



# SAVE FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA (INC) NEWSLETTER

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## **INCREASE IN RHINO NUMBERS**

**GOOD NEWS** seems rare these days in the world of conservation, so it is heartening to be able to report a success story, especially when it concerns what appeared, until very recently, to be a lost cause. During the 1970s and 1980s, rhinos were slaughtered in their tens of thousands the length and breadth of Africa, disappearing completely in most of their range. It really looked as if they were doomed to extinction. Nonetheless, thanks to a combination of individual devotion and government action, rhino numbers are slowly recovering.

The cause of the poaching frenzy of the previous two decades is the huge demand for rhino horn in Yemen and the Far East. One reason for current optimism about the rhino's future is that the trade in rhino horn appears, finally, to be coming under control. Increasingly, we are seeing that trade is a key factor in conservation, either because it is endangering certain species or because it can, if adequately controlled, be used as a beneficial tool for protecting them. The international body entrusted with monitoring and controlling international trade in threatened and endangered species is

CITES. Last June the parties to CITES met in Zimbabwe.

*The above-courtesy Swara-Sept/Oct '97.*

We are proud to be part of this success story and after 11 years of hard work the **SAVE FOUNDATION** is finally seeing the fruits of its labour.

In the past year, the rhino birth rate has been around the 7% mark, with the greatest percentage increase coming in Bubiana Conservancy. This is proving to be a very worthy project and it won't be long before some of the younger rhinos are returned back to the wild, to

the national parks from whence their parents came. That's why the whole conservancy project was created - to remove rhinos from troubled areas to allow them to breed whilst protected, with the ultimate aim of their return to national land. The other successful projects are Save Valley, the Midlands, Gourlays, Chiredzi River and Chippingali. Our good friends at Imire Game Park have also had a very successful last two years, with four births and two of these calves are now at the rehabilitation centre at Tashinga with the other two to follow shortly. It's exciting to see what is happening here and their whole series of volunteers have been "fostering" these rhino calves as they grow up and learn to be "wild rhinos", prior to their release. The **SAVE FOUNDATION** will be sponsoring vet fees associated with this project together with the dried milk powder that is a necessary part of the young rhino's diet.

Your Executive for 1997/98 was:

President - *Nicholas Duncan*

Vice President - *Marion Bowers*

Secretary - *Ken McDonald*

Treasurer - *Kevin Judge*

General Duties - *Guy Tristram*



*The future.*

**S**adly, after leading a very successful Safari '97, Marion had to resign from the Executive for personal reasons. She will be greatly missed, as she has shown a great commitment to Zimbabwe and the rhino cause, having made at least 10 visits to Africa. Her knowledge and instincts will be hard to replace and I take this opportunity to publicly thank Marion for all her effort and hard work over the last eight years.

**G**uy Tristram has been seconded in to the position of Vice President and there is now a vacancy on the Executive. Elections will take place at this year's AGM on 1 July and interested people are encouraged to phone me to discuss the expectations of being a member of the Executive.

**T**o the other three Executive members, Ken, Kevin and Guy, I extend my appreciation for all that they have done during the past year, especially their valued input at our lengthy Executive meetings! It is heartening to have different view points expressed at these meetings and I trust that they will all continue to offer their commitment for the next financial year.

**T**he audited financial statements for 1996/97 showed an income of approximately \$82,000 (mainly the Bryce Courtenay dinner/auction, donations, memberships and sales) and expenses of roughly \$62,000 (see items under 'Projects Supported' - elsewhere on this page), leaving a surplus of \$20,000.

#### *Land Acquisitions Act.-*

**M**ost readers will have read of various economic and political unrests in recent times in Zimbabwe. Reproduced here is an article by John Gripper, Chairman of the Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust, and recently published in the March edition of Sebakwe News.

**U**nder the Land Acquisition Act on 28 November 1997, a list of 1,472 farms was published out of a total of 4,500 farms in Zimbabwe. This has taken place against the background of severe economic and financial crisis in the country. There was doubt as to whether any compensation for the land would be paid by the Government if a farm was taken for compulsory acquisition. There are insufficient government funds to pay for the farms.

White farmers mostly own the farms on the list. They cover 11 million acres and represent 40% of the country's agricultural output, employing 147,000 workers. The farmers were given 28 days to lodge an appeal against designation of their farm under the Act. The original criteria for designation set out in the 'land reform' programme were:-

1. Ownership of multiple farms.
2. Absentee landlords.
3. Foreign owned farms.
4. Under-utilised farms.

**H**owever, in drawing up the original list for designation, these criteria had often not been followed. The farms that were to be taken over were for resettlement or were to be handed over to indigenous farmers. Many farms in the various conservancies have been listed. There is great concern that, if these farms change hands, the new owners may not be supportive of the objectives of the rhino conservancy.

**T**here are now suggestions that President Mugabe has been forced to abandon the mass take over of these privately owned farms. This follows pressure from the European Union and the World Bank, who are providing much needed loans to Zimbabwe.

