

Summer 2013

Sebakwe News

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www.blackrhino.org

Registered Charity: 328461

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New Rhino Calf Born

We are all very excited by the news that a rhino calf was born in the Conservancy on 18th of February 2013. The mother is nine year old Tendai and this is her first calf. She is very protective of her new born calf and is hiding her in thick bush so everyone is treading quietly. No one can approach her as she charges at anyone who gets near.

The calf is thought to be a female calf and has been named TAFARA which is Shona for WE are Happy. This is the first photograph taken of Tendai and her calf Tafara. It is now the turn of our other young female rhino Ronda to have a calf.



The Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy is situated in the heart of Zimbabwe. The area consists of 156,000 acres of bush and farmland bounded by the Munyati River on the northern boundary and the Sebakwe River on the southern reaches. It is located 50 km from the country town of Kwe Kwe which is 200km west of Harare on the Bulawayo road.

A group of twelve farmers joined together in the late 1980's to form the Conservancy. As well as black rhino there is a small herd of elephant, a healthy population of Leopard and Sable and a cross section of plains animals including Kudu, Giraffe, Eland, Zebra and Impala. Each farmer has taken down his internal game fences and makes monthly contributions to the cost of antipoaching activities and the protection of our breeding group of six black rhino.

Since inception the Conservancy has had the continued support of the Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust to help conserve and protect black rhino. The Trust has also built the Sebakwe Conservation and Education Centre as part of its outreach programme which has played a significant role in wildlife education and community development.

Anna Merz

Dies at the age of 81



Anna studied politics and economics at Nottingham University before reading for the Bar at Lincoln's Inn but her adventurous nature soon led her to Ghana where she married twice, owned a crankshaft grinding workshop and developed a love of riding, worked as an honorary warden in the Ghanaian game department and took part on many expeditions in the Sahara and around Uganda and northern Kenya.

Anna retired to Kenya in 1976 where she met David Craig who leased her 5000 acres to set up a rhino sanctuary surrounded by a ten foot high electrified security fence. Soon this was doubled to 10,000 acres and later expanded to 62,000 acres to form the Lewa Downs Wildlife Conservancy which now has 70 black rhino and 56 white rhino and many other species of wildlife.

I first met Anna in 1989 – I had just returned home from a wildlife holiday in Zimbabwe where I had been approached by some farmers to help establish a black rhino conservancy in the Midlands Province of Zimbabwe and had heard that Anna had built a rhino conservancy at Ngare Sergio. in Kenya.

I rang up Anna to ask for some advice and she immediately said why not come and see for yourself so I flew to Nairobi, hired a car and went to Ngare Sergio which lay in the foothills of Mount Kenya. On arrival I was asked if I would like to see some rhino and off we went in a Jeep, but I was not able to watch from the safety of the vehicle for long, as we soon stopped in thick bush and went on a walk to get a close up view of rhino. Anna seemed fearless of these large animals.

Back at her house I met Samia, a black rhino who Anna had hand reared from birth as her mother Solio had no milk. Samia was very tame and followed Anna like a dog. But she soon took a dislike to the bumper of my car and on my return to Nairobi I had to explain to the car hire firm how it got damaged.

Samia was born in February 1985 and Anna reared her until she was about six years old. She then encouraged her to return to the wild where she became pregnant. After having her baby rhino, Samia would come back each day to show off her calf to Anna. One day two bulls were fighting and Samia and her calf were pushed over the edge of a cliff and both were killed. Anna was heartbroken and soon afterwards she decided to move to South Africa with her seven dogs and built herself a house in Vaalwater. However she remained a board member of Lewa Downs and also travelled extensively – usual on horseback or riding on camels.

Anna was a formidable lady whose determination and inspiration to create a rhino conservancy was unrivalled - nobody argued with Anna. She loved opera and on her visits to the UK, we would always try and book tickets for her to watch opera but she preferred the Three Tenors to Billy Elliot. She wrote books about rhino and was a prolific letter writer to her circle of friends. Annie and I would get regular letters about her travels in Africa and her lecture tours in the States and her encounters with snakes in South Africa.

