

Lewa Downs, Ngare Sergoi Wildlife Project Update

By Andy Lodge



12% of world's remaining Grevy Zebras are at Lewa Downs.

Photo by Andy Lodge

I've recently returned from Lewa Downs, where I met with Anna Merz and Ian Craig. There is very bad news coming out of Zimbabwe as far as the rhino situation there. Recently 70 out of 100 dehorned white rhinos have been shot. The black rhino population has gone from 1,700 to less than 300 within the past year due to poaching. Yet Zimbabwe still wants to put rhino horn on the market, and refuses to build Sanctuaries to protect them.

The news is far better in Kenya where the rhino population is increasing. This increase is not huge but it certainly is an encouraging sign. This is due to projects such as Ngare Sergoi. Our black rhino population is now 16 and four more are arriving before the end of the year. The breeding program is back on track, and we are hopeful next year will be a good one.

We now have a total of 80 miles of fence, enclosing 58,000 acres. Now that the fence is in place the real work is set to begin — that of breeding and protecting the rhinos. As we have increased the protected area by almost six times over the original 10,000 acres of the reserve, the cost of protecting the wildlife has increased. I hope all of our supporters will continue to help us as many officials and conservationists feel Ngare Sergoi is the best run

wildlife project in Kenya and we owe so much to the people that give their time and money so we can continue the work.

As you know the project has expanded and is caring for not only rhinos but many other animals that live within the confines of this fenced-in area. To the right (facing page) is a list of the animals found under the protection of The Lewa Downs, Ngare Sergoi Wildlife Project. ■

Please Help!

Even though C.I.T.E.S. (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) has banned the international trade in rhino products, five countries still blatantly continue this bloody practice. The governments of these five countries, **Taiwan, China, South Korea, Thailand and Yeman** turn a blind eye to this trade and it is allowed to flourish. Help save the Rhino!

Please Boycott products made in these countries and consider writing a letter to their representatives at these addresses:

China

Ambassador Zhu Qizhen
2300 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, DC 20008

Taiwan

Coordination Council for North American Affairs
4201 Wisconsin Ave NW
Washington, DC 20016

South Korea

Ambassador Hong-Choo Hyun
2320 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20008

Thailand

Ambassador ML Birabhongse Kasemsri
2300 Kalorama RD NW
Washington, DC 20008

Yeman

Ambassador Hohsin A Alaini
2600 Virginia Ave NW
Washington, DC 20037