

Sebakwe News

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www.blackrhino.org

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Rhino Horn

Rhino Horn Exports - In Britain it has been legal to offer for sale rhino horn worked before the 1947 deadline provided it could be classified as a work of art. In recent times the sale of rhino horn at British auction houses has become more frequent with ever increasing prices.



In September 2010 the UK Government announced a ban on the export of rhino horn from the UK. The problem has been the big increase in the sale of antique horn items such as mounted rhino horns and Chinese libation cups which have been turning up at UK auction houses and sold for inflated prices of up to £30,000 for a large 10 kg horn. It is hoped that similar export bans on rhino horn sales will be adopted more widely within the other EU countries. It is thought that some of these items have been brought to the UK and sold here to maximise their value before being re-exported to the Far East where powdered rhino horn is in great demand as a medicine which is sold as a rumoured cure for cancer. There is serious concern that these sales could be helping fuel the global supply and demand for rhino horn and in turn encouraging poachers to kill more wild rhino and so the export ban is a welcome measure to help save the endangered rhino.

In the UK there was an attempt by an antique dealer to illegally smuggle rhino horn from Manchester Airport to mainland China. From DNA samples the horn was traced back to a white rhino that had died at a zoo and a 12 month prison sentence was imposed on the dealer.

Poisoned Rhino Horn

In August there were headlines in the newspapers that a man in Thailand had died after ingesting poisoned rhino horn which he had purchased in the open market in Bangkok. The source of the contaminated rhino horn has still to be verified but it has been suggested that it may have come from a private game farm in South Africa.

A game farm owner from the North West Province of South Africa has admitted that he has injected poison into the rhino horn of four of his animals - one of these rhino was subsequently slaughtered in July and he was also aware of another five rhino that had been slaughtered and had been contaminated with 'poisoned horn'. These animals could have been the source of the contaminated rhino horn.

However the whole story must be treated with some scepticism until a direct connection can be established between the two different incidents. There is also a concern about the moral and legal issues in deliberately trying to poison another human being who is only the end user and not actually involved in the rhino poaching.

Dehorning

In September 2010 all of the five black rhino in the Midlands Conservancy were dehorned. This operation was carried out successfully and will help to protect our rhino from the poachers as we are publicising the fact that all the rhino in the Midlands Conservancy have now been dehorned.



Tangarira



Rhino on the run



Helicopter hovering



Helicopter landed in thick bush

This dehorning was carried out over three days by the very experienced team of Dr Chris Foggin, the wildlife veterinarian, Raoul du Toit, who flew the fixed wing aircraft with Lovemore Mungwashi from the Lowveld Trust who spotted for the rhino and John McTaggart, the helicopter pilot, This team was assisted by Dave Strydom, our Conservator, and his rhino monitors and the conservancy scouts.



Keeping rhino cool



Keeping rhino cool



Cloth to protect the rhino's eyes



Taking a blood sample



Chris Foggin



Chris Foggin



John McTaggart cutting off horn



About to remove the 2nd horn

John McTaggart had to fly the helicopter in strong winds to get the chopper close enough to allow Chris Foggin to dart the rhino, and then land the chopper nearby in thick bush. As well as removing the horns, the rhino were ear tagged, a blood sample was taken and one hoof was marked for easy identification for the trackers on the ground.



Dehorned rhino



Gary Killilea and scout with rhino horn



Weighing the horn



National Parks Guards with rhino

All the rhino horns were properly marked, weighed and handed over and signed for by National Parks official Mr Chaganuka. We are most grateful to all the individuals who were part of the dehorning team and our special thanks to the Lowveld Trust for their support and for carrying out this exercise so successfully.

Container



The container which we had sent out in conjunction with School Aid, who had donated school books, arrived at the Sebakwe Education Centre on 26th July. It had been shipped to Durban in South Africa and then by road to Harare where Customs examined the cargo.

Customs confiscated seven of our parcels as they said that they contained new clothes and we would have to pay an exorbitant amount to import them but we could buy them back at their next auction. Negotiations are continuing and we still hope to recover these parcels from Customs. When the container was unpacked at the Education Centre it was discovered that 97 of the original 400 parcels were 'missing' but no school furniture had been taken. Despite a thorough investigation we have not been able to discover how these parcels were lost en route. It is very disappointing to lose some of these parcels of clothes and books that had been donated to us to help the schoolchildren.

Palloma was helped by Linda Strydom and Sairos Chaduka in the unpacking and distribution of these parcels and the school furniture to the following various local schools:-

- **Sebakwe Primary** – white shirts for the whole school and reading books
- **Kaguvi Primary** (Mopani) – red sweaters and uniforms for all students and books
- **Rockvale Primary**(Tagwireyi) – 147 chairs, stools and desks, books and swing
- **Pauldale Primary** (Gutsaruzhinji) – 69 Folding desks, chairs and reading books,
- **Pauldale New Secondary** Sports uniforms, sweaters and yellow T Shirts and books
- **Guzuzu Secondary** – Uniforms and books
- **Msenza Primary** - Uniforms and books
- **Bush Park Primary** – Uniforms and books
- **Bush Park Secondary** – Uniforms and books





There was a total of 1,914 school children at these schools who benefited from the goods in the container. At each of these schools Sairos took the opportunity to address the gatherings on anti-poaching, wildlife and environmental conservation and encourage them to set up Anti-Poaching Communities of people who would also cater for veld fires and deforestation. These committees will be monitored on a regular basis and workshops and seminars will be held at the Education Centre.

