



## SAVE FOUNDATION of Australia (Inc.)

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# CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2003

As the whole world knows, it's been a ghastly year in Zimbabwe, both for the people and the wildlife! We've continued to support our various conservation projects in as big a way as ever and the **SAVE FOUNDATION** is proud to be one of the few remaining active donor NGOs.

Your continued membership and support of our activities is vital if we are to make an impact on the lives of the rhinos, in particular, and other wildlife we have assisted. We value your involvement, as do the many people working in the field.

The following is a synopsis of the main happenings of relevant activities in 2003.

### 26 RHINOS KILLED IN SINAMATELLA

The year started badly with 3 dead rhinos being found in early January, followed by 4 in February and 6 in April. By July the total number of poached rhinos had risen to 25 plus 1 killed in a fight. Sinamatella Intensive Protection Zone has been the most effective of the major National Parks' rhino projects and it's been a great disappointment to Warden Norman English and his 20-man anti-poaching unit. This number of men is far too few for the size of the area and a consortium of NGOs, lead by SIRAD, is in the process of employing and training 10 new scouts for patrol work.

The anti-poaching unit hit back in June and killed 3 poachers and captured a fourth. The same thing happened in Matusadona when 4 poachers were shot and 3 were captured.



*Presentation of Certificates of Appreciation: From L to R - Nicholas Duncan, Sgt Richard Ndhlovu, Director-General Dr Morris Musamambwa, Scout Augustine Gomba, Warden Norman English and Provincial Warden Onias Bepe (absent Shadrick Sibanda and Alex Shoko)*

Congratulations to Norman English on being the Wildlife Society of Matabeleland's Conservationist of the Year 2002/2003 - well deserved recognition.

### \$65,000 RAISED AT DINNER/AUCTION

On Monday 6 October we held a most successful fund-raising evening at the Hyatt Regency Perth. Our special guests were Heath Streak and the Zimbabwe Cricket Team plus Matthew Hayden, just three days before his world breaking innings of 380! The celebrity panel was most professionally compered by Ken Casellas.



*From L to R - Greg Oldfield, Angelo Porcaro, Warren Pole (Peters & Brownes), Matthew Hayden and Tony Pountney*

Auctioneer Chris Shellabear, masterfully sold all 60 items of sporting memorabilia, plus safaris, paintings and carvings. The highlight, entitled "Australia's Test Captains and Other Test Greats, 1948-2002", 2 fully signed bats from Bradman through to the present team, was purchased for \$22,500 by a local businessman, Gino Salomone, and is now proudly displayed in his showroom.

In addition to those mentioned above, our thanks go to Tucker Seabrook for the wines, CUB for the beer, Hyatt Regency Perth, Touched by Angels, Corporate Theatre Productions and Annalice Creations.

### NEW HORN IMPLANT TECHNOLOGY

As an alternative to radio collars, radio transmitters are being fitted into the rhino's horn, producing exceptional tracking results. This process started in Sinamatella in May/June, was continued in September

and has now been used in Bubiana Conservancy, all under the skilful eye of hardworking veterinarian, Dr Chris Foggin. We are the donor of many of these transmitters and are committed to a further 50 in 2004.

### 30 RHINOS MOVED TO SAFETY

The combined skills of Chris Foggin from the Wildlife Veterinary Unit and Raoul du Toit from WWF resulted in 30 rhinos being moved from Bubiana Conservancy to Bubye River Conservancy. This was necessitated due to over-crowding in an area now densely populated by illegal land occupants. One rhino had been shot previously on this land and a few killed by snare injuries.

We are committed to \$16,000 of monitoring and tracking equipment in the New Year, both to Bubiana and also to the Save Valley Conservancy. Both these projects have been most successful in the past 10 years and are suffering at the hands of the new land settlers, with the resultant need for better monitoring.

