



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022 RHINO MONTH



SAVE RHINOS, TO SAVE PEOPLE, TO SAVE TOMORROW



NEW RESCUE: MAVIC, 6-7 MONTHS OLD

It was early evening on Tuesday 30th August 2022 when Care for Wild received notification from the Sabi Sand Nature Reserve about an orphaned rhino calf. Security drone footage had captured a small calf walking alone. The onsite ground team confirmed the calf to be from a rhino cow killed by poachers the previous Saturday; the Sabi Sand team had been searching for her baby ever since.

The small calf had already been without milk and protection for 3 days and was quickly growing weaker. Despite finally locating the calf, concern was growing rapidly as it was already dark, and the rescue helicopter was unable to fly. The team were fearful the young rhino might not survive another night in an area full of hyena clans and lion prides. Determined to save this precious life, the Sabi Sand team launched a full-scale protection and monitoring program to ensure the calf remained safe. Several DJI Mavic drones kept watch 20m above him and as each battery began to drain, another drone took its place. The team flying the drones never lost sight of the little rhino and by first light, he was safe and unharmed.

The Care for Wild team had departed from the sanctuary in the early hours of the morning and joined the Sabi Sand team as the sun rose. The helicopter took off, expertly flown by pilot Jana Meyer and carrying Veterinarian Dr Joel Alves to dart the calf. After he was darted, the ground team moved in and carried the baby on a stretcher to Care for Wild's transportation crate. He was hypothermic and severely dehydrated but otherwise unharmed. He was given intravenous fluids which continued throughout his journey back to Care for Wild.





On arrival at Care for Wild's Intensive Care Unit, the small calf was weighed, and blood samples were taken for analysis. Caregivers identified eye ulcers which were then treated accordingly. A blindfold and ear plugs were applied to reduce stimulation and stress. He was given rectal fluids to quickly aid his hydration and intravenous fluids continued as he was settled into the warm ICU. Caregivers worked around the clock to stabilise their newest patient. Slowly his temperature began to climb but he was very tired and slept deeply for the first 6 hours.

It is important to remember that every rhino orphan is different, and their rehabilitation journeys are as equally unique. We must never underestimate the physical and psychological trauma that these orphans endure. From witnessing and hearing the brutal and horrific deaths of their mothers, to fighting for their lives, starving, alone and afraid. Every rhino matters. Every calf rescued is a miracle and it most certainly takes a dedicated team to save them. In recognition of the efforts to save this little orphan, the Sabi Sand Nature Reserve team asked to give him the name, Mavic.



As Mavic began to wake, staff offered him his first bottle of milk. He drank ravenously and fell asleep again. This process continued over the next 48 hours with the young calf drinking every 2-3 hours through the day and night. Mavic was very calm and very quiet. He didn't call or make any noise at all, and it quickly became apparent that he was still 'hiding'. Mavic was very scared and very afraid but as he grew accustomed to the smell and taste of the milk, he began to relax and make a positive association with his caregivers.

Caregivers began the process of desensitisation and gently rubbed his face and front legs as he drank. He took great comfort in this contact. As caregivers worked to earn his trust, they removed the first earplug. Now Mavic was able to associate the sound of their voices with milk. Caregivers also played him music as a way of creating a stable environment without sudden noises that might startle him.

In order to give Mavic more space and to bring him closer to the other rhino orphans, caregivers moved him from the ICU and down to the bigger bomas just 3 days after he arrived. Once settled in his new nightpen, caregivers removed his blindfold and last ear plug. He was very nervous but retained the positive association of his caregivers' voices and music. His favourite song became Riptide by Vance Joy! Caregivers were able to apply drops to his eyes as he drank his milk.

With new confidence and his caregivers by his side, Mavic took his first steps out into the bigger boma. But the big wide world was too much for the little calf. He was still very afraid and stayed close to his caregivers. He growled at the other orphans through the fence and ran away to hide.



