



Pongola Game Reserve

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Tanya Jacobsen
Campaign Manager

Comments on John Hume's Letter

Congratulations with a well written letter. I fully agree with everything said in John Hume's letter.

I further believe that it is time that all private rhino owners come out and publically air their opinions, even if many of our stories are quite similar.

Our reserve extends over 7000ha and my long term goal was to eventually build up a herd of 150 white rhino, which is within the carrying capacity of the reserve.

However the situation changed to the present scenario:

- a). I sold some white rhino and moved the remainder to a 1000ha section of the reserve for security reasons.
- b). I keep the numbers below 20.
- c). Presently I am considering selling all my rhino, something I did not even contemplate as an option before.

What are the reasons for this?:

- a). The cost of security, as well as the risk of losing millions overnight due to illegal hunting, result in rhino farming not being an attractive option anymore. I am surprised to learn of how many people in our area alone have sold all their rhino.
- b). Keeping rhino becomes less and less of a financially viable option. We keep rhino because we are conservation minded people, but at the same time the reality is we need to make money out of such an investment to survive in the business of conservation.

The present permit requirements, red tape and lengthy time frames, make it extremely difficult to hunt or move rhino, influencing the price and demand. I could not sell one rhino hunt this season, although I have too many males which need to be removed from the reserve.

c). Confidence in the future of private rhino ownership is problematic. I say this despite the good work of people like Pelham Jones and John Hume.

Will common sense prevail to allow controlled trade in rhino horn, which is the only long term solution to the survival of our rhino.

Maybe the answer is not to get out, but to fight for our right to decide for ourselves on how to manage the rhino we own.

Kind regards,

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