



NEWS

SEBAKWE

JANUARY 2000

Reg Charity No. 328461

Editor: John Gripper

CIRCLE G RANCH

Circle G has been purchased by the Government from Mr & Mrs Burke for resettlement under the Land Acquisition Act. This is a 17,500 acre farm in the Midlands, which has been used for cattle ranching integrated with wildlife.

Black Rhino have always liked this farm and usually there are at least 14 rhino on Circle G, where they move between Chinyika and Moreena. There is a concern that if this farm is used for resettlement, then its value for wildlife would be lost and the rhino would have to be removed.

The Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy has been in correspondence with the Government to ascertain the future plans for Circle G. During our recent visit to Zimbabwe in December we were able to meet Dr Tobias Takavarsha, the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture and we also met the Government official responsible for Land Resettlement.

Following these meetings and discussions, we have now submitted a number of alternative proposals on behalf of the Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust that would ensure that Circle G and its black rhino could continue to remain within the Midlands Conservancy.



ADOPTIONS

Thank you to all our supporters who have re-adopted one of our rhino and thank you also to our new adopters. Your support is very encouraging and your donations are currently paying towards the wages of our quick reaction anti-poaching scouts and guards, who help to keep the rhino safe from poachers.

We are unable to continue to offer Deli for adoption – she is fit and well, but is also now very aggressive and it is not safe to track her to try and get close enough for photographs for you. Instead of Deli we have Rebecca waiting to be adopted. She is Piggy's favourite girlfriend and although she is very protective of her young calf, we will be having up to date news and photographs of her.

Piggy is very well, we managed to see Tapiwa and her daughter Tafari, who has grown nearly as big as her mother. You can also adopt Tafari. We also saw Tangarira have a territorial fight with a younger male.

Adoption still only costs £25 for two years, and if any of you can persuade a friend or relation to adopt one of our rhino it would be wonderful. Perhaps we should have an 'adoption drive' – it is up to you!



Tafari



ELEPHANT POACHING IN ZIMBABWE

The Herald has reported that since January this year, poachers have killed 84 elephants, including calves in Cherwore National Park, Zambezi Valley, Zimbabwe. Two suspected Zambian poachers were killed and six arrested while others fled into neighbouring Zambia.

Elephant poaching was also rampant in Rukomechi, Mana Pools and Mkanga where A.K-47's weapons, elephant carcasses and tusks have been found. One captured poacher is reported to have told his captors that they were being sponsored and paid large sums of money in U.S dollars by N.G.O's and countries that wish to discredit Zimbabwe ahead of the CITES meeting to be held in Kenya in year 2000.

Increased poaching comes in the wake of reports that Western animal rights groups, India and some Western African countries have intensified their campaign to influence the 11th Conference of the Parties to Cites to reverse the Harare Declaration in June 1997 to downlist elephants from Appendix 1, which barred the trade, to Appendix 2, which allows the trade.

Michael Werikhe

The premature and untimely death on 9th August 1999 of Michael Werikhe, known as Kenya's 'Rhino Man' has been mourned throughout the conservation world. Through his highly publicised walks across East Africa, Europe and the U.S. he raised more than \$3 million for rhino conservation work in Africa and his love of nature and selflessness was an inspiration for young people throughout the world.

Michael died in Mombassa Hospital at the age of 43 from cholera and typhoid two weeks after he had been attacked and beaten up by thugs near his home.

Michael was a keynote speaker at the UK Rhino Group's Mayday last May where we were privileged to hear him address us on 'Turning the Tide Around – Rhino populations in Africa'. The accompanying photograph shows him with Ian Redmond and Jane West helping to auction a David Shepherd painting.



Two funds have been set up to commemorate Michael's life. One is being administered by the Rhino Trust in the USA, and will be put towards meeting the needs of Michael's two daughters (their mother died two years ago), who will eventually come over to England to live with Michael's brother David Werikhe in Cornwall.

