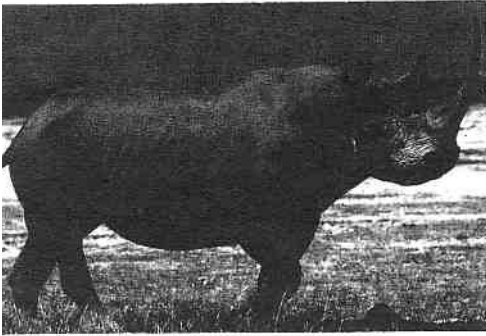


SEBAKWE BLACK RHINO TRUST by JOHN GRIPPER



conservationist in the Midlands area, to establish a sanctuary for black rhino and other wildlife. The project will be a self supporting scheme with income from photographic and walking safaris, stock grazing and game utilisation contributing to the management costs.

The idea for a project started when Annie and I were invited for a holiday in Zimbabwe by my cousin Ray Gripper - of cricketing fame. We all stayed for a couple of nights with his friend Bob Swift and Bob told me of his dream to set up a wildlife sanctuary for black rhino. As a veterinary surgeon with an interest in wildlife I offered to help with fundraising in the U.K.

I went back to Zimbabwe a few months later to talk to the Director of National Parks, Government officials, Worldwide Fund for Nature, and local farmers. I then travelled on to Kenya to have a look for myself at a number of existing rhino sanctuaries.

David Shepherd, the Wildlife artist, gave financial support and also agreed to come out to see the sanctuary and undertake some fund raising in Zimbabwe - this was filmed and shown on a recent TV Nature Watch programme.

The Trust was launched by Pam Ayres at the Cotswold Wildlife Park in May of this year, and although we are still far short of our target of half a million pounds, we now have enough money to make a start on the electric fencing around Journeys End.

If you would like an illustrated brochure on the work of the Trust or wish to send a donation to help save the black rhino, please write to John Gripper, Chairman, Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust, Manor Farm, Ascott-u-Wychwood, Oxfordshire OX7 6AL.

The black rhino is an endangered species. In 1970 there were 65,000 black rhino in Africa - now there are only 3,000 left, half of these are in Zimbabwe, but are still being killed by poachers at an average rate of one a day.

The poachers slaughter them for the value of the horn which can be worth up to £50,000 on the black market; it is used for dagger handles in the North Yemen and the powdered horn is highly regarded as an aphrodisiac and a medicine in the Far East.

The long term protection of the black rhino is best achieved by capturing them with immobilising tranquillisers from a dartgun and then moving them to safe areas where they can be kept under free range conditions in breeding groups and fully protected from the poachers.

One of the areas in Zimbabwe's National Conservation Strategy Plan is the Midlands where there is a group of private farmers who own a total of 1,000 sq kilometres of bush and farmland which is capable of supporting 250 black rhino.

The Trust is leasing the aptly named Journeys End, which is 10,000 acres of land, from Bob Swift, a local farmer and