

# Sebakwe News

Editor : John Gripper

[www.blackrhino.org](http://www.blackrhino.org)

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## Rhino Poaching in Zimbabwe

In a recent official report on rhino prepared for CITES it was stated that 235 rhino in Zimbabwe were killed by poachers in the period 2006 to 2009. This represents 26% of the rhino population in that country and the actual poaching losses in Zimbabwe may well have been higher than those detected. Over the same period 210 rhino were killed by poachers in South Africa.

Since 2006, 95% of all detected or presumed rhino deaths in Africa from illegal killing have occurred in Zimbabwe and South Africa. Provisional estimates suggest that Zimbabwe's rhino population has declined by 14.7% since the end of 2007 with the bulk of the decline affecting black rhino (546 dropping to 432)

The number of rhinos dying from snare injuries has markedly declined and the majority (69%) of these rhino killed by poachers were shot by AK47 assault rifles and 303 calibre rifles but more recently heavier calibre arms are now being used by highly mobile professionally organised and well financed criminal gangs. A few rhino have been poisoned and some have even been killed by dart guns using veterinary immobilising drugs.



In Zimbabwe, rhino crimes rarely result in successful prosecutions. In April 2009 an assessment was made of 123 separate poaching incidents in Zimbabwe involving the recorded killing or wounding of 156 rhino which indicated that only 18 cases had resulted in arrests and only six people were convicted which represents a conviction rate of only 3%. All other individuals were either acquitted, released on bail and subsequently absconded or evaded prosecution. There is an urgent need for more effective law enforcement actions for the investigation and prosecution of rhino crime.

There is a steady increase in the illegal trade in rhino horn destined for markets in Asia especially to Vietnam and China. Vietnamese nationals conducted 203 white rhino hunts in South Africa from 2003 to 2006. There is also a trade in live rhino and since 2000 China has imported 117 live rhino from South Africa. There are reports of 'horn harvesting' of captive rhino in China and concern about the status and purpose of importing so many live rhino.

# Pam Ayres

On Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2010 Pam Ayres gave a Charity Show at Chipping Norton Theatre to raise money for the Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust.

The concert was a great success and on the first day of ticket sales to the public, all the tickets had been sold from the box office by lunchtime. In this show Pam was trying out new material and the enjoyment of the audience was obvious from the laughter and applause and everyone went home with a smile on their faces.

Pam is a Patron of the Rhino Trust and is a great supporter. A total sum of £3,481 was raised for the charity by the donation of her performance fee, the bucket collection, the book signing and the sale of charity cards in the theatre.

We wish to thank Pam and her husband, Dudley for their most generous support and providing us all with a great show.



## Container of Aid by Nigel Overall

After many months of collecting, sorting, packing, labelling, storing and transporting, in May another 20ft container was finally packed full and sent on its way to Zimbabwe. In conjunction with School Aid it contained 392 boxes and 424 items of school furniture and equipment. Within the boxes were a vast array of items including school clothes, books, pens, first aid dressings, sports equipment, baby clothes, blankets, tents, trousers, uniforms for the rhino guards and much much more..... The school equipment included desks, chairs, stools, bookcases, cupboards and more.....

The container will take about 6-8 weeks to get there, travelling by sea down to the port of Durban in South Africa and then overland by road up to Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe. On being cleared there by customs it will then complete the final leg of its journey down to our Education Centre at Sebakwe where the various items will be distributed.

A big thank you to all who helped by donating items for this container with a special thanks to several schools within Gloucester for donating their surplus school equipment, to Lesley Smith for knitting the crochet baby blankets and to Finstock W.I.

A special big thank you to Annie Gripper for all her hard work in sorting and packing the vast majority of the boxes - Thanks Annie, without your efforts it would never have happened !



# Annie's Page

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

The May meeting opened with a prayer followed by introductions. A record of the scholarship scheme since 2006 was produced. Eighteen children are now benefiting from our scholarship scheme at different secondary schools in the area,

The committee under the chairmanship of Freda Charwira would like to take full responsibility for all the scholarship children, pay fees, supply books and stationery, provide uniforms and visit children each month to check work and check their well being.



**Boreholes** - We have received donations from charities so that we can afford to pay for the sinking of a water borehole at Pauldale and also a borehole at Rockvale. These will be completed later this autumn and will mean that the children will have access to clean water for drinking. This exciting news prompted spontaneous dancing from parents and staff whilst the children clapped their hands



## New Government Secondary School

This new school has been named 'Rhino Secondary School' and already has six teaching staff appointed and there are 80 pupils who meet at the roofless classroom at Pauldale School. Their secondary school will be built half way between Pauldale and Rockvale Primary School so that all the local children will benefit from it.

