

**NEWSLETTER**  
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# 20 BLACK RHINOS FOR AUSTRALIA

On Monday 31 July 1989, a most important meeting was held in Harare, at the Ministry for Tourism and Natural Resources. Present at this meeting were the Minister, Comrade Victoria Chitepo; Ingrid Schroeder, co-founder and President of SAVE; and Dr Tom Foose, Director of the American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums.

The possibility of a number of rhinos being exported to the U.S.A. and Australia in return for some foreign aid, perhaps a helicopter, was discussed. For the last two years a helicopter had been provided by W.W.F, but this agreement came to an end on April 30, but an anonymous donor provided a helicopter for the next four months. However, since the beginning of September there has been very little air surveillance available to the Parks Department as they had recently lost two of their small planes in air crashes.

As a result of the talks it was agreed that rhinos would be exported to U.S.A. and Australia and that in exchange for this a fully-maintained helicopter would be provided for the use of the Zimbabwe Parks Department. Naturally we are all thrilled by this prospect and look for-

ward to the arrival of these animals in Australia.

At a meeting with Lord McAlpine, our Patron, in September, he confirmed that he had underwritten this project from the Australian side. He explained that the four rhinos would be distributed between the zoos in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth and Broome. It would be necessary for each of these zoos to arrange for their own funding but Lord McAlpine suggested that SAVE could be a major supporter of their fund-raising especially for the Perth and Broome rhinos.

Naturally, there will be more media coverage of this event as it gets closer but please bear in mind there will be a need for heavy fund-raising in the not too distant future so that we can obtain the rhinos for Western Australia.

The 20 rhinos that go to America and the 20 rhinos that come here are part of a captive breeding programme, linking up with the rhinos that currently live in America. 10 were transported there in July and all arrived there safely and settled in very quickly. Prior to that, there had been many other ones sent to the U.S.A.

The research for this captive breeding programme is conducted at Cincinnati University and will be monitored in Australasia by Robert Baker, Director of the Adelaide Zoo and Paul Garland from Orana Park Zoo in Christchurch.

All of the above is subject to Australian quarantine regulations.

As we know more about this exciting project so we will be able to publish it in our newsletter.

# The Future of Elephants: Zimbabwe V Kenya — An Overview

There has been much media coverage of the debate in Lausanne in Switzerland, the Headquarters of CITES. For 6 days they have been discussing the future of ivory trading, and there have basically been 3 major viewpoints.

Firstly, the vast majority of the countries, and in particular Kenya, Tanzania, U.S.A., Australia and the E.E.C. countries, have been arguing for a complete ban on ivory trading. The opposing view has been put forward by Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana and Malawi, all of whom have sustainable herds. The third opinion comes from the ivory trading nations, such as Hong Kong, and the consuming nations, for example Japan, who would argue that they have a right to maintain their trading livelihood.

It is probably fair and reasonable to report the two opposing views, those of Kenya and Zimbabwe.

In the last 10 years, the elephant population in Kenya has decreased from 65,000 down to 16,000, the main factor in this being the wholesale slaughter by poachers, particular from Somalia. This has been aided by widespread corruption from within the government and associated agencies and it is only in the last few months, April this year, that a new Director of Wildlife has been appointed. He is Dr Richard Leakey, son of the famous Leakey parents who discovered the remains of early man in the Olduvai Gorge, in Kenya's Rift Valley. He has sacked some 2,000 personnel in the parks department and has introduced a policy, similar to that of Zimbabwe, whereby the rangers have the legal right to shoot poachers if necessary. It is now apparent from the statistics that the slaughter of Kenya's elephants must be stopped and one can appreciate their viewpoints in therefore wanting to make ivory an illegal commodity.

On the other hand, you must also understand Zimbabwe's feelings on this matter. In the last 10 years in Zimbabwe, the elephant population has nearly doubled, from 30,000 to about 52,000, and Zimbabwe is one of the few countries where this trend is in existence. The main reason for this is that the parks contain plenty of water sources, many of which are artificial, and thus very little natural attrition has taken place. In addition, the management programme for Zimbabwe's elephants is well maintained and their numbers are monitored by the Research Department. When you realise that an elephant eats 250 kilograms of food per day it is easy to see that it doesn't take long for a herd of elephants to destroy much of the landscape. This then makes it hard for other animals to survive on the leftovers and the whole balance of the ecology is upset.

