



Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust,
Manor Farm
Ascott under Wychwood
OXFORDSHIRE
OX7 6AL
TEL: 01993 830 278
FAX: 01993 830 395
e-mail: johngrippervet@compuserve.com
website: www.blackrhino.org

To: Maggie Heydt
Black Rhino Foundation
USA

20th November 2009

Dear Maggie,

I am writing to thank the Black Rhino Foundation for their generous donation of US\$ 1000 to the Sebakwe Black Rhino Trust, which is much appreciated.

I have just returned from a visit to the Midlands Conservancy - things are still pretty grim in Zimbabwe. We have had a serious number of black rhino killed by poachers in the Conservancy and throughout Zimbabwe during the last year. Despite all our efforts we now only have five rhino left in the Conservancy.

Although our Conservator has made 70 arrests of poachers of rhino and other wildlife during this year, they often get off in Court, because they have bribed the magistrate or they only have to pay a small fine which means that they are soon back poaching again after their release. However recently a number of rhino poachers in the Lowveld areas have been shot and killed,

Due to the near collapse of the economy and with starvation in the rural areas, there are also many other wildlife being caught by wire snares set by poachers for bush meat. In addition, as a result of the breakdown of clean water supplies there have been some outbreaks of cholera in Zimbabwe.

The country has had hyperinflation which has now been overcome by dollarisation but there are major food shortages in the rural areas so we have been providing the local school children with Mahewu - the protein drink. There are constant electricity cuts and food and fuel can only be bought if you can pay by US dollars.

Zimbabwe is now having a limited amount of recovery of the economy but politically it seems unlikely that the formation of a Government of National Unity will be accepted by the International Community until Robert Mugabe shows that he is willing to work in genuine power sharing with the opposition MDC party.

Wildlife in Zimbabwe is still in a very critical situation with widespread poaching for meat and rhino horn. I am most grateful for your support and will keep you informed.

Yours Sincerely,

John Gripper

Registered Charity No 328461

TRUSTEES:

John Gripper (Chairman), Nigel Overal, David Gripper, Paul Holmes, Peter Borton, Annie Gripper, Ray Gripper & David Ellman-Brown (Zimbabwe)

PATRONS:

Pam Ayres, Professor John Cooper, Nicholas Duncan, Dr Jane Goodall, Anna Merz, Dr Willie Nduku, Malcolm Penny,

Julian Pettiifer, Gregory Rasmussen, Dudley Russell, Tony Soper, Robert Swift