



SAN WILD

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2010

THE AFRICAN LION:

If the conservation of wild lions is not improved drastically your children may never hear the roar of a wild lion.

Lions, one of Africa's mightiest icons used to appear in large numbers across the continent but their numbers have declined sharply and the estimated number of lions remaining in the wild on the African continent are between 16 500 and 30 000.

The reason for the sharp decline in their numbers in the wild is the intolerance from game and stock farmers, the loss of their natural habitat, trade and hunting.

It is generally accepted that the growing demand for TCM (traditional Chinese medicines) will see a sharp increase in the slaughter of captive bred lions in South Africa. For many years tiger bones have been used in the manufacture of certain TCM, but as tiger numbers decrease their bones are more difficult to come by. Even though no real scientific data is yet available to show that tiger bones are being replaced by lion bones, traders in South Africa are already experimenting with the replacement of tiger bones with that of lions. "Tiger wine" is manufactured by allowing the animal's bones to lie in rice wine for a prolonged period of time. The wine is mostly used in countries like

Taiwan, Korea and Vietnam. A jell is also cooked out of the bones.

Currently there is no legislation in South Africa that prohibits the sale and trade in lion bones and as long as the hunting of wild and captive lions is legal in South Africa permits will be granted to export lion bones.

In the last 20 years lion numbers have declined with around 30% and this in return indicated that there is a 10% chance that lions could become extinct in 20 years. The Kenyan wildlife services are losing around 100 lions a

year for the past 7 years. Only 2000 wild lions remain in this country.

Lions in most national and provincial parks are in great danger from trophy hunters when they are lured through perimeter fences.

In South African in particular the genetic depletion of the African lion's gene pool as a direct result of the continued breeding of lions held captive to supply a growing demand from trophy hunters continue unchallenged. These animals are also highly susceptible to disease.



SANWILD FUNDRAISERS:

BARNYARD BROADACRES: On the 29 September 2010 Drew Abrahamson organized a Bingo Evening Fundraiser for SanWild at the Barnyard Theater in Broadacres. The evening was a huge lot of fun and a roaring success. Funds raised at the Bingo evening was allocated to SanWild's Emergency Veterinary Fund that is used to rescue, treat and supply veterinary treatment to injured wildlife. We would like to thank Drew for an amazing evening that was a direct result of her hard work and dedication.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA: Our founder trustee, Louise Joubert will be traveling to Sydney, Australia later this year to attend a fund raising event organized by the Humane Society International (Australia) and Joan Pearson. Last year a similar fund raiser was held in Sydney to raise funds for SanWild. This event was a huge success. This year the fundraiser will highlight the crisis facing rhinos in South Africa and the increased demand for trophy lions that is killed mercilessly in South Africa's sordid canned lion hunting industry. This year our fund raising drive will be concentrated on the SanWild lion prides.



PRETORIA CITY HALL: Werner Muller, the founder of Celebs for Wildlife (www.celebsforwildlife.co.za) has arranged another fundraiser on the 12th February 2011 in the Pretoria City Hall. An evening with Lianie May and friends promises to be a great evening. Please join us and support the rescue, rehabilitation and release of many wild animals that are in desperate need of help. Tickets are sold for R200.00 per person. Corporate tables will be available and snacks will be served. A cash bar will be available as well. There will also be some fantastic prizes to be won. To book your tickets please contact Werner Muller well in advance on his mobile +27 (0) 781158548 or by email: wmuller@mixtelematics.co.za



ANIMAL NEWS:



Numerous ostriches needed our help this season. Two adults, a male and female were rescued after they had been caught in poacher's snares. First a call for help came in for a female that seen spotted sitting in the bush. Her

one leg was badly swollen and she could hardly walk. Initially we thought that she could be released after the snare was removed, but this was not the case. Her foot kept on pulling back and needs to be splinted daily to ensure that she regains the use of her foot and leg.

A couple of days a male ostrich arrived at the centre from the same area with exactly the same injuries. He too had been caught in a snare and managed to break it free from a tree, but it remained around his leg, pulling tighter and tighter, cutting off the blood supply and damaging the tendons and muscles. He is receiving the same treatment as the female and the pair will need extensive treatment and physiotherapy before they can be returned to the wild. We are also raising a group of 5 orphaned ostrich chicks that was found abandoned in the sanctuary after they had become separated from their parents. They are all doing well under Rebecca's care.

Three cheetahs were donated to SanWild by the South African National Parks and we are in the process of constructing a release boma where the cats will be held for three months before they are released into the reserve.

