

Local initiative helps to stop rhino population back-TRECIing

Since starting the five-star Tintswalo Lodge Collection in 2003, Gaye and Ernest Corbett have always adhered to the principle that their lodges should be a part of their surroundings not an infringement. At Tintswalo Safari Lodge, part of this means careful stewardship of their surroundings and most notably their rhino population, which is why they started the Tintswalo Rhino Extreme Campaign (TREC) earlier this year.

“South Africa has seen an escalating assault on its rhino population in the last three years and we are now facing the highest level of poaching of rhino horns we’ve ever seen. The alarming figure is currently at over 350 rhinos already poached this year, that’s more than two rhinos a day!” says Ernest.

As part of this initiative, TREC has partnered with the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA) and Game Reserves United (GRU), in order to help protect the rhino in the nearby Manyeleti Game Reserve and Western Kruger National Park. Further, rangers from Tintswalo Safari Lodge, Fritz Breytenbach and Rudi Venter are walking 1,000km to help increase awareness of the massacre of the rhino population in Southern Africa.

“The concept came about after we had several rhinos poached on our own property and realised that we needed to add our voice to increase the awareness of the dire situation that the rhinos are in. There are very few endangered animals left in the rest of Africa and our rhinos are being put under extreme pressure of extinction. So much so it is estimated that by the year 2020 if they are killed at the current rate, there will be no more rhinos left,” explains Gaye.

As part of the project, world renowned cinematographer, Steven Lyon, and his team have also been filming the progress of the journey in order to put together a documentary about TREC’s efforts to help save the local rhino population.

TREC is committed to helping to raise sufficient funds so that they can fully support GRU in their initiative to reverse the current trend of rhino deaths by placing teams on the ground to combat poachers. Further, the campaign is also engaging with local communities to ensure they fully understand the importance of preserving South Africa’s rhinos.

“We would like South Africans to realise the issue of a planet where there are no more rhinos. If our society doesn’t wake up and do something about this pandemic, then this could very soon be a reality. Our goal with TREC is to make a variable difference to the rhino population and do whatever we can to

help save these majestic creatures. But in order to make the greatest impact, we need your support," concludes Ernest.

For more information about how you can become a TREC supporter or sponsor, contact TREC directly on +27 15 793 9015 or email them at trec@safari.tintswalo.com. If you would like to sponsor the campaign contact Yvonne@tintswalo.com or call 082 602 3042.

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