

Dehorning

In September 2010 all of the five black rhino in the Midlands Conservancy were dehorned. This operation was carried out successfully and will help to protect our rhino from the poachers as we are publicising the fact that all the rhino in the Midlands Conservancy have now been dehorned.



Tangarira



Rhino on the run



Helicopter hovering



Helicopter landed in thick bush

This dehorning was carried out over three days by the very experienced team of Dr Chris Foggin, the wildlife veterinarian, Raoul du Toit, who flew the fixed wing aircraft with Lovemore Mungwashi from the Lowveld Trust who spotted for the rhino and John McTaggert, the helicopter pilot. This team was assisted by Dave Strydom, our Conservator, and his rhino monitors and the conservancy scouts.



Keeping rhino cool



Keeping rhino cool



Cloth to protect the rhino's eyes



Taking a blood sample



Chris Foggin



Chris Foggin



John McTaggart cutting off horn



About to remove the 2nd horn

John McTaggart had to fly the helicopter in strong winds to get the chopper close enough to allow Chris Foggin to dart the rhino, and then land the chopper nearby in thick bush. As well as removing the horns, the rhino were ear tagged, a blood sample was taken and one hoof was marked for easy identification for the trackers on the ground.



Dehorned rhino



Gary Killilea and scout with rhino horn



Weighing the horn



National Parks Guards with rhino

All the rhino horns were properly marked, weighed and handed over and signed for by National Parks official Mr Chaganuka. We are most grateful to all the individuals who were part of the dehorning team and our special thanks to the Lowveld Trust for their support and for carrying out this exercise so successfully.