



*Science has information, not answers.  
Emotions have attitudes, not solutions.*

*H. Lotter*

# THE STORY OF THE WHITE RHINOCEROS



**Editor: J.G. du Toit**

2013

*Dedicated to the staff of the former Natal Parks Board that saved the white rhinoceros from extinction in the early 1900's*

Copyright © 2013 SAB



**All rights reserved.**

No part of this publication may be duplicated in any form what so ever without written permission from the copyright holders.

Published by



35 Piet Retief Avenue  
Noordheuwel,  
Krugersdorp, 1739  
South Africa

[www.kejafa.co.za](http://www.kejafa.co.za)  
[kejafa@mweb.co.za](mailto:kejafa@mweb.co.za)

## **THE STORY OF THE WHITE RHINOCEROS**

First published 2013  
First print 2013

ISBN 978-0-9921910-1-6

Cover photo: Louis van Schalkwyk  
Layout by Christina van Straaten  
Printed and bound by Craft Print International Ltd. Singapore

## FOREWORD

The 668 rhino's killed in South Africa during 2012 is now a tragic matter of public record. It is very sad that we predicted the figure to reach a new record of over 600 by midyear, and still seemed helpless to stop the tragic killing of so many of this majestic and increasingly threatened species.

As a passionate conservationist it would have been easy to blame the authorities and rhino activists for incompetence or a lack of interest. It is worrying that the heart-wrenchingly high poaching figures were achieved despite the enormous and often heroic efforts of so many conservationists, police officers and rhino farmers. For sure, there are things that could have been done better or faster. But by and large the leadership of the public and private sectors demonstrated commitment to curbing the seemingly endless rise in carcasses found with their horns removed.



The key question remains: how is it possible that rhino poaching continues unabated despite the hard work and efforts of so many well-intentioned institutions and individuals? As a sportsman, I am not an expert on conservation policy, although personally, like many others, I am very concerned about the current situation. From years on the cricket-field I am used to a situation that if a team is well prepared and performs at its best - the results usually follow. Sadly this doesn't seem to be the case with our Rhinos. It is this insight which leads me to start wondering; whether the rules of the game may not be the problem? How is it

possible that a rhino can be worth more dead than alive? Rhino farmers are increasingly weary of buying new rhino as the cost of protection and security has increased dramatically. Conservation agencies are not allowed to benefit from the value of the horns of animals dying a natural death and thus invest scarce resources into the future of the species. Legal trading of rhino horn is banned but the illegal trade across international boundaries seems to flourish?

It is a privilege to write the foreword to this valuable publication. My intention is to advance the debate on the best route towards protecting the future of the rhino in Southern Africa, and ultimately Africa. The statistics indicate that current solutions are not working which leads me to believe that we all now need to work together towards a common solution. Hopefully then statistics will reverse in favour of our rhinos. The potential solutions are all complex and carry substantial risk. It is not a situation that is conducive to easy solutions. But one thing I am sure of - we need a reliable and effective management system so that the exact state of the rhino population is known and key trends can be tracked. The authorities must have the information to guide their decision-making on a day to day basis. It is also important to be able to link poachers with crime scenes and have solid evidence that can withstand scrutiny in court. This could only be possible through the rapid expansion of the Rhino DNA Index System (RhODIS) established at the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory (Onderstepoort) at the University of Pretoria.

I am very excited about my partnership with the South African Breweries and our joint effort to set up the SAB Boucher Conservation Trust and launch the “Rhino in Safe Hands Campaign”. We need more partnerships like this and I would like to encourage each and every reader of this book to work together for the day where illegal poachers will be the losers and the rhino will be the winner.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mark Boucher". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and date.

Mark Boucher  
February 2013.

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The threat facing the rhinoceros population is a major concern to all who are serious about conservation and sustainable development. The inside cover pages of this publication show the trends in the rhinoceros populations over the past decades. These figures tell a sobering story about a magnificent species that is under serious threat.

The prospect of the rhinoceros facing extinction twice in my lifetime is hard to grasp. Despite the dedicated efforts of the conservation authorities and private game farmers, the situation seems to be increasingly worse for the rhino. This book demonstrates the enormous and heroic efforts of those responsible for bringing the rhino back to life when it was faced with near-certain extinction not so long ago. The book also outlines some of the essential decisions and actions required to turn the situation around today. I would like to encourage all those who are serious about saving the rhinoceros to engage and debate the potential solutions.

