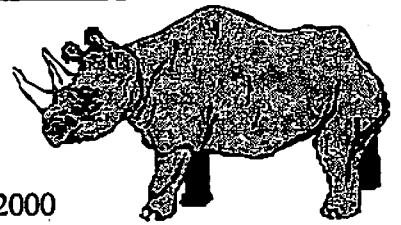


REALLY, RHINOS!



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WHITE RHINOS prefer grass to anything else. They are grazers and like to spend hours quietly chomping grass.

The front horn on a rhino's head is always longer than the rear horn. The White rhinos have the longest horn of any species.

All rhinos like to go into the water, but the Asian rhinos like it best of all. They are all excellent swimmers. **INDIAN** and **SUMATRAN** rhinos can swim across very wide rivers with no trouble at all.

Of all the Asian rhinos, the Indian is the largest, the Javan is second in size, and the Sumatran is smallest.

The **SUMATRAN** rhino is the only species that has hair on its body.

There are **5 species of rhinos**: two live in Africa (blacks and whites) and three live in Asia (Indian, Sumatran and Javan)

A Black rhino does not have any front teeth.

Black rhinos have no hair on their skin, except on the tip of their ears and tails and their eyelashes.

In a zoo, the rhinoceros eats about 100 lbs. of hay, grains, fruit, and yellow vegetables every day.

A group of rhinos is called a **CRASH**.

Powder made from rhino horn - poached and sold illegally - is used as a fever reducing agent, and in the treatment of headaches, heart and liver troubles, and skin disease. In the Middle East, primarily in Yemen, rhino horn is used to carve traditional dagger handles known as *jambiyas*.

Do rhinos really stamp out forest fires? If you saw the movie, "The Gods Must Be Crazy," you've probably been wondering



The white rhino is a social animal that likes to live in herds. The black rhino likes to be by itself and is more grouchy.

Rhinos love to take mud and dust baths. This cools them and keeps away biting insects.

Of an estimated 100,000 rhinos in the late 1960's, there are now 11,000 - a loss of 90% of the world's population in under 30 years.

In 1959, one rhinoceros, a female, was elected with 50,000 votes to the city council of Brazil's Sao Paulo.

secretly about this, but have been too afraid to ask. So you can go back to leading a normal life, here's the answer:

Some people believe that the myth of the **UNICORN** began with the one-horned rhinos of Asia. Hundreds of years ago, people in Europe didn't know what a rhino looked like. So, when they heard stories from travelers about an animal in Asia that had only one horn, they may have assumed that the animal looked like horse. When they put a horse and one horn together, they invented the unicorn.

Rhinos have been known to charge through campfires scattering smoldering logs. This mysterious and erratic behavior is an indirect result of poor eyesight. It occurs at night when the flames stand out and probably frighten the rhino, causing it to plow through the logs. Several incidents of this have actually been reported.

Photo Credit: Ken Wilman Smith



Photo © Young adult male eastern white rhino 'Nobbi' in Garabula National Park.

THE DECLINE IN RHINOS IN EASTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA

Esmond Martin and Kes Hillman Smith

[Pachyderm No.27, Jan-Dec, 1999, pp.76-85]

Traders in Omdurman and Khartoum in Sudan have been buying and selling rhino horns for decades and continue to do so. From the 1960s until the early 1980s most of the horns came from the thousands of rhinos killed in southern Sudan, eastern Africa, the Central African republic (CAR) and in and around Garamba National Park in Zaire (renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo, DRC in mid-1998). In Omdurman in Sudan, some of the horns were crafted into items such as boxes, cups, walking stick handles and rings and sold to Sudanese people. The majority of horns, however, were exported from Khartoum and Port Sudan to Yemen for the making of traditional dagger (jambiya) handles.

RECENT POACHING OF GARAMBA'S RHINOS

In the 1970s and early 1980s the heaviest commercial poaching of rhinos in Garamba and elsewhere in eastern and central Africa occurred. In 1984 several international conservation organizations established the Garamba Project to rehabilitate Garamba National Park and to conserve the northern white rhino. Until 1991 Park staff greatly reduced poaching in general; only a small number of animals were killed for their meat in the north of the Park. This concentrated the elephants and rhinos in the better-protected southern sector, close to the headquarters at Nagero. In 1991 the civil war in adjacent Sudan moved to the south of that country.