Anna made a major contribution to the conservation of the black rhino in Africa and we were honoured that such a great lady agreed to become a patron of the Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust. We will all miss her, and be always grateful for her friendship and wise advice.

Rhino Zimbabwe Secondary School

On our visit to this school we were disappointed that only a little progress had been made since our last visit. The toilet block had been completed and a start made on the staff house but the main school building had not yet been started and the pupils still had to share classrooms with Pauldale Primary School.

I met the headmaster Chiyangwa Marko and the School Chairman Homera Johane and they explained that they had had no Government support for the building programme and had to rely on support from the Zibagwe Rural District Council and from the parents of the pupils. In line with our previous decision to help this school, we have donated some funds to provide more building materials.



Chiwodza Primary & Secondary School

The two new classrooms at the Secondary School are very impressive but the third classroom has not yet been built - although all the materials are on site. Ray Gripper has sent another e-mail to Defence Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa, the local M.P. asking for more State help to complete the building of the third classroom



The borehole that we built for these two schools six months ago had very quickly run dry and the pump had been dismantled. We had promised the school that we would pay for a new borehole. During our recent visit a second borehole was drilled at a site where the water diviner was confident we would find water. Sadly, although the drilling went down to 70 meters, no water was found and the borehole was dry.



15 years on - a visit to Zimbabwe by Robert Gripper

On arrival at Harare, we were kept waiting for 40 minutes at immigration for our visas - despite being third in the queue to enter the country.

“I see from your passport you are a dealer in antiquities” said the stern faced official, “my partner is an artist, perhaps you would like to buy some of his art”?

I knew I was back in Africa.

It was fifteen years since I last visited Zimbabwe it had been a wonderful trip, visiting Hwange National Park, Victoria Falls, Fothergill Island and Rhino trekking, I was largely a tourist, this trip I was a visitor, with work to do.

The media has painted a bleak picture of Zimbabwe over the years since my last visit, and I was surprised to find Harare such a busy thriving city, with a mixture of traditional and modern buildings. The streets were packed with people and were full of a wide variety of shops selling all manner of goods, clothes markets thrived in the car parks.

The main road from Harare to Bulawayo has been expanded and largely tarmac, the infrastructure of the country is unrivalled in central Africa, and there are many investors in the west, mainly American who are looking to invest in Zimbabwe. I was surprised to see the level of Chinese investment in the country, as there is across the rest of Africa, they are mainly interested in mining, they bring in thousands of their own workers who live independently from the local communities, in large camps The Chinese population has diminished the tortoise population as they catch and eat them!

80% of the African population live in the cities. In the remote areas in the Midlands I saw examples of extreme poverty, but was impressed by the warmth and happiness of these people, despite extreme suffering and sickness, 15% of the population is HIV positive, which impacts on the working population.

Zimbabwe abandoned their currency following extreme hyperinflation, not witnessed since in Germany following the First World War. The U.S. dollar is the currency now used. This has brought financial stability, but the government has no ability to print money so the notes in circulation are so dirty and well used that it is sometimes difficult to differentiate between the different denominations.

My lasting impressions from this visit will be the resilience and enthusiasm of all the people I met, the farmers, the teachers, and generally the people and the school children. The country has huge potential, yet to be realised. It was a privilege to visit Zimbabwe, a visitor is someone who doesn't know where he's going, a tourist is someone who doesn't know where he's been.



Unite to Light by Robert Gripper

Unite to light are a non profit making company based in Los Angeles who have developed a small lightweight solar powered reading light, specifically designed for third world countries. 1.5 billion people are without electricity and rely on kerosene, candles or firewood for light, directly correlating to illiteracy, poverty, and health problems.

We took ten lights with us to Zimbabwe and distributed them between the schools and the education centre to trial them, see how well they worked and to assess the level of demand for them – especially for school children to do their homework at night.

Two hours in the sunlight will give an hour of bright light provided by the efficient diode bulb. They come with a NICH battery that will recharge approximately 500 times. These may also be useful in more affluent households that have mains electricity supply, because the power regularly goes off two or three times a week, sometimes for as long as 10 hours at a time. We are looking into the possibilities of importing these lights into Zimbabwe, they have been extremely successful in Kenya and are a much safer and more affordable solution to lighting than kerosene and candles. We already have requests from Mr Masora the headmaster at Chiwodza secondary school who wants to equip all their teachers with one.



