

# The rhinoceros library in the Waterberg

by Kees Rookmaaker

**A**s part of the Rhino Museum at Melkrivier, the Rhino & Elephant Foundation will establish a library of publications concerning the rhinoceros. This will be a unique place where all old and new work done on the rhinoceros will be available. At this present time already over 5200 references are immediately accessible. The material covers all five living species, both Asian and African, and has no limits in date or language or subject matter. There are books written only about the rhinoceros, many articles in specialist as well as popular journals, and also several smaller chapters or sections or even sentences in publications of a more varied nature. A collection like this can never be complete, because new papers appear continuously, and some older papers were overlooked or they are very rare and hard to find. However, if one is interested in a certain topic of rhinoceros biology, maintenance, hunting, history, veterinary care, parasites, art and culture, this should be your first place to come and look. Actually, there is no area which is intentionally left out. About 80 references were written in Roman times, 500 before 1800, 700 in the nineteenth century, while over 1200 were produced during the last fifteen years. All works mentioned in my *Bibliography of the Rhinoceros* published in 1983 are available. Visitors are welcome to study in the library itself, but we will attempt to help scholars, field workers, journalists and others throughout the world

who want specific publications, using fax and the internet. We also welcome contributions to the library, any book or paper on the rhinoceros itself, but also more general works on nature, especially some on the elephant and on the natural and cultural history of the Waterberg Mountains where the museum is located. All contributions will be acknowledged.

Connected with the library we will establish a database on all aspects of rhinoceros biology including classification, distribution and status through the years, behaviour and social structure of the five rhinoceros species. This database will be continuously updated and we hope that we can make the information available through the internet.

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Dates of 5359 rhino works  
in the Rhino Museum, Melkrivier

