

No one can whistle a symphony. It takes an orchestra to play it

In the bush, words like the Dow Jones, emerging markets and venture capital have little meaning. When word filters through that thousands of miles away the price for ivory, rhino horn and body parts of carnivores has doubled, we understand the implications immediately. In early 2009 this became a reality and since then our scouts have not stopped, nor have the vehicles which move them over the one and half million acres of the Amboseli ecosystem. Budgets have gone out the window as the radio network gets busier with reports flooding in of yet another poaching incident.

Richard Bonham
Chairman
Maasailand Preservation Trust

There is nothing like a crisis to pull people together and this year we have seen just that. Our relationship with the Kenya Wildlife Service has strengthened as we work together on almost a daily basis. Our uniformed teams, now an incredible 104 men (including, dare I say it, one woman) seem to have gelled and, although tasked with a myriad of different duties, are stepping forward to support each other. An example is as follows:

08:30 A radio message came in; four men, one armed and all suspected poachers, have abandoned a broken-down car near the Tsavo border.

11:00 Anti-poaching teams were on site. Two Land Cruisers full of Kenya Wildlife Service rangers; the Tsavo Amboseli Game Scout Association Cruiser, also bristling with rangers; the tracker dog team and me in the air with a Super Cub aeroplane were scrambled and all were in pursuit of tracks.

14:00 The "hot pursuit" team was well established and heading for Lorika,

a small farming village. Two Maasailand Cruisers had been dispatched directly to Lorika to make a cordon and cut the suspected poachers off.

17:00 My fuel gauges were showing empty. By chance I heard a Kenya Wildlife Service plane in the air over Tsavo. I called him, and in 20 minutes he was overhead and took over the aerial cover as I headed home to follow developments on the radio.

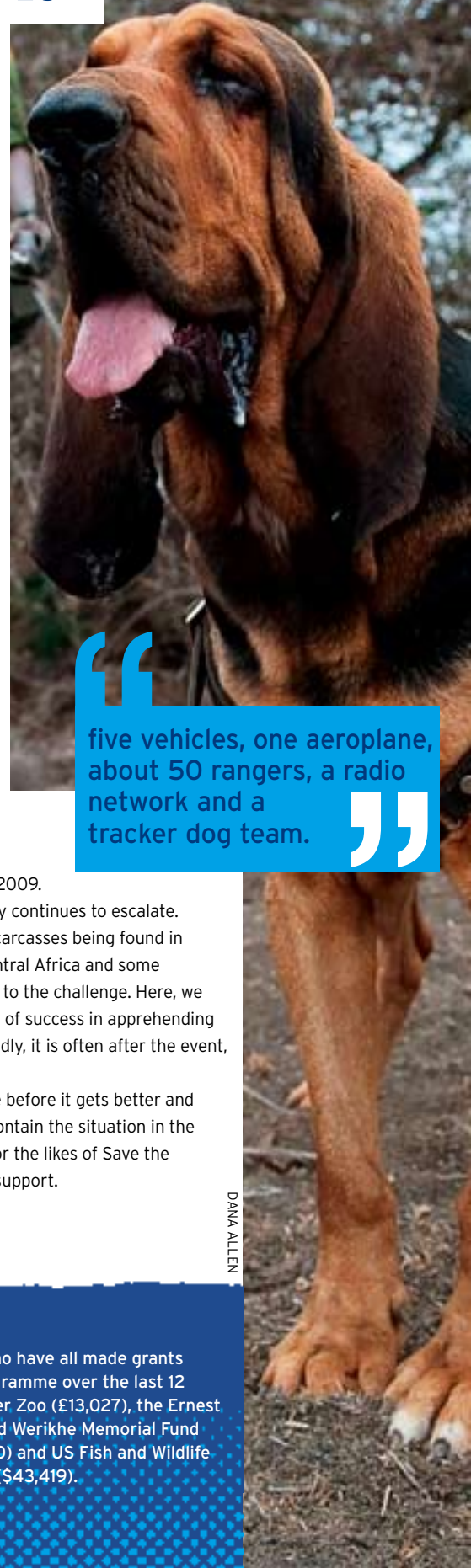
20:00 It was all over. Two of the four were under arrest.

As it turns out, the men arrested were not poachers rather carjackers on their way to Tanzania with a stolen vehicle. The point of the story stands: effective, efficient operations can be achieved when the resources are there. In this case, five vehicles, one aeroplane, about 50 rangers, a radio network and a tracker dog team all pulling together and working as a cohesive unit achieved two arrests and this success represents one of many made by our scouts in 2009.

