

**NEWS CONCERNING THE
CHOBE NATIONAL PARK
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The long awaited management plan for Chobe National Park was submitted to the Department of Wildlife and National Parks in December 1993. As it stands now it is just a plan, the department will be reviewing it and will then produce a white paper. However a team funded by the EEC is already in place, based in Maun, to implement the management plan and develop northern Parks. The team is headed by renowned ecologist Dr. Richard Bell, who has been holding meetings with the wildlife department staff in Kasane and other interested parties. Further details regarding the management plan and its implementation will be discussed in the next issue of Serondella News.

**PREMIERE OF "REFLECTIONS"
THE NEW FILM ON ELEPHANTS,
BY DERECK AND BEV JOUBERT
TO BE SHOWN AT VENUES
THROUGHOUT BOTSWANA.**



**NEWS FROM THE KHAMA
RHINO SANCTUARY,
SEROWE**

In February 1993 a huge rescue operation was under way to capture and relocate the remaining rhino in Chobe National Park. The capture was a logistical nightmare. It was the hot rainy season, bush was thick, but the operation had to take place immediately for it was feared if left any longer then there would be no rhino left in Chobe National Park. With the help of the highly efficient Natal Parks board 4 white rhino were captured. The drive down to Serowe was a long and tiring 14 hours. The first arrivals were a female ("Basedi") and her calf ("Baba"). They were unloaded into their boma. Two days later a young bull ("Lerumo", which means Bullet as he was riddled with poachers bullets) was released into another boma. On the last day a 30 year old bull ("Boss") as released into his boma. It was necessary to dehorn all the rhino to prevent them injuring themselves during the translocation.

Initially the rhino were fed grass cut from the plains surrounding the sanctuary; to acclimatise them and ensure that they build up a resistance to the local parasites. The local grass was later supplemented with tef., lucerne and horse pellets.

Lerumo, the young bull sadly died a month after reaching the Khama Rhino Sanctuary. A post mortem revealed that one of the poachers bullets ripped through his chest and abdomen, wreaking havoc. It was amazing that he lasted so long with such internal injuries.

Basedi and her calf Baba, are quite docile. Spending most of their time waiting in the paddock behind the boma, ambling around at their leisure. At feed time, like a typical youngster, Baba climbs right into the food, even impatiently taking grass from the feeders hands. Boss on the other hand, enjoys a game or two of chicken with the feeders. Mock charges are frequent and he appears to enjoy to see onlookers dart backwards. If there is no response from his first mock charge he then repeats

it, this time with a bit more dust and noise.

The latest news from the sanctuary is that the funding for the fencing has come through, so plans are afoot to complete this. In our next issue we will have a fuller account on Boss, Basadi and Baba.



WATER RETICULATION IN CHOBE NATIONAL PARK

The Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) has decided that artificial waterpoints, limited to certain selected sites will be provided in Chobe National Park for the wildlife. They requested the Chobe Wildlife Trust to submit a proposal regarding water reticulation for Chobe. The CWT submitted their proposal in June 1993. After numerous discussions the DWNP has decided to give 2 water holes to the Trust to construct, manage and maintain in the interior of the Chobe National Park. We are awaiting the final document from the DWNP to allow us to go ahead with this project.

The Trust has agreed that the bore holes at Tambico and Namuchera will be utilised for this purpose. We will be looking for sponsors and donations for this project. As well as providing water to animals in the interior of the park at the height of the dry season to reduce some of the stress, it is hoped that these water points will attract tourists away from the already over crowded river front.

**CHOBE WILDLIFE
TRUST OPENS AN
OFFICE AT CRESTA
MOWANA SAFARI
LODGE, KASANE.
ROOM 201. COME
AND VISIT US.**

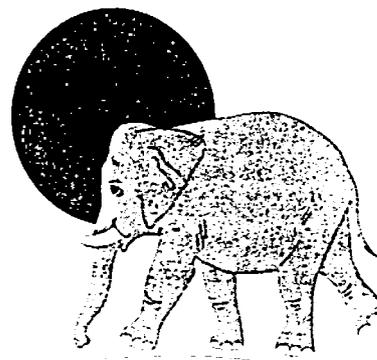
CWT PRODUCTS FOR SALE:

T-SHIRTS	P40.00
BADGES	P15.00
CAPS	P25.00
STICKERS	P 2.50
P&P	P 10.00

We are hoping to publish the Serondella News every 4 months to keep members informed on the progress of the Trust. As we are building up a photo/slide library for the future newsletters, we would be very grateful for any slides or photographs donated. So all you budding photographers out there please donate 1 or 2 pictures. Send to CWT, P.O.Box 55 Kasane, Botswana.

Thank-you

SERONDELLA NEWS



REG NO 22/88 BOTSWANA

P.O. BOX 55, KASANE, BOTSWANA

EFFECT OF ELEPHANT INDUCED VEGETATION CHANGE ON THE STATUS OF THE CHOBE BUSHBUCK (*TRAGELAPHUS SCRIPTUS ORNATUS*)

In a world where conflict and violence abound Botswana is a refreshing and intriguing country. The charisma and generosity of its people, the wealth of its wildlife and ecological features are all part of the magnetism Botswana has to offer. Many problems face developing countries, difficult decisions have to be made for the well being of the people and the natural resources.



During the dry season months April to October the Chobe and Linyanti rivers are the only perennial source of water in north eastern Botswana. Large concentrations of buffalo and elephant are frequently seen along the Chobe river front. Visitors are treated to a magnificent sight: elephant calves frolic in the mud and water, as their mothers and aunts keep a watchful eye on their offspring. Very often the elders are also seen to join in this frenzy of activity as the excitement ripples through the herd. The Chobe river is again a welcome relief from the hard and long trek they have endured to get there.

A dense cloud of dust greets you as you drive down to the river. Out of this thick dust comes a pair of eyes, then more, and slowly a head is visible, the thickset boss of the male buffalo becomes evident, and hundreds of pairs of eyes peer inquisitively through the dust at you. A cacophony of grunts and grumbles accompanies these huge herds of buffalo as they slowly descend, en-masse to the inviting water of the Chobe river.

Is this heavy utilisation of the riverine vegetation having a detrimental effect on the Chobe bushbuck, OR, will this shy, ornate antelope persist under less favourable conditions, showing us that this species can survive in the face of current pessimism ?

The Chobe river area is of specific importance since it protects the only population of bushbuck

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CHOBE WILDLIFE TRUST
THE C.W.T. IS AN INDEPENDENT, NON-PROFIT
ORGANISATION CREATED TO ASSIST IN THE
CONSERVATION OF THE UNIQUE NATURAL ASSETS
OF NORTHERN BOTSWANA, IN PARTICULAR CHOBE
NATIONAL PARK.

Member of
IUCN
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