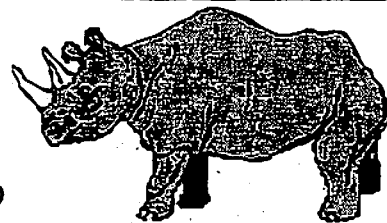


# REALLY, RHINOS!



Volume 13/1, 1999

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR 1998

[World Wildlife Fund Annual Report, 1998]

"From Nepal to Namibia, WWF is fighting to give the rhino a viable future by working with communities that live in and alongside rhino habitat, by helping parks strengthen their anti-poaching units, and by clamping down on the international trade in rhino horn. WWF is also helping create rhino sanctuaries both on private lands and within national parks. And WWF's wildlife trade monitoring unit TRAFFIC has developed a world-wide database that tracks the markets and transit routes for rhino horn."

## WWF UNVEILS GLOBAL RHINO CONSERVATION STRATEGY

[FOCUS, 20:6, November/December, 1998]

Key populations of African rhinos have increased since 1995 according to new population figures from the IUCN/World Conservation Union. "The new estimates bring with them guarded hope for the rhino's future, but no reason for complacency," said Ginette Hemley, WWF vice president for species conservation. The good news - the result of effective anti-poaching efforts and conservation programs that involve local communities and private landowners - was announced in conjunction with WWF's global rhino conservation strategy to protect the world's remaining wild rhinos. The strategy is one of several global conservation efforts WWF unveiled during its nationwide tour last August.

As part of its Living Planet Campaign, WWF is expanding rhino anti-poaching measures and encourages community-based wildlife management programs that provide incentives for protecting rhinos. To ensure adequate habitat size, WWF is fostering a new ecoregional approach that takes into account the broad landscape needs for rhino survival and minimizes habitat fragmentation. And finally, WWF is increasing efforts to stem the global demand for rhino horn products.

The decline of the world's rhinos is one of the greatest wildlife tragedies of our time. Since the late 1950's, Africa has lost more than 95 percent of an estimated population of 100,000 black rhinos. Today, fewer than 2,600 remain. And in southeast Asia, Javan rhinos have disappeared from nearly all of their former range; they number fewer than 85 in the wild today. While habitat loss and fragmentation have contributed to the decline of rhino populations, the main cause of death has been poaching to satisfy demand for rhino horn for use in traditional Asian medicines and as decorative dagger handles in the Middle East. Despite an international ban on the trade of rhino products, the high price paid for a single horn (from \$2,000 to \$20,000 in parts of Asia) has fed a flourishing black market.

Fortunately, important progress has been made on this front, bringing with it new hope for the rhino's future. As part of the Living Planet Campaign, WWF has secured two separate 'gifts to the Earth' that directly benefit rhinos.

The first of these Gifts addresses the trade in rhino horn. In an important step to reduce demand for rhino and tiger-based medicines, the American



College of Traditional Chinese Medicine and leading associations of traditional medicine doctors, colleges, and retailers have pledged not to prescribe or promote medicines containing the parts of rhinos tigers, or other endangered species.

The second Gift, from the government of Namibia, provides new legislation under which 4 million acres of habitat have been declared conservancies where rural residents can manage natural resources and wildlife, including desert-dwelling rhinos and elephants. It is this work at the local, national and international level that makes WWF's global approach so promising. As we near the millennium, WWF is determined to do everything possible to protect the world's rhino and other endangered species before it is too late.

To learn more about WWF's rhino conservation efforts, visit their web site at:  
[www.worldwildlife.org](http://www.worldwildlife.org)

## **RHINOS ON THE MOVE**

[Focus, 20:6, November/December, 1998, p.3]

Four Asian rhinos will soon be moved across Nepal, relocated from Chitwan National park to their new home in Royal Bardia National Park. This marks the third time that rhinos from Chitwan will make this remarkable journey. In 1986, there was not a single rhino in Bardia. Today, there is a growing population of 43, the result of a successful effort to repopulate Bardia with rhinos from neighboring Chitwan.

