

Save African
Endangered Wildlife
Foundation
(Australia)
20 Onslow Road
Shenton Park 6008
Western Australia
Ph: (09) 382 4040



Next Meetings

- (1) Tuesday 2nd May 1989 at
20 Onslow Road, SHENTON PARK.
Phone 382 4040 for confirmation.
- (2) 6th June, 1989
- (3) AGM in late June.

SAVE'S GARDEN PARTY AT BISHOP'S HOUSE

Our Patron, Lord Alistaire McAlpine, kindly allowed SAVE the use of his beautiful gardens at Bishop's House for a Garden Party on Sunday 12th March.

The gardens were looking lovely and created an atmosphere of gracious gentility.

101 guests began arriving at about 3.00pm to be greeted with a 'Rhino Chaser' cocktail, just to get everyone in the mood.

Items to be auctioned were on display for guests to view prior to the auction. They ranged from African jewellery, wildlife photographs signed by Lord McAlpine, to artifacts of ironwood carvings, Shona sculpture (now becoming very popular in overseas art galleries) and Patrick Mavros silver and ebony African animal card holders which are unique.

While guests mingled and chatted they were treated to some delightful afternoon music provided by the Arbor Chamber Ensemble, housed in the gazebo one of the many quaint features in the garden.

At 4.30pm the auction commenced under the auspices of Mr James Paxton who, with his wife, had been a member of our very successful safari last year. During the auction a number of items were passed in but which had obviously

created some interest, as after the auction people approached Nicholas Duncan, our Vice President, to negotiate. Nicholas being very much an opportunist for SAVE used this to our advantage and began to auction the remaining items, calling for champagne glasses to be filled, with dusk rapidly falling. Never let an opportunity go by, Nicholas.

Seen to be generous supporters of SAVE

were Colin Ostrom, Alan Blood, Graham Wendt, Gerard & Theresa Burkhardt, Stephen & Helen Palmer, Denis & Nola Criddle, John & Elizabeth Hanrahan, Julie Claburn, and Ann & Wally Calway who purchased the 2 week Safari for 2 for \$9,900.

Our thanks to everyone. The afternoon was a marvellous success with about \$30,000 gross being raised. This money will be put towards the urgent purchase of landrover engines and outboard motors.



Rainbird '88

TOP RANGER MURDERED BY POACHERS

By *Hatred Zenenga*. Poachers shot dead the leader of a Zimbabwean anti-poaching patrol in the Zambezi Valley on Wednesday afternoon. He is the first member of the Department of National Parks and Wild Life Management to be killed in the four-year battle to protect the black rhino.

The murdered man, Sergeant Agrippa Nhamo, had been leading a three-man anti-poaching patrol in the valleys near Makuti in the Charara Safari Area.

The patrol heard four shots and moved up to investigate. A gang of four poachers were found in a small clearing about to feast on the roasted meat of a rhino they had butchered. The patrol fired two shots in the air, expecting the poachers to surrender. The poachers instead returned fire and a fierce battle developed.

Sergeant Nhamo was shot dead at close range during the gunfight. He died instantly. Another member of the patrol, Cde Samuel Mutsauri, was seriously injured, but he kept fighting. Two of the poachers, all of whom were said to have come from Zambia, were killed in the battle. A third was seriously injured but managed to escape with the fourth poacher.

At the scene of the battle yesterday, the Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Cde Victoria Chitepo said:

"Now that we have lost our first man in action, we are going to map out a more effective strategy to deal with the

poachers. We can't go on losing our men. We are going to reinforce the anti-poaching unit and hit them harder."

All available resources would be mobilised and the co-operation of other ministries sought to defeat the poachers.

Zimbabwe had dedicated and committed game scouts, said Cde Chitepo, and these scouts would take courage from their killed comrade and fight harder.

Cde Chitepo had flown to the valley after visiting the injured Cde Mutsauri in Harare's Avenues Clinic. Cde Mutsauri described the battle to her and said he had kept firing after being hit "so I would not be finished off".

The co-ordinator of the anti-poaching operation in the valley, Mr Mark Brightman, described Sergeant Nhamo as "a good tracker. We have lost one of the best men."

