



Tesco: putting the 'gross' into grocery shopping

Supermarket giant Tesco is turning its own animal welfare and corporate responsibility policies into a farce by selling live turtles, frogs and fish as food in its Chinese outlets.

Alongside tins of baked beans and milk, Chinese customers can pick up a live turtle or two to cut up or boil at home. Many of you have already contacted Tesco directly, signed our petition, distributed leaflets or made a donation to keep us going. Thank you!

Tesco's written response to complaining customers is carefully crafted and aims to confuse and mollify concerned customers with platitudes about hygienic production standards and cynical references to strict adherence to Chinese welfare standards. Problem is, there aren't any! "We are aware that this may be one of a number of habits and tastes that do not translate easily to western culture, and that some people in this country may find them difficult to accept", says Tesco. "We believe, however, that it would be wrong to impose our values on other countries, regardless of local feeling, attitudes and traditions."

If that is what Tesco believes, then why not go the whole hog and sell bear bile, bear paws, dogs and cats as food too? The Oxford English Dictionary defines 'cruel' as "disregarding or taking pleasure in the pain or suffering of others, or causing pain or suffering". Biologists and veterinarians agree that turtles

and tortoises feel pain, like other animals. Dismembering, disembowelling or boiling them alive, disregards this reality and therefore constitutes an act of cruelty, which CWI will not accept. Tesco should neither participate nor benefit from the suffering of these animals.

To be seen to be doing something, Tesco commissioned research into the stunning of turtles with the Chinese Institute of Science and Technology - not an obvious choice when looking for animal welfare expertise. China has hardly been at the forefront of animal welfare research. Besides, there are already dozens of scientific publications that show that turtles cannot be killed humanely for food. In any case, turtles bought alive to be killed at home can be diced and sliced or boiled without any controls.

Tesco is clearly banking on the inertia of its customers. For the sake of the abused turtles, frogs and fish Tesco sells in China, CWI therefore calls on all UK consumers not to shop or buy petrol from Tesco and not to take out any financial services and insurance packets until the company changes its mind. Please keep writing and telephoning Tesco and get all your friends to do the same.



© Getty Images

Please contact Tesco:

- Write to Tesco and tell them how you feel and hand in your Tesco Clubcard
 - Don't shop or buy your petrol from Tesco
 - Cancel and do not take out any insurance, loans, credit card or other financial services with Tesco
 - Don't sign up to Tesco's telecommunication, gas, electricity and legal services
 - Log on to our website at www.careforthewild.com to sign our petition and ask your friends to do the same
 - Contact us for campaign leaflets to distribute
 - Make a donation to Care for the Wild to support this campaign.
- Tesco Corporate Responsibility Department,
Tesco House,
PO Box 44,
Delamare Road,
Cheshunt,
Herts EN8 9SL**
- Email:
customer.service@tesco.co.uk**
- Telephone:
Corporate Responsibility Dept.
01992 646 790**
- Customer Services Dept.
0845 600 4411**



It's been another busy year, and CWI now supports more wildlife projects than ever before. Here are some of our 2006 highlights, and I hope you'll be pleased to see just how much your donations have helped us accomplish.

In Africa we

- protected the Serengeti's most vulnerable area with a brand new ranger post,
- successfully challenged the South African authorities on their ill-conceived plans to kill 6,000 elephants in the Kruger National Park,
- saved tens of thousands of animals from deadly snares in Kenya,
- kept defending the moribund lions on death row in South Africa's canned hunting camps,
- donated much needed uniforms to rangers in Zambia,
- protected endangered marine turtles against egg poachers and fishermen in Tanzania,
- and provided a much needed cash injection for the great apes in crisis.

In Asia CWI

- persuaded tens of thousands of Tibetans never to use tiger and other wild animal products again with the Dalai Lama,
- rescued a pink dolphin from a hotel pool in Thailand and successfully released it back into the sea,
- saved 11 endangered Marco Polo sheep and 11 ibexes from smugglers and hunters, seized a bear skin, weapons and snow leopard traps in Kyrgyzstan,
- set up an effective intelligence network to nab rhino poachers in Nepal,
- and fought for the successful prosecution of dozens of poachers in India.

