

WILDERNESS SAFARIS WILDLIFE TRUST

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WILDERNESS

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



HWANGE WHITE RHINO REINTRODUCTION

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Following the release of five white rhino from Matobo National Park into Hwange National Park in July 2007, a further three rhino were introduced to Hwange from Matobo in late September 2008: two new cows and one bull. These animals have joined the small existing population and monitoring patrols and systems have been implemented to keep track of their movements.

The white rhino population of Hwange National Park, almost locally extinct in the early 1990s from poaching, has been increased through a number of translocations of animals from Matobo over the years. This national park has an overabundance of white rhino in a relatively small area, resulting in deaths from fighting and rhino moving out of the protected area. It has therefore proved an excellent resource for additional animals needed in Hwange, thus ensuring the viability of this population and providing another pool of the species in Zimbabwe.

To date, eight white rhino were moved from Matobo to Hwange; the Wilderness Safaris Wildlife Trust funded the bomas built to house the white rhino when they arrived. Together with the Parks and Wildlife Management Authority, Wilderness Safaris is involved in the boma management and in long-term monitoring of the white rhino population in south-eastern Hwange.

Monitoring methods include radio-tracking using radio-telemetry techniques, from the air, on foot or by vehicle.

