



SAVE FOUNDATION of Australia (Inc.)

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President's Report

The situation in Zimbabwe continues to cause concern; however, heavy summer rains have given hope to the new land settlers, plus lush vegetation for the remaining wildlife. A new Reserve Bank Governor has been appointed, resulting in a shake up in the banking industry, with many directors leaving the country in a hurry and greater control being placed on the parallel market exchange rates.

We continue to monitor the situation closely, to keep in touch on a regular basis with all our contacts and to provide whatever moral and financial (equipment) assistance we can.

A fact-finding tour in January highlighted the current problems in which many of our colleagues find themselves. We can only continue to admire their fortitude in these most difficult of circumstances, and to supply their reasonable requests without hesitation.

Here follows a number of short updates of projects in which we have a great interest.

Hunter Hall Continues its Great Support

Peter Hall has maintained his fabulous and generous support of our projects, with a further \$25,000 for the African rhinos and a whopping \$200,000 for the Asian Rhino Project, of which he is now a well-deserving Patron. Thanks, Peter, for your wholehearted backing. Readers may well wish to check *Hunter Hall Management Investments Ltd* when next placing their funds – they are ranked second overall in Australia for the past 7 years.

Sinamatella Intensive Protection Zone (IPZ)

Norman English advises that his anti-poaching team were hot on the tracks of two gangs of foreign poachers for the past 3 days, 19-21 April, but heavy overnight rain washed the tracks away and he is now deploying his scouts to new areas in anticipation of the poachers' movements. This work has been augmented by the recently trained 10 new contract scouts who are funded by our Foundation via our local representatives, CIRAD, a French donor agency.

Back in January, a gang of 3 poachers killed at least 2 rhinos and then in March a further 2 carcasses were found dating back to about December. This brings the rhino death toll to 30 in this once highly successful IPZ. Our commitment to Norman and his people is second to none and we are proud to be associated with their efforts in such trying circumstances. They are greatly under-staffed, perhaps 30% of their requirements are available, but the economy can't sustain the necessary number, though there is promise of scout recruitment in the next few months.

Norman English about to deploy 5 of his scouts for a 14-day patrol, each with a 70kg and 30kg pack, plus weapon, plus food. Quite an ordeal! We donated the bigger packs back in 1995 and the smaller ones just 2 years ago – great value for money!



Matusadona IPZ

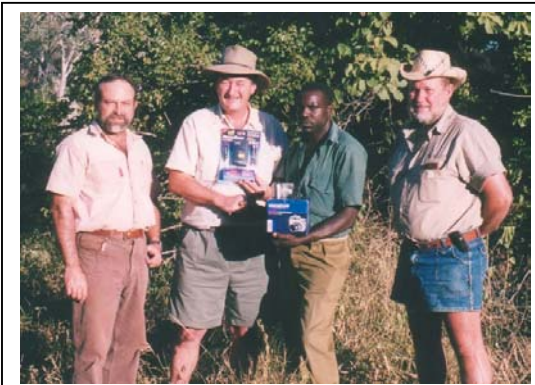
Desperately short of vehicles and boats for their patrol work, Matusadona's Warden, Alecson Ndhlovu, requested our assistance and we immediately came to their aid with the repair of 3 motorbikes, the supply of solar batteries for radio communications at their outposts and the completion of the re-build of one of the Toyota Landcruisers we donated back in 1992. All of this equipment is now hard at work and we wish the scouts every success in their anti-poaching duties.



Landcruiser, unusable condition last August (left) and re-built and ready for action (above). Thanks guys for a great job!

Wildlife Conservancies

In conjunction with Raoul du Toit from WWF, visits were made to the two largest conservancies in the Lowveld, Bubiana and Save Valley. Both areas have been settled quite heavily by the new landowners and two rhinos had been shot over the Christmas holiday period at Save Valley. SAVE FOUNDATION had already committed to purchasing all the rhino horn implants for this year's management programme, plus more field kit for the scouts and some GPS units.