**T**he land reform may now be resolved by the transfer of a smaller number of farms which are already available. It is hoped that this will be carried out in a transparent manner and in accordance with the rules of law and the constitution. This should ensure that productivity and security of employment will not be affected."

#### *Projects Supported 1997/1998.*

- Kit for patrol staff in Sinamatella, Matopos, Matusadona.
- Kit for Umtschibi capture unit.
- Kit for mobile maintenance unit.
- Kit for Bubiana guards.
- 100 x mosquito nets.
- 30 rhino tracking collars.
- Repairs to Unimog capture vehicle.
- Kit for Greg Rasmussen' and Painted Dog Research Project.
- Grant to Alistair Pole for Wild Dog Project.
- Helicopter GPS from Bob Jeffery.
- Bedford truck spares to Chirisa National Park.
- Spares for Matusadona Warden's Landrover

- 110 x secondhand Landrover tyres kindly donated by Cyril Groombridge Landrovers of Sussex
- 2 x Motorola radios for Imire Game Park.
- 25 x Motorola radios for National Parks.
- 130 x spare Motorola batteries and re-charging equipment.
- Laser printer for Operations room.
- Travel expenses and drug costs for Dr Chris Foggin, honorary vet for National Parks.

#### *National Parks Rhino Workshop Extracted from Sebakwe News*

**A** special three-day workshop organised by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management was held at the Sebakwe Club in the Midlands from 22 to 25 January 1998.

**N**ational Parks Headquarters staff were joined by representatives of the private conservancies, Intensive Protection Zones and captive breeding centres.

#### *Matters discussed included:-*

1. Collaring and ear notching of rhino for identification.
2. Need to move some male rhino for genetic diversity.
3. Carrying and use of weapons by the scouts and guards.
4. Targets for annual growth rates for rhino populations.
5. Import of black rhino from South Africa.
6. Increased manpower for field security.
7. Relocation of fragmented groups of white rhino.
8. Establishment of breeding groups on new land areas.
9. Improvement of local community relations for rhino management.

**T**he proposed establishment of National and Provincial Rhino Management Planning Committees was approved by delegates. This will improve the co-ordination of resources, speed-up management decisions and assist in meta-population management recommendations.

**P**lease attend our AGM and film night on 1 July.

**C**heck out our web site, thanks to Mark Nielsen, <http://www.iinet.au/~save>

**Nicholas S. Duncan**

## BLACK RHINO SUPER EIGHTS - CRICKET STARS RAISE \$20,000

On Sunday 12 October, the third annual Black Rhino Cricket Challenge Match was played in Bulawayo. The first two had been in Harare, the first being a typical 40 over game and the second match was the inaugural Super Eights played in Africa. This theme was continued for the Bulawayo gala day, with three teams of stars representing the World, South Africa and Zimbabwe. The World team was captained by our patron, David Gower, and also included former Australian captain Kim Hughes, and his colleague Carl Rackemann, three former West Indian stars, Alvin Kallicharan, Deryck Murray and Collis King and John Emburey, one of England's best spin bowlers in recent times. Due to a late withdrawal, Rob Jones from Zimbabwe completed the eight.

The South African team was captained by their former great all-rounder, Mike Procter, and included one of the best ever left handed batsman, Graeme Pollock, together with Rob Bentley, Hugh Page, Baboo Ebrahim, Lee Barnard, Mark Venter and John Rennie.

The local team, Zimbabwe, with regulars Andy Waller and Malcolm Jarvis, contained a few younger players and they were in a very competitive mood to complete a hat trick of wins from the three black rhino matches.

There had been various hiccups in the preparation for this celebrity day and it was only due to the untiring efforts of a local Bulawayo businessman, Declan Kelly, who came to the aid of the event with just six weeks to go, and donated a considerable amount of his time that ensured that the matches could be played. In the final week he was ably assisted by Boetie York and Stella Leanders, and our thanks also go to Roger Evans of the Foam Shop for sponsoring some press advertisements and Impala Seeds for use of their office facilities.

The sponsorship that was arranged for the players' flights and accommodation was not as great as on the previous occasions and this caused a big dent in our budget.

However, without the support of British Airways and Zimbabwe Sun Hotels, we would have been struggling in a big way. The relatively new airline, Zimbabwe Express Airlines, proved to be an absolute bonanza for us, just like last year, and gave complimentary flights for all the players in South Africa as well as free travel within Zimbabwe. To their General Manager Patrick Mangwi, we offer our sincere thanks.

In the first match, Zimbabwe beat the World by 25 runs and then proceeded to beat South Africa in the second game by a similar margin. This ensured that Zimbabwe would be one of the finalists. In a very close and exciting play-off between the World and South Africa, the result was not decided until the last ball when John Emburey bowled in the block hole and Graeme Pollock was unable to hit it for the required six runs. Hence, this resulted in a repeat of last year's final between Zimbabwe and the World.

