

SEBAKWE NEWS

Editor : John Gripper

Registered Charity : 328461



Dead or Alive



CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species)

The Thirteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES will be held in Bangkok, Thailand from 2-14 October 2004. Among the many matters to be discussed are the applications from South Africa and Namibia for an export quota for the resumption of a limited number of Trophy Hunting of Black Rhino. These proposals are for an annual hunting quota in South Africa for the killing of 10 black rhino and in Namibia for the killing of 5 black rhino each year.

This is a matter of great concern because the start of legal hunting of black rhino will have a serious long term effect on the conservation of this critically endangered species of which there are still only estimated populations of 3600 in the wild.

The potential harm of opening up a new trade in black rhino hunting is far reaching. Whilst Namibia and South Africa have large and well monitored rhino populations, other countries such as Kenya and Zimbabwe have fragile populations which may be subject to political instability and increased poaching. Every time rhino are hunted legally in South Africa or Namibia, it will make the protection of rhino in the rest of Africa more difficult.

The claim that funds from the hunting of black rhino will go towards conservation is a flawed argument as we know that hunting trophy money usually ends up in the pockets of the private owners or gets dispersed for private gain. There are also serious

concerns over animal welfare when rhino are wounded and lost in the thick bush and suffer a slow and painful death.

The claims that only geriatric males past their breeding performance would be shot is not sustainable, mistakes of identification will be made and who is to decide when a bull is too old to breed?

Many donors of rhino charities will be greatly alarmed at these proposals and worry that the hard earned money which they have donated to protect rhino may end up as a hunter's trophy.

Your editor has prepared a paper on behalf of SBRT setting out the reasons against these proposals and this has been sent to the Government's Global Wildlife Division. John Gripper has also met with Elliot Morley MP, the Minister responsible for CITES in the hope that the UK Government can be persuaded to oppose these proposals for the introduction of trophy hunting of black rhino.

SEBAKWE BLACK RHINO TRUST ACCOUNTS

	2002 £	2003 £
Income		
Donations & Covenants	17,192	12,479
Membership	1,186	1,277
Adopt a Rhino scheme	1,425	1,283
Gift Aid Refund	1,265	1,073
Quiz	374	524
Dividends & Interest	8,404	8,153
Sub total	29,846	24,789
Expenditure		
Printing, postage & tel	1,926	1,917
Legacy advertsiing	845	900
Travel	2,366	1,767
Miscellaneous	67	60
Transfer to Africa	5,105	9,055
Transfer to Reserves	16,000	10,000
Excess inc over exp	3,537	1,090
Sub total	29,846	24,789
Capital Expenditure		
Education Centre	0	85,093

Pam Ayres

Charity Show and Dinner

Pam Ayres gave a brilliant performance and 135 people enjoyed a great night out. The total amount raised from the sale of tickets, raffle, auction and donations was £4,300.



Many thanks to Denise Todd at the Witney Lakes Resort, Rhinofloor, Oxford Wine Company and Deborah Duckham for helping to make the evening such a great success.

A special thank you to Pam & Dudley who gave their services free and many congratulations to Pam for her well deserved OBE.

New Conservator

Following the resignation of Glen Tatham in May, a temporary Conservator has been engaged for the tasks in hand until the appointment of a suitable full time Conservator.

Glen was offered a more lucrative job as a pilot flying light aircraft in Zambia. During his short time in the Conservancy he helped raise the national profile of the Midlands and we all wish him well in his new job.

In addition to the appointment of a new conservator, it has been decided to curtail and contain the excessive poaching and threat to the rhino population within the Conservancy, by the appointment of Farm Guard, who have now been engaged for anti- poaching work and to assist with rhino monitoring. Farm Guard is a Kwe Kwe security company, who has worked closely with the local police and Parks and have a good knowledge of the farms and the local area.

Sue and Gail's plant sale

On the morning of Saturday 22nd May 2004, Sue Jordan and Gail Huntingford held their Annual Plant Sale on the Village Green at Shipton-under-Wychwood in Oxfordshire.

This year Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust was their nominated Charity and received £896 from the proceeds of the Plant Sale. Many thanks to Gail and Sue and their helpers for a most successful fund raising event.

Wychwood Surgery

Many thanks to Christine, staff and friends at the Wychwood Surgery for the lovely hand knitted baby clothes. These were given to a month old baby in Zimbabwe, who had been orphaned. Your kindness was greatly appreciated.