With this data in mind, the Zimbabwe Parks Department has been culling elephants over the past few decades, and indeed, they maintain that if this culling hadn't been practised then there would be an estimated population of 134,000 roaming around Zimbabwe today. This clearly would be unacceptable as 50,000 seems too many to manage properly.

The culling is carried out humanely and every piece of the elephant is put to good use, with the meat going to the Africans, the hide and the tail hairs into

the curio trade and the ivory onto the official world market. Naturally, Zimbabwe does not want to lose this opportunity of earning foreign currency and wishes to continue their policy of culling and the consequent selling of ivory to the consumer countries, such as Japan.

Clearly, this is a difficult problem but when one understands the situation in the two contrasting countries of Kenya and Zimbabwe, one can then appreciate why their governments have voted and acted the way they have done.

It really is a question of horses for courses and we have to be sympathetic to both these opposing sides of the argument and realise the problem is far greater than perhaps we understand. No-one wants to shoot elephants for the sake of it, or even for the sport of it, but where it

is a necessity then it has to be given fair consideration. After all, there is an annual culling of kangaroos in Australia for much the same reason — they are a pest, take the crops and put other animals at risk. This is exactly what is happening in Zimbabwe. In contrast, Kenya has the other problem with a rapidly declining herd and thinks poaching must be stopped, trading must be discontinued and their survival must become the prime objective of Dr Leakey.

The next few years will be very interesting in the survival of the elephants — in fact, they are vital years because if today's trend continues the largest of mammals will cease to exist by the end of this century. Surely we do not want it to be listed in our encyclopaedia alongside the dinosaur.

## THE SCANDAL OF THE BURUNDI CONNECTION

Recently it has been reported that a scandalous sequence of events has existed in the small state of Burundi in the last four years. What you are about to read highlights some of the outrageous corruption and inefficiencies that exist in Africa, and have caused such a widespread destruction of wildlife, in particular elephants and rhinos. This story is about the destruction of tens of thousands of elephants with some help from one of the world governing bodies, namely CITES.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), is a governing body, based in Switzerland, to monitor trade in various animal species. In 1985, a meeting took place in Buenos Aires, for all the member states of this United Nations sponsored body, in order to consider emergency action to help save the elephant.

They decided that ivory trading in the future could only take place with the accompanying Certificate of Authenticity. Hopefully, only legally-culled ivory would come onto the world market, and many trades without this proof would be driven out of business.

Existing supplies of tusks were to be given 18 months to be certified. But no-one anticipated the series of events that would unfold in Burundi.

It should be noted that Burundi does not have any elephants of its own. However, in 1986 it had about 120 tonnes of ivory in the official warehouse. It had long been known that Burundi was the major centre of illegal trading but it wasn't realised exactly the extent to which this existed.

A Nairobi man, a former Game Warden and Wildlife Consultant, who had lived in Kenya all his life, was appointed on behalf of CITES to monitor all the ivory from the small African country of Burundi. He freely admits that he took bribes whilst working for this international organisation and justified it by explaining that if he was to help the ivory traders make a pile of money then he certainly wanted his 3% of the action.

The East African ivory traders put fairly

heavy pressure on CITES and its agents to re-classify all its illegal ivory into legal ivory, thus acquiring the appropriate certificates. At first, it wasn't known just how much ivory existed in Burundi but the officials at CITES agreed to this re-classification, totally in defiance of the spirit of the Buenos Aires agreement.

When these enormous stockpiles were found it took 10 days of non-stop work for these 18,000 tusks to each be re-classified, re-stamped and given a certificate of authenticity.

As the ivory traders realised that by changing this ivory from illegal status to legal status they would immediately quadruple its value on the world market, they then wanted to quickly slaughter more elephants so they could add these to their stockpile. The CITES official was asked to take a few days leave and when threatened and offered \$750,000, he did decide to disappear for a while.

Within weeks the Burundi tusks had flooded the world market, in particular Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan, having increased in value from \$25 per kg to \$100.

