

Winter 2014

# Sebakwe News

Editor: John Gripper

[www.blackrhino.org](http://www.blackrhino.org)

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## TAFARA and her mother TENDAI



Tafara was born on 18th February 2013 and she has grown well. Her name in Shona is WE are Happy and you can now adopt her. This is the first calf that, nine year old Tendai, has had and she has been a very good mother rearing her calf. The father, Tangarira has been very protective of his family. We are now waiting for our other young female rhino, Ronda to have a calf.

# Protecting the Rhino

by David Strydom

Conservator for the Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy

The Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy is 62 000 hectares, which is made up of 12 properties. Within these confines we look after our last 5 remaining Black Rhino. We protect them from all forms of poaching which includes snaring, poisoning and poachers who come in with weapons.

We were the only Conservancy with no Rhino poached for nearly 6 years until sadly in late December of 2013 our oldest bull Tsaka was poached and his horns chopped out, which was a very sad time for us all here.

We have a team of 10 Monitors who are all highly trained trackers and know the rhino's every movement. They can identify each rhino's track personally and from first light everyday they pick up their spoor and follow their tracks and stay with them for the entire day until last light. Our rhino can sometimes move up to 40 kilometres overnight and our Monitors will follow up on that spoor come rain or shine.



Nearly every one of these men has been charged by the rhino and either tossed up in the air or stamped on, including myself. Only last week another Monitor had to take evasive action to prevent him getting more seriously injured.

Unfortunately at times the rhino wander out of the Conservancy and go walk about into dangerous areas on our boundaries and it is a very difficult to turn them around and bring them home to safety. The surrounding villagers and miners know their value and it's just a phone call away to make a lot of money for themselves.

Our Monitors also come across wildlife poachers on the property and follow up and arrest them with the help of National Parks Rangers and the police wherever possible. On a daily basis whilst tracking the rhino they come across and uplift snares that are set to entrap our wildlife. So their duties include many other aspects and not only the main duty of protecting our valuable chargers.

One deterrent to the poaching of our rhino is to dehorn them and then send out a message to all the villagers, schools and community that our rhino now have no horns. We did this in 2010 which worked well and if we could raise the funds we would definitely dehorn them again, sooner rather than later.

Lately some of our rhino have been wandering away from the Conservancy where it can sometimes take days before we locate them and then days before we can persuade them to return home which is a time consuming exercise and is extremely stressful.

What we desperately want to do now is to try and raise money or get someone to sponsor the costs of a much needed rhino proof fence. This would keep them in an area where we can monitor them a lot more easily and it would reduce the risk of them wandering off and being poached. An area of 3 metres each side of the fence would be cleared and any incursion would then be quickly picked up and appropriate action taken. This fence would keep our rhino safer and our Monitors work more effective in keeping our rhino more secure.



Poisoning the horn has been discussed, but with dehorning our rhino that idea would fall away and from articles on this procedure nothing has been proved that this is a sound option. With regards to placing tracking devices in the horn, we still feel the better way is to dehorn our rhino, which also does away with these tracking devices which only last a certain time and are not foolproof. We have done this in the past and on following poachers who had killed one of our rhino the devices were not working as they had been in for a fair time.

We pride ourselves on the fact that we have done a lot of work educating and keeping the surrounding Community in the picture, as far as our rhino and wildlife are concerned. We get a lot of feedback from our neighbours especially in the areas where our Trustees and their team, help the community financially, with the building of schools and putting in boreholes. They are kept in the know about the importance of looking after, not only the rhino, but the wildlife as well, which at the end of the day is their inheritance to pass on to their children and future generations. With the help of these villagers on two occasions, rhino gangs were intercepted and arrests were made which was only done with good communications and the assistance of our local community and all the hard work that the Education Centre has been doing for so many years.

