The LOCAL Initiative
A new direction for rhino conservation

Rhino conservation efforts in the Lowveld link the Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority with private sector wildlife operations and NGOs operating in the Lowveld. This linkage must be extended to include community components under partnership arrangements that help to ameliorate political tensions over land-use, and which promote sustainable rural development.

Norman Rigava | Community Outreach Coordinator, Lowveld Rhino Trust

The South East Lowveld (SEL) of Zimbabwe comprises about one-fifth of the country. The large SEL conservancies were established, using rhinos as ‘flagship species’, to convert these areas from cattle ranching into wildlife production. Over the past decade, the SEL has undergone significant land-use changes due to socio-political transformations. Today, it is a mosaic of land uses including communal areas (mainly used for subsistence cropping and livestock rearing), resettlement areas, cattle ranches, large conservancies, irrigated small- and large-scale commercial agriculture and state protected areas.

These transformations make it essential that conservation strategies for the SEL be re-designed in recognition of the new socio-political realities. An innovative approach is urgently required to build stronger partnerships and to achieve better coordination between all stakeholders. The coordination effort must range from immediate anti-poaching efforts to longer term socio-economic approaches to convert rhinos into economic assets for new public-private-community projects, and to deliver tangible benefits to these ‘producer’ communities.

Within these objectives, rhinos will continually be emphasized as flagship species for new partnership arrangements that demonstrate an incentivised approach to the conservation of ecosystem goods and services. These objectives are ambitious and will require substantial funding. To achieve this, the strategic approach being taken by the LRT is to emphasise the validity of wildlife-based land-uses in a rural development context. This focus will become particularly relevant as global climate change is predicted to reduce the agricultural production potential of the SEL.

A funding proposal for the LOCAL Initiative has been submitted to a major international development agency. While a response is awaited, the LRT is undertaking preparatory work within the limits of the funding that is currently available for this work.

**Grants**

Since March 2010, Save the Rhino has given £16,722 to the LRT: £10,000 from our core funds, £5,000 from Dublin Zoo, £2,000 from the Mackintosh Foundation, and £523 from the Crisis Zimbabwe appeal. Our thanks to everyone who made this possible.
Celebrity conservation these days seems impossible without celebrity. This very publication demonstrates its importance for rhino conservation, probably provoking the three reactions described above. Celebrity endorsement of conservation is as old as the movement itself, but conservationists, rightly, sometimes wonder where it takes them. It’s a good idea to take a quick look at how celebrity works.

Celebrities are industrial products. Their images, appearances or presence make money not just for themselves but other people, principally entertainment and media companies. Celebrity as we know it began a century ago in Hollywood in order to sell films. Celebrities need conservation. The famous need good causes to be seen to support. When Elle Macpherson (an Australian model) was caught saying that eating rhino horn ‘worked for me’ she later seized the opportunity to proclaim her support for the WWF as concrete evidence that she was a conservationist.

Celebrities prefer uncomplicated good causes because supporting them makes for good publicity releases. Conservation causes overseas are handy because their complexities are often harder to see. Unfortunately they can surface. Save the Rhino (SRI) recently featured in a newspaper article highlighting its support for trophy hunting of black rhinoceros in Namibia. The piece was made more sensational with a picture of a model, Laura Bailey, who had been a Patron of SRI (and thought that she had resigned a while ago) and was said to be surprised by the charity’s position.

However, what was most unusual about this article was that it made the news at all. Most celebrity conservation stories simply document the generosity of great people. The politics gets erased. This is unsatisfactory because we know that conservation is simply a maze of difficult problems. Conservation policies require poor rural groups to make way for rich tourists (the evictions from Mkomazi in Tanzania are one of the classic examples of conservation injustice). They require both fighting, and collaborating, with powerful industries (hunters can be both friends and enemies of conservation). All these difficulties tend to be obscured in the shadow of celebrity, indeed it is precisely through the wealth and power that celebrity can provide that unjust conservation can be sustained.

So does conservation really need celebrity? This one’s a no-brainer for some people—just look at the money and publicity. Celebrities may back the wrong cause every now and again but their public support of charities really does bring dividends. However if the rich and famous can provide all the funds and news coverage, then what role does that leave for the rest of us? It does not really bode well for a populist conservation movement.