Over the next few days, caregivers spent time introducing Mavic to fellow orphans Shiloh and Aquazi through the boma poles. Over time and with repeated exposure, Mavic began to trust his neighbours and after 3 days, he began to call to them. Shiloh and Aquazi answered back, and caregivers opened the gate to allow them to meet properly.

The older orphans never cease to amaze us. Their patience, their empathy, their compassion, and their gentleness. It's an unspoken connection to a shared and devastating past. A glimpse into the emotional intelligence of a gentle giant. That was the moment. One of the most important milestones in Mavic's rehabilitation journey. The second when caregivers released the breath they were holding in since he arrived. For the first time since he felt the warm skin of his mother, little Mavic found peace next to Shiloh and Aquazi.

Mavic followed his new friends everywhere. Over the following week, Mavic began to settle into life with his new family. He found comfort and acceptance and was no longer afraid. He found compassion and peace. He is the first of the trio to come running for his bottle at feeding time! Mavic is still in the very early stages of rehabilitation. He will drink milk for another 10-11 months before being weaned. Now that he is settled in a rhino crash, he will remain with his friends throughout the rehabilitation process and will one day enter the rewilding and reintroduction program. He will become the rhino he was always supposed to be and will go on to secure the future of his species.



HORN TRIMMING, ANOTHER LAYER OF SECURITY

Earlier this year, the CRAFTY 6 underwent their first horn trimming. This month another group of rhinos also had their horns trimmed as part of another layer of security at Care for Wild.

Wildlifevets.com, the Wildlife Management Team from Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) and SANParks joined the Care for Wild team for routine horn trimming. Horn trimming (previously known as dehorning) has become a widely used and successful strategy for deterring poachers and poaching attempts. We would all love to live in a world where this practice was not necessary but with poachers continuing to slaughter rhinos to supply an illegal trade in horn, every means possible must be undertaken to protect this species.

The rhinos are darted and immobilised by a registered veterinarian. An experienced team monitor breathing and oxygen levels throughout the procedure. A blindfold and earplugs are applied to reduce stimulation and to protect their eyes from sunlight and dust. The horn is then marked above the base before being trimmed with a chainsaw. The rough edges are then smoothed with a grinder to prevent injuries to the other rhinos in the crash. The horns remain the property of SANParks or MTPA and are immediately removed from the Care for Wild premises. All of the rhinos who underwent horn trimming are doing well.





COMMUNITY ELDERS VISIT FOR WORLD RHINO DAY

A smile is one of the most wonderful and beautiful sights in the world!

As part of World Rhino Day and South Africa's Heritage Day, we invited the community elders to visit Care for Wild. This humble and wise generation of grandparents and great-grandparents are important role models and respected figures within the community. With some parents working far away and some children left orphaned, many of this incredible generation are raising and educating several children at home. For many, it was their first time seeing a rhino. They listened avidly as Petronel and Thulilie explained the rhino orphans' stories and how we can help save and protect our heritage for future generations. So many smiles all day!





THANK YOU DARREN & ANNA GOUGH UK GOLF DAY & GALA DINNER

Postponed from its original date due to Covid, this hugely successful UK-based fundraiser and awareness event finally came to fruition during World Rhino Month.

Guests were invited to a relaxed and fun morning and afternoon of golf at the prestigious Shire London Golf Club, hosted by Darren Gough and friends. The day was followed by a gala dinner, sparkling drinks reception and a delicious three-course meal. Hosted by Darren and Anna Gough, the evening proceeded with live entertainment and included traditional South African sounds.

Care for Wild's Founder and CEO, Petronel Nieuwoudt presented to the audience and answered questions before a live auction to raise funds commenced. This incredible event raised over £120,000!

We would like to say a huge thank you to Darren and Anna as well as the UK team. We would also like to extend our most heartfelt thanks and acknowledgement to the guests and sponsors including:



NICK BOYLE, JEWSONS
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THANK YOU LVM

We would like to say a very special thank you to LVM Versekeringsmakelaars BK in Nelspruit who once again, have sponsored Care for Wild's World Rhino Day T-shirts. This year's design featured a beautiful word cloud rhino.

