



# YEARBOOK 1982

A review of WWF's conservation activities in 1981 and part of 1982

WWF-International projects are planned, managed and co-ordinated by IUCN. The Yearbook also contains a selection of national projects from WWF Affiliate Organizations, and a preview of the 1982 Tropical Forest Campaign.

Produced by the Public Affairs and Conservation Divisions, WWF-International.  
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Designed by H.W. Bosshard, Geneva  
Printed by Roto-Sadag S.A., Geneva.



*Mangrove forests protect the coastline of many tropical countries and harbor thousands of fish, as well as sources of food and fibre, food and medicine (p. 21)*

*Photo: W. W. (Nancy) Sifton*

Biology, Cambridge University, enabled their nocturnal activities to be studied. Other attempts to monitor the movements and activities of animals by radiotelemetry have failed so far. Efforts to dart or trap musk deer, for radiocollaring purposes, have been unsuccessful but recent attempts to drive animals into camouflaged netting have been rewarded by some near captures.

In April 1981 the project's research was filmed by the BBC for the "World about Us" series which will feature a programme about the plight of the musk deer.

Two Wildlife Guards, I.S. Rawat and M.S. Rawat, and an Indian Counterpart, D.C. Bhatkoti, are attached to the project.

Conservation efforts in the Garhwal Himalaya have gained some momentum since the project's inception. The nearby Nanda Devi Sanctuary has been accorded national park status and the Valley of Flowers will soon be designated as a sanctuary. Together with the Kedarnath Sanctuary and parts of the Badrinath Forest Division these adjoining areas might eventually be incorporated within a single biosphere reserve.

Protection of wildlife within this region, much of which affords good habitat for musk deer, is now the responsibility of some 30 guards, under the administration of a Divisional Forest Officer. Despite this greatly increased guard force patrols seldom visit the remoter valleys, so poaching continues unabated.

M J B Green

# Elephants and Rhinos

Elephants and rhinos often share the same habitat...



*Black rhino and African elephant*

*Photo: WWF/Peter Jackson*



*Photo: WWF*

... and run the same risks from poachers  
because of the high value of ivory and rhino  
horn



*Photo: WWF/J.H. Blower/J. Allan Cash*

ELEPHANTS AND RHINOS - AFRICA

Action Plan

Project 3000  
Joint Elephant and Rhino Group Meeting  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$20,494

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Assessing Numbers

Elephants

Project 1962  
African Elephant  
Co-ordination Office  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$25,003

Project 1695  
Elephant Survey, Benin  
and Upper Volta  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$3,000

Rhinos

Project 1707  
African Rhino  
Survey and Conservation  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$2,247

Project 1730  
African Rhino Survey  
and Conservation  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$37,985

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Conservation Projects - Elephants and Rhinos

Project 1758  
Africa, Elephant Conservation  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$2,007

Project 1966  
Botswana, Translocation of  
White Rhino  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$7,888

Project 3019  
Central African Republic,  
Management and Protection of  
Elephants  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$31,747

Kenya National Project,  
Laikipia Project

Project 1724  
Kenya Rhino Action Group  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$7,440

Project 1665  
Malawi, Conservation of  
Elephants  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$7,786

Project 1774  
Senegal, Conservation of  
Elephants  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$21,454

Project 1949  
Sudan, White Rhino -  
Proposed Shambe National Park  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$14,814

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SPECIES, MAMMALS - ELEPHANTS AND RHINOS - AFRICA

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Project 1739  
Tanzania, Support for  
Tanzanian Sub-group of  
IUCN/SSC African Rhino  
Group  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$2,037

Project 1930  
Tanzania, Anti-poaching  
Equipment  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$25,985

Project 1928  
Tanzania, Rhino and Elephant  
Survey in Selous Game Reserve  
No WWF Grant in 1981

Project 1930  
Tanzania, Anti-poaching  
Equipment for Selous and  
Rungwa Game Reserves  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$25,985

Project 1931  
Tanzania, Anti-poaching  
Equipment for Serengeti  
and Ruaha National Parks  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$32,739

Project 1933  
Tanzania, Rhino Census Methods  
and Publicity  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$9,535

Project 1934  
Tanzania, Anti-poaching  
Camp, Lake Eyasi  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$13,314

Project 1935  
Tanzania, Lake Manyara National  
Park Southern Extension  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$11,073

Project 3018  
Tanzania, Rhino, Anti-poaching,  
Northeastern Selous Game  
Reserve  
No WWF Grant in 1981

Project 1757  
Zambia, Save the Rhino Trust,  
Anti-poaching Operations  
WWF GRANT 1981 - \$123,768

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WWF/IUCN are working to halt the decline  
of elephants and rhinos in both Africa and  
Asia

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*African elephant, Tsavo National Park, Kenya*

*Photo: WWF/George W. Frame*

## Action Plan

### JOINT ELEPHANT AND RHINO GROUP MEETING (Project 3000) Action Priorities for Elephant and Rhino Conservation

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Scientists and other specialists involved with the conservation of elephants and rhinos, including representatives of African wildlife departments, met at Wankie, Zimbabwe, in July-August 1981 and decided on the most urgent measures that need to be undertaken.

