

Oryx

The International Journal of Conservation

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<http://www.oryxthejournal.org/>

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The Society was founded in 1903 as the Society for the Preservation of the Wild Fauna of the Empire, and subsequently named the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society. Fauna & Flora International is conserving the planet's threatened species and ecosystems – with the people and communities who depend on them.

Oryx - The International Journal of Conservation, is now published quarterly by Cambridge University Press on behalf of Fauna & Flora International. It is a leading scientific journal of biodiversity conservation, conservation policy and sustainable use, with a particular interest in material that has the potential to improve conservation management and practice.

The website, <http://www.oryxthejournal.org/>, plays a vital role in the journal's capacity-building work. Amongst the site's many attributes is a compendium of sources of free software for researchers and details of how to access Oryx at reduced rates or for free in developing countries. The website also includes extracts from Oryx issues 10, 25 and 50 years ago, and a gallery of research photographs that provide a fascinating insight into the places, species and people described in the journal.

The [Rhino Resource Center](#) posted this PDF in June 2009. We are grateful for the permission.

Rhinos Come to Swaziland

THE FPS has presented to the Mlilwane Game Sanctuary, in Swaziland, two square-lipped (white) rhinos brought from the Umfolozi National Park in Natal. Mlilwane is the only reserve, and these are the only white rhinos, in Swaziland. The reserve is the enterprising private venture of Mr. Terence Reilly, who is trying to develop it, with government blessing, into a microcosm of Swaziland's former wildlife. The Umfolozi Park has a surplus of square-lipped rhinos, thanks to careful conservation measures in recent years under Colonel J. Vincent and his able staff. The two rhinos were collected on February 9th in two 6-ton lorries, one loaned for the occasion and driven by Mr. Nigel Maughn-Brown. The fuel for the lorries was given by the Shell Co. of South Africa. The rhinos travelled well, said Mr. Reilly, and were settling down satisfactorily in a cabled 2-acre paddock in which they were being acclimatised.

Mlilwane is open to visitors and Mr. Reilly has built a rest camp to accommodate sixteen people. The species he has collected include kudu, zebra, waterbuck, blesbok, impala, oribi, serval, and genet. He is now anxious to expand the reserve and, if he can raise the necessary money, buy 350 acres of virginal land on the western boundary. This would extend the reserve up to the mountain on that side and ensure that no farming operations were started on the edge of the sanctuary.

THE FIRST RHINO CALVES BORN IN THE KRUGER

THE Kruger National Park has been taking square-lipped rhinos from the Umfolozi Park for the past three years. Mr. C. J. Venter, the assistant liaison officer of the National Parks Board, reports that eighty-six rhinos have now been transferred, most of them between November, 1963, and October, 1964. In November, 1964, came the exciting discovery of the birth of a calf, which was seen by four rangers—the first calf to be born in the park—and since then two more have been seen. The square-lipped rhino had become extinct before the park was declared, and for thirty-five years the authorities have been trying to get animals to build up a population. Two things made this possible in 1961: the Umfolozi surplus and the great improvement in immobilising techniques and drugs, largely the work of Dr. A. M. Harthoorn of the University College of East Africa in Nairobi. The first animals offered by the Natal Parks Board were taken in 1961. The cost of transport was borne by Messrs. Total Oil Products.

Later the procedure was greatly simplified: once a week a ranger and a mechanic from the Kruger National Park drove a large truck and trailer with two empty crates to the Umfolozi Park. Next morning a game ranger there hunted down and immobilised two rhino which were crated immediately; by nightfall they were on their way to the Kruger.

The birth of the calf is most encouraging, and another incident that the authorities regard as showing that the rhinos have settled down was when a bull rhino charged a pride of lions and sent one male lion clean through the strong boundary fence.



H. D. Kirk

THE RHINOS ARRIVE IN SWAZILAND

Plate 8: The first square-lipped rhino to be released at Mlilwane emerges from its travelling crate in Terence Reilly's game reserve.



H. D. Kirk

WHAT IT TAKES TO MOVE A RHINO

Plate 9: Terence Reilly helps to get one of the rhino crates off the truck on arrival at Mlilwane.



Photo by kind permission of North Dakota Outdoors

Plate 10 : Every picture tells a story . . . A photograph taken in 1898 at Stump Lake, North Dakota, USA, of a hunter, David Herndon, with his kill, which includes two sandhill cranes and the now very rare whooping crane. In their long migration between the breeding grounds in Canada and wintering refuge in Texas, the whooping cranes are an easy target, and to-day a world population of 49 tells the sorry tale. Now strictly protected, the wild flock increased slightly last year ; 41 birds arrived in Texas in November compared with the 32 that had left in the spring. Moreover, 10 birds were young of the year, the largest number of young in 25 years' counting.



Plate II : A Herd of Vicuna in the Andes.

Carl B. Koford