The South African Breweries (SAB) is pleased to support this book as one of the many worthwhile efforts to conserve our country's natural environment. The company has a history of more than a century in the country, based on our commitment to deliver superior value to South African consumers, retailers and society. For us the *rhino is symbolic of the value of the natural environment*. As such, we are very proud of SAB Boucher Conservation, our rhinoceros protection partnership with Mark Boucher as one of the country's top international cricketers. His close association with Castle Lager over more than a decade also underpins the "Rhino in Safe Hands" campaign.

At SAB we take our leadership role in the country both seriously and quite personally. Because for us, South Africa is not a market. South Africa is our home, and part of who we are.



NJ Adami  
March 2013





# CONTENTS

Foreword	
1. History of rhinoceros conservation in SA – <i>J.G. du Toit</i>	1
2. Norms and Standards – law enforcement in SA – <i>J.G. du Toit</i>	5
3. Current utilization of rhinoceroses in South Africa – <i>J.G. du Toit</i>	13
4. Problems in rhinoceros conservation – <i>J.G. du Toit</i>	19
5. Capture and transport of white rhinoceroses – <i>J.G. du Toit</i>	27
6. Rhinoceros subspecies – <i>W. Daffue</i>	35
7. DNA as a tool in rhinoceros conservation – <i>C. Harper</i>	43
8. Corporate Environmental Responsibility – <i>J.G. du Toit &amp; A. Fourie</i>	49
9. Ranching for rhinoceros horn – a commercial exercise – <i>A.S. Gourwss</i>	57
10. Local communities as rhinoceros ranchers – <i>J.G. du Toit</i>	65
11. Role players in rhinoceros conservation – <i>A.J. Hall-Martin</i>	71
12. The white rhinoceros population in the Kruger National Park during the 1900's – <i>S.C.J. Joubert</i>	79
13. Mortalities in white rhinoceros – <i>J.G. du Toit</i>	89
14. Rhinos Alive – A hunter's perspective – <i>H. Els</i>	95
15. Fundraising in rhinoceros conservation – <i>J.G. du Toit</i>	101
16. Economics – the value chain of horn – <i>F. van Niekerk</i>	107
17. Dehorning of a rhinoceros – <i>J.G. du Toit</i>	115
18. Pharmacology and rhinoceros horn – is it working? – <i>J.G. du Toit</i>	
19. The bare foot game ranger from Zululand – <i>J.V. Clark</i>	
20. Hawks (Directorate Priority Crime Investigations - DPCI) – <i>J. Jooste</i>	
21. Chemical poaching – <i>J.G. du Toit, D.L. Snyman &amp; P.E. Bekker</i>	

---

- 
22. **Rhinoceros orphans as poaching victims** – *A.S. Gouws*
  23. **Stockpile management by KZN** – *KZN management team*
  24. **Environmental requirements of white rhinoceros** – *J.G. du Toit*
  25. **The White Rhinoceros and the Chinese Tiger** – *L. Quan*
  26. **Financial misconceptions of the rhinoceros industry** – *M. 't Sas-Rolfes*
  27. **Should the trade be legalised** – *J.G. du Toit*
  28. **Fundraising, an artist's contribution to rhinoceros conservation.**  
– *A.J. Fredriksson*
  29. **Using elephants to track rhinoceros poachers.** – *J.G. du Toit*
  30. **Owners story of a poached rhinoceros** – *C.W. Fowlds*
  31. **Proposal to CITES from the Balepye community to legalise the trade in rhinoceros horn**
-

# APPENDIX LIST

APPENDIX 1: LETTER TO PRESIDENT ZUMA. (J.G. du Toit, 2012)

APPENDIX 2: THE RHINOCEROS FARMER'S STATUTORY BURDEN. (I. du Toit, 2011)

APPENDIX 3: CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF WHITE RHINOCEROS. Adapted from J.G. du Toit (1998) and P. Morkel & A. Kennedy-Benson (2009)

APPENDIX 4: CODE OF PRACTICE HANDLING RHINOCEROS ORPHANS. (P. Nieuwoudt, 2012)

APPENDIX 5: CODE OF PRACTICE FOR GREEN HUNTING. (P. Bartels, 2009)

APPENDIX 6: SWOT ANALYSIS TRADE IN RHINOCEROS HORN. (J. Anderson, 2012)