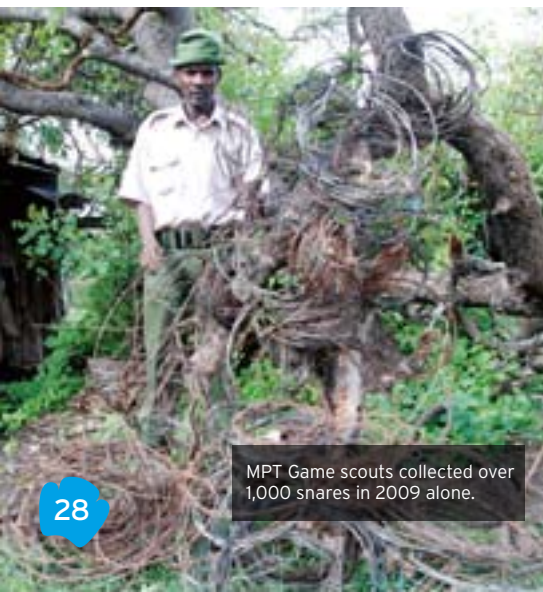
As I write, the price of rhino horn and ivory continues to escalate. Reports come in daily that elephant and rhino carcasses being found in and outside of parks over much of East and Central Africa and some countries seem in outright denial, failing to rise to the challenge. Here, we are collectively having more than our fair share of success in apprehending poachers. Not many get through the net but, sadly, it is often after the event, after another animal has been lost.

I believe this poaching crisis will get worse before it gets better and we have a lot of work ahead of us in trying to contain the situation in the field. This would not be possible if it were not for the likes of Save the Rhino, which always seems to rally to cries for support.

Drastic and Bosco look forward to their sausage rewards!



“five vehicles, one aeroplane, about 50 rangers, a radio network and a tracker dog team.”



GWILL GIBBON

MPT Game scouts collected over 1,000 snares in 2009 alone.

Thanks

We are extremely grateful to the following, who have all made grants to the Chyulu Hills Game scout and rhino programme over the last 12 months: Amnéville Zoo (10,000 euros), Chester Zoo (£13,027), the Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust (£5,000), the David Werikhe Memorial Fund (£500), the Treasure Charitable Trust (£2,000) and US Fish and Wildlife Service's Rhino and Tiger Conservation Fund (\$43,419).

DANA ALLEN

Rhino Rescue

In December 1985, Rhino Rescue, a trust for all endangered wildlife, was founded by Count Maurice Coreth. In the subsequent 12 years, before his untimely death, Count Coreth established the Nakuru Sanctuary in Kenya, integrated Rhino Rescue with the Zimbabwean Wildlife Department in Operation Stronghold and supported projects in Namibia, Swaziland and India. Above all, he inspired in others his single-minded objective for the rescue of all endangered wildlife. Rhino Rescue has continued to carry out great conservation work, particularly in Lake Nakuru National Park, Kenya.

Rhino Rescue became Maurice's legacy and Save the Rhino is very privileged to be inheriting that legacy when, later this year, Rhino Rescue is due to be disbanded and its resources united with those of Save the Rhino. Rhino Rescue Trustees Alec Seccombe and Ben Hoskyns-Abrahall, and Patron Mark Coreth have accepted invitations to become Patrons of Save the Rhino, and we hope that many of Rhino Rescue's supporters will become Save the Rhino members.

We very much look forward to working with Rhino Rescue and its supporters in the future.

Hornucopia

We're really pleased to say that Save the Rhino's first online auction, held at the end of last year, was a huge success and raised nearly £17,000 for rhino conservation, which is fantastic! We are so grateful to all those who donated lots and helped us PR the event and, of course, to all those who bid! We will be holding another online auction in November 2010 aiming to raise £12,000. Like last year, we will have a variety of lots and there's sure to be something for everyone, so keep an eye on our website for further details. If you have an auction lot you'd like to donate, please contact fiona@savetherhino.org

A quest for True North



CHRISTINA FRANCO

Save the Rhino Trustee and global explorer Christina Franco returned to the North Pole in March to attempt to complete the first successful

female solo to the North Pole, in a unique expedition supported by AXA Travel Insurance. Christina skied, trekked and swam solo in an extraordinary feat of endurance in the harshest environment on Earth. Unfortunately an impossible lead (wide open water) brought an early and unexpected end to Christina's expedition. Christina was collected from the ice by a passing supply plane on 1 April. We think she's absolutely brilliant and are in total awe of what she's achieved. Read all about her adventures and sponsor her at:

www.christinafranco.com

Last Chance to See

On Tuesday 27 October 2009, following the BBC2 Series *Last Chance to See*, Stephen Fry and Tim Green and JP Davidson, the series' producers, took to the stage at the Royal Geographical Society. Unfortunately Mark Carwardine was unwell, and could not take part, but Stephen, Tim and JP entertained a sell-out audience with tales from the filming. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the event was a huge success, raising over £15,000. Thank you very much indeed to Abercrombie & Kent for sponsoring the event and thus ensuring all the funds raised went towards helping rhino conservation in Africa and Asia.

An enormous thank you also to Stephen Fry, Mark Carwardine, Tim Green and JP Davidson for giving up their time to support Save the Rhino.

