

# AFRICAN INDABA

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Dedicated to the People and Wildlife of Africa

## Finally a Book on the Selous

Gerhard R Damm

The Selous in Tanzania is a game reserve of many superlatives: it is the world's largest hunting reserve, Africa's oldest protected area, the home range of more than 70,000 elephants and 120,000 buffaloes and so on. Amazingly, not a single authoritative book has been written about this fabulous land of dreams for hunters and nature lovers.

Finally, this has changed. South Africa based Rowland Ward Publishers (Pty) Ltd ([www.rowlandward.com](http://www.rowlandward.com)) will release a 300 page volume which unites 20 knowledgeable authors. In total these authors spent over a century working in the Selous as wardens, managers, scientists or hunters. I am not exaggerating that this wealth of experience is difficult to top.

Rolf Baldus, the editor, who worked under German Government development programs 13 years in the Selous and with the Tanzanian Wildlife Department, brought the authors together. Gerald Bigurube, now director of Tanzania's national parks, Richard Bonham, a well known guide, Benson Kibonde, Selous' chief warden of many years, Brian Nicholson, the last European warden and one of the "fathers of the Selous", the late Rolf Rohwer, an outstanding professional hunter, Ludwig Siege, a long time German advisor to the warden, and Erasmus Tarimo, now Tanzania's Director of Wildlife, to name only few. The Foreword is written by the late head of the Selous family, Commander Selous, and Dieter Schramm, President of the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) has penned down the epilogue.

Over 400 photos, maps by Mike Shand from the University of Glasgow and paintings of Selous scenes of the contemporary German wildlife artist Bodo Meier pair up with deeply emotional classical art work of German wildlife painter Wilhelm Kuhnert who travelled and hunted the Selous area in 1905 to illustrate the voluminous piece of work. Topics range from history to conservation, from elephants to wild dogs to birds, from walking safaris to hunting and from poaching to community conservation. Those who know editor Rolf Baldus will know that not even the most sensitive or controversial topics remain untouched. The book contains an immense amount of primary research information on the area, but it is at the same time easy to read and entertaining.

The standard edition will sell at US\$65 and the collector's edition at US\$ 130. A full review of the book will appear in the next African Indaba.

## We Are Still Around!

Editorial

You will have realized that African Indaba did not appear on your computer screen in January as usual. Well, the reason was not excessive celebration during the festive season, but just an overload of work with other conservation and hunting issues.

You may know that I have been appointed as chair of the newly formed Trophy Task Group of the CIC (International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation). In this capacity, I had to prepare for an important international symposium of that group at the University fuer Bodenkultur in Vienna which took place in February. The one man show of African Indaba therefore had to temporarily take the back seat.

Nevertheless, African Indaba is still around and here we are with the first double issue of 2009 - the seventh year of African Indaba's existence.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue and find lots of good and interesting information.

Sincerely

Gerhard R Damm

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For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and the sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources.

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**Comments on the 2009 Zambezi Valley Auction**

Table 4: Sapi Trophy Animals (Average)				
Type	Overall average 1987 – 2008 US\$	3-Year Average 2006 – 2008 US\$	Average 2008 US\$	Average 2009 US\$
Elephant Bull (2008 Data)	\$9 587	\$11 829	\$12 167	0
Leopard	\$3 742	\$3 164	No Data	0
Lion	\$7 844	\$11 483	No Data	\$11 500
Buffalo Bull	\$1 674	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bushbuck ♂	\$359	\$476	No Data	0
Kudu ♂	\$633	\$794	No Data	0
Hippopotamus	\$1 016	\$1 561	No Data	\$1 400
Warthog ♂	\$191	\$212	No Data	0
Zebra	\$616	\$735	No Data	0
Impala ♂	\$128	\$202	No Data	\$149
Impala ♀	\$102	\$156	No Data	\$133
Waterbuck	\$997	\$1 926	No Data	0
Crocodile	\$2 155	\$5 530	No Data	\$1 900
Birds	\$274	\$185	No Data	0
Est. Total	\$2 065 362	\$253 947	\$36 500*	\$22 275

A: Total income from the sale of 3 elephant trophies in 2008.