The Government will recognise and run the school once it has been built by the local community who have already made the bricks. The school will need a lot of help with cement, paint and roofing materials for the building programme and school equipment will be needed later. Once the present scholarships children complete their four year course, the scholarship money can then be directed towards the new Rhino Secondary School.



**Twinning** - Pontesbury Primary School in Shropshire would like to twin with Pauldale School (230 pupils), and Rockvale School (160 pupils) has been approached by a Jersey charity donor for adoption. Both these primary schools have ongoing building projects and need, cement, paint and roofing materials for staff cottages and classrooms.



# Mana Pools by John Gripper

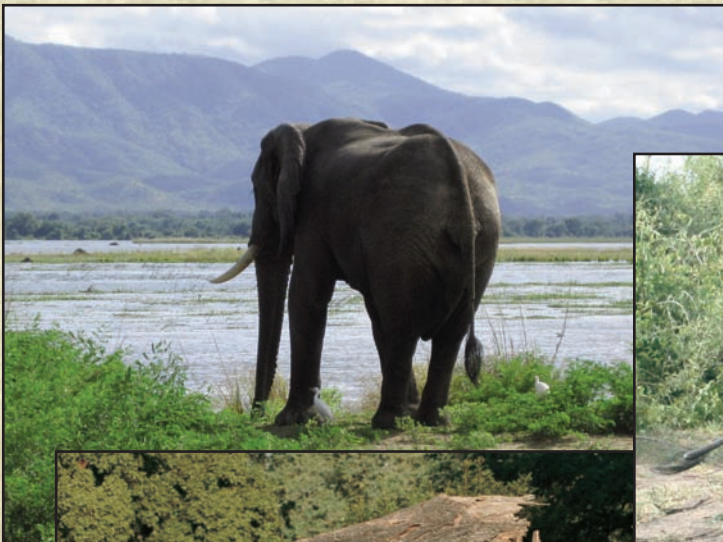
Our first visit to Zimbabwe was made in 1988 and one of the places we stayed at was Mana Pools, where we saw the line of rhino skulls lined up outside the National Parks office. The sight of these skulls alerted us to the killing of rhino by poachers in the Lower Zambezi Valley.



We decided to make a sentimental journey and return to Mana Pools so on our recent visit to Zimbabwe we booked the Muchichiri National Parks Lodge at Mana Pools for three nights.

The lodge was self catering and had ample space to sleep eight adults. It was in a beautiful setting right by a tributary of the Zambezi river with the Zambia hills in the distance.

However we were disappointed that the state of the lodge was a bit run down. The boiler was broken (and had been for over a year) so we had no hot water. The bathroom window was broken so at night the bats could fly in and out. There was no electricity - but we had been forewarned of this and took plenty of candles and torches with us.





There were plenty of baboons and vervet monkeys hanging around in the trees near to the lodge just waiting for the opportunity to get into the lodge to get at our food and create havoc and mess. The monkeys even had the cheek to steal our toast that we were making over the campfire which we had to carefully guard with sticks.

Each night we had hippo and an elephant coming to graze around the Lodge. We saw plenty of wildlife but were lucky to have a special viewing of a pack of twenty Wild Dog who were all greeting each other before setting off for a hunt.

Apart from the animal wildlife, there was magnificent viewing of birdlife with the picturesque background of the pools and beautiful trees in this National Park.



# Sebakwe Conservation

As already known, the Sebakwe Education and Conservation centre a project of the Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust UK working in conjunction with the Wildlife and Environment Zimbabwe (WEZ) is fast becoming a leader in the promotion and implementation of Environmental Education and Sustainable community development.

The centre seeks to raise awareness amongst communities around the Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy and empower the local people to actively participate in, and take responsibility of the sustainable management and use locally available natural resources. This long term goal is achieved through the centre's three projects, namely 'Sebakwe Environmental Education Programme in Schools', 'Making Conservation Make Sense' a community based natural resources management project, and 'Wildlife and Environment Research', done in collaboration with local universities.

The year 2009, was a very active year for Sebakwe Conservation and Education Centre. Within that year the centre managed to:-

- Conduct a networking meeting for environmental education practitioners in Zimbabwe. This was funded by SADC regional Environmental Education programme with a view to strengthen exchange of ideas and experiences amongst EE practitioners in the country. Fourteen organisations and twenty five people participated in this regional initiative.