Mr Brightman said he and the Parks men in the valley had been very distressed by Sergeant Nhamo's death.

*Regards
Glenn Tatham*

ARRESTED FC THE COURSE

On December 20th, 1988, Glenn Warden, Steve Edward, Senior Game officer were arrested and charged with

They were charged with murdering Mr Peter Chingodza, a farmer, during a stake out to trap suspected poachers as they sold rhino horn to a game warden posing as a buyer.

Mr Tatham, et al, were released on bail pending a further hearing in late January. They were remanded again until a further hearing in February.

The reaction from world press and from within Zimbabwe to the arrests was of extreme concern that the effectiveness of anti-poaching would be impaired and the cause of the rhino be irrevocably lost.

SAVE Australia wrote to Cde Chitepo.

Rhino Killers Warder

(English Daily Telegraph 5/1/89).

More than 20 black Rhino and four bull el by poachers since Zimbabwe's Chief Game officials were charged with murder on Decer

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The committee of SAVE Australia has been active since our last newsletter, in responding to requests for spare parts for landrovers, and outboard motors. We have also been raising funds to pay for this equipment, mainly through the recent cocktail party.

We have also been involved in the world wide campaign asking for Zimbabwe Government support for the two wardens and the policeman who were recently charged with murder. They are now free, and all charges have been dropped.

Details of the SAVE SAFARIS for 1989 are now available from myself or Nicholas Duncan. If you have any interest in one of these magnificent tours please contact us urgently, for two reasons. Firstly we are planning a slide and video night in April to provide you with more details. Secondly, a recent change of policy by QANTAS means that no-one can block book seats to Zimbabwe — names must be given to obtain a seat. Therefore there is a danger that seats may not be available if we don't get your place reserved by the end of April.

We have recently had a number of members becoming more involved in the day to day work of SAVE, and have found it extremely helpful to have the work load spread. If you could give us a little time, please contact me. We will be having our annual general meeting in early July, and under the terms of our constitution, half the committee will be retiring, and elections will be held. Please consider now whether you can contribute some of your skills and time to the organisation, and if so, nominate for a position on the committee.

A special thanks to all who made the garden party at Bishop's House such a success — QANTAS and ANSETT for the donation of tickets, CABLE BEACH RESORT for a stay there, our patron, LORD McALPINE for the use of the beautiful grounds of Bishop's House, JED ROBINSON SAFARIS for the discounted safari, and many others who supplied materials, food, and liquor. Our thanks also to all the committee and those who attended for making the day both a pleasure and a success.

Warwick Rowell

WARWICK ROWELL



Left to right: Denis Criddle, Sue Greenham, Alan Blood, Rachel Treadgold, P'ern



Shona carvings and g.

OUR MURDER IN THE NAME OF DUTY

Tatham, Zimbabwe's Chief Game Warden and Charles Haley, a police officer, were charged with the murder.

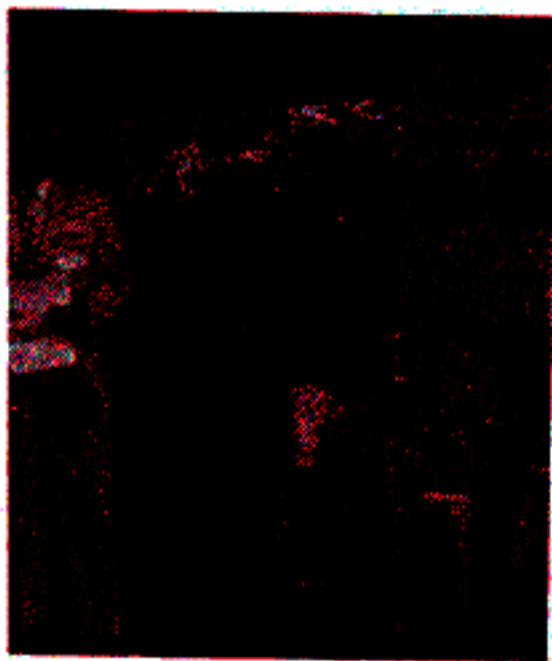
Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, expressing our deep concern and enlisting the Ministry's help and influence in getting these charges dropped.