**General Observations:**

- Bidding for all lots was slow. Some camps and extra animals were put up for rebidding up to three times before the bid was accepted.
- The overall estimated gross income generated from Nyakasanga and Sapi was down by approximately 50% compared to 2007 and 2008:
- Gross income for the Nyakasanga camps (~US\$242,850) is less than that achieved in 2008 (~US\$499,423)
- Nyakasanga extra animals: Gross income also lower (~US\$130,410 vs. US\$280,730).
  - Only two of the five leopards were sold (Lots 12 – 13): rejected bids ranged from US\$1,500 to US\$3,000.
  - Solitary buffalo males continue to hold their value and fetched prices equivalent to a 10-day buffalo hunt (~US\$5,500).
  - Initial bids for elephant trophies ranged from US\$9,000 and were only sold after a 4th round of bidding at the reserve price of US\$10,000. Two lots of trophy elephant were not sold.
- Gross income for Sapi Camps continues to decline year-on-year: 2006 (~US\$443,502) 2007 (~US\$371,238), 2008 (~US\$265,207) and 2009 ~US\$180,250.
  - Hunt lots that included only one buffalo varied from US\$4,800 to US\$9,000 depending on the duration and time of year.
  - Lots S13 – S18 (Kamote camp, 14 days) that included an elephant bull but no buffalo sold for US\$6,700 –

US\$7,750. In contract some of the 10-day elephant hunts offered at Kasoma Camp (lots S22 – S31) fetched US\$10,000.

- The overall quota on offer (both the hunting bags and extra animals) was greatly reduced when compared with previous years. For example, several hunt lots included one buffalo whereas in previous years there were two on offer. The structure of the bags (e.g. 1 x buffalo, 1 x impala, 1 x grysbok, 4 x baboon, 3 x guinea fowl, 1 x francolin and 1 x doves/pigeon) were not attractive, especially if more than one hunter is being accommodated during the camp.
- The auction continues to offer species such as porcupine, bushpig, jackal, baboon and serval (that latter will probably never be seen in the Valley) that do not attract bids and therefore wastes a great deal of time during the auction. A far better strategy would be to make these trophies available (including animals such as warthog and impala) at a fixed rate. The successful bidder can then purchase as many as he requires against a pre-defined quota e.g. 5 impala/camp

## Rhino Species

Dr Kees Rookmaaker, <http://www.rhinosourcecenter.com>

The Rhino, officially Rhinoceros, is one of the five surviving species of odd-toed ungulates in the family Rhinocerotidae of the Perissodactyla. The [Black Rhino](#) and the [White Rhino](#) are native to Africa, while the [Indian Rhino](#), [Sumatran Rhino](#) and the [Javan Rhino](#) occur in Asia.

The Rhinoceros belong to the few remaining mega-fauna surviving today and are characterised by their large size. All species can weigh more than a ton with the White Rhino being the second largest land mammal weighing up to 2,700 kg. All rhinos are herbivores, but some are specialised in browsing, while others are grazers. Rhinos have 1 or 2 horns, have a thick skin made of collagen arranged in a lattice structure and have a relatively small brain. Unlike other mammals of the Perissodactyla order the African Rhino species lack front teeth and rely on their lips to tear off grass or leaves while their molar teeth grind food.

Although rhino horn is made of keratin, the same material as in hair, it's thought to be an aphrodisiac in traditional Chinese medicine. The horn is also used for dagger handles in most Yemen and Oman. Because of this, rhino horn is very valuable and illegal poaching has caused rhino numbers to drop rapidly. Also habitat loss has caused most Rhino species to the brink of extinction. According to CITES three of the five species, the Sumatran, Javan and Black Rhino are 'critically endangered'. The Indian Rhino is listed as 'endangered', while only the White Rhino has been saved from the brink of extinction due to conservation efforts. At this moment the most endangered species is the Sumatran Rhino, because of its rapid decline. Of this species only 275 survive, but the Javan Rhino is even rarer,

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### Rhino Species

with only 50 surviving, but this population is stable. The Indian Rhino species counts 2,600 individuals, the Black Rhino 3,610 and the White Rhino 14,500. Several subspecies like the Northern White Rhino and the Eastern Black Rhino has been declared extinct in recent years, although some may survive.

### Black Rhino - *Diceros bicornis*

The **Black Rhinoceros** is an herbivorous browser that belongs to the order of the Perissodactyla. It's one of the two species of Rhinos native to Africa and its current range includes Southern and Eastern areas of Africa. There are about 3,610 Black Rhino still left in the wild, but it has been estimated that there were about 70,000 in the late 1960s. The Black Rhino has seen the most drastic decline of all rhino species, because of poaching and habitat loss. But due to conservation efforts numbers are stabilising and slowly rising, although tremendous effort is still needed to secure the future for the Black Rhino. There are four subspecies of Black Rhino, but the West African Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis longipes*) is tentatively declared extinct.