Conservationists and celebrities face different dilemmas over the next decade
For celebrities, conservation pretty much guarantees good publicity, but I wonder if they are satisfied from knowing that their image is unlikely to suffer from conservation’s complexities. For conservationists, the challenge is to use celebrity such that it serves, not dominates, their causes. Connecting conservation with communities is rarely going to make headlines or bring in large amounts of money. But in its victories will be the real causes for celebration.

Dan Brockington | Reader in Environment and Development, University of Manchester
Zambia:

Wish You Were Here...?

Frankfurt Zoological Society has been involved in North Luangwa National Park (NLNP) since 1986. This support over the last 24 years in NLNP has done an amazing amount to safeguard this park. Input through the North Luangwa Conservation Programme (NLCP) has concentrated on support for law enforcement, through training and the supply of essential field equipment, rations, vehicles and the building of houses for field staff. The Park’s scouts are well-trained and well-motivated. And all the while, the wildlife goes from strength to strength.

Claire Lewis | Technical Advisor, North Luangwa Conservation Programme

In 2003, a programme began to reintroduce black rhino into the Park and in May 2010 the founder population was completed with the delivery of the final five animals. The black rhino have been introduced into a large intensive protection zone at the heart of the Park and, with a few births and natural deaths, this fledgling population now stands at 27. These are the only black rhino in the country and their presence is a strong sign of how secure the NLNP is.

The future for North Luangwa seems a bright one, particularly with long-term support. FZS has renewed its partnership with the Zambia Wildlife Authority to 2018 and recently completed a strategic plan for the future management of the NLNP black rhinos. Increasing revenue from tourism is next on the agenda and NLCP is working towards developing a more sustainable financial model for NLNP that will ensure its protection for years to come. But it’s not an easy task. In 2009, NLNP received around 1,000 visitors bringing in less than $100,000 in revenue. Annual operations, funded through FZS and other donors, cost about $600,000 and ZAWA inputs about the same in salaries for law enforcement officers. It’s not rocket science to work out that the Park costs an enormous amount of money that tourism just doesn’t realise.

Taking the genre for which Zambia is renowned, walking safaris, and combining them with mobile bush camping inside the heart of the rhino areas might be one way to attract more visitors and high-end operators. But, with few direct international flights from Europe, Zambia fails far down a travel agent’s list of easy sells. With no scheduled flights to NLNP, it takes a determined traveller to get here. Add to this a short season, no year-round all-weather road access, few game-viewing roads (this is mainly a walking safari destination) and relatively lower densities of wildlife, and NLNP doesn’t end up ticking too many boxes, unless you are a world-weary safari nut looking for something off the beaten track.

And if that’s what you are, then it is a destination like no other – wild, untamed, unspoilt, pristine, unique are all words that have been used to describe this jewel of Zambia’s national parks. The soul of the Park is defined by the Mwaleshi River which runs west-east through its middle to the Luangwa River. Concentrations of lion, buffalo, the lesser-known but no less impressive Cookson’s wildebeest and, of course, the country’s only black rhinos gives NLNP something less tame/more wild and unique to offer would-be tourists. Harnessing and developing this potential is a new challenge for NLCP, but one that could begin to generate revenue to break even on operational costs. No doubt, unless there is a seismic shift in the tourist market, donor funding will always have to be an integral part of protecting the NLNP black rhino, but putting this inimitable creature at its forefront could provide some of the answers.

Grants

Thank you to the Mohamed Bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, which is awarding $15,000 towards the purchase of a new vehicle. Thanks also to USFWS for its grant of $12,800 towards NLCP’s Conservation Education Programme, to Wildlife Worldwide for its donation of $500, and to Rod Tether, London Marathon runner, who raised a wonderful £7,534 for NLCP, to which Save the Rhino added £5,000 from our own core funds.
Namibia:

The specific objectives of the 2010 translocations were to:

- enhance the existing black rhino population at Okongue in the Purros Conservancy
- enhance the existing black rhino population at Secret Springs and Mudorib in the Palmwag concession area
- start a new population of black rhino in the Orupembe conservancy
- reduce the black rhino density in Zone 6 of the Palmwag concession
- remove excess black rhino bulls in Zone 4b of the Etendeka concession area

During 2005 a Biological Management Workshop, it was agreed that the original range of the black rhino, from the Ugab in the south to the Kunene in the north, should be repopulated.