Charity Lunch at Woking

On Sunday 1st of August, Michael and Tricia Samuel held a final Charity Lunch for 62 guests and raised over £550 for the Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust.

Since 1993, they have been organising these charity lunches for six different animal charities, with invitations sent out to their veterinary colleagues and the local Rotary Club. Thank you Michael and Tricia for all your efforts and support over the years.



Cakes, Snow, and Hens

£750 raised in Shropshire for the SBRT Schools Feeding Programme

The Pontesbury Sunday Youth Group heard about the plight of the school children around the Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy and organised a sale to raise money to buy the children food. A sale of cakes, toys, books, clothes and plants on a Saturday morning outside the local church raised £306. Paul Holmes presented a slide show in the Church about the Schools supported by SBRT in the Midlands area of Zimbabwe. Those that attended were very generous with their support.



On 28th February Paul Holmes and friends took part in the annual South Shropshire Circular event. This involved walking and running some 27.5 miles over snow covered hills. After 4,970 feet of ascent on a glorious sunny winter's day £344 of sponsorship money was collected.



Since January 2004 Alison Holmes has been selling eggs laid by her small flock of chickens and all the proceeds have been donated to the SBRT School's feeding programme. 1,200 eggs have raised £100.



Schools Reports – Annie Gripper

In July I visited five of the seven schools we now support in the Midlands Conservancy catchment area. They all benefit from the Mahewi drink we continue to supply for each child daily. I was able to deliver School Aid gifts of exercise books, pens, pencils, balls, knitting needles, wool and sewing cottons with needle and pins.

Guzuzu School

This school has about 250 pupils. The empty river bed made this visit possible and the gifts from School Aid were gratefully received. I was pleased to see the care they have taken of the previous sports equipment and gifts they had been given.

The children looked very well and happy to see us.



Tashinga School - Due to three burst tyres on the vehicle, this visit had to be abandoned, but gifts were left to be delivered later.

Sebakwe Primary School

This school has reduced the number of pupils to 127 because three small satellite schools have been started in their catchment area. This means the children are being taught nearer to their homes and have less distance to walk to school.

The children sang for us, recited poems and danced to excellent drumming by senior boys.



They were so rightly proud of their vegetable garden which they have made out of a rough area. The green plant shoots were looking so healthy, due to the tender care and regular watering which the children were giving them.



They have computers donated by School Aid which they are using very well. These are a great asset for the school.

Mopani Park School

A school of 55 children who all have Mahewi daily too. I was unable to visit this time, but left gifts for them. These new settlement schools, are built by the parents who make every effort to educate their children. They have very little funding to help them, only determination and hard physical work to achieve success. All credit to the parents and staff for their dedication.

Gutazhinzi School

In Podale Village is a new settlement area where we met Mr Sibanda - headman of the Kraal. This is a community consisting of six villages - they have 28 families in each. They have temporary buildings for classrooms for 124 children and three teachers.



The children sang for us in wonderful harmony and gentle rhythm all swaying and clapping in unison. It was very moving to watch. They had made wild animals from clay and we were so privileged to be presented with a rhino by a boy called More Blessing (see photo above). We gave them gifts and finally produced a football for them. The whoops of delight and excitement started by the teachers and quickly followed by all the children ended in a huge dance of sheer enjoyment and gratitude. It was amazing - even the parents of their PTA. danced too - all for one football.

Tagwireyi School

At Rockvale there are 110 children. We met the headman of the Kraal - George Siamombae. Here there are 4 villages with 20 families in each. We were unable to meet all the children because they were having a working day out of school to earn money to buy sports equipment. This school was first held inside an old circular water tank, it had to be climbed into but kept the wind off the children during lessons; there was no roof, so if it rained school had to be abandoned.

The parents had built two clay walled buildings with thatch roofs for classrooms and seats made from mud. The tops of the end walls was still open. Inside The walls at each end had been smoothed to form a black board area and reading this suggested a good standard of work was expected from the children.

We later met the headmaster Alison Nkomo and gave him exercise books, pens, pencils, rulers, tennis balls and a football. He said it was the most wonderful present he had ever received for the school.



Bemthree Kindergarten

The children here also have Mahewi each day. They love the toys provided last year by School Aid and insist on coming to school for six days a week to play with them.

The Sebakwe Conservation and Education Centre

The Buildings

The building construction work is now finished with just a few small extra jobs to complete. The building has been carried out to a high standard and we are grateful to our builder Derek Herbert.

An office will be provided for the Conservator in the main Headquarters building. This will then act as a central point for the control of the Midland Black Rhino Conservancy anti poaching unit.

