

Now...
wood matured
Blanc Fumé

Fleur du Cap Blanc Fumé 1987 has just been released. This wine, made from Sauvignon Blanc grapes, has been matured for four months in small casks of new French oak.

Previous vintages of the Sauvignon Blanc have won numerous international awards. Among the most noteworthy were the two Gold Medals with Palm Leaves — the top award — captured at the 1985 and 1986 Monde Selection competitions in Brussels.

Fleur du Cap Blanc Fumé 1987 is made from Sauvignon Blanc grapes grown in selected vineyards in the Coastal Region. Dry and elegant, it has excellent potential for further bottle maturation.

Fleur du Cap Blanc Fumé 1987 is available at discerning wine merchants and finer restaurants.

Fleur du Cap wines are also available internationally.



FLEUR DU CAP



PRIDE OF THE CAPE NOBLE WINES

FOUR STAR

5575

Another rhino born at Augrabies

Clem Haagner

When the Augrabies Falls National Park was proclaimed in August 1966, it was decided to reintroduce some of the animals that originally inhabited the area. The black rhino was one of these species. The section of the Park on the northern bank of the Orange River is very similar to parts of Damaraland and Kaokoland in northern Namibia, so black rhinos from that region could be expected to do well at Augrabies.

A reintroduction of rhinos from Northern Namibia would serve a two-fold purpose. It would establish a pure gene pool of the Namibian subspecies *Diceror b. bicornis* in another habitat, and at the same time it was hoped to provide a viable breeding population in the Augrabies Falls National Park.

At that time rhino populations in East Africa had already been decimated through the action of poachers who slaughtered the animals for their horns which can be sold for high prices in North Yemen and the Far East. Poaching activity was moving southwards and reports of rhino losses were increasing. The time was ripe for the translocation of black rhinos to safer habitats.

Six black rhinos — three bulls and three cows — were moved to Augrabies. Soon after the off-loading one of the cows fell over a cliff and was killed. Unfortunately she was pregnant which made the loss greater.

The rhinos were given names and in October 1987, Blompot gave birth to the first calf to be born in the park. It was a heifer and appropriately named Blommetjie.

The rhinos thrived in the area and soon made their trails over the hills to areas where they liked to feed on the swarthaak and witgat trees. During the heat of the day they would rest in the shade of the larger trees which grow in the drainage lines. On 18 October last year I joined Piet Bronkhorst, Warden of Augrabies Falls National Park, on a trip through the rhino habitat across the river from the restcamp. He was surprised to discover the spoor of a baby calf along with that of an adult cow.

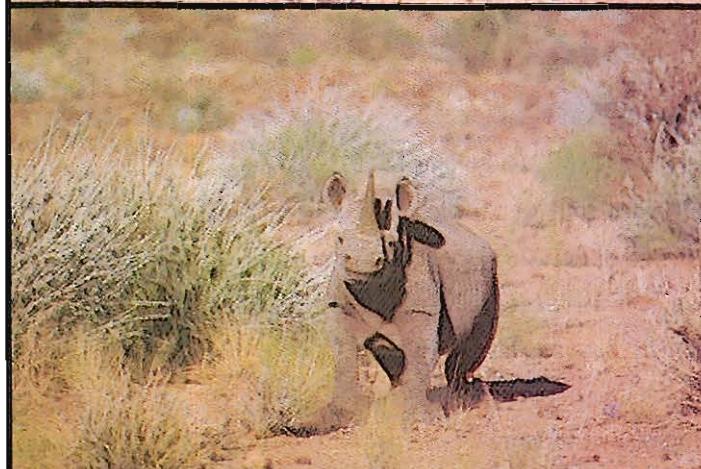
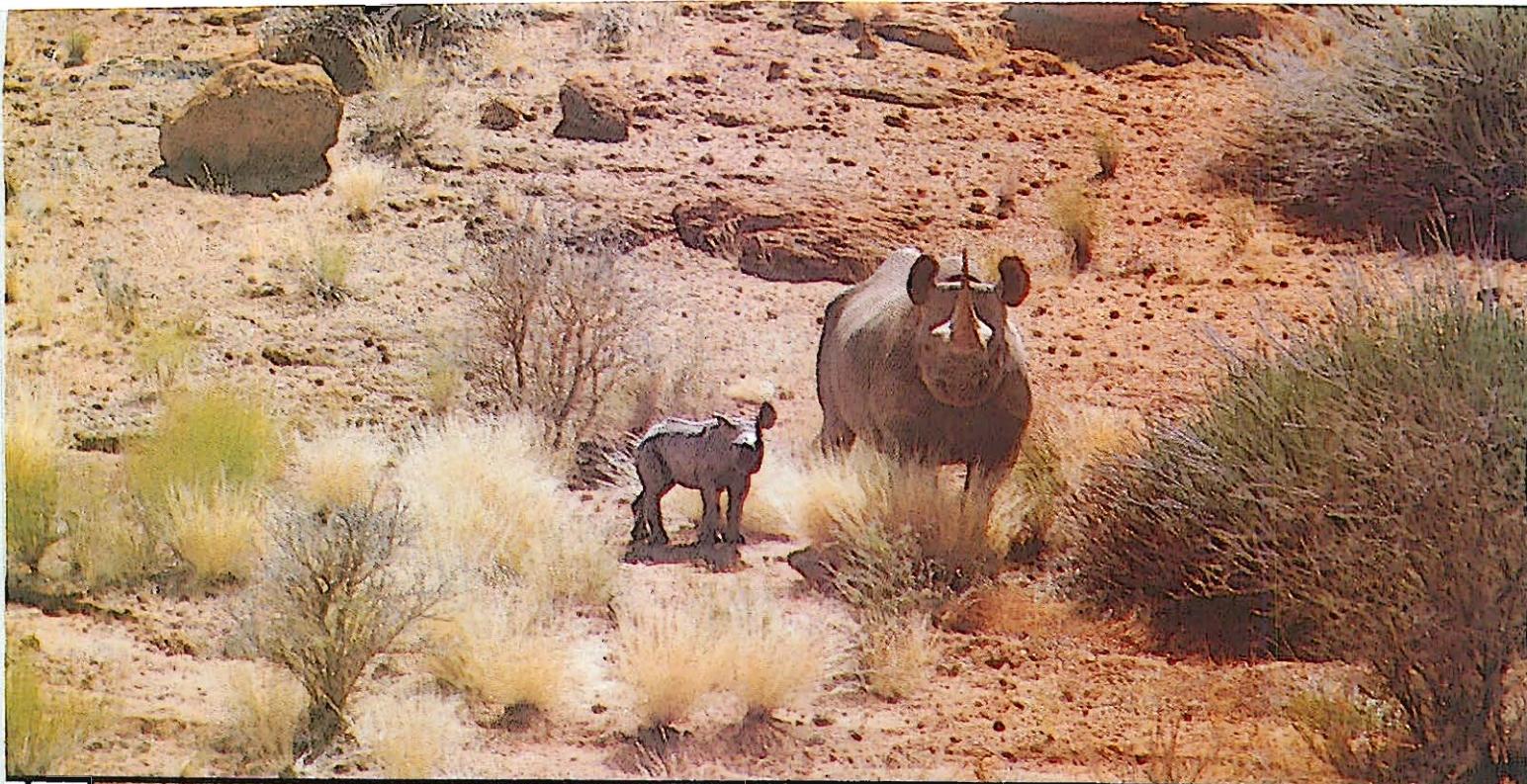
This was the second rhino to be born in the Park.

