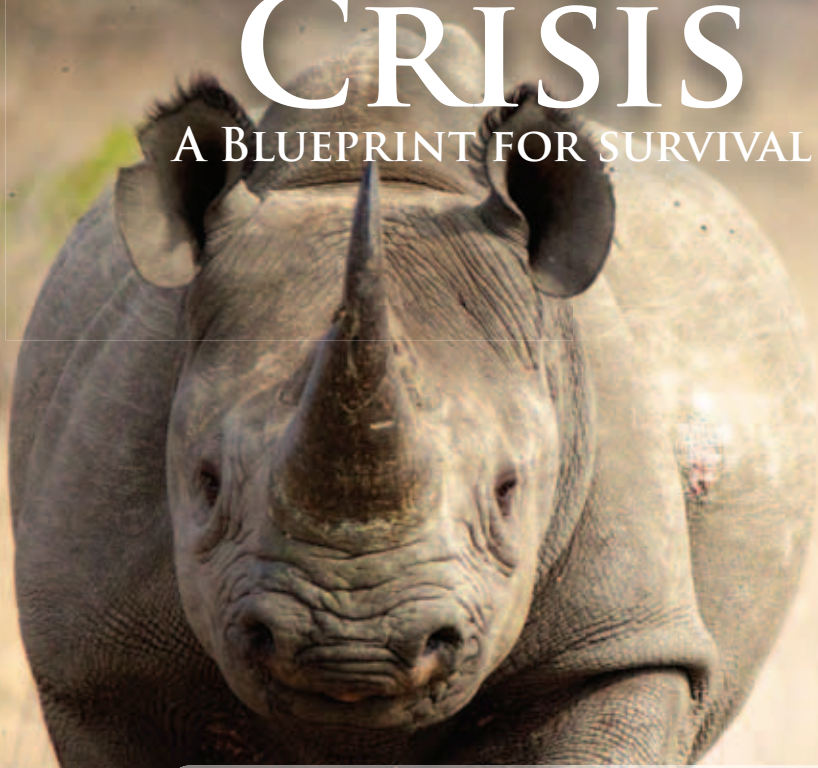


Announcement of Special Event -  
Documentary Film Premiere

# RHINO IN CRISIS

A BLUEPRINT FOR SURVIVAL



**DATE: WED, 5 NOVEMBER 2014**

**VENUE: FERN HILL HOTEL**

**TIME: 18:30 TO 21:00**

**COST: R50 PP**

**POPCORN AND PIZZA WILL BE PROVIDED**

**CASH BAR AVAILABLE**

**DONATIONS TOWARDS**

**RHINO CONSERVATION WELCOME**

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL VIA FREYNI DU TOIT**

**INFO@GRASSLAND.ORG.ZA OR SMS TO 083 256 7202 BY 2 NOV**



This film examines the background to man's relationship with nature in Africa in the pre-colonial era, the emergence of formal protectionist policy structures and the growing alienation of poor rural communities from the age old sustainable relationships they formerly enjoyed with wildlife resources. Evidence is produced to show that the current rhino poaching crisis is but a symptom of this imbalance which owes its genesis to the disruption of these ancient ties. It is a process that has seen rural communities relegated largely to the role of bystanders to a strict Eurocentric vision of African wildlife as a scientific and recreational curiosity protected under an international ban that has failed to achieve its objective.

## **Expert opinion is featured in the film directed at showing:**

- How in South Africa –and in other countries in the South - the adoption of liberal policies conferring economic value on and ownership of wildlife produced a remarkable recovery of wildlife assets on marginal private land throughout the country.
- The mutual economic partnership between the formal and private wildlife conservation sectors as these policies took effect over 50 years ago as surplus stock was sold as an investment to private buyers engaged in a wide range of profitable sustainable-use programmes ranging from passive to consumptive use.
- The tragic exclusion of rural communities from this highly successful process that continues to this present day contributing to an environment eminently suitable for criminals intent on recruiting poachers.
- How a small window of opportunity presently exists to redress these structural defects of policy by engaging in a strictly regulated international trade in rhino horn that will assist in financing the development of community conservation areas in buffer areas surrounding formally protected areas, some engaging in intensive farming of rhino and the harvesting of horn as demonstrated in a number of projects.
- Opinion as to how this legal trade could be made to function, some based on previous experience in scarce commodity trading, as well as current insights as to how best a regulated trade under strict control should operate.
- The urgent need to supplement the budgets of protected areas in order to equip both state and private authorities to combat poaching through the proceeds from a sustainable legal trade in horn.

Production of the film has spanned a period of almost 2 years and in the process interviews have been conducted with more than 30 acknowledged experts, leaders, conservationists, affected community members and activists who all share a common belief in the conservation of our wildlife by policies promoting their sustainable use through a variety of economic activities, including trade. The film also examines historical success stories and failures in wildlife conservation throughout Africa and in other parts of the World.

## **List of experts that appear in the documentary**

1. Dr. Bandile Mkhize. CEO Ezemvelo
2. Dr. Michael Norton-Griffiths. Kenyan Wildlife economist.
3. Professor Brian Child. Associate professor University of Florida.
4. Professor John Hanks
5. Chief Ephraim Mhaule of the Nkambeni people.
6. Mr. Mhlolo Mathabela. Amashangana Traditional Council.
7. Ms. Constance Khosa. Rhino ambassador.
8. Mr. Gary Ralfe. Ex-managing director De Beers Central Selling Organisation.
9. Dr. George Hughes. Ex CEO Ezemvelo.
10. Dr. Gert Dry. President Wildlife Ranching South Africa.
11. Dr. Ian Player. Operation Rhino.
12. Mr. Rahman Devduth. Ezemvelo.
13. Ms. Pamela Cele. Resource Africa.
14. Professor John Donaldson. Chairman of SANBI.
15. Mr. John Hulme.
16. Mr. Pelham Jones. Chairman of Private Rhino Owners Association.
17. Professor. Rowan Martin. Ex-deputy director Zimbabwe National Parks.
18. Mr. Jujak Khosa. Rhino Ambassador.
19. Professor Shane Mahoney. IUCN
20. Mr. Jullian Sturgeon. Executive Director Resource Africa.
21. Mr. Michael 't Sas-Rolfes. Wildlife economist.
22. Mr. Michael Eustace. Asset manager.
23. Mr. Chris Schalkwyk. General manager, Nkambeni Safari Camp.