Nicholas Duncan presenting another digital camera to Save Valley's leading tracker, Jackson, watched by Raoul de Toit (left) and Clive Stockil, Chairperson of Save Valley. These cameras are used for ear notch identification, with the photos being enlarged on a computer screen for clarity.

In the Midlands, a marauding rhino bull that had previously inflicted some quite serious damage on two rhino cows, again attacked one of them, resulting in permission being granted for him to be de-horned. A detailed rhino management programme will take place in July and Chris Foggin, the vet, and Glenn Tatham, the conservator, will between them, get a clear picture of the distribution of the rhinos on these farms.

Currently, serious negotiations are taking place between the Government, representatives of National Parks and the farm owners, to decide the future direction in which these wildlife conservancies should move. The Ministry has declared all conservancies to remain in the hands of the existing landowners, but there is a strong undercurrent for indigenisation in quite a big way, particularly to take advantage of the income from hunting, the mainstay of these conservancies.

Namibia

An approach was made by the Ministry of Wildlife and Environment for assistance with the translocation of 35 rhinos from Etosha National Park to a series of new breeding populations on private land. Our colleague, Pete Morkel, one of the pioneers of rhino translocation and de-horning, was to oversee the project, and this has been successfully

completed in March. All the rhino horn implants were provided by our Foundation. It's great to see the necessity to remove rhinos to new areas from over-populated ones.

North Luangwa Conservation Project

Having originally supported this project in its infancy some 12 months ago with funds for the vital training of new recruits, we have now supplied them with extra field kit for patrol purposes. Further orders have now been placed to satisfy the growing number of trained scouts. There is a plan to take some rhinos from one part of Zimbabwe and release them in the North Luangwa, where they will mix with the 5 that went from Kruger last year.

Feminine Hygiene

At the request of Cathy Buckle, who writes a weekly email letter to her friends around the world, an appeal was started to provide sanitary towels for the rural sisters of Zimbabwe. Our thanks to our many supporters who sent in both cash and product, and particularly to **Kimberley Clarke**, for their donation of 9 cartons of stock. With the assistance of **South African Airways**, we will take all the produce to Zimbabwe in mid May and distribute it accordingly, some to Cathy and some to the families of National Parks staff.

Zimbabwe Cricketers

Many of the Zimbabwe Cricket Team, who were our very popular guests at last October's fundraiser, helping raise \$65,000, now find themselves in a contractual dispute with the ZCU, over the apparent sacking of their world class cricketer, skipper Heath Streak. We can only hope this matter is resolved before the Australian Tour in mid May/June.

Safari 2004

We now have a fabulous group of 21 going on this Rhino Adventure in late May, visiting 7 projects with which we have a close association. Make sure you book for the next one!

Annual General Meeting

Advance notice is given of our next AGM, to be held in the Perth Zoo Theatre, at 7 pm on Wednesday, 7 July. Mark this in your diary now, though more details will follow later, including the "extra activities", such as a film and a video on our own safari.

Projects Sponsored, January - April

Field equipment \$11,311; tracking equipment \$18,711; veterinary supplies \$8,370; spare parts \$4,852; wages \$4,035; Asian Rhino Project \$2,500; feminine hygiene \$2,140; Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force \$1,367; **Total \$53,290.**

Renewals

Your annual renewal form is being mailed out with a hard copy of this News Sheet – please respond as soon as you can. We really have made a big difference in Zimbabwe for the past 16 years and we seek your continued support and that of your friends, so please pass the word around on behalf of Zimbabwe's rapidly declining wildlife population. It is estimated that about 70% of wildlife in the private sector has been killed during the past 4 years, plus 10% of the black rhinos. It really is pretty grim at the moment, both for man and beast, and we assure our members and readers that we will continue our efforts in the future with the same amount of determination as shown in the past. Thank you.

Nicholas S. Duncan