

OPERATION SHIBULA

LAGAMED, THE MANUFACTURERS OF EROMEL,
PROUDLY ANNOUNCE THE SUCCESS OF THE FIRST
THREE PHASES OF OUR 1990

BLACK RHINO PROJECT

LAGAMED HAS MADE A "VERY SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO RHINO CONSERVATION" SAYS NATIONAL PARKS BOARD VETERINARY SURGEON - DR COBUS RAATH, ON TV 50/50. ◆ SHIBULA ('WILD LADY') IS A BLACK RHINOCEROS OF THE SUBSPECIES *DICEROS BICORNIS BICORNIS* OF WHICH ONLY 19 (INCLUDING SHIBULA) EXIST IN SOUTH AFRICA. "OPERATION SHIBULA" WAS UNDERTAKEN TO BRING A YOUNG RHINO COW FROM LISBON ZOO IN PORTUGAL TO AUGRABIES FALLS NATIONAL PARK, IN THE NORTH WESTERN CAPE. ◆ THE PROJECT CONSISTS OF FOUR DISTINCT PHASES:

- TRANSLOCATION • DIET CHANGEOVER • RELEASE • BREEDING. ◆ THE NATIONAL PARKS BOARD EXCHANGED 32 ANIMALS, INCLUDING ANTELOPE, ELEPHANT AND WHITE RHINO, FOR SHIBULA, BUT NEEDED FUNDS FOR BOMAS, CRATES, AIR FARES AND TRANSPORTATION. IN 1990, THE LAGAMED - DAVID SHEPHERD - 50/50 PROJECT RAISED R250 000 FOR THE BLACK RHINO BY SELLING R20 CERTIFICATES AND ONE LUCKY PERSON WON AN ORIGINAL OIL PAINTING DONATED BY THE WORLD'S FOREMOST WILDLIFE ARTIST - DAVID SHEPHERD - OF THE U.K. PART OF THESE FUNDS WERE USED BY THE NATIONAL PARKS BOARD FOR SHIBULA'S TRANSLOCATION.



Shibula enjoying her freedom and the feel of African soil under her feet.

PHASE 1 - TRANSLOCATION - FROM LISBON ZOO

SHIBULA, 7 YEARS OLD, WAS DONATED TO LISBON ZOO TWO YEARS AGO FROM NAMIBIA. SHE WAS INTENDED FOR BREEDING PURPOSES, BUT THE MALE DIED SHORTLY AFTER SHIBULA'S ARRIVAL. SHE WEIGHS ABOUT 1 500 KG. IN ORDER TO SHOW 50/50 VIEWERS AND EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT -

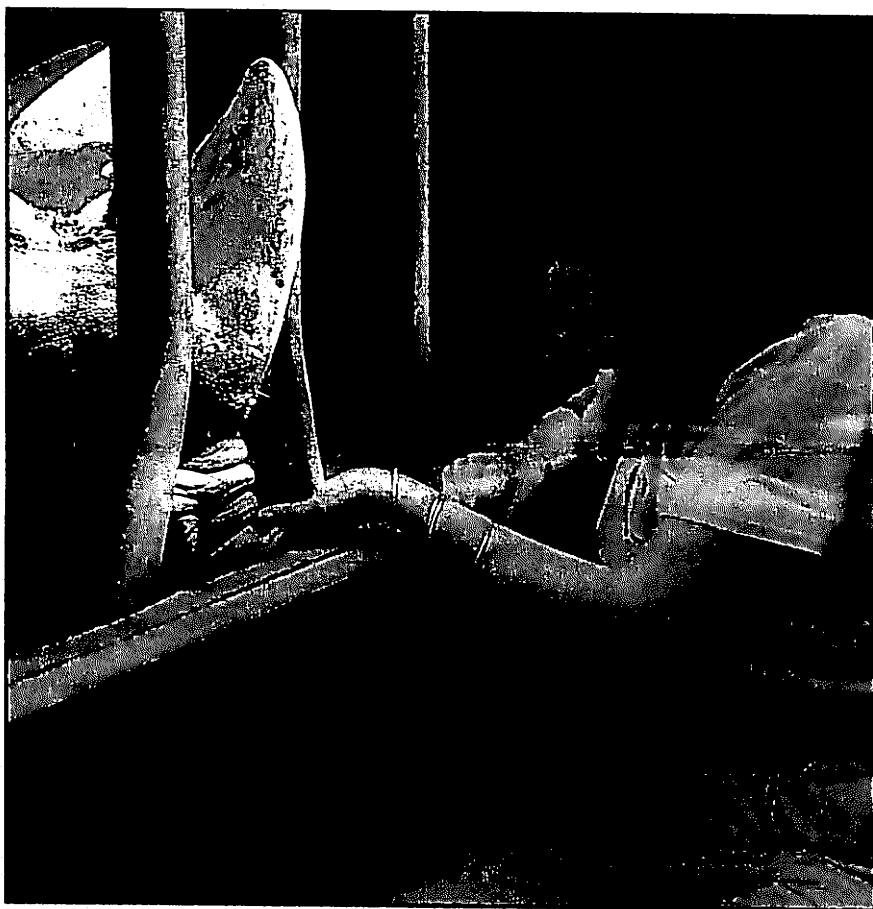
PARTICULARLY THE MEDICAL PROFESSION - HOW FUNDS RAISED ARE BEING USED, LAGAMED SPONSORED THE PRODUCTION OF A 50/50 FILM.

