



Tusk Talk

Summer 1994

Tusk's Rhino Initiative in Kenya

The White Rhino, just like the Black Rhino, is a severely endangered species - its world population is now less than 4,800. TUSK has given urgent priority to the protection of the White Rhino by creating a new secure rhino sanctuary in Kenya. With the generous help of TUSK members and sponsors over the last two years, funds totalling over £80,000 have been donated to help ensure the White Rhino's continued existence!

Lake Chem Chem

The first phase of the project was to set up an initial sanctuary as soon as possible to specifically protect White Rhino, but also other wildlife, needing immediate help. This was established in an area of rolling bush, known as Lake Chem Chem. With the funds raised from EKCT (Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust), Topshop, Debenhams, and other TUSK fund-raising events, the sanctuary and its team of rangers now have anti-poaching equipment, 7 miles of 12



COURTESY OF N.H.P.A.

strand electric fencing, holding bomas, a complete radio system, and its first white rhino.

While our first two rhino are making themselves comfortable in their new home, we are preparing to relocate 2 more rhino to Lake Chem Chem in the near future in order to commence

a breeding programme. The sanctuary not only serves to protect rhino, but many other species of African wildlife, in particular, many animals that have been orphaned. For example, we are looking after Zebra, Buffalo, Dik Dik, Mongoose, Genet Cats, Ostrich, Camels, and Baboons to name just a few of our current inhabitants.

Self - Sufficiency

As with many conservation projects, long-term success often depends on self-sufficiency. The objective of this sanctuary is to establish an eco-tourism project close to the tourist market of the coast, which would both involve and benefit the local community. To help generate funds and cover its running costs, the sanctuary also operates camel safaris for visitors, which unlike car safaris ensure there is minimal disruption to the animals and minimal damage to the land.

As part of its on-going commitment to supporting the local community, the sanctuary has built a small 10 bed medical clinic next to the perimeter fence for the local people.



• Lake Chem Chem's Guard of Honour