

An update from the HOEDSPRUIT ENDANGERED SPECIES CENTRE



winter edition 2015

RESCUED RHINOS @ HESC



VICTIMS TO VICTORS



AN UPDATE ON GERTJIE & MATIMBA, OUR ORPHANED RHINOS



After the arrival of two poached and now-rehabilitated rhinos (*Lion's Den and Dingle Dell*), and more recently the arrival of our two orphaned baby rhinos (*Gertjie and Matimba*) and a male rhino bull who had been shot in an attempt to remove his horn, we have found ourselves facing the immediate **need to establish a rhino sanctuary at the Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre.**

*It gives us pleasure to announce the launch of the **Rescued Rhinos @ HESC.***

One of our most **urgent requirements for the success of this facility is a security system**, which will enable us to protect those rhinos (present and future) placed in our custody for care, rehabilitation and a safe haven.

The total cost of the security system we

On Friday the 30th of August 2013, the anti-poaching unit on an un-named reserve found that 3 rhinos had been darted by poachers and de-horned.

Miraculously, although the bull was killed, the remaining 2 cows survived. Their horns had been neatly cut off with a chain-saw, but this left the animals' sinus canals open and exposed, posing a massive threat to their wellbeing.

On Tuesday the 4th September, the 2 rhinos were moved to HESC for the long and painful road to recovery that lay ahead of them.

With the collaboration of Dr. Peter Rogers, Dr. Gerhard Steenkamp (well-known veterinarian dentist and senior lecturer at the University of Pretoria), Dr. Johan Marais (equine and wildlife surgeon and lecturer at the University of Pretoria), and the team

Although the circumstances that led to Gertjie and Matimba being at The Centre are tragic, having them around has been a joyous experience.

These animals are no different to humans - they thrive on love and attention. The young orphans have stolen many of our followers' hearts ... we're not surprised.

Gertjie, who's now 15 months old, was born on 15 February 2014. When he arrived at The Centre on 07 May 2014 he weighed a mere 100kg. He's since grown so much that our curators cannot weigh him anymore. The exact birth date of 6 month-old Matimba is unknown, but he arrived on 16 November 2014 weighing just 60kg.

The rhinos' main diet consists of ProNutro mixed with fat free milk. ProNutro provides roughage and extra nutrients. Because

require is ZAR5,000,000.00. We are never one to turn from a challenge, as we know that we somehow always find a way through the support of fellow conservationists (both individuals and businesses).

The ***Eyes on Rhinos campaign*** is a **multi-tiered project with the sole purpose of raising funds for this security system**. While the total cost seems extraordinary and is certainly out of the reach of most of our supporters around the world, we have initiated ***The Hundred Challenge***.

We believe that if each rhino enthusiast pledges as little as ZAR100 (the equivalent of less than US\$10, Euro10 and GBP6), we could see a wave of support, which would quickly reach the desired project deliverable.

Help us to protect our rhinos by pledging your financial contribution, or by stimulating awareness within your own networks.

Every person counts. Every person makes a difference.

[Click here to get involved.](#)

from Rescued Rhinos @ HESC, the long path to the animals' rehabilitation began, and 18 months later the prognosis is good.

The experts' involvement was critical, as the open wounds left by the savage removal of the animals' horns were complicated and needed to be managed very carefully to avoid infection.

We are very happy to report that the outcome of the 18 month journey is beyond what we could ever have anticipated.

The amount of information gathered proved to be invaluable, as no scientific data is available about the rhino's anatomy and histology of the maxillofacial area and nerve supply within the head.

Far more recently, we took acceptance of another casualty of the rhino poaching war.

Bull #72 had been shot three times in an attempt to bring him down for his horn. He was incredibly weak, and the prognosis for his survival was 50/50.

He has undergone a couple of treatments, and we are hopeful that he will recover.

[Click here](#) to read more about his journey.

[Click here to foster one of our rhinos.](#)

Matimba is still a baby, he drinks more of this formula - 800g per day (200g per bottle) PLUS about 23L of milk per day, which he drinks at 06:00, 11:00, 14:00 and 18:00.

Gertjie drinks 255g of the ProNutro formula daily, and about 8.5L of milk per day, as he is being weaned. Both rhinos graze during the day, with the added treat of lucern in the evenings.

Over time Gertjie and Matimba have bonded like real brothers, and young Matimba can be said to **take after the older Gertjie** in more ways than one. Always tagging along with these two is Lammie, the "guardian" sheep. Lammie is a Pedi breed sheep that was brought to The Centre as a surrogate mother for Gertjie. She and Gertjie have been close since the first day they met.

The trio get on incredibly well and sometimes even get up to mischief. One such story happened some time ago when the centre manager was walking to Matimba in the boma, only to discover a green soapy mess all over the ground.

Three sets of very distinct 'foot' prints gave the culprits away immediately!

[Watch them live](#) online via Africam to catch some of their escapades.

SALOME GIVES BIRTH TO FIVE CHEETAH CUBS



If there's one thing that validates the fact that our conservation efforts are not in vain, it is the birth of new life! We were elated in April when one of our cheetahs, Salome, gave birth.

On the 17th April 2015, we were blessed with the arrival of five tiny cheetah cubs in The Centre's 'maternity ward'. The five babies were born after the typical cheetah gestation period of between 90 and 95 days. Salome's cubs were born on the 93rd day, to be exact. Salome was moved to the maternity ward on the 23rd of March. This facility makes it easier to monitor a pregnant female's movements.

