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# SEBAKWE NEWS

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## Rhino Update

The good news is that so far this year we have had no further deaths of black rhino from poachers in the Midlands Conservancy. One of our black rhino was killed by an elephant and one white rhino in Iwaba has been killed by poachers. Two rhino poachers have been arrested. We have had two rhino births this year and now have 22 black rhino in the Conservancy.

I am pleased to announce that we have been awarded a euro grant from the European Association of Zoo and Aquaria. We have also received a grant from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Trust Fund – both these grants are to help improve the protection of the black rhino.

On our recent visit to Zimbabwe in July we agreed that the most urgent need was to upgrade our security by the recruitment of a small number of rhino guards who would be trained as a rapid response team under Norman English, our Conservator for security. These guards will be in addition to the rhino guards on each farm, who are provided by the land owner, and the existing team of monitors under the control of Keith Pilz, our Conservator for monitoring.



We are trying to resolve a problem that has arisen with the Army who are the new unofficial stakeholders for three farms to the North West of the Conservancy. At our meeting with Hon F. Nhema, the Minister of Environment and Tourism, the Conservancy again offered to provide protection for the rhino and other wildlife on these three farms and talks are now continuing to try and resolve this issue for the welfare and safety of the rhino and other wildlife.

The serious economic situation in Zimbabwe with acute hyperinflation is making life very difficult and we now have to review all our staff wages and salaries on a monthly basis. The shortages of fuel, basic food and commodities are affecting all the people.