After 1991, the killing of large mammals increased as there were more people armed with automatic weapons and more ammunition. Poaching gangs increased in size, and since 1994 the gangs also used hand grenades against guards. Monitoring results shows that the majority of poachers were Sudanese. The principal reason for poaching was for meat from the large mammals. The first known confirmed rhino killing since 1984, the start of the Garamba project, was in February 1996. He was a prime adult male, M5 "Bawesi". Meat as well as horn was taken from him. On March 23, 1996 a young, pregnant female, 3aF "Juillet" ran into poachers and was killed. They only had time to take the horn before escaping from

the anti-poaching unit. Not long afterwards, a report was received of rhino horn offered for sale in Maridi.

Two rhinos were confirmed killed during and following the Liberation War (1996-97) which removed President Mobutu's regime. In March 1997, a young adult male, 1a/4aM "Channel 2" was killed and his horns were taken. Two guards were accused and arrested. In November 1997, when Park guards attacked a Sudanese poacher's camp they found the posterior horn of the adult female F4 "Boletina". The anterior horn was not recovered and was probably taken by the poachers. A further three sub-adult rhinos may have been lost during the war, but four rhinos were born, taking the population from a minimum of 27 in December 1996 to a minimum of 26 in May 1998. It is thanks to the diligence of the Park guards and continued support from international donors that rhino losses were not more.

RHINO HORN TRADE SURVEY IN KHARTOUM AND OMDURMAN

In November 1997, Esmond Martin carried out the first survey of souvenir stores and workshops for rhino horn and ivory in the Omdurman-Khartoum area of northern Sudan and was offered for sale five rhino horns. The first horn seen was from a white rhino. According to the Omdurman broker who brought it to be seen at a souvenir shop in Khartoum, it had been obtained about a year earlier from Nimule town in southern Sudan. (The nearby Nimule National Park has had no rhinos since about 1972). This horn was in very good condition as, according to the broker, it had been taken from the animal while still just alive. Another Sudanese wildlife trader also had said that a horn from a still living rhino was more valuable, claiming that when a rhino is agitated, more blood rises to its head and horn, adding some red coloring to the horn. When the rhino is dead, however, the horn goes blacker, reducing its value in Sudan. The broker claimed he had never tried to sell a rhino horn before. The souvenir shop owner was very nervous that someone might see it, as the sale of rhino horns has been illegal for many years in Sudan.

The second horn was seen in a prominent souvenir shop in Omdurman. The horn was very dry and probably old and could have been either from a black or white rhino. The broker was brought the horn to the shop said it was eight years old. A European visitor then entered the shop and saw the horn on the counter and strongly criticized the shopkeeper, yet the shopkeeper was unperturbed and eventually put the horn in his safe to reduce attention to the incident. As the shopkeeper spread the word that a western foreigner was interested in rhino horns, then next morning an army officer, acting as a broker, appeared in the shop saying he too could bring a horn, but due to security reasons only at noon. He returned on schedule with a white rhino horn. There were tiny holes at the top and bottom and on the base probably made by horn borers. The horn had probably been found in the bush. Unlike the other two horns, the broker for this one refused photographs to be taken of it in case the authorities found out. The shopkeeper said that most buyers of the rhino horns brought to his shop were South Korean and Chinese. Later in the day in the same shop, another broker offered to bring the next day two horns weighing 4.5 kilos in total. Apparently, one had been obtained eight months ago and the other a year ago. The shop owner said afterwards that this broker and the army officer were offering their horns on behalf of the same owner. Another westerner interested in wildlife conservation and a collector of Sudanese artifacts was shown earlier in 1997 two rhino horns for sale. One of them was weighed; it was 450 grams.

