



CHEETAH CHAT

Hoedspruit Endangered
Species Centre



RESCUED RHINOS @ HESC



- **Lion's Den** developed a small septic wound. Fortunately, it was quickly discovered and taken care of. [Read more...](#)
- **Ike, the rhino bull from Pilanesberg National Park**, finally joined **Gertjie, Matimba and Philippa** in February. Curator Christo managed to lead the trio into Ike's enclosure to 'formally' introduce them to Ike. The three rhinos were very receptive to Ike; however, he chose to partner up with Philippa. The two were later spotted side-by-side. [Read more](#)
- As a protective measure, we recently dehorned three of our young rhinos – **Khulula, Olivia and Balu**. [Read more...](#)

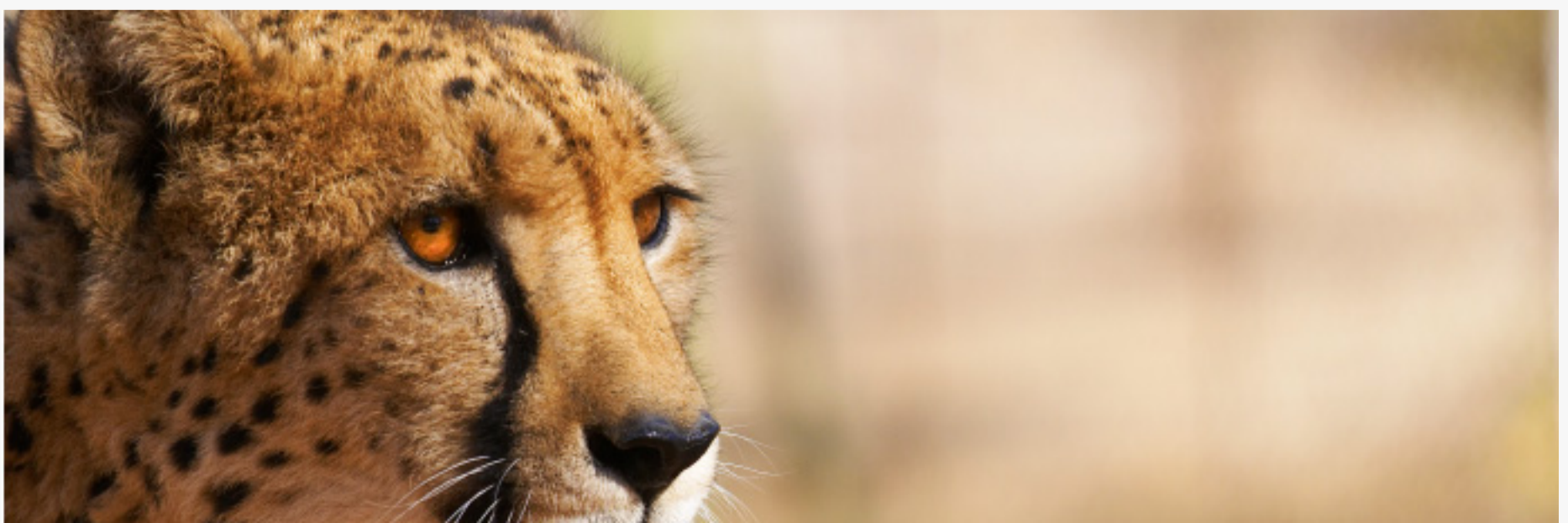
ORPHANS





- Last November we took in an **orphaned baby elephant** estimated to be about 4 months old. The young elephant had been found wandering on his own with no sight of his mother or herd. [Read more](#)
- This little one was **named Shawu**, after one of the seven bulls which used to roam the Kruger National Park. [Read more](#)
- **Shawu** had been kept under the watchful eye of a team of curators and elephant keepers, as well as Lammie. Although looking after him is taxing in many ways, we've been pleased with his progress. [Read more](#)
- Taking care of a baby elephant without its mother is a great challenge. Our **Shawu has** been experiencing some health problems and had to undergo a blood transfusion. [Read more...](#)
- Our well-equipped veterinary facility (with hospital and quarantine sections) allow us to be able to look after a variety of orphaned or physically compromised animals. This was once more put to the test when an **orphaned baby hyena** was brought to the centre at the end of December for temporary care. [Read more](#)
- We took in an **orphaned nyala calf**, whose mother was killed by a buffalo. This little one has been paired with the resident duiker, Bokkie Bok. [Read more...](#)
- Early in February we took in yet another **orphaned rhino**. This little one's story is no different to some of the rhino babies at the centre. She was found next to her dead mother's carcass. [Read more](#)
When this calf was found, she was vulnerable, stressed and dehydrated. It has been a joy and relief to see **Lula settle into her new environment**, and even make friends! [Read more...](#)
- **An orphaned warthog** was brought to the centre from **Phalaborwa**. Although we don't know the circumstances leading to him being orphaned, we were happy to offer him a home. **The piglet was named Winston.** [Read more](#)
- We were called to come to the rescue of a **lone baby leopard** after she had been spotted in a big tree. What we discovered upon investigation was gruesome. [Read more...](#)