Due to the rugged and remoteness of the area, traditional methods using ground retrieval equipment could not be used so a Super Huey helicopter was used to lift the rhino.

As a result of rhino being translocated into communal places previously used for stock, farming land has been set aside by communities as wildlife areas, thereby benefitting other important species besides rhinos. Namibia has taken the bold step to engage stakeholders at all levels in the management and conservation of rhino and the success in rhino conservation in Namibia can be related to the partnerships between government, resource managers (both freehold and communal land), NGOs and the private sector.

While protected areas are critical to the conservation of the species, the Namibian conservation model of rhino providing a focused tourism value in select conservancies, has certainly underlined the need for a partnership approach to rhino management.

How to suspend a rhino in mid-air:

1. A suitable animal is located, either by a tracking team or spotter plane
2. The darting helicopter with darting crew is summoned and, if the located animal was one of the required individuals, it is darted
3. The spotter plane informs the retrieval crew and guides them to the site
4. Once the animal is down, the veterinarian and darting team attend to the animal whilst the retrieval crew disembark and ready the slinging equipment
5. Depending on the distance to be travelled, the animal is slung hanging by its feet or fastened to a pallet
6. On arrival at the processing site the animal is ear-notched, a tag and/or transmitter fitted, the animal measured, samples taken and the animal loaded into a crate
7. Animals are transported by road to locations near release sites and then slung into areas inaccessible to vehicle

Thanks

Our grateful thanks to Opel Zoo in Germany, which paid for an orthodontal camera for MET, which can be used during such operations to help determine age, to check for abnormalities or deformities, and the animal’s suitability for translocation.
The first week of my field work was spent at Ugab base camp. On our first day of rhino tracking we set out at 7.15am. Bernd, leader of the tracking team, drove our 4x4 whilst Johannes and Fulai, two of SRT’s 19 trackers, kept watch for spoor. The team often find rhino spoor at water sources, so we headed for a known waterhole. At about 10am we found our first rhino footprint. The spoor was not completely fresh but after following it for a few metres the team concluded that a rhino had walked through the area the night before. Excitingly, there was not one track, but a pair, meaning that we were on the trail of a cow and her calf.

The rhino spoor led in the direction we had already been driving and it was very possible that we had missed the rhinos as we drove. Perhaps they were settled asleep at the far side of the river bed, or had caught our scent and moved away. However, as we continued to follow spoor, the track turned and moved away from the river bed heading up a nearby gully.

Once or twice we had to slow down to figure out which direction the rhinos had taken: it wasn’t always a case of following footprints, but looking for signs such as dung, bitten branches and other tell-tale signs. After about 5km walk Bernd headed back to pick up the vehicle whilst we continued to track. Another 2km on and we glimpsed two ears flickering beneath an African needle hair tree (Parkinsonia africana).

We had found the rhino

On my second day of tracking with the team we found a recently translocated rhino by using a telemetry machine to follow the signal from his horn transmitter. On our third day we headed out to the core area for the rhino in the Ugab eco-zone. Interconnecting valleys with springs and greenery make it a good place for the rhino and, like the surrounding area, it is situated in the protection of shallow mountains, which have generally protected the rhino from poaching. It was quite late in the morning before we spotted any spoor and all of the spoor we found were too old to follow, but they were still promising signs. From this we could tell that a cow and her calf were wandering around the area and there were signs of males too – rhino middens marking their territory had been scraped around. We did eventually find fresh spoor but by this time it was mid-afternoon and the track was laid in the early morning. With the sun cooling off, there was only a small chance that the rhino would still be sleeping and if they continued to walk we would have little chance of catching up before dark.

Though we didn’t spot a rhino every day I felt incredibly lucky to be able to see any at all in an area where there are so few wild rhino left. SRT has managed to safeguard the current population for over 15 years and continues to do fantastic work. Long may this be the case.

In May this year I was lucky enough to visit Save the Rhino Trust (SRT) in Namibia. During my time with the SRT team I was able to visit all four base camps run by the Trust. I had never tracked a rhino before, travelled to Africa before, or even travelled alone before(!) so the experience was unique for me, and a great way to learn more about rhino conservation.

