



theHORN

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APF



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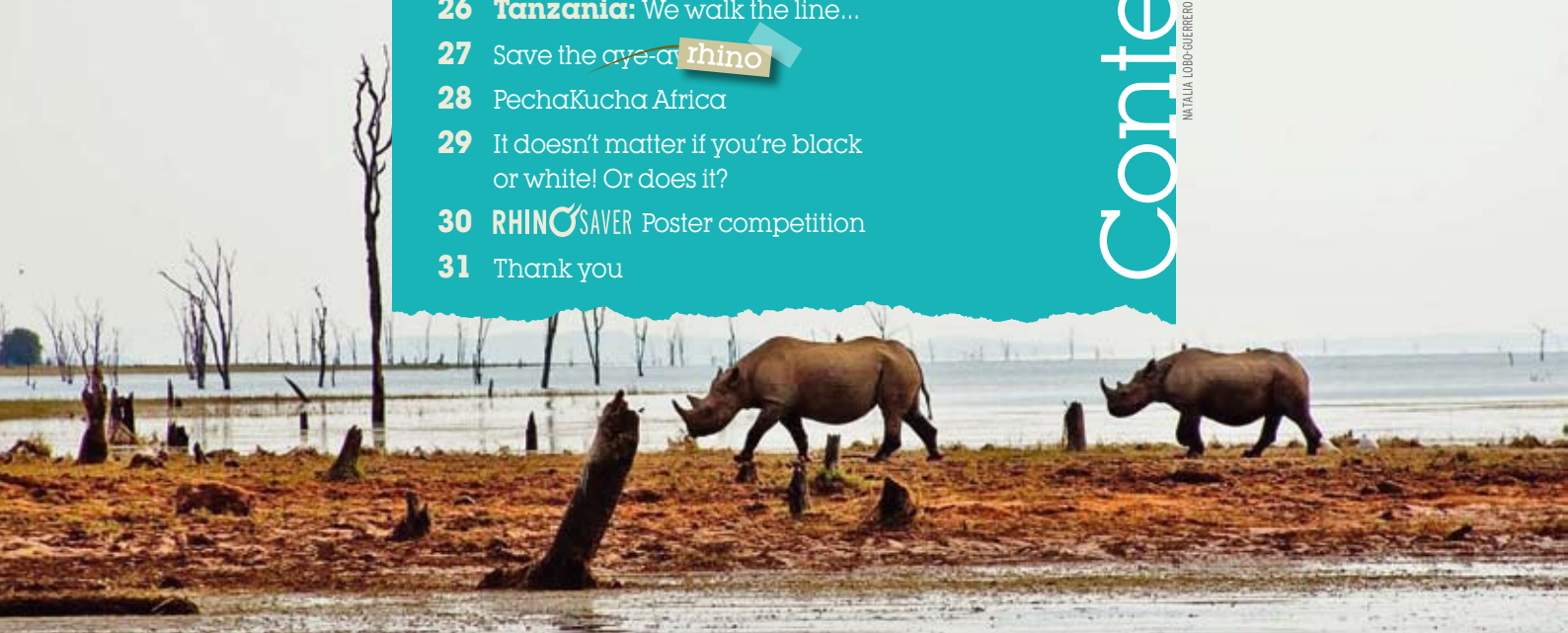
MARK CARWARDINE



SAVE THE RHINO

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NATALIA LOBO-GUERREIRO



The office is where the heart is

I know that 'home' is supposed to be where the heart is, but I can tell you that the scruffy little office in SE1, known as Rhino HQ, is very dear to me.

Cathy Dean | Director

We've been here since early 2001, just before I joined Save the Rhino, and I must admit that its decorative condition has deteriorated to what an estate agent would call 'tired' or 'in need of modernisation'. We have re-patched the carpet with gaffer tape it's true, and a supporter found some new chairs for us, but otherwise it's had no Botox, no facelift, not even a makeover. But apart from having a deep-seated mistrust of any charity that has

I like the collection of rhino memorabilia that lines the walls, shelves & any available floorspace

swanky matching furniture (just how are they spending their donors' money?), I like the collection of rhino memorabilia that lines the walls, shelves and any available floor space. Moving them all to repaint the room would take hours.

We have rhino paintings and drawings and photographs; we have the Prix Special statuette from when our Trustees did the Marathon des Sables in rhino costume in 2002; rhinos made out of plastic, foam, beads, bronze, stone, felt, wool, plasterzote, wire and paper; we have kangas and maps and basket chairs. Anyone who loves rhinos feels at home here.

So, I will miss the office during my six-month sabbatical. With my husband Kenneth, I will be working with rhino programmes in Namibia and Zimbabwe, hopefully teaching them some of the back-office skills I've built up over the years (not interior decoration, clearly).

For this issue of *The Horn*, we thought we'd ask some of the people working in the field to write about their bases. Somehow, it's always easier to talk on the phone once you can visualize where they're sitting. I've visited quite a few of them, and have wonderful mental pictures of Ed and Claire's mess in North Luangwa, Zambia with its Wi-Fi access, overlooking the river. Or the Laikipia Wildlife Forum's row of three huts at the Nanyuki Airstrip, Kenya. Spend three days there and just about everyone you need to see will pass through at some point, without you needing to make an appointment. Save the Rhino Trust's office in Swakopmund, Namibia next door to the Snake Park (sounds of shrieking schoolchildren) and a great little café.

You'll read about the pros and cons of working in the bush. The practicalities of dealing with frequent power cuts and the implications of being away from home for months on end. So spare a thought for the teams in the offices and in the field - without them, rhino conservation wouldn't happen.



Events schedule 2011-12



Virgin London Marathon	Sunday 17 April 2011
Rhino Mayday	Wednesday 4 May 2011
Clay Pigeon Shoot	June 2011
PechaKucha Wild	November 2011
ING New York City Marathon	Sunday 6 November 2011
Hornucopia	November - December 2011
Gold Challenge	Ongoing until December 2012
Rhino Climb Kilimanjaro	Dates to suit
Rhino Trek South Africa	Dates to be confirmed

For more information about any of these events, please email jo@savetherhino.org or call + 44 (0)20 7357 7474

Restoration by translocation



Translocations are the backbone of the ambitious Indian Rhino Vision (IRV) 2020—a partnership among the government of Assam, the International Rhino Foundation, the World Wide Fund for Nature, the Bodoland Territorial Council, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service—which aims to attain a population of 3,000 wild Greater one-horned rhinos in seven of Assam’s protected areas by the year 2020. As part of this initiative, two males and two female rhinos were translocated from Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary to Manas National Park on 17 January 2011.

Dr Bibhab Kumar Talukdar | Chair, IUCN SSC Asian Rhino Specialist Group;
Secretary General, Aaranyak; Asian Rhino Coordinator, International Rhino Foundation



The animals moved in January join two females that were moved to Manas in late December 2010, and five existing rhinos (two males translocated under IRV2020 in April 2008 and three females rescued in Kaziranga and then rehabilitated in Manas).

Translocating the rhinos will help create a viable population of this vulnerable species that has recovered from fewer than 100 animals in the early nineteenth century to more than 2,850 today.

Pobitora, where the rhinos were captured, boasts the highest density of rhinos in the

world, with more than 84 rhinos in less than 18km² (4,450 acres) of rhino habitat. To minimise the chance of loss from disease and other disasters including straying out, the rhinos need to be spread among other parks. The translocations will lessen pressure on Pobitora’s rhinos for food and space, and hopefully reduce the number of rhinos straying into nearby villages, which can lead to injuries to people and animals. The other stronghold for Greater one-horned rhinos is Kaziranga National Park, which holds 2,048 rhinos (2009 census), or 72% of the total population. So it is imperative that these animals are spread out.

Moving a rhino is no easy task. The moves are the result of months of meticulous planning for every possible situation that

might arise from capture to release, all with the aim of keeping both the animals and the people involved safe. Under the guidance of veterinarians, field workers, park guards, conservationists and forest department officials, the four animals moved in January were captured and released within 24 hours. Veterinarians darted the animals with tranquilisers, then transported them 250 km in crates specially designed to hold the 1.5 to 2 ton animals. Each rhino has been radio-collared and will be closely monitored by WWF-India and Manas National Park staff.

Manas National Park, once an icon among India’s many spectacular wildlife reserves, was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985. Rhinos were once common in the park, but violent civil conflict beginning in 1989 caused massive damage to the park’s infrastructure, including destruction of anti-poaching camps, roads and villages. Until recently, the last rhino seen in Manas was in 1996. A tremendous international collaboration has rebuilt the Park’s anti-poaching camps, repaired roads and bridges, and begun to repopulate Manas with rhino. The arrival of the rhinos has been heralded by local communities, who had been blamed for the demise of the Park. Kampa Borgoyari, deputy chief of Bodoland Territorial Council said: ‘We are committed to bringing Manas back to its former glory, and the homecoming of the rhinos is part of that effort.’ The Assam Forest Department is also equally committed to upholding the sanctity of Manas National Park by putting rhinos back in the wilderness of Manas in collaboration with IRV2020 partners and supporters.

In an effort to move ever closer to the 2020 goal, additional translocations, to move more rhinos to Manas and to other former ranges, are planned for the coming year. Before translocations to additional sites can occur, adequate security must be re-established and local communities must become involved and engaged in conservation as has happened in Manas.

Grants

Grants from Chester Zoo (£7,000) and Stuttgart Zoo (€4,000) together with one from Save the Rhino’s core funds (£3,500) helped pay for the January translocations. The IRF in the US meanwhile has recruited many other zoos and funders to support IRV2020. Our thanks to everyone involved.

ALL IMAGES AMIT SHARMA



To improve the security of Manas National Park, members of the local community, some of whom used to be poachers, have been hired, trained and equipped as guards

Managing conflict in the workplace

“Yesterday, a rhino left the National Park and spent some time in a wheat field, eating part of the crops and destroying a lot while walking around.

The villagers did not manage to make him go away. I just went on site where I took some pictures, GPS points and interviewed the owner who was both upset and very sad; this field is the only thing that he has for living.”

Ram Gopal Chaudhary, Awely Red Cap, Bardia, Nepal

Renaud Fulconis |
Executive Director,
Awely - Wildlife and People

work, conflict assessment is a crucial first step. We need to understand which species are involved. Why and when does conflict arise? Why do people react in the ways they do? Collated data is entered into a conflicts database and then analysed. This approach helps to create the most appropriate solutions (perhaps building a fence or changing crop preferences to one less appealing to problem wildlife), wherever possible ensuring that the victims of HWC are part of the process. The chances of success, for both conflict resolution and conservation in general, is far greater if people are encouraged to give their point of view, share their ideas and learn directly how to protect their belongings in a more effective and efficient way. This is why education about HWC and conservation, through micro-projects, are the next components that we are putting in place.

Thanks to a grant from Save the Rhino, we are currently producing a film that will, once finished, be used as an educational tool for local groups. Shown as part of a road show, it will, with a focus on rhinos, present the origins of HWC, their consequences for both people and wildlife, and suggest mitigation measures. The film will teach farmers how to better protect their fields, so that rhinos will stay away from cultivated land and the safety of all involved will be enhanced.

An important aspect of the Awely philosophy is to take time. Even though the problems are often of an urgent nature, it is vital to develop an understanding of all perspectives and then propose solutions that will have long term effects. While the local communities we work with sometimes greet our arrival with caution, over time they become active participants in the projects. This is achieved by making it clear that it is not our intention to strike hard and fast and then leave, but rather to do what is feasible and stay as long as possible.

Grant

SRI is pleased to have been able to support Awely's Red Caps programme in Bardia National Park, Nepal, with a grant of \$4,841 from core funds.

Above and below: Red Caps Ram Gopal and Pradeshu investigate rhino intrusion into farmland

Right: Observation towers are used during peak conflict seasons to reduce the risk of crop damage

Created in April 2005, Awely is a French NGO leading, in collaboration with partner organisations, seven programmes in five countries in Africa and Asia through its 'Red Caps' and 'Green Caps' models. The Red Caps work on human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation and programmes taking place in Nepal, India, Tanzania and Zambia. The Green Caps come into action where species and biodiversity hotspots are threatened by over-hunting and illegal trade. Green Cap programmes occur in the DRC, for bonobos, and in Nepal, for tigers.

In the Terai region of southern Nepal, at the border of the Bardia National Park, we have been running a Red Caps project since early 2009. In the buffer zone of the Park, where over 120,000 human inhabitants live, spread over an area of 330 km², there are numerous conflicts with not only rhinos but also elephants, leopards, and wild boars. Sometimes these species are killed as a means of retaliation.

In order to get a clear picture of the nature of HWC in the areas where we



Rhino Protection Units: the front line for ensuring survival of Indonesia's critically endangered rhinos

The Rhino Protection Units (RPUs) are a unique collaboration of government officers and community members that work in Bukit Barisan Selatan, Way Kambas and Ujung Kulon National Parks to ensure the security and management of ecosystems. These brave and committed individuals leave their families behind and sometimes put their lives on the line to protect rhinos.

