

## **MEDIA RELEASE - May 24, 2004**

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### **HAMA GETS USED TO AFRICA**

A black rhino named Hama is slowly getting used to Africa after being translocated from Germany to bomas at Skukuza in the Kruger National Park last week.

Hama, who was born in the Frankfurt Zoo three years ago, landed at Johannesburg International Airport on Wednesday last week (May 19, 2004) after a 14 hour flight from Germany, and endured a truck journey before she was released from her crate into one of the bomas.

"She looks fine," explained KNP Veterinary Surgeon Dr Peter Buss, "and is slowly starting to discover her feet in Africa."

Everything is new to her, including browsing off trees and experiencing the attentions of red-billed oxpeckers. She must also be weaned off her zoo diet of carrots, apples and lucerne in favour of a diet of leaves before she is released into the wild.

After her quarantine period of a month, Hama will be moved to Marakele National Park to help boost the population of black rhino there. She will actually join her sister - Akura - who was translocated two years ago and has already adapted to her environment so well that she has had her first calf.

This translocation was part of a project called "Animals back to Africa" which also saw the relocation of five black rhino to the Luangwa National Park in Zambia from the Kruger National Park last year. ***(Please click on the photo for a larger view)***



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