Since these arrests, moves have been afoot in the Zimbabwean Parliament for indemnity to be granted to Wardens in the course of their duty so that they could continue their fight against poachers without fear of criminal charges being levied against them.

NEWSFLASH 28/2/89. All charges against Mr Tatham, Mr Edward and Mr Haley have been dropped.

Move In After Is Held

Wardens are reported to have been slaughtered. Chief Warden, Mr Glenn Tatham, and two other officers were killed on the 20th.



Wardens & Gerard Burkhardt, Santina Strausky, & Ron Crittall and Rebecca Sander



Rooms of Bishop's House

STRATEGY OF RHINO WAR NEEDS TO BE REASSESSED

With the death of Sargeant Agrippa Nhamo, on anti-poaching operations in the Zambezi Valley, the battle to save our rhino, both black and white, has moved into a predictable and more serious phase.

It was to be expected that at some time, with National Parks teams engaged in shoot-outs with poachers, there would be casualties on our side. This does not reduce the tragedy, but it does place the operations on a war footing. The days of a conservation exercise are, obviously, over.

If one uses the military analogy — which we believe is appropriate — then a reverse is the time to reassess one's strategy and tactics. We believe that this should now be done, not only on a national level, but also on an international scale. We must determine whether we are losing battles or the war.

Within Zimbabwe, the tactics seem to be basically sound, but are they effective enough? Anti-poaching patrols at present levels will reduce the numbers of rhino killed, but not eliminate deaths altogether. If patrols were considerably enhanced, it is believed that deaths could be reduced to a level that would halt the decline of the rhino population. Without an extra allocation of men and funds, the attrition will continue, and eventually the war will be lost. As the rhino becomes yet rarer, the financial incentives for poachers will increase, and they will take even greater risks to evade patrols and find the last animals.

Moves to dehorn selected populations will help to preserve those within small, defined areas. This was frowned upon by some experts when it was first suggested, but the seriousness of the situation has persuaded them that a hornless rhino is better than no rhino at all.

Recent moves to create small populations in other countries, although frustrated by aircraft problems, should also be encouraged. Black rhino in the USA may offend some purists, but it may permit the reintroduction of the species into Zimbabwe one day, when young men in Yemen and old men in the Far East have found other ways of demonstrating or resuscitating their macho images.

But these are tactical measures, and it is the overall strategy that wins wars, and that is what seems to be lacking despite the power of the World Wildlife Fund, and the goodwill of millions of people around the world.

There are, of course, laws prohibiting the sale of rhino horn in many countries, but these have not been effective in stemming the destruction of one of Africa's wild life treasures. There is trade in rhino horn across the world, despite conferences and agreements, conventions and threatened species lists.

What seems to be lacking is a strategy for the middle ground, where perhaps a most damaging impact could be made on those who finance and profit from the rhino horn trade.

Within Zimbabwe present measures can do no more than reduce the death rate. At the international level, laws that technically prohibit the sale of rhino horn already exist in countries that are already conscious of the possibility of the virtual disappearance of the rhino from Africa.

In between these two extremes of the problem there seems to be little happening. It is known that the poachers operate from Zambia (although there are disturbing indications that Zimbabweans are also becoming involved). They are financed by Zambians, who also arrange for the initial despatch of the horns to the Yemen or the Far East. Yet no one has spent the required funds or time to make a detailed investigation of the trade and find out who is involved. That they are highly placed is obvious from the fact that they have not been apprehended or prevented from continuing their operations.

After Zambia, where is the next step in the chain, and who is involved? Vague accusations have been made, but again there is a lack of detailed information.

We would suggest that some of the millions of dollars that have been collected for the preservation of the rhino in Zimbabwe should be used to employ investigators of international repute. They should be asked to provide the information that will enable those who have taken it upon themselves to realise the conservation hopes of people around the world to take the battle into other countries. Hopefully, with solid evidence, international pressure can be brought to bear on governments that protect those in the rhino horn trade.

Such use of funds would be a sensible way of providing our National Parks staff with the hope that theirs is not to be a constant fight against an enemy that is beyond their reach, and that the sacrifice of a colleague's life was in vain.