Sectionov (Inov) | Rhino Protection Unit Programme, International Rhino Foundation

OPERATION JAVAN RHINO: Providing A Safety Net For A Species

Update... Update... Update

In late 2010, working in conjunction with the International Rhino Foundation, Save the Rhino ran an appeal to raise funds for the creation of 4,000 hectares of extended habitat for Javan rhinos. We're delighted to report that the appeal raised over £7,500 (including €5,000 from Stuttgart Zoo, €2,000 from the Foundation Friends of the Safaripark Beekse Bergen in Hilvarenbeek, £118 from ZSL Whipsnade and a number of individual donors). We added £5,000 from our own core funds and were able to send £12,558 for the development of the Javan Rhino Study and Conservation Area.

A huge thank you to everyone who donated to the appeal.

The Rhino Protection Units (RPUs) face challenges and dangers on a daily basis. In completing their patrols, RPUs must often walk for days on end and face an ever-present risk from hunters. A few years ago, for example, an RPU working in Way Kambas National Park was shot at by hunters. Equally perilous can be efforts to deliver poaching suspects from the base camp to the police station. One RPU member recalls: 'Each of us used a big plastic bottle to help us float and swim across the river. We started to cross the river at 6 pm, almost dark. Unfortunately, as we started to cross, we realised that the current was much higher and stronger than we had thought. We were swept down the river and we just had to float along, using the plastic bottles, trying to survive. We were in the river for more than five hours before we were able to climb out and make it to the checkpoint. It was terrifying'.

Encountering rhino, whether Javan or Sumatran, is not a common occurrence for the RPUs; both species are solitary and very rare. When sightings do occur, it is like a bonus for the RPUs but it can also be dangerous, especially if the rhino's arrival is somewhat unannounced. One of the RPUs working in Ujung Kulon National Park recalls an encounter with a Javan rhino that visited their fly camp twice in one night: 'At midnight a Javan rhino came to the camp looking aggressive. As a reflex, we all tried to climb the nearest tree. For about 20 minutes the rhino explored our camp until it slowly decided to leave. After waiting to be sure it was gone, one by one we came

down from the trees. But it was not long before, suddenly, from behind our camp the Javan rhino came again this time with even more aggression'. The RPUs take such occurrences in their stride acknowledging that, whilst it's not an easy job, they are proud to be a member of the RPUs.

In Indonesia there is a rainy season and a dry season and in the past this has brought a whole other set of challenges for the RPUs. During the rainy season, it is relatively easy for the RPUs to find fresh, clean water to drink, but during the dry season, it is very hard to find fresh water. The water that the RPUs had to use during the dry season was often muddy and polluted. There was no choice. They had to use that water to survive. As a result, every dry season, at least one or two members of the RPU become sick, and have to miss patrol days. In 2009, however, with the help of Save the Rhino, we obtained water filters and the RPUs can now easily turn muddy, polluted water into clean water that is safe to drink. They don't get sick anymore.

In spite of these challenges, the RPUs have had some major successes. For example, through intelligence operations, the RPUs are able proactively to prevent poaching attempts before they take place and closely cooperate with the police to ensure the prosecution of wildlife criminals whilst the RPUs' community outreach initiatives are working hard to increase the incentives for habitat and rhino protection so that everybody, especially rhinos, wins.

Grants

Save the Rhino has given a series of grants to Indonesian rhino programmes over the last few months: a total of £12,376 for RPUs protecting Sumatran rhinos (£3,055 raised by David Back for giving up alcohol for six months; \$5,000 from the Taiwan Forestry Bureau, £5,000 from our own core funds, and the remainder from the Simon Gibson Charitable Trust, Silver Jungle and other donors).





**Get your skates/
boxing gloves/
fencing mask/
jodhpurs/leotard on!**

We have a really exciting new charity challenge that offers you the perfect way to try out Olympic or Paralympic sports whilst raising money for rhino conservation. What's more, it's the only mass participation sport linked to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Jo Paulson | Events Manager

Whether you are super-fit or class yourself as 'unsporty', you will enjoy this challenge. If you're at peak fitness, you might find getting sponsored to do a table tennis session difficult, but what if you set yourself a challenge to complete all 30 sports? If you've never seen a pair of trainers in your life, your supporters would surely get behind you to try the 20km walk. If you're scared of heights, your personal challenge might be diving. If you're scared of swimming caps, you might try synchronised swimming. It really is a unique opportunity to make the challenge your own.

It could even be a perfect opportunity for your work colleagues to take part in a team building challenge. What better way for your organisation to be a part of all the hype and excitement around London 2012?

The challenge is to take part in 5, 10, 20 or 30 sports of your choosing

Take part either on your own or as part of a team, before the end of 2012. Go along to your local sports centre, take part in a three-hour session, gain points, and voilà – you're done!

We've been trying to think which sports rhinos would be good at. Perhaps wrestling or weightlifting as they're pretty strong. Definitely not gymnastics or dressage! We'd quite like to try out our theories so if you'd like to take part in a rhino costume, we'd like to see you try.

Join Team Rhino today!

Tempted?
Contact jo@savetherhino.org for more details.



Rhino suits not compulsory!

Rhino Mayday 2011

We are delighted to announce that Save the Rhino will once again be organising Rhino Mayday. The event is intended as an information-sharing and awareness-raising event for anyone with an interest in rhino conservation. We will have experts from many different areas of rhino conservation, from project field staff and conservation charities to academics and zoo personnel.



SAVE THE RHINO



MAGGIE ESSON

Confirmed speakers include:

- Professor Mike Bruford**, School of Biosciences, Cardiff University
- Rebecca Perry**, Director of Conservation, Education and Research, Colchester Zoo
- Jasper Humphreys**, Director of External Affairs, The Marjan Centre for the Study of Conflict and Conservation, King's College London
- Mark Jones**, Programmes Director, Care for the Wild International
- John Gripper**, Chairman, Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust
- Berry White**, Rhino Translocation Expert
- Peter Carr**, Editor, *Sporting Rifle*
- Maggie Esson**, Education Programmes Manager, Chester Zoo
- Inspector Nevin Hunter**, Chief Wildlife Inspector, Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service at Animal Health
- Felix Patton**, Technical Adviser, Rhino Fund Uganda
- Simon Tonge**, EAZA Chair and Executive Director, Paignton Zoo
- Nick Lindsay**, Senior Curator Zoo Projects, ZSL



BERRY WHITE

The 2011 Rhino Mayday will be held on Wednesday 4 May in the Huxley Conference Theatre, ZSL London Zoo from 10.30am to 5pm, (ZSL have, once again, kindly agreed to provide the venue free of charge).

Tickets cost £15, including tea and coffee, and can be bought from our website www.savetherhino.org or by phoning the office on **020 7357 7474**

Speakers are subject to change

A Lot to answer for:

How auction houses are milking rhino horns for money

While there is much anguish and press coverage of the rhino poaching crisis that saw 333 rhinos killed in South Africa in 2010, there has been comparatively little attention paid to sales of rhino horn in the UK, which may be directly contributing to the demand for it.

Cathy Dean | Director

A few months ago, I carried out some research to find out the value of rhino horn products sold through the salerooms of Sotheby's, Christie's and Bonham's. I was startled to find that in 2009, 76 items were sold (almost all antique Chinese carved libation cups), totalling £3.9 million. These sales are not considered a problem, in that the works have sufficient artistic merit that they are unlikely to end up ground into powder for use in Traditional Chinese Medicine. There is even a book about them, by Jan Chapman, which identifies carving styles and motifs.

The horns might just as well be mounted on a toilet seat, for all the artistic merit they have

However, it is also – currently – legal to sell trophy mounts of rhino horn. These can be the whole head, treated by taxidermists, but are frequently no more than a pair of horns,



MARK CARVAJALONE

linked by a piece of preserved skin, screwed to a wooden plaque. As long as the horns are proven to date from before 1 June 1947, and as long as they are 'worked', that is, mounted on a plaque, it is legal to sell them in the UK. The horns might just as well be mounted on a toilet seat, for all the artistic merit they have.

Trophy mounts have been fetching extraordinary prices at auction. Last September, one lot at Tennants auction house was advertised with an upper estimate of £90,000, but went for £155,000. Tennants' commission on that one sale, with 16 rhino horn lots, was over £206,000. The demand for rhino horn is lining their pockets.

Tennants and other auction houses argue that they are operating within the law. True, they travel around Europe finding owners of antique trophy mounts, persuading them to sell in the UK where they can get a better price. True, the law has changed in the UK, Germany and Italy, saying that horn products can only be exported to other EU countries, not to East Asia. However, not all EU countries have put into place the export ban, and only last summer, an antiques dealer was caught trying to smuggle a pair of horns through Manchester Airport.

You might argue that trade in rhino horn from an animal shot over 60 years ago is better than shooting dead animals now. But could this legal trade be helping to hike the prices for rhino horn, and so encouraging criminals to go and poach rhinos?

The UK's Animal Health Unit is convinced that auction houses' sales of trophy mounts are contributing to the increase in demand, and are working to close down the remaining loopholes. Meanwhile, Simon Barnes wrote a piece in *The Times* about the problem, and concerned antiques dealers complain to *The Antiques Trade Gazette*. I hope that the writing is on the wall for rhino horn sales.

Someone contacted us a few weeks ago. They'd inherited a pair of rhino horns. An auction house had advised them to sell 'em quick, before the law changed. They had some qualms about selling: would we be willing to accept a donation from the sale?

The answer is no, we're not willing. These horns have no artistic merit. They were not carved, like the nineteenth-century libation cup that supporter Ann O'Connor sold at auction over a year ago, donating some of the proceeds to us. These horns will fuel the demand. And we're not buying the excuse that their sale is – currently – legal.

Stop Press ... Stop Press

We're delighted to report that on 18 February 2011 the UK's **Animal Health's Wildlife Licensing and Registration Service (WLRs)**, following European Commission guidance, **brought into force a ban on the selling of rhino horn trophies**. Auctioneers, with the correct CITES permissions, who were advertising mounted trophies prior to the ban will be allowed to sell these items but thereafter, the ban will be total.



Comrades Marathon

In the last issue of *The Horn* we reported on the fantastic efforts of the two teams of runners (and two rhino costumes) that completed the Comrades Marathon (an 89km race in South Africa that has to be completed in 12 hours) in **May 2010**. We're delighted to report that, in part because of some hugely generous matched giving from Macquarie Securities, the teams have now raised an incredible £58,150.



LEFT AND TOP: SAVE THE RHINO

complicated concepts in a way that even we could understand. A huge thank you to Brian for making the ninth memorial lecture such a great success, and to Robin Ince for acting as the compere, and Ed Victor Limited for sponsoring the event.

Peaks Foundation

Avid readers of *The Horn* will be aware that we have supported the 3 Peaks 3 Weeks initiative since it began in 2007. In that time, 44 women have climbed the three highest peaks in Africa, raising over £416,000 for education, health and environmental causes. Due to the success of the venture, 3P3W has now expanded to the Peaks Foundation www.peaksfoundation.org offering many more challenges across the world. It will continue to support the Laikipia Wildlife Forum and we look forward to seeing the impact of their contributions in



FLOWA MACLEOD

the years to come. It's been a privilege to work with this great organisation, and we wish them the very best for the future.



MATT BROOKE

Last Chance to Save the Rhino

On **Wednesday 12 January 2011**, Save the Rhino Patron Mark Carwardine took to the stage at the Royal Geographical Society to give a fantastic lecture on rhinos and the threats they face. We heard about the translocations of Northern white rhinos, Mark's recent trip to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary, black rhinos in Kenya and the illusive Javan rhino, as well as the threats, such as palm oil plantations in Borneo, and the history of poaching in Africa. There were also many little nuggets of information for the audience to savour. For example, we learnt that humans are scarier than animals (especially when they play Russian roulette with you at a roadside), that a group of zebras is called a dazzle, and that there is such a bird as a rough-faced shag. Thank you to Mark for a thoroughly entertaining and educational evening, and many thanks also to sponsor Abercrombie & Kent. You can hear audio from the event on the Save the Rhino website: www.savetherhino.org

Contact jo@savetherhino.org for more information about any of our events

Around the Horn Comedy Night

If you felt a little down on **Monday 17 January 2011**, that's because it was billed as the most depressing day of the year. If you felt happy on that day, you must have been at our fantastic comedy night at London's famous Comedy Store. Dan Clark headlined the night, following a line-up of star acts that made us cry with laughter: Tom Wigglesworth, Idiots of Ants, Loretta Maine, Pappy's, Joe Wilkinson, Paul Kerensa and MC John Fothergill. Thank you so much to all for an excellent night – the most depressing day of the year wasn't so bad after all.