Back in the 1980's, it became evident to WWF that even though the rhino population in Chitwan was growing, because of its isolation, it was also vulnerable to disease or an intensive outbreak of poaching. Meanwhile, in nearby Royal Bardia National Park, the habitat for rhinos was ideal. Indeed rhinos have thrived in Bardia until the 1960's when malaria in the region was eradicated and rhinos were driven away or poached by new settlers. In 1986, working with local partners in Nepal, WWF set about establishing a second rhino population in Bardia some 100 miles to the west of Chitwan. That same year, the first 13 rhinos were moved from Chitwan to Bardia. The transfer was so successful that another 25 were moved in 1990.

Today both populations are doing well, after what can only be called a Herculean effort.

'Moving a two-ton rhino over 100 miles of rough terrain takes a lot of dedicated patient people and a lot of heavy equipment and special trucks,' said Mingma Norbu Sherpa who directs WWF programs for Nepal and Bhutan. 'but with these relocation programs, WWF's continued support for anti-poaching patrols, and local community participation, we now have a viable population of rhinos in each of these parks, which greatly improves the outlook for their long-term survival in the wild,' he continued."

## **"What is a hundred years?..."**

[edited transcript of a lecture given by Dr. Richard Leakey to EAWLS members at the National Museums of Kenya on August 13, 1998]

...to most of us it is a very long time - much longer than most of us can expect to live - but in terms of the age of the Earth, it is as nothing, a mere heartbeat. yet, in so many respects, life on Earth has changed beyond recognition over the past century. Villages have grown into great cities, vast forests have shrunk or even disappeared, a land once teeming with wildlife has been subsumed by the hand of man. the story is the same for Africa as it is for the rest of the world, but with one important proviso: here, despite the land degradation evident almost everywhere, the continent still harbours a vast wealth of biodiversity, an enormous resource of relatively healthy habits - from the rain forest of West Africa to the boundless savannas of East Africa. However, time is running out. Everywhere we look wildlife and wild habitats are coming into conflict with the increasing demands of Africa's growing human population. How to ease that pressure, to resolve that conflict, is a debate that is engaging the minds of conservationists worldwide. One of the more influential and outspoken contributors to that debate is Dr. Richard Leakey. "I don't think it is possible to look at the issues of wildlife and habitat conservation in isolation from the issues of people conservation. There is an integral connection between the human condition in a country and the state of its natural habitat and its wildlife management programmes."

## What is EAWLS?

The East African Wild Life Society is a non-profit making organization formed in 1961 by amalgamating the Wildlife Societies of Kenya and Tanzania (both founded in 1956). It is society policy to conserve wildlife and its habitat in all forms as a national and international resource. The impala is the symbol of the East African Wild Life Society. 'Swara' is the Swahili word for antelope and is the name of EAWLS's publication. They are desperately in need of funds as they restructure. I would hate to see them cease publication of SWARA. Please consider getting a membership or at least sending a donation. A year's membership (surface mail) is \$US50 and you can send the check to a U.S. address! The East African Wild Life Society c/o Peter Bakker 15 West 79th Street #1 OE, New York, NY 10024. You can also e-mail EAWLS: [ewls@form-net.com](mailto:ewls@form-net.com) -or- [ewls@elci.sasa.unon.org](mailto:ewls@elci.sasa.unon.org)

## GREETINGS FROM NAIROBI!

Chrissee & Esmond Bradley Martin's annual Christmas card, 1998]

In April, 1998, Esmond attended the IUCN African Rhino Specialist Group meeting held on a private ranch at Itosha National park and in Waterberg, Namibia. Latest statistics show that the total numbers of white and black rhinos are all on the rise, but there is a great concern over the only remaining black rhinos in West Africa, those of Cameroon, down to less than 20. Some of Kes Hillman's northern white rhinos in Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo) were casualties of the Revolution; from 31 they are down to 24. After the meeting, Esmond went to Lapalala in South Africa and visited the world's first museum dedicated solely to rhinos, with displays on all five species." Remember... Chrissee wrote a book called *Russelas; a Rhino in Search of His Horn* and Esmond is "the man" (not counting Michael Werihke) when it comes to rhino conservation.

