



## ■ RESCUED RHINOS @ HESC



- The rhino is a species near the top of the endangered list. Over the past few years we have **taken in seven rhinos** which have been orphaned or victim to poachers. We work tirelessly to care for and protect them, but unfortunately they are still a target for poachers. In the beginning of January our **anti-poaching unit (APU)** responded to an alert of unwanted visitors near the rhino boma. The wire on the north-eastern side of the buffer zone had been cut and footprints could be seen entering and leaving the area. Thanks to the prompt response of the APU, none of our animals were harmed. [Read more...](#)
- In January we decided to gradually introduce **Gertjie and Matimba to Stompie and Balu**. Although we were slightly anxious about what their reaction would be, we were pleased by how well all four adjusted to each other. The four young boys now spend a lot of time in each other's company. [Read more...](#)
- Where our rhinos are concerned, our pledge is to keep them safe and alive at all cost. As a result, we decided to **dehorn Matimba**. [Read more...](#)
- As our orphaned rhinos, **Gertjie, Matimba, Stompie and Balu** have grown closer, their bond has been evident in the time spent **sharing a mud bath**. Because of how quickly these boys grow, their mud bath was getting a little 'tight' and had become too small for their formidable frames. With the help of our [Wildlife Conservation Experience](#) participants we managed to build the rhinos a bigger bath. [Read more...](#)
- Last year we had the pleasure of hosting the **Black Bean Productions** film crew who were here to record video footage for **National Geographic**. Their focus was on the scourge of **rhino poaching**. [Click here](#) to watch the **mini-documentary**.



## ■ AN INJURED AND ORPHANED VICTIM ARRIVES



On Monday 18th January 2016 **two female rhinos were poached** on a neighbouring reserve. The older cow died due to the injuries she suffered. She was pregnant, and died along with her unborn foetus. Her **two and a half year old calf** survived with serious injuries, after her horn was hacked off with a chainsaw. [Click here](#) to read more about the arrival of this rhino calf at HESC.

Due to the severity of this rhino's injuries she has **undergone a number of procedures**, similar to those of **Lion's Den and Dingle Dell**. The first treatment took place four days after her arrival. [Read more...](#)

Just over a week after, the rhino cow endured a second treatment. [Click here](#) to read about it.

We have named the young female **Philippa**. [Read more](#) to find out the significance of her name. She has since undergone a third treatment. [Read more...](#)

As the '**new kid on the block**' we thought we would let **Philippa** get used to her new environment before introducing her to the other rhino cows, Lion's Den and Dingle Dell. However, **Lion's Den and Dingle Dell** decided we were to slow and abruptly introduced themselves to the new cow. Although the introduction was uneasy at first, we are happy that all three females are getting along very well. [Read more](#)

## ■ AMANZI THE WATER PRINCE







- On 16 February we took custody of an **infant elephant calf** that had been found after falling into a drain at the **Palabora Copper mine**. The elephant was named "**Amanzi**", which means water in **Zulu**. [Click here](#) to read the story of this baby elephant.
- Amanzi's arrival at HESC reminded everyone of the day another baby elephant arrived at the centre, over 10 years ago. This elephant, named **Jabulani**, went on to become the namesake of our sister property [Camp Jabulani](#). Unfortunately Amanzi's story was not to end in the same spirit as Jabulani's. [Read more...](#)

## ■ CHEETAH UPDATES



- One of the **female cheetahs**, which was released onto the Kapama Private Game Reserve on the 9th June 2012, was found badly injured on the reserve. Her wounds were too severe to be treated on site so she had to be taken to the **Provet Wildlife Service** facility for further treatment. [Read more...](#)
- Cheetah research is one of the core objectives of our facility. We were approached by **Wildlife Pharmaceuticals** to partake in a **research study** which aimed to better understand the anaesthesia of cheetah by using a combination drug known as **BAM** (Butorphanol / Azaperone / Medetomidine). Our involvement in the study was important to assess its effect on captive cheetahs. [Read more](#) about the research.
- The **release of cheetahs** back into the wild is also another important goal. As part of an ongoing partnership with **Air Force Base Makhado**, in December 2015 we released two male cheetahs, **Tobie and Wim**, onto the base. They will help to keep the runways clear of small game for the safe landing of aircrafts on the base. This [short video](#) was created in order to explain the necessity for the cheetah breeding programme at HESC, and the release of these cheetahs to the wild.
- Cheetah mother **Salome** is doing extremely well. Her **five cubs** have been moved into their own enclosure. [Read more](#) about what these youngsters have been up to.