The World batted first and scored 133 and Zimbabwe struggled all the way through their innings and needed 18 off the last over for victory. Thanks to big hitting by Malcolm Jarvis they only needed 1 run with 2 balls to go, the last man at the wicket. He missed the first ball but hit the next one for the winning run, off the very last ball of a tremendously exciting final. To Dennis Streak and his victorious team, we offer our congratulations for a mighty fight back. To all the players, and umpires Jeff Fenwick and Aldon Gilmour, who so kindly donated their services, it was a magic day for cricket lovers.

All of the super stars delighted the crowd at some time or other with Kim Hughes, Graeme Pollock and Mike Procter all scoring dashing 50s before retiring, David Gower and Alvin Kallicharan playing their brand of classic stroke play to all parts of the field, Collis King bowling with zest and skill as well as batting with great strength and gusto, Deryck Murray making catches and stumpings in his professional way, John Emburey bowling tightly and shrewdly under pressure and Carl Rackemann

proving to be a crowd pleaser with his personality and cheerful performance.

Due to the location, the amount of sponsorship was not as big as previous games in Harare. The sum of \$20,000 was raised from the dinner/auction the night before and the corporate marquees and gate takings at the game.

Our thanks go to all the donors; Judy Broadway (koala bear), Gail Amyott (akubra hat), Carl Rackemann (autographed bat by the 1989 Australian Ashes Team), Bruce Reid (Australian and West Australian cricket shirts), Barberton Lodge (3 nights), Leopard Rock Hotel (2 nights), Masuwe Lodge / Landela Safaris (2 nights), Kiplings Camp / Shearwater Adventures (2 nights), Matobo Hills Lodge and Lodge at the Ancient City / Touch The Wild (2 nights each), Nick Price (autographed putter), and Monarch Luggage (Central Africa Warehousing).

Thanks also to our corporate sponsors; Maurice Kantors (Graham Veldsman), NCR, Dunlop, Toolmaking & Engineering, Acol Chemicals, Edgar Allen, Shebani & Mashaba Mines, Fawcetts Security, Western Transport, Solomon Brothers, African Distillers, Barry King Jewellers, Malindi Station Lodge, Big Cave Camp, British Airways, Zimbabwe Express Airlines, Zimbabwe Sun Hotels, Bubiana Conservancy, Julian Scales and Auridiam Consolidated. To all the other volunteers, and especially to Alistair and Siobhan Boyd, we couldn't have done it without you.

As in previous occasions, the trophies were so kindly donated by that great Zimbabwean silversmith, Patrick Mavros, who generously gave a solid silver rhino and calf for the winning captain, seven silver drink stirrers for the rest of the team, and silver rhinos to the other two skippers, David Gower and Mike Procter, and to Graeme Pollock as player of the day.

## SAFARI '97 A DREAM COMES TRUE

**SAFARI!** There's magic in the name. Visions of pith helmets, hacking through thick green jungle, bearers carrying huge loads of equipment and of course the expectation of hearing Tarzan calling in the distance as he swung through the trees on vines that never broke, followed by an obedient line of running elephants who trumpeted on cue and always knew that they mustn't hurt the 'goodies'.

Evenings, when in enormous clearings in the impenetrable vegetation, the newly showered, intrepid explorers sat outside large tents in freshly ironed clean clothes, toying with gourmet meals and sipping excellent vintages from long stemmed glasses. The latter transformation miraculously took place though there was no evidence of any water – apart from the inevitable crocodile filled river in which Tarzan had done battle earlier in the day.

I grew up on Tarzan books, I read them all, and I saw all the films. I was 'there' listening to the birds, fearlessly talking to the animals – who of course understood me – and helping to keep the kingdom safe for another day.

In my ignorance, I didn't know that Tarzan did all his leaping around in a pretend jungle on a small backlot in Hollywood nor that Zimbabwe doesn't have jungle, it has bush. There are no green leaves to hack through because it only rains in summer and that's also when the grasses grow so long that it's difficult to see the animals. Therefore the best time to go on safari is between autumn and spring. I went in August, which is spring.

How did the reality – my SAVE FOUNDATION safari – compare with my long held visions? *It was magic!*

Nobody wears pith helmets any more; they're hot and uncomfortable. But you will need a hat with an all around brim, preferably very light and meshy to let the air through.

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The bearers have been replaced by excellent highly informative guides who know the common and often the Latin names of every plant, tree, bird and animal, - I lost count after seeing and identifying 25 different kinds of animals. The only thing a guide carries is a gun and they take pride in never having to use it. Guides are in the business of preservation and in sharing the joy and thrills of their fauna with those adventurous enough to come to see it. This aim is achieved when the visitors follow the very simple, specific instructions given by every guide before every outing. "In the event of anything unusual, stay absolutely still, stay absolutely quiet and do EXACTLY as I say" - We did.

drive us in our open backed truck to within a few meters of that spot. On one occasion the line divided about 40 metres before it arrived at the track. So we sat there holding our breath in fear and excitement while over two hundred elephants from huge to tiny babies padded silently by. They make no noise! How can such enormous creatures in such large numbers move through crinkley bush so quietly that you wouldn't know they were passing by if you had your eyes closed.

