

Sebakwe News

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www.blackrhino.org

Registered Charity : 328461

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Zimbabwe Rhino Policy

In the introduction to the Management Plan which follows on from the rhino workshops that were held in Harare earlier this year and sets out the aims for the next five years, the report states that at the time of writing June 2011 over 900 rhino have been killed by poachers during the last three years in South Africa and Zimbabwe. In this current year up to the end of August, there have been 284 rhino killed in South Africa and the rhino poaching crisis is now at a very critical level.

The Plan's long term vision is based on a target of annual net growth of 5% after poaching losses have been taken into account and the workshops considered that the smaller population groups should aim to reach the recommended minimum breeding group target of a population of 20 rhino.

The report also notes that in 2008, three black rhino were translocated from the Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy to Bubyee for security reasons. This refers to Rebecca and her calf Ranganai who were translocated on 19th July 2008 and to Tenashe who was translocated on 5th September 2008. Tenashe was the orphaned calf of Tapiwa, who was killed by poachers and he then had to be bottle reared. Tenashe was later renamed Blondie.



The Midlands Conservancy has not lost any rhino from poachers for three years and in order to reach a population of 20 needs to have three black rhino returned or replaced in respect of the three that were translocated away from the Midlands and if available we would like a further three black rhino to raise our numbers to eleven. At the moment we have a sex ratio in favour of males and so the majority of the new rhino should be young females to improve the breeding performance.

Chipembere Women's Garden Project by Palloma Pachiti-Mutemi

Background

After noting with concern the slowly but evident increasing deforestation in our area and the conservancy, the Sebakwe Conservation & Education Centre decided to embark on a women and biomass project. This project engaged the women in considering alternative ways of using less firewood in their households.

SCEC also encouraged all the 20 women in the village to each have an improved stove in their kitchens, this was different from the old stoves which were located outside, had little efficiency yet utilised huge logs as firewood. The improved stove was sealed on three sides such that one is technically forced to chop their firewood into smaller pieces that fit into the stove. Furthermore it was located inside the kitchen thus increasing efficiency as there was less wind indoors. All the women welcomed this initiative and as an incentive, SCEC decided to support a nutritional garden for the Rockvale village 1 community.

Chipembere women's garden project

'Chipembere' is the local name for the rhino and the garden is aptly named in recognition that its support comes from the rhino. The project has 20 female members. The men are also involved especially with the more demanding tasks such as clearing of the site or fencing of the garden. Each of the 20 women has a column of vegetable beds.

The garden was initiated in 2008 and though it had a slow start, it is now a successful sustainable livelihood project which has improved the lives of many. The slow start was meant to wean the women from depending on SCEC / SBRT for its well being. The women were able to adapt and adjust to dealing with challenges internally with minimum external assistance and be able to stand on their feet. The project is run by a self elected committee and in times of shortages of seeds, project members make contributions to ensure that their garden is always green.



AREX Officer assisting



Bed Preparation



Gardening lessons

Sustainable Farming Techniques

SCEC together with the local Agricultural Extension Office (AREX) play a regulatory and educative role. The women are educated on environmentally friendly farming techniques such as not using pesticides or snares as problem animal control measures. Instead the women apply their indigenous knowledge on herbs and shrubs whose juice can make effective pesticides. Ribbon from tapes is used to scare away the birds whilst the women take turns to guard the garden from bigger problem animals.

AREX trains the women on best mixed farming methods or crop rotation techniques. Of late the women have been trained on growing more marketable vegetables such as lettuce or leeks. This is because traditionally the women have been growing for subsistence use, but after realising that they can also make more income from selling extras, they have decided to grow more marketable vegetables to generate more income.

Improved Livelihoods

Various social science researches from the students on internship at SCEC have been done on the garden to assess its effectiveness. From the research, it has been noted that each family has an average of 8 people per household and with 20 project members; the garden has positively provided food for about 160 people within the village. This includes elderly women who have lost breadwinners from their family but are now able to bring food to their table. Neighbouring villages also buy vegetables from the project.

Scarcity of water in Rockvale makes it impossible to have vegetables in the whole community. Of the 4 villages, only village 1 has a dam and the new borehole from SBRT at the primary school serves as a second water point. The garden thus has more impact beyond the area of its location.