The Ninth Douglas Adams Memorial Lecture with Professor Brian Cox

Professor Brian Cox (yes, Brian Cox from the TV programmes about the Stargazing and the Solar System) entertained a sell-out audience for our 2011 Douglas Adams Memorial Lecture on **Thursday 10 March**, held in conjunction with the Environmental Investigation Agency. His lecture *The Universe and why we should explore it* was fascinating, especially as Brian was exceptionally good at explaining



MATT BROOKE

Coming up...



In **June 2011**, we will be holding a Clay Pigeon shooting extravaganza at a London shooting school. Join in as a team or an individual for this fun afternoon.

We are working with Wildlands Conservation Trust on an event at Christie's (London) to tie in with an exclusive Dylan Lewis exhibition and auction that will take place two days later. Five items will be auctioned to raise money for Project Rhino – an initiative to tag every rhino in South Africa with GSM based transmitters so they can be tracked and monitored. The event will take place on **Sunday 12 June** and is sponsored by Investec UK. If you are interested in attending, email jo@savetherhino.org



How to embrace a challenge in 40°C...

From cold dampness to 40°C midday heat, the challenges are many when trying to export your education expertise from Denmark to Zambia.

Tine Stausholm Christiansen | Biologist and Zoo Educator, Givskud Zoo

Children at the Conservation Education Day don't let limited resources hamper their imagination!

ALL IMAGES
TINE STAUSHOLM CHRISTIANSEN



In the summer of 2010 Givskud Zoo, a large safari park in Denmark, responded to a plea for help from Save the Rhino, which asked for inspiration and new inputs for the conservation education programme they support in North Luangwa National Park in Zambia.

As a zoo educator my job is quite varied. In the season I do guided tours and public speeches for the guests in the Zoo. I also assist in maintaining the website and producing newsletters and so on. But the most rewarding part of my job by far is teaching school children about animal behaviour, endangered species and the role of a modern zoo in conservation. For that we can

draw on many different resources. We have access to many props such as elephant tusks and rhino horn, which the children can see and touch. Equally important, we have a well-stocked library and good internet access, which is invaluable when coming across an interesting question from a student that you do not know the answer to.

All this is very easy to take for granted and the biggest challenges in my normal work are to catch and maintain the interest of rather materialistic children who would rather play computer games and watch TV than fight to gain knowledge and information. So being asked to travel to Zambia and give advice on how to teach in

an environment where none of your normal challenges and problems are relevant, is certainly a ... challenge.

So last October, it was with great anticipation that I travelled to North Luangwa, to act as a mentor for Sylvester Kampamba, the Conservation Education Programme Officer, and help him develop teaching materials that would be more directly relevant to the specific conservation goals of the North Luangwa Conservation Programme.

I had hardly left the plane (and stepped into the 40°C heat) when I was thrown into the biggest party of the year: one of the three Conservation Celebration Days that NLCP organises each year. All the schools in a district had been invited to enjoy a day of plays, quizzes, singing and general fun with the underlying aim of inspiring and educating the children about conservation issues. I was amazed to see how much creativity had been put into making rhinos and other props out of virtually nothing. Depressingly, in the children's plays, although the poachers were always caught in the end, it always happened after the rhino were shot dead. A definite challenge for Sylvester is to stress that the purpose of the project is to catch the poachers before they shoot the rhinos.

A few days later I visited one of the local schools with Sylvester to observe him 'do his thing'. There I saw for the first time the poor conditions that the local teachers work under: no power, no text books, and 90 students in a classroom designed for far fewer, with only a blackboard and some chalk. Because it's such a novelty, usually the whole school wants to crowd into one classroom, just to see live pictures on the wall from Sylvester's computer.

Given the limited resources, learning by rote (repetition) is the norm and whilst this gives students a fantastic ability to recall facts and dates, it leaves them confused about abstract concepts like ecosystems. So that's the challenge. Now, back in Denmark, working on new lessons for Sylvester, I am very much aware that new ideas and concepts need to be very thoroughly explained with local examples they can relate to. It's a challenge I'm relishing.

Thanks

Save the Rhino and NLCP would like to thank Givskud Zoo very much indeed for its expertise and technical support for the Conservation Education Programme, as well as USFWS RTCF which has now helped fund the Programme for two years.

A permanent presence without a permanent base

Where I work is in some of the most beautiful country there is: expansive bushveld; massive granite outcrops; meandering rivers and, of course, lots of rhinos. The Zimbabwe Lowveld is very special country.

Natasha Anderson | Rhino Monitoring Coordinator, Lowveld Rhino Trust

The Bubiana and Save Valley conservancies in the Lowveld were established as custodian rhino populations in the early 1990s.

Rhino monitoring units were set up to monitor these populations and bases were constructed in each conservancy to provide the accommodation, storage and backup necessary when your area of operation is remote.

“My base was the homestead on the neighbouring property, which I periodically shared with a special branch of the police”

The Bubiana Conservancy base, known as Ladi Base, was a series of stone and thatch buildings set at the foot of a granite outcrop within view of a large dam. The Bubiana black rhino population grew

to 100 individuals by 2002 from a founder population of 37 in 1993. Unfortunately, by 2002 the fast-track land reform programme was in full swing and large areas of the Conservancy were being taken over for subsistence farming. This included our Ladi Base and half the house, the cottage and the huts were occupied by new farmers. An uneasy cohabitation was established. My base was the homestead on the neighbouring property, which I periodically shared with a special branch of the police deployed to control volatile situations. We managed to maintain our responsibility of monitoring our rhinos but political tensions escalated further around the 2008 elections and some of the new farmers became more determined to take rather than share.

Our rhinos had to endure the same process. Clearing of land for subsistence farming was dramatically reducing habitat availability and we had to translocate the bulk of the Bubiana population into Buby Valley Conservancy.

By 2009, targeted rhino poaching had escalated to such a level that it became necessary to completely destock Bubiana and so we all moved again. Rhinos and monitoring unit alike had to work through the process of establishing new bases. Buby has proven a positive move; with black rhino births for 2010 hitting 22 and poaching deaths down to three, the population is recovering.

Save Valley Conservancy's rhinos and monitoring unit have endured similar trials. Though the monitors are still able to live in the established Levanga Base, ongoing conversion of land from bush to fields for crops presents a threat. Translocations in 2009 removed most of the rhinos from the heavily human-settled and poaching-vulnerable areas in the south of the conservancy. The monitors at Levanga Base have been forced to demonstrate their support of the new farmers by claiming land as well. The Senior Rhino Monitor has declared the Levanga Base airstrip his 'field' in an effort to satisfy these demands and be allowed to remain in his home.

All this jostling and moving of bases has left us behind in the development of adequate operational field bases, even though our monitoring units and the equipment needed to maintain our management inputs have all increased as the size of the rhino populations have grown. We lack covered garage space to house our valuable translocation trucks during the rainy off-season. We are without our own 'Ops Room,' which is so valuable for proper revision of field activities and strategic planning meetings. We have no storage rooms to secure equipment or supplies and have to make do with boxes stacked in any available space. It is like being in a permanent state of moving house.

With murmurs of elections again last year, pressure is mounting and it seems likely our base vulnerability will continue a bit longer. We all look forward to less stressful times when we and our rhinos can head out each day certain that when we return to our base, it will still be our base. We are confident that some day we will again enjoy the comfort, security and convenience of our own, organised space in this magnificent part of the world.

Thanks

Save the Rhino has just bought a night-vision monocular, which will be delivered to Natasha and the team in March, to help with rhino monitoring patrols. The Marjorie Coote Animal Charity Trust has also kindly provided a repeat grant of £1,000 to the work of LRT



ALL IMAGES LOWVELD RHINO TRUST

Approximately 80% of Zimbabwe's black rhino population and 55% of the white rhino population is found in the Lowveld

Office space in **Namibia**

How do you communicate with your staff when they are spread over 25,000 km², cellphone coverage is patchy at best, and you've only got email access in a couple of locations?

Rudi Loutit | CEO, Save the Rhino Trust

Here at Save the Rhino Trust (SRT), we've got some peculiarly difficult logistics to battle with. The problem is space – too much of it. We are kilometres and kilometres apart from each other for most of the time, and meeting, planning, debriefing and so on all takes an immense amount of coordination and effort (not to mention vehicle costs).

Our office is based in Swakopmund, about 350 km away from Windhoek, where our partners, the Ministry of Environment and Tourism (the government department responsible for wildlife), are based.

Sometimes the 3 metre African Python from the Snake Park comes and hides under a desk to escape the continual school visits

The Swakopmund office is basic: four small rooms big enough for two or three people each, and a tiny kitchen. There is Wi-Fi access, and the rooms are light and breezy. True, you have to lock the grille even if you're just popping to the loo (shared with the staff from the Snake

Park next door). Sometimes the three-metre African Python from the Snake Park comes and hides under a desk to escape the continual school visits. Laptops are this season's hot property in Namibia, and it doesn't do to leave anything unattended. Cellphones move faster than hot cross buns.

The problems arise when we go into the field, which, after all, is where we're meant to be: monitoring the Kunene rhino population. Many of the trackers have never learned to read or write so we rely on the 'scribe' in each team to maintain manual records of sightings (in pre-printed rhino I.D. books), vehicle logs and incident records. These bits of paper need to be collected once a month and sent back for quality control. The bonus calculations for all sightings need to be checked and passed on to our accountant for payment. Some of this work happens at our main field base at Palmwag (445 km or 5.5 hours away to the north); the remainder is done in Swakopmund. Sightings records go off to MET in Windhoek, to be entered into the national rhino database; incident records go to Namibian Police or to the Protective Resource Unit for anything involving CITES-

Grants

Our thanks to USFWS RTCF which has awarded \$91,000 towards Save the Rhino Trust's work in 2011, particularly targeted at improving security in the Kunene Region, given the poaching crisis in Zimbabwe and South Africa. We would also like to thank Wilderness Safaris, which donated a safari holiday for a raffle held at PechaKucha Africa, which raised £3,088 for SRT. Thanks also to Krefeld Zoo who recently gave a grant of €2,000.

HANNES STEYN



listed animals; while the vehicle logs go to SRT's admin team to maintain the fleet records and costs.

Staff meetings are another matter. Our trackers are divided into four teams: the Northern camel team, the mobile team, the Desert Rhino Camp team and the Southern Ugab team. Even the nearest team at Ugab is about 2.5 hours drive north of Swakopmund.

Geographically, the centre of the rhino range is somewhere near to Palmwag: that's a full day's drive away from Swakopmund. There is a basic office and accommodation at Palmwag, which we use for meetings. Power at Palmwag is supplied courtesy of solar panels provided a couple of years ago by The Ashden Trust and water comes from a borehole: those bits work well, it's just the communications that's a problem: there's no email access. Sometimes this is a blessing, but if you're missing a bit of vital information, you have to wait until you're back in Swakopmund or in Khorixas (assuming it hasn't rained as this stops the satellite working).

As anyone knows, it doesn't matter what business you're in: in the end, it all comes down to efficient and effective teamwork, coordination and communication. The immense distances we have to cover in Namibia don't help – though all that space and rugged terrain in the desert is wonderful.

Top: SRT's office has two front doors: on the left, the closed door leads to the three offices and a tiny kitchen. Each door is alarmed and has a metal grille for security

Above: Rudi's preferred mode of transport from home to the office – his trusty bicycle



ALL IMAGES SAVE THE RHINO

Flying high for the rhinos

With 333 rhinos killed in South Africa in 2010 (compared with only 13 in 2007), one of the most important strongholds for both black and white rhinos, Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park (HiP), has recently taken a hard look at how it could step up its rhino security. The poaching gangs have become highly organised and sophisticated with the use of helicopters and darting equipment. The Park has, therefore, prepared itself to fight fire with fire.

Dirk Swart | Section Ranger, Manzibomvu, Hluhluwe Game Reserve

Both black and white rhino species are abundant in HiP and the Park is synonymous with rhino conservation. Unfortunately, despite the incredible dedication of all those involved in the protection of the Park's rhinos, KwaZulu Natal (KZN) has lost more than 33 rhino since the current poaching crisis started in January 2008, many of which have been from HiP.

Within iMfolozi side of the Park is the large Wilderness Area, which has no roads and is very inaccessible, making it hard to patrol by vehicle. On numerous occasions, illegal operations taking place in the Reserve have been unchecked as a result of the restrictions imposed by the terrain and inability to access the area using vehicles. Although suspected poachers have been pursued hard and fast on foot, a shortage of observation posts and manpower has rendered the efforts fruitless in many instances.

