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December, 2012

Dear Friends,

The Board of Trustees of the Chiredzi River Black Rhino Charitable Trust (CRBRCT) wishes each of you reading this Newsletter a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing many of you at the SCI Convention January 23-26, 2013 in Reno, Nevada. We will be joining Rob and Barry Style at the Buffalo Range Safaris Booth # 1452. If you are unable to attend the SCI convention, please contact any of the Trustees to express your comments or answer any questions you might have.

We will be hosting our annual fundraiser starting at 7:00 PM on Thursday January 24, 2013. This year's event will be at Pinocchio's Bar and Grill located at 5995 S. Virginia St. Reno, NV 89502 (south of the Reno Convention Center on Virginia Street). The \$75.00 per person charge will include a buffet, two drinks, and lots of camaraderie. Raffle tickets can be purchased in advance or at the event. We will again have several quality items and a few hunts including a plains game hunt in South Africa, donated by Bossie Mostert of Limpopo Big Game Safaris and a Cape Buffalo hunt on the Chiredzi River Conservancy donated by Buffalo Range Safaris and the Chiredzi River Conservancy (CRC).

The Board of Trustees and Barry and Rob Style sincerely thank each and every one of you for your continued financial support in the wildlife conservation efforts on the CRC. This year we were also supported by the SCIF Conservation Committee and the Mzuri Wildlife Foundation with generous grants. The financial support to the CRBRCT exceeded \$46,000 in 2012. These funds once again were used entirely for conservation efforts with less than 3.5% taken out for overhead expenses.

2012 has been a very challenging year for the Chiredzi River Conservancy (CRC) as well as Zimbabwe's other major Wildlife Conservancies. Many of you are well aware of the political turmoil the country has experienced but, thanks to your generous financial backing, we are proud to report that the challenges have been overcome. With your continued support, the CRC will remain a model for wildlife conservation. We will outline a portion of the accomplishments that certain members of the CRC, together with the game scouts, who are dedicated to our mission have achieved:

1. To start we wish to pass along to you the first paragraph of a letter received from Pat Cooley on July 12, 2012. "As all of you know I have just returned from a very successful trip to Buffalo Range and was able to spend lots of time in and around the Conservancy. I was completely amazed at the improvements and the condition of everything compared to my last trip in 2005. Barry and his crew have done an amazing job of fixing and protecting all areas within the properties. It is a wonderful experience to see the elimination of much of the poaching activities as compared to my previous trips. It is apparent that the local authorities in the Game Department have done a lot and continue to support the anti-poaching activities of Barry, his managers and the game scouts. In 10 days of walking in and around the Conservancy we only found 10 or so snares and all of them were several years old. On my previous trip we collected at least 150 and most of those were active or newly placed. Barry also confirmed that the Game Dept has been more responsive to his needs and requests. The amount and diversity of game that we saw is incredible."

Nick visited the CRC shortly after Pat's visit and can only ditto his report.

2. Villagers from surrounding communities, in conjunction with local leaders and representatives from the Ministry of Lands, attempted to occupy the core wildlife area on Ruware, one of the key properties in the CRC. This prompted Barry and the legitimate shareholders of Ruware to pursue legal action against the invasion. After several weeks that turned into months Barry's efforts have proven successful in preserving the natural habitat and multitude of wildlife species on the CRC from being eradicated by "settlers". In accordance with the High Court ruling the Deputy Sheriff is instructed to evict all the people that have settled in the wildlife block and remove their possessions and structures. Furthermore, the authorities are ordered to desist from allocating any portion of the wildlife block on Ruware. This is obviously a powerful legal document that will hopefully prevent further threats to the game populations and environment in the Conservancy. A portion of the expenses in this effort were paid for by the CRBRCT, thanks to your donations.
3. The CRBRCT now sponsors 12 of the 26 Game Scouts deployed in the CRC. Our scouts have become loyal, well trained units that continually patrol ever increasing wildlife areas of the CRC discouraging poaching and conducting wildlife surveys. During my visit to the Conservancy in July, it was a pleasure to see the scouts looking very professional dressed in their uniforms.

The completion of the two man barracks in the northeast corner of the buffalo preserve has enabled the scouts to perform extended patrols, including anti-poaching patrols during full moon periods, in this once vulnerably portion of the Conservancy.

4. The CRBRCT again sponsored stationery supplies for the local schools. We also purchased seven blackboards for one of the schools in the CRC so that each classroom would have one. The support we extend to the teachers, the children and their parents has enhanced relationships needed to promote wildlife conservation and protection of the

habitat vital for the survival of the wildlife. A special thanks to Virginia Shawver and Hogan MacCarty for their individual donations of school supplies.

5. Pat Cooley, Skip Tubbs and Carla Ohanesian each donated \$3,000.00 to the CRBRCT earmarked to purchase three breeding Cape Buffalo bulls for the Conservancy herd. This project has been completed with the help of Mark Saunders and the Malilangwe Wildlife Trust. Barry worked with the Malilangwe game biologists to select, capture and transport the three bulls to Ruware. This infusion of new bulls into the Ruware buffalo herd will greatly aid the herd's genetic diversity and trophy quality for future generations within the herd.
6. Virginia Shawver financed a solar system for the recharging of radio batteries at the remote but strategic scout camp at Dombodema.
7. Other donations to the CRBRCT include radios and other essential equipment essential for the anti-poaching efforts from Par Cooley. Jackets, hats, notebooks and a digital camera from the Ohanesians.
8. In a recent report to the Acting Director General of Zimbabwe's Parks & Wildlife Management Authority, Barry was able to reveal the following statistics on anti-poaching efforts in the CRC this year:

51 game & bird poachers arrested  
24 fish poachers apprehended  
112 poachers dogs destroyed  
36 fines issued for the illegal cutting of trees  
An estimated 200m of game nets confiscated and destroyed

The efforts being made by Theresa Warth, who is based at Wasara in the northern section of the CRC, and her team of 9 scouts must be acknowledged and highly commended. Theresa has been working tirelessly to protect the wildlife and environment in the northern section of the CRC, which includes the unsettled wilderness blocks on Rukatya and Oscro, with very little equipment and resources at her disposal.

There are a number of projects lined up for 2013 which the CRBRCT wishes to participate in. These include:

1. Repairs to the inner 5 strand fence around the perimeter of the Ruware buffalo preserve. In 2011, the CRBRCT financed the replacement of wire, posts and spacers on the outer fence. This has had a major impact on the protection of the buffalo and other species that reside within the block.
2. The construction of scout housing in various strategic locations in the CRC.
3. The repair of the borehole at Shamagona Dam which is a vital water source to wildlife in the core wildlife block on Ruware during the dry season.

4. The continued support to the communities surrounding the CRC with the purpose of establishing and maintaining good relations for the benefit of wildlife conservation.
5. The relocation of certain wildlife species in to the CRC. Malilangwe have already offered Barry some sable that they have available in their captive breeding paddock.

The CRBRCT also wishes to extend their financial support to include Theresa Warth's anti-poaching efforts in the northern section of the Conservancy. Theresa is desperate for financial assistance for her game scouts wages, uniforms and equipment. She also requires 4 radios, similar to the units donated to Barry's scouts, to improve communications with her scouts in the field.

Both Barry and Theresa have also mentioned the need for trail cameras that they can set up at water points and other locations to monitor game movements.

In closing, we once again thank all of you for your support and encourage you to visit our website at: [www.saveblackrhinos.com](http://www.saveblackrhinos.com). This site will be updated by January 1, 2013.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barry Style, PH, Director Chiredzi River Conservancy  
Nick Ohanesian, President, CRBRCT