Chrissee & Esmond Bradley Martin  
Box 15510  
Nairobi, Kenya.

## We would like to help

I own a small screen print business that has been in business for 18 years. We operate one shift doing custom screen printing in the United States. While we help out with good causes in our local community, we would like to help out on a larger scale.

My personal choice is to help nonprofit organizations concerned with animals and the environment. I considered how I could use the resources I have to help these organizations. It occurred to me that I could add two additional shifts that offered low cost fixed rate printing of t-shirts and sweats for these organizations.

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# THE BLACK AND THE WHITE

[Travel Africa, Edition 6, Winter 1998/99, p.21]

How do you tell if it's a black or a white rhino? Both species are two-horned and have grey skin. Both males are largely solitary and territorial, and a mother-child pairing could be from either species. but the white rhino (*Ceratotherium simun*) is a bit bigger and heavier than the black rhino (*Diceros bicornis*). Asking yourself 5 questions may help to differentiate them, however:

## 1. Where is it?

If the beast is in well-watered, wooded, gently undulating savanna then it's likely to be a white rhino. Black rhino have a wider range of habitat, including the desert. They favor more bushy areas, particularly thick acacia, where they can rest shaded in the heat of the day.

## 2. What is it eating?

If it's grazing short grass it's most likely to be a white rhino. Black rhinos are browsers and enjoy acacia leaves, herbs and legumes but occasionally they will eat grass as well.

## 3. How does it shape up?

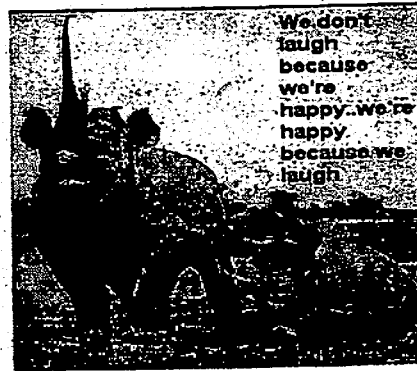
White rhinos have a distinct, raised neck hump, elongated and rectangular ears and a wide square-lipped mouth. "White" is a corruption of the Dutch word *weit*, meaning 'wide', used to describe its mouth. Black rhinos appear shorter in the neck, have no hump, round trumpet-like ears and a triangular hook-shaped lip with which to grasp and strip twigs.

## 4. How does it move?

White rhinos graze head down, move slowly and when disturbed trot off a short distance with the calf in front, before stopping to turn and look back. The black rhino grazes head up and when startled runs further, with calf trailing, only stopping when in the cover of bush. If the rhino charges, particularly out of mating season, it is most probably a black bull.

## 5. What signs does it leave?

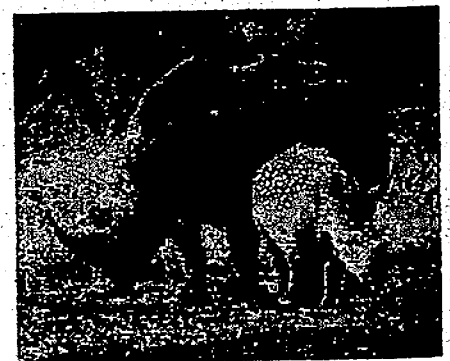
The dung of the white rhino is fairly fine textured and dark, rather like horse droppings. It is often deposited in middens (dung piles) which may be several yards in diameter. Black rhino dung balls are smaller, a lighter orange-tinged color and contain coarse, undigested, woody material, often also found in middens. Both species have three hooked toes but the footprint (spoor) of white rhino is sharply indented while that of the black is rounded at the back.



We don't  
laugh  
because  
we're  
happy..we're  
happy  
because we  
laugh



**BLACK**



**WHITE**

**F.Y.I.**



The Namibian Tourism has arranged for The Save the Rhino Trust to be present at the Namibian stand in Berlin.

Background Information on the Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) in our next issue!!