Today's poachers are known to be highly organised, have sophisticated communication equipment, use Parks' uniforms to prevent identification, and often receive warnings of patrols in the area from people living near the Park boundaries. However, poachers in other areas in South Africa have also started to use helicopters and darting equipment. There is a very real threat that these methods will start to be used within HiP. The Park therefore needs to prepare itself for such methods. It is crucial to stay ahead of the poachers in terms of physical presence, technology, equipment, expertise, morale, motivation, discipline and intelligence. KZN park staff need to gain the upper hand and to maintain an edge over these illegal operators and thereby maintain their well-established reputation for skilled, proactive operations and quick effective responses to emergency situations.

After careful consideration of anti-poaching measures, in consultation with colleagues in other South African Parks and Reserves, HiP has decided to proceed with developing an aerial patrol project to enhance its rhino security. WWF has very kindly provided the funds required to purchase a Bantam light aircraft, whilst the fundraising efforts of Save the Rhino International will pay for two of the Section Rangers to train for their Private Pilot Licences, (myself and Lawrence Munro, Section Ranger at iMfolozi).

The establishment of light aircraft operations at HiP, and the wider Zululand Region, will significantly improve law enforcement by increasing the likelihood of successful arrests (getting to the scene of the crime quickly, controlling the situation on the ground by keeping the suspects in visual contact and directing ground forces in, and maintaining a holding pattern over them to keep them 'holed up'). In addition, the plane will act as a highly visible deterrent. Finally, the plane will support general conservation management activities.

The Bantam is a tool not replacing other traditional methods, but fortifying them and attempting to place law enforcement staff deployed on the ground ahead of potential poachers. USFWS RTCF has also provided incredible support towards the first-year running costs of the plane, as well as funds towards beefing up security on the ground with communications and law-enforcement equipment.

Once up and running, there will be at least 25 hours of aerial patrols per month to provide support to at least 7,000 hours of foot and vehicle patrols per month. We hope that this will send out a very strong signal to the poachers that HiP will not be backing down.



Dirk and Lawrence are put through their paces as they work towards obtaining their Private Pilot Licences



ALL IMAGES KZN WILDLIFE



Thank you

Thanks to all those funders who are making the above project possible and providing much needed equipment to enhance the security at Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park; USFWS RTCF, the Comrades Team, Rhino Trek South Africa team, Daniel and Anna Mulholland, and Colchester Zoo. Thanks also to all those who donated to the *Animal Planet* text campaign in South Africa, a fantastic £4,000 was raised for HiP

A tale of two species

Physically and behaviourally there's not much that's similar between rhinos and African wild dogs. Sadly, what links these two species is their conservation status and, in many respects, the threats to their survival.

Dave Robertson | Conservation Manager, Mkhuze Game Reserve

One of our conservation goals at Mkhuze Game Reserve this past year has been to introduce two separate and unrelated packs of African wild dogs. Wild dogs are the second-most endangered carnivores in Africa, after the Ethiopian wolf, and require large areas of land as they often need to cover huge distances. Wild dogs tend to disperse from their natal packs in single-sex groups, which then go 'walkabout' looking for mates to form a functional pack with. Because there are few protected areas in South Africa big enough for this dispersal process to occur naturally without a high chance of inbreeding (Kruger National Park at 20,000km² is probably the only one), we generally have to intervene and end up getting two separate disperser groups, from completely different areas, and bonding them together in a holding boma before releasing them as a functional pack. All

sounds a hell of a lot easier than it is (arranged marriages don't always go any smoother in the animal world than they do in the human one!).

We decided to call the first pack we released the Murphy Pack, because of all the things that had gone wrong with their introduction –

it's a long story and there's no space to tell it here. Suffice to say they made sure a whole bunch of people earned their salaries for a good while! When we eventually deemed they were sufficiently strongly bonded, we released them, and the alpha female denned right outside the boma and had eight pups!

As the pups grew, they moved off and started establishing themselves in the north west of the Reserve.

Snaring is an ever present scourge in Mkhuze, despite a huge amount of effort to combat it, and wild dogs are particularly susceptible to this. Because of the strong social links within a pack, and the way that they hunt, it's likely that more than one dog will get caught if they hit a snare line.

To try and mitigate this threat, we have a dedicated wild dog monitor who locates the dogs by radio telemetry twice a day (and tries to get actual sightings as often as possible without disturbing the dogs). We even have thin steel plates made up which attach on to the radio collars fitted to the dogs – the idea being that, even if a dog gets caught in a snare, the plate will prevent it cutting in or strangling the dog, but they only work if the snare tightens around the collar (we're trying to come up with a more effective design). Over the months, half of the pups died of natural causes which, although sad, is to be expected. The remaining dogs had been doing really well until 10 February when disaster struck. The monitor reported that they had run into a snare line and three of the dogs, including the alpha male and female, had been killed. Words can't describe the anger, sadness and frustration that everyone involved with the dogs felt. You end up questioning whether it's worth it. Are you making things better or worse for the dogs to release them in an area where there is so much snaring? Especially as it is such a slow horrible way to die.

Anyway, enough about the wild dogs – this is *The Horn* after all, but the story of the wild dogs has strong relevance for our rhinos. Wild dogs aren't the only 'by catch' victims of snaring. Rhinos also get caught in snares from time to time, and it's usually the more endangered black rhinos, because these tend to spend more time in the thickets where the snares are set. They normally manage to break the cable, and run off with the snare tight around a leg or their head or neck.



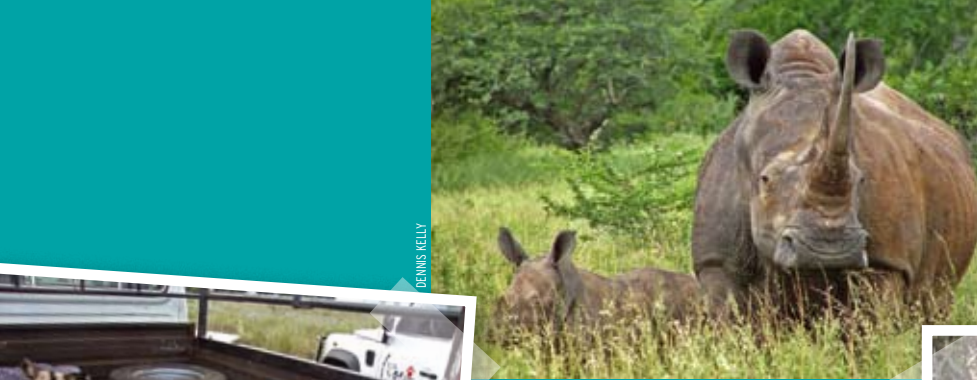
Above: Innovative technology is required to reduce the snaring risk to wild dogs
Above right: The dogs en route to Mkhuze

Most of the snaring here on the Mkhuze Game Reserve is carried out by well-organised gangs who sell the meat



Just some of the snares that have been collected from Mkhuze. Staff in the field often work under extreme conditions, at all times of day and night and under extreme weather conditions





DENNIS KELLY



ALL IMAGES DAVE ROBERTSON UNLESS CREDITED

If left untreated, snares can cut progressively deeper into a rhino's limb, cutting off blood flow and often causing gangrene



In a short space of time, this cuts deep into the skin and can cut off blood supply. Because of our strong focus on rhino

monitoring, we usually find these animals and are able to dart and treat them in time to save their lives, despite some obviously painful injuries. Occasionally though, by the time we see a snared animal it's too late to save it. In 2009, a female black rhino was found with a snare around her leg, and when she had been darted, the vet could see the snare had cut right through her leg to the bone, and she had to be euthanised.

The irony is that there is a lot of focus on actual rhino poaching at the moment, with potentially stiff sentences for convicted poachers, but all too often poachers convicted for snaring get a very lenient sentence (often wholly suspended), even though the end result of the poaching (a dead rhino) can be the same. Although snaring is seen as 'subsistence' poaching for food, the truth is that most of our snaring is carried out by well-organised gangs who sell the meat.

But it's not all doom and gloom. Distressing though individual poaching incidents may be, I believe we are still winning. We are making a difference, and the world is a better place for endangered species because of reserves like Mkhuze, Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park and so many others.

Mkhuze has a long history of rhino conservation. The Reserve, which was proclaimed in 1912, has one of only two original populations of black rhinos in

KwaZulu-Natal (the other being in Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park), which makes them very important from a genetic point of view.

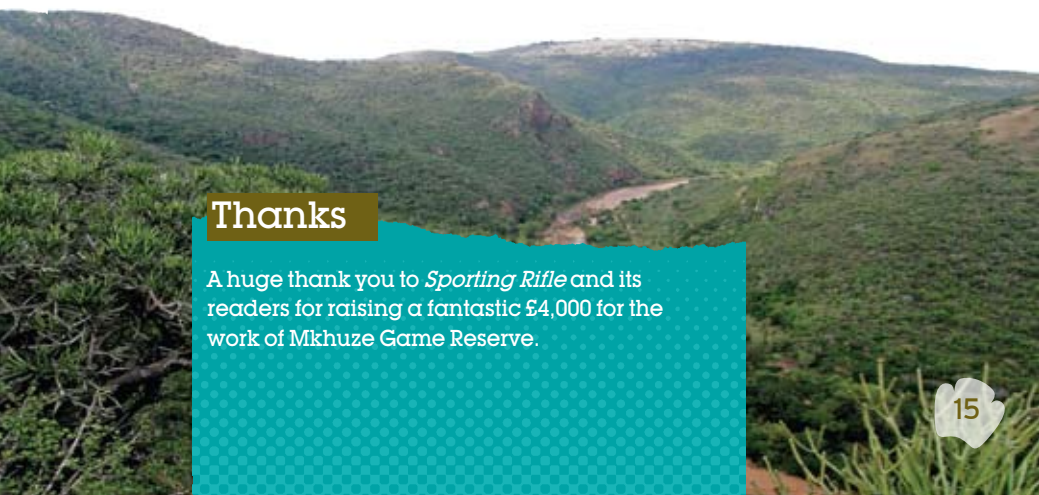
A lot of effort is put into rhino monitoring and protection, and training and equipping our field ranger force and anti-poaching unit is a top priority. We have also developed good working relationships with the local police stations and do a lot of combined operations with them, particularly following up after a poaching incident to arrest suspects in communal land outside the Reserve.

It's also thanks to organisations like SRI that we are able to carry on and do what we do, and I'm always impressed that a group of people living on an island thousands of miles away from any natural populations of rhinos can be so passionate about saving them (if running marathons in a rhino suit that any medieval torturer would have been proud to design doesn't show passion, then I don't know what does!) We've also had great support from *Sporting Rifle* magazine, who wanted to get on board and help with a rhino conservation project. We're about to purchase some much-needed equipment for our anti-poaching unit thanks to them, including: torches, overalls, backpacks and boots. Apart from the obvious benefits of receiving this equipment, it is a major boost to the morale of the guys, and the fact that people overseas are raising money to assist us to conserve rhinos really helps re-affirm to everyone on the Reserve the importance of what we're doing.

It's often said that nothing worthwhile is ever easy, and there are probably few instances where this is truer than in the field of wildlife conservation. Rhinos globally are facing the biggest threat to their existence ever, and we are the generation who must ensure that they will still be around for the generations to come – the alternative is simply not an option.



BRIANNE NEWMAN



Thanks

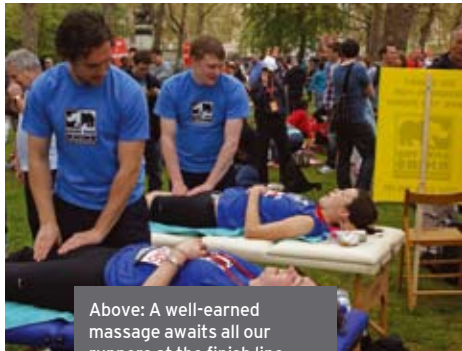
A huge thank you to *Sporting Rifle* and its readers for raising a fantastic £4,000 for the work of Mkhuze Game Reserve.

What a difference a day makes

Each year, the Virgin London Marathon is the single biggest fundraising event for Save the Rhino, providing a huge chunk of the funds necessary to keep the charity functioning. But the day is much more than that. The long-term relationships we form with our runners are invaluable. Old friends, new friends, marathon experts or complete beginners, we aim to make everyone feel a part of the family.

Adam Brown | Michael Hearn Intern | Doug Goodman | SRI's London Marathon team

When submitting their applications for one of our Gold Bond places in the Virgin London Marathon, people quote a whole host of reasons for wanting to run for Save the Rhino: a concern for conservation, personal experiences with rhino on safari, the reputation of the rhino costumes, our masseuses, the beer at the finish line...

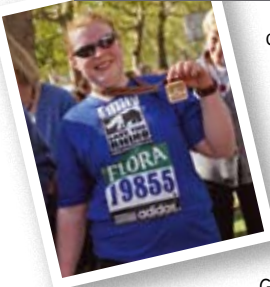


Above: A well-earned massage awaits all our runners at the finish line

Over the months leading up to the race (and often for years after), we develop strong relationships with our runners sharing the highs and lows of the immense task of marathon training and, of course, fundraising. We top all of this by providing each runner with a fantastic marathon day, leaving them, we hope, with a willingness to remain in contact and involved with the charity.

