

***"IT IS NECESSARY ONLY, FOR THE GOOD MAN TO DO NOTHING FOR EVIL TO TRIUMPH
– Edmund Burke 1729-1797***

SEA – are the environmental agency behind the Green Tourism Business Scheme in the UK, Trees 4 Africa, and the European VISIT initiative has today awarded Save the Rhino with the Agency's first Black Flag award.



SAVE THE RHINO WINS BLACK FLAG AWARD

BLACKFLAG 001

FOR:

MISMANAGEMENT OF FUNDING AND CAMPAIGNING, MISINFORMATION AND THE THEFT OF GOODWILL- NOT FUNDING THE WORK DONE BY AFRICAN PARKS FOUNDATION IN GARAMBA WHICH LOST 12 RANGERS WHILST PROTECTING THIS WILDLIFE IN NOVEMBER 2005



Save the Rhino collected funds through the Travel Africa magazine last year and through a targeted campaign partly sponsored by Travel Africa magazine linked to a special subscription rate. Green Business UK helped promote the magazine Travel Africa over this period because of our role in the G8 summit held in one of our businesses, our connections with the National Park and the need to focus efforts on practical assistance to Africa.

The International Rhino Foundation were the agency looking after the park at that time and we are not sure if any funds collected by Save the Rhino were given to this organisation. Through personal communications with staff in their organisation we were told funding was being used in India, and on other projects.

In the recent annual report Save the Rhino highlight that they are withdrawing support for Garamba highlighting the animals were unprotected and that they hope the animals will survive when the park is actually being managed by the African Parks Foundation and the animals are being protected by a human shield of extremely brave Rangers and who lost 12 of their number defending the remaining animals from the Lords Resistance Army

In December the travel Africa magazine reported that in March 2005 Save the Rhino left the park when they have not being doing any protection work there. In August 2005 4 rhinos were observed this is surely a case for extreme efforts not for withdrawal.

Save the Rhino work with the annual "Douglas Adams memorial lecture" which collects funds and which was set up because of Douglas Adams trip to see these animals as part of the "last chance to see" radio 4 series back in 1989.

"I met Douglas Adams in Congo in 1989 and revisited the site in 1994 when the park was also under threat (see attached my Africa story) and I think it is a disgrace that charities should operate in this way" said Jon Proctor the Managing Director of the Agency.

"We have issued this award because as green tourism auditors we are focused on making a positive difference to the planet." In general our audits are focused businesses making positive contributions to a better more sustainable society. However we have felt forced to issue this award on this Charity due to their activities and misinformation. This is the first black flag award we have issued and will only issue such awards in extreme circumstances."

"The heart of darkness is not in Africa but in the hearts of people who would operate so corruptly" said Jon Proctor. "Save the rhino have a clear role to save the rhino. That they would try to export 5 rhinos from the park and then announce that the 10 remaining are an unviable population is a disgrace. I applaud Congolese Government for trying to preserve their natural assets and the local communities that are giving their lives to protect their wonderful heritage. This site is a world heritage site because of the Rhino's in the park and the animals should be preserved in their home. It is time to see this vision realised."

International Rhino Foundation Link

Here is the IRF press release:

African Parks Foundation (APF) will assume management of Garamba National Park under a 5-year agreement with the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). APF will provide roughly \$1.25 million per year for the program. This move is the latest attempt and probably last resort in a series of efforts over the last decade to try to save the Northern White Rhino (NWR) from extinction. For most of that period, IRF was a major partner in those efforts until rampant poaching and civil disorder overpowered existing human and financial resources and reduced the NWR to an estimated 5 to 10 rhino. A survey in August 2005 located only 4 rhino.

LRA Kill Congo Game Rangers
New Vision (Kampala)
November 3, 2005

THE Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels, who in mid-September crossed from southern Sudan to the DR Congo, have in their first attack on the local population killed 12 game rangers of the Garamba National Park.

Arua-based UPDF spokesman Capt. Anech Mubangizi said the rangers were killed last Monday, during a battle with the rebels, whom they had pursued for killing an elephant in the park on the Sudan-Congo border. "They (rangers) suspected that the elephant had been killed by poachers. Disregarding earlier reports that these were rebels, they attacked and unfortunately 12 rangers were shot dead in the crossfire," Anech said. It was difficult to establish whether the rebels had suffered any causality.

The over 200 rebels suspected to be under the command of LRA deputy chief Vincent Otti, are reported to have resorted to feasting on the game after failing to convince the local population to sell them food. It has also been hard for them to get food from across the Sudan border due to presence of a joint SPLA and UPDF force. This was the third elephant the rebels had killed in the park, where they acquired sanctuary.

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