



THE SAVE FOUNDATION



This newsletter we are charging ahead with our efforts to raise funds for our magnificent rhinos and to raise the awareness of what dire straits these animals are in due to man's greed on the black markets of China and Vietnam. I am devastated to reveal the shocking news that so far to date **283 rhinos** have lost their battle to live long and healthy lives this year. The current price for rhino horn has it trading at \$60,000 USD per kilo. When that kilo is ground down and distributed it fetches approximately \$300,000 USD on the Asian black market. So, as you can see unless this black market trade is stopped there will be no respite for the rhinos.

How do we stop it? Awareness, awareness, awareness, that RHINO HORN IS NOT MEDICINE; DOES NOT CURE CANCER AND MOST CERTAINLY DOESN'T ENHANCE SEXUAL PERFORMANCE. The horn is purely made of keratin - the substance which makes up our hair and nails. Also, much harsher penalties need to be leveraged against those caught doing the actual poaching. Each African country has their own penalties with South Africa being the slackest at present, hence the burgeoning of poaching on South African Game Reserves and Private Farms.

I am going to recount one story of why I do what I do and which had me sobbing into my pillow on more than one evening just last week.

Whilst every poaching incident is a terrible travesty against nature and oh so sad, last week hardened conservationists were moved to tears by the plight of 3 rhino at Aquila Game Reserve in the Eastern Cape of South Africa. Aquila have only six rhino and deep in the night poachers struck darting three of the population with tranquilizers. Bullets are noisy and attract attention so these poachers (like many others of their kind) thought it much better to hack the rhinos to death whilst still alive for their horns and then let them bleed to death. How does someone sleep at night after doing this? - you tell me. Anyway one male rhino bull named ABSA, his daughter and son were all darted. The son died after having his horns removed by pangas (axes), the male rhino bull was having his horns removed with a chainsaw when the poachers were disturbed by an anti poaching patrol - he then survived in the most incredible pain for 5 days whilst vets and decent members of the human race tried to save him. Eventually he succumbed to the effects of shock and major organ failure. His daughter who was tranquilized but had not been set on by the chainsaw and pangas was given a reversal drug and then stood by her father's side or close by until he died. This family unit was destroyed in one night of senseless brutality. There are some youtube videos of ABSA'S fight for survival but honestly I would not recommend watching them as the footage is so upsetting. What I would ask you to do if this story has touched your heart is one of three things; either make an online donation via our website; attend our next fundraiser which will be in March at Hunters Hill Sailing Club; or spread the word that RHINO HORN IS NOT MEDICINE. Better still do all three!

World Rhino Day is September 22nd and we will be showing our support for our rhino friends by trying to garner support in the Australian media and by selling bags made especially to advertise the Rhino's plight. More about these bags on page 4 of the newsletter.

Our last Fundraiser at Doltone House in February of this year was a huge success where we raised some \$50,000 on the night. This result coupled with some donations enables us to send \$56,000 to Lewa Conservancy in Kenya, \$4,000 to Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary in Uganda and \$10,000 to projects in Zimbabwe managed by the Perth Committee.

NEWS FROM LEWA CONSERVANCY KENYA

Dear Dee and all at SAVE in Australia

I wanted to forward you the email below and attachment which has just been circulated by our sister organisation, OI Pejeta Conservancy, approximately 50 km to our south west. We are partners in the ongoing struggle to protect well over 20% of Kenya's black rhino population and the battles we faced in 2010 are now also being experienced by OI Pejeta amongst others.

Aside from the shocking images and sadness attached to the loss of these animals, I wanted to let you know of the truly enormous strides we have been able to take in respect of intelligence gathering which has led to arrests as mentioned below by Richard Vigne, my contemporary there. As you will remember we requested to use some of your funding to support the recruitment of an Intelligence Officer and to build a dedicated intelligence gathering program. OI Pejeta recognised the value of this plan and joined hands in partnership with us in this and 2 months ago we employed Geoffrey Bartolil, a young ex Kenya Army officer who had the relevant background. To date Geoffrey has made enormous strides in gathering real time, actionable information from a burgeoning group of informers, culminating in the arrests mentioned. This capacity has truly been a 'game changer' for us and means that not only are we fighting on the ground with our armed security teams, but we are now also able to assist Government entities such as Kenya Wildlife Service and Kenya Police in taking the fight to the poachers and their superiors, known national criminal gangs, to make arrests and pre empt / interdict those involved.

This correspondence comes with a message of huge appreciation for your support and we hope to see some of you here on Lewa at some point soon.

Best regards

Mike

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MAX
6 years old

Killed 26 June 2011 by poachers

An orphan himself raised by hand from 2 weeks of age. Found riddled with 17 bullets in him. De horned 6 months previously so poachers got away with very little. I ask the question again - How do they do it and How do they sleep at night.