ALL IMAGES SAVE THE RHINO

Below: Emily's sense of achievement on completing the Marathon in 2009 was (rightly so!) enormous

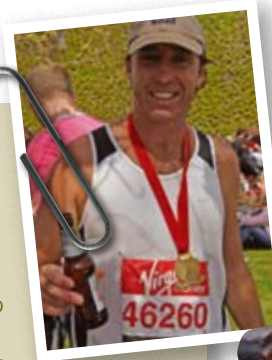


It was therefore with great sadness that we heard about the passing of Emily Goodman, a strong and dedicated runner in our 2009 London Marathon team, who raised over £1,600. Emily had her first sighting of a Greater one-horned rhino from the back of an elephant whilst in Chitwan National Park, Nepal. It was an experience that she never forgot and inspired her to run the marathon for Save the Rhino. She also did voluntary work at Chester Zoo and even applied for the position of Rhino Keeper there.

In an incredible act of generosity, the Goodman family have very kindly directed donations made in Emily's memory to Save the Rhino and The Hospice of the Good Shepherd in Chester (where Emily spent her last few days). We are immensely grateful for their generosity during this difficult time. Emily's partner for 10 years, Alastair Smith, is also continuing the Goodman rhino legacy; Ally said that Emily had so many links with rhinos that it would be a very fitting tribute to her to support Save the Rhino in his own

The legacy of the marathon reaches right around the world

In the 2010 London Marathon team was star fundraiser Rod Tether who raised a whopping £8,784. Rod, who works as a safari guide in North Luangwa National Park, Zambia, asked if the sponsorship he raised could be sent to the North Luangwa Conservation Programme and, once his minimum fundraising target had been reached, we were happy to oblige! Rod's money was utilised in the translocation and housing of several rhino. Here's a break down of how Rod's hard-earned cash was spent:



JEROME MUFFAT/MERODOL

Equipment	Cost
Kechpro – hardware for rhino picket	€731.98
Southern steel – simtank for rhino picket	€635.07
Sirtrack – transmitters/receivers	€2,147.31
SES – rhino arrival paramedic	€588.41
Tsetse targets	€215.85
KZN Wildlife – rhino translocation	€644.96
Bruce Miller – lucerne	€919.24
Mutwila farm – lucerne	€404.93

marathon run and so this year Ally, and his brother Gary, are joining our London Marathon team. Doug and Celia Goodman, Emily's parents, are also joining the marathon volunteer team and we couldn't be more pleased to welcome them all into the rhino family.

We'll be there to support them, and the rest of the rhinos, every step of the way.

Virgin London Marathon 2011 & 2012

This year's race will take place on 17 April and promises to be a glorious day! The new costumes will be going out for their first spin so we hope you'll come and show your support.

The ballot for the Virgin London Marathon 2012 places will open shortly after the 2011 race; meanwhile Save the Rhino has 50 Gold Bond places.

For more details, contact adam@savetherhino.org



Rhino

A new generation emerges

To many of the general public, and indeed to many of our supporters, Save the Rhino is synonymous with the rhino suits. The suits have been evident since the very birth of the charity and have served as a fantastic icon of our resilience and perseverance. It is therefore with great excitement and anticipation that we await the delivery of ten brand new costumes!

Adam Brown | Michael Hearn Intern



The much-loved suits have had a long and colourful career at Save the Rhino, holding the title for the longest running members of staff by a decade. Originally designed by Gerald Scarfe and built by Niki Lyons, the costumes were commissioned for an opera based on Eugène Ionesco's surrealist play,

Rhinoceros. In the opera, they were worn by singers on stage, intended to be used for a few minutes at a time. After their stint treading the boards, the costumes were liberated by Dave Stirling and Johnny Roberts, Save the Rhino's founders, who

saw great potential in them. A total of 20 suits were saved, ranging from a child's size to a two-man rhino.

The costumes were first unveiled as a champion of Save the Rhino at the London Marathon in 1992. Our champions have featured at the London Marathon every year since, as well as making guest appearances at

the Paris, Dublin, Boston, Chicago, New York and even Beirut marathons.

Perhaps the strangest event in the history of our illustrious costumes was a case of rhino-napping! Following the theft of the two-person costume, Save the Rhino received a ransom note accompanied by a photo of someone leading the rhino by a dog lead. The photo was handed to the

police who were able to identify a sign on a gatepost leading them directly to the thieves and the successful recovery of the costume!



As well as marathons, the costumes have been to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro; run over 150 miles in the Marathon des Sables across the Sahara Desert; a further 150 miles in the Atacama Desert in Chile and topped it off by competing in the Comrades Marathon, an 89 km race from Pietermaritzburg to Durban, in 2010.

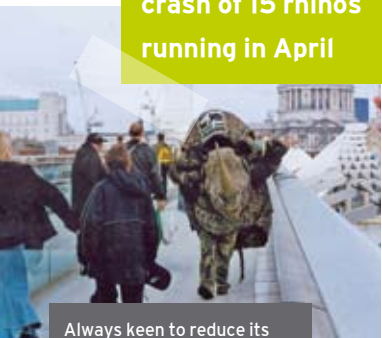
Despite persisting valiantly, one by one, the costumes are falling apart, a little more each year. So, in 2010, it was decided that a new generation of suits would be created, suits better designed to withstand the rigours of marathon running. There was only one person we could ask to build this new generation: their original creator, Niki Lyons. Luckily for us Niki agreed and we have had the privilege of her knowledge and expertise of costume making to bring this new generation to life.

Being their most notorious platform, the suits will debut at this year's Virgin London Marathon. Supplemented by five of our golden oldie suits, Save the Rhino will have an impressive crash of 15 running in April; it will be a sight to behold.

Like the rhino, we have been stubborn and resilient in the remodelling of the new suits, insisting that their design remain aesthetically similar. After all, they would not be the same without their bobbing, ungainly heads adding to every challenge. The idea that someone running a marathon amongst thousands of others may need the use of their peripheral vision is, we argue, preposterous! So, although there's now a new generation, the rhino suit that we all know and love will remain our champion of challenges, the Holy Grail for any marathon runner.

Long may it continue.

Supplemented by five of our golden oldie suits, Save the Rhino will have an impressive crash of 15 rhinos running in April



Always keen to reduce its carbon footprint, Save the Rhino encourages all its employees to walk to work...

Thanks

Our beloved costumes couldn't have gone on any of the adventures they've been on in the last 20 years without our valiant supporters who have braved wind, rain and baking hot sunshine to show the rhinos a good time. We (and the rhinos) lift our hats off to you and give the greatest of thanks.



MICHAEL SHORF

RENAUD FULCONIS

JIM STEPHENS

Fun(d) raising

Here at Save the Rhino, we recognise that without our supporters, we'd be lost. That's why we wanted to pay a special homage to some of our fundraisers who have put mammoth efforts into fundraising on our behalf in recent months.

Jo Paulson | Events Manager

So, let's start with the craziest. Who would want to run a marathon in Beirut, in 30°C heat, in a rhino costume? John Tyszkiewicz is who. The Beirut Marathon doesn't attract the crowds of the London Marathon, so the rhino plodded along empty streets for 26.2 miles, managing a heroic time of 5 hours 35 minutes. John raised a fantastic £735 for Save the Rhino.



Most excitingly, we've also had representation from the next generation, sparking hope for the future of the rhinos

Chris said that seeing the delight on the faces of children as he passed gave him hope for future generations of rhinos

Desperate to get back in a rhino costume after running numerous London Marathons for us, Chris ('Rhino Boy') Green made good friends with one of our costumes, christened 'Spike', on his travels around New York for the marathon last November. Chris enthused, 'The rhino is proving to be a big hit in NYC! The crowds love him. Hearing the chants of "we love you rhino", or people bellowing out "Save the Rhino" was all the stimulus needed to get Rhino Boy around the 26.2 miles in a new personal best rhino time'. Tracy Pereira also ran the New York Marathon, and between Chris and Tracy, they raised over £1,700.

Fundraising efforts have been taken far and wide, with Tim Holmes and friends hiking up Mount Kenya in February to raise money (so far more than £4,500) for GPS trackers and VHS radios for Ol Pejeta Conservancy; and Daniel and Anna Mulholland cycling five road races in South Africa, adding up to 500km and some serious saddle pain, to raise £1,000 for Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park. With signposts reading 'Valley of a Thousand Hills', strong headwinds, 35°C heat and sunburn to deal with, it's no wonder Daniel and Anna are now having Powerade withdrawals.

Back in the UK, this January, David Back completed his Horny@50 campaign with a fundraising dinner at the Long Room at Lord's Cricket Ground. To mark his fiftieth birthday, David embarked on a three-year campaign to raise money for rhino conservation. With Bill Oddie as guest speaker, the dinner raised over £16,000 (split equally between Save the Rhino and the World Land Trust), and Bill even posed for photos with the original Goodies' bike.

Most excitingly, we've also had representation from the next generation, sparking hope for the future of the rhinos. Ten-year-old Maddy Thorp swam a mile for rhinos in March, with the aim of reaching £333 in sponsorship to signify the number of rhinos killed last year in South Africa (so far she's actually raised an amazing £761!) In an equally impressive effort, in response to last year's appeal, young Joachim Banister cycled a massive eight miles in his local park to raise £165 for endangered Javan rhinos.

So, a huge thank you to all our fundraisers - those mentioned above and others we've not had room to thank here. You are lifelong friends of the rhinos.



Spike takes a well-earned rest after a busy day riding the subway and seeing the sights of New York



Daniel Mulholland with another striking jersey, matching of course with Anna (who took the picture)

Below: Lord's Cricket Ground was a wonderful setting for David Back's Horny@50 dinner



How can you help?

We're looking for special people to help our fundraising efforts. What do you love to do? Go to the cinema? Pub quizzes? A certain sport or activity? Party? See live music? Why not arrange an event that you'll enjoy and raise money for Save the Rhino at the same time? We can help and support you if you have an idea; we just need people like you with the enthusiasm to give it a go. Contact jo@savetherhino.org with your ideas today.



ANNA MULHOLLAND
PHILIP DURRANT

RHINO BIRTHDAY CAKE AND MADDY IMAGES: LOUISA THORP



TAG, the rhino's it!

So, just why do you love rhinos so much? And what does the Rhino TAG Chair actually do? I think these are the two most common questions I have been asked in recent times. The first one is 'simple' to answer: rhinos are fantastic creatures; I could fill pages with reasons for their uniqueness. The second answer is a bit more complicated...

Dr Friederike von Houwald | EAZA Rhino TAG Chair

The European Association of Zoos and Aquariums (EAZA) has established, for all the animal groups that are kept in EAZA member institutions, so-called Taxon Advisory Groups (TAGs). Each TAG focuses on a specific group of animals and has 'general' but also very 'specific' tasks. The main 'general' task for each TAG is the development of a Regional Collection Plan (RCP) to decide which species of animals EAZA member institutions wish to keep in the future, the reasons for this decision and the management for their captive population. For rhinos, this is rather straightforward. EAZA member institutions keep white rhinos (southern subspecies), black rhinos (eastern and south-central subspecies) and Indian rhinos. White rhinos are the most common and Indian rhinos are the rarest rhino species kept in European zoos. The EAZA Rhino TAG states in its RCP that there is currently no reason for an EAZA member zoo to keep either Sumatran or Javan rhinos.

A more specific task, which falls under the responsibilities of the Rhino TAG Chair, is to collect and exchange information on how to keep and manage rhinos in captivity. This information, which is collected from several zoos, specialists in rhino husbandry, nutrition, health, research, etc., is written down in husbandry and management guidelines.

The TAG also has an important role to play in the conservation of species

As more and more taxa face serious problems in the wild, it is the duty of zoos to become actively involved in raising awareness for the need of conservation by using 'their' animals as ambassadors for their wild congeners and by collecting money for *in situ* projects. For rhinos, the rise in poaching activities in Africa and Asia has served to emphasize the need for these activities and, as the Rhino TAG Chair, I consider achieving them a priority.

The EAZA Rhino Campaign in 2005/06 provided a fantastic opportunity for the Rhino TAG to become actively involved in rhino conservation. Assisted by Save the Rhino, the Rhino Campaign team set high targets and aimed to collect €350,000 whilst also spreading the word for the necessity of rhino conservation to as many European zoos as possible. Thanks to SRI and some highly engaged zoo staff, the target was almost doubled. More than €650,000 was collected, 128 member institutions of EAZA participated, and 19 rhino conservation projects could be supported.

Since this time, SRI has been a valuable partner, supporting the Rhino TAG by helping to define which rhino projects need support. Armed with this information, I am spreading the word to EAZA zoos and seeking support for those projects.

