



Photo by Eric Reisinger

South African born and bred, he attended the universities of Pretoria and Natal, graduating with degrees in botany, zoology and wildlife management. His career in biology spans two decades, during most of which his main focus has been the ecology and biology of the African elephant and the black rhinoceros. Yet he has always had broadly based interests and among his more than 60 scientific publications are studies of antarctic marine mammals, African birds, plant ecology, and other large mammals.

Anthony is a prolific writer. Besides producing reports and papers of a professional nature, he has cultivated the art of presenting scientific and conservation material in an easy, readable style, which has established him as a noteworthy author of books and popular articles. He has become known in wildlife, travel and hunting magazines, including *African Wildlife*, *Custos*, *Oryx*, *American Hunter*, *Game Coin*, *KYH Magazine*, *National Geographic World*, *International Wildlife*, *Safari*, *Das Tier* and *Jaeger*.

Complementing his writing are his excellent photographs, which he has also put to good effect in journals and in the books *Predators of*

Profile

ANTHONY HALL-MARTIN

Few South African wildlife scientists are known very far beyond immediate local conservation circles and many, worthy though their work may be, scarcely ever occupy the public eye, even locally. Dr. Anthony Hall-Martin stands out sharply in both respects: his driving concern for wild places and his breadth of vision have pushed him firmly into the limelight, both within southern Africa and without. He is an eminent figure to have among the founders of the Rhino & Elephant Foundation.

Southern Africa, Kaokoveld: The Last Wilderness, and *A Day in the Life of an African Elephant*. His most important book, *Elephants of Africa*, was produced in collaboration with renowned wildlife artist Paul Bosman. Another major work with Bosman, entitled *Cats of Africa*, is in preperation.

Anthony's ability to translate his scientific experience into popular publications has brought great pleasure to many and has achieved much in promoting environmental awareness.

Anthony's great love – for which he is recognised internationally – is in the field of

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Cover

Dordrecht Commonage Elephant, Dordrecht, Eastern Cape, as copied and published in 1928 by Miles Burkitt, photograph by Bert Woodhouse (see article on p 24).

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elephant conservation. He has lived in and studied elephants in Malawi's Kasungu National Park, in South Africa's Tembe Elephant Park, Kruger National Park, and Addo Elephant Park; and in Azagny National Park in Ivory Coast. He has also travelled widely in Africa to assess other elephant populations and has advised on numerous collaborative projects and other developments affecting wildlife and national parks in many countries. Anthony has served on various international committees, commissions and working groups, chiefly those of the IUCN (the World Conservation Union) relating to elephant, rhinoceros, and national parks.

"When we first met in 1976, Anthony was living and working in Addo and applied to the Endangered Wildlife Trust for funding of a research project," says REF Chairman Clive Walker, who was then EWT chairman. "This meeting led to a friendship that has spanned almost two decades. He became an advisor to the Endangered Wildlife Trust and we travelled to Tembe, Kaokoveld, Botswana, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Malawi. That same year, another person entered our lives and together with Anthony and myself, helped develop the idea of forming a rhino and elephant organisation. The conversation took place on the back of a Land Rover in Damaraland in 1984."

Peter Hitchins, the third person, is an internationally recognised authority on the black rhino. The three were on an EWT project assessment in what was then the Kaokoveld (now Kunene province in Namibia). Anthony and Clive were members of the African Elephant Specialist Group and Peter Hitchins was on the African Rhino Specialist Group. They had all travelled to meetings in Kenya in 1980, when there were still an estimated 15 000 black rhino in Africa, compared to less than 3 000 today.

In Damaraland they were being taken around by Blythe Loutit (who was later to found the Save the Rhino Trust), to view the desert-dwelling rhino. "This was the first trip in the field that the three of us had been on together, and perhaps it was natural enough to discuss the merits of an organisation focused on rhino and elephant," says Clive. The proposed body

became a reality in 1988 and Anthony was to become the first chairman of the Rhino & Elephant Foundation.

During the thirteen years that Anthony, his wife Catherina, and their two daughters lived in the Kruger National Park based at Skukuza, Clive, Peter and Anthony had numerous opportunities to meet and refine their ideas about elephant and rhino conservation. Now all the threads could come together. For example, one discussion led Clive to question Anthony as to what work, if any, was being done on stress-related factors in young elephant calves captured during culling programmes. This ultimately led to Anthony meeting Marion Garaï, a Swiss biologist, which in turn led to the Rhino & Elephant Foundation supporting her in an extended study of young, translocated elephants within South Africa, and this eventually resulted in the formation of the Translocated Elephant Association.

In 1991, Anthony became executive director for the southern parks, based in Cape Town, from where he worked in managing and administering 16 national parks and their support services. These parks have a staff complement of 850 people in the conservation, tourism, trading and educational fields. He was recently recalled to the National Parks Board head office by Dr. Robbie Robinson, the chief executive director of the national parks, and is now responsible for research and development.

Anthony is passionately fond of the continent's largest land mammal: a scientist and author of international repute; a workaholic who travels extensively and leaves his colleagues and contemporaries exhausted; and, as is regrettably often the case with good field men, burdened by mountains of paperwork.

His greatest attribute, according to Clive, remains being a good naturalist. "When everyone else turns off the office air-conditioning at the end of the day and heads for the golf course or the squash court, there is a good chance that Anthony is either still hard at work or is heading out to photograph some wild creature or landscape," says Clive. "Or else he is in the throes of convincing someone, or some organisation, to devote large sums of money to conservation."