So many wondrous animals, here are a few of my favourite scenes.



*Rhino tracking.*



*Imire Game Park.*

I didn't need Tarzan to see lines of elephants. Every afternoon they travel to water. Long lines, two or three abreast. The guides would estimate where the line would cross the track we were on, and

The baby leopard cub about the size of a domestic cat who scuttled across the road in front of our truck to join its majestic mother who sat under a rock staring defiantly at us.

The lioness who, while feeding cubs, looked at us just long enough to decide we weren't going to do anything threatening. Then entertained us by flicking from one side to the other while her hungry babies frantically rushed over and around her trying to get back on her teats.

The graceful giraffes that have a tendency to stand facing each other so their necks form picturesque X shapes. They are so tall yet can seem to completely disappear behind the sparsest, leafless tree.

The less than beautiful warthogs that kneel down to eat.

The sable with their elegant backward curving horns.

The rock dassies who, though they don't have a trunk or big feet and who are smaller than a domestic cat, are said to be the nearest relation to the elephant. I don't think Tarzan ever knew about rock dassies.

And of course the rhinos. The black and white rhinos are completely different in size and shape but both are the same colour, grey! We also saw several orphans who are now being brought up healthily and happily by teams of concerned carers. Groups of heavily armed guards sitting in circles on the ground, keeping watch over their charges, giving silent testimony to the ever present hazard from poachers to these endangered species. One little baby rhino, only three months old. His mother is a bit old to care for him, so he is being brought up by a series of volunteers who love their job and cry when they have to leave him. He was only about forty centimeters tall but amazingly strong and like all babies, full of fun. He is what the **SAVE FOUNDATION** is all about.

Hippos. I'm very scared of hippos and I was glad to know that the guides have a healthy respect for them too and gave them a wide berth when we were canoeing.

Land animals don't seem to see humans in canoes as a threat, so you can get very close to them. Elephants like to go to the

water's edge and pull up soft tufts of grass growing in the shallows. It's fascinating to watch while they daintily tap the tufts against their leg to get the earth off and then give the grass a final swish in the water to clean it before popping it in their mouth. Canoeing is very peaceful and quite a different experience.

What about the accommodation? The only tent we saw was unobtrusively set up inside a beautifully crafted thatched, stone 'hut' for two. The tent was in the sleeping area — protection from mosquitoes — but the hut also had a toilet, a lovely hot shower, dressing table, reading lights, a picture window and a large basket into which we put our dirty clothes every morning. They arrived back cleaned and ironed in the evening, compliments of the management. As an added bonus, these huts were sited in the bush so that each was out of sight from the others. This, like all the other excellent camps on the safari, had a separate central dining area with gourmet meals.

Every day was full of activity. Up early in the morning — usually awakened by the

beat of a drum, breakfast, then a game drive in open truck, or a game walk, or a boat ride, or a climb to see rock paintings. Then back to camp for a delicious lunch, and a couple of hours of rest. In the afternoon another activity different from the morning.

In the evenings — just like my old Tarzan movies — our newly showered group, wearing clean, freshly ironed clothes, sat around a campfire, sipping pre-dinner drinks from long stemmed glasses before indulging in an equally delectable dinner.

The evenings flew by in the company of the fun-filled, young at heart, adventurous people who go on safaris and the thrilling tales of the guides who always joined us for dinner.

So you see, my long held safari dreams came true, it was all MAGIC!

*Marie Webster-Viola*  
Sept. 27 1997

NB: We can recommend and organise personalised safaris to Zimbabwe and surrounding countries. Just give our office a ring.



*Marie & Julie Froyland with Mbizhi.*



*Lioness in Chobe National Park.*

## AN EVENING WITH GREG RASSMUSSEN AND THE AFRICAN PAINTED DOG

On Thursday 6 November, 68 members from the SAVE FOUNDATION with the Docent Association of the Perth Zoo enjoyed a very entertaining and informative evening with Greg Rassmussen.

Greg is the Director of the Painted Dog Research Project, a self-funded project that focuses on the study and conservation of the species, and education and awareness of the plight of the Painted Dog.

The existence of the Painted Dog, previously known as the African Wild Dog, and Cape Hunting Dog, like many other wild creatures, is severely threatened by farmers, motor vehicles and encroachment etc. Part of Greg's study in fact showed that plastic bags, when ingested, were the greatest killers of domestic cattle, not Painted Dog. The Painted Dog is responsible for only a very small number of cattle deaths.

Translocation programmes are successfully placing these threatened carnivores in areas less effected by civilisation.

Some wonderful slides supported Greg's talk. These showed the strong social aspect of their lives (they never fight each other) and the great variety of the markings of their coats created by black, gold, white and tan. These markings are being computerised and used to identify individuals.

