

# RHINO RESCUE





# TO THE RESCUE

**I**n December 1985, the desperate plight of the black rhino in East Africa was brought to the attention of a group of people in London all of whom were concerned with wildlife conservation. At that time the black rhino population in Kenya had fallen from 20,000 in 1970 to fewer than 500.

It was these appalling figures that caused the Rhino Rescue Trust to be formed. A plan was quickly drawn up to assist the Kenya Government's own proposed programme of building sanctuaries in the National Parks. For, despite the decline of the 70 million year old species to numbers perilously close to extinction, there were no

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funds available, anywhere, to build the sanctuaries so vital to secure the arrest and reversal of the black rhino's total demise. Rhino Rescue was able to change that.

Moving with exceptional speed, the Trust launched the Appeal in March 1986 in the House of Lords. In less than a year sufficient funds had been generated to begin the building of the first sanctuary at Nakuru and, only eighteen months after the public launch of the Appeal,

black rhino were already being released into the Nakuru Sanctuary.

## THE FIRST SANCTUARY

By July 1987 the first purpose-built rhino sanctuary in any National Park in Africa was a going concern. From the nucleus breeding stock of 19 black rhino in the sanctuary the regeneration of the world's second largest pachyderm has taken a most significant stride. As breeding increases numbers, it is estimated that Nakuru can become home for at least 60 adult animals.

The efficiency of the sanctuary system to protect, conserve and breed the black rhino has already been demonstrated. For many years Mr Courtland Parfet has successfully demonstrated the sanctuary concept on his ranch at Solio, in central Kenya.

The public's most generous response to the Rhino Rescue Trust's original appeal has made it possible for the Wildlife Department to open the first major sanctuary within the framework of the Kenya Government's Black Rhino Management Project. Due to the Trust's unremitting efforts the work was done with unprecedented efficiency, economy and speed.



H.R.H. Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands launches the Appeal at the House of Lords.



Black rhino and calf. This species has existed unchanged for 70 million years. In much of Africa it is now extinct.





Daily maintenance, the key to a sanctuary's success.

## CAUSE AND EFFECT

**F**irst it was the belief in the magic powers of rhino horn. In the Far East rhino horn products were, and still are, believed to be the cure for a multitude of ailments.

### POWER AND WEALTH

More recently, rhino horn has become a symbol of power and wealth in the North Yemen. It is the coveted Djambia dagger with its rhino horn handle that brought about the final and almost fatal decimation of the black rhino throughout Africa.

With two major markets clamouring for rhino horn (contrary to popular belief only a negligible quantity is

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used for aphrodisiacs) the price of rhino horn on illegal world markets has reached over \$30,000 a kilo. Ounce

for ounce rhino horn is worth more than gold and a Djambia dagger with a rhino horn handle can change hands for over \$15,000.

### POACHING

Demand for horn and its accompanying price explosion led to the relatively harmless village poacher being replaced by well organised bands of 'Shifta' or bandit poachers armed with modern automatic weapons. These marauding gangs with their lethal firepower are both dangerous and extremely aggressive. They do not hesitate to 'shoot it out' with the law or even units of the Kenya army.

It is these bands of Shifta who have virtually wiped out the rhino in East Africa and will continue to attempt the slaughter just to remove the horn until the day comes when the odium of international opinion has bitten sufficiently deep to destroy the trade.

### RETURN TO THE WILD

Not until then can the rhino now being bred in the safety of well maintained and secure sanctuaries be returned to the wild of the National Parks.

The Djambia dagger proudly worn: An expensive symbol – in more ways than one – of power and wealth.



Courtesy Dr. Esmond Bradley Martin

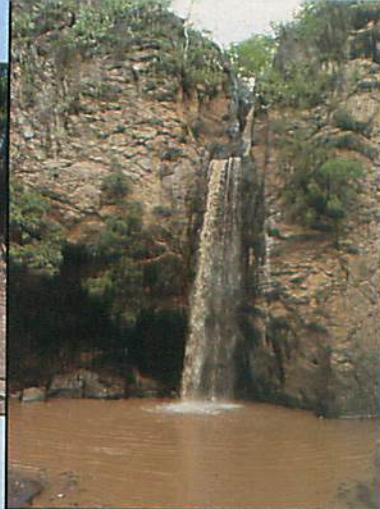
Electrical energisers for the fence which is equipped with automatic alarms to warn of intruders.







