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Kissama Foundation has plans to restore Angola's wildlife

Foundation leaders announce an 'Operation Noah' programme

BY PIERRE VAN DER WALT
Safari Times Africa Editor

President José Eduardo dos Santos of Angola is the patron of the Kissama Foundation which is planning "Operation Noah".

The aim is to relocate about 400 South African elephants to the Quiçama National Park, which stretches from the mouth of the Cuanza river about 70 km south of Luanda to the mouth of the Longa, river another 120km further south.

The Quiçama National Park covers an area of roughly 1.2 million hectares, with the Atlantic Ocean forming its Western border.

Due to various factors such as the 21-year civil war that raged in the country, as well as widespread poaching, little is left of the once teeming herds of game that once roamed the park.

In 1970, the Quiçama National Park was said to have had about 1200 elephant, 10 white rhino, 8000 red buffalo, 300 giant sable and about 450 lion.

Today it is not known what numbers of these species, if any have survived.

Through Operation Noah, the Kissama foundation is working towards reversing the decline of Angolan wildlife. It hopes to rehabilitate Angolan conservation areas and national parks, to reintroduce wildlife species which have disappeared and to save those on the brink of extinction such as the giant sable, which is Angola's national symbol.

The giant sable was primarily located in the Luando Strict Nature Reserve and the Cangandala National Park in the Malanje



Red buffalo are just one of Angola's many interesting wildlife species.

province, also situated between the Cuanza and Luando rivers, but further to the east of Quiçama National Park. The Kissama Foundation was founded dur-

ing 1996 by a combined group of South Africans and Angolans concerned about the state of Angola's national parks and wildlife and consists inter alia of the following world-renowned people:

President José Eduardo dos Santos, Prof. José Luis Guerra Marques of the Agostinho Neto University and Prof. Wouter van Hoven of the Centre for Wildlife Management of South Africa's University of Pretoria.

Also honorary treasurers such as Dr. Jim Teer (USA—Welder Foundation), Dr. Nicolas Franco (Spain—International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation), Bernard de Wattville (Switzerland—Tardy Wattville Bank) and Prince Anton von und zu Liechtenstein.

The Kissama Foundation can be contacted through the Centre for Wildlife Management.

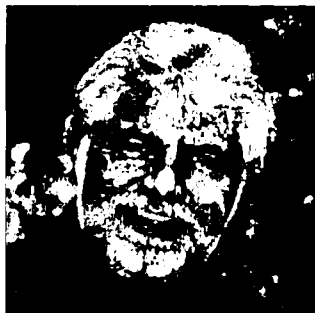
SCI Board of Directors meets in May to elect new leaders

Up to 300 members and staff persons will come from every continent to meet from 13-17 May in Washington, D.C. for Safari Club International's annual Board of Directors meeting.

Leading the meeting's agenda will be the election of the club's international officers for 1998-1999, major committee meetings and amendments of the bylaws.

President-elect Alfred "Skip" Donau of Arizona is expected to replace Lance Norris of Michigan as president of the 35,000-member international organisation.

Others selected by the Nominating Committee for 1998-1999 positions include,



Alfred S. 'Skip' Donau for 1998-1999 President



Lawrence S. Katz for 1998-1999 President-elect

Lawrence Katz of Florida for president-elect; Bill Brewster for Secretary and Mike Rogers Sr. for Treasurer.

Five candidates have been nominated for four positions as Vice Presidents and members

of the SCI Executive Committee. They are: George Banks, Gary F. Bogner, Jack R. Clary, Howard Pollock and Mike Simpson.

Nominated for Directors at Large are: Chuck Bazzy, Tyrie Boyer, Roger Card, Tom Dum, Jim Goss, Ward Jones, Bob Lange, John Monson, Glenn Rasmussen, Eric Skrmetta, E.P. Stupp III, Peter Theron, Dan Treb, Sharon Wall, Charmaine Wargolet, Fred Williams and Michael Wilmet.

Nominated for International Director positions are: Gordon Alford,

Angiolo Bellini, Volker Grellman, Robert Kern, Orhan Konakci, Alain LeFol, Alexander Lisitsin, Dieter Ochsenein, Nassos Roussos and Fernando Saiz.

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