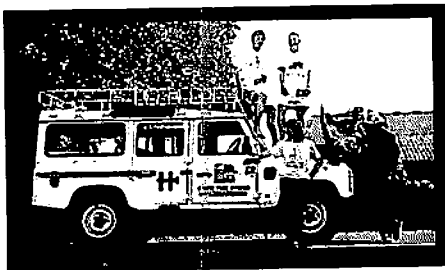




## Mkomazi Game Reserve, Tanzania

**W**hen I first visited Mkomazi with Tony Fitzjohn four years ago, we flew around the reserve in his Cessna 206 with Tony pointing wildly at this hill and that hill which would be included in the proposed rhino sanctuary. "The Black Rhino loves a mountain or two to walk up" shouted Tony over the noise of the engine. I nodded in agreement whilst peering down into the thick acacia bush below, thinking that either he had gone mad or that perhaps this 50 year old whose energy is both infectious and incredible may well be able to pull-off building Tanzania's first rhino sanctuary.

Two years later I visited Mkomazi again, but this time we were on our way from Mombasa to Mt Kilimanjaro and questioning our own sanity as we had covered the route on foot, clad in our thirty-two pound, 7 foot high rhino costume. The rhino sanctuary fence line was in place, the hills had been included and the next big job was to make sure the sanctuary had plenty of water available. The rhinos had not arrived and Tony was still negotiating with the South Africans as to what price he might have to pay for a breeding herd (six animals). The rhino translocation from Addo National Park in South Africa to Mkomazi makes a wonderfully positive tale. The rhinos in question were originally from the Mkomazi region, taken down to South Africa in the late sixties. Thirty years on their offspring are going home and this time by Hercules planes! The South African air force have offered to fly the rhinos north and this should happen in October 1997.



Save The Rhino have played an important role in the security of the sanctuary, providing Land Rovers and with the kind support of Motorola and their Kenya dealers ICS, a full communications system, including hand-held and mobile two-way radios for the anti-poaching units. A full account of the rhinos' arrival at Mkomazi will hopefully be ready for inclusion in our next newsletter.

David Stirling 



## The Namibian Black Rhino Fund

**A** background of African travel and exploration has given Save The Rhino's founders a broad understanding of African culture and society. This has been combined with



## Save The Rhino's Cape Town Office

a detailed examination of the evolution of Aid to Africa, and the advice and support of Africans who know what they are talking about. The result is a policy of responsible giving that is unique, long-term and committed.

A major part of our programme of support is to channel financial contributions into endowment funds for the countries with remaining rhino populations. Throughout the year, the income accrued from the capital fund is distributed to the field to support the immediate and long-term requirements particular to that country. The system is simple, non-bureaucratic and relatively risk free. The Game Rangers who spend your financial support are known and trusted and regularly visited by the founders. In short, the system is based on trust and understanding, not suspicion and paperwork.

The first fund was called the Namibian Black Rhino Fund. The fund has grown to US\$165,992 (committed) since 1993 and the annual income distributed to the field increases steadily. There are no wild promises or extravagant gestures, no drought or flood type of funding that can be so destructive to people and their environments.

We believe in calm, consistent support for the right people in the right place, and we believe that those people are best equipped to decide on the final destination of your funding. After all, they have been in the bush, grappling with local people and local wildlife issues, all their lives.

The Game Rangers have used the regular support for a variety of conservation measures that include rhino protection and monitoring, and the local communities. It is worth repeating this broad definition of conservation, to ensure that we pass on intact to future generations what we have received from our forefathers. We believe that the endowment style of support is making a significant contribution to that goal.

We want to build the Namibian Black Rhino Fund to US\$1 Million, with target 10% annual income dispersal to the field of US\$100,000. That annual donation to Namibia will last for as long as the country continues to have rhinos, hopefully forever.

Johnny Roberts 

### Why South Africa?

Well, to start with, the country is home to 75% of the world's rhinos and 90% of Africa's black and white rhinos.

### So why Cape Town?

Quite apart from its superior quality of life to Johannesburg, Cape Town has been an ideal location for SRI to launch its rhino costume events. The costume was used in South Africa for the first time on a bicycle, when it joined 28,000 other South Africans on the 100km Argus Cycle Race around the Cape. The Ultra Marathons (over 25 miles), The Two Oceans (56kms) and The Comrades (92kms) proved greater challenges for the rhinos, but last year in the Comrades one of our fastest and most loyal rhino runners, Mark Millington, succeeded in getting inside the cut-off time for the race, finishing in 10hrs 50mins. Combined with an extensive range of rhino merchandise to supply the ever increasing tourists to Cape Town, Save The Rhino are on course to reaching their objectives down there: making a worldwide audience aware of the rhino costumes and raising funds for South African rhino projects.

We have been fortunate enough to work closely with one of South Africa's most respected conservationists, Clive Walker. Clive has made it possible for us to raise funds in the country through the use of his own charity, The Rhino and Elephant Foundation. As a consequence we are supporting one of his pioneering conservation programmes to relocate white rhino onto community land. The chosen area, Masebe, has been devoid of rhinos for many years and will now receive a breeding herd of five animals, they will be owned and protected by the local communities in a bid to transfer ownership out of Government hands and into the hands of the future guardians of wildlife in Africa; the rural communities.

As this newsletter goes to print, a young Englishman, Daniel Ling, is near to completing a fundraising cycle ride from Victoria Falls to Cape Town for Save The Rhino. He and his team members hope to raise £15,000 for the Masebe project. A detailed account of that cycle ride will appear in the next newsletter.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Alliance Air for their continued support in donating cost price and free air fares to the charity.

David Stirling 