Laura Adams | Michael Hearn Intern

Thanks

A huge thank you to the Linbury Trust, Mark Leonard Trust, JJ Charitable Trust and the Ashden Charitable Trust for funding the Michael Hearn Internship Programme. Thank you SRT, especially Bernd and Erica, for hosting Laura. Thanks also to Hotel Pension Rapmund, which covered the cost of Laura’s accommodation whilst in Swakopmund.
As you look ahead to the hours of shopping and present-wrapping this Christmas, please consider making a real difference to the needs of rhino conservation programmes by purchasing from our shop. Even the cheapest shopping trip will help ensure that populations of rhino and their surrounding ecosystems outlast the current surge in illegal poaching and pressures caused by humans in their natural habitat.

If you are inspired to give more this Christmas, then top of the list is a Save the Rhino gift membership. Subscribe to any of our three membership schemes and you will receive a welcome pack that includes goodies to wrap up and put under the tree.

Kids can join our Rhino Saver scheme for an annual subscription of just £12. Rhino Savers will receive a personalized certificate, two badges, a book and their very own subscription to The Horn magazine which features a special kids’ page.

For adults, you can choose either a Protect membership at £36 per year (£3 per month) or an Evolve membership at £120 per year (£10 per month). Both come with a welcome pack full of goodies; this year we have revamped our membership packs to include one of our much-loved Save the Rhino t-shirts! Evolve members also receive a free ticket to our annual Douglas Adams Memorial Lecture. Whichever scheme you choose, you can be sure that your money will directly aid the conservation of the five remaining rhino species.

Already a member?

We’ve got some great new stock items to fill your stocking with instead (or as well!!). Back by popular demand are our kids’ logo tees. Their safari green colour has been specially chosen to match closely the style worn by conservation staff in the field. You can also purchase adults’ logo tees in the same safari green and in blue (like our London Marathon runners) and black.

For a smaller gift, why not consider one of the Save the Rhino logo badges. Many of the field staff at the programmes supported by Save the Rhino wear uniform adorned with a SRI logo and now you can too! Why not purchase one of our long standing embroidered logo badge for £3.50 or one of our new logo pin badges at £4? They’re a great way to decorate your bag, suit lapel, jeans pocket, tie… the options are endless!

Laura Adams | Michael Hearn Intern

Visit our website www.savetherhino.org or contact adam@savetherhino.org for more details on any of these items.
In the Comrades, you get 12 hours to get to the finish. Anyone foolish enough to attempt to cross the line after the 12-hour closing gun has fired is taken down by the Springboks’ front row. That’s what I call a challenge.

But I’m getting ahead of myself. Let’s rewind. The 10 of us headed to the start line at 4:30 am. At 4:45 we stuffed Rob into the rhino. I don’t remember a lot about the next 45 minutes, but all of a sudden the gun went off.

Two hours in the suit and Rob was cooked, so we let him out. Once in the suit, Steph put her foot to the metal. Occasionally we’d hear a muffled cry from inside the rhino, a tiny voice saying “How am I doing for pace?” “Fine! Keep it up!” we boys would cry, and shout to the crowds in front “Make way for our rhino”.

Next up, Steve. Steve never lets up the pace and it takes us past the ‘11 hour bus’ (a group of people following a man who promises to bring them into the stadium after exactly 11 hours). Then Phil gets jammed into the suit. The weight, heat and smell prove too much for Phil and we get him out after just 3 or 4 km. I strap into the suit. My ankle is causing me extraordinary pain by this point. Fortunately the calf muscle seems to be holding (I had badly pinged it two weeks earlier).

I ask to be changed out, again, more because of the heat than the legs. Steph puts her hand up, or at least fails to say no quickly enough but very soon she’s in bits. We pull her out, in tears. The extra weight is destroying her knee.

So, it’s now down to Steve and me. We agree to quarter what’s left (28km!). Happily, once relieved of the extra weight, Steph is back to form. And astonishingly, out of nowhere, Phil appears. He’s not dead. He’s somehow hung on in there.

As the rhino comes into view of the finishing stadium, the crowd goes ballistic.

We round the last bend and see the finishing tape. We have carried 13kg of rhino suit through the African heat, through the Valley of a Thousand Hills... and survived, placing 10,590th out of 23,000.

The other rhino has made it too, only minutes behind us.

Chris and Dan did early stints but injuries caused problems. This left Sam, Gus and JP to bring it home. At one point they got close to being swept up by the back-marker wagon, but Sam got a serious hoof-on and they finish with 12 minutes to spare.