Challenges

The garden is sited next to a small dam that shrinks as the season gets hotter. Water is collected manually with buckets carried on the women's head, up the slope, to the garden. This is the main setback that perhaps due to the labour involved, limits the number of productive beds that each member can have. Consequently, the beds closest to the water source are more productive and those furthest are bare.



Donation of seedlings



Initial Planting



Water Source

Conservation Benefits

The use of the improved stoves has indeed reduced the amount of firewood consumed at household level. Furthermore, the women have provided food for their families which has reduced the 'need' to poach the wild animals in the area to provide relish. A recent development is the initiation of sub-projects. The women have started a broiler chicken project where they are rearing 50 birds for resale. Another project with the same members initiated recently is a sewing project, which hopes to make uniforms for the Rockvale Primary school.

Clearly, one can conclude that the improved stoves and the nutritional garden have improved the social status of the women as they now appreciate that there are many other sustainable alternatives to provide for their families besides selling of firewood or game meat!



Picking vegetables



Happy project Chairwoman

My time in Zimbabwe

by George Ewens

Having now been in the Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy for four months, I am at last finding my feet and not getting lost so often – much to the monitor's amusement.

So far all has gone well with the rhino and I haven't been charged at yet!



Keeping tracks on the rhino is a monumental task. Sadly, we have been suffering from a lot of bush fires and these in turn have made the rhino stray and wander even further into more distant areas of bush – which makes the monitors job even more of a challenge.

We believe these fires may have been started deliberately by poachers in retaliation for the arrests we have been making to try and bring the poaching under control. These animals are under immense pressure, not only from wildlife poachers but also from habitat destruction from a number of international mining companies that seem to be able to carry out mining operations where they like, despite the fact that these endangered animals are in the region.

So, as you may gather there is lot for me to do and this being Africa it's all a slow process and I would like to continue with this work if my visa can be sorted out.

I would like to thank the monitors for all their support and keeping these rhino safe. So all the support you can give is gratefully received in these tricky financial times.



George Ewens is working in the Conservancy as a volunteer. He has worked for seven years as a rhino keeper at Port Lymphe Wild Animal Park looking after 23 black rhino and has experience of working in a game park in South Africa and with elephants in Namibia.

KNOCKOUT COMPETITION – Football & Netball FINALS – Annie Gripper

The Grand Final of any knock-out game is always exciting but the enthusiasm surrounding the Football and Netball finals held in the Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy on Sunday 4th of September would be very hard to beat.

We were privileged to be the special guests of honour and not only was I introduced to the referee before the game but as the teams lined up facing us, I was asked to meet and shake hands with each player before the kick-off.



The game was played on a grassless pitch which had a rough uneven ground surface onto which we had half a dozen chickens and two goats wandering around as well as the odd cyclist during the match. The players all had their own team shirts but some played barefooted. This did not hinder their kicking, running or tackling at all - they were amazing.

Whenever a goal was scored their supporters ran onto the pitch and did a little dance and singing in celebration and ran off again as soon as the teams were ready to continue. No hooligans or bad behaviour was seen anywhere. The girls playing netball had their own supporters and their own pitch too – all equally vocal and giving the players encouragement.



After the final whistle we gave each member of the winning teams a medal to hang round their necks, which delighted them. Katanga won the netball and National Parks won the football. It was a fun afternoon for everybody, players, families, friends and supporters who all mixed together very happily.



SCHOOL VISITS by Annie Gripper

Our first visit was to Rockvale School (Tagwireyi Primary School) and although the school did not start the new term until the following day most of the children turned up to see us. We were told by the Headmaster that a definite decision had now been made that they were not going to move the school to a new site as had been planned last year

They are using the desks and chairs that we sent out in the container last year and they have built two more class rooms up to roof level and hope to soon be able to complete the roofing before the rainy season. They have to try to raise the USD 4000 required for roofing materials. Once the roofs have been completed it will make a great improvement to their classroom space. The borehole had developed a mechanical problem which we are getting repaired.



Our second school visit was to Pauldale Primary School (Gutsaruzhinji School) and on the way there we passed the Rhino Secondary School building area and saw the pile of bricks where the toilet block is to be built. It will be quite some time before any classrooms are ready for occupation. In the meantime the 70 scholars at the Rhino Secondary School are still using the roofless classroom at Pauldale Primary School. We had a request for help with building materials to complete this roof.