Our Monitors are a dedicated team of men who tirelessly work daily in all kinds of weather and conditions with never a complaint. Due to financial constraints we have put forward a proposal to not only adopt a Rhino but to also adopt a Monitor. The adoption would help pay his salary each month and we could then concentrate our limited funds into dehorning our rhino and putting up that very much needed fence to help secure their future. If you adopted one of our Monitors, we would be only too happy to send you his details and his history with us in the Conservancy and we will send you our Monthly Report to keep you informed. My e.mail is:- [midlandsblackrhino@gmail.com](mailto:midlandsblackrhino@gmail.com)

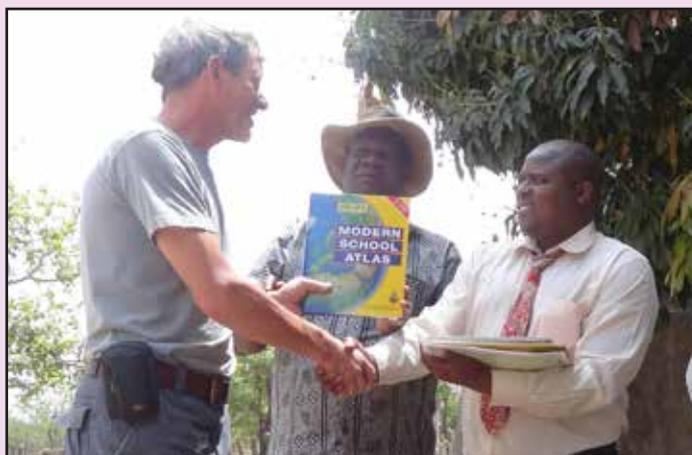
# School Report

Robert Gripper

We visited seven schools in the conservancy, and distributed atlases and teacher training books for Maths, English, and Spelling to all of them. There is little change to report since our last visit earlier this year, but we met with some of the headmasters who were absent last time, and we are pleased to see progress at the following schools.



Kaguvi primary school



letter exchange at Kaguvi, Simon Chibokwe, Silas Chaduka and Robert Gripper

## **SEBAKWE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The school currently employs 7 teachers lead by the headmaster Moses Lunga, and the deputy head Moses Chibokwe, the younger brother of the headmaster at Kaguvi primary school. There are 74 pupils, down in numbers from the 180 pupils they had in 2010, mainly because the facilities were quite poor. We met with Bezel Mutosvori the councillor for ward 1 who has given the school a huge boost by acquiring government finance for sinking a new borehole, and help with erecting a new classroom, they are also building a new toilet block. The parents and the local community have helped make all the bricks for the construction.

Bezel Mutosvori told me of his ambition to construct a bridge over the nearby river, to make the school available to lots more families. The school is positioned next to the education centre, behind the medical clinic and has the potential to become one of the most successful primary schools in the area.

## **KAGUVI (MOPANE PARK) PRIMARY SCHOOL**

There are currently 100 pupils under the supervision of Simon Chibokwe the headmaster and Mr Bhurekeni, the vice headmaster. Mr Hove, a local farmer, has kindly renovated the bore hole at the school, and fitted a submersible electric pump, it now provides the cleanest water I've ever seen from a borehole. We collected letters from the children to bring back to Windrush Valley School in reply to the letters they sent earlier in the year.

Thanks to Windrush Valley for the world atlases they donated, we handed them out to all the schools we visited and left a handful at the education centre.

## **CHIWODZA PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL**

This is a large school with 320 children, we were treated to a one hour assembly on our arrival with music, dancing, speeches and presentations and much excitement, and honoured by the presence of the spiritual chief of the area. We were guests of honour at a lunch with the headmasters and their teachers, the spiritual chief and community leaders from surrounding villages. The whole community has come together to make this a thriving successful school. SBRT has been instrumental in the construction of the classrooms, and the facilities here are now excellent, with the exception of the water supply.

There is very little water here and we have now sunk two boreholes that have sadly failed, but we are looking into the possibilities of resurrecting an old borehole 4 km away that used to pipe water to the school and the community that reportedly provided water for up to 6000 people.

## **BUILDING A SCHOOL IN THE BUSH**

Building a school in the bush is relatively simple. The essential requirements are a good supply of water, and a willing community to provide the labour. The first buildings to be erected are the toilet blocks (the Blair model is the usual construction) and basic accommodation for the teaching staff. Many schools teach the children in the open air beneath the shade of a tree, referred to as “hot seating.” Classrooms are a luxury that comes later on.

The bricks are made by mixing mud with water which is then poured into homemade wooden moulds. They are then stacked in piles leaving an opening in the middle. Mud is then packed around the construction to retain heat, and fires are lit in the openings which are fuelled for some days to bake the bricks. The whole process is often set up next to a termite mound, where quality mud is readily available, prepared by the termites! The bricks are remarkably good and durable, and the roof construction of the buildings is often overhung to prevent water runoff from damaging the walls. The big cost is the cement required for the footings and the construction of the walls, and roofing materials, usually asbestos sheeting when not using traditional grass thatching.



