

tional Parks and Wildlife Conservation, taking over the helm from Dr Maskey. He did his bachelor's and master's degrees in botany in the USA. He was one of the key persons in establishing Makalu-Barun National Park. Recently he was faced with the difficult task of restoring security in Nepal's rhino areas after a spate of poaching caused by the political unrest of the last two years had reduced the number of rhino by about one-third.

None of these four were men of modest dreams. They envisioned vast landscapes in the eastern Himalayas region where corridors connected protected areas, spanned elevational gradients and transcended national boundaries. Above all, they also envisioned involving local people from the outset in planning these conservation areas, and in entrusting them with stewardship of managing these landscapes. Their vision was to fully integrate community-based conservation with contemporary conservation biology.

They were doers who served as the best role models for aspiring Asian conservationists. They could grasp new ideas and adapt them to local realities; they were willing to take risks and be on the leading edge

of conservation techniques. They cut through bureaucracy and red tape, ensured that field efforts were based on the best science, championed the causes of those living near parks, and charmed international donors into supporting their field programmes. They impressed everyone with their field experience and their professionalism.

Maskey used to say, 'If you are a friend of wildlife you are my friend.' He applied this to everyone, no matter what their country of origin. At the time of his death he was the Co-Chair of the Asian Rhino Specialist Group, thus assuming a leadership role to ensure the future of Asia's rhinos. Mingma and Chandra were committed to seeing the blueprints and foundations of the Sacred Himalayan Landscape and the Terai Arc Landscape, two big landscapes they championed nationally, regionally and globally to become a reality, and the successes achieved there are testament to their leadership.

Conservation and the large mammals of Nepal have lost four of their greatest friends and defenders. The world should honour them by picking up where they left off and completing their noble mission.

## Andries Marthinus (Clem) Coetsee

*13 May 1939–4 September 2006*

*Russell Taylor*

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A world without Clem is hard to believe. We all thought Clem would endure forever and that he was without time. This modest, unassuming man was unsparing of himself for the wildlife he loved and served so well. His commitment, dedication and compassion for both his fellowmen (especially children!) and the wildlife he worked so hard for are immeasurable.

Clem's outstanding and exemplary wildlife conservation career in the Zimbabwe Game Department and later the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management, began with Tsetse Control Operations in the early 1960s, in the Copper Queen and Gokwe areas of the Sebungwe District, south of the then newly filling Lake Kariba. With his brother Paul and others, he was responsible for large-scale game

control activities, and together these two men become legendary for their bushcraft and hunting skills.

Clem then moved closer to the Zambezi Valley, firstly to Mana Pools, his favourite and probably most loved station, and then in the early 1970s on to Matusiadonha Game Reserve, as it was then known. He was also intimately involved at this time with the early capture and translocation of black rhinos from newly settled areas in Binga and Gokwe. He continued with the early work of developing Matusadona National Park, which Rob Francis had so ably commenced at the end of the 1960s.

The next posting Clem took up was that of running the Game Management Unit at Umtshibi in Hwange National Park. Here he was responsible for

running game management operations across the country. It was here also that Clem perfected the art and science of large-scale elephant reductions, a task that no one ever enjoyed but which Clem, together with his team of young rangers, tackled with formidable energy and fortitude, but never without humour. Always with a twinkle in his eye, Clem's humour never failed to restore lagging spirits and morale when the going was tough.

During the severe droughts of the early 1990s, which were especially devastating in the south-east lowveld, Clem pioneered the mass capture, movement and translocation of live elephant herds, from

Gonarezhou National Park mostly to the Save Conservancy but also elsewhere, notably to South Africa. For these innovative and remarkable conservation efforts, Clem gained well-deserved international recognition.

Thereafter Clem left the Department of National Parks to run and manage his own game management business in the lowveld.

Clem Coetsee was, in every respect, a good man who will be sorely missed. Our deepest sympathies go to his wife, Em, daughter, Beth, son, Vicus, and his brothers, Paul and Vic, and sisters, Anne and Mimie, and all their families.