PRICES FOR RHINO HORN

The asking price for the 450-gram horn seen in early 1997 was \$1,960 per kilo. Only the first broker was willing to reduce his price slightly. This broker wrongly stated that its price in Yemen was \$5,000 a kilo, when in fact it is about \$1,200 a kilo. The two other horns that were not seen were, as expected by this stage, \$3,500 a kilo. African traders try to sell rhino horns quickly. There has been no tradition in tropical Africa for businessmen to stockpile rhino horns. The merchants have to pay a poacher or his agent for the horns immediately on receipt so they need to sell them fairly quickly to recoup their costs. The main poaching gang leader also has

to pay off his men, and other relevant expenses, so he too wants his money as soon as possible. Neither is there evidence of businessmen in tropical Africa speculating on a price increase for rhino horn by holding back significant quantities from the market. This has been fortunate for traders since the mid-1980s as the import price for rhino horn in Yemen has remained the same in US dollars since 1985 and in eastern Asia the price peaked in 1990 and actually fell in the early 1990s. Thus, a Sudanese businessman speculating on the price of rhino horn in Yemen from 1985 to the present would have lost in hard currency by delaying his sale. He needed to sell the horn quickly as possible to maximize his financial returns.

RHINO HORN BY-PRODUCTS FOR SALE

Besides the three raw horns seen, two rhino horn by-products were offered for sale in Omdurman/Khartoum in late 1997: finger rings and powder (from ground up horn). There were four very thin rings seen, weighing less than 10 grams each. They had been crafted in Omdurman probably over 20 years ago, according to the shopkeepers. One souvenir store in Omdurman had three of the rings for \$17 each and a shop in Khartoum offered the other ring for \$23. Curiously, both shopkeepers wore rhino horn rings as well. The store in Omdurman also sold rhino horn powder for \$0.37 a gram. The main customers for this are northern Sudanese who mix the powder with water, which they drink to cure snake bite poisoning.

RHINO HORN TRADE IN EGYPT

In neighboring Egypt, the main dealer in rhino horn, who has an ivory shop in Cairo's largest market, the Khan al-Khalili, knows the price for rhino horn in Yemen. During an investigation of the markets carried out by Esmond Martin in 1998, the dealer showed an old black rhino horn weighing two kilos. He had bought it a month earlier from a formerly wealthy Cairo family who had the horn displayed as a trophy on their wall. He said he also received horns from Egyptian dealers. Many of these horns probably have come via Khartoum/Omdurman as does most of the raw ivory reaching Egypt. His main buyers are Yemenis and Omanis, and one Kuwaiti who regularly purchases small pieces of horn to make into worry beads (!)

Egypt for export to Kuwait for le. Another shop owner sells ino horns in Cairo, but he ofn overprices them and thus lls his horns slowly. Traditional edicine shops in the Khan al halili claim to sell rhino horn ower to Egyptians. They conme it with milk to cure blood oisoning and snake bites as in idan. One of the oldest and rgest traditional medicine ops in Cairo, established over 10 years ago, has a drawer labled in both Arabic and English "Rhinoceros Horn". However, e drawer contained only pieces antelope horn that were priced \$1.47 a gram; the shop manger said he had no rhino horn ymore.

ONCLUSION

nce civil disturbances continue the Garamba area, as well as vil war in neighboring southn Sudan, Park officials find it ifficult to protect the minimum 5 white rhinos counted in pril/May 1998. Although the achers' main purpose is to kill r meat, they also destroy elphants and rhinos for their usks and horns due to the relaely high price they can obtain r them. Even if prices halved, oachers would still continue to ill rhinos and elephants, along ith other large mammals, for e sale of meat, as the Congoe and Sudanese in the area are o poor. The protection of aramba National Park from us heavy poaching pressure us remains a difficult chalenge.

If the demand for rhino orn in Yemen would further deine with improved law enforceent and the help of substitutes, en the threat of serious future

commercial poaching on the rhinos could be reduced. Meanwhile, adequate anti-poaching work for Garamba's rhinos remains essential. Only if civil unrest in the area ends soon and sufficient support is received, so that the Park can be protected properly once more, can the rare northern white rhino, the last viable population in Africa, be saved.

AWAKENING

by Jill Dianne Henderson

Once, on a blue silk summer's day,
soft as a thistle's down,
I climb aboard my rhino and
we gallop out of town.