At Pauldale Primary School the children also came to school one day early because we had come to visit them. Several of the children recited poems to us and we joined in with some community singing. They gave us a great welcome and the mothers and staff had made a lunch for us which we ate in one of the classrooms.

We tested the borehole which was pumping up some fresh water for the school children and we also received a handful of pen-pal letters from the Headmaster which we have now forwarded to the pupils at the primary school in Pontesbury in Shropshire; with whom they have twinned. We had a lot of smiley faces saying goodbye when we left.

The following day we visited Chiwodza Primary and Secondary Schools accompanied by Palloma and Silas Chaduka. We had not been to these schools before but they had benefited from a share of the goods from the container that we sent out last year.

The Primary School has 364 pupils and a staff of 13 teachers. The school fees are ten dollars a term for each child. The school visited the Education Centre last November and have since started their own Wildlife Club – the members sang songs for us and recited poems.

The whole school site used to be a farm and all the walled buildings which were farm workers houses make good but small classrooms for each of the 1 – 7 grades but the children do not have any desks or tables and just sit on the concrete floors.



The school were given textbooks by UNICEF earlier this year and they have carefully bound them all to protect them and extend their working life. They have themselves made seven mobile blackboards which can be moved between classrooms.

This primary school and the community had cleared an acre site last year where they planted 700 trees from seedlings. These continue to grow which is quite amazing because the nearest water supply is from the river 2 km away and all the water for the school has to be carried in buckets. They desperately need a borehole which will give the children clean drinking water. This year they have collected some maize which they have now sold to raise money towards the cost of the borehole.



The staff made us a lovely lunch after which we visited the nearby Secondary School which had similar small classrooms. The secondary school had 175 pupils and 7 staff. They had some desks and seats but 3 or 4 pupils sat at each desk. Their books were neat and tidy. They had started to build four proper classrooms for the school but this construction had come to a halt at roof height.

Under very difficult circumstances the community had done its best for the children's education and we feel that a borehole for this school must be a priority.

THANK YOU TO

- Many Congratulations to Lyndon Eaglestones, Mark Stevens & Sarah who raised £424.50 for the rhino by cycling 190 miles from Swindon to Buckingham Palace and back in 18 hrs
- Jackie, the receptionist at Glebe Centre, Telford for all the coffee mornings and fund raising over the last few years.
- Cruckton Hall School, Shrewsbury for the coffee morning and cake sale.

NEW CHALET AT EDUCATION CENTRE

This new chalet has been built at the Education Centre so that we have suitable accommodation for students and graduates to stay when undertaking research work



Trustees

John Gripper	Chairman
Nigel Overal	Treasurer
David Gripper	
Paul Holmes	
Alastair Neale	
Annie Gripper	
Ray Gripper	Zimbabwe

Patrons

Pam Ayres	
Prof. John Cooper	
Nicholas Duncan	Australia
Dr Jane Goodall	
Anna Merz	Kenya
Dr Willie Nduku	Zimbabwe
Malcolm Penny	
Julian Pettifer	
Greg Rasmussen	Zimbabwe
Dudley Russell	
Tony Soper	
Robert Swift	Zimbabwe

SEBAKWE BLACK RHINO TRUST ACCOUNTS

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
	£	£	£
Donations & Covenants	29,424	27,862	27,090
Membership subs	1,311	1,686	1,954
Adopt a rhino scheme	1,374	849	540
Gift Aid refund	3,709	2,127	2,540
Quiz	435	391	501
Dividends & Interest	4,531	2,757	2,992
Grants -SAVE	5,271	2,590	0
Grants RCVS & EAZA	0	200	0
Scholarship Fund	1,000	500	0
Legacy	0	5,000	1,000
Container	0	0	4,700
Boreholes	0	0	10,000
Total	47,055	43,962	51,317
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Printing, postage & tel,	2,870	2,146	2,999
Legacy Advertising	395	660	644
Travel	832	730	0
Miscellaneous	313	282	0
Transfer to Africa	63,149	58,439	49,309
Scholarships	inc	4,408	1,025
Boreholes	0	0	10,000
Container costs	700	0	5,029
TOTAL	68,259	66,665	69,006
Surplus/Def inc over exp	-21,055	-22,704	-17,689

MANA POOLS

During our recent visit to Zimbabwe we went on a four day safari to Mana Pools at Goliath Safaris Tented Camp run by 'Stretch' Ferreriah - who was our very experienced guide.