### FURTHER \$25,000 FROM HUNTER HALL

Peter Hall, Managing Director of Hunter Hall Investment Management Ltd, has advised us that a further \$25,000 will be donated in the New Year, as voted by his management and shareholders. Thanks again for your ongoing support and you know that we will wisely and responsibly make use of this most generous donation.

### GREG RASMUSSEN MICROLIGHT CRASH

Back in July we were horrified to hear the details of Greg's nasty accident, from which he was lucky to escape. Greg is head of the Painted Dog Research Unit at Hwange, and due to their recent decline from poaching and snare deaths, he was volunteering his tracking skills to the rhino project in neighbouring Sinamatella. Unfortunately, he came a cropper, but thanks to well-placed tree, he survived the impact with the ground; but not without great damage to his body, with just about every bone being broken from his hips to his toes! Greg is recovering in Harare and has progressed to hydrotherapy and should be allowed to try to walk within the next few weeks. We have contributed to his medical expenses, which certainly were putting a dent in the project's resources.

Get well soon, Greg, you are lucky to have such a great fighting spirit to see you back in the field again.

### HWANGE GAME WATER SUPPLY

We are aware that National Parks is struggling to supply the necessary financial resources to maintain and refurbish water pumps and engines in the 80 pans of Hwange National Park, a naturally semi-arid area. We have recently purchased 4 new engines and will also be supplying spare parts to repair many of the broken down water holes. Looking to the future, we

are seeking the support of other Australian and overseas NGOs to put together a bigger project.

### WHERE OUR DOLLARS WENT IN 2003

<i>Motor Vehicle Repairs</i>	<b>\$14,495</b>
<i>Field Equipment</i>	<b>\$12,925</b>
<i>Radio Repairs</i>	<b>\$11,850</b>
<i>Rhino Tracking Equipment</i>	<b>\$ 7,300</b>
<i>Game Water Supply</i>	<b>\$ 7,020</b>
<i>Namibia Save the Rhino</i>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
<i>Lion Project</i>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
<i>Zambia Rhino Project</i>	<b>\$ 4,400</b>
<i>Zambia Anti-Poaching</i>	<b>\$ 3,800</b>
<i>Elephant Project</i>	<b>\$ 3,290</b>
<i>Illegal Wildlife Trade Investigation</i>	<b>\$ 2,500</b>
<i>Anti-Poaching</i>	<b>\$ 2,080</b>
<i>Uganda Elephant Problem</i>	<b>\$ 1,250</b>
<i>Kenya Anti-Poaching</i>	<b>\$ 1,250</b>
<i>Imire Rhino Breeding Program</i>	<b>\$ 1,020</b>
<i>Wild Dog Project</i>	<b>\$ 700</b>
<i>Air Freight</i>	<b>\$ 680</b>
<i>Anti-Poaching Rewards</i>	<b>\$ 320</b>
<i>Miscellaneous Expenses</i>	<b>\$ 850</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$85,730</b>

### GLENN TATHAM MOVES TO THE MIDLANDS

Former Chief Warden, Glenn Tatham, has accepted the position of Conservator for the Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy. With his vast experience he will be a welcome asset to this project and will be in overall charge of the 60+ rhinos in the area. Good luck Glenn in this new role!

### ASIAN RHINO PROJECT

Congratulations to Kerry Crosby and Steven Widjaja on their two recent successful fund-raisers, one at Vasse Felix Winery and the other at a local rock climbing centre. In total, they raised \$2,500 towards their participation in the "Borneo Rhino Challenge".

### SAFARI, MAY 2004

Those of you on our email list will have received details of our 14-Day Zimbabwean Adventure, and others will receive it with this Newsletter. Please note that I shall be overseas from 18 December until 23 January and bookings can be made on my return.

Be assured that your trip to Zimbabwe will be safe!

*We wish all our members, supporters and colleagues, both in Australia and Zimbabwe, a very Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year and we hope that conditions, for both man and beast in Zimbabwe, will improve in 2004.*

*With best wishes,*

*Nicholas S. Duncan*