A fund raising sale was conducted at the end of the talk, offering Painted Dog T-Shirts, children's books, beautiful limited edition prints, etc.

The evening was a great success all round and raised \$1,400. Part of this was used to purchase camping swags and small camp cookers for Greg and his team to make their lives a little more comfortable

when they return to the bush, and the balance went towards Landrover repairs.

We thank British Airways for their generosity in providing airfares allowing Greg to come to Australia and the SAVE FOUNDATION and Docent members for making the evening a success.

*Ken McDonald*

## PLIGHT OF THE RHINOS

To most, the name 'Memphis' would be associated with the USA and Tennessee.

To 90 SAVE FOUNDATION members and friends who attended our last meeting held at the Perth Zoo on 17 March, it must surely bring to mind a very large white rhino that we were fortunate enough to visit at close quarters.

In small groups, guided by the Zoo's Docents, who very generously donated their time and expertise, we were led to the enclosure of the zoo's resident white rhino named 'Memphis'. Not just to look, but also close enough to touch as can be seen from the close-up photo.

Memphis arrived at the Perth Zoo in 1990 from, of all places, the Memphis Zoo in the USA, so the connection was there. Unfortunately, he has been living the life of a recluse ever since.

During a very interesting and informative talk given by Colin Wallbank immediately following the tour, we were told this could change. Colin is the zoo's Curator of carnivores and hooved animals and who also has Memphis under his umbrella.

The plan is to acquire two female white rhinos late this year or early next year to form part of a major breeding programme.

Question time satisfied the curiosity of most, except noticeably one very young lady who wanted to know it all!

The film that followed, "Flight of the Rhinos", told a dramatic story of the

decimation of the rhino by poaching, the anti poaching teams and their unenviable task sometimes ending in the death of the poachers, and the final decision to dart and capture the remaining rhinos in the wild (in this one very vulnerable area) and relocate them in Australia. An incredible task by some very dedicated people. A film that can be watched many times -the impact is tremendous.

Actually we nearly didn't see the film at all. Some very slick footwork by Kevin Carter, President of the Docents, to quickly find the VCR technician and get the equipment up and running, saved much embarrassment.

Your President, Nicholas Duncan, then gave us, as only he can, a very detailed rhino update.

The two most exciting facts to report

1. There has been no recorded poaching in Zimbabwe since March 1994, and
2. Numbers have increased to 340 due to births of calves in many of the I.P.Zs and conservancies.

About \$1,100 was raised from the sale of various items, together with some donations, and the supper was a pleasant way to end the evening.

It was wonderful to see so many members bring their young families and show an active interest in the SAVE FOUNDATION. If this is what it takes, we will certainly have meetings along the same lines in future.

Ideas or input from members would be most welcome.

*Ken McDonald*



*Memphis - close enough?*

## "RHINO ROCK" FUNDRAISER - SYDNEY, 7 MARCH

The idea to support this project in Tanzania germinated after I read about the Sand Rivers Lodge in the Selous in the South African Airways' in-flight magazine last September. I later faxed them for more information, which I put before the Sydney committee for consideration.

Sand Rivers is an excellent and rare example of how a private tourist lodge can set up a totally separate trust fund to protect its last remaining rhinos. At the end of 1995 the founders of Sand Rivers, Richard Bonham and Bimb and Lizzy Theobald, along with Tanzania's director of wildlife and the project manager of the Selous Game Reserve, set up the Sand Rivers Rhino Project.

Currently WWF is working with the rhino project to assess rhino number in the Selous. Although numbers in the early 1980s were around 2000, it is thought only about 100 animals remain today. There are a definite 8-10 in the Kidai area adjacent to the concession area of the camp, possibly the last viable breeding herd (a calf was born last year), and it is these rhinos in particular that we are seeking to protect.

Sand Rivers is presently seeking funds for final construction costs of the Kidai ranger post (they have six game scouts patrolling the area) plus construction of a satellite post on the Sumbadsi River.

Our fundraiser was set up with this aim in mind. It went fantastically well, and we raised a total of \$8,500. \$4,000 of that came from the auction of items kindly donated by our valued sponsors, listed here, without whose support we could not have done so well: Out of Africa, Deeny Kohler-Caporale, Rhinocraft, Richard Farley (Digital Pictures Home Video/Slides), Amarula Cream, Deidre Williamson, Chris McClelland, Julia Salnicki, Tucker Seabrooks, John Raymond, Design Directions and African Safari Magazine

I contacted the Australian distributors of Amarula Cream, the South African liqueur, who were happy to help with a wonderful display, which added a certain African flavour to the night. Not only did they provide our 114 guests with a sampling and miniatures to take home, they gave us six gift packs for our raffle.

