

190

# NEWSLETTER DECEMBER VOL. 4 NOS 1 & 2 SAVE AFRICAN ENDANGERED WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (AUSTRALIA)

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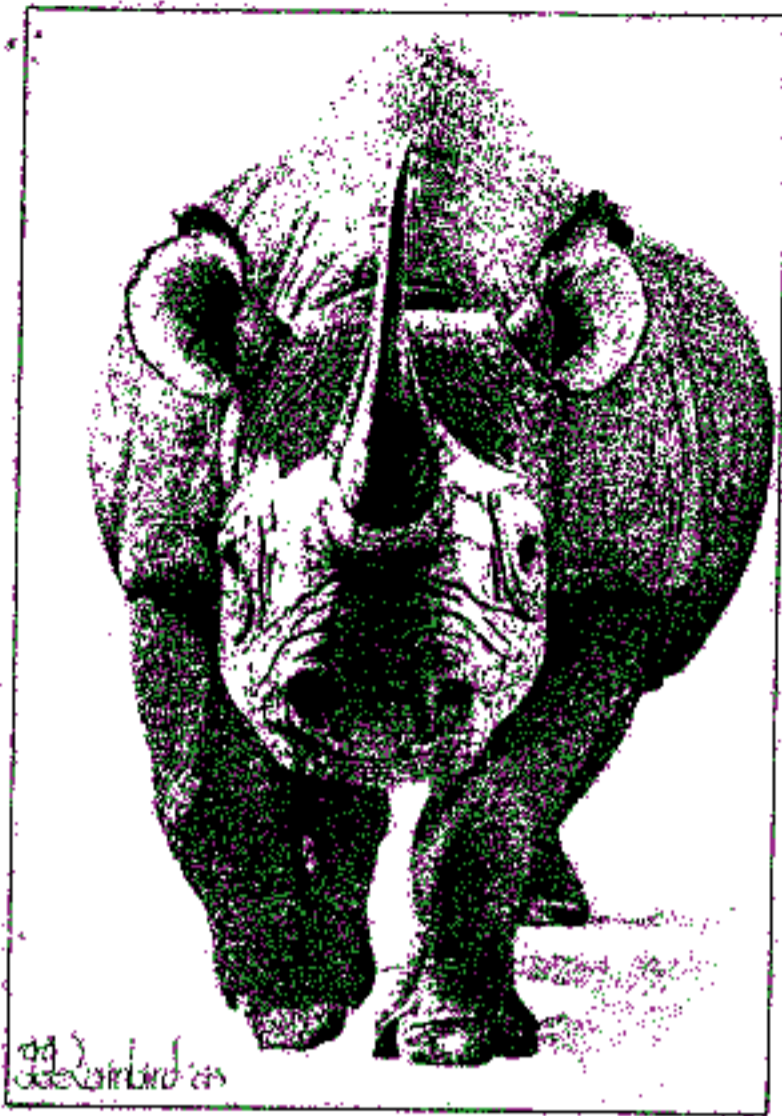
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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

# OVER \$200,000 NOW RAISED FOR ZIMBABWE'S RHINOS

The Executive of SAVE (Australia) is proud to announce that around Australia we have now raised more than \$200,000.

This is due to the efforts of our Committee and their helpers, together with the marvellous support that our members and the public have given us. To everyone who has been a part of this great team effort since June 1987 we give our very sincere thanks and hope that we can continue in this vein and maybe even increase our efforts and results.

We are always conscious that one of the main factors making SAVE (Australia) different from other fundraising Organisations is that all our help, together with administrative procedures and overheads, is voluntarily donated which means that all funds are wisely and responsibly spent.

To date, we have supplied the following to the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management in Zimbabwe:—

- 2 Landcruisers
- 1 Landrover
- 7 Reconditioned vehicle engines
- 5 Reconditioned gearboxes
- 10 Outboard motors
- 10 Motor bikes
- Tons of spare parts for all of the above
- 100 back-packs, sleeping bags, mosquito nets and belt webbing
- 10 Pairs of binoculars
- 8 Tents
- Many tool sets

Many other small, but necessary, items. All these items have been purchased at the direct request of the Director or Chief

Warden of National Parks in Zimbabwe. Hence, they are of immediate, practical benefit to the Department.

## SAVE'S SPONSORS

Much of the SAVE's purchasing is done with the generous assistance of many sponsors. Their names are listed in a separate "Honour Board" and we hope that our readers can make use of their various services at some time in the future.

We are particularly indebted to 3 major airlines for their tremendous generosity. For two years the National cargo airline of Zimbabwe, Affretair, has been freely flying all our Landrover equipment from London to Harare. Without their help it would have cost many thousands of dollars to transport the tons and tons of engines, gearboxes and spare parts. This

free service has been an on-going facility extended by Affretair, and to their Commercial Manager in Harare, Mr Godfrey Manhambara, and his Board of Directors, the Executive of SAVE (Australia) says a very, very big "Thank you".

Qantas Airways and British Airways have also been most supportive. Qantas have sponsored us by flying many cartons of carving for Harare to Perth and have also been generous with freight rates from Australia to Zimbabwe for motor bikes and outboards.