On the last night we were fortunate to have a really close viewing encounter at dusk and saw a pride of nine lion, four females and five adolescent cubs, kill a buffalo. Early the next morning, we went back to the kill and found the lion cubs finishing off their meal with three hyenas still waiting to come in for their share. We then got a radio message to go and see a pack of wild dogs and their pups nearby. The two close-up pictures of the kill were taken by Andrew Fields, a keen photographer from Harare, who was also staying in the camp.



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 (12 years and below)	- £5
<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.....

.....

.....

.....

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 No (last 3 digits on rear)

--	--	--

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 CHRISTMAS MISSING WORD QUIZ 2011

Find a word that fits in between the other two words e.g. Fly (4) **Half** Mast

1	Black (5)	Horn	26	Better (4)	Crown
2	Rush (4)	Glass	27	Dog (5)	Out
3	Green (6)	Sauce	28	Table (6)	Bean
4	Safety (3)	Profit	29	Hour (4)	John
5	Wishing (4)	Done	30	School (4)	Tower
6	Fruit (5)	Days	31	Second (4)	Over
7	High (4)	Wool	32	Sound (5)	Clock
8	Cabbage (5)	Up	33	Traffic (3)	Session
9	Crab (5)	Tart	34	Water (6)	Chain
10	Royal (6)	Tree	35	Green (5)	Roots
11	Evening (4)	Down	36	Get (4)	Money
12	Bread (3)	Liner	37	Note (5)	Bag
13	Double (3)	Sores	38	First (5)	Space
14	Bristol (7)	Four	39	Bridal (5)	Ticket
15	Test (4)	Train	40	Toast (6)	Chef
16	Blue (5)	Brother	41	Twilight (4)	Long
17	Football (5)	Box	42	High (5)	Guards
18	Light (7)	Station	43	Fair (6)	Elder
19	Turn (4)	Hanger	44	Book (4)	Time
20	Sea (4)	Beef	45	First (4)	Match
21	Fresh (5)	Melon	46	Water (6)	Wear
22	River (5)	Fair	47	Upper (4)	Chair
23	Common (4)	Feet	48	Cottage (6)	Straw
24	Gold (4)	Cake	49	Vegetable (6)	Party
25	Home (4)	Show	50	Wine (5)	House

Cont -

51	Observation (4)	Office	76	Road (9)	Manager
52	Pig (5)	Chesnut	77	Cover (4)	Book
53	Previous (10)	Ring	78	Ever (5)	Hours
54	Ground (6)	Break	79	Special (8)	Room
55	Port (4)	Gum	80	Storm (5)	Nine
56	Christmas (4)	Trick	81	Photo (4)	Cat
57	Cabbage (5)	Knight	82	Fish (6)	Print
58	First (7)	Duck	83	Brandy (4)	Decision
59	Engine (3)	Painting	84	Oven (5)	Puppet
60	Brass (6)	Business	85	Home (6)	Tray
61	Swimming (4)	Table	86	Deep (6)	Dried
62	Blue (6)	Opener	87	Black (5)	Room
63	Retirement (4)	Cooking	88	Mineral (7)	Account
64	Card (4)	Drive	89	Salad (8)	Table
65	Floor (4)	Ground	90	Curtain (4)	Girl
66	Green (3)	Break	91	Show (4)	History
67	Face (4)	Up	92	Daisy (5)	Letter
68	Rock (6)	Fence	93	Tea (5)	Glass
69	Blue (4)	Beam	94	Soft (3)	Boy
70	Hair (5)	Off	95	Sand (5)	Drain
71	News (5)	Clip	96	Tortoise (5)	Shock
72	Hard (6)	Cake	97	Tooth (10)	Fan
73	Black (3)	Urchin	98	Good (7)	Glass
74	Extra (6)	Man	99	Assistant (9)	Bird
75	Shopping (7)	Car	100	Home (4)	Flies

Please return your entry with £2 donation by 20th January 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.