

# SEBAKWE NEWS

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## Rhino Poaching

We have continued to have serious poaching problems in the Midlands Conservancy and in order to combat poaching all our adult rhino were dehorned in September 2006, some had radio collars put round their necks. Norman English has been appointed as Security Officer and together with our guards and monitors is trying to track down and catch the poachers and protect the remaining rhino.



Sadly, although the adults were dehorned, Seniorita and her calf were killed by poachers in November 2006 and one juvenile male killed in early December 2006 – in each case they were shot with bullets from an AK47 Rifle and the small stump of horn was hacked off.

After three births this last year, we now have twenty black rhino left in the main Midlands Conservancy, not including those at Iwaba Estates.

On December 26<sup>th</sup> by pure chance, an AK47 rifle was discovered in a plastic bag hidden in a hole in an anthill along with 84 rounds of ammunition. This weapon is being examined to see if it matches the bullets recovered from the rhino killed by poachers. A reward of one million Zimbabwe dollars was paid to the person who discovered the weapon on one of the Conservancy farms.