Environmentalists from different organisations attending a SADC REEP network meeting at Sebakwe Conservation and Education Centre, February 2009

The Centre Director consulting with the Msena primary school head on alternative teachers' houses under construction. In all the schools we support there is need for cheaper materials to build teachers' accommodation.



- Launched a community biomass energy conservation project in one village within the Sebakwe area.

The project is aimed at educating local women to conserve fuelwood, thus reducing the on going deforestation in areas around the Midland Black Rhino Conservancy. Twenty (20) households are taking part in the project and each of them now is using an improved traditional stove instead of the open fireplace which are deemed energy inefficient. Tied to this pilot project is a community garden which is coming up in the same village. Linked to the community development work, the centre continued to assist local schools in terms of stationery, reading materials and infrastructure.

# & Education Centre

by Clayton Zazu

- Conduct three community outreach and awareness tours to areas around the Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy, namely Msena, Bush park, Rockvale and Pauldale. The aim of the outreach was to educate communities on the existence and importance of the Midlands Black Rhino conservancy and the need for them to support the conservancy conservation work.
- Spearhead the commemoration of the National Fire week, held in May at Pauldale primary school, as well as the World Environment Day held in Kwekwe city on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 2009.
- Conduct its Wildlife and Environment Primary schools Quiz competition on the 31<sup>st</sup> of July. Eighty schools participated, and Goldridge Junior School and R.J. Davies primary school qualified to represent Midland Province in the national wildlife quiz.

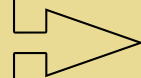


- Host a very successful National Wildlife Quiz for primary schools in Zimbabwe on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October. The hosting of the national wildlife quiz raised the flag of the centre and the Midland Black Rhino conservancy as it got a lot of print and electronic media coverage. Articles on the event appeared on different websites and local papers including Air Zimbabwe in-flight magazine- the Skyhost. We are grateful that organisers of the national wildlife quiz have chosen the Sebakwe Conservation and Education Centre to host the 2010 National Quiz again and this time it will be bigger and better.



Children from Carmel school of Bulawayo participating in 2009 National wildlife quiz competition held at Sebakwe on 23<sup>rd</sup> of October 2009

Shame Bhawa - wildlife management university intern conducting field work, assisted by Gadzirai, a rhino monitor .



The Sebakwe Conservation and Education owes its success to its wide network of friends and partners and will continue to do its best to attain its set goals for the benefit of people and wildlife in Zimbabwe and beyond.

Clayton Zazu is to be congratulated on receiving a full time doctorate scholarship at Rhodes University in South Africa. He will now be on study leave and Palloma has been appointed acting director of the Education Centre.

# Please Help Us !!!

Adopting a rhino cost just £30 for two years and is an excellent Birthday or Wedding present for your friends or relations. Our Website ([www.blackrhino.org](http://www.blackrhino.org)) has a full list and display of pictures of the rhinos for adoption.

## Membership, Adoption, Quiz, Scholarship & Donations form

Tick		Amount £
<input type="checkbox"/>	Family Membership -	£25 .....
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adult Membership -	£15 .....
<input type="checkbox"/>	Junior Membership - (12 years and below)	£5 .....
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adoption Donation -	£30 .....
<input type="checkbox"/>	Scholarship Fund -	£ .....
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tenashe feeding -	£ .....
<input type="checkbox"/>	Schools Water Project -	£ .....
<input type="checkbox"/>	General donations -	£ .....

=====  
**Total enclosed    £ .....**

**Cheques** - Please make payable to SBRT

**Visa/Mastercard**

Card Number

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Valid From

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Expires End

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CV2 No (last 3 digits on rear)

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Signature.....

**I wish to ADOPT for TWO YEARS:-**

- TANGARIRA
- TENASHE
- RONDA

Name of Adopter for certificate.....Special date (if required).....

PLEASE PRINT

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

.....

Postcode.....

Tel:.....

Completed forms to be returned to:-

**Annie Gripper  
 Manor Farm  
 Ascott under Wychwood  
 OXON  
 OX7 6AL**

Tel: +44 (0)1993 830 278

Fax: +44 (0)1993 830 395

For Adoptions - Send (with or without) card to:-

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Post Code.....

From.....

.....

Tel:.....

**Please sign the following form so that we can reclaim 28% GIFT AID tax relief.**

I am a UK taxpayer and want the Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust to treat all donations I have made since 6<sup>th</sup> April 2000 and all donations that I make from the date of this declaration, unless I notify you otherwise, as gift donations.

Signature.....

Date.....