

Sebakwe News

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The Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy was formed in 1986

Eighteen landowners who in partnership with National Parks agreed to join together and act as guardians of the endangered black rhino. Each member paid a levy on their acreage into the Conservancy funds and with the help of outside donors, built a perimeter fence and agreed to remove internal stock fences and provide armed guards for the protection of the rhino against poachers.

Out of the original eighteen landowners only four are still left in the Conservancy. In the last twelve months we have had five new stakeholders join the Conservancy. In addition we are now helping the Army with the monitoring and protection of the rhino in the three farms Iwaba, Mananzwa and Kavija.

During our last visit in December 2007, it was decided to invite all the members of the Conservancy, including the new stakeholders and a representative from the Army to a meeting so that we could discuss the future management and development of the Conservancy. This meeting was well attended.

On behalf of the donors I was able to remind members of their obligations and responsibilities and point out that donor support would only be forthcoming if the Conservancy was run in a professional manner and that all members made a contribution to the running costs.



It was agreed that the AGM of the Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy would take place in April 2008 when there will be an election of officers and in the meantime a small sub-committee will look at the existing constitution and rules and propose amendments which may be appropriate for the changing situation in Zimbabwe.