

Project 3644

Nakuru Rhino Sanctuary

WWF Expenditure 1986/87 — US\$98,930

(Total since 1985 — US\$129,486)

Project Executants: Dr Hugh Lamprey, WWF Regional Representative for East and Central Africa; Edward Wilson, WWF Assistant Regional Representative.

Participating Organizations: Wildlife Conservation and Management Department, Kenya; Rhino Rescue; East African Wildlife Society; African Wildlife Foundation.

Objective: To help the Government of Kenya to develop a rhino sanctuary at Lake Nakuru National Park.

The dramatic decline in the black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis*) population throughout Africa in the middle of the 20th century led the Government of Kenya to develop a 'Rhino Action Plan' in 1985 which outlined its strategy for the conservation of the approximately 500 rhinos remaining in Kenya. A key element of the Rhino Action Plan is the development of sanctuaries in several of Kenya's National Parks and the translocation of rhinos into these sanctuaries. The long-term objective of the Rhino Action Plan is to build up the rhino population to the point where the animals can be reintroduced into parks and reserves where they occurred naturally in the past.

As part of the Rhino Action Plan WWF has joined with several other conservation organizations and the Kenyan Government to build and maintain a high security electric fence around the entire 80 km perimeter of the Lake Nakuru National Park. The fence was completed in 1987. As of December 1987, 17 rhinos had been released into the park, joining two rhinos previously resident there. Additional improvements to the park's infrastructure, including roadworks, watering points, radios and guard housing, are being installed as part of the project.

Future Activities

WWF expects to play a continuing role in the development and management of the Lake Nakuru Rhino Sanctuary, as well as related activities of the Lake Nakuru Education Centre (Project 3715) and a new conservation and development project planned by the Bellerive Foundation.