

Wildlife MATTERS



Tiger time

Time is running out...
help us stop the killing

Rhino Poaching

Reaches catastrophic levels

David at 80

Exhibitions and events mark
the occasion

Art for Survival

Annual DSWF exhibition at the
Mall Galleries, London June 6-11 featuring:
Wildlife Artist of the Year,
Three Generations of the Shepherd family
and guest artists



Fulfilling the Art of Conservation

THE MAGAZINE OF THE DAVID SHEPHERD WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
SAVING CRITICALLY ENDANGERED MAMMALS IN THE WILD

www.davidshepherd.org

Welcome to Wildlife Matters

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We would like to express our sincere thanks to all our supporters, donors and loyal volunteers – without whom we simply could not achieve as much as we do to save wildlife.

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Photo courtesy of Becky Thomas

Wildlife artist, conservationist and founder of DSWF, David Shepherd CBE, celebrates his 80th birthday this April

I've been touched to the core by the overwhelmingly lovely messages that I've received as I approach my 80th birthday. Like most people on such landmark days, I've spared myself just a little time to reflect on life and its wonders - but I don't want this special day to be about looking back, no matter how wonderful the memories. I want to look forward. The species that we are fighting to protect are under ever more mortal threat as Asia grows in wealth and the demand for animal products rises and I simply refuse to accept that endangered species should be sacrificed to man's needs. That is why, on my 80th birthday, I will not be looking back. I will be launching my latest, and perhaps boldest, campaign – TigerTime.

With the number of tigers in the wild at around 3,500 time is literally running out for this iconic animal. TigerTime will be more than just a campaign. It will be a 'Movement'. It will be the place where people, businesses and organisations can go to register their support, give money and lend their signature to a whole range of lobbying campaigns to get direct action on this issue. At the core of the Movement will be the concept that we are not prepared to see the tiger lost in our lifetimes.

We are calling on everyone who shares our view to join. It may be that people can only afford to give us their commitment of support. Others may be able to give a donation or a contribution in kind. Companies will see

an added benefit for their stakeholders by associating themselves with TigerTime. Every expression of support will be valued and used.

People often say that conservation is a complex subject. I just don't look at it that way. I have the simple view that I refuse to accept that tigers, and the other species we work with, should be lost. To me this is as much as an emotional issue as a conservation issue. TigerTime will generate the momentum and funding that we, and other charities associated with us, need to take the direct steps to save the tiger; more anti-poaching patrols, more undercover work to bring poachers and illegal traders in tiger products to account, and more work to persuade the ever growing Asian population to stop buying tiger products.

We're working on TigerTime with Peter Carroll and his team. Peter was the man widely acknowledged to have been the architect of Joanna Lumley's Gurkha Campaign. Like him, I share the view that sometimes you need to fight the 'mother of all campaigns' to win – that's why I am launching TigerTime. Please, join it now at www.TigerTime.info

You can read more about TigerTime in this issue of Wildlife Matters.

David Shepherd

Happy Birthday David!

As part of DSWF's recent appeal - to coincide with David's 80th birthday - David has been overwhelmed with birthday messages.

"Your generosity is so hugely appreciated and your kind words of support have been really touching. It's wonderful to know that the work of my Foundation has truly inspired so many. It is humbling," says David.

A few of those messages are reproduced here - many, many more will appear soon in a special online book of birthday messages at: www.davidshepherd.org



Funding matters ...

During the last year DSWF has funded conservation activities in Africa and Asia amounting to over £460,000 and education activities of £100,000. Here is a brief synopsis of where the money you so generously give is being spent.

ZAMBIA - £120,000 on anti-poaching and ranger training programmes, illegal trade investigations and the development of a rescue, rehabilitation and release programme for orphaned elephants in the Kafue National Park.

ZIMBABWE - £30,000 to the Painted Dog Conservation Project - funding anti-poaching operations and working with local communities through education to save wildlife.

NAMIBIA - £52,000 to Save the Rhino Trust - funding anti-poaching, monitoring and research programmes in the Kunene Region.

MONGOLIA - £20,000 to the Snow Leopard Trust for essential monitoring, research and community programmes.

