

WILD & JAG

Vol 4/5

SEPT - OCT 1998

R10.00 BTW-ING
VAT-INC

Namibia N\$ 11,35 Inc sales tax & duty / Other Southern African Countries R10,50 Exl Tax

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- **Jag — waar begin 'n mens?**

- **Die Swartwitpens**

- **Anaboom**
- **Wildsbredie**



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Voorbladfoto: Eric Reisinger

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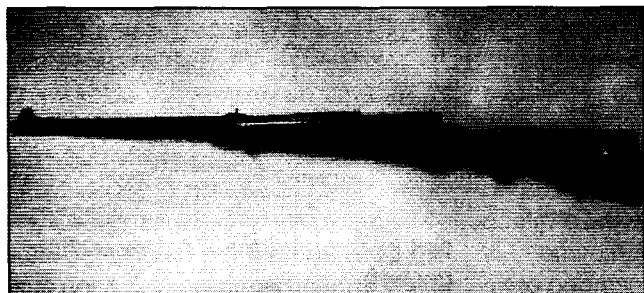
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Erkende publikasie van die SA Wild-
boerorganisasie en die Konfederasie
van Jagtersverenigings van Suid-
Afrika.

Acknowledged publication of the SA
Game Ranchers' Organisation and the
Confederation of Hunting Asso-
ciations of South Africa.

Redakteur/Editor
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Prof Wouter van Hoven, dr Hym Ebedes
en André van Dyk

Uitgewer/Publisher
LE-uitgewers vir Jan Louis
Ondernemings
CK/92/19549/23.

Produksie/Production:
Mand Repro & Print
Drukker/Printer:
Promedia

Uitleg/Layout
D & S Ateljee

Grafiese kuns/Graphic art
Repro Wing

Die redakteur behou die reg voor om
artikels te verander en/of te verkort. The
editor reserves the right to change
and/or shorten articles. Die uitgewer aan-
vaar geen verantwoordelikheid vir die
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mening van medewerkers is nie nood-
wendig die mening van die blad nie. The
publisher accept no responsibility for the
content of advertisements. The opinions
of contributors are not necessarily those
of the magazine.

Verspreiding/Distribution

Republiekeinsse Nuusagentskap
Posbus 15812
Doomfontein
2028
Tel: (011) 7769111, faks (011) 4041451

Advertensies en redaksioneel/ Advertising and editorial:

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Tel (012) 322-6980,
Fax: (012) 322 5585/320-0557.
Posbus/PO Box 4722, Pretoria
0001.
e mail: salu @ iafrica.com
Webb site: www.agrilinfo.co.za

Advertensies Wes- Kaap/ Advertising West Cape:

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Rhino Watch

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE AFRICAN RHINO OWNERS ASSOCIATION
A SPECIALIST WORKING GROUP OF THE RHINO & ELEPHANT FOUNDATION

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NUMBER 8

Editorial

The Committee of the African Rhino Owners Association has asked me to assist in editing future issues of Rhino Watch.

I recently arrived from Holland to take up the new post of Curator of the Waterberg Environmental Centre incorporating a Rhino Museum (the first in Africa) and a Cultural History Museum in the Northern Province.

For any Newsletter to be interesting to its readers, it needs input from various sources. I would like to request your co-operation: send me information about any rhino happenings in your area, and tell me what kind of information you would like to read about.

From this issue onwards, I will try to include two columns, one a "Rhinoceros Factfile" focusing on different biological and historical aspects of the Black and the White Rhinoceros, the second on "Rhinoceros Illustrations" to show and explain the background of older and newer published pictures and plates of the African rhinoceroses. Send us your information, comments and questions, you will have a more interesting newsletter.

Dr Kees Rookmaaker, Editor

Pregnancy determination in rhinos

Pregnancy in rhinos and elephants can be detected by a new technique called "infrared thermography",

according to Sabine Hilsberg writing in the last issue of 'Bongo', the annual journal of the Zoological Gardens in Berlin.

One needs a specially designed camera which measures the heat that every living body naturally transmits into the air, and translates these emissions into a simple colour picture. No need to touch the animal or even come near it.

The photographs seem quite easy to read, exhibiting signs of pregnancy even to the eyes of a layman. It seems like a simple and exciting technique, which will need further research. (*Bongo, Berlin, 28, 1998, pp. 1-8*).

Northern white rhino update

While the numbers of Southern White Rhino are ever increasing, the Northern subspecies of Uganda, Congo and Sudan is very near extinction. It was exterminated in much of its former range where even fifty years ago it was quite numerous.

Its last stronghold is the Garamba National Park in the North-East corner of Congo.

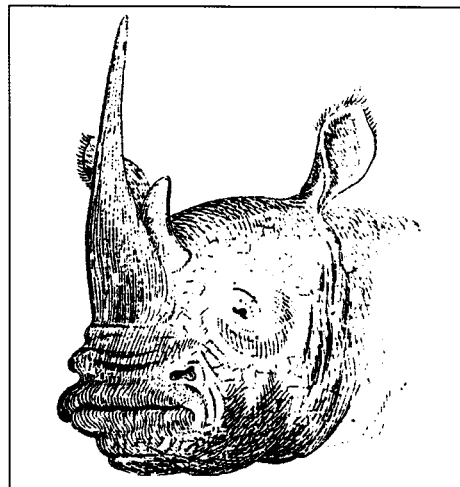
While the number of survivors was not all that high for the past years, at least they were increasing and well protected. Of course, the recent civil war in Congo could easily have wiped out the total population, at least there were fears that only a handful would have remained.

However, a survey by WWF in May 1998 showed that a minimum of 24 white rhinos continue living in Garamba. This should encourage the local authorities to continue their fight to maintain this special kind of rhinoceros.

eros. (WWF Press Release)

"Rhino Ranching" still available

This Management Manual for owners of white rhinos, by Dr J.G. (Kobus) Du Toit, is still available from the AROA office, at R 75,00 (post free) for addresses in South Africa. Call or write our office and order your copy.



Rhinoceros illustrations, 1: W.J. Burchell

By Dr Kees Rookmaaker

Shown here is the first known published representation of the White Rhinoceros. It was engraved after a drawing made by William John Burchell (1782-1863), an Englishman who explored parts of Southern Africa between 1810 and 1815. In 1822 the first volume of his *Travels* appeared