Closer to home we

- are fighting fur imports to the EU and were the first to show that cat and dog skins are available in the UK,
- exposed the shocking sales of live turtles, frogs and fish by Tesco in China,
- maintained a 24-hour marine mammal rescue service in the Moray Firth,
- made a stand against untenable badger culling.

Finally in America and Oceania CWI

- convinced the New Zealand Government not to carry out potentially fatal invasive research on the world's last 111 Maui's dolphins,
- protected albatrosses against capture by fishing boats in South America,
- and supported groundbreaking research to protect polar bears in Canada.

Of course we also took care of our regular charges: the elephants, tigers, snow leopards, bears, apes, badgers, dolphins and rhinos on our adoption programme. Thanks to each and every one of you for helping us be there for animals in distress and danger! I promise you that my staff and I will continue to give our all for the animals we love.

Warm regards,

Dr Barbara Maas

Rhino A-team



© Camera & Habitat Danzau

Dr Barbara Maas reports on CWI's emergency mission to save Nepal's rhinos

In our last newsletter we reported about the terrible loss of greater one-horned rhinos in Nepal's Royal Chitwan National Park, which encompasses 93,200 hectares of prime rhino habitat. A count in 2005 revealed that 172 individuals had been lost in the past five years, leaving a mere 372 survivors. Since then poachers have killed a further 28 individuals. In the last six months alone ten rhinos were killed in and around the Park, and in the first week of December, another rhino died for its horn. The 10-12 year old male was found riddled with bullets.

Rhino horn sells for US\$10,000 a kilo on the black market, which is more than the price of gold. But the animals' hooves, skin and other body parts too are sought after for traditional medicine and ritual purposes.

Something needed to be done - and fast. Together with our colleagues from Wildlife Conservation Nepal (WCN) we sprang into action. Funded by CWI, Prasanna Yonzon (WCN's Chief Executive) recruited a crack team of former enforcement officers, policemen and anti-poaching experts, including the former District President of Nepal's Police. We also set up a network

of informers across many of the 590 settlements around Chitwan. A range of official enforcement agencies, including Nepal's Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation and the Department of Forests pledged their support for our activities and provided extra manpower when required. Apart from funding these initiatives, CWI has put up a reward for the arrest and successful prosecution of the big ringleaders.

I am delighted to report that these efforts have been a resounding success. Intelligence about their identity and whereabouts led to the arrest of seven rhino poachers and four illegal traders since mid November - the biggest string of arrests for years. Rhino horn and a fresh tiger and leopard skin were also seized. "Our people in Chitwan are working 24/7. We are fully committed and when we produce a result, it gives us a sense of satisfaction that the rhino lives to see another day - we hope for many, many years", says Prasanna.

On the 13th December 2006, Prasanna e-mailed me that they were expecting to make a few arrests during the coming days. Since then there have been at

"CWI's support for Nepal's anti-poaching force has been instrumental in helping us protect one of the world's rarest animals, and bringing those who wish it harm to justice."

Mr Shyam Bajimaya (Director General of Royal Chitwan National Park).



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UK Registered Charity No. 288802

triumphs in Nepal

least one or two a week. One of the ringleaders of the Chitwan rhino slaughter, Raj Kuma Praja, was attending a wedding ceremony near his village at the time of his arrest. According to Prasanna he put up quite a fight and managed to throw off five men before he was finally contained. Another of the arrested men had been the mastermind behind the cruel electrocution of a rhino in November.

Prasanna is constantly on the move between Kathmandu and Chitwan to liaise with the authorities and our field team. We have set up a temporary office at Chitwan and are continually devising new strategies on how to nab the poachers. At the same time we are conducting awareness campaigns in areas where there has been a high incidence of poaching around Chitwan

National Park. The team recently addressed a public gathering of 200,000.

But it doesn't stop there. To ensure that those who are arrested feel the full brunt of the law, we have initiated a pioneering information campaign on wildlife crime for Nepal's Supreme Court judges, Appellate court judges and enforcement officials. Once again, the response was overwhelmingly positive, sensitising key legal figures to the rhino's plight and galvanising them into action. The Supreme Court Chief Justice and his colleagues personally attended the inaugural event to show their support and solidarity. Rhino poachers face a 15 year prison sentence in Nepal. But in light of the current crisis, District Forest Officer Baburam Bhandari called for the introduction of a life sentence.



