

WORK PROGRESS IN GARAMBA NATIONAL PARK

At the very end of April we began the project in Garamba National Park to monitor the remaining northern white rhinos. The objectives of the preliminary work are to: (1) find out how many rhinos remain and of what sexes and ages; (2) evaluate the logistics of conserving them.

From ground and aerial survey work we can thus far identify 11 different individuals. The known individuals comprise: 4 adult males; 3 probably 4 adult females; 1 unsexed sub-adult; 1 male calf under 1 year old; 1 unsexed calf under 1 year old.

We do not know enough at this stage to draw any conclusions as to the exact number of rhinos remaining. Our immediate plans are to continue with intensive groundwork to verify further individuals and gather information on their behaviour and ecology, and to ensure that reliable guards are patrolling the rhino areas. Some further development of the monitoring programme will be carried out. The grass is roughly 1 to 1.5m tall at present.

We are extremely grateful to the many organisations and individuals who have made this preliminary and urgent work possible and effective. Acknowledgements will be made in the full report.

Kes Hillman and Mankoto ma Oyisenzoo

SOME POSITIVE NEWS FROM KENYA

One woman's wish to save rhinos has led to the construction of a rhino sanctuary in northern Kenya. Anna Merz visited the Craigs' acacia-savanna ranch in 1982, and discussed with them the possibility of a rhino sanctuary. With the Craigs' provision of 5,000 acres on Lewa Downs, Anna Merz paid for a 20km long fence from the "Ehefence" company to enclose the area for rhinos. Preparations for the sanctuary took a year to complete. The fence now stands at 2.40m and has seven electric wires, each one carrying 5000 volts. The fence is to provide the dual function of keeping rhinos in and poachers out, and also there is strict guard security.

By February 1984, black rhino translocation to Lewa Downs was able to begin, with the full support throughout of Daniel Sindiyo, Director of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Department. Invaluable help and hard work continue from Peter Jenkins, Senior Warden (Planning North) in the Department, and Francis Dyer, Sanctuary Manager, as well as the Craigs themselves. First to be brought to the sanctuary was a male rhino, captured near Nairobi National Park by the Capture Unit. The second rhino was a female, found by Anna Merz, the last rhino in Shaba Reserve. For four months, four guards protected her in Shaba, but despite this, there was fear that bandits might kill her and she was moved, still wild and desperate, to the safety of Lewa Downs. In the holding boma Anna Merz calmed her by the unique expedient of reading aloud to her for three days. Another male arrived from the Nairobi Park Orphanage. Finally, two more males and one female were brought by the Department Capture Unit from the Prettejohns' ranch, near Mweiga into the sanctuary. So far, therefore, Lewa Downs rhino sanctuary protects four males and two females and mating has already been observed once. Anna Merz is hoping to bring in three more black rhino females.

There are not only black rhinos in the sanctuary. A southern white rhino from California was recently introduced to the tame group of southern whites in Meru National Park to provide new blood, and the non-breeding male at Meru was transferred to Lewa. Possibly, Anna Merz says, some more whites may be introduced to Lewa to breed with the solitary male.

The vegetation in the sanctuary has been surveyed by Hugh Lamprey, and any changes since the introduction of the rhinos will be monitored.

What plans for the future? The gestation period for black rhinos is 15-18 months, and if breeding proves successful, Anna Merz hopes that funds could be raised to enclose eventually the whole 45-48,000 acres of Lewa Downs. One day when the demand for the horn has been successfully curbed, Anna Merz wishes to open the fence to the largely uninhabited dry north and repopulate northern Kenya with black rhinos. Until that time, this "holding action" is the best safeguard for the rhinos.

L. Vigne

Book Reviews

Ivory Crisis, by Ian Parker and Mohamed Amin (Chatto & Windus, London 1983) £14.95

I was delighted to be asked to review Ian Parker's book; having seen Nigel Sitwell's caustic review in the *IUCN Bulletin*, September 1983, (reprinted from *New Scientist* 30 June 1983). I was confident that I would be able to pan it and bring Parker down a peg or two. I therefore reached eagerly for the copy that had been roosting unread on my shelf; but as I read, my spirits fell. For one thing, Parker has resisted the tendency of his prose to become turgid and polemical and the book's style is clear and straightforward. For another the book is informative and, for most of the way, uncontentious.

The book falls into three main sections. The first, taking up about half the text, is Parker's account of his own involvement with wildlife, starting with his entry into the Kenya Game Department in 1956, and covering his participation in the Tsavo anti-poaching operation and his early contacts with the

Walian-gulu elephant hunters, his initiation of the Galana Game Management Scheme, the Uganda culling, the Tsavo controversy, the Rwanda elephant extermination, and his association with the ivory trade. This section establishes Parker's credentials as having been in on the ground floor of many of the key events of recent East African conservation history. It also documents his growing concern that much of the theory and practice of conservation in East Africa has been muddled, insincere and inappropriate. My only complaint about this section is that it is too short. I would have liked more of the anecdotal detail that, for me, made the account of the surreal 1973 Juba ivory auction the highpoint of the book.

The second section consists of a historical review of the ivory trade from pre-classical times to the present. Here Parker has distilled a mass of diffuse documentation and dovetailed it with his own detailed studies of the current trade to produce an intriguing and readable account. It is easy to forget that before Parker pioneered the study of the ivory trade in the 1970s, this