We have not yet been able to obtain a telephone connection but during our recent visit we were able to meet the Manager of the local telephone company, Telone-KweKwe and stressed the urgency of a telephone link. Trees have been planted and the grass for the lawns sown. A small demonstration vegetable garden has been laid out and looks most productive.



View from approach road



Main Headquarters building



Kitchen and dining area



Education Managers cottage



Visitors accommodation



Children's dormitory & washrooms



The classroom block



The shaded teaching area

The work of obtaining the various furnishings for the offices, dormitories, kitchens and lecture rooms has begun. 60 tables and chairs have been purchased for the main lecture hall, 50 beds for the dormitories and the mattresses are on order.

Kitchen equipment, office furniture, computer and printer, videos, posters, binoculars, camera and fire extinguishers have all been bought. We are trying to source a 29 inch TV Video player.

A 4x4 Nissan 2.7 diesel vehicle has now been obtained for the Education Managers use.



Inside the new classroom

The Staff Team

Cryton Zazu has been appointed as Manager of our new Education Centre. He is thirty years old, married with a son called Kuda. He and his family moved into the cottage at the Centre in May 2004.

Cryton has a Diploma in Education from the University of Zimbabwe and a bachelor's degree in technology, education and management from Technikon in Pretoria, South Africa. His first job was teaching science at secondary school level. His previous employment was as environmental education programme manager for Birdlife Zimbabwe.



Also employed at the Centre are Alec as general maintenance officer, Ephraim who is the gardener and Gift the night watchman.

These three employees live in the staff accommodation and all have been provided with staff uniforms.

Other staff will be appointed once the centre is fully up and running.

In June, Cryton organised a very successful stakeholder workshop with a total of 54 delegates coming from a diverse and relevant background, including many local school teachers. The objective was to inform them of the environmental purpose of the educational centre and provide a platform for the sharing of the Centre's vision, mission and aims and to consult, influence and mobilise local community support for the education centre. Cryton has already had several groups of school children come to the centre on a day basis.

Poaching

Over the last three years there has been a steady increase in the poaching of wildlife in the Conservancy by the use of wire snares. Often the poachers fail to return to the snares and the animals have a slow and painful death. This year the poaching has become much more serious with armed poachers moving into the Conservancy from further a field.

They are accompanied by dogs who chase the wildlife until they become exhausted and then can be easily shot by the poachers. The poachers will operate early in the morning or late evening. They are even camping overnight in the Conservancy and will carry out their poaching activities by moonlight.

Most of the meat from animals killed by poachers has been used for local consumption. The wire for the snares is often stolen from the electric fences which then allow the rhino to move out of the Conservancy to resettlement land, where they will damage the crops of the farmers and the rhino are put at greater risk as they have no protection.



Damaged fences →

← Wire used for snares



In the Midlands, the local police and the National parks have been very co-operative in helping to catch and arrest the poachers, but poaching has now got out of hand and there is a serious loss of wildlife in the Conservancy.

The penalties for poachers who are caught are not severe and fines are only about Z\$1000 but the Courts can now order compensation to be paid to the farmer for the loss of the animal and this can run into much larger sums – failure to pay will mean imprisonment. Most of the poachers pay their fines and come straight back to poaching to recover the fine money.

As a short term measure help has been sought by the hiring of a local Kwe Kwe farm security company. There is a real concern that with the armed poachers regularly entering the Conservancy, that rhino will be killed. It has now been agreed that the 40 farm guards and the special rhino guards will be reorganized so that they will all receive full training and come under the central control of the Conservator.



Poachers bare footprints plus dogs

Shamwari Game Reserve

This game reserve consists of 18,000 hectares of indigenous vegetation with a large variety of wildlife including leopard, lion, black and white rhinoceros, elephant and wild dog.

It is situated in the Eastern Cape of South Africa, halfway between Port Elizabeth and Grahamstown and is five hours drive from Cape Town along the famous Garden Route.

The conservation department of Shamwari has a highly effective unit consisting of a wildlife manager, ecologist, education officers and an anti-poaching unit, and has received several international conservation awards.



Visitors can book a day visit to this reserve which will include a visit to the Born Free animal sanctuary and education centre, which was established in 1999. This Big Cat sanctuary is under the care of the Born Free representative, Doug Courtney.

On your visit you may see in the large enclosures - Stella and Aslan, two lions rescued from different zoos in Greece. Roffe and Anthea, lions rescued from a Tenerife restaurant and Tammy, the lioness rescued from Dubai Zoo.