Let it not be said, when the last rhino has been shot, that these are funds still in conservation coffers awaiting disbursement. The time to utilise these funds to best advantage is now, while we still have populations of rhino living in our national parks.

If funds presently being collected are seen to be used to effectively ensure the future of the rhino, we believe that contributions will continue to flow in. If there is a perception that the war is being lost, then interest will wane.

Since 1984, over 400 rhino deaths have been recorded in the Zambezi Valley alone. Experts believe the actual number that have been killed by poachers could be as high as 800. At this rate of slaughter, time is not on the side of the black rhino or Zimbabwe. Resources must be utilised swiftly, or the rhino will be just another of the world's lost causes.

(The Financial Gazette (Pvt) Ltd, Harare).

EASTERN STATES NEWS

During late 1988, our Treasurer, Tim Norman, travelled to the Eastern States. During his trip, he took the opportunity to meet fellow SAVE members to personally pass on the latest information, and to promote ideas on starting branches of SAVE. A report on his travels follows.

In October last year I travelled through Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland. In each State I was pleased to be able to meet with supporters who were interested in promoting our organisation. My intention, after discussion with the other members of the Executive before departure, was to promote our organisation as a national concern.

My first stop was in Melbourne where I met Marigo and Anna Raftopoulos. Marigo works as a management consultant and has numerous ideas for the organisation in Victoria.

In Sydney, I met with Ricky Caldwell and Susan Bernisconi. Ricky is the manager of the African sector for one of our major sponsors, Gordon Tours. Susan is a talented artist and graphics designer, who has designed several logos and cards for us.

In Brisbane, I was pleased to meet Richard Barzdo and Belinda Ward. Richard works in the sales area and has family connections to the conservation world. Belinda is in the travel industry.

In all cities, the same principles were stressed. We are a group of volunteers who strongly support specific campaigns in Africa to protect the dwindling wildlife. Our primary objective is to raise cash with which to buy equipment. We are strictly non-profit and encourage all our members to put forward any ideas for fundraising ventures. All of our ventures must be completely legal and ethical because of our responsibility to our members and the government.

In every State capital, the members with whom I met, were very enthusiastic and motivated. The task ahead is to turn this motivation into results. We in WA are well aware of the problems involved in doing this, as we started the organisation from scratch some 2 years ago.

Since my trip, I am pleased to report that Queensland has begun to raise money and is considering taking on a specific fundraising task such as raising the money to buy an outboard motor. NSW is in the process of obtaining legal status in their State. All 3 States have been provided with a list of interested people in their area and encouraged to use these resources.

As founding members, we will help the fledgling organisations in these cities as much as possible. It is important to remember however, that each State must stand on its own feet. With energy and flair in abundance, we have great expectations for them in the near future.

Black Rhino at Taronga Zoo

During Tim Norman's trip to the Eastern States he visited Taronga Zoo and had a long talk with the keeper of the section housing the black rhino.

In the course of conversation, Tim was advised that Taronga Zoo were continuing to develop their rhino breeding programme but required the support of the Australian public.

On his return Tim wrote a letter of support to the Zoo and advised of the existence of SAVE and its aims. He received a response which indicated that the Zoo was re-considering its stand and was contemplating restricting its breeding programme. Tim's reaction was an immediate letter of concern, the reply to which is printed below.



TARONGA ZOO

PO Box 20 Mosman NSW 2088 Australia
Tel. (02) 969 2777, FAX 969 7515, Telex AA75515

January 30, 1989

Mr Timothy Norman
Treasurer - Australian Branch
Save African Endangered Wildlife Foundation
20 Onslow Road
Shenton Park
S.A. 6008

Dear Timothy

Thank you for your letter of January 12, 1989 and your concern for our rhinos.

As you have now seen first hand the less than perfect enclosure our Black Rhinos are in, you are aware of the need for a new enclosure. The Zoo would like to continue breeding this species and has not withdrawn funding for the project but has insufficient funds.

Taronga Zoo is seeking suitable sponsors for this project which will cost approximately \$1 million. Please help us ensure the continuation of this magnificent species by maintaining your support for our rhinos.

Yours sincerely


Dr. J. R. Giles
Acting Director