The 12-hour closing gun is fired, and thousands of runners, all achingly close, might as well have not started. Then, miraculously, Dan appears. The others had had to leave him as he could hardly walk for pain. He’s outside the time, but he’s gritted his teeth and finished it.

Ten of us, plus two rhino suits, are now a tiny little part of the folklore of this race. So I ask you, give it up for Sam, Gus, Chris, Dan, JP, Robert, Steph, Steve and Phil. (And Kenneth – ed.)

To read the unabridged account please visit www.savetherhino.org.

Thanks

With grateful thanks to Andrew Venter (MD of Wildlands Conservation Trust), Richard Emslie and Keryn Adcock, Dirk Swart and Lawrence Munro at HIP and all the people who so generously sponsored the team to raise almost £40,000.

Lekker, as they say in South Africa.
Within the last few years syndicated rhino poaching, as opposed to sporadic poaching, has become a potential threat to the rhinos in KZN, and throughout Southern Africa. Because of its preference for browse and deep thickets, the black rhino is more difficult to hunt than the white but its scarcity makes the species susceptible to localised extinction because of poaching. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife staff work very hard to protect their stocks and have managed to keep rhino poaching to a minimum so far, but it is not an easy task given the size of HiP Park (96,000ha), the extent of its fence-line and the nature of the terrain.

It has long been recognised that conservation efforts need the active support of the communities neighbouring protected areas. Accordingly, Ezemvelo KZN began its Community Conservation Programme. Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife has undertaken many projects amongst local communities including the building of: classrooms, water reticulation systems, livestock enclosures and community-based business opportunities. Communities are also encouraged to visit our parks and learn more about their wildlife heritage. The 2010 FIFA World Cup provided a wonderful opportunity for Park staff to challenge teams from neighbouring communities and cement relationships. These projects are funded through a levy on park entry fees and tourist accommodation in our protected areas.

Biodiversity Management at Park level also has a positive future. The Zululand Invasive Alien Species Project (ZIASP) has for a number of years controlled the spread of invasive alien weed species, mainly Chromaelina odoratum. Large areas have been cleared of this weed allowing more niche areas for black and white rhinos. HiP also has a disease-monitoring programme, which has seen a drastic decrease in the prevalence of bovine tuberculosis amongst buffalo and which can be carried by other animals.

HiP is lucky to have an eco-advice department to assist managers on activities such as controlled veld-burning programmes, animal censuses, biological monitoring, environmental impact assessments and the processing of raw data. Their analyses, coupled with input from management staff, provide a scientific evaluation of rhino populations and the environmental influences affecting their future which influences management decisions with respect to rhino numbers.

The population of white rhinos in the HiP is deliberately kept slightly below the maximum capacity (2,000) to stimulate breeding. Accurate monitoring allows management to establish numbers for removals to other parks or on offer on our annual game sale. Similarly, monitoring of black rhinos informs management of the black rhino population in the Park. It is a management goal to create a dossier on each black rhino through photographs and a unique ear-notching record.

We remain positive about the future of rhinos in this country in spite of the ever-present threat from poaching. With help from our global supporters there is no reason why we cannot ride the present storm and come out the other side successfully.

Rhinos roll in mud as a means of thermo-regulation, to improve skin condition, to remove ectoparasites and to make a really big mess!
South Africa:

The Black Rhino Range Expansion Project

Security is a critical part of rhino conservation, but it’s also important to manage populations for maximum growth. That’s the aim of a successful project in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. The Black Rhino Range Expansion Project, a partnership between the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Ezemvelo (the provincial conservation organisation) aims to increase numbers of the Critically Endangered black rhino by increasing the availability of land on which they can breed. It does this by forming partnerships with landholders able to sustain significant black rhino populations and then releasing founder populations of up to 25 black rhino on to these new homes.

Pam Sherriffs | Communications Manager, WWF/Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Black Rhino Range Expansion Project

There are currently five project partner sites in KwaZulu-Natal, which between them are home to nearly 20% of the province’s black rhino. Through establishment of these sites, black rhino range in the province has been increased by about 90,000 hectares and, since the Project began in 2003, 85 black rhino have been translocated to, and more than 20 calves born on, project sites. Black rhino are translocated from Ezemvelo’s state-protected areas. This creates new populations and also means that populations within those protected areas do not exceed the area’s ecological carrying capacity.