Thank you so much for your support again this year.



THANK YOU WALDO FREESE

Another very special thank you to Waldo Freese for his donation of Bravecto parasite control for the dogs of the K9 Unit.

Moving into the summer months, flea and tick numbers will become more prevalent and so preventative care is essential.



THANK YOU BLANKETS FOR BABY RHINOS

Thank you also to Blankets for Baby Rhinos for their donation of \$1000 for milk for our newest arrival, little Mavic.

Thank you for always supporting the orphans in need.

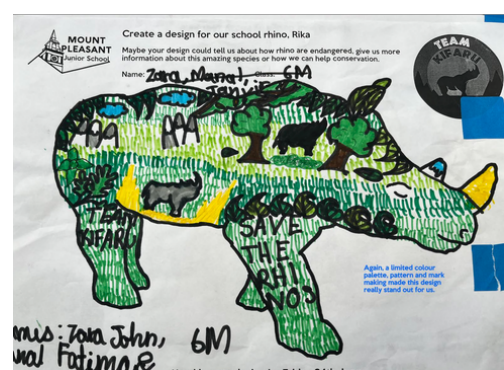
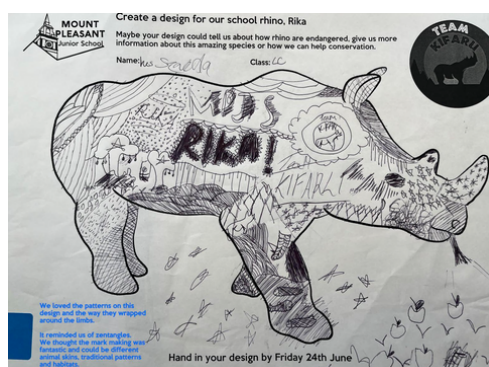
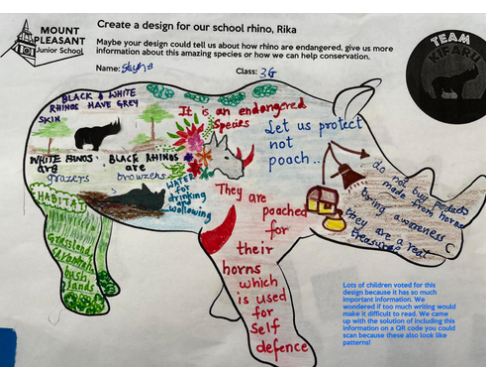


THANK YOU TO THE INCREDIBLE MOUNT PLEASANT JUNIOR SCHOOL, SOUTHAMPTON, UK

Earlier this year, Care for Wild UK's ambassador Amanda Smith visited Mount Pleasant Junior School in Southampton. She discovered a group of young children who were so excited and passionate about saving rhinos and helping Care for Wild. They decided to create a special event for World Rhino Day and began preparations.

Year 3 looked at the work of Care for Wild and Amanda gave talks and showed videos on the rescue, rehabilitation and release of rhino orphans. She also read Arthur the Brave's children's storybook. Year 4 researched facts about rhinos, population numbers, different species, habitats and why the rhinos is a keystone species. They also looked at the work of wildlife rangers. Year 5 researched reasons as to why the rhino species is so threatened and year 6 discussed effective rhino conservation and protection.

On World Rhino Day, the whole school came together to watch a video message from Petronel, Daisy and Modjadji. They also raised money to help support Daisy's care. World Rhino Day was also the official unveiling of their giant rhino Kifaru. The students had all submitted designs throughout the year before the final design was painted. The rhino also features a QR code to support Care for Wild. We are so grateful and so proud of these school students all the way in the UK. At such a young age they are already showing the world that it doesn't matter from where you come from, we can all play an important role in protecting rhinos and our futures.



THANK YOU

WITH DEEPEST GRATITUDE, THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR THE AMAZING SUPPORT OF THE INDIVIDUAL RHINOS, ANTI-POACHING, AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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UNITED KINGDOM - DONATIONS & ADOPTIONS

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