

Sebakwe News

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www.blackrhino.org

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Should We Have Legal Trade In Rhino Horn ?

The killing of rhino for the illegal sale of their horn is continuing unabated. Last year in South Africa 448 rhino were killed by poachers and in the first four months of this year 177 rhino have been killed in South Africa.

There have been 58 thefts of rhino horn from European museums by Irish organised criminal gangs involving the theft of 72 separate horns, eight entire heads with 16 horns and 3 carved “libation cups”.

In Asian countries and especially Vietnam and China, the retail value of rhino horn has risen to USD 60,000 per kilo as compared to the value of gold which is USD 52,500 per kilo. This makes a large horn worth over £200,000. Poaching by criminal syndicates has been encouraged by this increase in value following rumours that rhino horn can cure cancer, despite there being no proof that rhino horn has any beneficial medical qualities. It is also a myth that rhino horn is valued as an aphrodisiac.

In Zimbabwe and South Africa stocks of rhino horn have built up from rhino that have died a natural death, from dehorning, and from the confiscated illegal rhino horn. There is growing pressure from those Governments holding stocks of rhino horn for a relaxation of the ban on the sale of rhino horn made by CITES.

We can dismiss any ideas of poisoning rhino horn as impracticable and it is also morally unacceptable to attempt to kill other human beings who are innocent end users. The farming of rhino for horn can be compared to the production of bile from bears or the breeding of tigers for bone and other body parts and would be totally unacceptable to conservationists on animal welfare grounds.

Rhino killed by poachers in South Africa

<u>Year</u>	<u>No</u>
2007	12
2008	83
2009	122
2010	333
2011	448



Cont ...

However there is a growing argument in favour of a relaxation of the ban on the sale of rhino horn on the grounds that it would reduce the value of the horn and decrease the poaching. It could also allow funds from the sale of horn to be made available for rhino conservation but in reality such a commercial approach is only likely to benefit the farmers, hunters, businessmen and corrupt officials.

The counter argument against legalising sales of rhino horn is that by flooding the market and reducing the value of horn we might actually be increasing the demand for rhino horn by the end user who can buy more cheaply and thus encourage more poaching. A relaxation of the ban would also make it more difficult to police the trade and distinguish between legal and illegal rhino horn.

At the recent Rhino Mayday meeting in London, Mary Rice from the Environmental Investigation Agency said *that two controlled sales of ivory stockpiles have failed to stem the flow of illegal ivory to East Asia, and specifically to China. In fact, the legal sales appear to have stimulated demand and consequently contributed to an increase in illegal ivory flow and the poaching of elephants. Investigation by the EIA indicates that the latest legal sale of ivory in 2008 has clearly failed to either reduce the price of ivory or curb illegal trade. This failure should be recognised and not repeated. The biggest threat to elephants is now the regulated domestic market. Opening up trade hasn't worked for elephant, and it will not work for rhinos either.*



I remain unconvinced that legalising the trade in rhino horn is the right way forward. Under CITES rules, live rhino and regulated hunting trophies can still be traded from South Africa and Swaziland. We must tighten up the CITES regulations so as to enforce a complete ban on the hunting of rhino and the trade in sales of live rhino and hunting trophies.

We must improve the anti poaching security for the protection of wild rhino populations, which will include dehorning in some instances. We must invest in more environmental education and raise the standards of basic welfare and lifestyles of local communities around the conservancies so that they benefit from wildlife conservation.

Sebakwe Health Centre by Jilly Neale

I am a practice nurse and work in a surgery in Shrewsbury. In April I travelled out to Zimbabwe to visit Sebakwe Conservation Education Centre with my husband Alastair who is a trustee and my 18 year old daughter Katie who is hoping to train as a children's nurse.

We were able to spend some time in the Sebakwe Health Centre with Mhlanga Samuel, the head nurse. The first day was exceptionally busy as it was the monthly HIV Clinic and a team of nurses came from Kwekwe hospital to administer ante retroviral medication to around 80 patients who queued for their treatment. The patients looked well and before the clinic started, prayers were said followed by a very moving traditional song.

I was able to sit in with the counsellor and observe the pre counselling before the HIV test and then later for the results for 10 patients, sadly 5 had positive results. The test was carried out by a nurse using the latest technology of taking a small blood sample from a finger prick.

A general surgery in Sebakwe is very different to my surgery in Shrewsbury with a range of illnesses including dysentery, TB, and HIV Opportunistic Infections. We were unfortunate enough to see a very sick baby with pneumonia; her breathing was very laboured and weak. The head nurse was able to administer an antibiotic injection and refer the patient to Kwekwe hospital although organising transport was difficult and we never knew if she reached the hospital to get the treatment she badly needed. We still wonder what has become of her.