To find a rhino in that broken terrain — 4 000 hectares in extent — is no easy matter. But Piet and his assistants are excellent trackers and they followed the spoor — which to me was at times invisible — to where the cow was lying with her calf under a shady acacia growing in a drainage line. The calf was no more than a couple of days old.

The cow turned out to be Blompot, which had had her first calf Blommetjie only 24 months previously. This was most unusual because black rhinos are not expected to calve at intervals of less than 3 years between calves. The calf stays with its mother for up to 4 years. When it is well-grown, and only then, does it leave its mother as she nears giving birth to her next calf.

We spent two days trying to get photographs of Blompot and her new calf — which also appeared to be a heifer. The difficulty was due to the fact that black rhino calves always move behind the mother when facing any possible danger. The calf also runs behind the cow when it moves off. Exactly the opposite occurs with the white rhino. We found Blompot and her calf by tracking them and then approaching them in Piet's 4-wheel drive pickup. When Blompot got up, and before the calf moved behind her, I tried to get a few pictures. The cow immediately trotted off with the calf following her — but who wants only rear-end pictures?

We then left the pair alone for five or six hours so as not to stress them too much and later looked for them again. In all we made four contacts with Blompot and her calf during the two days. We twice came across Blommetjie, Blompot's first calf, accompanied by Stompie — a rhino bull that had broken its horn off while in the boma shortly after arrival. It appeared that the bull was very interested in Blommetjie. This is quite unusual because rhino heifers normally only become sexually mature at the age of five to six years. Maybe in 15 months time we can expect another new arrival in the Augrabies Falls National Park.



Bo: Blompot en haar kalf. • Above: Blompot and her calf. Links: 'n Swartrenosterkalf kruip agter die koei weg wanneer gevvaar dreig. • Left: At the first sight of possible danger a black rhino calf hides behind its mother.

Links middel: Blommetjie, Blompot se eerste kalf is al twee jaar oud. • Middle left: Blommetjie, Blompot's first calf is already two years old.

Links onder: Stompie, die renosterbul wat sy horing teen die boma afgestamp het toe hy in die Augrabies-waterval Nasionale Parke vrygelaat is. • Stompie, the bull that damaged his horn against the boma on being released in the Augrabies Falls National Park.

Photos/Foto's: Clem Haagner.

'n Tweede kalf vir Blompot

Toe die Augrabies-waterval Nasionale Park in 1966 ge-proklameer is, is besluit om onder meer swartrenosters daar te hervestig. Ses renosters, drie bulle en drie koeie, is uit die noorde van Namibië daarheen oorgeplaas, omdat die deel van die park op die noordelike oewer van die Oranjerivier baie met daardie gebied ooreenstem. Een dragtige koei het ongelukkig in die ravyn afgestort.

Die diere, wat almal name gekry het, het pragtig aangepas. In Oktober 1987 is 'n verskalf, Blommetjie, vir Blompot gebore. Teen die verwagting in was daar twee jaar later weer 'n kalfie. Normaalweg neem dit drie na vier jaar voordat 'n volgende kalfie sy verskynning maak. Vanweë die gewoonte van 'n swartrenosterkalf om agter sy moeder in te beweeg by enige teken van potensiële gevvaar, was dit 'n stryd om 'n ordentlike foto van die tweede geneem te kry.

Blommetjie word deesdae in Stompie se geselskap gesien. Te oordeel na die aandag wat hy aan haar gee, kan daar dalk binne die volgende 15 maande nog 'n nuwe aankomeling in die Augrabies-waterval Nasionale Park wees.

Clem Haagner