THE TEMPERATURE WAS 35°C. CARLOS AUGUSTO, THE ZOOKEEPER, HAD SLEPT NEAR HER CRATE ON SUNDAY NIGHT. SHIBULA, NOW ON BOARD THE SHIP CITY OF DURBAN, WAS FED APPLES BY HAND AND TOOK A WELCOME DRINK OF WATER AFTER ALL THE TRAUMA OF BEING CRATED, TRUCKED AND LOADED ONTO THE SHIP BY MEANS OF A 35 000 KG MOBILE CRANE.



Shibula in
Lisbon Zoo.

►
Shibula being fed apples by Sue Downie.



▼
Shibula enjoying a welcome drink of water.



▲
Shibula's crate with
Sue Downie (Lagamed),
Cobus Raath (National Parks Board)
and Liz Dick (50/50).



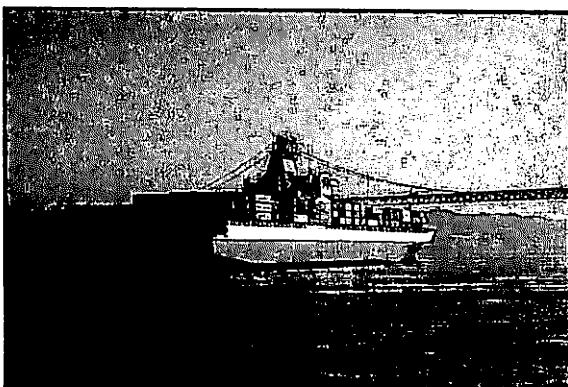
▲
Shibula leaves
Lisbon Zoo at
10.00am on Monday
5th August 1991.