I managed to keep overheads such as catering to a minimum. Out of the ticket price of \$35 per person I can honestly say \$30 would have been pure profit. The venue was rather special in itself, the Bayview Yacht Club built over the water at Pittwater, and we danced the night away to music kindly provided at a very reduced rate by our DJ. Much of the food was donated and together with the committee our children helped with the preparation, decorating, waitering / waitressing, and cleaning up. The SAVE T-shirts they wore on the night could have been sold a hundred times over, but unfortunately we were out of stock.

The auction of the 7 night safari (which had a reserve on it of \$4,500) generated considerable interest, although didn't sell in the end. It would really have helped had I been able to secure free air tickets; paying for both land content and air made the prices a little high for the Australian market and would not have left much profit towards the Rhino Project. Perhaps this could be raffled at a later stage.

All in all, I am thrilled with our result. The money will go towards a project where a small amount will make a big difference.

*Dee Williamson,  
Co-Chairman  
SAVE FOUNDATION (NSW Branch)*



*Jill Madden, Richard Farley (Save the Rhino Intl.) & Deidre Williamson.*



*The kids assisting at "Rhino Rock".*

# EXTRACTS FROM OVERSEAS PERIODICALS

The following articles have been edited by Joanna Trenka, one of our members, and reproduced by kind permission of David Simpson, editor of *Swara*, the magazine for the East African Wildlife Society, and Kim Lochen, editor of the TRAFFIC Bulletin. To all of the above we offer our grateful thanks.

## A MORE POSITIVE OUTLOOK FOR RHINOS

(*Swara* - September/October 1997 - Esmond Martin and Lucy Vigne)

Four main factors have contributed to a continent-wide decline in rhino poaching. These are - increased government protection of remnant populations, generally in fenced-off reserves, government encouragement of private wildlife sanctuaries, improved local law enforcement and a drop in international demand for rhino horn.

In the early 70s before poaching became rampant, approximately 65,000 black rhinos roamed across 18 countries of the African continent. By the early 80s, less than 15,000 animals were left. Thankfully since 1993 due to a spectacular decline in poaching, the number of black rhinos in Africa has remained stable, and is now starting to increase. Today, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe are home to 98% of the continent's black rhinos.

White and black rhinos have suffered tragically at the hands of illegal hunters. They inhabit such large areas which are impossible to protect properly and thus become easy targets.

However, the situation improved dramatically when local authorities began to put the rhinos in well protected, small and better fenced reserves and parks. Numbers have increased steadily since these special sanctuaries, called Intensive Protection Zones in Zimbabwe, have been created. Sometimes the fences are

electrified making it more difficult for rhinos to wander out and for poachers to get in. These areas are also small enough to be manned efficiently by anti-poaching teams and often have effective intelligence networks surrounding them. Privately owned conservancies have also been established by wealthy landowners who have invested huge amounts of money to provide the manpower and equipment needed to protect rhinos 24 hours a day.

Better law enforcement has helped reduce the illegal killing as prison sentences and fines have been increased, especially in South Africa and Namibia. Also an Endangered Species Protection Unit was set up in 1989 in South Africa and this has been effective in apprehending many poachers and middlemen.

Due to rhino horn being replaced by alternative materials such as plastic, camel nail and wood, the demand has greatly decreased internationally. Medicine shops in Asia have been unable to obtain the horn due to trade bans in China and Taiwan. The US has encouraged the Asian nations to enforce their laws and threatened economic sanctions and the United Nations and CITES Convention both exerted their influence to reduce the demand for rhino horn.

Since 1992, poaching has drastically declined. Black rhino conservation is finally working and there is great optimism that rhino populations will continue to rise, so long as they continue to be well protected and law enforcement remains tight and the demand for rhino horn remains in decline.

## YEMEN - NOW STOPPING THEIR RHINO HORN IMPORTS

(*Swara* - September/October 1997 - Esmond Martin and Lucy Vigne)

From 1994 to 1996 a minimum of between 50-100 kilos of rhino horn have been smuggled into Yemen annually, nearly all from Africa. This is the probable explanation for the disappearance of at least 25 rhinos per year from the national parks and game reserves of Tanzania, Kenya and Zaire over these three years.

Yemen's capital Sanaa is still the place to find the dagger or "jambiya" craftsmen at work in their small backstreet shops. Here, every so often, the trained eye can spot larger dagger handles, which are a slightly paler beige colour. These have been cut from rhino horn. This illegal trade still continues and threatens both black and white rhinos.

In 1997, after years of external pressure, the Yemen Government joined CITES and this is expected to encourage overseas funding and assistance to aid Yemen's ban on international trade in all endangered wildlife and wildlife products. Several prohibitions on new rhino horn and rhino horn chips and shavings have not been successful due to their continuing internal political and economic problems, but now Yemen must do more to eradicate this problem.

Therefore, it is imperative that the government of Yemen receives outside assistance to help it try to end the trade in rhino horn.