(Above left) Electrocuted rhino. The animal's horn and hooves removed by poachers.

(Above right) Tiger skin seized as a result of CWI-led intelligence.

Fur flies over proposed EU import ban on cat and dog fur!

China remains the largest fur producing country in the world, and since animal welfare legislation is nonexistent, millions of animals pay a terrible price for man's vanity. Since Care for the Wild first lifted the lid on this abysmal industry, China continues to export its fur to western markets, including the UK. In 2005, 2,125 tons of Chinese fur entered the EU. Foxes, raccoon dogs, mink, rabbits, squirrels, and even cats and dogs are forced to live under horrendous conditions until men without pity brutally separate them from their skins. Some 5,400 dogs and cats are killed for their pelts each and every day in China. Last year CWI documented for the first time how even cat and dog skins can be obtained over the internet.

Only weeks ago, animal lovers breathed a long-overdue sigh of relief on behalf of China's tormented cats and dogs, when the European Union announced its intentions

to ban the importation of cat and dog skins into the EU. Then we had a look at the text of the proposed regulation and our hearts sank. Although the draft legislation would ban the import, export and sale of skins of cats and dogs bred for their fur, it specifically exempts cat and dog skins declared as a byproduct of meat production. This is particularly worrying, as the production of fur and meat from cats and dogs in Asia is often linked. As it stands, the proposed law creates a loophole so large that entire container loads of cat and dog skins can pass through comfortably. After eight years of effort, this is heartbreaking. It will do nothing for the wretched animals who await their fate in China. Unless this clause is removed, there is little point to the remainder of the legislation.

The EU is on the cusp of letting down thousands of living, breathing, feeling animals in China. According to DTI and DEFRA ministers, the UK is committed to proactive

leadership on this issue, and there is no time like the present! Please pick up your pen or switch on your computer one more time to write to Hon. Ben Bradshaw MP and Hon. Ian McCartney (addresses below) and ask them to ensure that a ban on cat and dog fur means that cat and dog fur is illegal no matter why the animal was killed.

Hon. Ben Bradshaw MP

Minister of State for Local Environment, Marine and Animal Welfare
DEFRA
Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

Hon. Ian McCartney MP

Minister for Trade, Investment and Foreign Affairs
Department of Trade and Industry
Response Centre
1 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0ET



Dead or alive?



From hope to bricks and Saving lives in the Serengeti



The migration defines the Serengeti. 1.3 million wildebeest and 640,000 zebra and Thomson's gazelles search for food. The Serengeti also has the highest concentration of large predators in the world, more than any other herd of migratory ungulates.

Dr Barbara Maas reports

Whichever way you look at it, the Serengeti is an amazing place. The size of Northern Ireland or Connecticut, it has World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve status and is home to more than two million ungulates and ten thousand predators - more than anywhere else on earth. But the reason the Serengeti inspires us and claims a special place in our hearts goes way beyond impressive statistics. Its immense open savannahs, lush riverine forests, magical kopjes and wetlands are an outpost of real wilderness. The Serengeti puts us into our place in the most charming way possible. It was my 'laboratory' for five amazing years. Standing on its famous plains as a young biologist, I was struck by the breathtaking beauty of this place, which is all the more profound because it doesn't depend on us. But to say that the Serengeti doesn't need us would be very wrong indeed.

Early humans strolled across the

Serengeti's dusty soil four million years ago. Today, more than two million of us surround the Park. This population is growing. More than 150,000 tourists a year flock to the Serengeti - twice as many as in 2001. They need to be housed and fed and driven around, produce whopping amounts of rubbish, use up staggering amounts of water and consume massive amounts of petrol. And then there are the poachers. Keen to cash in on the Serengeti's wildlife, they kill some 30,000 animals each year, primarily for the commercial bushmeat trade.

The man whose job it is to sort it all out is Martin Loibookie, the Serengeti's new Chief Park Warden. I met him for the first time last September when we opened the new CWI funded ranger post in the Park's western tip. Martin Loibookie - or 'The Chief' as his staff call him - is one of the most likeable and hard working men you could ever hope to meet. This is all the more remarkable given the size of his rather full plate. Martin oversees 345 staff

and nine departments, including Administration, Tourism, Outreach Services, Protection, Ecology, Veterinary, Accounts, Roads and Workshops.