You may also get sight of Kuma, the leopard rescued from Abidjan Zoo and three orphaned leopard cubs rescued from the Sudan.

Because of their captive background these animals can never be released into the wild but they are now living in semi captivity in large natural enclosures where they can enjoy a happy retirement after the small cages and cramped conditions they had occupied previously.



www.blackrhino.org

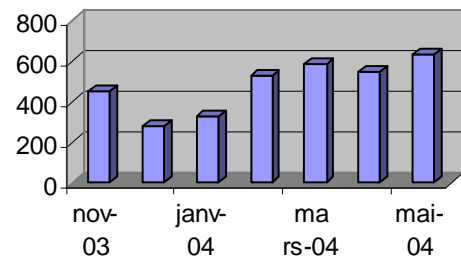
The SBRT website - 6 months on

As I write, the SBRT website has received over 4,000 visitors who have viewed over 10,000 pages since the new version went on line at the end of October 2003. We were trying to keep everybody happy as you can see from the titles of the different pages in the graph on the right - always a difficult task but one that we seem to have got about right.

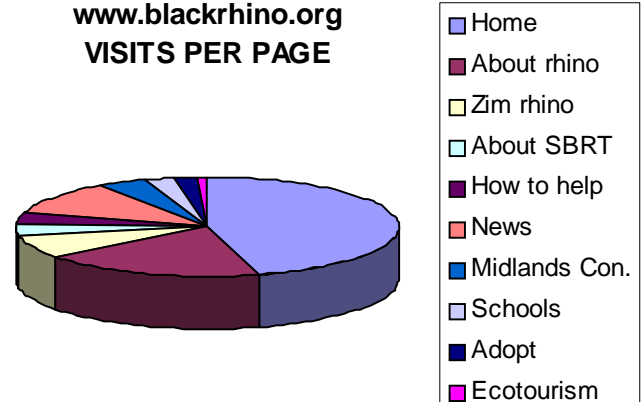
Most visitors arrive at the Home page where we have added a magnificent photo of Don below the stark image of a skull in the bush and the short text. About Rhino and Zimbabwe Rhino are the most popular destinations from this page and the drop in visitor numbers during school holidays suggests that we are contributing to making young people aware of the problems faced by the rhinos. It is a bit disappointing that these visitors do not go on to look at the schools and healthcare page to learn more about conditions for schoolchildren in other countries.

In terms of countries, the visitors are truly international despite nearly 25% being from the USA. People from 63 different countries, have visited the site including smaller nations such as Benin, Jamaica, Libya, Qatar, Togo, Vietnam and Yemen. The number of visitors for some of the leading countries is shown below and gives a flavour of the range of interest in the site - and hopefully black rhino conservation.

www.blackrhino.org
TOTAL MONTHLY VISITORS



www.blackrhino.org
VISITS PER PAGE



HOW LINKS CAN HELP US

A website is only a communication tool and its success is measured by the number of visitors and what they retain. It does not perform the actions on the ground that will protect the rhino. This means that how visitors get to our site is an important part of our analysis. An astonishing 82% of our 3,450 visitors came directly to the site by typing the address. Despite being on the first page or top of the list for most of the major search engines, only 17% of our visitors came from this source using a large variety of different search terms.

We have reciprocal links on the NEWS page with several sites but less than 1% of our visitors have come via links to us from other sites. We are lucky to have such good positions on the search engines and cannot really improve on these listings but we can do something about the links. Treading an apolitical path between officialdom and private interests in Zimbabwe means that we have to be selective about which reciprocal links are included on the site. The SBRT logo and a short description is available by e-mail for anyone who wants to include a link to the site and we are happy to receive suggestions for reciprocal links that can be submitted to the Trustees for approval.

6 month visitor numbers for leading countries

USA	1205
UK	515
Australia	169
Canada	153
South Africa	47
Holland	39
France	38
New Zealand	26
Germany	23
Sweden	21
Portugal	17
Italy	17
Brazil	16
Zimbabwe	13
Spain	13
Austria	12
Belgium	11
Norway	10
Hong Kong	10
South Korea	8
Singapore	8
Japan	8
Israel	8
India	8
Switzerland	7
Mexico	7
Denmark	7

Technical Note

Modern tools and websites make designing a simple site relatively easy. Microsoft® Office includes some elements of Microsoft® Frontpage which makes site development not much more complicated than using a word processing programme. A lucky find was the COOLTEXT.COM website where their free service lets you create your own custom buttons and headings; all you have to do is add the hypertext links.