Bridging the Makalia



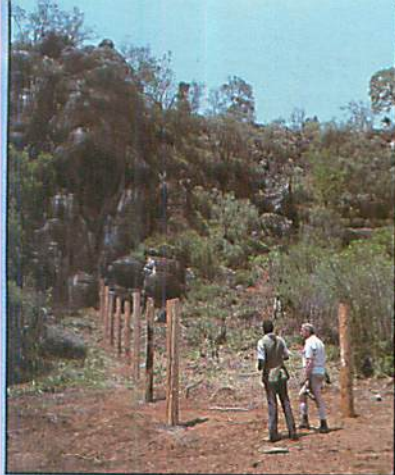
Rhino Rescue has developed much of the water supply in the sanctuary. Although three rivers feed Lake Nakuru, they only run for three months of the year making the water development aspect of the project vital.

Drilling for yet more water with a mobile rig.



Only mechanical graders are sufficient to maintain the roads in the African climate.





The rhino quickly become accustomed to the fences that often run through thick vegetation.



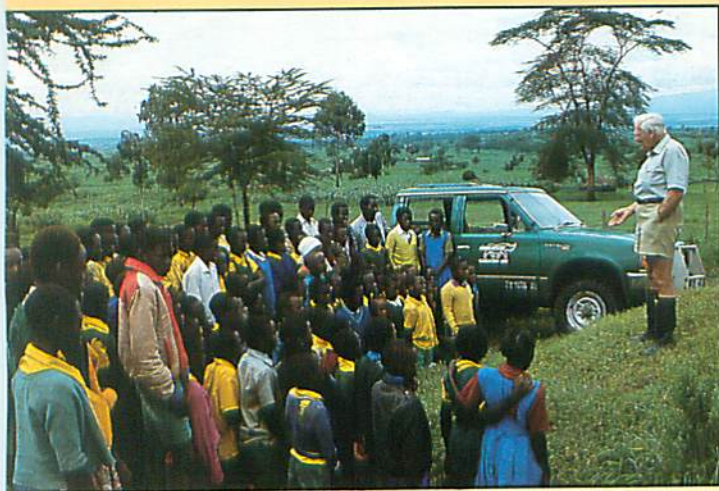
The black rhino's natural habitat is preserved within the sanctuary.



Essential in times of drought: Artificial drinking troughs.

Main picture:  
Constructing one of the two big dams. Each contains twelve million gallons.





A full scale local education campaign, another part of the task for Rhino Rescue: A party of schoolchildren learn while visiting the sanctuary. Talks are also given to visitors at the two tourist hotels within the Park.

# THE NAKURU ACHIEVEMENT

**R**hino Rescue has created a sanctuary which encompasses the 144 sq kilometre Nakuru National Park. The park and sanctuary is encircled by a 12 strand electrified 74 kilometre fence with manned guard posts every 15 kilometres. These guard posts are equipped with automatic alarms, which sound should anyone tamper with the fence, and contain the solar panels to provide electric power.

## DETERRENT

This powerful deterrent against the poachers is made up of 11,038 fence posts, many driven into difficult and stony ground, and 880 kilometres of high tensile wire strung through 33,114 electrical insulators.

Outside the fence a 74 kilometre long firebreak was bulldozed through the bush and a maintenance road of the same length built inside. In addition, a further 60 kilometres of patrol tracks were driven through strate-

gic areas of bush and scrub and all the necessary bridges were built.

## WATER DEVELOPMENT

Extensive water development was needed. Rhino Rescue has enlarged the natural water holes, sunk deep bore holes and piped the water to new drinking troughs. Donations from the East African Wildlife Society and the World Wildlife Fund assisted in this work.

