

**Project 3644****Lake Nakuru Rhino Sanctuary**

WWF Expenditure 1985 — \$30,556

**Project Executant:** Hugh Lamprey, WWF East Africa Representative.**Participating Organizations:** Rhino Rescue; Wildlife Conservation and Management Dept, Kenya; Frankfurt Zoological Society; David Sheldrick Appeal; East African Wildlife Society.**Objectives:** To manage Lake Nakuru National Park as a rhino sanctuary to promote breeding and repopulation of other designated wildlife areas; to provide electric fencing for the 80 km perimeter of the Park.

In spite of the efforts of WWF, many other conservation NGOs and the Kenya Government, the black rhinos are still subject to poaching and have now reached critically low numbers in small isolated populations. The total count is down to below 500, compared with 18-20,000 in 1970. The only hope of saving the species in Kenya is to translocate as many rhinos as possible to a few secure sanctuaries, and then aim to repopulate the National Parks when numbers have built up in the sanctuaries. The first sanctuary planned by the Kenya "Rhino Rescue" operation, of which WWF is a member, is the Lake Nakuru Rhino Reserve.

The use of the existing Lake Nakuru Park as a rhino reserve depends on the construction of a secure fence for the Park. The type of fence necessary consists of twelve barbed wire strands mounted on wooden poles, forming a fence 3 m high, with three strands electrified. This will be constructed 10 m inside the existing park perimeter fence of chain link, which is being rebuilt.

The fence is to be constructed in 10 km sections, each of which will be served by an electric fencing unit and a monitoring device to locate breakages and short circuits caused by interference with the electrified wires. The electric fencing equipment which is to be used (purchased with a WWF grant) is of a well-known make from New Zealand which has already proved itself at the Lewa Downs rhino reserve in north Kenya.

In addition to the two fences, two other important facilities are to be provided for the Lake Nakuru Rhino Reserve, to be funded by the "Rhino Rescue" appeal. These are the repair and servicing of the four existing but derelict boreholes and their pumps to provide drinking water for the rhinos and other wildlife in the Park, and the provision of mineral licks to compensate for the known trace element deficiencies of the area.