

Still TREC-ing after 1,000km

Most people wouldn't voluntarily walk 100km, never mind 1,000km, but then again Fritz Breytenbach isn't most people. On the 1st of May, Breytenbach, Head Ranger of Tintswalo Safari Lodge, committed to walking 1,000km as part of the Tintswalo Rhino Extreme Campaign (TREC), in order to raise awareness of the plight of the rhino.

Reaching his target in on July 10th, an inspired Breytenbach has now taken the decision to continue walking, allowing him to share his message with more people in the local communities.

Breytenbach explained the change in plans. "Along my journey I've learnt that awareness in rural communities, especially amongst the youth, is lacking. In response to this, I want to continue engaging with the locals to ensure they fully understand the importance of preserving South Africa's rhinos and the role that they can play in protecting these incredible creatures."

TREC has partnered with Game Reserves United (GRU), having received endorsement from the Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa (WESSA), to help protect the rhino in the Manyeleti Game Reserve and Western Kruger National Park.

Studies have shown that boots on the ground remains the most effective way of fighting the plague of rhino poaching and Breytenbach is committed to helping raise funds to support GRU's initiative, which places rangers in the field to combat poachers.

Breytenbach's walk has not only raised awareness about poaching and the state of the dwindling rhino population in rural communities, but has served as a call to action for the general public. His bold effort to save the rhino has earned him supporters around the world.

Breytenbach concludes that raising awareness on its own is not enough to end the scourge of rhino killings. "The plight of the rhino has been brought to our attention so that we can do something about it and that is why I endeavoured to walk the 1,000km so that others may be inspired to take action.

"A rhino cannot ask you to donate your time and money towards saving their future, but together we can make a difference by funding better resources to combat poaching in South Africa."

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 Gerdi Swanepoel at owners@tintswalo.com.

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Words: 396

Issued by : Chantal Riley
PR Worx
011 896 1818
Chantal@prworx.co.za

On behalf of : Gaye Corbett
Tintswalo Property Group
011 300 8700