

WILD & JAG GAMECHUNT

VOLETS

MAART/MARCH 1999

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BWANG
VATING

Die swartwildebees

Jag - en vakansiegeleentede

BUSHCRAFT

Fluitjiesrietbeddings

Why bowhunt?



Rhino Watch

Wildplaasbestuur



SA WILD & JAG is 'n onafhanklike maandelikse publikasie vir almal wat glo aan die winsgewende volhoubare benutting van die RSA se wild-en natuurbates, op 'n ge-ordende wyse, tot voordeel van die land en al sy mense.

Alhoewel SA WILD & JAG beskikbaar is as mondstuk van die ge-organiseerde wildboerderybedryf en die ge-organiseerde jagtersbedryf, is dit redaksioneel en finansiële onafhanklik.

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AROA CHAIRMAN TAKES ON A NEW CHALLENGE

Clive Walker has announced his resignation as Chairman and Trustee of the Rhino & Elephant Foundation (REF), according to a recent press release. Walker, who has served REF as Chairman for the past eight years, is a founding member, together with Dr Anthony Hall-Martin and Peter Hitchins. All three are world authorities on the black rhinoceros.

The Foundation came into being at a critical time for the African elephant and the rhinoceros, supporting projects from as far afield as Garamba National Park in Congo (ex-Zaire), Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and many from South Africa. At that time the black rhinoceros was at the brink of extinction and the African elephant under continental threat for its ivory. At present, the African elephant has recovered across much of its African range and the black rhinoceros has shown some signs of slow recovery.

SUCCESS STORY

The white rhino continues to be a major conservation success story with considerable input from the private sector. Walker, however, believes that there should be guarded optimism regarding the future of, especially, the two species of African rhino. Whilst the levels of poaching are nowhere near pre-1994, one should not be complacent, for it is wishful thinking to believe that the demand for rhino horn in traditional medicine will disappear.

Walker remains a member of the IUCN African Rhino Specialist group and of the Southern African management group,



under the Chairmanship of Dr Martin Brooks, and is currently Chairman of the African Rhino Owner's Association (AROA), which represents approximately one hundred and twenty private owners within South Africa.

STEP DOWN

Clive Walker's decision to step down as Chairman of REF had a great deal to do with his appointment to the position of Chairman of the newly established Waterberg Biosphere Reserve. The reserve is already functioning and a steering committee is in place, representing all the relevant stakeholders.

The nomination form to register the Biosphere Reserve under UNESCO has been completed and received political as well as national support. It is also included in all the various spatial and regional plans of the Northern province. The Waterberg Biosphere covers an area in excess of 14 500 sq km and is situated within the Waterberg Mountains of the Northern Province. The area embraces the Marakele National Park in

the south, up to the northeastern side of the mountain range, which includes twenty-six rural villages in the Kudusrand and Bakenburg regions.

Since the turn of the century, the area has largely been devoted to the activities of cattle and crop farming. However, during the last fifteen years, land use practices have changed dramatically and today there is a burgeoning conservation community, which is involved in sustainable utilisation, both consumptive and non-consumptive. This ranges from tourism and eco-tourism to hunting. Its unique attributes are a lack of forestry, mining, industry and attendant pollution.

INCREASE

The advent of conservation related activities have seen a considerable increase in investment and job opportunities. The Waterberg, which saw both species of African rhinoceros disappear in the last 150 years, is rapidly emerging as a major conservation

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area for these animals.

The fact that there is not one internationally registered biosphere reserve in Southern Africa makes this venture even more promising. The concept, within a wide framework of conservation management strategies, offers some excellent guidelines for forging balanced relationships between formerly protected areas and neighbouring communities. This will encourage especially eco-tourism related investment opportunities, which should, in turn, ensure the economic and human upliftment of mainly the poor communities.

Lightning disaster in Lapalala Wilderness

By Clive Walker

On Sunday afternoon, 24 January 1999, Lapalala Wilderness experienced a fierce lightning storm - a frequent feature of the summer rains in the Waterberg Mountains of the Northern Province.

A 24 year old white rhinoceros cow was sheltering from the storm beneath some low trees of three to four metres height, together with her sixth calf, a 21 month old



female. In a fateful moment, both were killed instantly by a bolt of lightning, which appeared to have struck the ground in close proximity to the pair.

The calf was standing alongside the mother, facing in the opposite direction. The calf was knocked down onto her left side. The mother ended up on her back with all four legs pointing upwards, with the head raised clear off the ground. When Field Rangers found the animals on Tuesday morning, they were hugely distended.

The soft body parts around the throat, neck, upper legs and groins areas had burst open. Tissue, fat and blood extruded from these openings. There was no other mark on either rhino.

The mother was part of the first group of white rhinos to be introduced to Lapalala in 1992. She was without her front horn,

which had broken off in transit from Umfolozi Game Reserve in KwaZulu-Natal. The regrown horn measured 50cm at the time of death.

The Khama Rhino Sanctuary in Botswana

This private reserve is home to the last remaining rhinos in Botswana. Covering 4 300 hectares of Kalahari Sandveld, it offers excellent viewing opportunities of all kinds of wildlife and birds. It is located in Eastern Botswana, 25km north of Serowe and 180km south-east of Orapa. The Khama Rhino Sanctuary Trust, a community-based wildlife project established in 1992, runs the reserve.

The project was conceived in 1989 by a group of concerned residents who wished to save the rhino, which was vanishing from the country, restore an area formerly teeming with wildlife to its previous natural state and provide economic benefits to the community through tourism and the sustainable use of natural resources.

The white rhinos have been breeding well and the fourth calf was born at the end of 1997.

For further information, contact the AROA office or otherwise the reserve direct, Ms Susan Bicknell, The Khama Rhino Sanctuary Trust, P.O. Box 10, Serowe, Botswana (tel/fax 267 - 430713).