Getting the new site on line was more challenging than we expected and complicated by the hosting being transferred to another Internet Service Provider. Fortunately the Institute for Global Communications (IGC) EnviroLink Network, the new service provider, has a technical service that was able to help from San Francisco on a French Sunday afternoon. They advised us that the File Transfer Protocol programme included with Microsoft® Office has some weaknesses and referred us to Ipswich and their free software for schools and charities. This programme makes uploading new pages or alterations almost child's play.

We have also used the free services of XITI who have a range of data gathering and analysis products for monitoring website traffic. Their yellow and red logo on each page tells you that they are doing the counting to provide us with the numbers that are shown on this page.

Send your proposals and comments on the site to the webmaster at david.gripper@wanadoo.fr



The Christmas Rhino Car Quiz 2004

All the answers are names of 'Cars'. You are given the number of letters for each answer word. Please send your entry with £1 to Annie Gripper by 5th January 2005. If you would like a copy of the correct answers then please enclose a s.a.e. Many thanks to Jennifer Bonetta for supplying this quiz.

1	6	Winged Dragon with Barbed Tail		51	5	Gracies Island	
2	6	Rural Dance		52	8	Curved Sword	
3	6	Gentle Breeze		53	1.1	Milligram	
4	5	Wandering One		54	3	Goblin	
5	7	Bus Name Change		55	5	Heavenly Constellation	
6	4	By way of Five Within		56	6	Chocolate Bar	
7	7	Senior Pupil		57	4	Pert Sly Girl	
8	6	Winner		58	7	Achieve Supremacy	
9	5	Inuit Dog		59	7	Eminent Conductor	
10	11	London Borough		60	7	In a Gondala	
11	7	Rock Suzi		61	6	Agreement	
12	6	Looted		62	5	Move quickly to one side	
13	6	Online, Universe Beyond Earth		63	7	Engrave as Requested	
14	8	Convoy Escort		64	11	Missile Defence	
15	9	Old Pound Coin		65	7	Graceful Antelope	
16	5	Egyptian Lily		66	4	Minty Loop	
17	4	South African Seaman		67	8	Diana ?	
18	7	Sprightly Movement		68	6	Insect	
19	4	Very least perhaps		69	5	Part European Capital	
20	6	Spanish Rugged Heights		70	8	Very Cold Lady	
21	6	Enjoys the Chase		71	6	Devilish Old Game for Children	
22	5	Pertaining to a City		72	5	Nippon Light Bulb	
23	6	Continental Carnival		73	5	Clever Pants	
24	7	Crown Orb & ??		74	7	Well Liked	
25	6	Boat Park		75	4	Young Horse	
26	7	Spanish Provincial Capital		76	6	Lotta Bottle	
27	9	Naval Officer		77	5	Latin American Dance	
28	6.6	Expensive Ghost		78	9	Miss American Pie's Drive	
29	4	Fairway Flog		79	5	Horse Race	
30	5	It was a Hood		80	6	A Toy to Play With	
31	6	Fencing Weapon		81	4	Reroute Shakespear's River	
32	4	Bird of Prey		82	5.6	Half a Soccer Club got the Bird	
33	6	Ladies Companion		83	5	Links Newcastle with Paris	
34	8	Fought a Roundhead		84	6	S.American Spotted Beast	
35	7	Miming Game		85	5	Fashion at a Particular time	
36	7	As far as the eye can see		86	10	Diplomatic Minister	
37	5	Concentrate		87	6	Government Rep. Abroad	
38	4	Lean Differently		88	6	Musical Instrument & M	
39	7	Channel		89	8	Rotter with mixed Bush	
40	7	P.O.has Red Mail Vans		90	8	Wartime Saviour	
41	5	Old "Mother" of Drag		91	7	Private Privateering Vessel	
42	6	Bobsleigh Track		92	7	Introductory Performance	
43	6	Resign Upset		93	5	Sounds Like a Seaside Resort	
44	9	Pilgrim Vessel		94	7	Artist	
45	5	Could be a Star		95	3	An Italian First	
46	5	Pleasant Outlook		96	7	Wild Horse	
47	4	Mother Unites Eleven		97	6	Japanese Commanader	
48	4	Men Only Party		98	5	Balearic Island	
49	6	Small Person		99	6	Sprightliness	
50	6	Barrel Maker		100	8	Warm Sultry Rainy Wind	