A large male cheetah also seemed to have decided to make the SanWild Wildlife Sanctuary his new home. The wild male arrived on his own accord about 8 weeks ago and has been spotted on a number of occasions where he has successfully made kills.



A number of releases have already taken place or are in the process of taking place. Nikki the scrub hare has been released at Bukisa's Camp and is overjoyed at being able to run around at hearts content. She is now fully grown and ready to take up life in the wild.

The serval rescued from a bush fire has been moved across to a final release enclosure and so has the confiscated, hand raised caracal

male. They will both be released as soon as the 1st good rains have fallen. The orphaned warthogs are also ready to go at the same time.





Two tawny eagles were released after they were treated for poisoning, but the immature goshawk that flew into a window will still have to remain in the centre for some time.

Our new troop of banded mongooses received from various destinations will be grouped into a single troop and will be moved across to a large natural habitat enclosure where they will be allowed to breed naturally until their numbers reach around 15 individuals. This is when the troop is strong enough to survive in the wild and then the fences will be removed and they will be free to go.

Both eland cows rescued some time ago when they were relocated to SanWild after a game capture company off loaded them without removing pipes from their horns, have both given birth to calves.



A baboon treated for poisoning could also be returned to his troop. For days the poor fellow was in agony and we did not believe it possible that he would survive the deliberate poisoning, but he did and it was a great day to release him back in his old territory.



The young orphaned bush pig is now ready to be introduced to the adults and will be moved across to their enclosure in days where he will be kept for a couple of days until we are sure that he can be introduced to the adults in safety. Please keep up to date with his progress by visiting our interactive website at www.sanwild.com Rehab News.

Two giraffe calves were born in the reserve this season and there was great excitement amongst the wild herds when their mothers took them to meet the rest of the family for the 1st time. A nyala bull that was hit by a motor vehicle also made a full recovery and was returned to the wild a couple of weeks ago.



OTHER PROJECTS

At the moment we have a couple of project running and new projects for the upgrade of perimeter fences, the release of the donated cheetahs and other will soon follow and we will update you on them shortly.



For those of you interested in training as a counter poaching ranger, we still have a couple of openings for our November

course. You should email Lizel Kachelhoffer on lizel@sanwild.org without delay should you be interested. This is a great opportunity that SanWild is giving to individuals interested in a career to protect wild animals. Skills learnt during this specialized training course can be used anywhere in the world and is recognized by FGASA (Field Guide's Association of South Africa).

Construction of our counter-poaching rangers barracks have started and the project should be completed before the end of the year. The barracks will become home for 6 permanent rangers that will be deployed in the SanWild Wildlife Sanctuary with the specific task of protecting our wildlife against poachers. To view the progress on the barrack's construction please join our Facebook Profile at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/profile.php?id=678604809>

RHINO POACHING SYNDICATES

The mass slaughter of rhinos have continued in South Africa and with the indiscriminate slaughter of more than 250 rhinos since January 2010 it can only be described as a genocide; with all due respect to the human race. The slaughter has been fuelled by man's greed and the recent arrests of various prominent business men, professional hunters and game farm owners have rocked South African communities.

The manager of a well-known game farm called Maremani in the Mussina district and owned by the AAGE. V. Jensen Charity Foundation (<http://www.avjf.dk/About-Maremani.1.aspx>) Mr. Tommie Fourie (52) have systematically been de-horning rhinos on the property and selling the horns. He appeared in the court in Mussina on the 1st November on charges of the illegal rhino horn. It is alleged that he sold 36 rhino horns to a prominent game farmer in the Thabazimbi area Mr. Jacques Els (36).

Els handed himself over to the authorities and was released on bail of R30 000.00. He was also charged for the illegal trade in rhino horns. He admitted that he also dehorned some of his own rhinos without the necessary permits. When he was asked about the alleged sale of rhino horn between him and Fourie, he denied this vehemently. "I only held onto someone's horns for them". He reiterated that he was not involved in the illegal poaching of rhinos.

Earlier the owner of a safari operator, his wife and a professional hunter are alleged to be some of the masterminds arrested and taken into custody for rhino poaching. Mr. Dawie Groenewald (42) a director of Out of Africa Adventurous Safaris (<http://www.outofafricasafari.com>) in Polokwane Limpopo South Africa and the alleged master mind behind the poaching syndicate, his wife Sariette (34) and Tielman Erasmus a professional hunter all spent a couple of day behind bars before they were released on bail.