Sebakwe primary school.



Bezel Mutosvori, Moses Lunga and Silas Chaduka inspecting the new latrines.



The local spiritual leader presents a gift to the chairman of SBRT John Gripper at Chiwodza school



Making bricks

# Microfinance

**Joseph Chiwara**

The Micro-finance projects were and are still being well received by the women of Sebakwe. These schemes started off in October 2013 with two pioneering groups. Kwayedza (meaning Sunrise) is a goat rearing project and Tsungai (meaning persistence) are poultry projects in Rockvale villages 1 and 3 respectively.

To date there are five projects under this micro-finance scheme in the Rockvale and Pauldale areas. Rockvale has three projects; two of them are mentioned above and were established a year ago.

The other project in Rockvale is a sack potatoes project in village 1 belonging to the members of the Chipembere womens garden. This project has not been a great success as the harvest of potatoes was lower than expectations and the women have gone back to growing potatoes in the traditional way in the ground.

Pauldale has two groups, Kushinga and Sunrise, both of them being poultry production projects and these projects are less than two months old. These two groups have five members each. Kushinga started off with 50 day old chicks which they raise to maturity and have already sold 40 and they are getting their second batch now. Sunrise the other group have yet to sell their birds as they started a little later than Kushinga .

Chiwodza has three prospective groups Simudzirai (meaning to Promote). Tashinga (meaning Resilience) and Batanai (meaning United.) All these groups have five members each. Simudzirai and Tashinga want to venture into poultry production which is raising day old chicks for sale as broilers.

Batanai on the other hand want to start a small shop (named The Tuck Shop) that would serve the two Chiwodza schools and the whole of the Chiwodza community.

We wish all the groups the best of luck and success in their new ventures.



# Wildlife & Environment Zimbabwe (WEZ)

**Dr Willie Nduku**

WEZ is a membership-based Private Voluntary Organisation founded in 1927 and whose goal is primarily to encourage all people in Zimbabwe to understand the importance of our wildlife and the environment to the well-being of current and future generations and to ensure that the utilisation of natural resources is fair and sustainable.

Its aim and objectives are to encourage all Zimbabweans, especially the young, to take an active interest in their environmental heritage. To support environmental conservation-orientated education and research projects, to promote the establishment of wildlife areas and to support the sustainable utilization of wildlife and renewable natural resources.

WEZ currently runs five environmental education programmes, both rural and urban. It has field activities for the protection of endangered species and their habitats, carries out wildlife and environmental research, game counting to assess populations of the wildlife, game water supply by provision of boreholes and water pans and fund raising for environmental programmes.

It currently has six branches around the country:-

Kariba Branch

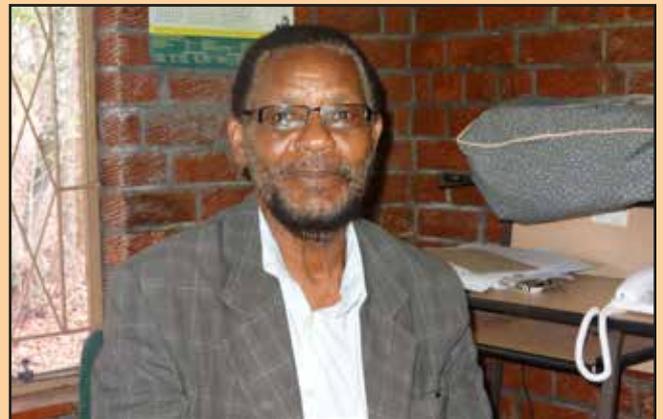
Lowveld, Branch

Manicaland.Branch

Mashonaland Branch

Matabeleland Branch

Midlands Branch



Dr Willie Nduku

The National Office is at Glenara Ave/Hillside Rd.Ext, PO Box HG 996, Hillside HARARE, Zimbabwe. The National Executive Director is Dr, Willie Nduku. who was one of the original pioneers of Campfire in 1980 and Director General of National Parks and Wildlife from 1987 to 1995. [willie.nduku@gmail.com](mailto:willie.nduku@gmail.com) is my email address. Mr Isaiah D.Nyakusendwa is the President of the Society.

When Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust opened the Education Centre in 2004 we received a lot of help and advice from WEZ, who as a recognised NGO, gave us recognition and assistance. Our affiliation with WEZ has continued and we also now have strong links with Sable Park (a KEEP Project) near Kwe Kwe.

WEZ is seeking new people to join as members and help carry on their mandate as well as raising funds for their projects and environmental education



Sable Park KEEP project



Sable Park Chalet

# “Thousands have lived without love, not one without water” W.H.Auden

Robert Gripper



Kariba dam

In the U.K we take water for granted, most of the time it is in plentiful supply, we just turn on the tap, but in many parts of Zimbabwe it is a precious and scarce resource, especially in the poorer areas in the cities and the remote drier rural areas.

Kariba dam was completed in 1959 and Kariba Lake holds approximately 180 cubic kilometres of water, which is 95% of the countries stored water, making it the world's largest dam in terms of water storage, and the fourth biggest manmade lake in the world. The dam is managed by the Zambesi River Authority (ZRA), both Zimbabwe and Zambia share and own the dam jointly. In March 2014 the director David Mazvidza caused great alarm when he warned that after years of lack of funds for maintenance, the dam was now in danger of collapsing. In February 2008 following heavy rains, 50,000 people were evacuated from the area, and again in March 2010 130,000 people were evacuated. In 2012 Elton Mangoma the minister for energy and power warned the dam wall needed anchoring.

The dam was constructed with six automated spillway gates to control the water flow over the dam, but they have suffered from concrete corrosion (alkali-aggregate reaction, mainly on the Zimbabwe side) and now need to be opened manually. The six gates haven't been opened at the same time since 1966 for fear of the dam wall collapsing from the vibration.

The plunge pool that the water spills into was initially 10 metres deep but when measured recently was found to be 90 metres deep, undermining the dam wall. It is estimated that if the dam wall collapsed, 3.5 million people in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique would be in immediate danger from the flooding, the hydroelectric facility on the Zambesi river at Cahora Bassa in Western Mozambique would be severely damaged. It supplies 40% of South Africa's electricity.

Donald Kaberuka, the president of the African development bank inspected the dam on 22nd July 2014, they have put \$75 million towards renovation, the European community have provided \$100 million, and the world bank a further \$75 million. There is concern that a dam of this size has never been repaired before with the exception of the Guri dam in Venezuela. The collapse of the Tokwe-Mukosi dam in Masvingo in Zimbabwe in February 2014, threatening 60,000 families was an ominous warning.

In 2008 Harare the capital suffered the worst cholera outbreak to have hit sub-Saharan Africa in living memory. 4000 people died and 100,000 people became sick. The city's water system was built over 30 years ago to supply the population of 367, 000 people, but Harare now has a population of 3 million. The Firlle water treatment plant cannot handle the volume of sewage and pumps 50% of the untreated sewage straight into Lake Chivero, which is now so heavily polluted, that fish caught in the lake are banned for human consumption.

In 2013 the Chinese government provided \$144 million dollars and supplied 48 engineers to Harare city council to rebuild the city's water system, the South African bank also donated \$100 million in 2009 to help sort the problem. Hopefully Harare will see some improvements to the water supply and sewage system in the near future.

Water is scarce in the rural areas, and in the Midlands conservancy. Communities and schools develop and grow where there is a supply of water. Bore holes have been drilled in many places, but often they fail. Some never find water despite drilling down to a depth of 90 metres or more, others supply only a limited amount of water during the day. The water is extracted from the borehole either by a submersible electric pump or with a large hand pump. These pumps often fall into disrepair due to the lack of maintenance, rendering the supply unavailable. UNICEF estimate that 60% of the water system is in disrepair.

UNICEF and the Red Cross are both running Water and Health programmes in Zimbabwe. UNICEF have allocated \$30 for water improvement schemes in rural areas (WASH). They plan to repair 7,300 damaged bore holes, and to drill 1500 new ones. They also plan to build 15,000 new latrines in rural schools. 40% of the rural population have no toilet facilities. They also have plans to build a sewage treatment plant in Masvingo, and new pumping stations in Plumtree and Zvishavane. The Red Cross have drilled 70 new bore holes and erected 1135 latrines, their programme focuses on training and educating the rural population.