## EDUCATION



- One of our passions at HESC is **educating young minds** about **wildlife conservation**. To spread the word on the plight of rhinos, we have partnered with **Grant Fowlds** and **The Kingsley Holgate Foundation** through an organisation called **Rhino Art**. The purpose is to gather the largest number of heartfelt children's video messages ever recorded as a call to action against rhino poaching. [Click here](#) to read more.
- At the beginning of this year we had the pleasure of hosting **Doctor Umara** and **Doctor Adriann** from **Mount Sinai Hospital** in New York, along with **Molly**, a qualified social worker who is doing research on their project. The trio came in as part of the **Cervical Cancer Prevention Programme** which aims to train nurses at the **Hlokomela clinic** in cervical cancer detection; as well as teach the women from the community about the disease. [Read more...](#)

## FUNDRAISING



RUN FOR  
**RHINOS**

COMRADES 2016



HOPE FOR  
**HORN**

MOUNTAIN BIKE CHALLENGE



- The **care of rhinos** places a huge financial demand on the centre and we rely on assistance from our supporters. In order to help us raise funds, our accounts administrator, **Dezi du Plessis**, has taken it upon herself to 'Run for Rhinos' in the upcoming **Comrades Marathon**, set to take place on 29 May 2016. Money collected through sponsoring Dezi for every kilometre that she completes will be donated to the **Wildlife Conservation Trust (WCT)** of HESC. [Click here](#) to read more. As we always say, the power of one is truly boundless.
- HESC has partnered with **Misty Mountain, Project Rhino KZN, Forest Ventures, and Cadence Cycling** to create the **Hope for Horn Mountain Bike Challenge**. This is a one-day 200km ride, which begins at Misty Mountain and ends at HESC on the **Kapama Game Reserve**. There is no entry fee, but cyclists are required to get at least 10 sponsors to contribute to the donation. You can pledge directly to **Project Rhino** at [www.projectrhinokzn.org](http://www.projectrhinokzn.org), using **Kapama Rhino Ride** as your reference. Company donations receive an 18A tax certificate.

## GENERAL NEWS



- We received some assistance from the **Hoedspruit Airforce Base** to elevate the nest of our two Southern ground hornbills, **Gumpie and Skewy**. We are hopeful that we will soon see some eggs in their nest. [Read more...](#)
- Earlier in the year our resident duiker, **Bokkie Bok**, had developed an abscess in her mouth. The curators took her to the vet after noticing some swelling on the side of her mouth. We were pleased to see her back to her old self. [Read more...](#)
- After the passing of **Sarah**, one of the resident lions, we were worried about how her companion, **Caesar**, would handle being alone. The two lions had spent all their days at HESC together. However, our concerns were set at ease as Caesar appears to be doing very well. [Read more...](#)
- We had the pleasure of hosting the **family of Steve Irwin**, the Australian wildlife expert, popularly known as the **Crocodile Hunter**. Irwin's widow and two children were here as part of a shoot that took place at HESC for an Australian reality TV show. [Click here](#) to read more about the Irwin's visit.
- We were happy to notice the arrival of 15 **leopard tortoise babies**. [Read more](#) about the new members of HESC's family.

- Over the last month and half, the HESC curators have been busy at work taking care of **Amanzi** and the orphaned rhinos. But of course, we could never forget about all the other **animal residents** at the centre, so we thought we would update you on all the **behind-the-scenes** action that has been taking place over the month of February, and March to date. [Read here...](#)

## ■ OUR PEOPLE



Christo, head curator at HESC, had the honour of appearing on **BBC One's** *Nature's Miracle Orphans*. This documentary follows orphaned baby animals all over the world, and the dedicated people that rescue, rehabilitate and release them back to the wild. On this episode Christo speaks about the declining cheetah population and introduces the show's host to **Shelly**, one of our female cheetahs. Shelly makes a name for herself by demonstrating a **speed test**. [Watch the clip here...](#)

## ■ THANK YOU

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our supporters over the 2015 festive season. [Click here](#) to find out who these were. We also have to say thank you to those supporters and friends who've made contributions to HESC at the beginning of this year. [Read more...](#)

To all those who have made donations via our [online platform](#), THANK YOU.

Without our supporters we would not be able to do what we do.

[HELP.HESC.CO.ZA](http://HELP.HESC.CO.ZA)

*Until next time, we remain yours in CONSERVATION,  
The HESC Team*

**GET INVOLVED**