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## CITES UPDATE



(TRAFFIC Bulletin Vol 17 No 1 1997)

Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe was the venue for the tenth meeting of the conference of the parties to CITES, held from 9 to 20 June 1997. Mr J G Mayo, the Chairman of the Working Party of officials, introduced the Secretary General of CITES who welcomed the participants and reported that 96.3% of all parties were present, the highest proportion in the history of the Convention.

Mr C Chimutengwende, the Hon. Minister for Environment and Tourism for Zimbabwe, introduced the President of Zimbabwe, the Hon. Robert G. Mugabe, who welcomed everyone to Harare. He declared the meeting open after explaining that Zimbabwe is totally committed to the principles of sustainability and intergenerational equity in the use of its natural resources.

Of significance to readers of our newsletter, are the recommendations made on the African elephant and the white rhinoceros.

### AFRICAN ELEPHANT

At this CITES Convention, Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia submitted proposals to transfer their elephant populations from Appendix I to Appendix II. Having large numbers of elephants, all three countries proposed to trade in registered stocks of ivory under export quotas established for 1998 and 1999. In addition, all three proposed to trade in sport-hunted trophies and live animals, while Zimbabwe also proposed to trade

elephant - leather articles and ivory carvings for non-commercial purposes and elephant hides. Each of the proposals featured a range of common restrictions and precautionary measures. These included limiting exports of ivory to registered raw tusks of certifiable national origin, marking all tusks in accordance with regulations and restricting the sale of ivory to a single importing country, Japan, with strict guidelines as to quotas, shipment handling and legal controls. Also, all revenue gained was to be directed back into elephant conservation.

All three proposals were eventually adopted after majority votes were counted in secret ballots. The TRAFFIC Organisation was requested to help monitor illegal killing of elephants and to track illegal trade in ivory and the Agreement was to be observed and supported with regard to international co-operation in law enforcement.

The experimental quota of raw ivory for Botswana was set at 25 tons, for Namibia at 14 and for Zimbabwe at 20, but eventual export to Japan was not to take place until 18 March 1999, ie until 18 months after the transfer to Appendix II comes into effect.

### SOUTHERN WHITE RHINOCEROS

South Africa's proposal to allow trade in parts and derivatives which could include meat, skin and horns failed to gain approval in two voting sessions at the Tenth CITES Conference, even though the quota for such trade was to be zero for the present. The main opposition came from those who held strongly that adequate trade controls were not in place and that the proposal could undermine efforts to reduce rhino horn consumption in consumer countries.

18 April 1998

Dear Nicholas,

I have had a tombola and raised £20.35p. We had it outside. It rained worst luck. At least I had some help from my best friend Lauren Ward and my other friend Sinead Matthews. Sorry for being so rude, how are you? I'm fine. Dad's in hospital to have his appendix out and Mum's running about trying to arrange a funeral for my Aunty Betty. Have you saved any more rhinos? I hope you have. Thank you for the leaflets and letters. They're interesting. I have adopted a chimpanzee. He is called Charlie. He is beautiful. I hope my money will be helpful.

Love Jessica (Age 9, St Ives, England)

11 July 1997

Dear Nicholas,

The hand-held radios you donated to us have already proved most useful. They are in the field and doing their vital job.

Post-CITES feelings and prognoses are varied and many. We expect an increased threat as a normal reaction from the crime syndicates, with rhino and elephant, of course, being the prime target species.

All field commanders expressed their gratitude for your latest radio donation, and, in particular, thank you for your quick response as recognition and appreciation of their daunting tasks. They do, however, respectfully request a further batch of 25 hand-helds, as during a recent threat it was found that when reaction was needed, some units were deployed without radios. I can confirm this and reinforce this request on behalf of the Department. We would also ask for extra Nicad batteries and charger, please.

Another small request please - The Laser Printer in the Ops Room needs urgent attention as it will not print.

Thanks again.

Regards, Glenn Tatham (Chief Warden - Department of National Parks.)

## LETTERS OF ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

24 February 1998

Dear Editor,  
It was in February 1997 when I was preparing for my world holiday that I met SAVE FOUNDATION president, Mr Nicholas Duncan. I was beginning my vacation in Zimbabwe and the SAVE FOUNDATION needed to transport a piece of heavy equipment there, so I acted as the courier and South African Airways waived the excess baggage fee. While in Zimbabwe, I took the opportunity to see the SAVE FOUNDATION team working. I visited the Sinamatella campsite in Hwange National Park where I met the ranger, Mr Norman English, and joined him on his patrol around the park. Scouts employed with the SAVE FOUNDATION funding were working in the park to protect the rhino. I saw tracking devices, donated by the SAVE FOUNDATION, being used and I also met people who spoke highly of the foundation.

I feel honored to have had the opportunity to assist the SAVE FOUNDATION. I'd like to congratulate you on all you have achieved and wish you all the success in the future.

Yours sincerely,  
*Rosalie Thompson.*  
CSIRO Perth.