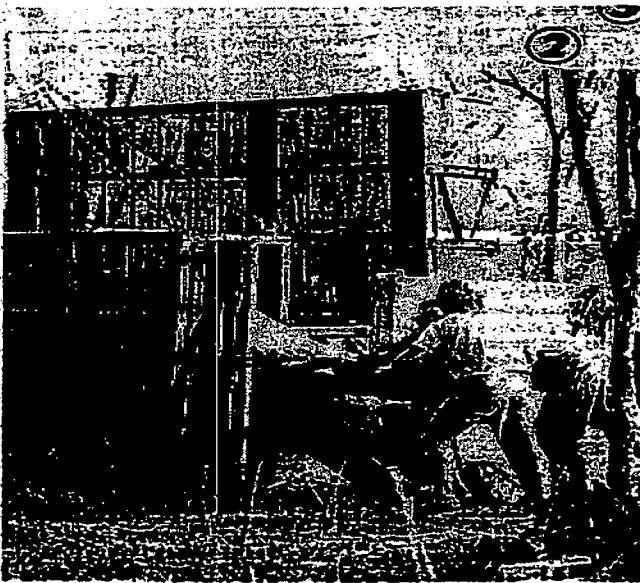
→ sorry, if incorrect!!

## THE WORK BEING DONE IN THE FIELD

**1 Security:** Extensive resources are required to counter poaching activities. Most success has been achieved by armed units deployed in areas near rhino populations. Such guards have been employed privately or by government. Here, Department of National Parks and Wild Life Management staff are pictured after arresting a poacher and finding a stash of rhino horns buried under a hut, in Zimbabwe's Sengwa district.



**2 Translocation:** It has become common practice in rhino conservation efforts to translocate animals into more secure areas, usually either private conservancies or government parks (sometimes called Intensive Protection Zones). Such exercises require wildlife veterinarians to dart the animal, which is often loaded into a capture crate (pictured in Zimbabwe's Midlands province) for transportation. At the destination, it is usually kept in secure, 'boma' for monitoring following the move, and to help familiarize it with its new environment prior to release.



### 3 De-horning and Radio-collaring:

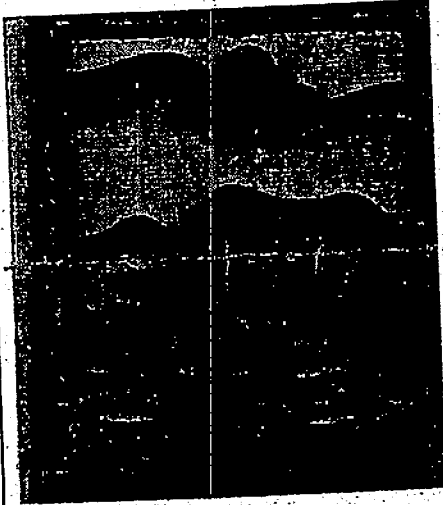
A program of de-horning rhinos has been run in many African countries, working on the theory that if the rhino has no horn, the poachers would not kill it. In this process, the horns are removed with a saw while the animal is sedated - it feels no pain and the horn does grow back. Often, radio collars have also been fitted, to facilitate tracking of the rhino. In this picture, a dehorned young black rhino is shown, in a boma, after being fitted with a radio collar.



[per Esmond Bradley Martin and Lucy Vigne, 1998]

## RHINO BUY\$\$\$\$

3-D style rhinos available in: Goldstone, Tiger Eye, Red Jasper, Leopard Skin Jasper, Aventine and Blue Dumortierite. \$5 each. They mail very well. We sell about 30 different animals in 5 or more stones each. Thanks, Colette Smith  
<cls@indra.com>

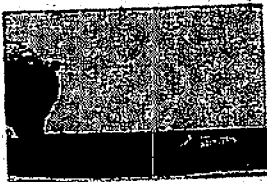


**Night Light Box** in white cedar or redwood. (9x6x4) You provide the rhino picture and Jim will create an original for you. Two panels included. Box is \$30. Panels are \$6 (you get 2!) Contact Jim & Judy Howell, 800-200-9740.

Copper Cutts provides rhino pins and magnets. Thin sheets of copper are laminated to wood. Intricate designs & inlays are cut by hand then soaked in an acid bath changing the color of the copper to a rich turquoise green. Contact: Keith Birlingmair, 520.720.4809.

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