The official did return later to re-classify more tusks and a recent inspection of the same warehouse indicates that there are a further 85 tonnes of ivory there, equivalent to at least 10,000 elephants dying at the hands of the poachers. Some of these tusks are as small as 13 centimetres, indicating the desperation of the poachers in killing baby elephants whose tusks are virtually useless for anything other than mere knick-knacks.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Since the last Newsletter six weeks ago, SAVE has been through a very busy period. Our most active week of the year is the Royal Show and thank you to everyone who volunteered to help this year, especially Marion Bowers, Ray Pedretti, Tim Scarrott, Rhonda Duncan and John Rainbird. We are happy to report that we raised \$15,000, all of which will be spent in the next month.

We also had a most successful screening of "The Gods Must Be Crazy — Part 2" at the New Oxford Cinema, attended by 310 people and addressed by Mr Ian Smith. What a fabulous evening!

Our next social occasion is next Saturday, 11th November, when we have a group going to see the smash hit musical, "Dancin' Man", at the Regal Theatre. Tickets are \$35, including drinks and refreshments after the show and please book immediately as we only have 50 seats available. My number is 444 6550.

Wally and Anne Calway, who purchased our auctioned safari in March, are off to Zimbabwe on November 9. We have prepared a most enlightening itinerary for them and I'm sure they will be happy to tell their story on their return. A very big thank you to Qantas Airways who donated the two return tickets to make this trip possible.

Elephants have been very much in the news in the last month, with a lot of press coverage, a "60 Minutes" documentary and a good story on "Hinch". Because of this, a good part of this newsletter features elephants and their future survival problems and we must do our best to help them.

SAVE is playing a very real part in the future of the black rhino in Zimbabwe but an even bigger role lies ahead of us.

For a small organisation we have provided a lot of vital equipment but a lot more still must find its way into the field so that we can make sure that the last viable breeding herd of rhinos survive the poachers' bullet.

Naturally, not everyone in Zimbabwe sees it the same way and it is up to us in the western world to ensure the species survives. We have a responsibility to future generations to maintain the natural heritage of Africa's parklands and I ask all readers of this newsletter to consider this when next seeking to make a donation to whatever fund it might be.

This is a very worthy cause and after my recent visit there, I am even more determined, as is the SAVE Executive, in doing what has to be done. It is up to us, and a few other donor agencies, to make available the best resources possible so that those who are committed to the wildlife management programmes, that are a necessity in Africa, can be given the best assistance possible.

Please pass this message on to all your friends and associates and we will find that SAVE in Australia will grow and grow and grow and become a vital supplier to Zimbabwe's Parks.

NICHOLAS S. DUNCAN  
President

## 1989 Royal Show

Once again the Perth Royal Show stall proved to be a great success for SAVE. In total we raised \$15,000 after paying for hire of the stand and other associated costs. Our donation box, (the aquarium) was in a constant state of use and needed to be emptied each night. The final tally was \$3,342, a little more than last year.

The stalls' merchandise consisted largely of our usual assortment of 'T' shirts and prints combined with Shona sculptures and carvings, all of which raised a great deal of interest. The safari appearance of our stand not only caught the public's eye but also the eye of the R.A.S. judge. We almost won the prize for the most appealing commercial stall.

A great deal of credit for our success at this year's stall must go to Nicholas and Marion for their tireless efforts EVERY day of the show!

Thanks must also go to our resident "character", Tim Scarrott. Not only did Tim encourage the public to look at our display, he also encouraged all of the helpers. Dressed as a true colonial African, in pith helmet and khaki bloomers he was of great entertainment value, and nobody escaped our stall without adding "shackles" to the donation box.

Thanks also to John Rainbird, Rhonda Duncan, Julie Baine, Rebecca Hartill and all others who donated their time and energy. See you again next year.

RAY PEDRETTI  
Treasurer.



• Tim Scarrott on safari at the Perth Show.

## FILM NIGHT FUND-RAISER

We would like to thank all who participated in our special fund-raising performance of "The Gods Must Be Crazy — Part 2".

### FACTS AND FIGURES

#### Rhinos

1972 — 65,000 in Africa  
1989 — approx 3,000

THAT IS A 95% REDUCTION!!