APPENDIX 7: INCIDENT REPORT. (Col. J. Jooste, 2012)

APPENDIX 8: ACRONYMS

---

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to extend a special word of thanks to the co-authors who were willing to participate in this publication; Dr. William Fowlds, Mr. Andre Fourie, Mr. Andries Gouwss, Dr. Anthony Hall-Martin, Dr. Salmon Joubert, Dr. Herman Els, Mr. Frans van Niekerk, Mr. John Clark, Col. Johan Jooste, Mr. Lionel Snyman, Mrs. Pedro Bekker, Mr. Tony Fredricksson and Dr. Cindy Harper. These authors were willing to accept a sponsorship from SA Breweries to compensate them for their royalties and donate the profits of their work to the Mark Boucher Foundation.

SA Breweries, especially Mr. Andre Fourie and Mr. Norman Adami are thanked for their willingness to support Mark Boucher in his efforts to raise funds for the rhinoceros via the sales of this book.

Lauren Roderick and Donne Commins from Big Sports Management who arranged material of the Mark Boucher SAB rhino initiative for this book.

Mark Boucher, for the time and effort that he is prepared to put into rhinoceros conservation without any financial compensation. “Thank you Bouch” for helping with the dilemma of the rhinoceros and to changing the attitudes of people around the world. Your willingness to write the foreword of this book is much appreciated.

Unique photographs and artwork in the book was captured by dedicated conservationists, Prof. Fritz Eloff, Dr. Ian Player, Dr. Louis van Schalkwyk, Mr. Jakkie Ackermann and Mr. Jaan du Toit

A special work of thanks to Mrs Franso-Mari Olivier who edited the final script. The most difficult task was to create continuity between 14 authors.

Mr. Johan Olivier of Kejafa Publishers, thank you for your willingness to publish the book.

Last but not least to my family Birgit, Elke and Jaco who patiently bear with me while I was putting this book together.

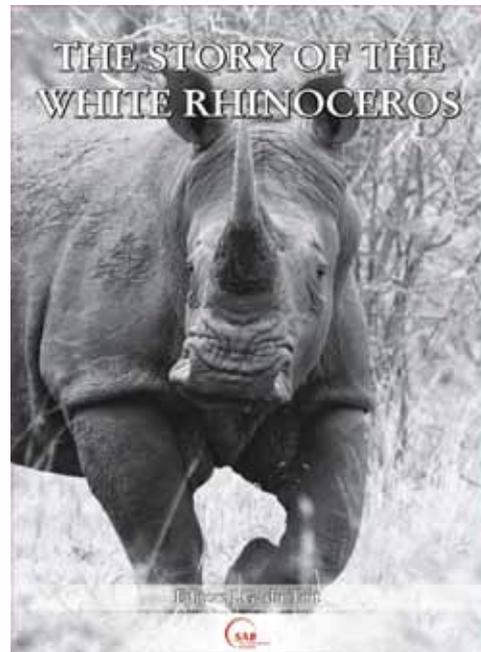
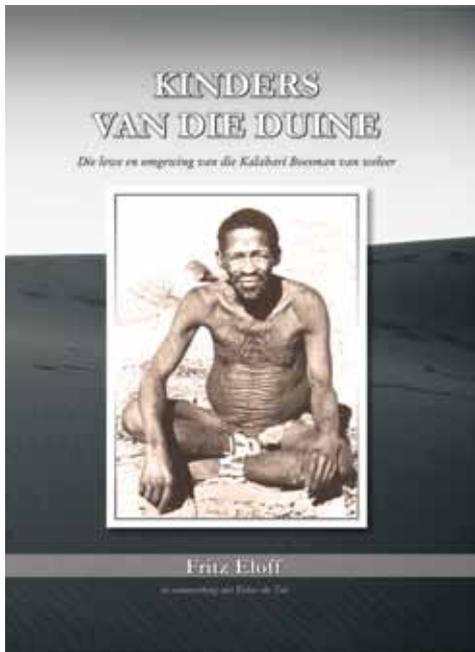


J.G. du Toit

Pretoria  
February 2013

---

# WILDLIFE SERIES OF AFRICAN STORIES



- Volume 1: Kinders van die duine – F.C. Eloff**  
**Volume 2: The story of the white rhinoceros – J.G. du Toit (Editor)**