When a volunteer mechanic, Fred Acke, offered his expertise to help repair

Continued page 2





outboard motors, a return passenger ticket from London to Harare was issued within minutes by the Nature and Conservation Department of British Airways, and Fred was in Harare a couple of days later.

Another major sponsor during the past year has been Australasian Tour Services of Leederville who have very kindly allowed us free use of their fax machine on a regular basis. To Ken and Leslie Colledge, our great appreciation for your kind assistance.

## CONSERVATION AWARDS FOR ZIMBABWE

The Director of Parks, Dr Willie Nduku, has just returned from a series of meetings in France, the US and Australia. He collected several prestigious awards for the work of his Department and was able to both give and receive help to the cause of wildlife conservation.

Zimbabwe's policy of giving ownership and control of most species of wildlife to landowners and district councils, with only a few rare species remaining under government control, is now being seriously examined by other countries.

In the United States, Dr Nduku accepted several awards in recognition of the work of his Department. The Maryland University complex of 11 colleges presented him with their Frostburg award; the Africa Safari Club of Washington presented their prestigious award, which includes US presidents among those honoured in the past; and the Rhino and Elephant Foundation of South Africa presented their solid bronze trophy to Operation Stronghold, the National Parks operation to preserve the rhino against poachers.

SAVE (Australia) congratulates Dr Nduku and his colleagues and is happy to be associated with a department that is obviously making great progress with its conservation policies.

However, there are still problems with rhino poaching within Zimbabwe. These are highlighted elsewhere in the newsletter. At least 30 rhinos have been killed in the past 3 months and, with the onset of the rainy season, it is expected that more will be slaughtered between now and February.

There have been two major fund-raising events since the last issue; the fabulously successful "Rhino Ball" held in Sydney in early November and just before that, SAVE's 4th promotion at the Perth Show, the results of both being very pleasing.

This edition of our Newsletter is in fact a double issue, and I hope you find its contents interesting. To all our readers in Australia, Zimbabwe, England, Italy, Kenya, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda, USA and Zambia, the Director, Dr Willie Nduku, and the Chief Warden (Operations), Mr Glenn Tatham, join with the Executive of SAVE (Australia) and myself in sending you our best wishes for a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous New Year.

NICHOLAS S. DUNCAN,  
PRESIDENT

## 110 HORNS CONFISCATED IN SOUTH AFRICA

It was reported from Johannesburg in early October that a gang of 4 had been arrested whilst attempting to leave the country with 110 rhino horns. The rhino horns were packed in sweet boxes and they were probably destined for Taiwan. The gang, comprising 3 Taiwanese and a South-African born Chinese, had been under surveillance for the past 12 months in a joint project between the South African police and the National Parks of Zimbabwe.

A total of 110 horns represents the best part of last year's rhino killing. The authorities believe these horns did come

from Zimbabwe; and that they would have travelled to Lusaka, and through Mozambique and Swaziland before reaching their destination in Johannesburg. Two years ago, a truck challenged on the Zambia-Botswana border, was found to contain 370 tusks and 94 horns. This vehicle was also bound for Johannesburg and it would seem that this is the most popular exit point for horns leaving Africa at present.

The major buyers of rhino horn at the present time appear to be in the Far East, particularly Taiwan, China and Korea, where businessmen, conscious of the horn's growing scarcity, are stockpiling it as an investment.

## 13 RHINOS KILLED IN 5 DAYS

In the 5 days from 3-8 September, 13 black rhinos were killed in Chizarira National Park. This atrocity was carried out by 6 poachers from Zambia, 3 of whom were killed when caught in the act, and the other 3 later shot trying to escape back to Zambia.

Chizarira is an area supporting large numbers of rhinos; it is rugged terrain and hard to defend.

About the same time there were other rhinos killed elsewhere in Zimbabwe: Matusadona suffered a few casualties; there were more killings in Chizarira, 8 rhinos were poached in Chewore and another 3 near Mana Pools. In fact, during the last 4 months of this year about 40 rhinos have been needlessly slaughtered.

A total of 15 poachers have been killed and others have been arrested to stand trial. It was disturbing to learn that the rhinos killed near Mana Pools were poached by a game scout, who later shot himself whilst under arrest.

One of SAVE (Australia)'s major contributions to the rhino campaign is helping maintain the Park vehicles in reasonable working order. As you will know, for the past year, a former English Army mechanic, Paul Oleszczuk, has been working with the Parks Department, sponsored by the White Elephant Trust. Unfortunately, the Trust was unable to continue this arrangement, but we are delighted to report that London Zoo and Rhino Rescue Trust have accepted the challenge of co-sponsoring this vital aspect of Zimbabwe's conservation. They have been joined by B.P. Oil who are financing the purchase and running costs of a Landrover used by Paul to go from Park to Park. Parks officers have been most impressed with Paul's remarkable talent for coaxing new life into some very tired vehicles!

Paul was joined for a couple of months by Fred Arke (a Marine Engineer by profession) and a nephew of David Shepherd. Fred's expertise plus Paul's knowledge made a winning combination. Between them, they rebuilt 6 outboard motors that had been lying around for months in a total state of disrepair! This additional mobility is vital to the anti-poaching patrols. Thanks, Fred, for your voluntary help; we hope sometime soon you will be able to go back to Zimbabwe to lend a hand again.