The current wholesale price of rhino horn in Taiwan is \$20,000 per kilogram.

Kenya's rhino population has been reduced from 20,000 to 400 since 1972 and the remaining rhinos are in sanctuaries and protected by armed guards.

#### Elephants

There were 1.3 million elephants in Africa in 1979, and now there are only 600,000.

One third of orphaned baby elephants die from a broken heart.

Ivory is selling for \$400 per kilogram.

Apart from enjoying a very funny movie, I think the guest speaker, Mr Ian Smith, former Prime Minister of Rhodesia, was a highlight for all. In his closing sentence the words that stayed on my mind were: "Look after your country". Obviously we must learn from the mistakes of others and make sure it doesn't happen in Australia.

The response for tickets was very encouraging, however, many made last minute decisions making catering quite awkward. Nevertheless, I'm sure everyone enjoyed a great evening and remembered we were fund-raising.

To all who stayed for the mini-auction, thank you. To Radio 6PR, 6KY and 94.1M for advertising the evening, thank you. To the waiters and waitresses who volunteered, thank you. The lovely door prize was donated by Ester Fowler. To Linda donated some liquor. To Barbara Bryant, Rhonda Duncan, Ray Pedretti, thank you and last but by no means least our President, Nicholas Duncan, for his consistent efforts for SAVE.

Hope to see you all at our next fund-raiser.

MARION BOWERS  
Vice-President

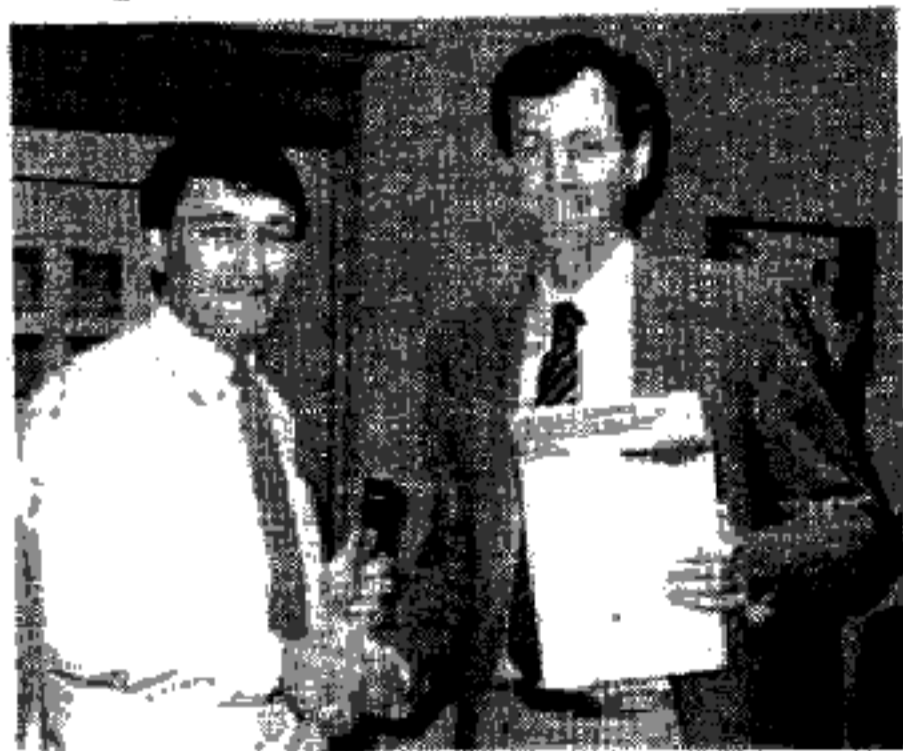
# ZIMBABWE UPDATE

During the months of July and August, \$53,000 of equipment was delivered to Zimbabwe, and with fairly quick Customs clearance was nearly all in the field in a very short time.