Sebakwe dam



Rockvale women fetching water



Women collecting drinking water in Harare



The repaired bore hole at Kaguvi Primary school



# RHINO CHRISTMAS QUIZ 2014

Nursery Rhymes - letters represent first line of rhyme example:

1 - Little Bo Peep Has Lost Her Sheep

1	L.B.P.H.L.H.S
2	T.B.M
3	G.P.P.A.P
4	S.A.S.O.S
5	L.M.M.S.O.A.T
6	J.A.J.W.U.T.H
7	O.K.C.W.A.M.O.S
8	T.T.T.P.S
9	L.J.H.S.I.A.C
10	H.D.D.T.C.A.T.F
11	M.M.Q.C
12	T.L.K.H.L.T.M
13	I.W.S.W.U.T.W.S
14	L.P.F.S.A.T.C
15	I.H.A.L.N.T
16	P.P.T.K.O
17	T.Q.O.H.B.S.T
18	H.A.P.O.T.R
19	H.D.D
20	L.N.E.I.H.W.P
21	W.W.W.R.T.T.T
22	O.M.H.W.T.T.C
23	H.D.S.O.A.W
24	R.A.R.O.R
25	J.S.C.E.N.F
26	R.A.B.O.T.T.T
27	R.A.R.T.G
28	E.M.M.M
29	J.B.N.J.B.Q
30	O.A.L.S.T.B.O.S.C
31	T,L,D.S.O.A.W
32	T.G.O.D.O.Y
33	L.B.B.C.B.U.Y.H
34	O.T.T.F.F
35	P.A.C.P.A.C. B.M
36	H.Y.S.T.M.M
37	T.L.P.W.T.M
38	S.S.M.D
39	D.D.D.M.S.J
40	L.B.D.D
41	R.A.H.T.B.C
42	S.S.M.A.P.M
43	T.W.A.O.W.W.L.I.A.S
44	R.A.D.D.T.M.I.A.T
45	G.G.G.W.S.I.W
46	H.W.G.R.T.M.B
47	T.F.I.H.D
48	M.H.A.L.L
49	L.L.H.A.H.I.H.P
50	H.H.T.D.D.B

51	PPP.A.P.O.P.P
52	L.T.T.S.F.H.S
53	W.A.L.B.M.O
54	B.B.B.S
55	T.O.W.A.U.D
56	S.S.S.S.O.T.S.S
57	L.B.I.F.D
58	L.B.L.B
59	P.C.P.C.W.H.Y.B
60	T.M.T.M.T.B.A.F.P
61	T.T.L.S
62	T.N.W.D.B
63	D.F.W.T.G
64	H.W.C.G.N.I.M
65	M.C.I.F.O.F
66	R.R.G.A
67	R.R.R.Y.B
68	W.K.C.R
69	T.O.A.T.P.C.W.T.S
70	D.T.Y.D.M.L.L
71	T.W.A.C.M
72	D.D.B.P.I.T.W
73	T.C.G.A.B.P
74	H.W.G.L.L
75	I.S.T.S.G.S.B
76	H.P.M.B.N
77	C.C.M.M.S
78	T.A.H.I.M.B
79	T.T.S.S
80	R.A.R.V.A.B
81	C.L.C.L.W.T.B.M
82	C.A.D,D.M.D.H.L.H.S
83	T.B.C.O.T.M
84	A.S.W.T.S.S.S
85	T.A.W.I.T.B.T
86	H.L.B.D.Y.C
87	F.O.T.R.P.U.S
88	T.W.A.O.L.W.S.A.F
89	O.M.W.T.M
90	O.T.B.M.S
91	I.A.T.W.W.P
92	A.I.W,G.T.S.I
93	L.L.F.A.H
94	O.D.W.C.T.M.B
95	T.T.T.Y.T.S;B;S
96	G.S.T.M.T.B.D.B
97	I.A.L.T.S.A.S
98	T.W.A.L.G.W.H.A.L.C
99	P.P.H.P.P.C
100	C.H.F.D.C

Please return your entry with £2 donation by Friday 16th January 2015 to:-

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

Cheques payable to SBRT. If you would like a copy of the correct answers then please enclose a s.a.e.