Soapstone Carvings for Sale

SBRT would like to thank the late Mr T.M. Wilson CMG the British High Commissioner for Rhodesia 1987 – 1990, and his wife, for the donation of five carved soapstone works of art purchased from the Matombo Gallery in Harare in 1988 following his visit as assistant to Nicholas Soames.

The pieces come with authentication and purchase documentation, and two artists histories, 'Owl protecting a man' is by renowned Zimbabwe artist Richard Mteki, and 'Hawk' is by renowned Zimbabwe artist Claud Nyanhongo. Anyone interested in purchasing any or all of these pieces please contact Robert Gripper 01993 831960 The proceeds will be given to the Trust.



Growing Vegetables by Robert Gripper

The Sebakwe Conservation and Education Centre is running a vegetable trial to study the effects of using different fertilizers on the growth of vegetables, using beans.

Three separate plots of beans were planted.

- The first plot is the control group and was given only water.
- The second plot was fertilized with diluted cow manure.
- The third plot was fertilized with Russian Comfrey grown in the same garden.

The leaves are suspended in water, which is then diluted times twenty and applied. Three students on secondment to the centre are assisting with the project. The beans are all growing well, the trial has yet to finish.



Rockvale Women's Garden project

Palloma Pachiti the director of S.C.E.C. procured a piece of land and organised an industrious group of local women to fence it against animals and cultivate it for growing vegetables.

S.C.E.C. hosted a one day training workshop on herbs, identification and their uses and cultivation, in an effort to improve the nutrition status in the garden.

We visited the site and were very impressed with the volume and quantity of vegetables produced. Unfortunately the nearest water supply was a lake 55 metres from the plot, down a slope with a drop of 5 metres, the woman had to transport huge amounts of water every day in large buckets to sustain their plants.

SBRT are looking to procure a good hand pump plus alkathene hose and a holding tank to make the task of watering less laborious, giving the woman more time to work in the garden, and supplying larger quantities of water to the plot resulting in bigger vegetables. The women sang for us in beautiful harmony with great enthusiasm!



Going Bananas by Robert Gripper

Ken King has planted 30 hectares of bananas on his farm in the Midlands conservancy. The delicate seedlings were flown in from South Africa, cultivated from leaf cuttings taken from quality stock. Sandy and Ken tended to them on their front lawn to start with, now 6 months on they are large and leafy, planted out in rows.

The plants send out shoots from the base of the root, these have to be removed and cored to prevent subsequent growth. One shoot is selected and kept to the left of the plant in line with the row.

Once the fruit ripens, the whole plant is harvested and the selected shoot now becomes the next plant to bear fruit. Likewise this plant sends out shoots from its base, this time a shoot is selected and kept to the right of the plant, in line with the row, and the whole process starts again, producing a regular crop.

Ken plans to market his crop locally and also to process dry bananas, the crop also produces lots of fodder for the cattle. We wish him luck with the project.



Filming

S.B.R.T are making three short films of The Education Centre, the Schools and Rhino tracking. They are made from footage taken by Robert Gripper on his recent visit with John Gripper, and are being edited by Eddie Gripper. They will be released at the end of the summer and available for viewing on the S.B.R.T website and on You Tube.



Sebakwe Health Centre

Mr Petr Stary' the Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Zimbabwe visited the Education Centre on 10th and 11th of March 2013 to sign a contract for the construction of the new maternity nurse's waiting rooms and staff house at Sebakwe Clinic.

