an aphrodisiac.) So treasured was rhino horn that some of China's tributary states in Indochina were sometimes known in imperial shorthand as the lands of the rhino.

Not long ago, the Asian passion for rhino horn was, in the grand scheme of things, manageable. But now that newly moneyed nations like China and Vietnam are part of trade networks that girdle the earth and move products at jet speed, the fate of the rhinoceros hangs in the balance. This is the story of an animal under threat.

**Close to the Tipping Point** - There are five species of rhinoceros in the world: two in Africa and three in Asia. Two of the three Asian populations — the Sumatran and Javan varieties — are on the brink of extinction. The story in southern Africa is more heartening. Back in the 1960s, the African black rhino numbered about 100,000, but its population waned to just 2,400 in the early 1990s. Today its numbers have doubled to about 4,800 — still low, but heading in the right direction. The real conservation success story has been the dramatic rebound of the African white rhino. A century ago, there were as few as 50 of the beasts alive. Now, because of field-conservation efforts, relocation of animals to safer regions and expanded wildlife refuges, the population has reached around 20,000.

But over the past few years, the news from Africa has turned dire. Poaching, once restrained, has skyrocketed. From 2000 to 2007, only about a dozen rhinos were poached each year in South Africa, where nearly 90% of all rhinos live, according to the WWF. But last year, 333 were illegally slaughtered there, nearly all found with their horns chopped off. "Poaching is like a bush fire," says Raoul du Toit, a Zimbabwean environmentalist who won the prestigious Goldman Prize this year for his efforts to nurture critically endangered black-rhino populations. "It starts small, but it spreads and turns into a conflagration very rapidly." Although the current poaching levels are not high enough to suppress the natural population growth of rhinos in southern Africa, they are edging ever closer to the tipping point. "We look on this as an emergency," says Josef Okori, the manager of the African Rhino Program for the WWF. "We are waging a protracted war."

**The number of rhinos poached in the Hoedspruit area now totals five. Members are reminded to be vigilant on their game drives and to immediately report strangers, snares and vulture activity or, for that matter, anything that appears to be suspicious to either Glen or Francois. Also please do not enter rhino sightings and locations on the sightings board. We cannot afford to be too careful or complacent in our efforts to deter rhino poachers.**