

A Symbol of Sexual and Magical Power



THE broken horn — worth a fortune. Average retail price for a kilo of rhino of this year was around \$11,000. — Photo: Camerapix.

...one enormous drawback in survival. Perched above their sense mass of hair compacted ... the much prized horn. ... sexual potency and endowed ... magical properties (for so it is ... the horn commands a fabulous ... medical markets of the ...

... in Asia are now so depleted in ... that Africa has become the "producer" with the result that ... rhino species are now under ... pressure. In parts of East Africa ... population is 90% and even ... just a few years ago. ... horn, however, finds its way ... of the gullible and exploiters ... in eastern countries. North ... recently been importing (1976 ... a tonnage of horn equivalent to ... rhinos a year. ... a relatively new phenomenon ... the new-found wealth of ... oil workers. The dagger or ... status symbol in the Yemen. A ... handle is one carved ... horn — which more and more ... are able to afford, even though it ... up to \$6000. ... demand for Indian ... is so much greater than for ... species that it has driven up ... species that it has driven up ... to phenomenal heights — ... \$17,000 per kilo retail — and ... in supply exacerbates the ...

Edmond Bradley Martin

... what is a crisis situation IUCN ... have launched a *Save the Rhino* ... in an all-out effort to save this ... of a distant age. As with the ... the emphasis is on Africa and on ... countries in Africa where the ... has been greatest. ... study *International Trade in ... Products* has been conducted by ... Martin — consultant to the SSC ... Group. And elsewhere in this ... Hillman, Chairwoman of ... reports on the gravity of ... situation and the corrective ... must be taken. ... at least the past 15 years South ... has been a major supplier of horn ... Far East. In 1978 Japan officially ... 150 kilos at just over \$300 a kilo ... an 186 kilos at \$86 a kilo. ...

Edmond Bradley Martin

... corrective steps have already been ... banks to highly successful fund- ... by many different conserva- ... — in particular a number of ...

WWF National Organisations led by the Netherlands — anti-poaching squads in some of the most critical areas are now more realistically equipped to deal with "the enemy".

The enemy? The term is surely warranted.

There is not a single country in West or Central Africa which is exporting ivory in accordance with the provisions of CITES, in particular in relation to Article IV which calls for the establishment of a Scientific Authority which can certify whether or not exports constitute a threat to populations of the species concerned.

Nevertheless CITES and Zaire's ivory-export ban have had some effect. News of the seizure of illegal ivory in Hong Kong, France and Germany has caused several of the major traders to quit trading in ivory. This causes little distress as they have plenty of other business. Few if any of the primary producers (hunters/poachers) subsist on ivory alone. Furthermore the major airlines will no longer carry ivory out of Zaire which imposes an additional burden on the traffickers.

Next to the horn the most widely used part of the rhino is its skin. In Singapore, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and Thailand, people believe in its efficacy for curing skin diseases and occasionally for relieving rheumatic pains and blood disorders.

Edmond Bradley Martin

Better equipment, more patrolmen, even higher pay — all will help boost the morale of those in the field. But the biggest and best morale booster of all is the knowledge of full-hearted government support — meaning that at no level is corruption tolerated and that at all levels the law is enforced with the courts imposing penalties intended to deter the poacher rather than too often at present merely to encourage him.

Happily there are clear signs that governments are now genuinely supporting their field workers. Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia have all given total protection to the rhinoceros and made their positions very plain in recent ministerial statements. Kenya and Tanzania are now parties to CITES and so should no longer be exporting rhino horn. (Kenya in particular was formerly exporting enormous quantities.) It is to be hoped that the courts will be similarly stern with offenders.

In determining action priorities on behalf of Africa's rhinos IUCN has adopted four main criteria: a government's willingness to act; the existence and enforcement of strong laws; the presence of a viable rhino population; the urgency of the need for action. Nine countries have accordingly been singled out for assistance: Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Mozambique, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zaire and Zambia.

The family *Rhinocerotidae* has been reduced in one form or another for 60,000 years. During that time there have been 34 different species. Of these only five have escaped through the evolutionary mills as being "fit for survival". But of course evolutionary fitness is nowadays no guarantee of continued existence.

With the rhino join the ever-lengthening list of animals which, though perfectly adapted to life and entirely well suited within their natural domain, are made extinct by the "unnatural" artificial world.