As the Rhino TAG Chair, I must coordinate all of the above mentioned tasks whilst also ensuring that progress is being made towards achieving the vision and mission of the Rhino TAG. Our vision is to see a healthy, viable population of free-



Marwell Wildlife (with the help of a few rhino suits) raised over £12,000 for rhino conservation during the EAZA Rhino Campaign



EAZA represents and links more than 300 member institutions in 35 countries



ranging rhino in intact ecosystems, cherished by the global community and our mission is to ensure that all captive populations are healthy, self-sustaining and genetically viable, and capable of being an effective tool in support of *in situ* rhino conservation. Thanks to SRI, we are moving in the right direction, and I look forward to continuing this partnership in the years to come for the benefit of rhino conservation. I will learn more about field programmes at the 2011 African Rhino Specialist Group meeting in March, at Mokala National Park in South Africa. This is the first time that the EAZA Rhino TAG Chair has been invited to participate in this meeting, and I think it is recognition of the importance of linking *in situ* and *ex situ* work to help save the rhino.



RENAUD FULCONIS

Hot potatoes in Mokala National Park

The 10th meeting of the IUCN/SSC African Rhino Specialist Group (AfRSG) was always going to be crucial, given the current rhino poaching crisis that has escalated so dramatically. When we last met, in May 2008, the talk was of rhino reintroduction programmes and how to monitor for maximum population growth, with workshops on conservation priorities, community-based conservation models and compliance with CITES regulations.

Cathy Dean | Director

How everything has changed. 2010 saw 333 rhinos poached in South Africa – the most since the Rhino Wars of the 1970s and 1980s – and the gloomy prediction for 2011 is that we could see as many as 1,000 animals killed.

This put a whole different light on our discussions during the six-day meeting in Mokala National Park, with a heavy emphasis on security and on consolidating the most important existing populations. And hot potatoes aplenty.

Tom Milliken of TRAFFIC set the scene with a report on links between Vietnam and the poaching crisis. As already discussed in a key document, CoP15 Doc. 45.1 Annex¹: 'In 2003, for the first time, South Africa issued CITES permits for nine rhino trophies and two rhino horns to be exported to Vietnam... Vietnamese

nationals reportedly conducted 203 white rhino hunts in South Africa in 2005-07, which would have yielded 406 rhino horns; South African exports, however, only account for 268 horns to Vietnam during this same period, suggesting that one-third of these hunts took place without the subsequent acquisition of CITES documents.'

That much we knew already. However, Tom went on to explain that Vietnam has no professional hunters, no hunting associations, and no culture of collecting and displaying trophies. Furthermore, no private individual is allowed to own a gun. It is illegal to hunt in Vietnam; the only hunters are poachers by default. So who are the 107 Vietnamese who have applied for hunting permits in South Africa? And who are the private game farm owners who are violating CITES regulations by side-stepping the permit system?

The same CoP15 Doc. 45.1 Annex reports that since 2000, Chinese data suggest that South Africa has exported 141 live rhinos to China. So where are the facilities? Where are the husbandry guidelines? Where are the studbooks for the Endangered Species breeding programmes that zoos in Europe, Australia and the USA maintain to ensure optimum genetic diversity?

Kenya, Zimbabwe, Namibia and South Africa all presented on their responses to the poaching crisis. Here too there are problems. Kenya gave an example of an armed intruder arrested in a private sanctuary in Laikipia, who was charged with trespass and was sentenced to one day's community service. Zimbabwe showed pictures of an unlicensed heavy weapon concealed in the tailgate of a 4x4: fine \$100. South Africa made 156 arrests in 2010 and almost 50 in the first two and a half months in 2011, but has only achieved four convictions (many of the cases are pending). Court prosecutions need to be speeded up if they are to act as a deterrent; sentencing guidelines need to be set much higher; and we need to catch criminals higher up the food chain, not just the guys who pull the trigger.

Don't get me wrong: there are many, many really good people working in rhino conservation who need our funds to buy the basic tools of the trade: GPSs, cameras, camping equipment, uniforms, vehicles etc. We have to continue to support community conservation and environmental education programmes if we are to enlist the support of local communities to act as informers if strangers come into their villages, asking questions about rhinos.

But what is needed, just as much as funding, is government commitment: to enforce the laws of their countries; to increase the severity of sentences for wildlife crimes; to clamp down on abuses of the trophy hunting and live export permits; to support Parks staff after armed conflicts with poachers, so that rangers are not charged with shooting an armed trespasser; and to share cross-border intelligence. With those in place, we can win this battle.

STOP PRESS... Stop Press... Stop Press

The official press release issued after the meeting highlighted that black and white rhino numbers have increased, to 4,800 and 20,100 respectively, but warned that, in spite of these modest increases, African rhinos are facing the worst poaching crisis for decades. To read the full press release visit: www.savetherhino.org

¹ Available to download at tinyurl.com/6fdn3lr



Above: Raoul du Toit, Executive Director of the Lowveld Rhino Trust in Zimbabwe

Below: Joe Okori, WWF-ARP Coordinator, talks to Michelle Gadd of USFWS RTCF



Grants

Save the Rhino awarded \$5,000 to help cover the cost of this meeting. SRI's Trustees also awarded \$10,000 towards the core activities of the African Rhino Specialist Group's Secretariat.



Laconophilia at Borana

Black rhino are perilously close to extinction, and with existing sanctuaries coming close to, or even exceeding their carrying capacities, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) is in desperate need of more secure habitat. Borana is an area with prime black rhino habitat, secure fencing and significant infrastructure already in place, and has for some time been part of the KWS' greater strategic plan for black rhino.

Sam Taylor | Chief Conservation Officer, Borana Conservancy

The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) national strategy for black rhino aims to achieve a population of 700 by 2011 as a step in the process of achieving a long-term viable population of 2,000 black rhino. While this goal relies upon the securement of many large unfenced habitats, small privately owned fenced conservancies will have to play a large role in providing habitat if this goal is to be reached.

Borana is a pioneer member of the Laikipia Wildlife Forum. Originally a cattle ranch, it was established as a wildlife

conservancy in 1993 with the completion of one of Kenya's first eco-lodges. It neighbours the world famous Lewa Downs Conservancy, which has led the way in rhino conservation in Kenya for the last 15 years.

Lewa's efforts have been so successful that they are close to exceeding their carrying capacity and are desperate for more habitat. Subordinate males are having

a difficult time as they desperately try and establish territories in the wonderfully saturated ecosystem.

Because of these happenings, in recent months, the fenced gap between Borana and Lewa, which leads through the Ngare Ndare forest, has seen the wanderings of rhino back and forth between the two conservancies. One particularly infamous visitor is the black rhino 'Sparta', who has been hosted by Borana on two occasions now and stayed for a total of a month. Normally this sort of behaviour would be cause for widespread alarm between the two conservancies but instead Borana is opening its doors (well, fences) to help Lewa increase the available rhino habitat. It has long been the plan to open the fence between Lewa and Borana, and the pressure created by

the rhinos seems to be speeding up the process of developing one huge uninterrupted ecosystem.

Whilst undertaking rhino conservation is exciting news for Borana, it comes with huge responsibility. Poaching is on the rise in Kenya, and the logistics, organisation and money required to protect these animals is daunting to say the least. However, what we have come to learn is that when it comes to rhino conservation, everyone is in it together. The help, advice and support we are receiving, not least from Save the Rhino, is astounding.

With this help, we have been able to send our top men to the KWS training school in Manyani. Eight members of the Borana security team were selected to go to Manyani to take part in a two-month intensive game ranger wildlife and security course. The course involved aspects of tracking, drill, discipline and wildlife knowledge as well as basic paramilitary techniques and left the team itching for Borana's rhino to arrive. Save the Rhino's kind donation is also helping us to invest heavily in more training and more equipment, so that we will be prepared for the immense challenges that lie ahead.

In 480 BC, Sparta was defended by 300 men against tens of thousands of invading Persians at Thermopylae. Borana now has joined the war to protect rhino. We hope to be protecting our 'Sparta' (and friends) with perhaps even fewer men, but certainly no less endeavour!



Above: One of the prettiest outposts in Kenya

Below: Sparta dining out on Borana

The black rhino 'Sparta' has been hosted by Borana on two occasions now and stayed for a total of a month

UNLESS NOTED
IMAGES BORANA RANCH



MAIN IMAGE SRI

Grant

SRI provided a grant of £9,909 from core funds to pay for ranger training, uniforms, binoculars and GIS mapping at Borana, in readiness for the rhinos' arrival.



Where there's a rhino there's a (collaborative) way

Kenya holds over 82% of the world population of Eastern black rhino and is therefore home to several programmes supported by SRI. I was lucky enough to visit Kenya in February to see how they worked and the challenges they face, but most importantly, to see them working with local communities and each other.

Lucy Boddam-Whetham | Fundraising Manager

“ My job, in a nutshell, is to know the field programmes inside and out so that I can liaise with field staff on needs and challenges, successfully apply to grant-making organisations and, of course, report fully on how grants have been used. This is done from our office in London with my (usually!) fast internet connection, armed with the fundraiser's dictionary of 'objectives', 'indicators of success', 'outputs' and such like. When fighting endless deadlines, it's surprisingly easy to lose sight of the reality of rhino conservation in the field and the challenges faced by the field staff. I was soon to see the realities for myself.

“ The game scouts told me how they had recently discovered a large snare which was set on a frequented rhino trail ”

understanding of the challenges they face. Living in isolated, basic conditions, patrolling and monitoring can be quite tedious and requires strong motivation. Often these men are putting their lives on the line to protect rhinos and other wildlife. We soon came upon fresh tracks, dung and a dust bath of one of the elusive black rhino. The game scouts told me how they had recently come across a large snare which was set on a frequented rhino trail. Luckily, the scouts had found it first and the bloodhounds were brought in, a scent picked up and the perpetrator tracked down and arrested. It was sobering to know this was a direct attempt at the rhinos. Another recent poaching attempt saw poisoned pineapples laid down for the rhinos but again, thankfully, due to the informer network, arrests were made before any rhinos were harmed.

My first stop was the Mbirikani Group Ranch adjacent to the Chyulu Hills National Park to learn about the Maasailand Preservation Trust (MPT)'s Game scout and rhino programme. I have worked very closely with MPT throughout my time at SRI, and I thought I knew it really well, but I was amazed how useful it was to see the programme for myself and to spend time with key field staff. It was great to see the new offices that Chester Zoo helped to pay for, and the shiny new patrol vehicle for which SRI fundraised.

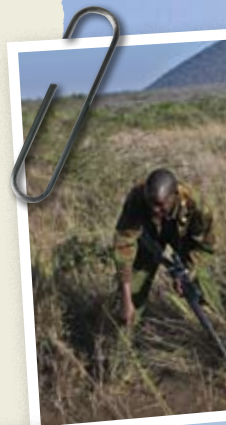
While there I took the opportunity to camp out overnight by the waterhole, which is being supplied by the recently completed borehole. With night-vision equipment ready, I was hopeful of seeing my first wild black rhino. The only visitor was a buffalo noisily lapping up the water. He suddenly sensed we were there and started stomping about in protest! Alas, the rhinos were not thirsty that night.

I was sad to leave Chyulu Hills but, safe in the knowledge that key grant reports had been worked on and future developments and funding needs had been discussed, I headed off to the Laikipia District to witness the work of the Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) and visit a few of the area's key wildlife conservancies. I left Chyulus thinking that the key to successful conservation is the full backing and involvement of the local people and was therefore even keener to see LWF's community work.

I quickly saw how busy things are. I spent five days with the legendary Richard Bonham, boss of MPT, and his dedicated Project Manager Fred Njagi.

Throughout the week, there were constant interruptions from the phone with reports of human-wildlife conflict, or from people turning up at the offices who had walked for miles asking Richard for a scholarship or for a job. It's not easy to deal with all of these requests and get done everything you had set out to do.

I was also lucky enough to accompany the game scouts on a rhino monitoring patrol, which gave me a good

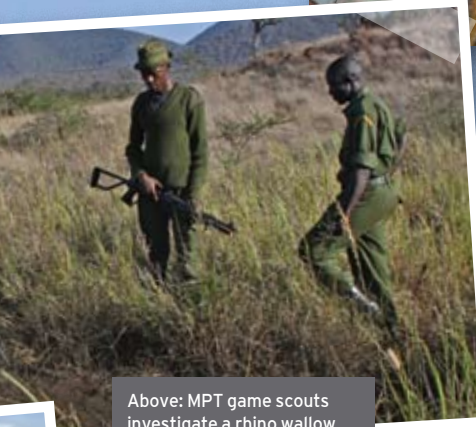


Meeting at Lewa Downs Conservancy with Josephat Musyima, Ephantus Mugo and Geoffrey Chege

ALL IMAGES SAVE THE RHINO



MPT Chairman Richard Bonham with the new Landcruiser, the purchase of which was made possible through kind donations from USFWS and the Van Tienhoven Foundation



Above: MPT game scouts investigate a rhino wallow



Left: The borehole water pump is solar powered to ensure sustainability



Below: MPT staff: Patrick Maina, Antony Kasanga, Fred Njagi, Wilson Selengia, outside the new office

Shadowing the staff of LWF and its projects, I was able to get a clearer understanding of how the Forum works. It really is trying to put the responsibility in the hands of the people and encouraging them to manage their natural resources, whether that's water, soil or wildlife, in a holistic and sustainable way. I spent time in the Community Liaison Officers' monthly meeting to hear progress on projects such as honey production, water management and solutions to mitigate human-wildlife conflict.