We soar over the mountain's crest
where snow crystals are born,
then sweep down from the pinnacle
while I cling to his horn.

Skimming above the forest green
of spruce and pine and firs,
we search for signs of life below
but nothing even stirs.

Silence now echos through these woods
where once wild beats did roam.
No lilting bird song fills the air;
no creature calls it home.

We glide across the crescent dunes
of burnt orange desert sand,
while rushing rivers carve their names
deep in the canyon land.

No foot prints crush the crimson soil
No traces, scats, or scents
disturb the intense solitude,
devoid of life's events.

Now cruising on a westward breeze,
we set sail for the short
where frothy spray spangles the sky
as silver breakers roar.

The sea is filled with emptiness;
the surf rolls on alone.
No denizen plies briny deep,
bound toward ports unknown.

Once fertile plains stretched endlessly
under a golden sun.
Earth trembled 'neath the pounding
hooves
of yearly migration.

Water evaporates to dust;
bleached bones litter the ground.
Around the globe, a haunted hush
is all that we have found.

My steed wings on through space and
time;
pain glistens in his eyes.
I bemoan that life has vanished,
but he shows no surprise.

His gray hide bears the wrinkles of
a hundred million years,
as if the weight of the whole world
was deepening his fear.

If men would poach the rhino clan
for horn worth more than gold,
is any creature really safe
when greed makes hunters bold?

Some species we don't kill with guns,
but use them as we please.
We fence them in or fence them out
and slay them by degrees.

Can balance be achived if we
disdain the common good?
Have laws of nature been ignored
or just misunderstood?

We're swept into an angry storm
on wind that howls and sneers.
Suddenly the lightening strikes
and raindrops fall like tears.

When thunder crashes all around
and wakes me from my dreams,
I open wide my sleep-filled eyes
and wonder what it means.

Then knowledge dawns like morning
light.
Deep in my heart I know
all life deserves utmost respect,
a gift we should bestow

to every inhabitant
encircling this green earth.
only when the chain's been broken,
will we discern it's worth.

And regard for other creatures,
no matter large or small,
translates to love for humankind-
diversity and all.

~Jill lives in Littleton, Colorado with
her artist husband, Michel, and
dreams of publishing a children's book
someday.

1870. 1871. 1872.

1873. 1874.

1875. 1876. 1877. 1878. 1879. 1880.

1881. 1882. 1883. 1884. 1885. 1886.

1887. 1888. 1889. 1890. 1891. 1892.

1893. 1894. 1895. 1896. 1897. 1898.

1899. 1900. 1901. 1902. 1903. 1904.

1905. 1906. 1907. 1908. 1909. 1910.

1911. 1912. 1913. 1914. 1915. 1916.

1917. 1918. 1919. 1920.

Where does your subscription go?

This issue highlights one of the worthy conservation projects that YOU were able to help fund. Keep subscribing to *Really, Rhinos!* and get your rhino friends to do the same and together we can make a difference!

Rhino Encyclopedia in the Works

Dr. Kees Rookmaaker is developing a comprehensive rhino encyclopedia. The will be in alphabetical order, and cross-references can easily be made. It would be my aim to present all knowledge gained thus far in as objective a manner as possible, presenting all the different opinions and ideas about each subject. Readers will have the opportunity to draw their own conclusions from the data as they are presented and my own judgements on the various issues will be kept in the background as far as possible.

Available Literature

During the past thirty years I have been actively engaged in collecting references to the rhinoceroses in the literature, scientific, cultural and historical. Over 5500 books, papers and short passages in books have been assembled and are easily available. This includes at least five hundred references in books published before 1800, seven hundred issued during the 19th century, while over three thousand appeared between 1950 and the present. While the compilation of the Encyclopedia is progressing, it is obvious that some lacunae will be found and that some further work in libraries is required. However, at least the greatest part of the published records on the rhinoceros is available and can be incorporated in this Encyclopedia.