Some patients walked for 3 hours to reach the clinic and all paid a dollar to be seen, many carrying their own cloudy water. UNICEF appeared to be supplying good stocks of medicine and the clinic seemed to be running well with a limited amount of equipment. A new home was being built for the head nurse in the grounds of the clinic which would be of huge benefit and free up space in the clinic as during the week he slept in the labour room. Childhood vaccines were stored in cool boxes as the electricity supply was limited which was not ideal. I really enjoyed my time in the clinic and was able to leave some supplies.



Katie helping out



Fun at the Camp

We were also able to spend sometime in the education centre and help Palloma and Joseph with a school camp. We visited 3 local schools and went on some game drives but were unable to spot any rhinos due to the long grass. The trip was amazing and I learnt a lot about this impressive charity and how it supports the community and conserves wildlife and the fantastic way in which it supports children and makes a real difference to people's lives.

My Visit to Sebakwe by Katie Neale

In April 2012 I was lucky enough to visit Sebakwe with my parents. I have spent quite a lot of time fundraising at home and was really interested to see what the charity really did. I am currently studying health and social care at college and in September I am starting my training as a Children's Nurse, so the work the charity does for the children in Sebakwe was particularly interesting.

During my trip we visited 3 schools. I joined in with one of the camps at the education centre with the children from Pauldale School. I spent a day at the health centre and we were able to travel around the conservancy.



Fun with face paints on camp



Children eager to learn at Chiwodza school

The schools who visited the education centre thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it was a pleasure to be with such wonderful enthusiastic children. I hope we added to the enjoyment of the camp in bringing some face paints and bubbles. It was great to hear the children laughing and having such fun when they saw themselves with face paint on – something they are unlikely to do again.

We were part of the group of judges for their quiz. Four schools took part and took the quiz very seriously. It was a very good way of communicating to the children about the environment and local wildlife. I learnt a lot about the differences between black and white rhino. I am really impressed with the education centre and everything that goes on around it.

I was lucky enough to go to the health centre and help in a clinic there. I saw a lot and it made me realise how important it is to stay healthy in Zimbabwe. I saw an ill baby with pneumonia and I still wonder how it is now. The commitment of the staff in the centre was obvious and moving.

As well as seeing how the charity functioned we were able to spend some time being driven round the conservancy by David Strydom. It was beautiful I had not realised quite how big the area was and how beautiful it would be. Due to the tall grass we could not see many wild animals but I saw many wonderful birds and suddenly a large bull giraffe walked right in front of us. It was a memory I will never forget. We had a great time staying with the Strydom's who were amazing hosts and I learnt so much about the country.

The trust is an amazing charity I really appreciate what a difference it is making in the community and all it is doing to protect the black rhino. I would love to visit again and I have renewed energy and inspiration to do all I can to help the charity.



The orphaned lion we met on the way home



Admiring the view over Lake Sebakwe

Return of the Black Rhino by Paul Holmes

After the success of the Night of the Black Rhino several years ago, another fantastic party was held in Pontesbury to raise money and awareness of the charity. Once again over 110 guests were given a splendid African meal and after a raffle and a variety of competitions, the entertainment began with fantastic music firstly with Mathews Holmes and Luke Shaw singing their way through 'Five Years Time' by Noah and the Whale, following on was a great local band Mid Life Crisis, providing great music to fill the dance floor.

The evening was once again a huge success through the hard work of the organising committee. Many people found out more about the charity and were very generous and more than two thousand pounds was raised. One of the highlights of the evening was the raffle prize of the fabulous pottery rhino donated some time ago and held in waiting for this very event, the winner was Cristoph from Amsterdam who was visiting friends and was thrilled to be taking his prize home.

So a big thank you to the organising committee of Jilly & Alastair Neale, Paul and Alison Holmes, Rachel Leigh, Nicki Robinson and Di Packwood. We are planning another event shortly!!!



STOP PRESS NEWS

Pam Ayres is performing a Charity Show in Aid of the Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust at Chipping Norton Theatre

on

Wednesday 3rd October 2012

Introduction to Beekeeping by Palloma

Beekeeping is one of the most popular sustainable income generating activities promoting both conservation and improving local peoples livelihoods. There is good potential for honey and other bee products if done successfully and local people can earn a living from beekeeping projects. On the other hand, bees depend on intact woodlands and to practice a profitable project, there is need for proper veld management. Local people have to guard against deforestation, wild fires and protect water systems in the area. The more effort people put into conservation of the natural woodlands, the more chances of success of the project.

A beekeeping project is thus beneficial in many ways especially so in the MBRC and its surrounding communities. The habitat and the buffer zone for our black rhino is kept intact.