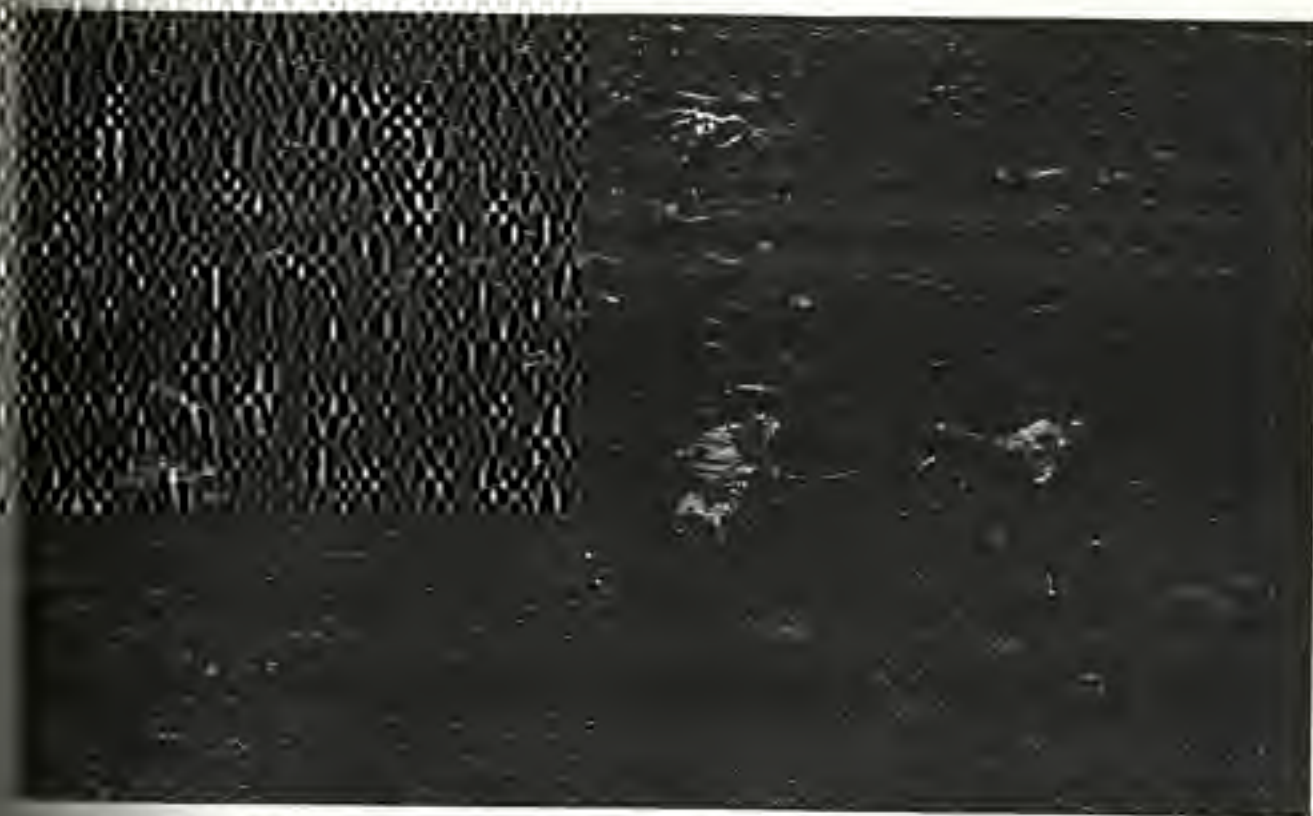
Wildlife

... been alarmed. In any case it is ... punish offenders because it ... that in the interests of ... people may not be ... committed during the ...

...-quip national parks and ... has been submitted to the ... de Développement. It ... the two national parks ... which, before the sta- ... constituted the ...'s conservation system. ... plight of large animals in ... would be advisable for ... and a mission to evaluate ... and to help establish a ... conservation strategy.

... Those in the forefront of the fight to protect the big game of Africa may have to contend with armed gangs who do not scruple to kill any person who comes between them and their lucrative prey. (On page 4 appears an obituary of Tanzanian game warden, Njiru Lushere, killed by poachers. His story shows just what the conservationists are up against — and the price they may be called upon to pay.)

For game warden and warden the financial reward can pay the momentary risk with the risk. No would they wish to be. These men are doing what they are doing because of that love it would be too far from their (eye of mercy). All the same, where wages are totally cut off from the state of the animals they are called upon to risk their lives for, turning a blind eye (for a "consideration") to the deeds of poachers must sometimes be a powerful temptation. The amazing thing is that so few succumb.



ALL that was left of the slaughtered five white rhino in Meru after poachers set fire to the Park's savannah and bush.

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northern race of white rhinos (*C.s.*) reduced to relict populations probably less than 1000 in southern Sudan, Uganda, northern Zaire. They are badly in need of improved protection. White rhinos (*Ceratotherium simum*) in South Africa were reduced to a relict population, but protection has led to such healthy numbers that nearly 2500 have been translocated to zoos and reserves and approximately the same number remain elsewhere. It has even been necessary to reduce the numbers of those not in demand for export by controlled breeding.