RUSSIA - £30,500 to support the fight to save the last Amur tigers through anti-poaching and community education programmes.

UGANDA - £20,000 to the Uganda Conservation Foundation's Waterways Project conducting waterborne operations to combat increased poaching.

SOUTH AFRICA - £63,000 to the Black Rhino Project for monitoring, translocation, vital breeding programmes and additional security.

INDIA - £50,000 to support work in Assam protecting the Indian rhino, tiger and elephant populations. A further £17,000 for undercover operations to expose and prevent illegal smuggling of wildlife products.

£20,000 for the Wildlife Trust of India's Rapid Action Project and £10,000 to save the critically endangered Asiatic lion in the Gir National Park.

CHINA & VIETNAM - £4,000 to Animals Asia Foundation's Moon Bear Rescue Project.

THAILAND - £15,000 to support enforcement training and community projects to secure the future of Thailand's wild tiger populations.



Your help stops this ... funding matters

Exclusive Limited Edition Prints to mark David Shepherd's 80th birthday

Produced to commemorate David's 80th birthday event these exclusive Limited Edition prints by three generations of the Shepherd family will go on general release on May 20th.

To register your interest please contact DSWF on 01483 272323.



A Very Wise Old Elephant

by David Shepherd

Limited Edition of only 80

30cm x 30cm, mounted, £135 inc VAT



Panthera Tigris

by Mandy Shepherd

Limited Edition of only 80

22cm x 22cm, mounted, £85 inc VAT



Bee-eaters

by Emily Lamb

Limited Edition of only 80

40cm x 29cm, mounted, £85 inc VAT

UK postage and packing £7.50 per order. For overseas postage please ask for a quote.

Spring Rhino Reports

2010 was a tragic year for the rhino worldwide. In South Africa alone, poaching rose by 173% and, since the beginning of the year, over 70 rhinos have fallen to the poachers gun. Despite the army being drafted in to boost anti-poaching patrols in South Africa's national parks the crisis is far from over.

DSWF is continuing to support the great work of rhino projects in South Africa, Namibia and India and has provided an emergency grant to initiate a protection programme for the highly vulnerable South African populations. Here are our latest rhino reports...

The highs and lows of Namibia's desert rhinos

Report from Save the Rhino Trust

A rhino called 'Misty' was spotted by an SRT team, accompanied by DSWF supporter Liz Howard and a friend, towards the end of 2010. This female was spotted again in February. It was an exciting moment for the team as well as the whole of SRT, since a new calf - three to four months old - was following her. Another female, 'Tjevere', spotted in the same area, also had a new calf. And, with the above average rainfall experienced in most parts of Namibia, the chance of these youngsters surviving is pretty much guaranteed.

Unfortunately, with all the exciting news, SRT also discovered some sad and alarming signs during a recent patrol. Lesley Karutjaiva and his team were patrolling and monitoring the most northern parts of SRT's area of responsibility,

when they found the carcass of a young male. All initial indicators pointed towards a possible poaching attempt.

Although it was Sunday, SRT Directors Simson Uri-khob and Bernd Brell received good co-operation and assistance from Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET) officials. A MET team protected the carcass, while the Ministry's vet flew in to carry out a post-mortem.

The results were inconclusive in determining the cause of the trauma. Wounds (holes) between the legs indicated a possible fight between two bulls, while a small hole on the left rump suggested a gunshot. A metal detector was used, but no bullets or traces could be found. Both horns were also still with the animal and were removed by SRT and handed to MET officials at the Rhino Technical Advisory Group (RTAG) meeting, taking place at the same time further north of the area.

Although a sad loss, at only seven years old, some interesting data was collected after the animal had been positively identified. Having been ear notched 'No 11' in January 2010, this young bull had covered a distance of approximately 400kms between January and August dissecting



With rhino poaching escalating and out of control in other regions, it will not be long before it reaches Namibia's precious rhino populations.

most of the Kunene rhino range from south to north. He was spotted and monitored, in the area where he died, for the first time in August 2010.