At a meeting with the Pesi community, hearing about the challenges of making the West Laikipia Fence work in preventing elephants from crop raiding, my Swahili skills were to be tested! Despite only understanding every fifth word, I could see that by the end of the meeting the communities felt more empowered, understood the impact of their actions and appreciated that the success of the project was in their hands. Fingers crossed, they will be able to look after their section of the fence a little better.

From fences to grass

The next day I was whisked off for a quick explanation of how holistic management of grazing is improving the area's soil and grass, and how cattle

are being managed to the advantage of the environment. The capped ground is broken up, vegetation evenly eaten, the old grasses from last year are broken down and the paddocks are intensively fertilised.

My whistle-stop tour also involved seeing the preparations for rhinos at Borana Ranch, an impressive set up where they are making sure they are 100% ready before 20 rhinos descend on Borana (see page 21), and the final touches to the Central Capture and Translocation Facility (C&T) at Ol Pejeta Conservancy (OPC) (see page 24). At Lewa, I met with Ephantus Mugo, previously the Environmental Education Officer at Laikipia Wildlife Forum. Ephantus has taken on a new job at Lewa Downs Conservancy and is incredibly enthusiastic and keen to implement the skills he has learnt at LWF and ensure that the same key messages are delivered at Lewa. Whilst there, I met with Geoffrey Chege, the Chairman of the Association of Private Land Rhino Sanctuaries to discuss the implementation of the Emergency Fund for the C&T facility at OPC and talked in general about rhino conservation in Kenya.

I met with key staff from all of these programmes, and the question I always asked was: is the threat to rhinos increasing in Kenya? Unfortunately, the answer is yes.

So what can we do?

Having heard everyone's comments, I think Kenya needs to make it clear that there is zero tolerance of rhino poaching. We need everyone who works with Kenya's rhino to work together to push for a complete clamp down and call for tighter and more severe sentencing and prosecutions. At the end of the day, Kenya's people will not profit from rhino poaching, it will be the very few, often not Kenyans who benefit. We also therefore need to encourage a national pride in Kenya – 'hands off our rhinos'.

The natural world should not be something separate, it is our home and our workplace, everything comes from nature, I think it is only too easy to lose sight of this reality.



Thank you

I would like to express a huge thanks to British Airways Communities and Conservation for providing a complimentary flight to Kenya. Thank you also to all of my lovely hosts and field staff for spending time with me. Thanks also to recent funders of the Chyulu Hills Game scout and rhino programme, including Chester Zoo, USFWS, Annéville Zoo, Van Tienhoven Foundation, Van der Hucht de Beukelaar Stichting (Foundation) and Ernst Kleinwort Charitable Trust.



Conservancy collaboration for conservation



Maggie Esson from Chester Zoo discusses the new education displays with Martin Mulama, Chief Conservation Officer

At Ol Pejeta Conservancy an exciting new development has been established. This development, which comes in the form of a Capture and Translocation Facility, will not only succour the future of rhinos at this Conservancy, the largest black rhino sanctuary in Kenya, but also make a major contribution to rhino survival in the greater Laikipia and Ewaso Nyiro Districts where other private and community conservancies manage rhino and other threatened species.

Thomas Wimber | Development Programmes Manager, Ol Pejeta Conservancy

Based at Ol Pejeta Conservancy (OPC), the centralised Capture and Translocation Facility (C&T) with its specialised capture truck, will provide the facilities to move, relocate, rescue and/or release rhinos as instances of injury, poaching attempts, breakouts and other emergencies require. The facilities will also allow for the restocking and redistribution of endangered species as populations increase.

As a resource, the USFWS-funded C&T represents an important milestone in the coordination and cooperation of the Laikipia Conservancies where rhinos are so vulnerable.

As a centralised resource, the C&T saves costs and shares expertise. In a very literal sense, pound for pound, this project represents good value. Symbolically, the project means a great deal more; combined with an

Emergency Fund to support animal emergencies, the C&T makes a significant statement about collective and regional concern and collaboration amongst conservancies, land owners and the government for the conservation of rhinos (and other species). This collaboration sends a message to would-be poachers: species vulnerability and security are taken seriously. By offering operational support to the Kenya Wildlife Service, the C&T also garners the private conservation sector more credibility.

The C&T is not only about emergencies and security urgencies; it will also contribute greatly to the restocking and relocating of surplus animal populations in the region. It will also allow for the movement of animals in danger of hybridisation and therefore enhance the genetic integrity of rhino populations in the Laikipia District. At OPC, rhino, and other endangered species, are thriving and, through the C&T, OPC can

share its biodiversity wealth and aid the increase of animal numbers beyond its borders.

The C&T will also serve as a catalyst to the Laikipia Wildlife Forum's Environmental Education & Literacy Programme (EELP). The EELP helps disseminate education about species conservation, natural resource use and the environment's role in society. One of the opportunities offered by the EELP is educational visits to the OPC 'Morani' Education Centre. By being based next to the centre, the C&T will augment key conservation messages whilst also providing a hands-on teaching example of the realities of animal management. In light of the potential teaching opportunities associated with the facilities at Morani, SRI has suggested that we work with Chester Zoo to develop a masterplan for education, including the interpretation material that should be created in conjunction with the new C&T. Stay tuned for updates on this exciting initiative!

Maintaining security for rhinos is intensive and expensive. A security structure that is multi-layered, requiring greater effort to penetrate makes for an effective barrier against species loss. Armed pursuit of a poacher following a poaching incident is a reality, but this is the last resort. Better to install prevention strategies such as: guarding, rhino patrols, cattle herder reporting, boundary fencing, and community watches. C&T augments this security strategy by allowing for a better response, and by demonstrating enhanced communication and coordination and a region-wide concern for rhino safety.

We hope this sends a clear signal of our commitment to rhino survival.

Grant

Our thanks to USFWS RCTF which provided \$32,780 for the construction of the new Capture and Translocation Facility. The second part of this project is the creation of an Emergency Fund for black rhino work in Laikipia, which is being administered by the Association of Private Land Rhino Sanctuaries, and which will pay for 50% of all emergency black rhino work. Save the Rhino granted \$3,278 and thanks to Chester Zoo for awarding £7,334 for year one costs and £583 from the Mary Heap Charitable Trust.

RIGHT, FAR RIGHT, BELOW: SAVE THE RHINO



ABOVE, RIGHT, BELOW: OPC

The Capture and Translocation Facility is situated next to the education centre so that visitors to OPC can fully understand its importance



A legend in Laikipia

Save the Rhino Patron Martina Navratilova has been an active supporter since 2000 when she nominated SRI to receive her winnings of \$125,000 from *Who wants to be a celebrity millionaire?* In 2009 she again showed enormous generosity and nominated us as the beneficiary from her participation in *I'm a celebrity, get me out of here!* We figured it was high time to show her how some of the money we raise is spent so, at the end of November 2010, when Martina was on her way to climb Kilimanjaro, off we went to see some of the projects we support in Kenya.

Cathy Dean | Director

With the support of some fantastic project staff, over the course of four and a half days, we were able to give Martina an excellent introduction to rhino conservation issues, and show her how effective environmental education and community conservation programmes can be.

Our visit began at Ol Pejeta Conservancy (OPC) where we met four of the last surviving eight Northern white rhinos which were transferred back to Africa from Dvur Kralove Zoo in the Czech Republic in December 2009. These rhinos are just starting to show mating behaviour so it's an exciting time. There were also, just as impressive, black and Southern white rhinos to see and some wonderful rangers to meet. We talked extensively with them about their daily responsibilities as well as the Africa-wide poaching problem. We also saw the progress of the new Capture and Translocation Facility which SRI obtained funding from USFWS for and you can read more on page 24.

Whilst at OPC, we also spent half a day with Ephantus Mugo, the Laikipia Wildlife Forum's (LWF) Environmental Education Officer. We collected a class of children from Thingithu School in Nanyuki, and took them on a game drive through OPC before visiting the Morani Education Centre, where they had lessons on conservation issues. Ephantus is an inspirational teacher and Martina and I were as enthralled as the children were!

The remainder of our trip was spent visiting various community projects supported by the LWF. A meeting with Laikipia's Water Resource Users Associations caught Martina's interest in particular and we were able to see the new laundry facility they have built near Likii River, and then visited a farm to see how drip-irrigation techniques dramatically reduce the amount of water needed compared to conventional sprinkler systems. We also joined a quarterly meeting held by the Central Unit to discuss a range of issues from problem elephant control to conservation enterprise initiatives, including the LWF's non-profit company, Desert Edge, which markets honey,

aloe and medicinal plant products. Finally, we visited a nursery that demonstrates how to grow plants used for traditional medicine.

In an interview with *The Times* journalist Simon Barnes (another of our wonderful Patrons), Martina said: 'I've learnt so much about the way the community works together. It's not only about rhinos; it's a holistic approach, making a whole area work for people and for rhinos. I've met the community leaders and visited the farming projects and I am so impressed'. Coming from a legend like Martina, that's high praise.

Save the Rhino promo video

Cathy and Martina were accompanied on their trip by Gordon Main of Curlyman Productions who has since produced Save the Rhino's very own promotional video which was launched at the Ninth Douglas Adams Memorial Lecture. Narrated by lovely patron Mark Carwardine, we hope you'll agree that the video gives a great overview of the work we're doing.

Check out the video at:

www.vimeo.com/21634720

Thanks

Our grateful thanks to Anthony King and the LWF team for hosting us and arranging all the logistics, and to British Airways Community and Conservation for providing my flights. We would also like to wish Ephantus Mugo all the best for his new role as Education Officer at Lewa Wildlife Conservancy.



Martina meets Baraka (top); Ephantus, LWF's Environmental Education Officer (middle); and some local school children (bottom)

ALL IMAGES SAVE THE RHINO

We walk the line... ...every morning and every afternoon

One guard will walk 5 km one way and back again along the fence surrounding the Rhino Sanctuary, and then another guard will walk for 5 km the opposite way and back again. Sometimes we don't get back until nearly 1 pm only to go off again shortly afterwards to check the same section again.



The Mkomazi fence is eight-foot high with a three-stranded cantilever, and 16 strands of high-tensile wire electrified up to 7,000 volts

Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary Fence Personnel | George Adamson Wildlife Preservation Trust

As we walk, we are looking for tracks, interferences with the fence, broken poles, weak strainer posts, and insulators that have snapped whilst also checking that the cantilever hasn't drooped too much. After the rains we also have to cut the grass

beneath the line so that it doesn't short the fence out. All the time we are in radio contact with our outpost and the security officer in charge at the main office.

Each outpost covers 10 km of fence and we have four outposts covering the entire 40 km fence line.

We are the main perimeter

security for the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary and the independent tracking teams working inside the Rhino Sanctuary rely on us for information; whoever wants to get into the Sanctuary has to go through the fence.

If there is a short on the fence and the alarms go off, we start walking

immediately in the direction of the problem, usually meeting up with the Rhino Sanctuary Manager on his motorbike or a vehicle sent down by the Kisima base camp coming the other way. Sometimes the alarms go off in the middle of the night and we have to go out with the manager and a vehicle to check the source of the alarm.

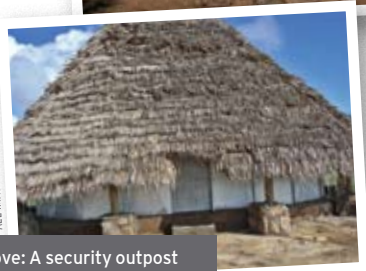
We don't take any chances. We know it's difficult for someone to break in, find a rhino in the thick bush, kill it, get the horn off and get out undetected. But we know it's not impossible.

Most of us here have been working in or around the Rhino Sanctuary since it started. A lot of us put up the initial fence line and now we do all the maintenance on the existing fence and we put up fences in new areas. If we are putting up a new fence, Tony [Fitzjohn, Field Director] and Elisaria Nnko come in first and survey the area; then a small track is cut and surveyors poles put in place; then the JCB comes in to clear the line; then the grader comes in to clean the line; then all the materials are brought to the site; then we put the fence up. We have our own little workshops for drilling all the poles, fitting the insulators and storing the tons of wire that are needed for fencing.