In this country, the status, the distribution and the needs vary. In Angola rhinos probably number in the hundreds and are almost certainly increasing. The amount of poaching across the border indicates a substantial population. Mr. van der Stoep and a visit by a European representative is being investigated. About 50 southern white rhinos were introduced into Oshana province, apparently thriving, but less than 100 are thought to remain.

There are possibly just over 1000 in the north. They are protected from hunting since 1974, but the Minister for Wildlife is aware that the habitat must be improved as well. Pierre Plafier for the country in March to 1975.

Black rhinos are believed to number less than 500. They are in the north. Northern white rhinos are in the east of the country, but there is about them and there are areas within their probable range.

Black and no white rhinos

remain in Chad, and the poaching is serious and increasing. In Ethiopia, a few black rhinos were seen during 1979 in the region of the proposed Omo National Park, but none are known from elsewhere in the country.

In Kenya a large proportion of the remaining 1500 (or fewer) are in the more forested areas. Protection policies centre around increased anti-poaching, consolidation of existing conserved areas and translocation to safer areas. Education, research and stricter control of illicit trade are backing up these priorities.

Malawi has between 20 and 50 black rhinos, mostly in Kasungu National Park. They have possibly been increasing in recent years, but the commercial value of horn is less there than in East Africa and the density of rhinos is so low that poaching is barely worth the effort and law enforcement is reasonably effective.

A few hundred black rhinos occur in northern Mozambique, where some of the area is proposed as Rovuma National Park and a survey requested. About 70 southern white rhinos inhabit the Maputo, Manhiça and Limpopo areas. Namibia contains 200 black rhinos. Of these, approximately 100 in the National Park are relatively secure, but the rest in Karakoland and Damaraland are declining rapidly under large-scale poaching. Between 850 and 1350 black rhinos and 165 to 165 white rhinos exist in Zimbabwe, 95% of them in protected areas. The white are increasing and the black rhinos are stable or have decreased only slowly due to the war. There is at present no hunting although it could legally be done in safari areas at the discretion of the minister.

In Rwanda there are between 20 and 30 black rhinos in Akagera National Park. This population has developed. The main threat is that of problems arising from inbreeding: it is hoped to introduce a few more animals from outside. Black rhinos occur in the south of Somalia, apparently

under little poaching pressure, but details await the results of a survey.

Approximately 480 black rhinos exist in South African parks, reserves and private ranches and are increasing. Two-thirds of these are in the Hluhluwe/Mfolozi corridor complex. The populations in Hluhluwe and Mkuazi Reserves are apparently not increasing for reasons which are unclear. However some have been successfully reintroduced to Kruger National Park and further reintroductions are planned. Southern white rhinos in South Africa have been increasing at a rate of 8% - 10% a year and have supplied many zoos and other reserves. The population is estimated at 2200, largely in Natal.

Sudan is one of the few areas where northern white rhinos remain in reasonable numbers - between 500 and 600. But nowhere are they at high densities and improvement in their conservation status is badly needed. It has been suggested that an area close to the Shambe Game Reserve should be developed as a white rhino sanctuary. Much of the present Shambe Reserve has been lost to human settlement driven inland by the rising water, and many of the rhinos have recently been slain by poachers. There are probably well under 500 black rhinos in very sporadic distribution and decreasing numbers.

In Tanzania there are possibly between 1000 and 9000 black rhinos, of which at least 3000 to 4000 are in the Selous Game Reserve region. Aerial census by Douglas-Hamilton in 1976 estimated 2200 and 2700 on separate counts and for rhinos such censuses are always low. However, even density is still less than 0.1 per square kilometre. In northern Tanzania the black rhinos have been hard hit by poaching. In Manyara National Park there were considered to be at least 60 in 1976. Now there are less than a dozen and two have apparently been killed in the past four months. In Tarangire, the population was estimated at 250 in 1974.

many wildlife species have been poached followed by the side-effects of liberation war. Black rhinos and the low tens remain in Kibale National Park, which has been less affected and would become the focus of poaching pressure. In Kibale National Park they have been drastically reduced. A ground-sweep survey in early 1981. Poaching by the army has largely ceased, but as there is still local poaching for trophies, rhinos are at such risk that they are not the main focus. White rhinos introduced to the park were seen recently near the indigenous white rhinos on the banks of the Nile, it is doubtful if they exist outside Aji's sanctuary. Improving the conservation services are needed in Uganda.

rhinos have been reported from the park. The main concentration of white rhinos is in Garumba Park and surrounding areas. In the park, but it is likely that the population of 400 was reduced since.