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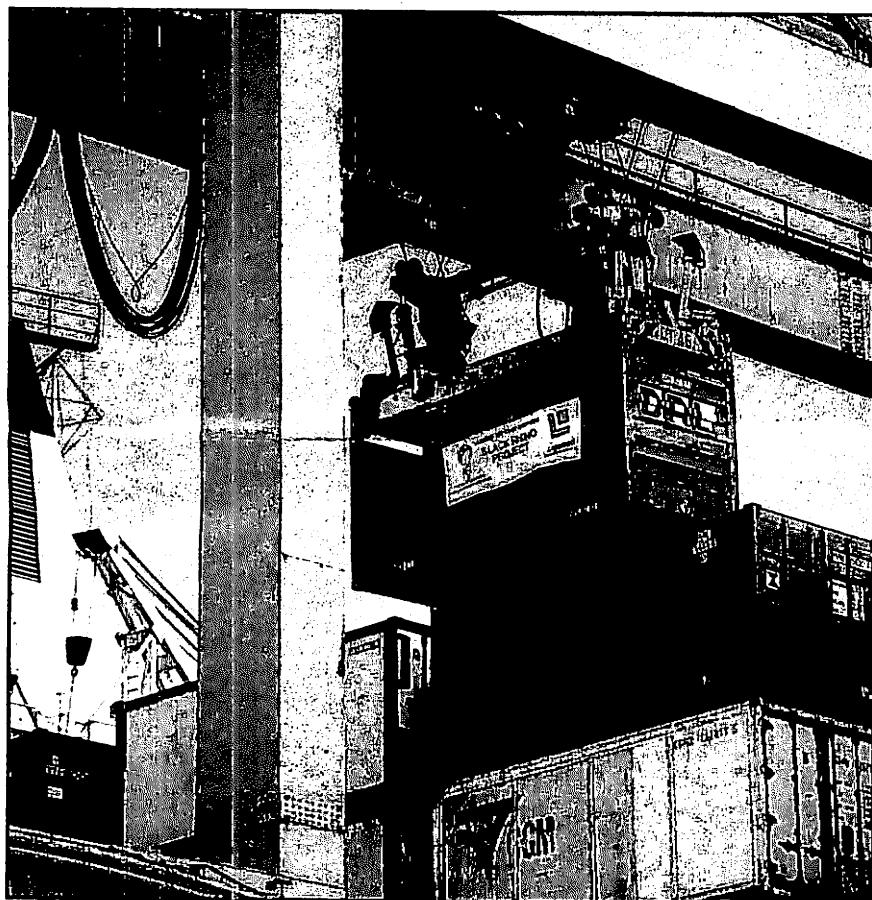


BROMEL

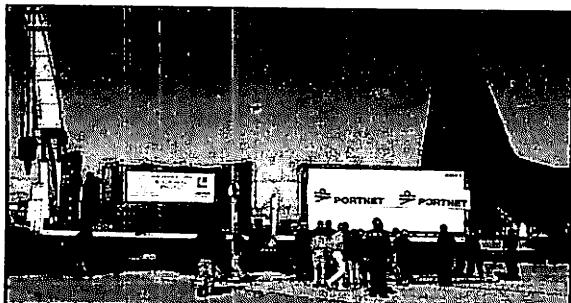
PHASE 1 - TRANSLOCATION - ARRIVAL CAPE TOWN OPERATION SHIBULA



*City Of Durban
leaving Lisbon
with Shibula.*



*Shibula arrives
in Cape Town.*



*Shibula's
arrival at
Air Force Base
Ysterplaat.*



*Shibula being
loaded into the
C130 Hercules
at Ysterplaat.*

SHIBULA WAS ON THE AFTER DECK OF THE SHIP, PROTECTED BY SURROUNDING CONTAINERS. HER CRATE - 2.0 METRES HIGH, 1.45 METRES WIDE BY 3.0 METRES LONG - COULD BE OPENED FOR CLEANING AND FEEDING. FOR THE ENTIRE VOYAGE, SHE WAS ACCCOMPANIED BY OUR NATIONAL PARKS BOARD VET - COBUS, AND HER KEEPER - CARLOS, WHO CARED FOR HER DAILY. ACCORDING TO COBUS, SHE GOT BORED AT ONE STAGE AND THREW HER FOOD AROUND, BUT THEN SETTLED DOWN. THEY ALSO FACED ANOTHER CRISIS WHEN THE APPLES AND THE CARROTS STARTED TO DETERIORATE. ON AUGUST 17TH, 1991 - 13 DAYS AT SEA - SHIBULA'S WAS THE FIRST CONTAINER TO BE OFFLOADED AT CAPE TOWN. ANOTHER CRISIS BECAUSE OF HIGH TIDE. SHIBULA'S CONTAINER JUST SCRAPPED OVER THE OTHER CONTAINERS. THE TIME OF ARRIVAL WAS 1425. A CAPE TOWN TRAFFIC POLICE ESCORT TOOK SHIBULA TO THE YSTERPLAAT AIR FORCE BASE. SHIBULA WAS LOADED INTO A C130 HERCULES AIRCRAFT OF THE SAAF, SPECIALLY PROVIDED FOR HER. COBUS AND CARLOS TRAVELED IN THE HOLD WITH HER. HER SENSITIVE EARS WERE PLUGGED TO PROTECT HER FROM THE AIRCRAFT NOISE. SUE AND LUCKY MAYANDONI (AGAMED) JOINED COMDT CARP IN THE COCKPIT FOR THE FLIGHT TO UPINGTON.

