

RHINO FUND UGANDA



Coming Back Home

Rhino Fund
Board

August 2001

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(UWEC) Trust

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Mr. Richard Ekodeu, Program / Administrative Officer of Wildlife Clubs of Uganda

Mr. Wilhelm Möller, Technical Advisor for the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre

Mr. Zaid Alam, Chief Executive Officer of the Alam Group of Companies

Rhino Exhibit in Entebbe

The final preparations for the Rhino Exhibit at the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre in Entebbe are in progress. Capture of the rhinos will take place around Mid-September on Solio Ranch in Kenya. Two southern white rhinos will be captured after being darted from a helicopter.

The couple will then stay in a boma (a small, wooden enclosure) so they can get accustomed to living in a smaller area and to being fed on different food. When the animals are ready, they will be transported to Entebbe, hopefully around Mid-October.

Capture as well as transport will be carried out in cooperation with Kenya Wildlife Service and Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) once they cross the border into Uganda.

Because the rhinoceros is an endangered species, CITES papers are necessary to allow export of these animals from Kenya.

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Sanctuary Location

While the final arrangements for phase I of our rhino reintroduction program - the Rhino Exhibit in Entebbe - are underway, preparations for phase II - the Rhino Sanctuary - have started up. In 1997 a feasibility study

Although the land had been mentioned as a good option in the feasibility study of 1997, the particular private ranches were never assessed. In the next month we plan to do a vegetation study to determine the carrying capacity for black



Potential rhino sanctuary location: Ziwa Ranch in Luwero

for the reintroduction of rhinos into Uganda has been conducted by Dr. Rob Brett. Five possible locations for a rhino sanctuary have been assessed, and number 1 location was Nshara Ranch, just north of Lake Mburu National Park. Unfortunately, in 1998/1999 it became clear that the government-owned land wasn't as easily available as we hoped for.

Rhino Fund Uganda is therefore very pleased to have been offered the use of another area, 80 sqkms, at the border of Luwero and Masindi.

and/or white rhinos on the land. If the results are satisfactory, preparations will be made to obtain the necessary funding, to build a secure electric fence around the property, and to train security forces.

The rhino sanctuary will be open for schoolgroups as well as for tourists. Other wildlife will be present as well, and their numbers will only increase as a result of the safe living conditions provided in the sanctuary. Being on the 'tourist track', between Kampala and Murchison Falls, we expect that many people will take the opportunity to view Uganda's returned heritage.

Rhino Fund Uganda



**Rhino Fund
Advisory Team**

Coming Back Home

Ray Victorine,
Co-founder of Rhino
Fund Uganda (Senior
Associate Cascadia
Consulting Group)

Dr. Rob Brett,
Programme Co-
ordinator (SADC
Regional Programme
for Rhino Conservation)

Hayden Turner,
Documentary Presen-
ter/Producer (National
Geographic Channels
International)

Dr. Pete Morkel,
Veterinarian (SANP
South Africa National
Parks)

Dr. Wayne Boardman,
Wildlife Veterinarian
(Conservation Veteri-
nary Services)

Dr. Richard Kock,
Wildlife Veterinary
Expert (CAU/IBAR
and PACE)

Andrew Thorne,
Captive Rhino Manage-
ment Consultant

Theo Onisforou,
Conservation Philan-
thropist (Sydney)

Richard Emslie,
Scientific/Programme
Officer IUCN SSC
African Rhino Special-
ist Group

Rhino Training in Holland

Two animal caregivers, Alex Droma and David Baluku from the Uganda Wildlife Education Center have recently visited Safari park Beekse Bergen in The Netherlands for training. The two will be part of a team of four caregivers that will be responsible for the two new rhinos in the Rhino Exhibit in Entebbe.

Alex and David were warmly welcomed for their six-week training, which was sponsored by Stichting Dierentuinen Helpen (the Dutch Federation of Zoos) who have supported UWEC several times before.

Afrika zien in Nederland

The article...
David Baluku...
Alex Droma...
Safari park...
Netherlands...



A Dutch newspaper writes about the two Ugandan caregivers that see their first rhino in the Netherlands!

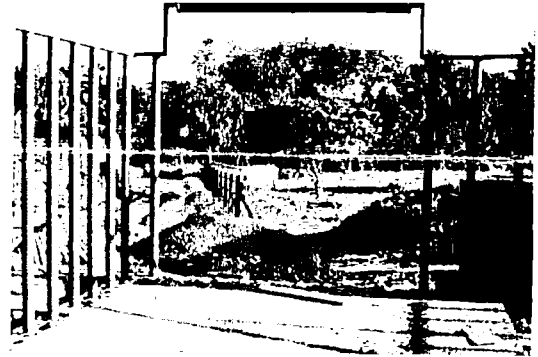
There are 10 Southern White rhinos in Beekse Bergen, the same subspecies as we expect to exhibit in Entebbe. Both Alex and David, as well as the two other future rhino caregivers, will be involved in husbandry aspects during the boma training period at Solio Ranch, and future care and maintenance of the rhino's and their enclosure in Entebbe.

How to contact Rhino Fund Uganda:

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Fortunately co-operation between Rhino Fund Uganda, Uganda Wildlife Education Centre, Uganda Wildlife Authority and the Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Industry has been very conducive and productive.



Construction of the new rhino exhibit at UWEC is in full progress. The photo above is taken from within the future holding facility and shows the exhibit area. The exhibit has now taken its future shape. It is easy picturing our two new magnificent animals here!

How can you help?

Rhino Fund needs your support! Please contact us if you can help us with the following:

- Transport for the rhinos from Solio to Entebbe
- 4x4 car for upcountry travels

THANKS!

Rhino Fund Uganda wishes to thank their sponsors and supporters:

Sheraton Hotel Kampala and Crane Bank for sponsoring the rhinos to come to Uganda;
Stichting Dierentuinen Helpen (NL) for covering the costs for rhino keeper training;
DAS Air and Ziwa Ranchers for offering their support for the future Rhino Sanctuary;
Ernst & Young Accountants for auditing our accounts;
Richard Lamprey for flying in our shirts from Kenya;
Beaver Shaw the artist of our Rhino postcards;
Backpackers, Mango Shade and Transit Duty Free shops for selling our RF shirts and postcards.

Rhino Fund Uganda