ZIWA RHINO SANCTUARY

In 2009 the SAVE Committee became aware of the excellent work being done by a small rhino sanctuary situated between Kampala and Murchison Falls National Park in Uganda. The sanctuary under the care of it's director Angie Genade and her staff has been successful in reintroducing rhinos to Uganda. During the early 1900's there were thousands of rhinos roaming freely in Uganda which were completely wiped out thru poaching by 1982.

Ziwa's prime objective is the reintroduction of rhinoceros into Uganda. This program consists of three phases:

The first phase is to raise awareness about rhinos and to educate people regarding their threatened status. To accomplish this goal, RFU imported and relocated two rhinoceros to the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre in Entebbe and welcomes visitors to our rhino sanctuary daily.



The second phase is breeding a sustainable rhino population at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary.

The third phase is the reintroduction of rhinos back into their original habitat. When there is a sustainable population, rhinos will be relocated into Uganda's protected areas including Murchison Falls National Park and Kidepo Valley National Park.

Uganda total rhino population now stands at 13 after the birth of a female calf in June this year. This calf is the first female rhino to be born in the country in 3 decades and joins 3 male calves.

Since May last year SAVE NSW has donated \$5000.00 to Ziwa which has meant a new roof could be built for their ranger training building and recently the 40 rangers which guard the rhinos night and day have been provided with new flashlights, radios and water bottles.

SAVE is very pleased to be able to contribute funds to such a worthwhile conservation project www.rhinofund.org

For information on our projects in Zimbabwe please have a look at the website

www.savefoundation.org.au

where you will see the Perth Committee's latest newsletter written by Nicholas Duncan just to clarify here in NSW we have a slight difference to the web address adding a the

www.thesavefoundation.org.au

We were also very happy to hear that a fellow Australian by the name of Damien Mander has been given a grant from National Geographic to assist him in training rangers in anti-poaching operations from his base in Victoria Falls. You may remember Damien's name from a feature 60 Minutes did on rhino poaching in September 2010. Well done Damien!

WWW.IAPF.ORG



BAGS FOR SALE

These bags have been made especially for us by Smartgroup enterprises to alert the public to the plight of the rhino. The sturdy bags cost \$10.00 and are great for shopping and also trips to the beach. Send us a picture of you with one of our bags we would love to see it.

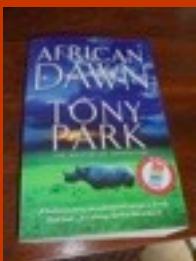
Great way to show support for World Rhino Day on September 22nd.

You can either purchase a bag or several by contacting SAVE at stephenward@bigpond.com

Bags are also available at a beautiful homewares shop in Northbridge called In Residence Interior Design 46 Sailors Bay Rd NSW

RECOMMENDED READING - I have just read 3 amazing books on Africa which I would love to recommend to you.

AFRICAN DAWN by Tony Park recounts the lives of 3 generations of a Zimbabwean family from 1959 to the present day. This family owns a beautiful farm which is home for several rhinos until the poachers strike. This book was absolutely enthralling from the first page to the last.



MURDER MYTHS AND MEDICINE by Rhishja Larson is available on BLURB or www.rhinoconservation.org

The book focuses on the illegal trade in rhino horn



ELEPHANTS FOR AFRICA by Randall Jay Moore is hard to acquire but absolutely worth the effort if you have a love for elephants. You would have to search the internet for this book. Randall Moore pioneered elephant back safaris in Botswana.



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Here are just a selection of a few photos from our last fundraiser in February at Sydney's Doltone House where the theme was African Chic and everyone danced to the musical beat of Chris Gudu and his band. We had amazing African artefacts up for auction including paintings and exquisite jewellery donated by The African Collection. Bench International was our major sponsor and to cap things off members of the Perth committee flew over in their own time to assist including our President in Perth Nicholas Duncan. We thank all our guests who attended and hope you will attend our next function which will be in March next year. Even better make up a table with some friends for its going to be another great night but this time at Hunters Hill Sailing Club. Details to be made public soon.

I would like to personally thank each and everyone of my committee members for caring enough about rhinos to donate their valuable time to making a difference. We are all from different walks of life and each member has lots of valuable attributes to contribute. At our last meeting we welcomed Cuan McLaren and Janette Brown to the Foundation and look forward to working with them.

Our next meeting will take place on October eleventh so if any one else has some time to get involved with the rhinos in a hands on way we would love to meet you, just drop our Chairman Dee Williamson a line at info@thesavefoundation.org.au

Bye for now, Cheryl

Newsletter written for thesavefoundation.org.au by Cheryl Smith