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PHASE 1 - TRANSLOCATION - ARRIVAL AT UPINGTON

CMDT EARP FLEW THE C130 EXPERTLY, GENTLY TAKING OFF AND LANDING AS SHIBULA DID NOT HAVE A SEAT BELT IN HER CRATE! ◀ CMDT EARP'S SKILL WAS ESSENTIAL AS WE WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE G-FORCES ON SHIBULA DURING TAKE-OFF AND LANDING. SHIBULA WAS OFFLOADED AT UPINGTON AIRPORT - ARRIVAL TIME 19H00 ON SATURDAY AUGUST 17TH, AND, BECAUSE OF THE DARK AND THE LACK OF SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT, HER CRATE WAS ONLY LOADED ONTO THE TRUCK AT 20H00.

SHIBULA'S RELEASE

AT 00H30 (JUST AFTER MIDNIGHT) ON SUNDAY AUGUST 18TH, 1991, AFTER 13 DAYS OF TRAVEL, SHIBULA WAS FINALLY RELEASED INTO HER BOMA AT AUGRABIES.

THE NEXT MORNING

COBUS EXAMINED SHIBULA IN HER TEMPORARY HOME, A BOMA OF ABOUT 15 METRES X 15 METRES AND TWICE THE SIZE OF HER ZOO ENCLOSURE.

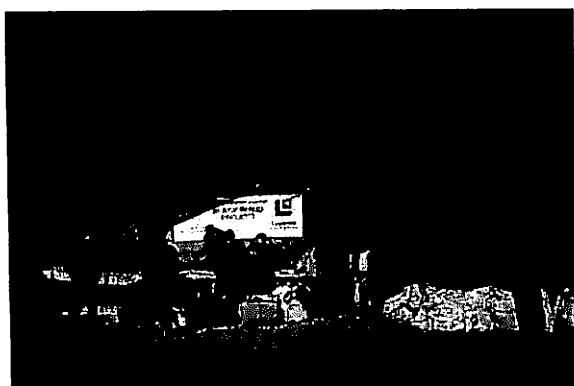
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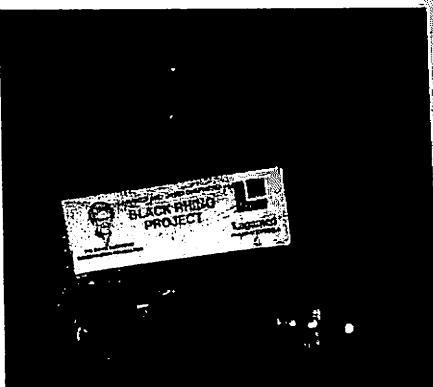
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Shibula being offloaded at Upington.



Shibula's crate being loaded onto the truck.

Shibula finally released into her boma.

Cobus checking on the welfare of Shibula.



Shibula in her new home - twice the size of her zoo enclosure.

