



(Photo: Paul Sherfield)

The photograph shown above is absolutely unique; taken by Paul Sherfield, Chairman of our Livingstone Branch, it shows what is almost certainly the very first white (square-lipped) rhino to be born in Zambia; this was during the night of January 7th, 1969, in Livingstone Game Park.

It is probable that the southern race of this species never existed north of the Zambezi, until four specimens (two bulls and two cows) were brought up as youngsters from Zululand in 1964, as part of the large scale translocation programme which has already moved 482 animals from their overpopulated habitat in and around Umfolozi; the funds for this particular transfer were raised by the Society.

One pair went to Kafue National Park and the other to Livingstone; unfortunately, the Kafue bull died shortly after

arrival, and the survivor was then transferred to Livingstone, to form a small breeding nucleus of two cows and one bull.

The photograph shows the calf, a bull, about twelve hours after birth, with the umbilical cord still attached; the youngster was estimated to be about 30" high at the shoulder, and around 200 pounds in weight.

The other cow was seen to mate with the bull at the end of last year, so there is hope of another calf being born in the middle of 1970, the normal gestation period being eighteen months.

It had sometimes been thought that white rhino would only breed when in herds of six to ten animals, but this, like the other theory that they were monogamous and paired for life, is now proved to be without foundation.