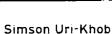
Namibia:

Community game guard training

Same The Rhino Dust in Namibia (SRT), has supported capacity building related to the conservation of Racidetaino for many years, not only through the training of our rown trackers (many of whom have subsequently taken on responsibilities as quides with commercial tourism operators or as community game grands with conservancies), but also through pediodic workshops and other extension activities in communities across the Kunene Region. We have long considered the engagement of local communities in conservation as being a prerequisite for the long term sustainability of the rhino of the Kunene Region.



Director of Community Outreach, Training and Research Save the Rhino Trust

he growth in SRT's community support has been mirrored elsewhere in Namibia, most notably in the support snown by Namibia's Government to the Community-Based Natural Resource Management (CNBRM) movement. Since 1994, the government has gazetted 50 new communal conservancies, entrusting aimost 15% of Namibia's land area to indigenous communities. Between 2006 and 2007, this initiative helped bring in aimost three million bounds in revenue, and lifted 15 conservancies out of peing gonomaid dependent.

It is therefore a vindication of SRT's training structure and core philosophy that our training programme has continued to go from strength to strength. Highlighting how far the Trust has come since the formative years of the Community Game Guards scheme, 2008 saw the completion of the guards' training at the Torra Conservancy, along with that of Wilderness Safaris. It also saw the phase one training of guards in five new conservancies, bringing twenty-six new game guards into

<u>Thanks!</u>

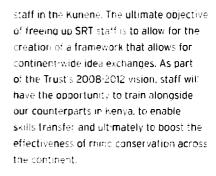
To the RSCPA for awarding £2,581 for new camel enclosers. We'll report on this in the

the regional efforts to expand the black rhino range.

Significantly, one of the new conservancies that SRT has been mandated to train is in an entirely new area of Namibia. This is the first time SRT has been invited to train a conservancy in the north-east of Namibia, representing a marked expansion of our programme from its roots in the arid north-west. This also means that our staff will be traveling further to undertake training than ever before testament to the Trust's growing national importance.

it is hoped that, should funding be secured, all five conservancies will have completed their second and final stage of training by November of this year. Once completed, this will bring the total additional land area protected by SRT-trained guards to 23,000km. This is almost the same size as the Kunene ecosystem that SRT originally sought to protect almost thirty years ago, brighinghting just how much progress hawse have made since that time.

Such is the demand for our game guard training skills, that we have been exploring the possibility of a 'trainither trainer model. It is hoped that in creating an enabling network of game guard trainers, we will be able to turn our focus towards enhancing the skills of our own.



If future hopes are realised, the prospects for the long-term survival of Namipia's black rhind are very positive indeed Most expiting is that conservancies that haven't seen black mint for a generation or more are now relishing the prospect of naving these magnificent animals back on their communal lands again. Perhaps most important of all is that in a global environment that continues to threaten the very existence of mega-fauna such as rhino, Namibia's community-based resource management programme shows that these animals can not only survive, but prosper, whilst also helping empower the human populations they live alongside.