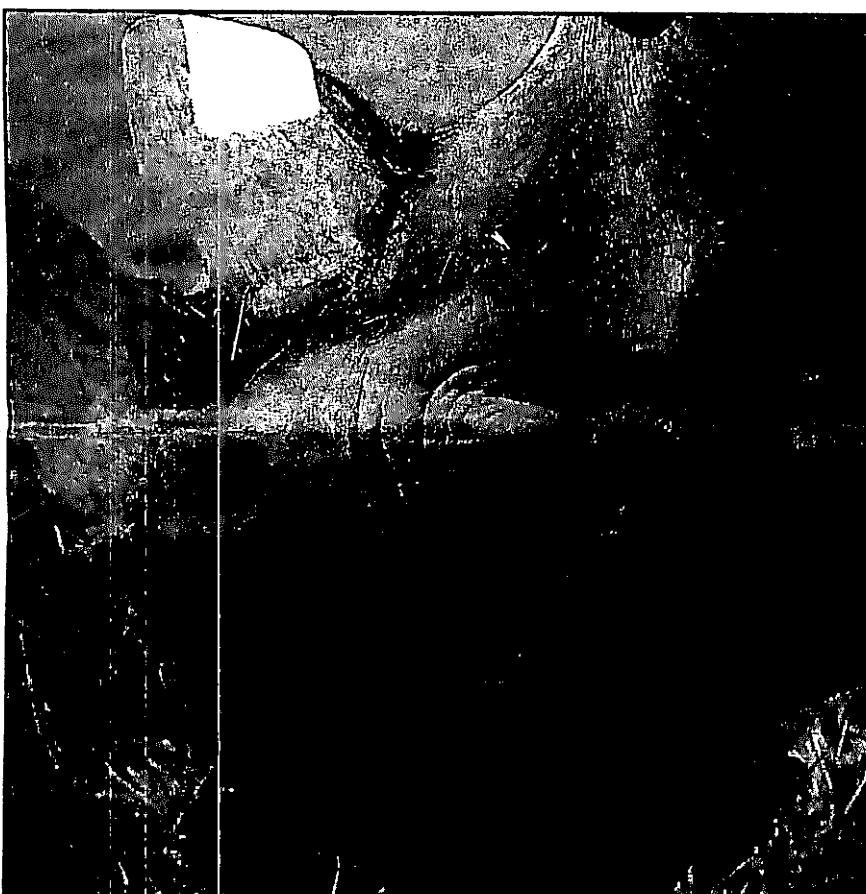
The translocation team at Augrabies. Piet Snyman and Erald Felix (50/50), Carlos Augusto (Lisbon Zoo), Liz Dick (50/50), Piet Bronkhorst (Augrabies warden), Lucky Mavrandonis (Lagamed), Jacques le Roux (50/50), Sue Downie (Lagamed) and Cobus Raath (Vet- National Parks Board).

PHASE 2 - DIET CHANGEOVER

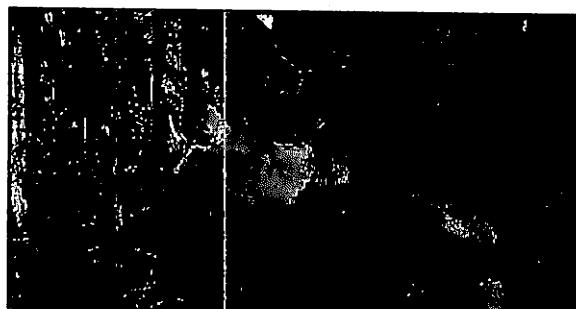
OPERATION SHIBULA



Shibula
browsing on
Swarthaak
Branches.



Shibula in the
process of
adapting to a
new diet.



Shibula
browsing on a
completely
indigenous diet.



Sue Downie
(Lagamed) has
a final few
words for Shibula.

SHIBULA BECAME AN ARTIFICIAL GRAZER BECAUSE OF HER ZOO DIET OF HAY, SUPPLEMENTED BY LUCERNE, APPLES, CARROTS AND HORSE PELLETS. IN PREPARATION FOR HER RELEASE SHE HAD TO ADAPT TO A DIET OF INDIGENOUS BUSH AND REVERT TO BROWSING. SWARTHAAK BRANCHES WERE CUT DAILY AND HUNG IN HER BOMA TO ASSIST HER CONVERSION TO A DIET OF BROWSE. SHE TOOK TO HER NEW DIET AND WITHIN WEEKS 90% WAS COMPOSED OF INDIGENOUS PLANTS GATHERED LOCALLY. AFTER THREE MONTHS IN THE BOMA HER ENTIRE DIET CONSISTED OF INDIGENOUS BUSH AND SHE WAS NOW READY FOR PHASE 3 - THE RELEASE.

