



Children singing for the chairman of the Rhino and Elephant Foundation, members of the Botswana Department of Wildlife & National Parks, and local Kasane residents on the occasion of the presentation of audiovisual equipment to environmental educator Delys Spear.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AT KASANE

The Rhino and Elephant Foundation recently agreed to provide assistance in the form of a portable generator, television set and video recorder for Ms Delys Spear, who heads the Chobe Wildlife Trust's Kasane environmental education project in northern Botswana. Kasane is the gateway to the Chobe National Park, home to the largest concentration of elephants in Southern Africa and an important jumping-off point for tourists.

Delys Spear has considerable experience in environmental education and has taken on the enormous task of addressing the connection between conservation and the aspirations and well-being of rural communities living alongside the rhinos and elephants of the area. This is a new departure for the Rhino and Elephant Foundation: plans are to increase support in areas of rural communication, recognising that this is a vital necessity if there is to be any hope for the survival of endangered species such as the black rhino.

The project has the full blessing of the authorities in Botswana and in a future edition of this journal, Delys Spear will report on her work to date.

ZIMBABWE RHINO POACHING SLOWS

Zimbabwean game rangers in February shot dead a Zambian rhino poacher in the Zambesi Valley, in the first clash of 1991 between wildlife authorities and poachers. Police said another three gang members fled and an AK-47 rifle was recovered.

The encounter was in the Nymombe area west of Kariba, where wildlife officials have mounted a semi-military operation to counter waves of poachers threatening Africa's last substantial population of the endangered black rhino. Officials claim they are winning the five-year war against the poachers, with only 27 rhinos reported killed last year, compared with 97 in 1989. Last year 34 poachers were shot dead.

Other experts point out that poaching has reduced the original rhino population of some 1 500 by about a third, and the animals have thus become much more difficult to find.

4 POACHERS KILLED

Police shot dead four poachers in a running battle in north-western Zimbabwe. Other members of a Zambia-based poaching gang may have drowned when they plunged into the Zambezi River on Wednesday to escape from their pursuers.

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