

# Pachyderm

JAN-DEC 1999

Number 27



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## *Pachyderm*

*Journal of the African Elephant,  
the African Rhino and the Asian  
Rhino Specialist Group*

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The production of  
*Pachyderm* is financed  
by the US Fish and  
Wildlife Service.

## Editorial

This issue of *Pachyderm* is a year's issue, covering January to December 1999. We have been lagging behind our publication schedule for some time and need to adjust to the calendar. You will discover a new section: **Review and Opinion**, which is distinctly different from the **Research and Methodology** section, in that the presentation of original research results is not the main focus.

We are trying to streamline the typography and lay-out of incoming contributions and would like to appeal to future contributors to follow more closely the guidelines to ease the editing of manuscripts meant for publication in *Pachyderm*. More detailed "Guidelines to contributors" are published in this issue.

Personally I enjoy design and lay-out, such that the lay-out of this issue was done entirely at the Secretariat. We hope that in future and thanks to a new computer, Monica Buyu, the Secretary of the AfESG, will have the opportunity to continue our desk top publishing efforts.

In no. 26, a short version of a methods paper of John Watkin and Kes Hillman Smith was published. Due to the interest that the note raised and the subsequent enquiries to us to obtain the full version, we decided to publish the paper in full in this edition.

Like the last issue, this one contains comparatively few articles on elephants, but many on rhinos. We have two contributions covering the history of two probably equally threatened subspecies of rhinos, the Western African black rhino, *Diceros bicornis longipes*, and the Javan rhino, *Rhinoceros sondaicus annamiticus*. The decision as to which of the two should go on the front cover of this issue was not an easy one. These two articles also exemplify something that has always been criticized: both draw heavily on unpublished reports, the contents of which are not easy to verify by the reviewers. However, there is an urgent need to bring the contents of those hidden reports to the attention of a wider readership and decision makers for conservation action.

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## ERRATA TO PACHYDERM NO.26

- I. The caption to the photograph on the front page should have read: Black rhino in Swaziland.
- II. The photographs on pages 41, 44, 45, 50 and 122 were wrongly credited to Keryn Adcock and not to Hans Hansen, who is in fact the photographer and owner of the photographs. On behalf of Greg Overton (editor of issue no. 26), the current editor apologizes for this unfortunate error.
- III. On page 123, paragraph 2, line 1 should have read: During the year April 1997 to March 1998, a total of 28 known rhinos were recorded within MMNR.

**Cover photo credit:** Hubert Planton

**Caption:** Western African black rhino, *Diceros bicornis longipes*. "Sopen", shot in August 1996, was one of the last representatives of the Western African black rhinos in the world.