Rhino Rescue has also helped to finance two twelve million gallon dams. These were built with machinery supplied by the Kenya Government and supervised by the West German Water Development Agency.

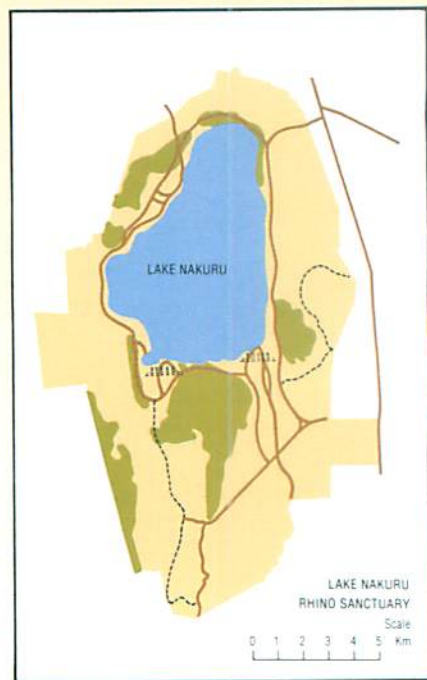
Radio communications have been installed at each guard post and supplied for all the mobile patrols to provide immediate access to the Rhino Rescue headquarters in the sanctuary.

The Trust's headquarters, within the compound of the administrator's house, consist of stores, maintenance facilities, radio room and the office.

## EDUCATION

Conservation on its own cannot succeed. Wildlife and its natural habitat has to be appreciated, prized and understood by the public. To ensure the ultimate success of the Rhino Rescue project, it is necessary to reach everyone, particularly all the local school children. To this end, Rhino Rescue is developing an educational facet to its work in Kenya, its mobile education unit.

It began in a small way with talks given by the Rhino Rescue administrator to school children visiting the sanctuary. The success of these talks led to the acquisition of a four wheel drive vehicle fitted with a television screen. This allows Rhino Rescue to go further afield, to visit local schools with films about African wildlife. A generator was bought for the unit to enable the film to be shown in outlying schools where, as yet, there is no electricity.







Assuring his future.

## FOR THE FUTURE

**R**hino Rescue recognises the Kenya Wildlife Department's constrained budgets and wide commitments within a country unmatched in Africa for its variety of wildlife.

Because of this, the Rhino Rescue Trust has undertaken to fund the major share of the cost of running the Nakuru sanctuary for an initial period of three years. To this end the Trust has employed its own administrator.

While the first priority is to fund and maintain the sanctuary already built through the generosity of Rhino Rescue's supporters, the Rhino Rescue Trust has also

**'Deeds of covenant allow us to fulfil our commitment to the Nakuru sanctuary. All donations are welcome, every little helps.'**

committed itself to doubling the size of the pilot sanctuary at Tsavo. In the Aberdare National Park, where a sanctuary is in the first stages of construction, Rhino Rescue has already given substantial help thanks to a generous grant from the David Shepherd Foundation.

### INVESTMENT

The Rhino Rescue Trust, in this, the second phase of its Appeal, aims to raise £750,000, capital sufficient to fund the Nakuru sanctuary's running costs in perpetuity. This it intends to do through fund raising events and by appealing for single gifts, banker's orders and covenanted donations. Deeds of covenant are the best way of protecting the investment in the Nakuru sanctuary by the Trust's generous supporters since they enable the Appeal to recover the tax otherwise paid by the donor. This must be the sure road to success.

Rhino carcass after a poacher raid. Only by maintaining the sanctuary can this be averted.



### DONATIONS

Help Rhino Rescue maintain the sanctuary. Deeds of covenant allow us to fulfil our commitment to the Nakuru sanctuary. All donations are welcome, every little helps. There is so much to be done to Rescue the Rhino.

Donations should be sent to:

The Hon. Treasurer  
Rhino Rescue  
P.O. Box 1  
Saxmundham  
Suffolk  
IP17 3JT  
U.K.

Rhino Rescue  
P.O. Box 3120  
Nakuru  
Kenya

Rhino Rescue Charitable Appeal Trust  
Registered Charity Number 292773

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