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Priorities were examined within three major categories of equal importance:

- Political and government action
- Action on trade
- Field action

Priorities were determined in terms of particular species or sub-species; the ecosystems they inhabit; and the cost effectiveness and chances of changing a low conservation status to a high conservation status. Emphasis was also placed on maintaining high conservation status of key species populations.

The agreed priority ranking for species and regional populations was:

- Northern white rhino
- Black rhino



- Southern white rhino
- Kaokoland elephants in Namibia
- West African forest elephants
- West African savanna elephants
- Central and East African elephants.

Political and Government Action

Top level approaches by the Director General of IUCN are considered to be the most appropriate action in the following cases:

Kaokoland/Damaraland elephants and rhinos - Namibia

The remnant desert populations of Kaokoland elephants and rhinos, both uniquely adapted to the arid environment, are threatened by both legal and illegal hunting. Since the authorities may not be aware of the importance of these populations an approach from IUCN could probably bring about a change



*Desert elephants in Kaokoland, Namibia, are singled out for priority conservation. They are biologically important because of their ability to survive in a harsh environment (Project 1352)*

*Photo: WWF*

in policy and secure the safety of the population.

#### Park "W" Elephant - Benin, Niger and Upper Volta

The elephant population of the park moves across the international boundaries of three countries and there is a grave need to co-ordinate policy and anti-poaching measures and to examine a possible threat from plans to mine phosphate in the park.

#### Desert Elephant, Gourma area - Mali

This population of 500 or less desert elephant which roams about the southern region of Mali is in need of protection. The resources for conservation are meagre and in the evidence presented at the meeting it is clear that the survival of this population would rest most securely on a political commitment to their conservation by the leaders of Mali.

#### Trade in Animal Products

There is a need for producer countries to co-ordinate their trading activities particularly in ivory and pricing structures for safari operations. Such co-ordination would enhance the value of wildlife as a form of land use and hence encourage sustained utilization and conservation.

#### African Convention on Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Diplomatic action is now required to bring the Convention to the forefront of African conservation action, to increase the number of signatory states and to update the various schedules to the convention if this has not been done.

#### Regional Co-operation in Anti-poaching

Regional co-operative anti-poaching measures should be promoted.

#### Action on Trade

#### Rhino Horn Trade and Approaches to Governments of Consumer Countries

The CITES Secretariat should give the highest priority to top level approaches to the Government of North Yemen and to Governments in the Far East - particularly those who are not signatories of CITES. A primary purpose of these approaches should be to appraise these Governments of the precarious and rapidly declining populations of rhino in Africa, and in Asia, and to urge them to take measures to arrest the trade in rhino horn. The influence of rulers in reducing the demand for rhino horn could be substantial if not decisive.

#### Rhino Horn Trade and Approaches to Traders in Consumer Countries

Contact should be made with traders in rhino horn to explain the precarious

status of rhino and the role of the trade in the demise of these animals. Such an approach would be linked to a request to the traders to examine acceptable alternative products and substitutes with a view to phasing out the trade in rhino horn. The two key projects are an approach to the traders in North Yemen, and an approach to traders in the Far East.

#### Monitoring of the Ivory Trade

The CITES Secretariat should increase its capability to monitor trade in raw ivory and rhino horn with the assistance of the IUCN Conservation Monitoring Centre.

#### Licensing Legitimate International Traders in Raw Ivory

All international traders in raw ivory should be licensed to conduct such trade.

#### Implementation of CITES

Technical assistance to African countries in their efforts to implement CITES is of high priority.

### Field Action

#### Rhinos

##### Northern White Rhino (*Ceratotherium simum cottoni*)

The northern white rhino is in an extremely precarious position and the following projects in order of priority are recommended for immediate action:

- The captive herd of northern white rhino should be strengthened by centralising the animals presently held in captivity into a single viable and productive breeding unit.
- A few animals from the wild should be added to the captive breeding herd. Such animals would be on loan from the countries where they might be captured.
- The white rhino population of Garamba National Park, Zaire, is considered to have the greatest biological and conservation value and to be the most viable. Since this population also resides in a long-established national park, the greatest effort should be devoted to securing the safety of the white rhino in Garamba. Garamba is also a priority in the conservation of elephant.
- Apart from Garamba National Park the southern Sudan is the only other country in which wild northern white rhino still survive. Given their rapidly declining numbers and uncertain status in protected areas or planned protected areas in the Sudan direct and cost-effective action should be taken to achieve the primary goal of securing the preservation of at least

one viable population unit in the southern Sudan. The proper protection of a limited area into which additional or outlying animals may be translocated may be more successful in the preservation of white rhino than costly attempts to establish new and large protected areas.