The other is the Michael Werikhe Conservation Fund and it will be used for rhino conservation in Tsavo National Park and for scholarships for Kenyans. For donations or further details on this fund please contact Save the Rhino International, Winchester Wharf, Clink Street, London SE1 9DG

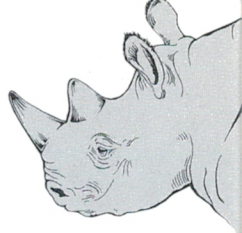
Hugh Littlewood MRCVS

We were devastated with the news that Hugh Littlewood and his wife Annabelle were killed on 12th November, 1999 in a tragic motor accident near Stow on the Wold. We were in partnership together for twenty years in the veterinary practice in Chipping Norton. Hugh was a competent, dedicated and caring clinician.

He left veterinary practice in 1984 to join Glaxo Wellcome where he was responsible for the care and welfare of the laboratory and farm animals. Eighteen months ago he took early retirement to spend more time with his wife and family.

Hugh always remained a good friend. When the Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust was formed in 1989 he became our first trustee and he met Annabelle on a visit to the Conservancy in Zimbabwe.

Our thoughts and deepest sympathy go out to his four children, who have lost their father in such untimely and tragic circumstances, and to Annabelle's family.



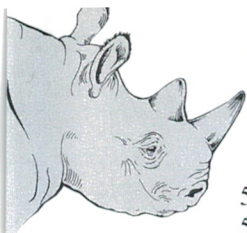
NURSERY RHYME QUIZ

Each letter represents the words in the first line of a rhyme

Example: M.M.Q.C = Mary Mary Quite Contrary

1. L.B.H.L.H.S
2. T.B.M
3. G.P.P.A.P
4. S.A.S.O.S.
5. L.M.M.S.O.A.T.....
6. J.A.J.W.U.T.H.
7. O.K.C.W.A.M.O.S.....
8. T.T.T.P.S.....
9. L.J.H.S.I.A.C.....
10. H.D.D.T.C.A.T.F.....
11. M.M.Q.C.....
12. T.L.K.H.L.T.M.....
13. I.W.S.W.U.T.W.S.....
14. L.P.F.S.A.T.C.....
15. I.H.A.L.N.T.....
16. P.P.T.K.O.....
17. T.Q.O.H.B.S.T.....
18. H.A.P.O.T.R.....
19. H.D.D.....
20. L.N.E.I.H.W.P.....
21. W.W.W.R.T.T.T.....
22. O.M.H.W.T.T.C.....
23. H.D.S.O.A.W.....
24. R.A.R.O.R.....
25. J.S.C.E.N.F.....
26. R.A.B.O.T.T.T.....
27. R.A.R.T.G.....
28. E.M.M.M.....
29. J.B.N.J.B.Q.....
30. O.A.L.S.T.B.O.S.C.....
31. T.L.D.S.U.A.W.....
32. T.G.O.D.O.Y.....
33. L.B.B.C.B.U.Y.H.....
34. O.T.T.F.F.....
35. P.A.C.P.A.C.B.M.....
36. H.Y.S.T.M.M.....
37. T.L.P.W.T.M.....
38. S.S.M.D.....
39. D.D.D.M.S.J.....
40. L.B.D.D.....
41. R.A.C.H.T.B.C.....
42. S.S.M.A.P.M.....
43. T.W.A.O.W.W.L.I.A.S.....
44. R.A.D.D.T.M.I.A.T.....
45. G.G.G.W.S.I.W.....
46. H.W.G.R.T.M.B.....
47. T.F.I.H.D
48. M.H.A.L.L.....
49. L.L.L.H.A.H.I.H.P.....
50. H.H.T.D.D.B.....
51. P.P.P.A.P.O.P.P.....
52. L.T.T.S.F.H.S.....
53. W.A.L.G.M.O.....
54. B.B.B.S.....
55. T.A.W.A.U.D.....
56. S.S.S.O.T.S.S.....