### Black Rhino Facts

- Weight: 800 - 1,350 kg (1,750 – 3,000 lbs)
- Height (at shoulder): 1,4 – 1,7 m (4,5 -5,5 ft)
- Length (head and body): 3,0 – 3,8 m (10 – 12,5 ft)
- Anterior Horn length: 0,5 – 1,3 m (1 ft; 8 in – 4 ft; 4 in)
- Posterior Horn length: 0,02 – 0,55 m (1-22 in)
- Lifespan in wild: 30 to 40 years
- Lifespan in captivity: 35 years. The oldest recorded animal lived 44 years 9 months in a zoo.
- Characteristics: pointed hooked upper lip (prehensile lip)

### Black Rhino Behaviour

- Black Rhinos may reach speeds of 50 km/h (28 m/h)
- Black Rhinos are usually portrayed as the most aggressive of all Rhino Species
- Males are mainly solitary and probably territorial.
- Female home ranges overlap and are less solitary
- Home range size dependent on habitat, sex and age and varies greatly
- Black Rhinos browse for food in the morning and evening and sleep or wallow during the hottest part of the day.

### Black Rhino Reproduction

- Gestation period: around 15 to 16 months.
- Birth intervals per calf: 2.5 to 4 years.
- Female sexual maturity: at 4 to 7 years
- Male sexual maturity: at 7 to 10 years
- Newborn weaned: at 2 years

### Black Rhino Distribution

- Pre 20th century numbers: several hundred thousand.
- Current numbers in wild: 3,610
- Current numbers in captivity: At the end of 2004, there were 277 black rhinos in captivity. Through the past 200 years

(until 1998), there have been 775 animals recorded in zoos, of which 292 were born in captivity

- Habitat: grasslands, savannahs and tropical bushland.
- Historic Natural Range: Southern and Eastern Africa (from Namibia, through Zambia up to Ethiopia, and all countries to the East) and in a East to west running belt from Ethiopia to Guinea (Southern edge of Sahara)
- Current Range: In several National Parks primarily located in Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania & Kenya.

### Black Rhino Diet

- Black Rhinos are browsers and primarily feed on leafy plants, branches & shoots
- Black Rhinos are known to eat up to 220 different species of plant.
- Black Rhinos can live up to 5 days without water.

### Common Names

- **Black Rhinoceros:** The term black was probably chosen to distinguish it from the [White Rhinoceros \(\*Ceratotherium simum\*\)](#), although the species are not distinguishable by color.
- **Hook-Lipped Rhinoceros:** The narrow upper lip of the Black Rhino is adapted to feeding from trees and bushes and is perfect for ripping of leaves.
- **Prehensile-Lipped Rhinoceros:** Refers to the same characteristic hooked-upper lip.
- **Other names:** view a list of [Black Rhino Vernacular Names](#)

### Scientific Name

The scientific name for the Black Rhino is *Diceros bicornis*. *Diceros* being from the Greek *di* for "two" and *ceros* meaning "horn". *Bicornis* is from the Latin *bi* for "two" and *cornis* meaning "horn". Throughout history the Black Rhino has been referred to using quite a lot of different scientific names. View a list of [Black Rhino Scientific names](#).

### Subspecies

- The **South-central Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis minor*)** is the most numerous of all Black Rhino subspecies.
- The **South-western Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis bicornis*)** is better adapted to dry climates and occurs in the arid savannas. The main difference with the others subspecies is the large and straight horn.
- The **East African Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*)** prefers highland forest and savanna habitat. It also has a longer, leaner, and curved horn and its skin is more grooved.
- The **West African Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis longipes*)** is the rarest and most endangered subspecies, with only 10 surviving in 2003. But on July 8, 2006 the subspecies was declared to be extinct.

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## Rhino Species

### White Rhino Facts

#### General information

- Weight: 1,800 - 2,700 kg (4,000 – 6,000 lbs)
- Height (at shoulder): 1,5 – 1,8 m (5 -6 ft)
- Length (head and body): 3,8 – 5 m (12,5 – 15 ft)
- Anterior Horn length: 0,94 – 1,02 m (37 in – 40 in)
- Posterior Horn length: up to 0,55 m (up to 22 in)
- Lifespan: 40 to 50 years
- Characteristics: wide upper lip and a noticeable hump on the back of its neck.

