

Project Update: April 2014

Hardly had the year begun, when our tracking team found a 21 month old rhino with a badly swollen ankle injury – inflicted by a poacher's snare. Due to rainy season conditions (i.e. vegetation maxima, limited vehicle access) and an especially alert mother, an elongated rescue campaign ensued. Our capture team – co-lead by Dr Salb of the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust and myself – finally managed to immobilise and treat the calf. Following a short induction phase, he reached complete anaesthesia in a small, overgrown gorge with mother awaiting his reappearance 200m away. Wounds were treated with various regimes of antiseptics and a massive dosage of antibiotics was administered. A VHF transmitter was fitted on.

We mounted another rescue operation to treat a 4-year old male rhino of his neck noose injuries last week. Snare was removed and his facial lacerations were treated. Both rhinos have good chance for a speedy recovery.



Left: Dr Salb treating the 4 years old snared male rhino. Right: 21 month old male rhino treated of his snare injury.