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PHASE 3 - THE RELEASE

AT 04H30 ON DECEMBER 6TH, 1991, SHIBULA TENTATIVELY APPROACHED THE OPEN GATE. NO FLASHES WERE ALLOWED IN ORDER TO KEEP HER CALM AND RELAXED. ◆ AT 05H29, SHE FINALLY WALKED OUT VERY PEACEFULLY, JUST AS DR ANTHONY HALL-MARTIN (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: SOUTHERN PARKS) HAD WANTED, SO AS TO MINIMISE ANY POSSIBLE DISTURBANCE TO HER. ◆ IT APPEARED THAT SHE WAS QUITE FASCINATED BY THE SCENT OF THE OTHER RHINO IN THE VICINITY. SHE IS NOW IN AN AREA OF ABOUT 1000 HA WITH ARRIES, ONE OF THE AFRICAN BULLS. SHIBULA SPENT SOME TIME EXPLORING THE SURROUNDINGS OUTSIDE HER BOMA AFTER HER RELEASE. ◆ ALL OF US WERE PERCHED ON TOP OF HER TRANSPORTATION CRATE, AND SHIBULA CAME BACK THREE TIMES, POSSIBLY FOR REASSURANCE, AND POSSIBLY TO SAY "THANK-YOU"!

OUR SATISFACTION WAS ENORMOUS AT SEEING HER FINALLY BACK IN AFRICA AND RELEASED INTO THE WILD.

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FROMEL



Shibula tentatively approaching the open gate.

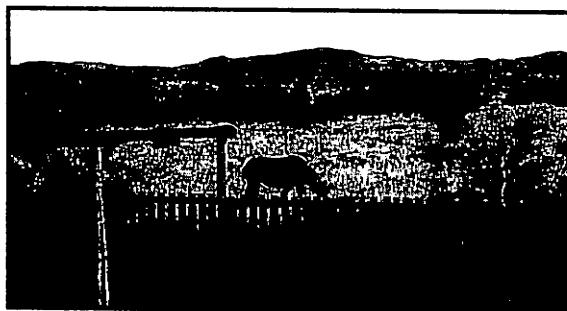
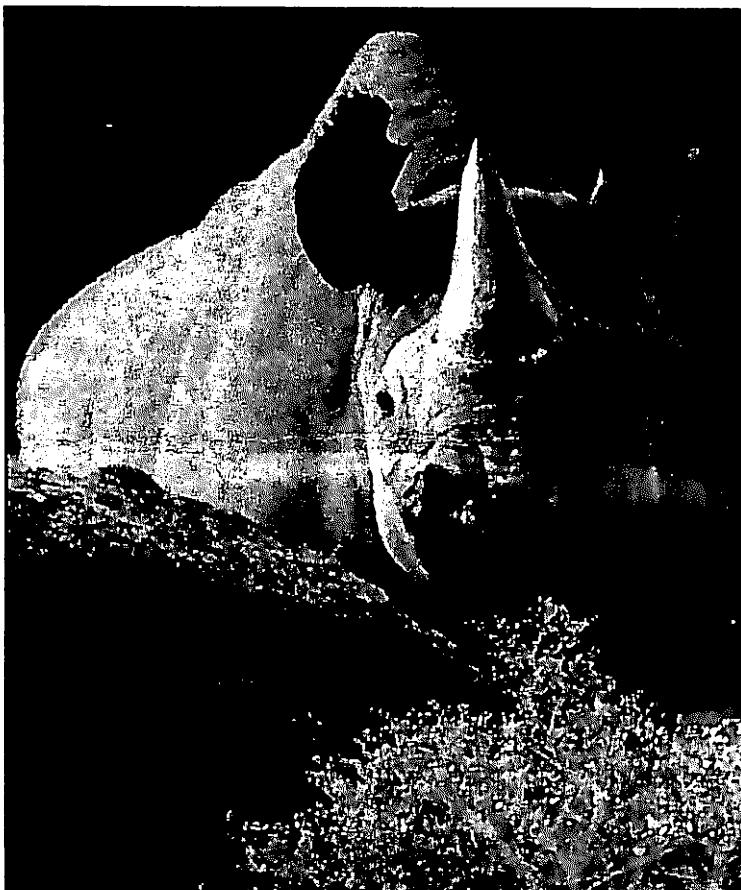
Shibula finally walking out of her boma.



The V-shaped notch in her right ear, for identification, is shown clearly in this photograph.