Martin's rangers arrest a thousand poachers every year. "Poaching has been a great challenge for decades", he says as we drove through the western extension of the Serengeti to the opening of the new ranger station, which I was looking forward to seeing. It was constructed to help protect the Serengeti's most vulnerable area, where dense human settlements push hard against the Park's boundary. As if on cue, we spotted a pair of lions resting in the shade of a small tree. When we stopped to take a closer look, we noticed a narrow black band around the female's neck. The snare that had caused this permanent scar had been removed months ago by the Park's Veterinary Team, saving the lioness's life.

The new ranger post looked fantastic and will help the Serengeti's rangers do their job. Every brick, roofing sheet, bag of



Opening ceremony of the new CWI-funded Serengeti ranger station



A Serengeti ranger leads away an arrested poacher



Survivor: rescued lioness with scar from snare

Together they form the largest 7,500 hyenas and 2,800 lions.

sand and cement, down to the last light bulb was paid for by CWI supporters. It is testament to how good things are possible when everyone works together, and I still can't help feeling proud of what has been accomplished. "Antipoaching is the backbone of our national park," said Martin Loibookie in his opening speech. "I thank you, Dr Barbara Maas, and CWI for your genuine commitment and concern for the Serengeti. I cannot find suitable words with which to express my gratitude for this generosity on behalf of the entire National Park community and especially Serengeti National Park staff and management." It gives me great pleasure to pass this big thank you on to all of you and return it to Martin Loibookie and his team for dedicating their lives to the animals of the Serengeti.

New challenges lie ahead this year. Protecting the Park's population of critically endangered black rhinos is one. In the 1970s, 63 animals lived in the Serengeti ecosystem, but relentless poaching killed all but three. Today there are 14, thanks to

uncompromising security measures. Unless poachers get their way, the Serengeti's rhinos will recover, but as numbers rise, so does temptation.

Lack of housing means the rhinos' security is based on the rotational system, with rangers who are not on duty staying some 200km away. This poses a grave risk if enforcements are required quickly. Accommodating additional rangers close by is therefore one of the Park's top priorities. Rangers stationed at the new post would take part in other patrols while not on call for rhino monitoring. Provided we can come up with the money, CWI would like to help.

Hard as it may be to believe, the Tanzanian Government is currently considering the construction of a public road, which will cut straight across the north of the Serengeti and the migration, although the area is classified as 'Minimal Disturbance'. Such a road would cause untold damage and spell the beginning of the end for the Park with no way back.

The Serengeti is what it is because it has been protected. To start cutting away at it now, will drain its life blood. Please write to the Minister Maghembe at the address below and ask him to use his influence to put a stop to these plans.

Thank you for supporting CWI's work to protect the animals of the Serengeti. In this changing world, the Serengeti's future depends on people who care about it more than ever.

Take action

Please write to:

Hon. Prof. Jumanne Maghembe,
Minister of Natural Resources &
Tourism,
P.O. Box 9352,
Dar es Salaam,
Tanzania.

Telephone: 00255-22-2112538

E-mail: jmaghembe@parliament.go.tz

NEWS

FROM THE SEA



© Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society

Keeping seabirds off the hook

Fisheries bycatch kills millions of seabirds and is driving some albatross

species to the brink of extinction. By sponsoring a meeting in Brazil to help address this issue in the southern ocean, CWI reached out half way across the world in the hope of breaching the even wider gulf between conservationists and fishermen and turn them into allies. Sixty five delegates from seven South American countries attended the meeting in Brazil before Christmas. As it drew to a successful close all of them signed on to employ seabird-friendly fishing methods from now on.



© Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society

Fighting green lies for dolphins, sea lions and marine birds

In New Zealand, CWI joined forces with the country's foremost conservation group Royal Forest & Bird to challenge the Marine Stewardship Council's (MSC) certification of the Hoki

fishery. The Hoki fishery is NZ's largest and is nearing collapse. Between 2001 and 2004 annual quotas were cut by a massive 150,000 tons. Hoki nets also drown or crush countless dolphins, sea birds and New Zealand sea lions. Hookers sea lions, as they are also called, occur only in New Zealand and are the rarest sea lion species in the world. But despite this harmful impact, the MSC certified the Hoki fishery as environmentally sustainable. We are confident that the detailed information presented to the MSC will lead to the withdrawal of an ill-deserved green label for this industry, which damages the seafloor and kills hundreds of marine mammals and seabirds each year.



© Steve Dawson

Relieve for world's rarest dolphin

Lastly, we are thrilled to report that the New Zealand

government has abandoned plans to carry out painful and potentially lethal research on Maui's dolphins, after CWI funded research showed that the required information could be obtained by other means. We will now concentrate on realising effective protection for the 111 last surviving members of this troubled species.



Apart from this bear skin (above), Gruppa Bars also confiscated guns, snares and traps.

Masha (left), a Tien-Shan bear cub that was on her way to a Chinese bile farm when she was confiscated. She now lives in Kyrgyzstan's first and only wildlife rescue centre.

Gruppa Bars springs bear skin dealers in Kyrgyzstan

In early September last year CWI's snow leopard protection unit in Kyrgyzstan, Gruppa Bars, was tipped off about an illegal trader who was looking to sell a snow leopard skin in the country's capital Bishkek. Posing as a buyer, the head of Gruppa Bars, Volodja Radchenko, a former colonel in the Russian army and a dedicated animal lover, made contact with the dealer and a meeting was set up. The other Gruppa Bars members were waiting as backup nearby. At the dealer's insistence, Volodja had a big wad of cash in his pocket, as bait and to prove that he had enough money to buy the skin.

A second meeting followed on 24th October, and this time the dealer didn't bring the skin of

a snow leopard, but of a Tien-Shan brown bear. Tien-Shan brown bears are very rare. Only 600-800 survive. The traders had brought the skin from the country's south, where poaching poses a much bigger threat than in the north, which is protected by Gruppa Bars. Protecting wild snow leopards, bears and other wildlife in the south, by setting up another antipoaching unit is therefore very high on our wish list, but unfortunately we don't yet have the necessary funds.

You will be glad to learn that the illegal traders were arrested and the bear skin was confiscated. Gruppa Bars and CWI are keeping a close eye on the court case to ensure that these men won't get away.



Linda and Kevin in their long-term prison



Photos © Cefn-yr-Erw Sanctuary

Free at last at the sanctuary in Wales

Beirut monkey rescue

Imagine being locked up in a space so small that you can only take two steps and barely stand up. Just thinking about it is uncomfortable. Yet this is what Kevin and Linda, two Hamadryas baboons, had to endure for six years. Callous hands pushed them into their cramped prison when they were babies, and they have grown to fill it.

Kevin and Linda are two of a motley crew of seven monkeys that were caged up outside a Beirut pet shop. Next door were Mem the macaque, Jason a young baboon, and Millie, a gentle vervet mother

with her babies. They had been locked into a parrot cage, unable to move, climb or hide. And then came the bombs. The pet shop owners fled the war-torn city during the fighting and abandoned the animals to their fate - without food or water.

In November a desperate Graham and Jan Garen from Wales turned to us for help. Unless we could get the monkeys out, they would die. CWI stepped up immediately, and Graham and his wife worked day and night to make all the necessary arrangements.

But before they could leave, Kevin and Linda had to be cut out of their hateful cage. When everyone was finally crated up for their flight to freedom, Jason, the young baboon, reached out of his box to hold his rescuer's hand.

While Graham was in Beirut, his wife Jan and her staff were fluffing up the pillows for the arrival of their new charges at the sanctuary. More than a month after their arduous journey, Jan and Graham tell us that "the monkeys have settled in really well and are enjoying their food and all the space. The three little vervets

haven't stopped eating yet and to see Kevin and Linda rummaging for nuts and seeds is a joy. A huge thank you for your help, without which the rescue would not have been possible. Not only did you help with finance, you also gave moral support, and going to the airport was a really kind gesture." Another happy ending!

If you would like to help with funds to care for the Beirut monkeys, please call us on 01306 627900.

It's just a bear necessity!