They were arrested on the 20th September along with Drs. Carel Toet and Manie du Plessis of the Nylstroom Animal Clinic and Toet's wife Marisa.

Dawie Groenewald (an ex policeman) was expelled as a professional hunter from the South Africa Professional Hunters Association. Zimbabwe conservation authorities also stopped his hunting operation in this country. Mr. David Colart Zimbabwean cabinet minister and well known in conservation circles described Out of Africa as “ruthless company that has no respect for nature whatsoever that strives to unattainable hunting quotas”. Hunting experts in Zimbabwe alleges that Out of Africa has strong ties with Mugabe who allowed them to hunt of game farms taken away from their rightful owners in Mugabe’s land grab programs. Groenewald’s hunting operation Out of Africa Adventurous Safaris is known for alleged unethical and illegal conduct amongst hunting operations. They advertise their services in Botswana, Tanzania, South Africa and Zimbabwe, although they have been banned from Zimbabwe by the conservation authorities in September 2004 already. In April this year Groenewald was arrested on arrival in the USA in connection with the illegal hunting of a leopard that took place in South Africa. He admitted guilt and was fined \$30 000.00. He spent 8 days in jail in the US, was under house arrest for more than two months and had to pay compensation to an American hunter \$ 7500.00. Groenewald’s wife, Sariette is a director of Valinor Trading 142 has a closed corporation that owns 2 helicopters. Helicopters have been used on a regular basis to poach rhinos.

It was also discovered that Groenewald had applied to San Parks and Emzivelo Conservation Services purchased 100 rhinos from the Kruger National Park and other national parks. Although his requests to purchase 100 rhinos were turned down by SA National Parks, he was given the go ahead to purchase 53 rhinos according to Ms. Wanda Mkhutshulwa, spokesperson for the KNP. He apparently paid South Africa National Parks more than R10 million rand for the rhinos. Mkhutshulwa said that when they found out about Groenewald’s clash with the US authorities they suspended their sales to him, but that he continued to purchase animals from South African National Parks by means of third parties.

Groenewald traveled extensively across South Africa to purchase rhinos from various live game auctions. As recently as May this year he again purchased 3 rhinos at a live game auction held by the Kwa Zulu Natal Conservation Services (Ezemvelo) for R645 000.00. This was confirmed by Jeff Gaisford who also stated that they had no idea for

what purpose Groenewald purchased the rhinos. Most of the animals purchased by Groenewald has summarily been hunted or slaughtered for the horns and the unfortunate animals carcasses were buried on his farm in Limpopo Province. A number of mass graves have been found on his farm, these will be excavated in due course.

About 100 vehicles of the police and conservation's organized crime units descended on game farms in the Mussina area. A police helicopter and fixed wing aircraft was also used. Various people, many of them professional hunters were interrogated and more arrests are expected.

The South Africa Veterinary Council expressed their shock over the arrests of Drs. Toet and du Plessis, two veterinarians operational in the Nylstroom/Thabazimbi areas. They disassociated themselves with "colleges" that are alleged to be involved with rhino poaching syndicates. More than 250 rhinos have been killed in South Africa since January 2010.

"Within South Africa's national parks — not counting private land there, where poaching was rare — there were 10 rhinos poached in 2007," said Matthew Lewis, senior program officer for African species conservation for the World Wildlife Fund. "Thus far in 2010 alone, more than 200 rhinos were poached within South Africa, with a lot of those poached outside national parks, so that's a more than 2,000 percent increase in just three years' time."

More about the rhino poaching situation in South Africa on our notice board at www.sanwild.org and also on our interactive website at www.sanwild.com

View a recent Carte Blanche program about the poachers at: <http://beta.mnet.co.za/carteblanche/search.aspx?search=rhino&ShowId=1>

Or read it at <http://beta.mnet.co.za/carteblanche/Article.aspx?Id=4143&Showid=1>

SANWILD 2010 WISH LIST

Kindly please note that all donations in cash or goods are tax deductible in South Africa. For more information please email Louise Joubert on louise@sanwild.org

SanWild is in need of any of the items below.

- Cement
- Bricks
- Wooden poles
- Floor tiles
- Bonnox wire
- Welded mesh
- Solar Panels
- Energizers
- Steel wire
- Binding wire
- 2.4m Steel droppers
- Bicycles for rangers
- Game drive vehicle (2nd Hand)

SANWILD WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Main website: www.sanwild.org

Interactive website: www.sanwild.com

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Non-Profit Organisation Number: NPO 011-266

Public Benefit Organisation Number: PBO 930 013 787

Trust Number IT 8147/00