The Batsirai bee keeping project has been running in Benholm, a community on the southern boundaries for almost four years. The project is called Batsirai which means 'to help'. The name is based on the background that the community expected the project would help improve their livelihoods.

Benholm is made up of plot holders and is not a village system like other communities. Plot holders are usually referred to as 'weekend farmers' as most of them have Monday-Friday jobs. Seven members and their families are part of the project. The project has had its successes and challenges. From the three productive hives, on average, they harvest 20litres of honey during harvest periods. The site is unfenced and a distance from the homesteads so theft of honey has limited what they can harvest. A 100% commitment from all members is difficult especially considering that they spend most of their week at work. Nonetheless, despite failing to go commercial, subsistence harvest of the honey has provided a commodity that was otherwise not there and members who can sell to neighbors make a few dollars.



Beehives

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The Education Centre was very fortunate to submit a successful bee keeping project proposal to the Czech Embassy. Of all the projects submitted, the Education Centre is one of two which were fortunate to be considered. The project title is '*promoting sustainable livelihoods and conservation through beekeeping*'.

We plan to build on the successes and learn from the challenges from Batsirai beekeeping project. One of the major lessons is to locate the project where it has more opportunities for success. The village set-up such as Pauldale not only has good woodlands but will have more impact on people who permanently stay in the area and have no other alternative for income besides agriculture. The fact that there are more people living closely together in a village than a plot which is spatially populated increases protection of the site.

The Future - Perhaps due to climate change, poor soils or a combination of both and other factors, there is increased failure of agriculture to meet the local people's demands. Over the past few years, yields have not been enough to sustain families through to the next harvest. With increased poverty, there is increased exploitation of natural resources, sometimes unsustainable. This bee project has the potential to provide nutrition, medicinal benefits, be a source of income and most importantly, promote conservation. By its very nature, beekeeping rescinds deforestation. Local communities will therefore be playing their role in responding to climate change. We are very grateful to the Czech Embassy for this opportunity and will make the most out of it.

Joseph Chiwara

Has been appointed as Conservation and Development Officer at the Education Centre. He is 27 years old and holds a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources Management and an Agriculture Honours degree in Livestock and Wildlife Management and has worked for National Parks at lake Chivero Fisheries Research Station.

“I feel very honoured to have joined Sebakwe Conservation and Education Centre and I will do my best to work well with the SCEC staff and the surrounding community for the conservation of flora and fauna and for the benefit of the present and future generations to come.”



Trip to Sebakwe by Alastair Neale

This was my 5th trip to Sebakwe and provided me with a great opportunity to compare how things are since my first trip in 2005. This was the first time I had been in our Spring time and for Zimbabwe this was a time of growth. There had been a lot of rain and the grass was long (often over 6 foot) and everything appeared green and fertile. The long grass did however prohibit the sighting of much of the game in the conservancy and we could not safely get near enough to see any of the rhino.

The easiest wild animal to see in the long grass was this old bull giraffe who wondered across the road when we were out on our travels. The new borehole at Chiwodza School is making a huge difference to a very isolated community.



Old Bull Giraffe



Testing the water in the new Borehole at Chiwodza

Travelling through to Sebakwe from Harare it was apparent that there was some progress since my first visit. Now that the currency is stable there is more money around and there is a market economy being built, certainly Kwekwe, a local town, was a bustle of people and noise with a lot of markets and shops. This is a far cry from the initial visit when we went into a supermarket in Kwekwe just to see a few apples on a shelf and the rest of the shop bare. Clearly Zimbabwe still faces huge uncertainties but as many commentators have noted there is more to Africa at the moment than the one story of poverty and famine.

This new market economy is yet to reach the isolated rural areas such as Sebakwe where life is still very difficult, but it did fill me with an optimism that I had not previously realised that one day in the future there will be a limited need for our support into the schools and community as the economy grows and the children that we help educate can move out of the subsistence farming and have a far greater standard of living. Alongside this with increased overall wealth in the area there may be much less of a pull towards poaching and the rhino and other animals may also face a brighter future.

One particular theme that did come over during my trip was that the community was trying to make more of itself and I see this as a great step forward. On my first trip one aspect that concerned me was a feeling of dependence that the local community had on the charity and that the charity would provide, now there is a starting point in which the charity is assisting rather than doing.

I was really impressed to see that Chiwadza community had saved over \$1500 towards the bore hole recently dug, that the Black Rhino secondary school is being pushed forward by the locals who are giving time themselves to help build it, and the new bee hive project has the potential to get people taking the initiative and selling honey.

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Once again we were able to spend time in the education centre during a school camp, we saw what the children did and what they learnt, it was a wonderful experience to be part of it. The children never stopped singing and laughing and had a wonderful time but learnt some very important messages about the environment and of course the need to protect all wild animals particularly the black rhino. They wrote poems that moved us all to tears and finally when all crammed into the truck to go home, they sang for over an hour all the way home.

