

ON A MISSION FOR RHINOS!

GAME ranger Fritz Breytenbach is always ready to go the extra mile for rhinos.

In fact, he's walked more than 1 000km ~~continuously~~ against the poaching of these magnificent beasts.

Fritz, head ranger at Tintswalo Safari Lodge in Manyeleti, Mpumalanga, kept marching after reaching the 1 000km mark on 10 July.

His walk is part of the Tintswalo Rhino Extreme Campaign, the initiative he started to conserve rhinos.

Walking through the Manyeleti Private Game Reserve is certainly no walk in the park," he said.

"It is much harder than I expected.

"One has to be mentally strong and physically prepared for such an expedition.

During his big walk he came across most of the big five animals on foot.

He also had a scary run-in with the venomous black mamba, which left him with torn ligaments.

"I was certain I would be advised to stop walking for several weeks, which was unthinkable," he said.

"I am still going strong and

will keep walking until people fully understand the importance of preserving South Africa's rhinos and the role that everyone can play in protecting these creatures," Fritz said.

According to the Department of Environmental Affairs, more than 500 rhinos have been poached in South Africa since January.

The campaign is supported by Shout SA.

It's an organisation that raises awareness of rhino conservation and supports rangers in protecting rhinos in the Manyeleti Game Reserve and nearby Kruger National Park.

The musicians Danny K and Kabelo Mabane are the founders of the organisation and promote the campaign.

They have also undertaken to participate in one of the walks.

Danny K said: "What really woke me up for us was the fact that Fritz was willing to walk the talk literally.

"If he was committed to 1 000km, the least we could do in assist was lend our voices in support."

Tintswalo Lodge's Michoué du Plessis said the backing of public figures is crucial to spread the message. **SAFARI**



Tintswalo Safari Lodge head ranger Fritz Breytenbach tells children about rhino poaching.