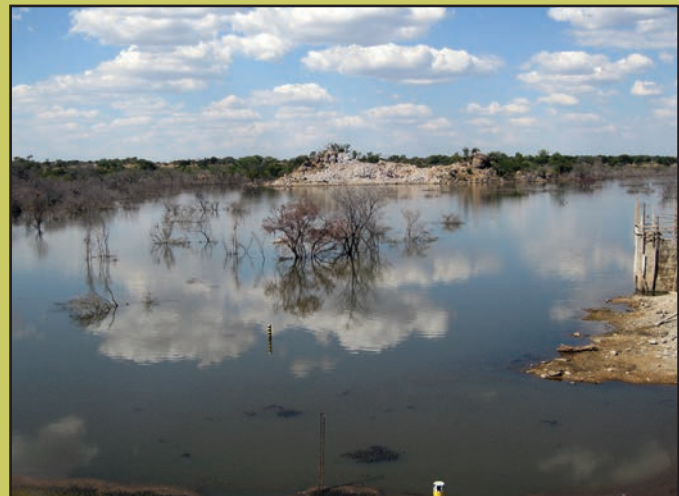
A total of USD 7520 was handed to the Centre Director and deposited into our bank account. The footings of this new maternity unit are now in place. Mr Stary' also visited the beekeeping project which they funded last year and used this visit to view one of our rhino in the Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy.



Zimplats Dam

Zimplats are part of Impala Platinum of South Africa. This project will establish a primary platinum ore processing plant in the vicinity of Ngezi Mine and thus economise on the long distance haulage of bulk ore.

An assured supply of raw water is essential for the operation of the new processing plant and Zimplats have now completed the two dams incorporating an island to ensure that there is sufficient water supply for the operation of the processing of bulk ore. The Island dams have now been completed by building a masonry dam on each branch of a large island of the Munyati River.



2012 Visitors to Sebakwe Conservation and Education Centre

Date	Religious Groups	Size
28-29 Jan	Word of Life	25
6-8 April	Word Alive Restoration	68
18-20 April	Later Day Saints	60
25-27 April	Baptist Church	50
7-8 Sept	Gospel Assembly	40
9-16 Dec	G.C.I	50
29-30 Dec	Methodist Church	30
	Total =	323

Date	Schools	Size
2-5 Feb	Thornhill High School	40
10-12 Feb	Rio Tinto High School	45
30 Mar-1 April	Educare	30
1-2 April	Chiodza Primary	25
03-Apr	Rural Rhino Quiz	40
3-4 April	Gutsaruzhinji School	18
21-May	Russell Primary	18
18-May	Dambudzo Primary	12
34 21-May	Alex Park School	91
31-May	Maryward School	15
22-Jun	Quiz quarter finals	60
29 June-1 July	Anderson High School	40
27-29 July	Anderson Primary	58
21-23 Sept	Cecil John Rhodes	37
28-Sep	Provincial Quiz	50
27-Oct	National Quiz	100
16-18 Nov	Camelot Primary	26
23-Nov	Goldridge Primary	45
	Total =	750

Date	Universities	Size
11-12 March	Midlands State University	45
	Total =	45

Date	Meetings	Size
13-Jan	Loreto High Teachers	40
25-27Jan	PWMA-parks	40
14-Feb	Scholarship Meeting	8
16-Feb	Conservancy Meeting	15
03-Mar	MBRC Meeting	10
15-16 March	Teachers Workshop	35
25-26 April	PWMA parks	23
27-28 April	ZISCO Football Club	25
16-Jun	Village Heads Meeting	20
27-29 June	PMWA - parks	50
29-Jun	Min.of Youths	20
24-25 July	Beekeeping Workshop	14
02-Aug	Chipembere Garden Project	11
25-Aug	MBRC	10
30-Aug	Board of Advisors ward 2	14
03-Sep	Quarter Setting Meeting	20
13-Sep	Board of Advisors	40
13-Sep	SBRT Meeting	6
13-Sep	Official opening Beit Chalet	20
20-Sep	Board of Advisors ward 2	21
22-Sep	Soccer Tournament	100
26-29 Sep	PWMA- Parks	21
04-Oct	Board of Advisors	24
20-Oct	WEZ NC AGM	15
30-Oct	Board of Advisors ward 2	15
25-27 Nov	Camfed teachers	40
28Nov-2Dec	MASO	35
	Total =	707

Year 2012 Grand Total = 1,825



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 & Donation 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"/>	Quiz - £
<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

Signature.....

Card Number

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Valid From

Expires

CV2 No (last 3 digits)

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Completed forms to be returned to:-

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

Tel: +44 (0)1993 830 278

Fax: +44 (0)1993 830 395

I wish to ADOPT for TWO YEARS:-

- TANGARIRA - 44 yr old male
- TENDAI - 9 yr old female
- TSAKA - 9 yr old male
- RONDA - 5 yr old female
- RANZI - 8 yr old male

Address of Adopter:-

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Post Code.....