After the rains we often see wild animals: cheetah; leopard; sometimes a lion; giraffe; kudu; bushbuck; eland and, every now and then, buffalo. Buffalo have ambushed only one man so far, but that's enough to keep us alert.

We are self-contained. Rations come in once a week and we cook our own food. Large water tanks are filled every fortnight and the technicians are sent out if we have any faults on our equipment. We live in uniports – tin huts. They are spacious and comfortable enough but not so solid that we are cut off from the sounds outside. Even when we are sleeping we hear the clicking of the energizers in the background that ensure a steady stream of power to the fence line.

There are no short cuts. This is what we have to do to protect the rhino and to demonstrate to would-be poachers that we are protecting these rhino. If we make it through the night without interruption, we wake up in the morning, have some tea and uji (local porridge) and then... we walk the line.



Above: A security outpost under construction

Below: The finished thing!

Grants

We would like to thank Chester Zoo very much indeed, which has just awarded £9,313 for the purchase of two uniports and the construction of new security outposts for the Mkomazi Rhino Sanctuary. Chester also then granted £9,600 for the purchase of a new water bowser, to replace the 40-year-old Bedford water tanker that finally died.

'Don't blame me just because I'm an aye-aye!'

Save the aye-aye

rhino



FRANK VASSEN

Nearly two years ago, I was struck with some rather inconvenient news. I had Parkinson's disease! Bit of a shock. But then I also felt sorry for my Consultant. It can't be much fun constantly telling people that their life is stuffed. OK, so in 10 years I will be a stumbling, dribbling, incoherent old fool (some would say 'No change there, then'); my driving licence will be handed in; and I will become more and more dependant on my wonderful wife and gorgeous daughter. But I count myself lucky. Being an optimist, I realised that I had better get on with my life! What could I do now, whilst I am still able?

Mark Worsfold | Rhino Kili Climber



Seeing Chris Moyles sweating his way up Mount Kilimanjaro in aid of Comic Relief made me think 'I could do that!' And before you knew it my younger brother and my best man had informed my wife that we were going up Kilimanjaro too.

Why Save the Rhino?

I blame it on the aye-aye! Mark Carwardine convinced the late, great Douglas Adams to go in search of the elusive beast and then for Douglas to write up the whole trip for a Sunday colour supplement. I remember it well and it whetted my appetite for more. Years later, a listing for Save the Rhino's Douglas Adams Memorial Lecture attracted my attention; Mark Carwardine would give a talk about his experiences of *Last Chance to See* (the first time round). These annual lectures have now become a part of my life and I have become more and more interested in Save the Rhino's activities.

I had seen that Save the Rhino organises an almost-annual Rhino Climb Kilimanjaro trip and, yes, you guessed it, Douglas Adams had taken part in a walk from Mombasa on the Kenyan coast to Mount Kilimanjaro wearing the infamous rhino costume! So 'Save the Rhino' it was.

And that is when the hardest challenge of all took place. How could I convince others to join me in aid of the rhinoceros? We have had many detractors who adamantly wouldn't donate to this charity. Some felt that Help for Heroes, Cancer Research or Parkinson's Disease Society were more important causes. For me, the choice was easy. Conservation and environmental issues are the most important problem facing the world today. These other, very

worthy causes, would be more personal and self-interested. I like to think I am more altruistic than that. Besides, those charities receive millions in donations and my contribution would be a drop in the proverbial ocean. By supporting Save the Rhino and the work it does, I believe we ultimately help solve global problems. At least I can look my daughter in the eye and say I tried to do my bit!

So here I am spending my spare time walking up and down the hills of Surrey, come rain or shine. Staggering around various fêtes, fairs and other assorted festivities in a heavy, sweaty, smelly rhino costume.

But then I am lucky – I have Parkinson's

If I didn't, I wouldn't be climbing Kilimanjaro. Others wouldn't be joining me. Still more wouldn't be donating their hard-earned cash. Save the Rhino wouldn't benefit from our efforts. Rhinoceros survival (it is too late to call it conservation) would be worse off and the world would be a poorer place. In 20 years there is likely to be a cure for Parkinson's but there are likely to be no rhinos. I'd rather have rhinos than Parkinson's!

Post climb...

...and so it transpired that through pain, rain, suffering and snow we all made it to Uhuru point, albeit with the help of three guides, 20 porters, four companies, British Airways and of course Save the Rhino. I won't mention the blisters; the loss of my toenails; Johanne's collapse and evacuation to hospital; Arkwright's panic and difficulties on the summit; Charles' acute mountain sickness on day one and his other more urgent calls of nature, day and night; or the fact that Rosie's ipod battery was not up to the task. Tony, Lucy and Mukka Fitzjohn became our excellent hosts for two days afterwards. They flew, drove, wine and dined our small group; showing us the important conservation work they carry out. I thought I had died and gone to heaven. We were all impressed by how important their work is. So, with donations still coming in, we hope to exceed our target...and then plan for a new fundraising adventure.

Thanks

Our heartfelt thanks to Mark and the rest of the team – Rick Anstis, David Worsfold, Rosy Worsfold and Charles Brewer, who between them have raised a fantastic total of more than £12,400!

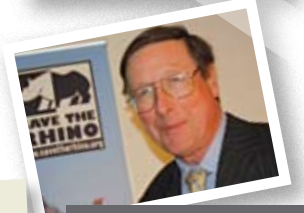
PechaKucha Africa

What on earth does that funny word mean? PechaKucha, or ペチャクチャ in Japanese, is a fantastic event format where a variety of speakers have just 20 slides and 20 seconds per slide to enthral the audience.

Jo Paulson | Events Manager



African themed table settings and cocktails went down a treat



From wars (Max – above) to chimpanzees (Alastair – below) – you never know what's coming next at a PechaKucha event

We held a PechaKucha Africa event in October last year, at which a number of brilliant and high-profile speakers talked about an African experience in this fast-paced format. And it's not just us who thought it was a good event – *Hello! Magazine* gave it a whole page spread and Giles Coren wrote about having lunch with the auction prize winner in *The Times Magazine!*

This beautiful, themed dinner transported us through deserts, forest, across rivers and into the communities of Africa. We heard tales of wildlife from *Planet Earth* producer Alastair Fothergill's experiences of filming chimpanzees in the Ivory Coast and Uganda, to explorer Benedict Allen's encounters with a randy giraffe who had an eye for his camel, Nelson, as he trekked through the Skeleton Coast in Namibia. We heard about exploration, through author

Tim Butcher's tales of Barbara Greene, the unsung heroine of African Travel, and journalist Sir Max Hastings' accounts of how three generations of his family have experienced war and peace in Africa. We heard about the freedom that education

can provide through Soiya Gecaga,

Executive Director of *We the Change Foundation*, and saw the amazing diversity of life and landscape through the incredible photography of Steve Bloom. The event was splendidly compered by Clive Anderson who kept the audience chuckling all the way through.

News... News... News

Our PechaKucha series will hit a high in **November 2011** with **PechaKucha Wild!**

We will have a fantastic line up of well-known speakers talking about a wild experience. How they interpret this is up to them, so who knows what could happen? More details will be available shortly, contact jo@savetherhino.org



Above: Giles Coren writes about the irony of taking the auction winner to a Chinese restaurant with rhino horn demand coming from China



HELLO!

Thanks

Our huge thanks to all the speakers at PechaKucha Africa and to Clive Anderson for acting as the comper at the event. Our thanks also to all those who donated prizes for the raffle (particularly Wilderness Safaris), auction and goody bags, and to Klein Dytham architecture for allowing us to use the PechaKucha format.





Rhino Car Stickers £1.50 each
Sticker size 185 x 75 mm



Adult Logo T-Shirts £15

Colours: Black, Blue, Safari green
Sizes: S, M, L, and XL

Kid's Logo T-shirts £7.50

Colour: Safari green only
Sizes: Ages 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-11, 12-13

It doesn't matter if you're black or white! Or does it?

Following an unprecedented increase in the re-homing of our cuddly rhino we found ourselves rhinoless in January of this year. This was a great cause for concern when, like the rhino themselves, a new supply was hard to find (not including the use of radio transmitters, that's cheating). All was not lost; the end of January was a joyous time seeing the delivery of a brand new generation of cuddly rhino!

Our new stock of rhino are even softer and cuter than their predecessors however they've sparked a mass debate. Which is cuter, black or white? The two species do not generally differ in colour in the wild, rather they are a reflection of their local soil colour from rolling in the mud. However, to ease identification, our two different species are a distinct dark and light grey and are sporting some rather anatomically correct mouths.

We can't come to a conclusion here; we need an independent judge. Purchase your favourite rhino now to show your support. The most popular rhino will be crowned champion in this autumn's issue of *The Horn*. Who wins? You decide!

No matter how overawing our new rhino are, we cannot forget our fantastic array of products perfect for demonstrating your support for Save the Rhino to the world. Stand out from the crowd in one of our easily recognisable logo t-shirts or strut down the street carrying all your goodies in our eco-friendly cloth bag.

To order any of these products visit our website www.savetherhino.org or telephone **020 7357 7474** to order directly.

Save the Rhino shopper £5
100% cotton ecologically friendly, fair-trade bag

Embroidered badge £3.50

Now you can wear the same badges as many of the field staff at the programmes supported by Save the Rhino

STEVE & ANNY TOON



Enamel pin badge £4

Join the SRI team! 25mm
A great way to decorate your suit lapel, tie, jeans pocket...

Cuddly Rhino £6

Consistently one of our most popular products! Nose to tail approx 19cm. Complies with SCS specifications. Suitable for ages 3+



Save the Rhino poster competition

Making people realise why the rhino needs saving is a big part of our job here at Save the Rhino. Now we'd like your help in getting the rhino message out there. We'd like you to design a poster that shows why it's important to save the rhino. The wonderful posters on this page (designed by pupils at Condover CE Primary School) should give you some inspiration.

A selection of the posters will be displayed at Rhino Mayday (see page 7 for details) and the designer of the winning poster will win a rhino goody bag and have their poster displayed on the Save the Rhino website.

Please send your posters (with your name and contact details on the back) to:

Save the Rhino
16 Winchester Walk
London SE1 9AQ

RHINO



save the rhino



Visit www.savetherhino.org to learn more about rhinos and get some more ideas.

Term and conditions

The closing date for entries is 30 April 2011. Maximum size of entry A4. Save the Rhino cannot be responsible for entries lost or damaged in the post. Unfortunately, entries cannot be returned and remain the property of Save the Rhino. The judge's decision is final and no discussions will be entered into. The winner will be notified by 31 May 2011. Entrants must be aged 16 or under on 30 April 2011.

RHINO



Thank You!

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We would like to express our warmest thanks to the following individuals, companies and grant-making bodies for their generous support for our work over the last six months. We could not achieve all that we do, without the time, goodwill, and financial and pro-bono support of you all.

Our heartfelt thanks to:

Individuals

5th Aughton St Michael's Guides, Laura Adams, Polly Adams, Benedict Allen, Alan Anderson, Natasha Archdale, David Back, Dave Barker, Janet Beccaloni, Kathy Bloom, Steve Bloom, Matt Brooke, Tim Butcher, Johan Buys, Gillian and Grahame Carstens, Mark Carwardine, David Casbon, Henry Chaplin, Giles Coren, Dan Clark, Brian Cox, Dina de Angelo, Robert Devereux, Kenneth Donaldson, Maggie Esson, Darlene Fisher, Pippa Evans, Petra Fleischer, Alastair Fothergill, John Fothergill, Nicolas Franco, Rodney Franklin, Nick Garbutt, Soiya Gecaga, Mike Gratton, Doug and Celia Goodman, Tom Halifax, Kirsten Harris, Max Hastings, Chris Hill, David Hughes, Idiots of Ants, Rodrigo Jazinski, Tom Kenyon-Slaney, Paul Kerensa, Peter Lawrence, James Learmond, Andrew Lindsay, Aviva List, Horst Lubnow, Niki Lyons, Fiona Macleod, Susan Murrin, Francesco Nardelli, Simone Niederhäuser, Andrew Nisbet, Claire Owen, Pappy's, Laura Petetti, Hilary Puxley and Michael Crane, Alex Rhind, J Saffron, Mark Sainsbury, Alastair Smith, Charles Speke, Nicky Springthorpe, Malcolm Stathers, George Stephenson, Lucilla Stephenson, Dave Stirling, Cherry Taylor, James Thrift, Jane Thrift, Edward Warren, Lizzie Whitbread, Joe Wilkinson, Olly Williams, Suzi Winstanley, Sasha Weld Forester, Kirstie Wielandt, Kerre Woodham, Charlotte Wolseley Brinton, Tom Wrigglesworth

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Charities, trusts and foundations and other

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And all those who wish to remain anonymous.

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