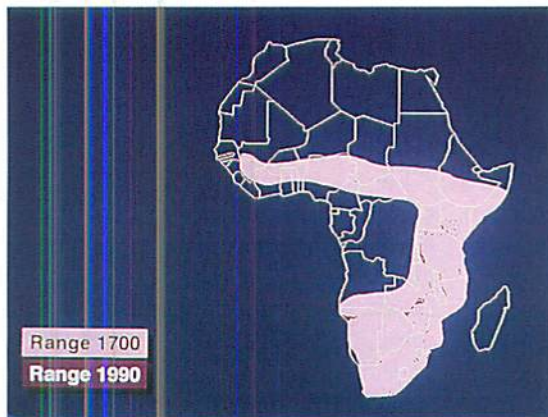


BLACK RHINO

Africa's black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*) is not black, but it may have got its name after explorers saw it wallowing in black-colored mud. Rhinos don't sweat, so they wallow in muddy water to keep cool. The mud coating provides additional benefits for the rhinos by protecting them from insects and preventing sunburn.

The black rhino has two curved horns and a prehensile upper lip that it uses to tear leaves off trees and rip up clumps of grass. It browses along the

edges of wooded areas from the rainforests of western Africa to the savannas of eastern and southern Africa, eating leaves, fruits, and grasses. The black rhino can grow to be six feet tall and weigh up to 3,000 pounds.



San Diego Zoo



Dusty Wissmath/African Wildlife Foundation

Rhino Man

Michael Werikhe of Kenya is walking some 1,500 miles through North America this spring and summer to raise awareness of the rhinos' plight and to raise contributions for conserving them. He started his series of discontinuous walks in Tampa, Florida, on April 13 and finishes in Washington, D.C., from September 6 to 12, visiting about 30 zoos and aquariums along the way. (See Notes & News for more on FONZ's role in the Washington leg of the Rhino Walk.)

Werikhe, 34, has loved nature since childhood, when he brought home all kinds of animals including lizards, monkeys, and birds. He devoted himself to learning about animals at school and volunteered at the Nairobi National Museum's Snake Park in his spare time.

After graduating, Werikhe worked with animals, but quit his "wildlife" jobs because they exploited animals: The game department wanted him to

sort elephant tusks and rhino horns that were to be auctioned (the Kenyan government sold tusks and horns until the 1977 hunting ban); his snake-collecting job turned out to be for an exporter, and many of the snakes died in transit. Disillusioned, he opted for work in an Associated Vehicle Assemblers factory.

His desire to help wildlife remained as strong as ever, and in 1982 Werikhe walked 300 miles from Mombasa to Nairobi to raise funds for the black rhino, which he felt represented all of Kenya's threatened animals. In 1985, he walked more than 1,250 miles in East Africa and raised \$54,000 for rhino conservation. In 1988, he took his message to western Europe, where he walked 1,800 miles and raised \$1 million for rhino projects and efforts to curb trade in rhino horn. Werikhe's walk through North America is sponsored by the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AAZPA) and the Discovery Channel.



Duncan Willets, Camerapix

The goal is to raise two to three million dollars. Three quarters of the funds will go to rhino conservation in Africa, and one quarter will aid rhinos in the AAZPA Species Survival Plans.

Known as "Rhino Man," Werikhe was on the United Nations Environmental Program's 1989 Global 500 honor roll and was awarded the 1990 Goldman Environmental Prize for outstanding environmental achievement in Africa.

—Robin Meadows