Palloma and Joseph the new deputy at the education centre are creating a fantastic environment in a very special place, there is much to do to establish the centre through accessing local communities and increasing the number of visitors but I can see a great future for the centre as an experience for travellers offering time in the conservancy connected with the rhino, working in the community, the education centre and in the health centre as a means of broadening the support for the Trust. Once the new chalet is completely ready, we may be able to start offering this as an experience that will support the trust and inspire visitors.



Transport Sebakwe Style



Winners of the Education Art Prize

Schools Update

Two UK Schools establish a link to Zimbabwe Schools

Following an approach from Polly Montague, John & Annie Gripper met Mrs Yates, head teacher of St Ambrose's Catholic Primary School and gave a talk to the staff and children in Kidderminster and then met Mrs Warner, head teacher of Lindridge St Lawrence C.E Primary school near Tenbury Wells and gave a talk to their staff and children.

This has initiated an exchange of letters between the UK Schools and Pauldale Primary School and Chiwodza Primary School in Zimbabwe.



Schools letters handed to Palloma

Many thanks to Nic Davis of Rhino Recovery for a laptop to be used for field work at the Education Centre in Zimbabwe.

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 £

Completed forms to be returned to:-

Annie Gripper
Manor Farm
Ascott under Wychwood
OXON
OX7 6AL

Cheques - Please make payable to SBRT

Visa/Mastercard

Card Number	Valid From	Expires End	CV2
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Tel: +44 (0)1993 830 278
 Fax: +44 (0)1993 830 395

Signature.....

Address of Adopter:-

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Post Code.....

From.....

.....

Tel:.....

I wish to ADOPT for TWO YEARS:-

TANGARIRA - 42 yr old male

TENDAI - 6 yr old female

TSAKA - Male rhino

RONDA - 3 yr old female

RANZI - 6 yr old male

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.....

RHINO SUMMER QUIZ 2012

All the answers have "age" in them somewhere

1	Area of Land	7	26	Programme	6
2	Bravery	7	27	Logistics(modern term)	7
3	Vegetable	7	28	Retinue	9
4	Ancestry	7	29	Fruit	9
5	To search for	6	30	Shelter for ships	10
6	Rubbish	7	31	Slavery	7
7	A railway vehicle	8	32	A card game	8
8	Conducive to success	9	33	Pacify	7
9	"Gristle"	9	34	A small house	7
10	Artistic composition	7	35	Heavy bombardment	7
11	Inspire	9	36	Bind by contract	6
12	Conceive the future	8	37	Part of aeroplane	8
13	Leaves	7	38	Herbs collectively	7
14	Prisoner	7	39	Dutiful reverence	6
15	Buttonhole	7	40	Farm stock count	7
16	Beer	5	41	Suitcases	7
17	Control	6	42	Collection of animals	9
18	Distance covered	7	43	Wedlock	8
19	Relaxes muscles	7	44	Parcel	7
20	Brilliant spectacle	7	45	Flowers	7
21	Nobility	7	46	Plunder	7
22	A certain proportion	10	47	Coarse food	8
23	Devastate	6	48	Wiseman	4
24	Step in progress	5	49	Cultivation of land	7
25	Proverb	5	50	Mediocre	7

51	Representative	5	76	Alaskan port	9
52	Discredit	9	77	Prescribed amount	6
53	Elderly woman	7	78	Repair workshop	6
54	Tea, coffee etc	8	79	Impedimenta	7
55	Senility	6	80	Flower (blue or white)	8
56	Optical illusion	6	81	Dr Barnado's	9
57	An obstruction	8	82	Anger	4
58	Youth	8	83	Resentment	7
59	Old	4	84	Attachment	9
60	Corridor	7	85	A family line of Kings	11
61	Stamp charge	7	86	Equestrian competition	8
62	Brutal	6	87	Place for safe keeping	7
63	Disasterous event	7	88	Not quite a town	7
64	A magician	4	89	Bet	5
65	Town near Oxford	7	90	Flotsam	8
66	Loss by wear	7	91	Sea journey	6
67	Crimson	7	92	Women's libbers	12
68	Dialect of countries	8	93	Feathers	7
69	Feathers an arrow	9	94	Text	7
70	Banger	7	95	Remuneration	4
71	Semi-dried grass	7	96	Positional advantage	8
72	No use crying over this	8	97	Copy of form	5
73	A Countenance	6	98	A good view	7
74	Cornish village	8	99	Bureau	6
75	The valley	8	100	Wash out	6

Please return your entry with a £2 donation (cheques to SBRT) by Tuesday 31st July 2012 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.