GENERAL UPDATES



- In the space of two weeks [Dr. Rogers has had to treat #72's wounds twice](#).

- [Click here](#) to read about the latest procedure.

- We had an unexpected visitor.

- [Click here](#) to find out what it was.

- Our friends and followers have often asked us why a sheep was chosen to be Gertjie's companion.

- [Click here](#) to learn why.

- We noticed one of our cheetahs limping

MEET TREVOR



Meet Trevor Alford, our new general manager.

As chief-in-command, Trevor is responsible for liaising and coordinating with all departments to ensure that every operational duty runs smoothly.

Trevor's role is quite an intensive one. He's also tasked with maintaining budgets, hosting of important VIP's, managing the property's projects and resolving crises as and when they arise.

Says Trevor, "I grew up in Johannesburg but have always had an obsession with nature and the outdoors. From the age of 14, I was an active volunteer at the

and is also warmer and provides better shelter once the babies are born. It is secluded, and neither vehicles nor people are permitted in the vicinity.

What made this event extremely exciting for us was that through our partnership with Africam, we were able to broadcast the birth of Salome's cubs. For HESC, educating about and promoting awareness of the cheetah is paramount. To this end, the webcam is available for [live streaming](#) 24/7. Viewers can check in with the cheetah family at any time to see how the babies are doing.

Any person wanting to help in their conservation is able to access [our secure donation portal](#), through which they can contribute directly to the care of the cubs.

and quickly called in Dr. Rogers.

- [Click here](#) to read more.

- It seems old age is catching up with our lion, Caesar.

- [Click here](#) to learn what his last check up revealed about his health.

- Meg's cubs were moved to a new enclosure as they have grown.

- [Click here](#) for an update on them.

- One of the caracals we released earlier this year, is back at The Centre.

- [Click here](#) to read more.

14, I was an active volunteer at the Johannesburg Zoo and also spent as much time on my Godparents' farm in the Northwest Province.

I started my career in accounting and have since moved over to more of a general management function, primarily in the lodging industry. My career goal at HESC is to take the centre to a new level, and to help HESC have a lasting impact on the African continent.

When I am not at work I can most often be found white water kayaking with my fiancé, exploring the Kruger or some other game reserve, or fly-fishing."

We are happy to have Trevor at our helm, and have no doubt he will make a very valuable contribution to HESC.

RHINO ART

NATIONAL WATER WEEK COMPETITION

NOAH'S ART EXHIBITION



The Rhino Art Project aims to let children's voices be heard against the onslaught of rhino poaching.

The objective is to gather the largest number of children's 'Art Voices' ever recorded.

Paulos Ngobeni Primary is a local school which we adopted a couple of years back as part of our Corporate Social Investment Project.

Our work with the school centres around empowering the learners through environmental education.

As an example of how effective the youth can be in messaging on important causes, the learners from Paulos Ngobeni recorded this video where they plead in song for rhino poaching to be stopped.



During National Water Week (16 - 22 March), we ran a competition where we asked our Facebook followers to send us wildlife pictures capturing the value of water, as they experienced it.

National Water Week is a weeklong campaign aimed at highlighting the value of water, and to encourage sustainable management of this scarce resource.

It was a tight competition as all the entries were simply spectacular, but we could choose only one winner.

We congratulate Elisabeth Muray from Brazil, whose image came in at first place.

Is it not beautiful?



Tannie Cilna Pienaar has been adding colour to the lives of learners from our 'adoptive' school, Paulos Ngobeni.

She has been giving [art lessons](#) to the children, which have been a great success!

The kids recently showcased their masterpieces in **The Noah's Art for Conservation Exhibition Show**, which was held on 26th April at the Four Seasons Art Studio in Linden, Johannesburg.

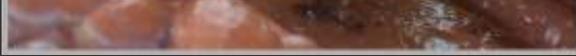
This exhibition was an effort to encourage young artists to contribute towards the conservation of wildlife.

For this progressive studio, it is all about young and old caring about the earth and one another. Artists got the opportunity to showcase their talent, as well as their commitment to wildlife conservation.

Thank you to all the young artists who created beautiful pieces. We also thank everyone who came and joined in on the fun to raise awareness and funds for such a worthy cause.

A big "Thank You" goes to the Four Season Art Studio for partnering with us on this event.

Click here to
WATCH THE VIDEO ONLINE



All proceeds were donated to HESC, and a total of R14 725 was raised!

THANK YOU

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of our supporters. The list is long, but includes:

- * Panarottis I'langa Mall and Lowveld High School for sponsoring boxes of ProNutro to [help feed our young rhinos](#)
- * The International American School for raising awareness of the plight of rhinos and sponsoring a table for us at the recent [family fun-fair day](#) they hosted.
- * Each and every online supporter who has fostered one of our animals, or supported the Rescued Rhinos @ HESC facility.
[Click here](#) to view the list of online contributors.
- * HUGE thanks go to Vestguard and Tessa Bolts who donated bullet proof vests and helmets to our rhino security staff.
- * [Pick 'n Pay](#) have been instrumental in our journey with Gertjie. They ran a campaign to raise awareness and garner support for Gertjie from the time he arrived with us.
- * Kyron Laboratories for their donation of either Protexin (probiotics) or Glucose.
- * Four Seasons Art Studio for hosting The Noah's Art for Conservation Exhibition Show to raise funds for HESC.

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

GET INVOLVED

