

PILANESBERG NEW HOME FOR BLACK RHINOS

Eight black rhinos *Diceros bicornis* were successfully translocated from the Umfolozi and Hluhluwe Game Reserve in Zululand to Pilanesberg Game Reserve in Bophuthatswana this year. These eight animals (5 males and 3 females) now bring the total number of black rhinos at Pilanesberg to 21, including two calves which have been born at Pilanesberg.

Special thanks are due to the Natal Parks Board which is subsidising heavily the black rhino introduction programme at Pilanesberg as a conservation measure for the species.

P. Hancock

CITES CONFERENCE IN BOTSWANA

The fourth meeting of the Conference of the parties to the Convention for International Trade of Endangered Species (CITES), was held in Gaborone, Botswana from 19-30 April.

Parties discussed the role of the Central African Republic in the ivory trade. Although all ivory leaving the country had valid export permits, the quantities involved are much greater than could be accounted for by the hunting quota. It seems likely that a lot of ivory may be imported without proper documentation and then re-exported. The Secretariat thought that this situation could apply in other States and asked for suggestions as to possible control measures. None was immediately forthcoming and the matter was referred to the Technical Committee (TEC).

Also discussed was the TEC document on Trade in African Elephant Ivory which addressed the concern of many Parties over the practicability or the usefulness of licensing all trade in worked ivory. Such a process imposes an extremely heavy administrative burden whilst, the Head of WTMU noted, the trade statistics for worked ivory are in any case useless for monitoring purposes. TEC proposed that: the only pieces of ivory that should be controlled in trade would be those weighing more than 1/2kg; that, in producing annual reports, Parties should indicate the numbers of substantially whole tusks in shipments and indicate the weights of consignments; and that the controls applying to personal effects (under Article VII para. 3) apply as strictly as possible but only in relation to items of more than 1/2kg. However, India noted (Doc. 4.23.1) that large consignments of very small pieces of worked African ivory were exported from India and might conceal Appendix 1 Asian ivory, so that licensing controls were necessary. India also claimed dependence on other Parties to detect illegal imports of worked Indian ivory in shipments of African ivory but noted it was impossible to tell the difference between them. The TEC proposal was rejected. A draft Resolution was presented by a number of African delegations, recognising the problems of India and proposing a phase-out of ivory trade with India so that, from 1 January 1986, no Party would permit the import of any ivory, worked or unworked, from India. The sponsors of this draft Resolution withdrew it without discussion and another Resolution was adopted (Conf. 4.14) which directed TEC to draw up guidelines for controlling the trade in worked ivory as quickly as possible.

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ZAMBIA ENACTS STRICTER LEGISLATION FOR IVORY AND RHINO POACHING

On 24th December 1982, by an Act of Parliament, Zambia introduced new and tougher penalties to counter the poaching of both elephant and black rhinoceros and the trafficking in their ivory and horns.

The new legislation entitled the National Parks and Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 1982 (Act 32 of 1982) amends the principal National Parks and Wildlife Act as follows:-

- (a) For the hunting, wounding, or molesting of any elephant or rhinoceros an offender receives imprisonment, without the option of a fine, for a term not exceeding ten years.
- (b) Similarly, the possession of, or selling, buying, importing or exporting of any prescribed trophy (which includes ivory and rhino horn) brings a first offender a fine not exceeding ten thousand kwacha or imprisonment not exceeding ten years or both fine and term of imprisonment, while for a person's second or subsequent such offence, the penalty is imprisonment, without the option of a fine, for not more than ten years.

P.S.M. Berry

PRESIDENT NYERERE LAUNCHES RHINO CAMPAIGN

A nation-wide campaign to save the rhino was launched by H.E. Dr. J.K. Nyerere, President of Tanzania, on 15th June 1983 at the College of African Wildlife Management, Mweka, Moshi at the climax of the College's 20th anniversary celebrations.

The campaign was launched in line with international public awareness on the plight of the black rhinoceros whose number has dwindled drastically in the last decade. By launching the campaign the Government of Tanzania joined forces with other nations as well as other leading conservation organizations in a coordinated emergency effort to save this magnificent species.

The campaign aims at educating the masses on the importance of conservation of rhinos and other species. The methods being applied include distribution of posters, radio programmes, newspaper articles, choir songs, film shows and music hits composed by local jazz bands. In addition, special "khangas" and T-shirts have been printed in an effort to bring the message home.

Mr. F.M.R. Lwezaula
Director of Wildlife

We welcome articles for the next newsletter. Articles should cover points of information, or topical interest, relevant to elephant and rhino conservation, and should be no longer than 1500 words. We will publish suitable black and white photos and graphics and may edit some articles. The deadline for submission to the next newsletter is June 1st 1984.

Lucy Vigne
Editor