

Tanzania:

Farewell to Friedrich Alpers

At the Selous Rhino Trust we are saying a fond and sad farewell to Friedrich Alpers, our rhino specialist and technical coordinator for the past five years.

Louisa Muir, Project Administrator,
Selous Rhino Trust

Friedrich can only be described as a legendary bushman and rhino tracker. Recently, in one of our last forays together in the Selous, we walked up a long steep hill in prime rhino country to inspect the new repeater station at the top (a communications life saver which was largely financed by Save the Rhino International). Feet barely held into a pair of battered, open leather sandals, Friedrich seemingly glided through giraffe-high thick grasses that hid boulders strewn across the ground. Whilst I tripped and puffed at a full trot behind him, twigs and leaves snapping and crunching, he was soundless and perfectly firm of foot, just stopping now and then to point out a bush that had the characteristic browse marks left by a hungry rhino.

He once spent seven nights hanging from a tree above a waterhole and game track that had strong signs of rhino traffic. His reward was the first video footage ever to be taken of a rhino in the Selous and yet another notch in our knowledge of rhino numbers and movements in the northern sector of the Reserve.

Working with a team of rangers, through his dedicated tracking and monitoring techniques Friedrich has now proved and confirmed that there is a sustainable rhino population in the north of the Reserve, with 19 individuals identified, including several young. This is a significant achievement and impressive legacy; one that we will now build on to help ensure the rhino population continues to grow and be safe in the Selous Game Reserve.

LOUISA MUIR



In memory of Harry

Tira Shubart, one of Save the Rhino's Patrons, and her brother David are making a donation of approximately US \$11,000 to the Selous Rhino Trust, in memory of their father, Harry, who died earlier this year. Harry visited the Selous in February 2003, when he met Friedrich and the ranger team. They showed him the camp and explained their work. Harry fell in love with Tanzania and had many friends there. The donation will be used to buy tents, torches and other equipment needed for the anti-poaching and monitoring work. We're very grateful to the Shubart family for their support for the Selous.

Kenya:

Rolling stones gather no Moss

I'm not sure exactly what Jonathan Moss's taste in music is, but I do know that during his four years as the Executive Director of the Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF), he didn't let the grass grow under his feet! In past issues of The Horn, we have reported particularly on the community conservation and

environmental education programmes run by the LWF, which have had demonstrable success; the LWF also focuses on security, tourism, wildlife management and human-wildlife conflict.

Jonathan and his family are staying in the Laikipia District and, in fact, through his new role of General Manager of Kisima (working with Gilfrid Powys and Michael Dyer) and mandate to lead their conservation and community support, Jonathan continues to support the LWF's activities.

It has always been a pleasure to work with Jonathan (not forgetting the rest of the LWF team), and Save the Rhino International would like to salute his achievements.

Jonathan has been replaced by two people: Dr Anthony King is the new Executive Director of the LWF with a 70% time commitment, while Dr Delphine Malleret-King is Technical Advisor with a 30% time commitment. They bring the right mix of skills and experience to the LWF, strong on community conservation and policy, and, in Delphine's case, experience in socio-economic aspects and monitoring and evaluation of progress towards strategic goals.

We very much look forward to continued close cooperation with the LWF, and wish Anthony and Delphine success in and enjoyment of their new roles.

Cathy Dean, Director

LAIKIPA WILDLIFE FORUM