"In this current crisis, it's vital that DSWF steps up its support of SRT's anti-poaching and monitoring operations, but we need your support to do it,"
Melanie Shepherd, CEO, DSWF

At the RTAG meeting held in January 2011 SRT was tasked to spearhead the design of the Strategic Security Plan for the North West Rhino & Elephant populations. This plan was discussed in detail at a workshop held at Wereld's End at the end of March, attended by all stakeholders. The final draft will be submitted and presented at the next RTAG meeting in April 2011.

CORRECTION:

Apologies to the SRT team who were justifiably upset to read in the last issue of Wildlife Matters that their DSWF supported Land Rover had clocked up 163,000km - the correct mileage is 370,000km! Proving that TD5s really are long-lived!

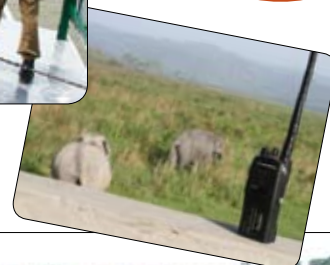




Patrolling the river on the DSWF funded anti-poaching floating boat camp; wireless communication and community outreach form part of the comprehensive rhino conservation activities in Assam, India



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online
today at www.davidshepherd.org



'Rhino Goes to School' forms the heart of outreach in Assam

In Assam, DSWF's continuing support of local NGO, Aaranyak, is having a direct impact on the long-term security of India's vulnerable one-horned rhino. Working in three conservation areas, Kaziranga National Park (NP), Orang NP and Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary, DSWF funds equipment to aid the constant monitoring of habitats and stray rhinos. By identifying key rhino habitats the team are then able to lobby the government to extend protected areas.

In the last two years DSWF funding has provided over 220 wireless handsets, 50 base stations with accessories and two anti-poaching floating boat camps to patrol the northern riverine boundary of Kaziranga.

"In 2011-2012, we will continue to invest in wireless communication equipment and

initiate rehabilitation packages for reformed rhino poachers around the conservation areas," explains Aaranyak's Bibhab Talukdar. "By providing training on various livelihood options and helping to establish self help groups and micro-enterprises we hope that they will find alternative and sustainable livelihoods."

Important community programmes to support local people in understanding rhino conservation will also continue in villages and schools.

"These educational activities will operate with grassroot level NGOs to encourage them to continue to work towards building support for rhino conservation," adds Bibhab. "We will also organise a three day residential training course for about 20 school teachers enabling them to

take rhino conservation education activities back to the rhino bearing areas."

The new education programme – Rhino Goes to School - will target about 30 schools and 2,500 students. In addition, DSWF funding will provide further veterinary support for the treatment of injured, stray rhinos.

"This comprehensive programme of anti-poaching, education and outreach activities in Assam is proving very effective in not only protecting the highly endangered one-horned rhino but also the other critically endangered animals that share their habitat, namely elephants and tigers," says DSWF CEO Melanie Shepherd. "On behalf of Aaranyak I'd like to thank all of our supporters for their continued loyalty to this programme."

Emergency funding released to protect South Africa's black rhino

In response to the escalating crisis in rhino poaching in South Africa, DSWF has released emergency funding of £38,000 to the Black Rhino Monitoring Project that it has supported since 1990.

"While the team has provided excellent monitoring data on several black rhino populations the simple truth is that without funding for security there will be no black rhino left to monitor," says Melanie Shepherd, CEO, DSWF.

The current rate of poaching – which averaged almost one a day in 2010 – is both alarming and unsustainable and the animals that the team have come to know and love are under threat from the voracious onslaught of poaching in the region.

"It's time to act if we want to protect the healthy, productive populations that we have worked so closely with and the initial funding from DSWF has already helped us evaluate and upgrade park protection in four areas," says Lucky Mavrandonis.

With support funding all terrain vehicles, equipment, extra staff and overtime it is hoped that these valuable black rhino populations can be kept safe.

"This is just the beginning of a huge undertaking to save the rhino from almost certain extinction," adds Lucky. "And we are hugely grateful to the dedication and support that DSWF have given us at the start of this vitally important protection project."



Black rhino populations protected by DSWF funds are actually increasing with double the national average of calves recorded in the project areas. Protecting these vital populations is now a top priority