Tel:.....

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

Please sign this form so that we can claim Gift Aid tax relief on your donation.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income tax and/or Capital gains tax for each tax year that is at least equal to the amount that I donate to and will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council tax do not qualify. I understand that the charity will reclaim 25p on every £1 that I give on or after 6th April 2008.

Signature.....

Date.....

RHINO SUMMER QUIZ 2013

Find a word that will fit before or after the given words e.g along, car, sea (4) SIDE

1	flower, paper, street	4	26	dive, tail, up	7
2	back, gin, shot	5	27	angle, density, dry	4
3	colour, fresh, mark	5	28	box. mail, speaking	5
4	ego, round, wire	4	29	happy, never, up	6
5	day, lucky, fast	5	30	drag, driver, flat	6
6	cake, cloth, cottage	6	31	food, reaction, saw	5
7	blossom, mock, peel	6	32	anchor, kick, tear	4
8	payment, pipe, settle	4	33	clove, hiker, technical	5
9	citizen, management, service	6	34	awake, birth, world	4
10	elephant, state, trader	5	35	gear, hands, short	8
11	beetle, hunt, night	4	36	under, still, off	5
12	butter, cherry, snap	6	37	cycle, launch, outboard	5
13	booking, guard, warning	7	38	after, ages, horse	4
14	double, strap, up	4	39	Artichoke, theatre, trotter	5
15	hands, thunder, trap	4	40	history, monument, world	7
16	doing, else, much	7	41	dog, house. red	3
17	brown, pan, boat	5	42	ahead, edge, talking	8
18	compartment, oven, puppet	5	43	mother, shattering, worm	5
19	egg, old, part	5	44	box, red, mark	4
20	aloud, tank, twice	5	45	fighter, wave, writer	5
21	personal, sound, special	7	46	aero, hydro, tree	5
22	burning, leading, mark	8	47	bean, butter, powder	5
23	blower, stop, wolf	7	48	in, make, post	5
24	eyed, lights, spark	6	49	jungle, mixer, reinforced	8
25	above, crew, glass	3	50	doctor, hazel, craft	5

More

Cont

51	car, stand, tub	4	76	flood, light, news	5
52	carving, pocket, sharpner	5	77	roll, seat, soap	6
53	centre, gas, optic	5	78	delivery, pony, train	7
54	lamp, level, team	6	79	charger, dry, hen	7
55	property, rope, step	6	80	flat, knot, smith	6
56	board, race, summit	7	81	scene, squad, wave	5
57	brake, compact, jockey	4	82	crab, man, money	6
58	broker, laughing, pile	5	83	party, set, together	5
59	arm, Scotland, scrap	4	84	entrance, mark, town	4
60	brain, pipe, storm	5	85	drum, muffs, shot	3
61	Claw, drill, head	6	86	instinct, pain, weed	6
62	bare, gold, worm	6	87	lemon, roots skirt	5
63	acquired, bud, good	5	88	key, profile, tide	3
64	cream, powder, slice	7	89	chief, lash, round	4
65	bad, forming, riding	5	90	families, hour, trigger	5
66	life, look, thought	5	91	certificate, examination, officer	7
67	cart, free, wagon	5	92	burglar, flap, nap	3
68	area, death, kick	7	93	frock, over, waist	4
69	ground, Easter, identity	6	94	con, dirty, magic	6
70	beer, coal, wine	6	95	bin, cruise, eye	5
71	column, malicious, monger	6	96	dating, news, travel	6
72	compound, human, rate	8	97	cock, full, watch	4
73	domestic, fiction, rocket	7	98	Bill, grass, water	7
74	age, speed, time	5	99	apart, bag, up	4
75	insurance, pawn, stock	6	100	bank, book, paper	4

Please return your entry by Friday 16th August 2013 with £2 for each entry to:-
 Annie Gripper, Manor Farm, Ascott-under-Wychwood, OXON, OX7 6AL.
 If you would like a copy of the correct answers then please enclose a s.a.e.