

BLACK RHINO REINTRODUCED TO EASTERN CAPE

One hundred and forty four years after the last black rhino was shot in the Grahamstown district, this internationally endangered animal has made its reappearance there in a historic nature conservation undertaking.

Four black rhino, two bulls and two cows, arrived at the Andries Vosloo Kudu Reserve near Grahamstown recently at the climax of a combined operation by the Cape Department of Nature and Environmental Conservation, to whom the reserve belongs, and the Natal Parks Board, who donated the rhino to the Department and transported them to the eastern Cape in a special 25 ton rhino transport vehicle. It is the first time black rhino have been introduced to a Cape Provincial nature reserve.

The rhino were captured on reserves in northern Natal in March. On the Andries Vosloo Kudu Reserve they were put into bomas where they spent two weeks before being released into the eastern section of the reserve where a 3 200 hectare area,

half of the reserve, has been enclosed with rhino-proof fencing.

Black rhino are regarded as the most endangered large mammal in Africa. Over the last 15 years their numbers on this continent have declined by 95%. Formerly occurring in bushy habitat throughout southern Africa (apart from the OFS and southern Transvaal), they are now found in only 8 protected areas in the region. The main reasons for the drastic decline in their numbers are poaching for their horn and habitat destruction.

Amongst those witnessing the rhino release were senior officials of the two departments, including Mr John Geddes-Page, Director of Natal Parks Board, and Dr Johan Neethling, Deputy Director of the Cape Department of Nature and Environmental Conservation. Dr Neethling said, "We hope that from this small nucleus of animals we will soon be able to stock first of all other Provincial nature reserves and eventually private game farms and reserves with this highly endangered species."

EARTHLINK EXPO '86

For the first time in South African history, conservation and heritage organisations have united to communicate directly with the public in a spectacular venture, Earthlink Expo '86. This exhibition, sponsored by major companies and in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Department of the Johannesburg City Council, will take place at Pioneer's Park, Wemmer Pan from October 10th to 19th, with the gate money allocated to conservation projects.

Earthlink Expo promises to be the most exciting, vibrant and original public show ever held in Africa. It will act both as a tribute to the energy and dedication of those working to conserve our natural heritage and as a means of creating a concern and awareness amongst the public.

Included among the 50 organisations participating, all of which are orientated towards environment, conservation, ecology and heritage, are the Endangered Wildlife Trust, Educational Wildlife Expeditions, Keep South Africa Beautiful, the National Parks Board, Habitat Council, Wilderness Leadership School, Wildlife Society of Southern Africa, Department of Environment Affairs, Institute of Natural Resources and the Environmental Education Association of South Africa.

A major attraction at Earthlink Expo '86 will be a stunning indoor garden and horticultural show. Covering over two hectares, it will be the biggest and most ambitious project of its kind ever staged in the Transvaal.

The Endangered Wildlife Trust's exhibit will be sponsored by Nedfin.

SOMETHING NEW FOR NATURE LOVERS

A series of lectures by top conservationists and experts in the world of nature are to be held on two evenings a week in August this year at the Rand Afrikaans University, starting on 1st August.

The talks cover all aspects of the

READER'S DIGEST SUPPORTS THE WORK OF THE ENDANGERED WILDLIFE TRUST

Towards the end of 1985, the Reader's Digest sent out a letter advising members of the Endangered Wildlife Trust that for every copy of THE READER'S DIGEST ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO GAME PARKS AND NATURE RESERVES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA purchased, R20 would be donated to the Trust.

Mr David Beattie, Advertisement Director of Reader's Digest recently presented Dr John Ledger, Director of the Endangered Wildlife Trust with a cheque for the amount of R3 100 (155 books), and we thank our members and Reader's Digest for this considerable sum.

