



# SA WILD & JAG

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# GAME & HUNT

- **Rhino Watch**
- **Jag — waar begin 'n mens?**

• **Die Swartwitpens**

- **Anaboom**
- **Wildsbredie**



**BUSHCRAFT**

SA WILD & JAG glo aan:

Die winsgewende volhoubare benutting van die RSA se wild- en natuurbates, op 'n geordende wyse, tot voordeel van die land en al sy mense.

SA GAME & HUNT believes in:

The profitable, sustainable utilisation of the RSA's game and nature resources, in an orderly manner and to the benefit of the country and all its people.

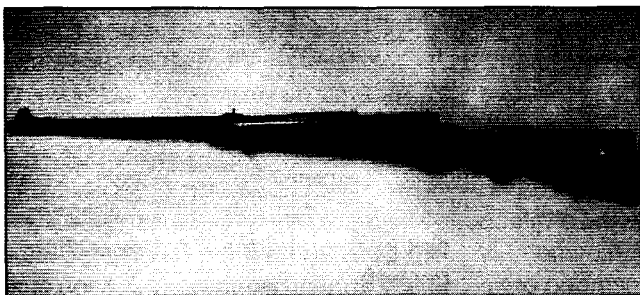
Voorbladfoto: Eric Reisinger

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**Redakteur/Editor**  
Jan van der Walt

**Mede-redakteurs/Co-editors:**  
Prof Wouter van Hoven, dr Hym Ebedes  
en André van Dyk

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### **Advertensies en redaksioneel/ Advertising and editorial:**

Jan van der Walt  
Tel (012) 322-6980,  
Fax: (012) 322 5585/320-0557.  
Posbus/PO Box 4722, Pretoria  
0001.  
e mail: salu @ iafrica.com  
Webb site: www.agrilinfo.co.za

### **Advertensies Wes- Kaap/ Advertising West Cape:**

Lesley MacKay  
Huis/Home: (021) 462-2370  
Sel/Cell: 082-891-7319



# Rhino Watch

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A SPECIALIST WORKING GROUP OF THE RHINO & ELEPHANT FOUNDATION

PO BOX 381 • BEDFORDVIEW 2008 • SOUTH AFRICA  
TELEPHONE (011) 453-9829/34 • FAX: (011) 453-7649  
e-mail address: [school@wildernesstrust.org.za](mailto:school@wildernesstrust.org.za)  
Internet address: <http://www.ref.org.za>

NUMBER 8

## Editorial

The Committee of the African Rhino Owners Association has asked me to assist in editing future issues of Rhino Watch.

I recently arrived from Holland to take up the new post of Curator of the Waterberg Environmental Centre incorporating a Rhino Museum (the first in Africa) and a Cultural History Museum in the Northern Province.

For any Newsletter to be interesting to its readers, it needs input from various sources. I would like to request your co-operation: send me information about any rhino happenings in your area, and tell me what kind of information you would like to read about.

From this issue onwards, I will try to include two columns, one a "Rhinoceros Factfile" focusing on different biological and historical aspects of the Black and the White Rhinoceros, the second on "Rhinoceros Illustrations" to show and explain the background of older and newer published pictures and plates of the African rhinoceroses. Send us your information, comments and questions, you will have a more interesting newsletter.

**Dr Kees Rookmaaker, Editor**

## Pregnancy determination in rhinos

Pregnancy in rhinos and elephants can be detected by a new technique called "infrared thermography",

according to Sabine Hilsberg writing in the last issue of 'Bongo', the annual journal of the Zoological Gardens in Berlin.

One needs a specially designed camera which measures the heat that every living body naturally transmits into the air, and translates these emissions into a simple colour picture. No need to touch the animal or even come near it.

The photographs seem quite easy to read, exhibiting signs of pregnancy even to the eyes of a layman. It seems like a simple and exciting technique, which will need further research. (*Bongo, Berlin, 28, 1998, pp. 1-8*).

## Northern white rhino update

While the numbers of Southern White Rhino are ever increasing, the Northern subspecies of Uganda, Congo and Sudan is very near extinction. It was exterminated in much of its former range where even fifty years ago it was quite numerous.

Its last stronghold is the Garamba National Park in the North-East corner of Congo.

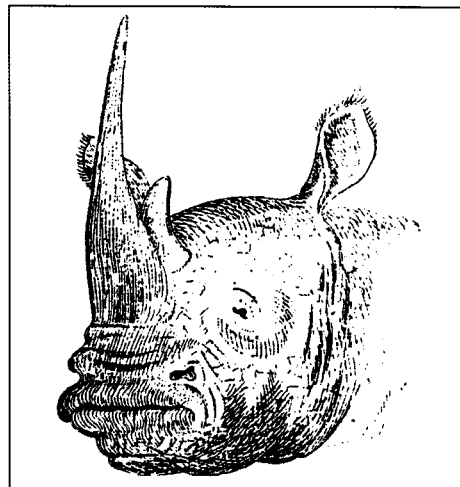
While the number of survivors was not all that high for the past years, at least they were increasing and well protected. Of course, the recent civil war in Congo could easily have wiped out the total population, at least there were fears that only a handful would have remained.

However, a survey by WWF in May 1998 showed that a minimum of 24 white rhinos continue living in Garamba. This should encourage the local authorities to continue their fight to maintain this special kind of rhinoceros.

eros. (WWF Press Release)

## "Rhino Ranching" still available

This Management Manual for owners of white rhinos, by Dr J.G. (Kobus) Du Toit, is still available from the AROA office, at R 75,00 (post free) for addresses in South Africa. Call or write our office and order your copy.



## Rhinoceros illustrations, 1: W.J. Burchell

**By Dr Kees Rookmaaker**

Shown here is the first known published representation of the White Rhinoceros. It was engraved after a drawing made by William John Burchell (1782-1863), an Englishman who explored parts of Southern Africa between 1810 and 1815. In 1822 the first volume of his *Travels* appeared