The Author

As a biologist with historical interest trained at universities in Amsterdam and Utrecht, I should be able to interpret and summarize the reports about the rhinoceros in all its aspects. That is not to say that I would be an expert in each specialist field. For that reason, first the results on the various aspects will be documented objectively, and secondly an Advisory Board of rhinoceros specialists will be constituted to assist in each area of their expertise. I have studied various aspects of rhinoceros literature during the past thirty years, resulting in over twenty publications, including three books of re-

lated interest: *Bibliography of the Rhinoceros* (1983), *The Zoological exploration of Southern Africa* (1989) and *The Rhinoceros in captivity* (1998).

Project Duration

The research for and the writing of the Encyclopedia will take three years up to proof stage if the project can be done full time.

The Expected Result

The Encyclopedia of the Rhinoceros will be a large book which treats every subject of rhinoceros biology, culture and history in alphabetical order. The language will be English throughout, meaning that passages originally in other languages will be presented in translation or in summary. As much as possible (depending on copyright restrictions), original tables and photographs and art work will be used for illustrations. The Encyclopedia will be a source of information for the biologists and specialists for whom it is primarily intended, as well as to the general public who can refer to the subjects of their interest. An electronic version can also be considered. The Encyclopedia will be a summary of anything ever written on the rhinoceros.

"I am in the process of reviewing the historical as well as current distribution and status of the rhinoceros all over the world. There are many possible sources of information, like published reports, specimens preserved in museums or private collections, and photographs in archives. However, there must be many tourists and local residents in the various countries who have seen or photographed rhinos during their travels into the more inaccessible parts of the globe. Any information of rhino sightings or shootings will be welcome, especially reports outside the normal tourist circuits or from dates before 1960. If at all possible, I would like to know when and where the animal was seen (as exactly as possible) and if any photographs would be available. All replies will be treated confidentially and, if requested, will be kept anonymous in any resulting publications."

Please direct all replies to:

Dr Kees Rookmaaker, P.O.Box 124, North Riding, South Africa (fax + 27 11 454 0559)
maaker@mweb.co.za

Ever hear the expression, "Cool beans!?" (meaning wow, super, way cool, etc.) Now you can have your very own 'cool beans' (yet another beanie baby knock off) named Rah Rah who is "best known for cheering his team to victory. From Jungle University, playing the position of benchwarmer." My RahRah wears a Dolphins t-shirt. Other teams may be possible. Contact: Don Loving, Oregon Sports. (503) 538.0793 OreSports@aol.com



Are you a rhino or a mouse? Well... mouse pad (or t-shirt!) Heat-transferred images, art work by Diana Lee are available. Other animals too, but you just want rhinos, right? T-shirts cost \$11.99 (\$1.50 extra for sizes XXL and XXXL) and mouse pads are \$6.99 (+\$3.20). Contact diana@dianalee.com www.DianaLee.com (707) 568.5889



"We can now reach the planets & are remarkably adept at destroying life on our own planet. But we cannot create life & if we destroy our world are we fit to go to another? If this century has been the one of increased knowledge let's hope the next will be the one in which we learn to use it to acquire a bit of wisdom."
~Anna Merz

Are rhinos welcome at your house? Let your neighbors know it immediately with a hand-made rhino welcome sign by Karen Higgins. You don't need to have cows and ducks and chickens to have a countrified home. Contact Karen at: (800) 805.DOGS or khiggins@karenhigginsdogart.com



In the next issue, read about rhino paleontology including prehistoric rhino roaming in Nebraska. Actual 60 million year old rhino artifacts will be for sale. Watch for it!



RUSSELAS



Remember the delightful children's story, Russelas? Chryssee Martin recently informed me that a rhino born a year and a half ago in Nairobi National Park has been named *Russelas*! (If you want to purchase a copy of this book, let me know!)

A one year quarterly subscription to *Really, Rhinos!* is still \$20 (\$25 foreign). Make check payable to Judyth Lessee. 100% of each subscription is donated to rhino conservation projects. Send feedback or rhino citations to: *Really, Rhinos!*, PO Box 40503, Tucson, AZ 85717-0503. Phone: (520) 327-9048. e-mail: rinophyl@rtd.com. www.infospace.com/lessee1 (Patience; we're working on it!!)

If you find errors, please know they are printed for those who always look for them. We try to print something for everybody.

Really, Rhinos!
PO Box 40503
Tucson, AZ 85 717-0503

Greetings!