P.T.O.



- 57. L.B.H.F.D.....
- 58. L.B.L.B.....
- 59. P.C.P.C.W.H.Y.B.....
- 60. T.M.T.M.T.B.A.F.P.....
- 61. T.T.L.S.....
- 62. T.N.W.D.B.....
- 63. D.F.W.T.G.....
- 64. H.W.C.G.N.I.M.....
- 65. M.C.I.F.O.F.....
- 66. R.R.G.A.....
- 67. R.R.R.Y.B.....
- 68. W.K.C.R.....
- 69. T.O.A.T.P.C.W.T.S.....
- 70. D.T.Y.D.M.L.L.....
- 71. T.W.A.C.M.....
- 72. D.D.B.P.I.T.W.....
- 73. T.C.G.A.B.P.....
- 74. H.W.G.L.L.....
- 75. I.S.T.S.G.S.B.....
- 76. T.L.D.B.S.O.A.W.....
- 77. C.C.M.M.S.....
- 78. T.A.H.I.M.B.....
- 79. T.T.S.S.....
- 80. R.A.R.V.A.B.....

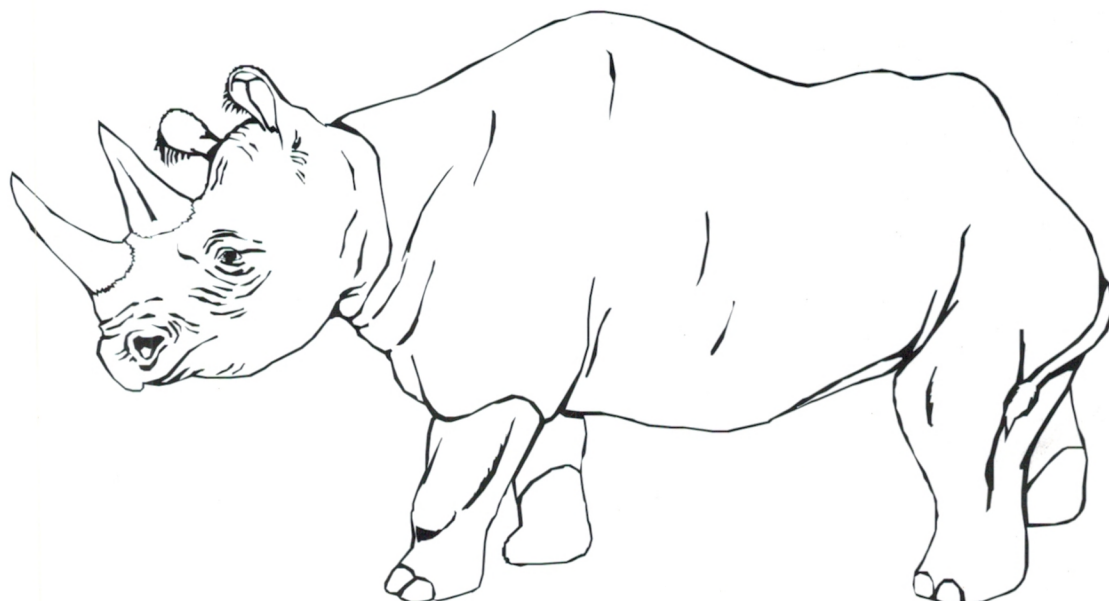
Please print your name and address and return by 26th February 2000 with £1 per entry to Annie Gripper, Manor Farm, Ascott-under-Wychwood, OXON OX7 6AL .

Name..... Address.....
 Tel.No.....

- First Prize - Rhino Sweat Shirt
- Runner-up - Rhino T Shirt

JUNIOR COMPETITION

Please will members or rhino friends, aged 6 years or younger, colour in this picture – or draw your own picture – and send it to us with your name, age and address for us to judge.



