

- 🐘 Dehorning is a painless, fast procedure with the only risk to the animal being the use of anaesthetics.
- 🐘 With a legal trade in rhino horn, rhino farming will play an instrumental role in alleviating poverty in Southern Africa – one of the biggest threats to rhino populations and to global biodiversity in general.
- 🐘 With a legal trade in rhino horn, rhino farming will create more habitats for rhino, as well as many other threatened wildlife species – habitat destruction is the biggest threat to all wildlife on the planet.
- 🐘 Studies show that rhino breed very well on private farms so encouraging their farming will undoubtedly alter their threatened status.
- 🐘 Emergent black farmers and rural communities can be assisted and taught to farm rhino, leading to community-based wildlife management and addressing the issue of poverty amongst these communities.
- 🐘 Programs can be developed to assist and educate emergent rhino farmers, where, with international funding and guidelines, a holistic approach to rhino farming throughout Africa can be implemented.
- 🐘 As the rhino population increases, these emergent farmers can be assisted through donations of rhino from National Parks or private farmers with surplus numbers of rhino.

Links to success stories

→ Vicuña saved from the brink of extinction – a parallel to the rhino
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,2074156,00.html>
<http://www.bonnydoonalpacas.org/vicunart.html>
<http://www.perc.org/articles/article174.php>
<http://www.thecommonsjournal.org/index.php/ijc/article/view/139/89>

→ Black-footed ferret saved through captive breeding programme
<http://www.blackfootedferret.org/captive-breeding>

→ Whooping crane recovery through innovative ideas and human endeavours
<http://www.nwf.org/Wildlife/Wildlife-Library/Birds/Whooping-Crane.aspx>

MIDLANDS BLACK RHINO CONSERVANCY - Zimbabwe

The Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy Trust (MBRC) is situated in the heart of Zimbabwe. The area consists of 63 000 ha (156 000 acres) of bush and farmland bounded by the Munyati River on the northern boundary and the Sebakwe River on the southern boundary with Lake Sebakwe and its Recreational Park in the middle. It is located 50kms north east of Kwe Kwe which is 200kms south of the country's capital city of Harare.

A group of twelve farms joined together in the late 1980s to form the Conservancy. As well as black rhino a small herd of elephant, pride of lions, a healthy population of leopard and sable and a good cross-section of plains game including kudu, impala, eland, giraffe and zebra are on the conservancy. Each farmer has taken down internal game fence and makes monthly contributions to the cost of anti-poaching activities and protection of the Black Rhino, all other wildlife and the natural environment.

With only a few black rhino in the MBRC it is the intention over the next few years to build up the herd to a sustainable breeding nucleus. Since inception the Conservancy has had the continued support of the UK-based Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust which was set up in 1989 primarily to help conserve black rhinos. Other well-wishers assisted in various forms among which are Toyota Zimbabwe, Save the Rhino Australia and recently Midwest Rhinos Cricket Franchise. As a small organisation with a limited field of operation you can see where every pound, dollar or euro received is spent and how donors are making a real difference to actual events on the ground.

The Trust was instrumental in developing the Sebakwe Conservation and Education Centre located on the southern boundary of the Conservancy. It plays a significant role in wildlife education and community development. Through skilled wildlife and environmental officers it provides courses and practical knowledge on fauna and flora to visiting schools and other educational establishments. Over the past five years community development projects have been undertaken including the construction new schools, drilling of boreholes and the development of health centres and clinics, as well as self-help projects such as bee-keeping. Medical goods, learning materials (books and

writing pads) school furnishings and clothes have also been provided as part of community development by the Conservancy. These community development projects have raised awareness among surrounding communities leading to reduced poaching and environmental degradation.

Aims of the Conservancy:

1. Re-fencing of the Conservancy.
2. Establishment of a sustainable black rhino breeding nucleus.
3. Development of the already present leopard, sable and plains game.
4. Natural habitat education and local community awareness of environment and wildlife.
5. The need to increase scout numbers and have a reliable transport for security for tacking and reaction purposes.

In order to realise these aims MBRC is seeking donations from well-wishers and potential working relationships. MBRC has not lost a rhino for the past five years which is a HUGE accomplishment!!! A new little rhino was actually born on the Conservancy on 18th February 2013!

For further information you are also invited to LIKE our face book page:

<https://www.facebook.com/MidlandsBlackRhinoConservancy?ref=stream>. To find out more about the Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy Trust, look up the website: http://www.blackrhino.org/nmidlands_conservancy.htm

Why poaching pays: a summary of risks and benefits illegal hunters face in Western Serengeti, Tanzania by Eli J. Knapp

Illegal hunting poses a considerable threat to the wildlife of Serengeti National Park and its affiliated protected areas. Techniques for successful mitigation of this threat are heavily debated. Bottom-up community-based initiatives aim to curb poaching by linking local communities with wildlife conservation. Top-down anti-poaching enforcement of protected areas seeks to maintain wildlife populations through fines and prison sentences given to arrested poachers. Poverty stands as the major driver of illegal hunting as households vie for income and sustenance. Livelihoods of illegal hunters have been augmented considerably through revenue generated from bushmeat sales. Illegal hunters use bushmeat both for supplementing household protein and for economic gain. Obtaining bushmeat carries risks in the form of personal injury, fines, and/or prison sentences, if arrested. This paper compares these costs and benefits through a summary of the monetary benefits, bodily injuries, fines, and prison sentences that individuals endured over their poaching careers. Data were collected from 104 individuals, all of whom voluntarily admitted active or recent involvement in illegal hunting activities.

Knapp, E. J. 2012. Why poaching pays: a summary of risks and benefits illegal hunters face in Western Serengeti, Tanzania. *Tropical Conservation Science* Vol. 5(4):434-445. Available online: www.tropicalconservationscience.org

Trade bans: a perfect storm for poaching? By Kirsten Conrad

Since CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) ratification 40 years ago, trade bans have emerged as a principle conservation tool for endangered species. While trade bans have been successful in helping to stabilize populations of certain species, evidence for others suggests that such bans are proving less effective. Looking at three species, the author identifies and explores a conflux of forces that, in the context of a trade ban, may result in an increase of illegal trade, further threatening a species already at risk. These forces include 1) inelastic demand and high profit potential, 2) long history of trade, both legal and illegal, coupled with strong cultural affiliation, 3) ambiguous property rights, 4) negative economic incentives for conservation due to human-animal conflict, and 5) inadequate enforcement. Termed a "Perfect Storm", these forces combine to accelerate the demise of the species. In essence, a trade ban hands a monopoly on commerce to the black market. It is even possible that the trade ban protects the illegal market against competition, suggesting that other conservation tactics warrant consideration. The author concludes that legal, regulated trade needs to be fully investigated using fields of science that have evolved during CITES lifetime to determine if it is a viable tactic for conservation when such conditions exist.

Conrad, K. 2012. Trade bans: a perfect storm for poaching? *Tropical Conservation Science* Vol. 5(3):245-254 Available online: www.tropicalconservationscience.org

Tanzania

One of the biggest challenges for big African wildlife like lions, elephants, and buffalo is movement across native habitat that is increasingly being encroached on by humans. Vanishing Wildlife Corridors in Tanzania are the subject of a new study released in 2012 by a group of researchers. Download the complete text [Vanishing wildlife corridors and options for restoration: a case study from Tanzania](#). *Tropical Conservation Science* Vol. 5(4):463-474.

For hunter-conservationists and all people who are interested in the conservation, management and sustainable use of Africa's wild natural resources. African Indaba is the official CIC Newsletter on African affairs, with editorial independence. For more information about the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation CIC go to www.cic-wildlife.org