



# Meet Ella, the stress-free rhino truck

BY ELODIE A. SAMPÉRÉ

**C**apturing and translocating rhinos has suddenly become a lot easier, thanks to a generous donation from David Thornes of Ladyroyd Garage and John Green of Rydam Universal Ltd.

David and John recently shipped a state-of-the-art truck to the Ol Pejeta Conservancy from Leeds, England, to assist future translocations of Kenya's rhino population. A one-of-a-kind machine! Translocation is very expensive and Ol Pejeta is currently setting up a special fund to help cover the cost of all translocations throughout the country.

About a year ago, David was sitting at home watching a documentary on rhino translocation featuring Ol Pejeta.

**Above:** David Thornes hands over the truck to the British Army who helped transport Ella from England to Kenya.

**Insert:** At a recent rhino translocation on Ol Pejeta, Ella was put to the test.

A haulage expert, David wanted to make translocation and transport of rhinos a lot easier. He decided to design a truck, which would help move these animals and cause them less stress. His truck is air-conditioned and has enough padding to ensure the rhinos travel much more comfortably.

David and his partner John named their truck "Ella", after David's daughter. It was shipped to Kenya with the Tusk Trust and British Army providing help and donations.

In the first week of April, David, John and their families came to Ol Pejeta to help train the staff in the use of the truck, and to participate in a translocation exercise. The truck overcame every challenge the African bush threw at it. Wildlife & Security

Manager of Ol Pejeta Batian Craig said they would never have been able to achieve this move in such a tight timeframe had it not been for "Ella". ●

**ELODIE SAMPÉRÉ** has served as Lewa's Head of Conservation Marketing since August 2008. Before joining the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, she served as the director of marketing for the African Wildlife Foundation. She now spends her time between Lewa, Ol Pejeta Conservancy and the Northern Rangelands Trust.