

REALLY, RHINOS!

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ONE MAN'S FIGHT TO SAVE THE RHINO

MICHAEL WERIKHE WINS THE FIRST GOLDMAN ENVIRONMENTAL PRIZE

[compiled by Fleur Ng'weno, SWARA, July/August, 1990, p.31-32]

The Goldman Environmental prize, created by Richard and Rhoda Goldman of San Francisco, California, has been awarded for the first time this year. The first winner of this prize is Michael Werikhe. Michael was nominated by Wildlife Conservation International and the East African Wild Life Society for his walks in aid of the black rhino. To recap Michael's accomplishments since 1985: Michael Mayeku Werikhe has walked thousands of miles in East Africa and Europe to raise public awareness regarding the plight of Kenya's most endangered animal, the black rhinoceros. Through these widely publicized events, "The Rhino Man" as he is more affectionately known, has reached more than 50 million people and raised over one million dollars for rhino conservation projects. He views the rhino as a symbol, as he explains: "If there is no hope for an animal so huge, strong and recognizable, what hope is there for the lesser animals...?". Michael is currently Security Supervisor at Associated Vehicle Assemblers in his home town of Mombasa, Kenya and serves as a consultant with several African wildlife organizations.

ADOPT A RHINO

There is still time to adopt a rhino at the Winston Safari Park (PO Box 1600, Winston, OR 97496-0231) You can be an aunt or uncle for only \$50 a year. If you have a garden but don't live near a zoo, you may also wish to purchase some ZOODOO which is a generic term for various grades of zoo compost, a product of a rather complex process of recycling animal and vegetable waste.

DEHORNING NOT DAMAGING

[Swara, July/August, 1990, p. 20]

Conservationists involved in dehorning black rhinos *Diceros bicornis* in Damaraland, north-west Namibia, have judged the operation, which was carried out between March and June 1989, a success. They chose the method as being less risky to the rhinos than translocation.

The dehorned rhinos were monitored for several months to see if the lack of horns affected their social interaction, their ability to defend themselves or their feeding habits, but no ill-effects were observed. Two calves have been born to dehorned mothers and there is no more poaching in Damaraland; the poachers have moved north to Etosha.