

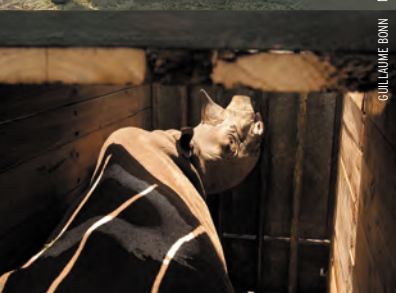
theHORN



THE SECRET LIFE OF RHINOS

Autumn 2013





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Looking beyond the statistics

Too often these days, our work is punctuated by the latest set of statistics from South Africa: 100 rhinos killed so far this year, 200, 300... The most recent alert, on 3 October, told of 725 rhinos poached. That figure was 'leavened', if you like, by the number of arrests, and a comparison of how these year's figures compare to last year's. (Unfavourably.) It's horribly easy to think of rhinos in terms of numbers.

Cathy Dean | Director

So that was partly why, in this issue of *The Horn*, we decided to focus on rhino behaviour and on rhinos' relationships with other animals. I admit, this is partly a brief bit of escapism from the grim realities of the newswires, but it's also intended to remind ourselves, and our supporters, of the rhinos themselves, as individuals, not just statistics.

This issue is intended to remind us all of rhinos themselves as individuals, not just statistics

The theme was also inspired by the BBC's stunning natural history series, *Africa*, presented by Sir David Attenborough, which was shown in the UK in the first months of 2013 and has now been screened in other parts of the world. The series was

book-ended by two wonderfully revealing rhino appearances. In the first episode, footage of black rhinos around a waterhole, somewhere in the Kalahari, showed them socialising, with an extraordinary array of vocalisations and snorts. The series ended with footage of Sir David, on his knees,

interacting with a young, blind rhino calf called Nicky at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. The sight of our revered presenter, a 'national treasure' in Britain, squeaking away with a baby rhino brought tears to the producer's eyes, and to many of those watching.

Immediately after the screenings of these episodes, our Facebook page was filled with comments and questions

from supporters, mainly: 'Are black rhinos really as sociable as that?' (*Yes, at night*) and 'What happened to Nicky?' (*Unfortunately a veterinary investigation revealed that no operation would give him his vision*). It seemed that this beautifully shot footage, of rhinos being rhinos, had captivated the imaginations of thousands of viewers.

So we thought that in this issue we would focus on the rhinos, to hear about individuals from the rhino programme field managers who are tasked with monitoring and protecting them, and from zoo curators and veterinarians, as well as about the other animals who are routinely used to support rhino conservation efforts.

You'll read about the Javan rhinos who seem to like taking selfies, about rhinos' reaction to bushfires, about orphaned rhinos' friendships, about the painful determination of one snared bull to stay hidden from the very people who could save him, and others. And hopefully, amid the sea of ghastly statistics, we'll all remember why they're worth saving.

Events schedule



ING New York City Marathon	Sunday 3 November 2013
Save the Rhino Heroes Dinner	Wednesday 6 November 2013
'Treasured': Save the Rhino online auction	January to February 2014
Douglas Adams Memorial Lecture:	Tuesday 11 March 2014
'The Science of Harry Potter & the Mathematics of The Simpsons' Roger Highfield, Simon Singh	
Virgin Money London Marathon	Sunday 13 April 2014
Rhino Mayday	May 2014
Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100	Sunday 10 August 2014
World Rhino Day	Monday 22 September 2014
Rhino Climb Kilimanjaro	Dates to suit 2014 and 2015
UK challenges	Dates throughout the year

For more information about any of these events, please visit www.savetherhino.org/events or email laura@savetherhino.org or call +44 (0)20 7357 7474