An aerial census was made last year. Correcting for inevitable undercounting, we estimated at least 3500 to 4500 rhinos in the park, probably more. There are between 350 and 800 rhinos in the country. Rhinos and other animals have been poached for meat. Commercial poaching is beginning to be small but very effective anti-

poaching force is being established in Luangwa Valley funded by the Rhino Campaign.

The types of conservation measures needed vary between countries according to the problems, policies, resources and the national rhino situation. A comprehensive strategy of being prepared with priority settings. In some cases, these are worked out in detail by working groups in the countries concerned — as with Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia. In other cases they are put together through visits and correspondence by Mr. Ellis Mooka and Major Ian Greenwood who is WWF honorary representative to the Rhino Campaign.

Consolidation of Reserves into parks and reserves — removing them from areas where they are particularly vulnerable — is occasionally necessary. This is happening in Kenya. However, when the local population is minute the operation is not very cost-effective. A higher priority must therefore be improved protection for rhinos already existing in conserved areas and the creation of new conserved areas.

Sometimes the solution may be to upgrade existing reserves. In Sudan, for example, which is of the few countries where northern white rhinos remain in any numbers, it is suggested that the Shambe Reserve become a rhino conservation area. This would involve giving it national park status, redefining boundaries and building up an effective management unit.

Simply increasing anti-poaching equipment in many areas, though necessary, is not enough. More staff and equipment are needed but so is more effective use of

existing equipment. Back-up maintenance cannot be ignored.

Motivation and leadership have also proved to be vital. When it is possible for one kilo of rhino horn to fetch the equivalent of eight years' minimum wages, the men who are policing the situation need to be highly motivated. They also need proper support in the courts. In some cases corruption, or merely a feeling that wildlife offences are not really important, can lead to ludicrously small sentences for arrested poachers. For example, a Zambian poacher arrested with six tusks, was fined less than one-third of what he had sold the tusks for, while another who sold tusks for several thousand dollars, was fined \$154. Stern sentences and strict control of export are therefore an integral part of prevention of poaching.

Despite the urgent need for conservation action, the value of research should not be ignored. Apart from providing the information necessary for wise conservation and management, the presence of a researcher constantly in contact with rhinos or other wildlife has in itself a policing effect, and his interests can centre attention on the specific needs in an area. For these reasons the warden of Serengeti National Park gives high priority to finding a researcher on rhinos.

Studies with a practical orientation could aid development of Shambe National Park, Sudan-Kerrarah in Luangwa Valley Zambia would also be valuable. We know very little of the far-reaching effects on population dynamics of reduction of rhinos to very low density.

Official imports of rhino horn into Japan — 1978

Weight	Value	Price per kg
367 kg	\$110,342	\$301
350 kg	\$108,389	\$309
120 kg	\$40,200	\$335
120 kg	\$6,532	\$54
Total: 853 kg	Total: \$265,461	Average: \$308

Official imports of rhino horn into Taiwan — 1978

Weight	Value	Price per kg
166 kg	\$14,341	\$86
84 kg	\$9,057	\$108
12 kg	\$1,379	\$115
843 kg	\$49,366	\$59
Total: 905 kg	Total: \$74,103	Average: \$82

Rhino-product shops in the Far East

of the larger traditional Chinese medicine shops - 1979

Number of shops examined	Number selling rhino products
15	8 (53%)
15	11 (73%)
9	7 (78%)
9	9 (100%)
23	12 (52%)
5	3 (60%)
76	50 (66%)

retail prices of rhino horn per kilo - 1979

Type	Price
Almost all African	\$11,615
Almost all African	\$11,103
Almost all African	\$4,127
African	\$1,596
Indian	\$17,090
Mostly Sumatran	\$3,654
Sumatran	\$11,764
Average: \$ 8,707	

Africa's rhino populations

Black rhino *Diceros bicornis*

Angola:	low hundreds
Botswana:	under 80
Cameroun:	c.100
CAR:	at least 1000
Chad:	very few
Ethiopia:	a few
Kenya:	under 1500
Malawi:	20-50
Mozambique:	low hundreds
Namibia:	c.190
Rwanda:	20-40
Somalia:	a few
Sudan:	under 500
Tanzania:	4000-9000
Uganda:	low tens
Zaire:	probably extinct
Zambia:	under 5000
Zimbabwe:	850-1350

Northern white rhino

<i>Ceratotherium simum cottoni</i>	
CAR:	probably a few
Sudan:	500-600
Uganda:	very few
Zaire:	under 400

Southern white rhino

<i>Ceratotherium simum simum</i>	
Botswana:	c.50
Mozambique:	c.60
South Africa:	2200
Zimbabwe:	c.160