

The Izintaba Zobombo Expedition

Rhino poaching now also in their sights

Kingsley team heads for the hills

Dave Savides

Motivated by a number of causes and as a tribute to his late wife Gill ('Mashozi'), intrepid explorer Kingsley Holgate left from the Enseleni Nature Reserve on Monday to begin another epic adventure.

The Izintaba Zobombo Expedition is a 90-day, three-country journey to track, research and document the Lubombo range of mountains from Crooks Corner in the north of the Kruger National Park to KZN's historic Ghost Mountain in the south.

'Rich in legend and folklore, the mystical Lubombo range is somewhat of an untold story which our expedition hopes to bring alive with regular updates in the Zululand Observer,' said Kingsley.

'The journey will tell the story of the colourful early pioneers, hunters, game rangers and famous traders like the Rutherford family, who helped open up the area around Ghost Mountain and built the first roads and trading stations on the Makathini Flats, the coastal

plain that runs north into southern Mozambique.'

'Using adventure to improve and save lives', the Kingsley Holgate Foundation team will resume their regular humanitarian initiatives of malaria prevention, Rite to Sight (distributing spectacles) and water purification.

Anti-poaching

But this time they are also taking up the fight against rhino poaching, with Kingsley sharing South Africans' dismay as the epidemic has reached the shocking levels of one rhino being killed almost every day.

Land Rover South Africa has sponsored a big Land Rover Defender which has been branded with hundreds of

messages and signatures of solidarity in support of rhino protection.

A number of locals added their names and words of encouragement to the 'Rhino Landy' as the expedition headed north to the start point of the journey.

During the expedition this Landy will be used to conduct rhino conservation themed art competitions and 20-minute a side 'man of the match' soccer challenges to schools alongside rhino conservation areas.

Led by Cape Epic winner Mike Nixon, a dedicated mountain bike team will also cycle the entire Izintaba Zobombo expedition route.

'Future generations need to understand the need to protect the last of our rhinos - we need to get into more hearts and minds,' said Kingsley, who has been dubbed 'the most travelled man in Africa'.

The expedition will end on 19 June at the historic Ghost Mountain Inn at Mkuze in KZN, at which time the fully equipped anti-poaching Land Rover will be handed over to Project Rhino KZN as a dedicated Rhino protection and monitoring unit.

The Rutherford family will be hosting the end of expedition event and that night around the campfire KZN historian Ken Gillings will give a talk on the colourful history of the Ghost Mountain.

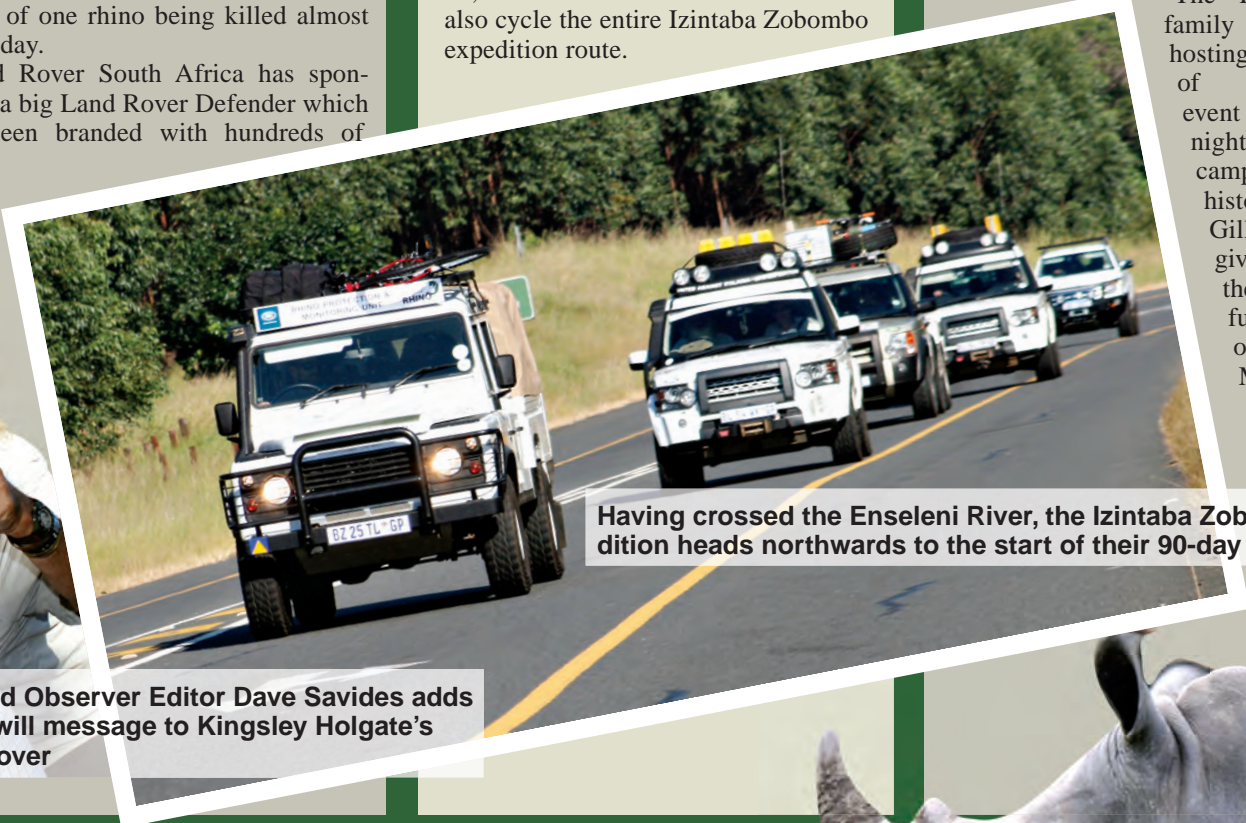


Photo by: Dave Savides

Local supporters, including Land Rover representatives and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife Enseleni Honorary Officers, were on hand to wish 'good luck' to the Izintaba Zobombo Expedition members - (back) Denis Botha, Liz Savides, Jasper Kaplan, Kingsley Holgate, Paul Gouge; (front) Mike Nixon, Hugh Roe, Marc Jason, Bruce Leslie, Wayne Ritchie, Neville Ritchie, Andre Bredenkamp and Nic Jordan



Zululand Observer Editor Dave Savides adds a goodwill message to Kingsley Holgate's Land Rover



Having crossed the Enseleni River, the Izintaba Zobombo Expedition heads northwards to the start of their 90-day adventure



Sad fact: 227 Rhinos killed in South Africa this year



The all-new Range Rover Sport

Driven to another level



ABOVE AND BEYOND

19 Maxwell Street, Empangeni • Tel: 035 772 3611 • Corne 084 505 8005 • Simon 083 318 2003 • Neville 082 441 9511