

# An update from the HOEDSPRUIT ENDANGERED SPECIES CENTRE



spring edition 2015

RESCUED RHINOS @ HESC

OUR CHEETAHS

THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
EXPERIENCE (WCE)



### Our orphaned rhinos, Gertjie and Matimba:

These young boys have charmed their way into the hearts of many. [Read more](#) about how they are doing and how far they have come.

In our previous newsletter we introduced you to #72, the rhino bull that we had taken in following numerous failed poaching attempts. His condition was critical and the likelihood of a full recovery was slim. Despite our veterinary team doing everything in their power to save him, sadly #72 did not survive.

An autopsy was conducted, and the results revealed that there was nothing more that could have been done to save his life. [Read more](#)

It's amazing how quickly time passes. It seems like just yesterday that Salome the cheetah gave birth to five beautiful cubs.

The cheetah mom and her cubs have now been moved out of the maternity ward to a bigger enclosure. The youngsters get more entertaining by the day, as their individual characters develop. [Read more](#) here.

In October 2012 we released a cheetah by the name of Susan onto Kapama Private Game Reserve. Susan was collared in order for us to be able to monitor her movements and how she was adjusting to life in the wild. [Read more about her release](#) here.

Susan is doing remarkably well since her release.

The WCE@HESC programme is an intensive 3-week programme for aspiring veterinary students, wildlife conservation enthusiasts, or for those simply looking for an extraordinary life experience. [Read more about the programme](#) here.

We have recently enjoyed hosting a number of participants on the programme, and include below a few of their experiential 'takeaways'. On World Environment Day, the WCE participants learned how to create a wormery. "A wormery is an easy and efficient way of converting ordinary food waste into liquid feed and organic rich compost through the natural metabolic action of earthworms". [Read more](#) on how you can create your own.

here.

Lion's Den, one of the surviving rhino cows of a tragic poaching incident in August 2013, recently had another treatment procedure. It had been a little over five months since her last one. [Read more here.](#)

Although it has been almost two years and over 25 procedures since we began treatment on Lion's Den's wound, we are pleased with her overall improvement and can't wait for the day when her wound is completely healed.

To get involved by donating towards the security system required by Rescued Rhinos @ HESC, or to foster a rhino, [click here.](#)

Susan is doing remarkably well since her release. We were thrilled when she was spotted hunting close to the camp.

The collars that are fitted on the cheetahs are battery-operated and have a limited life span as our end goal is that released animals are eventually unhindered in the wild once they have been fully integrated.

Susan has been in the wild since 2012, and the time eventually came for her collar to be removed. [Read more here.](#)

For us, a success story such as this one is validation of what we work so hard to achieve.

One of the essential skills required in the wild is **animal tracking**. "Tracking is the identification of an animal by interpreting the signs left in its wake. The most common sign an animal leaves in the wild is its trail of paw prints".

If you get confused between a cheetah and a leopard, [here's how](#) you can tell these two cats apart.

If you thought the pigment melanin is something that is only limited to human beings, you'll be surprised to learn that it affects animals too. Our WCE students were astonished when they came across an **impala with a difference**.

## GENERAL NEWS



## THANK YOU



## Eyes on Rhino/ Rhinos @ HESC Fundraising Event



Our pre-tour information DVD is now available in German, French, Portuguese, Italian and Spanish.

The lion from Animal Defenders International, Caesar was diagnosed with arthritis resulting from old age. [Click here](#) for an update on his latest treatment.

To read updates about the animals at HESC, [click here.](#)

Our vulture restaurant was recently cleaned up and closed. [Click here](#) to learn why.

As part of the Southern Ground Horn-bill Action Group Release Programme, we relocated a female southern ground-hornbill to Mabula Game Reserve last year. The wild bird, which was named Kapama, has settled in with its new family. [Click here](#) to read more.

Our followers have been curious about the ostriches at the centre. We introduce them to you [here.](#)

We were fortunate to be visited by Damien Mander, who is the head of the International Anti-Poaching Foundation (IAPF). [Read more here.](#)

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to every individual and business who make it possible for us to continue doing the work that we do.

Without the generous donations we get from them, it would be almost impossible for HESC to continue to operate.

We give credit to our community who assisted us over the months of June and July.

To view a blog dedicated to our June supporters, [click here.](#)

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To get involved, you can make a contribution (as much as you are able - every cent counts) via our secure online portal.

For animal adoptions, [click here.](#)

For donations towards our wish list, [click here.](#)

To contribute towards Rescued Rhinos @ HESC, or to foster one of our rhinos, [click here.](#)

"The last two months leading up to our 'Eyes on Rhinos Fundraiser' have been a humbling experience.

[African Synergy](#) came up with the idea of a fundraiser at the Barnyard Theatre, specifically for the Travel industry, their friends and family.

The aim was to raise money for Rescued Rhinos @ HESC. How hard could it be? And why not do a Christmas in July theme? And so the 'bauble' started rolling...

To make it interesting we had to get some really attractive prizes sponsored. And that is where the Christmas magic started... Never in our wildest imaginings could we have anticipated how generous our friends and partners in travel would be. So many came on board by donating incredible prizes to help us raise money for the rhinos.

As the list of givers grew, so did our excitement."

[Click here](#) to read more about this spectacular event, and to see the great images captured. And THANK YOU to all the sponsors and participants.

# COMING UP

**We have more exciting activities and events in the pipeline at HESC and will be sharing detailed blogs in the coming weeks. You can connect with us on our social media platforms to stay up to date with all the happenings. *WATCH THIS SPACE...***

News you can expect to see;

An update on the rhinos from Rescued Rhinos @ HESC.

A great donation from Instacom towards the anti-poaching unit.

Mufasa and Scar, rescued lions, are moved to a new enclosure.

Three children took the initiative to raise money for the rhinos within their community.

We have some special activities planned on the following international recognition days;

- 4 September - International Vulture Awareness Day,

- 22 September - World Rhino Day

- 27 September - World Tourism Day.

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

**GET INVOLVED**