Apart from the distribution to the schools the beneficiaries of clothing were orphans, HIVAIDS cases and the impoverished elderly making a total of 147 people. Some of the parcels contained medical supplies which were presented to Sebakwe Clinic.



Rhino Monitors by Dave Strydom

The Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy monitors start their day at first light, so that they can get into the area where they last had visual contact with the rhino the day before. Once they find the spore they follow it until they once again get the rhino visual.

That may sound simple and easy but in fact these rhino move great distances overnight, up to 20kms sometimes and over and through rough terrain. Our young bull often does this. Once he is found he has to be chased back - always at a run, and that in itself is a marathon. Only when he is back home safe do the monitors let up. Many is the time that they walk into the elephant and they are not too friendly at times, especially the cows with calves.

There are times that for days on end it rains, but the monitors are still out there. They know the importance of our charges. That goes for winter as well. They try and look smart at all times and are always very respectful.



We try and help with anti-poaching and we do have great success, every raid that goes on will involve one or two of our monitors. We put up road blocks at various points with the Police and that means being out all night. All of our monitors are proud of the job and do it with great enthusiasm and have the rhino at heart.

We are grateful for the help we get from the Conservancy scouts who have worked alongside our monitors and have done outstanding work for the Conservancy. I would like to say a special thanks to them all for their help and support they have given me and my team.



School News

Rhino Secondary School

The temporary buildings of the new secondary school between Pauldale and Rockvale have been accidentally burnt down. The students are now being taught at Pauldale primary school but have to sit in a classroom without a roof.

There is some doubt about how long it will be before the new secondary school can be moved back to its approved site so some of the allocation of furniture and books from the container is being kept under safe storage by the school head of the primary school who has agreed to house it under lock and key on behalf of the secondary school.

Rockvale School

The educational authorities have decided that Rockvale primary school should be moved to a new site four kilometres away from the present site, which will be nearer to the main village population. This site has already been cleared of scrub but the school building and the necessary building materials will have to be provided by the local community. This means that it could be a number of years before all the pupils of Rockvale primary school will be able to move to the new site.

Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust Accounts

Financial Summary

The latest accounts show that the expenditure has again exceeded income for the third year running and once again we have had to draw upon our reserves.

Like many other charities we have seen our income drop during the recession.

The UK Trustees have agreed that we must reduce our expenditure and it is now necessary to limit our financial support for the Conservancy and Education Centre so that we can balance our books

We are therefore appealing to all our supporters for financial help.

	2007	2008	2009
INCOME	£	£	£
Donations & Covenants	17,885	29,424	27,862
Membership subs	1,226	1,311	1,686
Adopt a rhino scheme	923	1,374	849
Gift Aid refund	2,132	3,709	2,127
Quiz	485	435	391
Dividends & Interest	4,779	4,531	2,757
Grants -SAVE	8,780	5,271	2,590
Grants RCVS & EAZA	25,634	0	200
Scholarship Fund	725	1,000	500
Legacy	0	0	5,000
Total	62,569	47,055	43,962
EXPENDITURE	£	£	£
Printing, postage & tel,	2,587	2,870	2,146
Legacy Advertising	490	395	660
Travel	5,310	832	730
Miscellaneous	291	313	282
Transfer to Africa	47,346	63,149	58,439
Vehicle purchase/repair	14,205	0	0
Mahewu & scholarships	inc	inc	4,408
Container costs	533	700	0
Surplus/Def inc over exp	-8,193	-21,204	-22,704
Total	62,569	47,055	43,961

Please Help Us !!!

Adopting a rhino cost just £30 for two years and is an excellent Birthday or Wedding present for your friends or relations. Our Website (www.blackrhino.org) has a full list and display of pictures of the rhinos for adoption.

Membership, Adoption, Quiz, Scholarship & Donations form

Tick	Amount £
<input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership - £25
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Membership - £15
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior Membership - £5 (12 years and below)
<input type="checkbox"/> Adoption Donation - £30
<input type="checkbox"/> Scholarship Fund - £
<input type="checkbox"/> Quiz - £
<input type="checkbox"/> Schools Water Project - £
<input type="checkbox"/> General donations - £

PLEASE PRINT

Name.....
Address.....
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.....
Postcode.....
Tel:.....

Total enclosed £

Cheques - Please make payable to SBRT

Visa/Mastercard

Card Number

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Valid From

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Expires End

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CV2 No (last 3 digits on rear)

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Signature.....

Completed forms to be returned to:-

**Annie Gripper
Manor Farm
Ascott under Wychwood
OXON
OX7 6AL**

Tel: +44 (0)1993 830 278

Fax: +44 (0)1993 830 395

For Adoptions - Send card to:-

Name.....
Address.....
.....
.....
Post Code.....
From.....
.....
Tel:.....

Name of Adopter for certificate.....Special date (if required).....

Please sign the following form so that we can reclaim 28% GIFT AID tax relief.

I am a UK taxpayer and want the Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust to treat all donations I have made since 6th April 2000 and all donations that I make from the date of this declaration, unless I notify you otherwise, as gift donations.

Signature.....

Date.....