

In the introduction to the article it was stated that 17 animals came from Solio; in fact 15 came from Solio. When the reserve was started there were 19 rhinos present: 15 from Solio, two from the Conservation Department and two survivors from the original park stock. The statement that 'a further 11 females are due to be added to the park shortly', is pure speculation. In fact 6 white rhinos had been promised by Mr Parfet, owner of Solio, for the Reserve, free, at a meeting held before any captures started, and of these, at this date two have arrived. The only person who might have had knowledge of future intentions was Dr Dieter Rottcher, who affected the captures, or the Director, and both were likely to be following my principle of saying as little as possible to reduce the risk of poaching.

On page 91 the figure quoted of 700 volts is inaccurate: around 7000 is aimed at, although often 3000 has to be accepted. Also on page 91 it was stated that rhinos were acclimatized in holding pens before being released into the sanctuary. In fact, all the rhinos caught at Solio were crate-trained there before being crated and released via a ramp directly into the sanctuary. The only rhinos kept in holding pens at Nakuru before release were animals that had been wounded in fights in the reserve or in transit and needed veterinary attention before release.

On page 93 it was stated that, 'The founding stock was deliberately kept low to encourage the animals to breed more freely'. This was never true for black rhinos, which were taken from anywhere all the time. As Warden I had to accept this because the alternative was that they would probably be poached. In fact, I instituted the capture of black rhino from an adjoining ranch, which was being taken over for settlement, and I managed to get the owner of Solio Reserve for the first time to take females only, by pointing out that the reserve already had too many males. The balance was moved to Aberdare Park because Solio already had the highest density of rhinos in Africa and they were degrading their own habitat.

On page 94 it was stated that 19 black rhinos were present at the time the article was

written, with one calf having been born since the sanctuary formed. This must be incorrect because there were 19 rhinos present as the founding stock and no death had been mentioned.

I enjoyed reading the article but was disappointed about the inaccuracies. I am aware that these were probably not the author's fault at all but that he was given false information by other people and that he did not check facts with those directly involved with the operations. I am still visiting and reporting on Nakuru for the Rhino Coordinating Officer of the Kenya Wildlife Service.

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Poisoning rhinos and tigers in Nepal

May I, on behalf of the International Trust for Nature Conservation, add a footnote to the interesting article by Esmond Bradley Martin, 'The poisoning of rhinos and tigers in Nepal' (*Oryx*, 26, 82–86).

He refers, in the section 'The future – funding', to a contribution made by this Trust towards efforts made in Nepal to combat the problem that he describes so eloquently. The sum he mentions is in fact a monthly payment, which we have made since January 1991 to the Warden of Chitwan National Park. This covers the costs of the special anti-poaching measures that he has introduced. In addition, the Trust has also undertaken to pay (via the Park Warden) a reward of Rs50,000 (about \$1675) to anyone providing information leading to the arrest of one or more poachers.

The ITNC is a private, non-member charity with a fairly low public profile in the UK but we have been actively involved in wildlife conservation for some years, particularly in Nepal. Among our past projects we supported Dr Laurie's study of the greater one-horned rhinoceros in the Chitwan as well as other research and campaigning activities focused on this species.

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