In order to create large enough areas to sustain significant black rhino populations – up to 20,000 hectares or more – the Project encourages neighbouring landowners to remove their internal fences and manage their properties as a single ecological unit. ‘One of the best parts of the project is seeing fences come down’, says WWF’s project leader Dr Jacques Flamand. ‘Fences are very unfriendly to species requiring large areas, like black rhino, elephant and wild dog.

The Black Rhino Range Expansion Project has shown that concentrating on one species can be a catalyst for protection of huge areas which then has a knock-on effect.’ The project works with private, state and community landowners and when choosing partner sites, Dr Flamand aims for large chunks of land that can sustain significant black rhino populations, but also keeps an eye on possible links and corridors between sites.

There are two species of rhino in Africa – the black rhino and the white rhino. Ezemvelo (then known as the Natal Parks Board) was responsible for the down-listing of white rhino from ‘Critically Endangered’ to ‘Vulnerable’ through a ground-breaking translocation programme. Now with WWF and the Black Rhino Range Expansion Project, they are trying to do the same for black rhino. ‘Unfortunately for black rhino, they are very anti-social. They tend to be solitary and they need huge tracts of land because they don’t want other rhino close to them. It makes them difficult to manage, and is why their numbers have not increased as white rhino numbers have,’ Dr Flamand said. There are about 4,000 black rhino alive today. There used to be hundreds of thousands across Africa, but they were heavily poached. At the worst point in the early 1980s there were only 2,000. That number has slowly crept up because of intensive conservation.

‘Ultimately conservation costs money. One of the problems for government is that it doesn’t have the resources to do it properly any more. So other formulae had to be found, one of which is our project concept,’ said Dr Flamand. ‘The arrangement is that Ezemvelo retains ownership of the original founder population, but ownership of the progeny is shared. This creates a strong financial incentive for project partners to manage their black rhino populations. But love for conservation has been the driving force. The common thread through the people who have helped make the project work was passion.’

The Black Rhino Range Expansion Project also funds security measures in black rhino source populations.

Grants

SRI Director Cathy Dean and husband Kenneth Donaldson made a donation of £500 to Wildlands Conservation Trust for Somkhanda Game Reserve, one of the partner sites for the BRREP. A minimum of £2,500 from the Rhino Trek South Africa will also go to Somkhanda.
Take a walk on the wild side

August 2010 saw Save the Rhino’s inaugural Rhino Trek South Africa: five days trekking through the Kingdom of the Zulu, sleeping out under the stars and experiencing some of South Africa’s best game reserves. Rhino trekker Yvette Chamberlain recounts her experience of this once-in-a-lifetime challenge.

**Day 1**
We donned our long-sleeved shirts, walking trousers, gaiters, boots and backpacks. The first day was hot and through very hilly, thorn-bush-covered terrain, but we managed to have our first sighting of a white rhino. We walked on... and on... and on... many impala buck and zebra, and then finally we approached camp. The ensuite was all set up—a hessian four-sided enclosure beneath a tree. Cups of tea, quick showers, filling meals and a recount of the day. Then it was time to start the night watch. Yes, we took it in turns to keep watch for an hour each night!

**Day 2**
Breakfast eaten, scorpion rescued from under the sleeping bag of one fellow trekker, water bottles re-filled, feet treated and off we set again. We spotted warthog, nyala, impala and kudu. No rhino today. That evening we baked our own stok broodtjies over the camp fire: delicious fresh bread filled with syrup or cheese. This camp was in a clearing along a route frequented by rhino so extra special attention would need to be paid whilst on guard duty!

**Day 3**
We arrived at the Obane community school. Children of all ages are scholars here. We had brought a few bits from home for the school and these were handed out. The children and teachers treated us to a song. All too soon, it was time to continue on our way. We marched on to the sound of zebra in the distance. We were now in buffalo and elephant territory so needed to be extra vigilant.

**Day 4**
Just by kicking up a little patch of sand our rangers had been route planning. Wind direction monitoring is a vital skill for a ranger. To keep upwind of animals is best to avoid disturbing them. As a result of their skill, today we were treated to a few minutes observing a small crash of three white rhino. As we approached camp four, the sun was heading for the horizon, a duiker was silhouetted atop the bank before us and small groups of giraffe and ostrich were grazing.