SCHOOL VISITS

During our recent visit to the Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy we visited Sebakwe and Gozuzu schools with Janet and Spencer Gelsthorpe from the Project Rhino. At Sebakwe Farmers School, the borehole which we funded, was sunk last year and it has made a tremendous difference for the children and staff and also the nearby medical centre. They now have an excellent supply of water and electricity too, all the toilets flush - a great luxury for everybody.

Prize Giving Day was also a celebration of Electrification of the School and the New Borehole and was a very special occasion. The gratitude of all the staff, children and parents was overwhelming. Without the continuing support of you, our members, none of this could have been achieved. A big **thank you** to you all.



Sebakwe Prize Giving Day

We took letters and photographs from Greatworth School, Oxfordshire to Sebakwe School and the children were very pleased to receive them and will be writing back after the Christmas holidays. We were able to give each child a ballpoint pen, kindly donated by the National Pen Company from Co. Louth, Ireland. The children were delighted and agreed that each of the teachers should also be given a pen. Many thanks to the National Pen Company.



New Borehole



Old Water Tank

We also visited Gozuzu primary school and saw the children working in their classrooms. The money which we donated will be used to help fund more classrooms to prevent overcrowding, at present the 382 children have only 6 classrooms.

Class I, the 6-year-olds, sang for us 'Polly put the kettle on', complete with actions and beaming smiles. We gave all the children a pen each and they were delighted. Both the schools start work at 07.30 and finish at 14.30, to give the children time to walk home before dark. Some of them have a 5-mile walk each way, as they have no transport to take them to and from school.



Janet & Spencer with
Cleeve Fairey



Gozuzu School
children with new pens

ROGER FREEMAN WRITES:

CHINYIKA FARM, ZIMBABWE MIDLANDS, 18deg56min-S, 30deg16min-E. Elevation: 4500ft.

It is 07h00 and we are bumping along in an ancient open land-rover through dense woodland to make a rendezvous with two trackers who tell us on the walky-talky that they have found black rhino tracks. There are many golden orb spider webs across the track, and as we drive through them they are destroyed, and the huge spiders as if seeking revenge, run madly around the floor of the vehicle and over our legs to terrorise us.

When we meet the trackers we leave the Landrover, and proceed, as silently as possible, on foot. We hope to catch up with the rhino, who move very slowly through the bush, browsing as they go, without them being aware of us. This morning we are lucky because there is a slight breeze, and we seem to be downwind of the general way they are going. Their sense of smell and hearing are both very acute, but their vision is not much good.

There are two trackers and they are very skilful. There is grass about 18 inches high here, and as the rhino passes, this grass is partially flattened. Then over the next few hours it rises up again. So this can be used to gauge how long it's been since the rhino passed that way. In places there is no grass but sandy soil which can show spoor, especially when damp after rain as now. Various indications can tell the trackers how old the spoor is. When newly made, a footprint has a very crisp outline, which gradually fades. One can often see where a twig or branch has been bitten off, and sometimes a whole tree is pushed over. Occasionally a large pile of dung is encountered, and how hot and steamy it is can indicate how old it is.

The trackers walk on and we follow. The last in line is Ken King, the farmer who owns the land, and he carries a .465 Winchester with a cartridge up the spout and the safety catch on. For twelve years his farm has been one of 18 farms forming a black rhino conservancy here. If one charges, he might fire a round into the ground to halt the charge, but he has never shot a rhino itself. He says he has been charged eight times but only once injured, when two years ago one messed him about rather while he was lying on the ground, and he had to be flown to a Harare hospital to have a section of damaged bowel removed.

The bush we are walking through is mainly brachystegia bushes and trees, and only a few acacias, which is easier because the latter have extensive thorn systems to avoid. The visibility is usually only a few meters because the bush is quite dense. As we proceed, at times the trackers lose the track, or find they are going along an old track. Then we have to back up and they explore separately until a low whistle announces that one of them has found what he thinks is today's trail again. Then we're off again.