We are delighted to announce that Mark Carwardine has become a Patron of Save the Rhino, and hopes to do an event for us later this year, to coincide with a follow-up programme to LCtS. Please email events@savetherhino.org if you'd like to be notified of details once the event is confirmed: just put "Mark Carwardine event" in the subject line.



IMAGES: SAVE THE RHINO



CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION

To catch and prosecute rhino poachers you need clues and evidence. Imagine you are part of an anti-poaching patrol that has located a poaching incident.

What information can you gain from the scene of the crime?

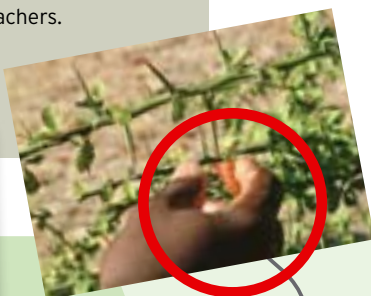
Pieces of fabric

Items of clothing often get caught on thorny bushes. The scraps of fabric can be matched with clothing worn by the poachers.



Camera

Make sure you carry a camera at all times so you can record any evidence you might find.



Fingerprints

Discarded items can be dusted for fingerprints. Be careful not to crumple any paper picked up as this could destroy any fingerprints on it!



Cigarette butts

These can be collected and sent for examination.



CHYULU HILLS NATIONAL PARK

Komboyoo

Msongaleni

A109

Ngwata

Kathekani

NGAI NDETHYA NATIONAL RESERVE

Mtito Andei

CRIME SCENE LOCATION

2°35.3'S

37°54.4'E

Bullet cases

You should collect these and send them for examination. Some features of some bullets are unique and so can be matched to those found on suspected poachers.



Footprints

A trained person can make a cast of the footprint which can then be compared with the shoes worn by an accused person.



Many thanks to Lovemore Mungwashu and Dirk Swart for their assistance with this article.

Picture credits: GAWPT, Flickr © Steven Depolo, Christopher Jensen, Ramsen, Roo Reynolds, Ruth F, xtoq.

Thank You!

inter:state



We would like to express our warmest thanks to the following individuals, companies and grant-making bodies for their generous support for our work over the last six months. We could not achieve all that we do, without the time, goodwill, and financial and pro-bono support of you all.

Our heartfelt thanks to:

Individuals

Polly Adams, Joseph Alfano, Alan Anderson, Natasha Archdale, Louise Aspinall, Jane Belson, Hazel Bowles, Matt Brooke, Mark Carwardine, JP Davidson, Dina de Angelo, Robert Devereux, Petra Fleischer, Rodney Franklin, Stephen Fry, Nick Garbutt, Henry Goldman, Shiniqua Gonzales-Lindo, Mike Gratton, Tim Green, Tom Kenyon-Slaney, Laura Male, Alistair Middleton, Francesco Nardelli, Christopher Noon, Ann O'Connor, Olly and Suzi, Oundle and King's, Cliffe Middle School, Laura Petetti, Hilary Puxley and Michael Crane, Alex Rhind, Andy Rump, Mark Sainsbury, Margarita Shubart, Nicky Springthorpe, Malcolm Stathers, George Stephenson, Frances Stokes, John Sunley, the Taliaferro family, Carol Thatcher, Jonathan Truss, James Tyas, Jake Veasey, Edward Warren, Kirstie Wielandt, Karola Wilke, Adam Wylie.

Companies

2:09 Events, Abercrombie and Kent, Beasty Bags, Borana Lodge, British Airways Communities and Conservation, Brompton Bar and Grill, Centrepont Computer Services Ltd, Clipper Teas, Destinations for Africa, Everyclick, Exeter Northcott Theatre, Expert Africa, Give It Gifts, Great Plains, H Young and Co Ltd, Holmes Wood, Interstate Associates, Kalahari Pepper Company, Moro, Ol Donyo Wuas, Responsibletravel.com, Rhino Wine Gear, Safarilink Aviation, Saffery Champness, Silver Jungle, StainlessRhino.com, Steppes Discovery, Summits Africa, Synchronicity Foundation, The Colourhouse, The Redfern Gallery, The Synchronicity Foundation, The Zetter, Victor Stationery, Wilderness Safaris Namibia, Woburn Safari Park, World Odyssey.

Charities, trusts and foundations and other

Amnéville Zoo, Balmain Charitable Trust, The Bower Trust, Chester Zoo, Colchester Zoo's Action for the Wild Fund, Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund, Dublin Zoo, Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust, International Rhino Foundation, The JJ Charitable Trust, The Linbury Trust, The Mackintosh Foundation, The Marjorie Coote Animal Charities Fund, The Mark Leonard Trust, The Rufford Maurice Laing Foundation, Safari Club International (London Chapter), Safari Club International Foundation, Safaripark Beekse Bergen and Dierenrijk, Simon Gibson Charitable Trust, Stuttgart Zoo, The Swire Charitable Trust, Taiwan Forestry Bureau, Treasure Charitable Trust, US Fish and Wildlife Service, ZSL Whipsnade.

And thank you to all those who wish to remain anonymous.