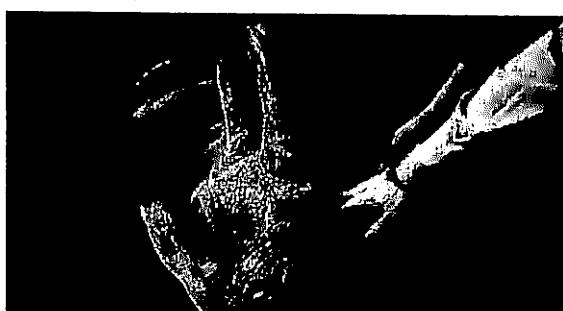
Photo: Dr A. Hall-Martin.

Shibula fascinated by the scent of other rhino.



Shibula exploring her surroundings after her release.

Dr Anthony Hall-Martin stretches out his hand to give Shibula a final farewell.



PHASE 3 - THE RELEASE

OPERATION SHIBULA

The Release Team:
Nico v.d. Walt, Dr Anthony Hall-Martin, Danie Terblanche,
Louis Coetzee, Koos Lubbe and Sue Downie.



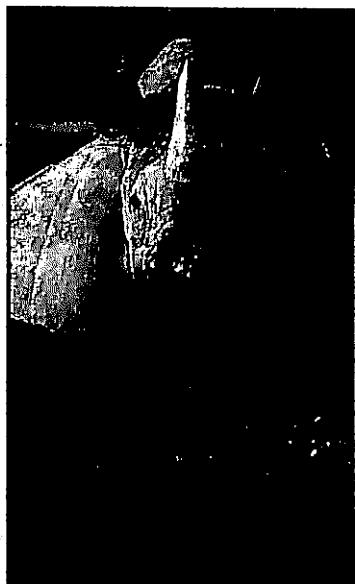
Examining
Shibula's spoor.



The 'Kokerboom'
or Quiver tree
found at
Augrabies.



Shibula's
footprint.



Shibula -
weeks after
her release -
healthy and
alert.

Photo:
Dr A. Hall-Martin
(LAGAMED).

EACH RHINOCEROS FOOTPRINTS HAVE UNIQUE PATTERNS, JUST LIKE HUMAN FINGER-PRINTS. IT IS ESSENTIAL FOR NATIONAL PARKS BOARD RANGERS TO BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY HER SPOOR AND TRACK HER TO CHECK ON HER WELL-BEING. AFTER HER RELEASE AT 04H30, SHIBULA WAS LEFT UNDISTURBED FOR EIGHT HOURS. THE NATIONAL PARKS BOARD TEAM PROVIDED A VEHICLE AND FOUR TRACKERS FOR SUE AND LUCKY (LAGAMED) TO SEE IF THEY COULD FIND HER. AT 13H00 WE FOUND HER SHELTERING AGAINST THE SUN UNDERNEATH A HUGE BOULDER. WE LEFT WITHOUT DISTURBING HER. THE RELEASE TEAM CONSISTED OF NICO V.D. WALT (NEW WARDEN OF AUGRABIES), DR ANTHONY HALL-MARTIN, WHO INITIATED THE TRANSLOCATION, DANIE TERBLANCHE, LOUIS COETZEE, KOOS LUBBE AND SUE DOWDIE (LAGAMED).

AUGRABIES FALLS NATIONAL PARK
THE AUGRABIES FALLS NATIONAL PARK WAS PROCLAIMED IN 1968 AND TODAY CONSISTS OF AN AREA OF 9 418 HA. THE NAME AUGRABIES COMES FROM THE NAMA WORD "AUNGRABIES" WHICH MEANS "PLACE OF GREAT RUSHES". THE ORANGE (GARDEN) RIVER IS 2 040 KM LONG AND STARTS AT MINNIEVAAL SOURCE IN THE DRAGENBERG. THE ANNUAL RUNOFF IS 12 000 000 M³. THE TEMPERATURE CAN GO AS HIGH AS 40°C WHILE ROCK AROUND THE FALLS CAN REACH TEMPERATURES OF 70°C.



Eight hours after
release, Shibula was
found sheltering
against the sun.



The Augrabies
Falls in The
Augrabies Falls
National Park.

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