6 September 1997

Dear All at SAVE,

Busier than ever, but just writing a small note with a big message. THANK YOU for your part in getting the Painted Dog Research Project a new vehicle. I am like a puppy with 10 tails and for the first time look forward to getting on with dog work rather than being frustrated under a car with no idea how to fix it. The vehicle has come at a particularly important stage in the life of the project as now more than ever it is a national Zimbabwean project.

FYI, the Zimbabwean Painted Hunting Dog population is the only National pack in Africa that is increasing. With your help may it continue to do so. On that happy note I have to end and look forward to seeing you all at the end of the year.

With best wishes to all,  
*Gregory Rasmussen*  
Project Director/Zoologist  
Painted Dog Research

23 June 1997

To All SAVE FOUNDATION members,

**RE: REPAIRS TO UNIMOG RHINO RECOVERY VEHICLE**

We extend a huge THANK YOU to you for the finance provided to repair the Unimog after its unfortunate accident (drunken driver swerved in front and rolled!). What a sad sight to see the 'Old Faithful' lying on its side after all the incredible places we have gone to recover rhino - some 200 with this vehicle. After we winched it back onto its wheels, we were able to check it out and determine that it was mostly 'facial' damage (cab bent, windscreen/windows broken and exhaust brakes fouled), but still requiring repair before use.

Comparative quotes were obtained and the amount was Z\$19,900 which would have meant a long wait for repair of a vital piece of equipment, due to lack of finances. This is where the SAVE FOUNDATION saved the day by coming through with this amount and we have had the Unimog repaired and it is back in operation again without us having had to compromise any of our operational work.

So from all of us at Umtshibi Management Unit, a big thank you again - we look forward to continued liaison with the SAVE FOUNDATION.

*A W Searle*  
Warden  
Umtshibi Management Unit  
P Bag 5776

24 April 1998

Dear Nicholas,

It is some considerable time since I have heard from SAVE, or have seen anybody from the organisation.

I have enclosed a most unusual photo of four black rhino, on Gourlays, drinking at one of the ranch dams. The rhino continue to breed, continue to do well and as the numbers increase, so we see rhino more frequently.

The radio system donated by SAVE is a tremendous help. It's in daily use and security of the property, and thus the rhino, has been greatly increased. Thank you SAVE.

Hear from you soon.  
*Richard Pascall*  
Gourlays Ranch.

# SPONSORS

The SAVE FOUNDATION of Australia has been fortunate in the support of so many sponsors during 1997/1998. Some of these companies have been helping us for the past eleven years, others have lent their support for the first time during the past year; some provide help in a big way, others in a small way, but whatever their contribution, it is much appreciated and the Executive of the SAVE FOUNDATION has a big "thank you" for each one.

We hope, of course, that SAVE FOUNDATION members and readers of the NEWSLETTER will take time to read the sponsors' list and to reciprocate by supporting them whenever possible.

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David Gower	Malindi Station Lodge, Hwange	Toolmaking & Engineering, Bulawayo
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DHL Worldwide Express	Mark Nielsen (Sire)	Yvonne Cook
Digital Pictures Home Video/Slides	Masuwe Lodge, Victoria Falls	
Docent's Association	Matobo Hill Lodge, Matobo	

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND FILM NIGHT

Notice is hereby given that the Clerk of the Court has received a copy of the above-mentioned petition.

**Please Note:** The Annual General Meeting date has been changed to Thursday 25 June - Nomination / Proxy forms should be lodged one week prior to meeting.

- 4. President's Report.
- 3. Treasurer's Report.
- 4. Election of Executive Committee.
- 5. Any other business.

Nomination forms for positions on the Executive, together with proxy forms, are available from the SAVE FOUNDATION in Perth and nominations should be lodged at that office by Friday 26 June.

7.30 - 8.30: "The Big Five" - a most interesting film on the rhino, elephant, lion, buffalo and leopard - on a big screen

8.30 - 9.00: A BBC documentary on elephant conservation in Zimbabwe.

**9.00 - 9.30:** Refreshments and fund raising.

## ALL ARE WELCOME



World Team - Rob Jones, Carl Rackemann, David Gower, Collis King, Alvin Kallicharan, Deryck Murray, Kim Hughes & John Emburey.  
Zimbabwe Team - Darryl Goodwin, Malcolm Jarvis, Dennis Streak, Rob Brown, Andy Waller, Gary Martin, Gary Crocker & Mark Dekker.

**South African Team - Rob Bentley, Hugh Page, Mark Venter, Graeme Pollock, Baboo Ebrahim, Mike Procter, Lee Barnard & John Rennie.**

**Umpires - Jeff Fenwick & Aldon Gilmour.**

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

YES, I would like to join your worthy cause and help to save the endangered rhinos. I understand that I will receive your quarterly newsletter and relevant material. My cheque for \$35 and an additional donation of \$..... is enclosed.

OR charge my  Bankcard  Mastercard  Visa Expiry date.....

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**FIRST NAME:** ..... **SURNAME:** .....

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ P/CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

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