#### White Rhino Behaviour

- White Rhinos may reach speeds of 50 km/h (28 m/h)
- White Rhinos are semi-territorial and more social than the Black Rhino
- Males are mainly solitary and territorial, sometimes satellite males share territories.
- Female are more social, as well as sub adults.
- White Rhinos graze during the morning and evening and sleep or wallow during the afternoon.

#### White Rhino Reproduction

- Gestation period: around 16 months.
- Birth intervals per calf: 2 to 3 years.
- Female sexual maturity: at 6 to 7 years
- Male sexual maturity: at 7 to 10 years
- Newborn weaned: at 2 months (may continue suckling to over 12 months)

#### White Rhino Distribution

- Pre 20th century numbers: 100
- Current numbers in wild: 14,500
- Current numbers in captivity: 777
- Habitat: tropical and subtropical grasslands, savannas and shrublands.
- Historic Natural Range: Southern White Rhino subspecies in Southern Africa (Namibia, Botswana, South, Zimbabwe & Mozambique) and the Northern White subspecies in Central Africa (Northern Congo, Southern Sudan & Western Uganda)
- Current Range: In several National Parks primarily located in Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe & Kenya.

#### White Rhino Diet

- White Rhinos are grazers and primarily feed on grasses
- White Rhinos can live up to 4 to 5 days without water.

#### Common Names

- **White Rhinoceros:** Although its name suggests it's colour to be white, the colour of the rhino is in fact greyish-brown. Most sources will tell you that the term white is derived from the Dutch 'wide', which describes its wide upper lip or wide spread occurrence. There is however no proof of this as there is no reference to Wyd-Renoster or any other name of this kind in literature. It's therefore highly unlikely that the term 'White' in White Rhinoceros has been derived from a Dutch or Afrikaans word. The exact source of the white in White Rhino is still unknown. See [Rookmaaker, L.C., 2003](#)

for more theories.

- **Square-Lipped Rhinoceros:** The wide upper lip of the White Rhino is adapted to grazing and is perfect for tearing of grass.
- **Other names:** view a list of [White Rhino Vernacular Names](#)

#### Scientific Name

The scientific name for the White Rhino is *Ceratotherium simum*. *Ceratotherium* being from the Greek *cerato* for "horn" and *thorium* meaning "wild beast". *Simum* is from the Greek *simus* meaning "flat nosed". Throughout history the White Rhino has been referred to using quite a lot of different scientific names. View a list of [White Rhino Scientific names](#).

#### Subspecies

- The **Southern White Rhino** (*Ceratotherium simum simum*) is the most numerous of all White Rhino subspecies.
- The **Northern White Rhino** (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*) is the rarest and most endangered subspecies, with only 10 surviving in Garamba National Park, Congo. The main difference with the Southern White Rhino is its larger horn, which can be up to 2 m long.

## New Prices for Hunting in Ethiopia

Retnuh Acirfa

Hunting in Ethiopia was never cheap, first and foremost because of the high costs of safari outfitting. In the wake of reforming the wildlife conservation set-up of the country the newly founded EWCA, the Ethiopian Wildlife Conservation Authority, has raised the hunting fees considerably. The Mountain Nyala, *Tragelaphus buxtoni*, the flagship of any Ethiopian safari, to be found only in the highlands east of the Rift valley, formally priced at 5,000 US\$, costs now 15,000 US\$. Menelik's Bushbuck, *Tragelaphus scriptus meneliki*, another of the endemics that occurs in the same environment, now 6,000 US\$. In addition, there is a 100 US\$ daily conservation fee, a gun license fee of 100\$, and increased block fees for the outfitters.

Ethiopia is a country with a long and outstanding hunting tradition. The so called "general bag" was never really on offer, but instead highly specialized hunts. The species that attract hunters the most are endemic, which means they occur only in Ethiopia. Two other game animals, Beisa Oryx, *Oryx beisa beisa*, (New Trophy Fee US\$ 2,000), and Soemmerring's Gazelle, *Nanger soemmerringii soemmerringii*, (New Trophy Fee US\$ 2,400) can presently be hunted only in this country.

Yet, for the trophy hunters who want to complete a collection of spiral horned antelopes, Mountain Nyala and Menelik's Bushbuck are a "must".

Well known among hunters of Africa is the great Elephant rush to Ethiopia in the 1980s, which yielded a number

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