CHEETAH UPDATES





- Our curators noticed some of the **cheetahs were shedding** off their hair; and to remedy this, they were treated with lime sulfur. [Read more...](#)
- Cheetah conservation is one of HESC's core disciplines. As one of two **CITES-accredited institutions in South Africa**, we strive to support conservation within the context of a sustainable ecosystem by focusing on the conservation of rare, vulnerable and endangered animal species. As a result, our cheetahs took part in DNA profiling conducted by the **National Zoological Gardens of South Africa** in order to investigate the pathology and potential genetic basis of oxalate nephrosis in cheetahs. [Read more](#)
- On 4 December 2016, we commemorated **World Cheetah Day** by looking at the survival and genetic diversity of the cheetah species. [Read more...](#)
- Two of our young cheetah cubs were treated for an eye infection. [Read more](#)

■ EDUCATION



- Ivan Garcia and Cláudia Santos, both from Portugal, participated in the **Wildlife Conservation Experience programme** and were fortunate to witness the dehorning procedure for Gertjie, Matimba and Stompie. [Read more](#) about their encounter.
- HESC hosted students from **Scotch Oakburn College, Australia**. Among this group was **Lachie Warren**, a young learner who's no stranger to HESC. Lachie has previously donated R15 000 to us, and this time he personally handed R20 000 to Mrs Lente Roode towards the centre. [Read more...](#)

GENERAL NEWS



- We were requested by **Limpopo Environmental Affairs** to temporarily take custody of a tame female hyena. The hyena was later moved to a wildlife sanctuary in Limpopo which is more suited to housing hyenas. It's an honour to have been entrusted with the care of this animal while the relevant parties were sorting out the required documentation. [Read more](#)
- As part of our conservation efforts, we are involved in various wildlife conservation initiatives. One of these is the **Kruger-to-Canyons (K2C) Hooded Vulture Project**. Our role is in the feeding ecology of the hooded vultures, where we have afforded the K2C Hooded Vulture Project access to our vulture restaurant. [Read more](#)
- You will remember **Bullet, our anti-poaching puppy**. The little hound is growing well and making great progress in his training. [Read more...](#)
- We tended to an **injured wild dog** that was brought to the centre. [Read more](#)

FUNDRAISING



- Over the past few months **The Platter Project** has been assisting us with raising funds for the centre. The Platter Project is an organization established in honour of **Diana Wilkinson** who was diagnosed with

Flatter Project is an organization established in honour of **Diana Wilkinson** who was diagnosed with end-stage kidney failure. This organisation aims to raise funds for organisations associated with organ donation or wildlife conservation. [Read more](#)

- **The U.S Friends of HESC** are an integral part of the centre. Established by New York couple, Allen and Heidi Roberts, U.S Friends of HESC has been hosting dinners in order to raise funds for HESC. We got up close to the couple to learn more about them. [Read more...](#)
- At the beginning of this year we partnered with **Investec Rhino Lifeline (IRL)** to raise awareness of the plight of rhinos, and to raise funds for the conservation of the critically endangered species. Investec has not only nominated HESC as a beneficiary for their fundraising initiatives but there are different reciprocal elements to this partnership. [Read more](#)
- In an effort to raise awareness and funds for the plight of our rhino, **Joanne Devenish** will set out to Hike4Rhinos, from the 27th of April 2017, through the Pacific Crest Trail. The hike runs from the Mexican to the Canadian border, which is approximately 2600 miles (4260km)!
- We appeal to you to please make your donation or pledge by visiting [Hike4Rhinos](#) in support of the Rescued Rhinos @ HESC. We wish Joanne Devenish all the best on this endeavour.

OUR PEOPLE



- Our very own Lente Roode was honoured with a **WESSA (Wildlife & Environmental Society of South Africa)** Lifetime Conservation Achiever Award for her contribution to conservation in South Africa. [Read more...](#)
- Our **Anti-Poaching Unit** plays a very important role in the protection of our rhinos and wildlife. This team is made up of highly trained individuals and canines. [Read more](#)
- We sadly lost one of our colleagues **Allan Pretorius**. [Read more...](#)

THANK YOU

Thank you to all our supporters who have continued to make contributions and donations. We couldn't do all that we do without your help! These were our contributors for [January](#), [February](#), and [March](#).

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

help.hesc.co.za

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

GET INVOLVED