

PRESS RELEASE

RHINO POACHING

The Rhino & Elephant Foundation and the Game Rangers Association of Africa view with concern the recent poaching incidents of rhino in Swaziland. The level of poaching has reached dangerous proportions and now, with the advent of the latest killing of two white rhino at Mkhaya Nature Reserve and the subsequent follow-up operation that led to a shoot-out, this poses very serious questions for rhino conservation on the sub-continent.

Action taken by game rangers under present circumstances places the whole question of rhino survival in jeopardy. It is absolutely essential that governments give adequate protection and financial support if they are serious about rhino conservation.

In spite of the Zimbabwean Government's aggressive conservation measures, poachers are slaughtering rhino at a rate that could wipe out one of the largest concentrations in Africa within the next two years. The authorities of any country with rhino populations need to support its field force under the circumstances in which they find themselves today—in what amounts to open warfare. The situation is not exclusive to Swaziland or Zimbabwe and affects all southern African states with rhino populations.

We will not succeed in stopping the killing unless there are well-equipped, well-disciplined and superior numbers of anti-poaching units with a reliable intelligence back-up available. A vital component is to maintain a high level of morale amongst the men in the field who are expected to guard Africa's heritage.

Issued by Clive H Walker, Chairman of the Rhino & Elephant Foundation, 29 April 1992.



DAVID SHEPHERD AT HIS BEST!

David Shepherd, patron of the Rhino & Elephant Foundation, was our guest speaker at a recent REF conservation evening. From the moment he appeared on stage, David kept the audience captivated with renditions of his life story. Without a script and using only a few props, such as his first-ever and possibly best-known painting of an "awful" seascape with birds flying in anatomically incorrect positions, David is a master entertainer. What a delight!

Today David Shepherd is not only regarded as one of the world's leading wildlife artists but, because of his enormous debt to wildlife, he is also known internationally as a

leading conservationist.

The funds raised from the evening have been allocated to the capture and translocation of a white rhino female from Bophuthatswana to the Environmental Education Centre at the Gaborone Game Reserve, Botswana.

We are extremely grateful to David Shepherd for giving up his time to be our guest speaker during his brief visit to South Africa in April.

Further thanks to the Indaba Hotel for making their auditorium available to the Foundation and a special big THANK YOU to all our members who supported the event.

DONATIONS IN MEMORIAM

On behalf of the Trustees of the Rhino & Elephant Foundation we wish to extend our sincerest thanks to the Protea Club ITC and June Warburton for their donations in memory of the late Gwen Ehrmann.

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