

# RHINO FUND UGANDA



# COMING BACK HOME

March 2003

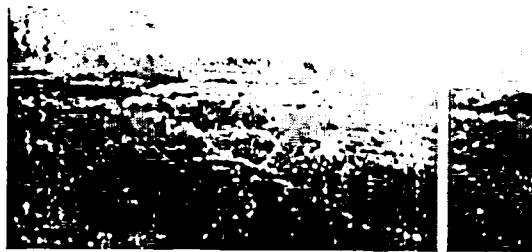
## Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary

Ziwa Ranch, a private cattle ranch located in Nakasongola district, will be the location for Uganda's rhino sanctuary. The owner of the ranch, Capt. Joe Roy, has given Rhino Fund permission to use his land for the breeding of white and black rhinos.

both in Africa and overseas. Dependent on the distance, rhinos can be transported by road or by air. An airstrip will be constructed so rhinos can be flown in, but also to fly in tourists and emergency veterinary help.

In January last year, Dr. Rob Brett, Rhino Program Coordinator in Zimbabwe, came over to do a feasibility study on the ranch. IUCN and Kenya Airways (provider of the return fare from Harare) sponsored his visit. Main goal of the study was to determine the maximum carrying capacity for Northern or Southern White and Eastern Black rhinos, based on the vegetation available on the ranch. The outcome is that Ziwa can house a maximum of almost 50 rhinos!

ZIWA



Ziwa airstrip after the first clearing

In order to keep animals in and poachers out, the total area (70 sqkms) will be surrounded by a solar powered, 2-meter high electric fence. Rangers will be trained in anti-poaching techniques and a monitoring system will be set up so that the rhinos can easily be located from the ground or from the air.

RHINO  
SANCTUARY

Discussions about the options of bringing rhinos to Uganda take place with countries

The sanctuary is located 170 kms North-west of Kampala, along the tarmac road to Murchison Falls - one of the main tourist destinations of Uganda. A tourist lodge is under construction: five self-contained bandas, an open bar/restaurant area and swimming pool are beautifully located along the swamps of Lugogo river. The sanctuary will also house facilities for school groups and a visitor information centre.

### Kifaru Kawa

Kawa Coffee in Jinja has produced a premium roasted coffee called Kifaru Kawa (Kifaru being the Swahili word for rhino). Part of the sales will be spent on helping us to bring back the rhino to Uganda. We are very happy with this initiative!



### Sherrino and Kabira

Our first two rhinos, Sherrino and Kabira, are doing extremely well in the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre in Entebbe. They recently celebrated their one-year anniversary in their new home!



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The GEF  
Small Grants  
Programme



## Rhino Fund Board

Dr. Wolfgang Thome, President of Uganda Tourism Association

Dr. Arthur Mugisha, Executive Director of Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)

Prof. Ephraim Kamuntu, Member of Parliament

Mr. Oscar John Kihika, partner of Byenkya, Kihika & Co. Advocates

Dr. Richard Lamprey, biologist and consultant for European Union

Ms. Bati O Kanya, Executive Director of Uganda Wildlife Education Centre (UWEC)

Mr. Justus Tindigarukayo, Assistant Commissioner of the Ministry for Trade, Tourism and Industry

Mr. Sudhir Ruparelia, Chairman of Ruparelia Group of Companies

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

Ms. Yvonne Verkaik, Executive Director of Rhino Fund Uganda

## Advisory Team

Roy Victorine, Co-founder of Rhino Fund Uganda and senior Associate of Cascadia Consulting Group (USA)

Dr. Rob Brett, Programme Coordinator of IUCN SSC SADC Regional Programme for Rhino Conservation (Zimbabwe)

Mr. Wilhelm Moeller, former board member of RFU and former Technical Advisor of Uganda Wildlife Education Centre (UWEC)

Dr. Richard Kock, Wildlife veterinary expert for OAU/IBAR and PACE (Kenya)

Richard Emsie, Scientific Programme Officer IUCN SSC African Rhino Specialist Group (South Africa)

Dr. Pete Morkal, Rhino Coordinator for Frankfurt Zoological Society (Ngorongoro, Tanzania)

Wayne Boardman, wildlife veterinarian for Conservation Veterinary Services (United Kingdom)

Hayden Turner, Documentary Presenter / Producer for National Geographic Channels International (United Kingdom)

Andrew Thorne, Captive Rhino Management Consultant for Taronga Zoo (Australia)

Theo Onisforou, Conservation Philanthropist (Australia)

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## Big Thank You's to:

### M2M DAS Challenge

In April last year, six brave rowers crossed Lake Victoria in search for adventure and for money for three charities: Nsambya Babies home, Hospice Uganda and Rhino Fund. The row – from Mwanza in Tanzania to Munyonyo in Uganda – took them five days and twenty minutes, an enormous achievement that most likely will make it to the



The Finish at Munyonyo

Guinness Book of Records. For Rhino Fund Uganda they raised 27 million Ushs – 15,000 US Dollar! – and for that we are very grateful to the team and to their sponsor, DAS Air Cargo.

### Rhino Raft Race

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, Nile River Explorers organized the Rhino Raft Race in support of Rhino Fund Uganda. 17 Teams competed on the first stretch of the Nile, between the dam and Bujagali Falls. For the rafters it was hard work but they came back to good food and plenty of drinks! It was a great day and many thanks go to the NRE team for raising over 8 million Ushs (over 4,000 USD).



Two of the teams preparing for the race

UNDP/GEF Small Grants Program has approved the Rhino Sanctuary funding proposal for 50,000 US\$! The funding will be used to set up the initial phase of the sanctuary.

The Wasmoeth Wildlife Fund is based in The Netherlands and supports wildlife projects all over the world. They have donated 10,000 Euro in support of the rhino sanctuary. You can link to their website from [www.rhinofund.org](http://www.rhinofund.org)!

Wilken Telecommunications (Uganda) Ltd recently donated two VHF radio stations plus two walkie-talkies. Their technicians installed the equipment at the rhino sanctuary.

Crane Bank, long-time Rhino Fund sponsor, has offered to waive all bank charges for Rhino Fund accounts!

SKAL International handed over their yearly donation to Rhino Fund Uganda. We received 500,000 Ushs and also the proceeds of their last annual dinner and dance in December will be in support of the rhino sanctuary!

Berggorilla und Regenwald Direkthilfe from Germany has been so kind to lend us their 4x4 car!

Ziwa Ranchers have made one of their houses on the ranch available as accommodation for staff and volunteers working for the rhino sanctuary. Furniture was donated by Uganda Wildlife Authority, Ziwa Ranchers and John and Janny Verdaasdonk.

Simon Rainsford has designed the logo for Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary.

Kenya Airways has sponsored flights to Zimbabwe for the feasibility study and the African Rhino Specialist Group meeting.

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Contact Yvonne Verkaik

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