#### Southern white rhino (*C. Simum simum*)

There is a surplus of white rhino in some southern African national parks and funds are needed to translocate large numbers of these animals to suitable national parks within the former range of the species. Priority areas (i.e. areas of high conservation and biological status in which good populations of white rhino could be established) are Wankie National Park, the Kazuma Pan N.P. - Matetsi - Zambesi N.P. (formerly Victoria Falls N.P.) complex, the Chobe National Park and possibly those National Parks in Middle Zambesi Valley.

#### Black Rhino (*Diceros bicornis*)

A rider to all consideration of priorities within the black rhino projects is the uncertainty about the taxonomic status of various populations examined. A study of the taxonomy of *D. bicornis* is important. Meanwhile, the priority ranking for conservation of sub-species (or regional populations) within the species is:

- *Diceros bicornis longipes*
- *D.b. ladoensis*
- *D.b. michaeli*
- *D.b. minor.*

Cameroon (*D.b. longipes*): The effectiveness of anti-poaching measures carried out by trained and motivated staff can be greatly increased by the injection of key items of equipment which should serve to secure the protection of small but viable populations of *D.b.longipes* in Benoué and Bouba Njida National Parks and the Reserve du Faro.

Central African Republic (*D.b. longipes*): The rhino populations in the CAR are considered a priority because of their high numbers in areas of conservation interest.

Kenya (*D.b. ladoensis*): The Kerio protected area contains the only protected population of *D.b. ladoensis*. There is a need to strengthen existing protection measures and to make provision for the translocation of animals from surrounding unprotected areas.

Kenya (*D.b. michaeli*): The Aberdares National Park provides an established key area for the protection of *D.b. michaeli*. Protection measures should be maintained at the highest level by supply of appropriate equipment and manpower training. Translocation and protection of *D.b. michaeli* in Meru and Tsavo merits continuing support, but care should be taken regarding the density at which black rhino can be stocked since mortality from territorial

rivalry can be high in this species.

Tanzania (D.b. minor): The Selous Game Reserve holds the most valuable population of D.b. minor. Existing protection measures should be maintained and reinforced to counteract, in particular, incursions by motorised poachers. The Selous is also a priority area for elephant.

Zambia (D.b. minor): The high biological and conservation status of the Luangwa valley population of D.b. minor should be maintained and reinforced.

### Southern Africa

The status of a number of black rhino populations which occupy well-protected areas could be enhanced by translocations from populations which have reached their stocking capacity. There are several such projects which merit support, particularly in Malawi and Bophuthatswana.

## Elephants

### West African Elephant

The west African elephants are considered to be the highest elephant priority because their numbers are low, their range is now fragmented and they occupy habitats of high conservation value in the context of ecosystem conservation in Africa. This factor is a particularly important consideration in the conservation of the west African forest elephants.

Ivory Coast: Tai Forest is the largest protected area of forest which includes elephants west of the Dahomey gap. The forest includes numerous endemic west African plants and mammals. The major present need is to complete the demarcation of the park boundary and to establish the buffer zone around it.

Liberia: Sapo is the second largest undisturbed forest area with viable elephant populations in west Africa. The area is similar to the Tai forest but has a lower conservation status.

Sierra Leone: Gola Lofei contains what is probably the third largest forest elephant population in the region and it is the only undisturbed rainforest in Sierra Leone. The area includes the pigmy hippo and endemic duikers. Conservation action is required in respect of the Lofei River Union (the regional management authority), which plans to develop a hydro-electric scheme in the area. Action proposed by Sierra Leone aims at surveying the area and at involving the Lofei River Union in an examination of the conservation issues in the region.

Ghana: Bia & Ankari National Parks contain small elephant populations which need to be maintained by ensuring that the trained and motivated staff manning these areas are properly equipped for effective anti-poaching work.

Senegal: Niokolo Koba National Park carries the most western population of savanna elephant. The park has a high biological value and a high conservation status. The elephant population is threatened by poaching. There is a need to ensure the survival of the elephant herd which is now considered to number about 200.

Benin, Niger, Upper Volta: Park "W" contains the most important population of savanna elephant in west Africa. The population may be as high as 4000 elephant. Because the park straddles three countries the base line information on the population is confusing and there is primary need for a co-ordinated survey to establish numbers and the extent of reported declines in the population.