Perhaps the most notable of our contributions were the five Landrover engines and gearboxes which were sent direct from England, together with \$20,000 worth of spare parts for Series 2A and 110 diesel Landrovers. In the preceding months a new conservation group formed in England, The White Elephant Trust, had agreed to supply six mechanics to Zimbabwe for a four week programme of refitting and repairing the various Landrovers in the Parks

Department's fleet. They arrived on Wednesday 26 July and when I visited them on Tuesday 1 August they were well set up in their base camp at Lake Mcllwayne. They had brought with them enormous quantities of tools and they were ready to start work on all the repairs that were awaiting them. In addition to installing they would repair other parts together with doing a lot of work on broken down outboard motors. The cost of parts is prohibitive in Zimbabwe. For example, one of the outboard motors needed \$15,000 worth of spare parts and only \$1500 of labour! Those parts could have been obtained in Australia for a very small amount and no doubt they will be.

Besides these Landrover supplies, we also sent over three 90hp Yamaha outboard motors to go to Tishinga in the Matusadona Game Park on the shores of Lake Kariba. This is the area where much of the poaching is now being done and it is vital that the patrols be maintained along the coastline.



● Bill Hosie presenting 1 of the 6 Tait radios to SAVE.

Tait Communications of Osborne Park, under the guidance of their Managing Director, Bill Hosie, very kindly donated six mobile hand-held Tait radios, together with 18 batteries, also for use in the Matusadona. For the past five years the Parks Department has been using Motorola radios and they are now very happy to be experimenting with the Tait brand. We are sure that they will prove to be sufficient for the task. Our thanks again for this generous donation by Tait Communications, a package with a value of \$4,200.

The rest of the consignment comprised nine high-powered spot-lights for night work, some light-aircraft landing



● White Elephant Trust mechanics, Chief Warden Glenn Tatham and SAVE co-ordinator, Lynne Taylor, with some of the engines and gear-boxes.

lights, some glass fibre resin, dozens of small batteries courtesy of Eveready and Duracell, and some colour slide film kindly donated by Kodak. All of the above donations are virtually unobtainable in Zimbabwe and hence their significance is enormous.



● The invaluable Qantas Perth-Harare connection.

Quite a bit of this cargo was transported by Qantas, and our thanks to them for their generosity.

Whilst it is vital for the research units to plan the future for the rhino it is also vital for the patrols to be well-equipped in their battle against the poachers. Theirs is a difficult task and they tend to be under-equipped and SAVE is seen to be one of the major suppliers of basic day-to-day requirements.

Whilst in Harare I was able to attend a Rhino Strategy Survival meeting to formulate a plan for the future safety of Zimbabwe's rhinos. This difficult topic wasn't completed in one day but I have since heard that the strategy for the future is for four areas to be given extra protection from poachers. These areas are the Chewore, Matusadona, Chizarira and Hwange National Parks. Currently the patrols are insufficient and it is estimated that there should be one man for every 20 square kilometres and this will require more man-power.

The other part of the survival strategy will be for an increase in the number of rhinos being kept on private ranches in the Midlands of Zimbabwe. Currently there are about 170 that have been translocated from the Zambezi Valley.

When this programme has been confirmed it is expected that more donor agency aid will be available from large organisations such as WWF.

I was lucky enough to visit a game ranch, owned by one of the first Zimbabweans to realise the benefits of game ranching as opposed to cattle farming. In the late 60's he started to change his farm from domestic animals to game animals and they have increased in numbers so well since then that he now has a hunting licence on his ranch. Hunting can be seen to be controversial but when it is understood you realise that it is not so bad after all. Hunting licences are given for 4% of the total animals and because they breed at a far faster rate than that it really does not deprive the herd. Also, they usually go to the older males that have been thrown out from the herd.

He has 26 rhinos on his 40,000 acre ranch and they have been put there in his safe-keeping. Most of them have come from the Zambezi Valley. They do breed in these circumstances and I am sure their numbers will increase in the years to come. The unfortunate thing about this ranch is its lack of security around its perimeters. Whilst it has a most effective electric fence it only has three men to patrol the 65km boundary and they are not linked by radio. Hence, in any possible future crisis they will need to run pretty fast!

## SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

The Committee of SAVE is available to visit your business, school or social club to provide an informative and interesting talk on the endangered animals of Africa.

We also provide a video and African goods for sale.

For more information contact Nicholas at the:

**SAVE Office**  
Phone 444 6550