**Day 5**
Our last day in this amazing landscape. For the final time, we shouldered our packs and headed out up the dry river bed. We heard an animal attempt to mount a hill to the side of the river but still don’t know what it was. Then it was the final push up a very steep hill. We were greeted at Leopard Mountain Lodge with iced tea and very clean lodge staff. I’m sure we were not a pretty sight (or smell!) but they were very welcoming!

**Day 6**
We visited the Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park. Dirk Swart, a section ranger in Hluhluwe Game Reserve, showed us how the funds we raised are being spent on equipping the rangers on foot patrol with day packs, pliers, safety vests, radios, uniforms and a whole host of basic essentials that make their patrolling of the 96,000-hectare Reserve a little more do-able.

I’d like to say a very big thank you to all those that sponsored me in this endeavour and to the teams on the ground who work tirelessly to ensure the safety of the rhino.

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**Grants & Thanks**

Funds raised by the 2010 Rhino Trekkers are being split equally between Save the Rhino, Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park and Wildlands Conservation Trust, for the Somkhanda Game Reserve, a black rhino range expansion project.

Save the Rhino would like to thank Wildlands and HIP for hosting our team, and the team for their fundraising efforts.

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**Interested in Rhino Trek South Africa 2011?**
Visit [www.savetherhino.org](http://www.savetherhino.org) or email [jo@savetherhino.org](mailto:jo@savetherhino.org)

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**Our trail guide, Paul Cryer explained the need to work as a team, not rely totally on him and to all keep an eye out for each other at all times.**
Hi, I'm Rebecca and I'm nine years old. I love animals and like to watch Roar on TV on Saturday mornings. I want to be a vet when I'm older.

I got to be a Junior Ranger for a day because my Uncle Rod, who is a real life Game Ranger in Zambia, won it as a prize for raising lots of money for Save The Rhino when he ran the London Marathon earlier this year. He gave the prize to me and I chose to go to Port Lympne Wild Animal Park because they have lots of rhinos – 19 in total!

My favourite rhino was called Etna. She was pregnant and will have her baby in October. Alex and I gave Etna her lunch. First she had bananas, then apples and then we gave Etna her favourite food which was bread.

After feeding Etna and saying hello to the other rhinos we went to look at lots of other animals. Alex, who is a bit braver than me, held a snake and a tarantula spider. And then we went to see the lions and the tigers. Because we were Rangers we got to go inside the lion’s cage (luckily he was locked in the next door cage) and to watch his keepers tie up the leg of a horse between two trees. Once we were safely outside again the keepers let the lion in. He hadn’t had anything to eat for three days so was very hungry and it was very exciting to watch him attack the leg and eat it up.

It was a great day! At the end, our guide, who was a really nice and funny man called Matt, presented us each with a certificate and a goodie bag. I want to go back there again and especially to see Etna and her new baby.
We would like to express our warmest thanks to the following individuals, companies and grant-making bodies for their generous support for our work over the last six months. We could not achieve all that we do, without the time, goodwill, and financial and pro-bono support of you all.

Our heartfelt thanks to:

Individuals

Companies

Charities, trusts and foundations and other

And thank you to all those who wish to remain anonymous.
Trustees
Henry Chaplin
Christina Franco
Tom Kenyon-Slaney (Chair)
George Stephenson
David Stirling
Sasha Weld Forester

Founder Patrons
Douglas Adams
Michael Werikhe

Patrons
Benedict Allen
Clive Anderson
Louise Aspinall
Nick Baker
Simon Barnes
Mark Carwardine
Chloe Chick
Mark Coreth
Dina de Angelo
Robert Devereux
Ben Hoskyns-Abrahall
Angus Innes
Fergal Keane
Francesco Nardelli
Martina Navratilova
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Mark Sainsbury
Robin Saunders
Alec Seccombe
Tira Shubart
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Nick Tims
William Todd-Jones
Jack Whitehall

Founder Directors
Johnny Roberts
David Stirling

Staff
Director: Cathy Dean
Fundraising Manager:
Lucy Boddam-Whetham

Events Manager: Fiona Macleod/
Jo Paulson
Office and Communications Manager:
Cath Lawson

Finance and Administration Assistant:
Yvonne Walker
Michael Hearn Intern:
Laura Adams/Adam Brown

The Horn
Design and layout: Alex Rhind
Concept: Interstate www.interstateteam.com
Printing: The Colourhouse Ltd.
Thanks to Alan Anderson and Colourhouse,
for their loyal and efficient support over the years