To help the abused and sick animals on the streets and backyards of Thailand, Care for the Wild provided a fully equipped, state of the art mobile veterinary clinic. Run by our conservation partners Wildlife Friends of Thailand (WFFT), the clinic has been out and about day and night rescuing and providing emergency veterinary care for animals all over Thailand. Many are subsequently transferred to WFFT's rescue centre for recovery and intensive care. Others will stay at the sanctuary for the rest of their lives. We will bring you more news on this project later in the year, but in the meantime we thought you might want to hear about one of our latest rescue cases, Joan the bear.

Joan, a ten year old Asiatic Black bear, had been living on her own in a cage at a Buddhist temple in Korat for seven years. Her 'owners' had taken her to the temple after she had become too big to keep inside the house. Surrendering animals to Buddhist temples is common in Thailand, but sadly many don't have the facilities or expertise to provide the care these animals need.

The temple's abbot had called for help when Joan fell sick and Joan was close to death when the team arrived. She was suffering from horrendously infected wounds around her bottom, which had become infested with maggots. She was also running a high fever and had blood poisoning. After learning that Joan could

have a much happier life at WFFT's sanctuary the abbot immediately agreed to let her go, and she was rushed to the rescue centre at once.

Several emergency surgery sessions to clean and disinfect her wounds later, and following a two week course of antibiotics, Joan's condition had improved to the point where she could be moved out of quarantine into a

roomy outdoor enclosure. Eventually Joan will join the sanctuary's nine other bears in WFFT's new 8,000 square meter bear enclosure. Joan is beginning to enjoy herself again after who knows how many years, taking full advantage of the trees and a large pool. It is probably the biggest space she has ever seen!





Pad across the Himalayas and scale the roof of Africa to care for the wild!

- Are you tired of run-of-the-mill holidays?
- Are you looking for adventure?
- Would you like to experience the beauty of real wilderness in the trip of a lifetime?
- Do you want to help endangered animals by raising vital funds for CWI?

If your answer is 'yes' then you may be interested in CWI's new 'Challenge Events'. CWI teamed up with the UK's leading charitable event organiser to bring you two amazing trips to the heart of Africa and the land of the snow leopard.

Hike Mount Kilimanjaro! Dates: 14th-23rd March 2008

Picture yourself taking in the view from the top of Africa's highest mountain, Mount Kilimanjaro. From the Great Rift Valley, trek past spectacular glaciers to the snow-capped roof of Africa in Tanzania. This ten day trek follows the gradual Machame route and allows for better altitude acclimatisation and a safer ascent to the 5,896m high summit. A registration fee of £499 (non-refundable) and a commitment to raise at least £2,950 in sponsorship for CWI will secure your place in this incredible expedition.

Trek the Himalayas! Dates: 29th March-16th April 2008

Make the world's highest mountain the high point of your year! This 19 day expedition will take you to the land of the snow leopard in Nepal and the legendary Everest base camp. Come face to face with Nepalese culture in Kathmandu and set off to the breathtaking Himalayas. Visit the Sherpa capital of Namche Bazaar and hike through remote valleys, dense forests and across glacial rivers to reach Kalapatar, the famous Everest lookout at 5,545m on the Base Camp approach. This is an incredible opportunity to trek the roof of the world. A deposit of £499 (non-refundable) and a commitment to raise at least £2,950 in sponsorship for CWI will secure your place.

A fantastic way to help endangered animals!

If you think this might be just what you've been looking for, CWI will support you with a fundraising pack filled with helpful information, so you can make the most of your trip.

For an information pack on these adventures please complete and send the form below to: Ewen Logan, Care for the Wild International, The Granary, Tickfold Farm, Kingsfold, West Sussex, RH12 3SE.

You can also call Ewen on 01306 627913 or email him at ewen@careforthewild.com



Please send me information about CWI's Challenge Events!

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms _____
 Address _____
 _____ Postcode _____
 E-mail address _____ Telephone no. _____

Please send me information about: Kilimanjaro Hike Himalayas Trek Other Challenge Events

Please return this coupon to: Ewen Logan, Care for the Wild International, The Granary, Tickfold Farm, Kingsfold, West Sussex, RH12 3SE.