Roger & Mrs Freeman & Pierre Favier



Guards at drill

We do not see any other game, but we do see other tracks, of impala or kudu, and the occasional aardvark burrow. There is hardly any bird song, just the ever-present cape turtle-dove and sometimes the mournful descending scale of the greenspotted dove.

After about an hour of this we are beginning to wonder if we'll ever see black rhino, when suddenly the tracker in front stops and holds up a hand. Everyone stops and stands still. There is absolute silence. There is no breeze. The bushes and trees seem to surround us and hem us in. The adrenaline begins to pump. Then he goes forward slowly into a more open area where we are able to spread out, and then we see the two grey shapes about twenty metres away, partly obscured by the bushes.

One is standing staring in our direction, the other is lying down. The one standing is a female, the other smaller one is her daughter aged about one year. Evidently the mother has heard us arrive. At this point each person should be looking around for a tree to hide behind should she decide to charge. Black rhino are supposed to be somewhat irascible and liable to charge without warning. The snag is that there are rarely enough trees to go round, and if push came to shove it would be like the final moments of a game of musical chairs. Mind you, a bush might do, it might screen you from the rhino's line of 'vision', but a charge is only in the rough direction of where the rhino thinks you might be, and a bush would not stop it.

On this occasion the rhino just stands there looking towards us and twiddling its large ears like a pair of radar dishes. It peers for a time with one eye, then turn its head slightly and peers with the other, trying to decide which is its best eye. One avoids moving sideways – it sees such a movement more easily. On this occasion nothing much happens for ages. You can almost hear the creature's andiluvean brain slowly whirring. Then it takes a few sudden steps towards us and stops. Everyone is very cool, no-one runs for a tree. Then a distraction occurs as the young one gets up and wanders away from us. The mother gives a couple of monstrous snorts in our direction and moves off also. We retrace our steps to the Landrover.



CAVE PAINTINGS

These cave paintings on sandstone at the Malilangwe Estate, Chiredzi in the Lowveld, are panels of rock art by the San (Bushman) and reputed to be over 2000 years old. Giraffe and Elephant are clearly to be seen, as is a Rhino chasing a bushman. Is there also a Painted Dog?



RHINO FIGHT

Just like two boxers. Eyeballing each other before a fight – a young male rhino is challenging the older Tangarira for territorial rights. Serious horn injuries can occur in these fights, until one of the rhinos backs off and moves away to another area.

Rhino on the Move!

We had a visitor in our garden for a few weeks during the Summer – it was a full-size model of a black rhino, who is used for fund raising and owned by Janet and Spencer Gelsthorpe, of Project Rhino.

He certainly turned a few heads from passengers in the trains that pass by our garden! He came from Woburn Safari Park, moved on to Peterborough for the gala of 'Friends of Kwe Kwe', then to Anglia Water in Norfolk, before returning home to Guernsey



SEBAKWE BLACK RHINO TRUST

<u>INCOME</u>	1997	1998
Profit from sale of goods	1009	553
Donations and Covenants	16187	17935
Membership and Subs	967	1119
Adopt a rhino scheme	1250	1363
Income and tax refund	283	343
Dividends and Interest	7327	7668
Quiz and marathon	592	211
TOTAL	27615	29192
Printing and Postage	2141	887
Advertising	850	764
Travel	170	1137
Miscellaneous	60	420
Donations	1000	157
Transfer to Zimbabwe	6233	5182
Transfer to reserve	13000	16000
Income over Expenditure	4161	4645
TOTAL	27615	29192

MAYDAY 2000

The Annual Rhino Mayday & Ball organised by the U.K. Rhino Group will be held on Saturday 13th May 2000 at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, London. All members, supporters and their friends are invited to come and join us on the day.

Tickets will be available from
BBC Wildlife Magazine
 Tel: 0117 973 8402

All Correspondence to:

John and Annie Gripper
 Manor Farm
 Ascott-under-Wychwood
 OXON
 OX7 6AL