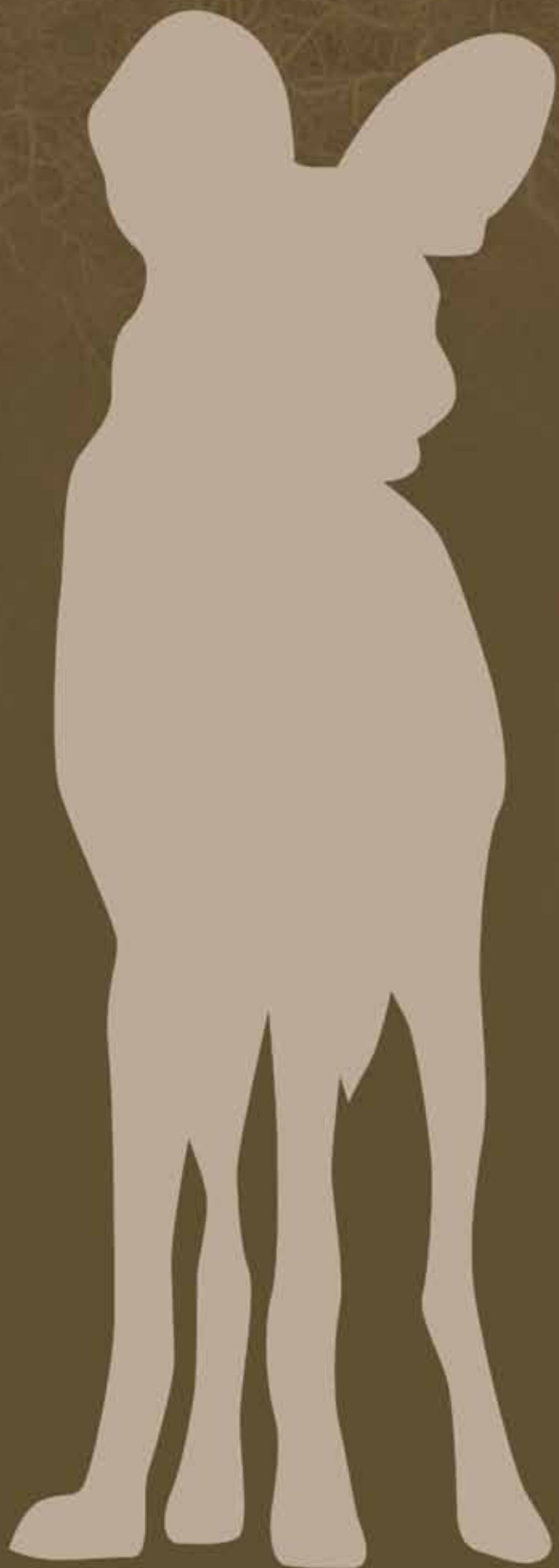


**2010** ANNUAL REPORT



WILDERNESS  
W I L D L I F E T R U S T

The logo for Wilderness Wildlife Trust, featuring a stylized tree or plant symbol with three main branches and a smaller one, rendered in white and orange.

# HWANGE WHITE RHINO REINTRODUCTION PROJECT

*Coordinator: Marwell Trust Zimbabwe*



In 2009, two more white rhino were translocated from Matobo National Park to the Wilderness Concession in Hwange National Park. While funds were originally allocated for the relocation of five animals, for various reasons, including limiting the off-take from Matobo (pending age to gender ratio analysis) only two females were relocated. Pregnancy tests carried out on blood samples taken from these animals confirms that both are pregnant.

Once captured the crated rhino were loaded onto a truck and transported to Hwange. Since the sandy road conditions in Hwange make it imperative to have four-wheel-drive and there is only one suitable vehicle available, these transport costs made up the bulk of the funding from the Trust. During the course of the journey to Hwange the rhino were continually monitored by an attending veterinarian to ensure their comfort and safety. The veterinarian also ensured

that the animals were correctly offloaded from the crate and settled in the boma.

Before offloading, the rhino were fitted with radio transmitters, allowing personnel to locate and monitor them rapidly and reliably. Data obtained will also provide information on space use, home ranges and individual associations. The animals were also ear-notched for ease of identification and dehorned to reduce the risk of poaching.

Removal of excess numbers of rhino in Matobo creates more space and resources for the remaining animals and encourages breeding and ongoing population growth. Hwange's population will benefit from the genetic diversity introduced by the Matobo population. The increased opportunity for tourists to encounter rhino in National Parks contributes to tourism revenue for Zimbabwe, and raises awareness about rhino conservation.