

# ROCK Steady!

Whether you are a retailer looking to increase your range of rocks, or a hobbyist looking for something that bit special, Savannah Rock have a huge variety on offer.

**R**ocks are an incredibly important part of any aquarium, whether you opt for just the one piece as a focal point, or in the case of a Malawi biotope, create a complete moonscape-type terrain. However, just like there are now hundreds of plant varieties to choose from, there is also a huge array of rocks. And Savannah Rock can point you in the right direction – whether you are looking for something with vivid colour, or a more natural hue.

The company has been importing and exporting semi-precious stones and water features to the UK's aquatic trade for four years now. This rock is sourced from southern Africa (Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia and South Africa) and Brazil.

With some of the African operations, emphasis is placed on fair trade, a system which commits buyers to providing fair wages and good employment opportunities.

For instance, the very popular Pagoda rock is mined completely under fair trade conditions, in which the local workers receive high wages and money is ploughed back into the land and community, improving

living conditions and standards.

Savannah Rock stresses that environmentally sound practices are carried out, and that the land is re-planted and viable once mining operations are complete.

Business partner Adrian Braham said: "This is very important to us, and we are actively trying to achieve complete fair trade practices, both in Africa and in Brazil."

## Safe for your tank

Marine biologists in Africa and Brazil test the rocks to ensure that they are fish-friendly and will not alter the water chemistry.

Adrian carries out further random checks here in England, just to keep on top of things.

The Southern African Aquatic Rock range includes Rose Quartz, Chalcedite, Lepidolite, Jasper, the quaintly named Elephant skin (desert rock which has been eroded by the elements) and the highly popular Pagoda stone. For Malawi tanks, for instance, the knarled limestone Cavitite makes a perfect choice. With a common name of Skull rock, you can pretty much figure out what they look like – kids love them!

Yet the company also offers semi-precious rock features. For example, their Rose Quartz features range from 25-5000kg! They have a 5½-tonne water feature in place at Blagdon, Somerset. This can be seen on Savannah's website.

There is also a unique range of pebbles and gravels – Red Flame Jasper, Rose Quartz, Aventurine, Ice Quartz. So no matter what your set-up, there will be a substrate to suit.

Savannah Rock also stock the highly versatile Mopane wood and Vine wood. Mopane wood is collected in southern Africa and come in sizes from 10cm/4" all the way up to 120cm/4'. For a different effect, have a look at Vine wood, which is also from Africa and ranges from 50cm/20" to 2m/6' 8".

To find your nearest stockist, please visit Savannah's website.

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