#### Central and East African Elephant

Congo River Basin: The largest populations of African elephant reputedly occupy the lowland forest and forest savanna ecotypes of the Congo river basin. The countries included in this zone are: Central African Republic, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon and Zaire. Only two population estimates amounting to some 30,000 elephant are considered to be good data. The remaining estimates which bring the total for the region to 412,000 are little better than guesses. The true population could be anywhere between 300,000 and three million elephant and in consequence the trend of the population is not established. The taxonomic status of the forest elephant has not been adequately resolved. Since the majority of African ivory on the world market originates from the Congo basin it is vital that the taxonomic status of elephants occupying this zone be resolved and that their distribution, numbers and trend in relation to the major ecosystems or communities in the region are established. Without this information sensible conservation priorities cannot be established, much less implemented, in the region. Appropriate taxonomic study, ecological survey and census should be undertaken by experienced and competent scientists without delay.

Tanzania: Selous Game Reserve scores high both on biological value and on conservation status. It is important that this status is maintained so as to secure the largest and most valuable savanna elephant population in Eastern and southern Africa. The Selous is also a priority area for black rhino.

Zaire: Garamba National Park has a high biological value and a small injection of appropriate assistance should improve the present conservation status to a higher level. The Garamba N.P. is the first priority for anti-poaching measures to save the northern white rhino. Virunga National Park has very high biological value. Its presently moderate conservation status and an elephant population declining through poaching combine to make this a priority for conservation action. The presence of an endangered mountain gorilla population reinforces the need for support and for strengthening the anti-poaching capability of the park staff.

Cameroon: Bouba Njida National Park has a small but valuable herd of

elephant as well as black rhino. The effectiveness of anti-poaching operation by trained and motivated staff will be increased by the provision of key items of equipment.

Central African Republic: The conservation status of Bamingi Bangoran National Park needs to be improved and support for the existing FAO project in the region is considered to be the most effective action at this stage. The status of elephant in the Reserve de Zemongo is uncertain and there is a clear need for a survey of this area.

#### IUCN/WWF Action

In order to promote international collaboration in conservation of elephants and rhinos IUCN/WWF are taking action in a number of directions:

- WWF has raised large sums of money and roused international consciousness of the seriousness of the situation. The funds are being channelled under IUCN guidance and management into field projects and related conservation activities, which include strengthening national park systems; equipping park rangers and anti-poaching units; training wildlife staff; and conservation education of African youth through Wildlife Clubs and other means.
- IUCN/WWF are making joint representations to countries where there are elephants and rhinos, and to those that consume and trade in their products, so as to achieve universal acceptance and effective implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- Consumers and traders in elephant and rhino products are also being approached to win their cooperation in conserving the species. In the case of rhinos this involves an attempt to halt all trade and exploitation in view of the grave threat to their future. For elephants it means efficient regulation of the trade in ivory and hide within sustainable limits on a national as well as international scale.
- Production of standard forgery-proof trade documents and indelible marking of exported raw ivory are some of the practical measures already receiving detailed attention.
- Governments of developed countries are being approached to offer technical assistance to African countries so that they can establish effective management and scientific authorities to regulate wildlife trade.

Conclusion

Elephants and rhinos have been a prominent part of Africa's life through the ages, providing cultural inspiration as well as food and other products. Many countries in the world have destroyed their wildlife, but in several countries in Africa it is still abundant and many African leaders have shown their commitment to conservation by the establishment of extensive national parks and reserves.

Substantial numbers of elephants exist today in Africa and, although their numbers are likely to decline because of loss of habitat to human expansion, they are not in danger as a species, provided they are managed wisely. But numbers alone are no safeguard and it should be borne in mind that in the United States tens of millions of bison were reduced to a few hundreds by indiscriminate killing in less than 50 years in the 19th century, thus depriving the American Indians of one of their principal natural resources.

Elephants play a dominant role in natural ecosystems and can have a severe impact on agriculture. These factors make careful management necessary. Once it has been decided how many elephants a country can retain in the long term in the light of the needs of its human population, reserves large enough to meet their food and water requirements need to be set aside and adequate provision made for good management and protection. Some countries have already allocated substantial areas for conservation of elephants and other wildlife, but it is strongly recommended that all governments should consider whether present provisions are adequate and should take any necessary decisions while they still have a choice of options.

Ivory and elephant products are part of each nation's wealth and the revenue derived from them should be used for the public benefit. Poaching and uncontrolled trade at present divert much of the revenue to private individuals and groups. The situation can be brought under control by universal acceptance and enforcement of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). To be fully effective this Convention requires supporting national legislation and international co-operation.

Wildlife generally, including rhinos, will benefit from successful conservation of elephants. But rhinos are a special case. The most serious threat to their existence is the strong demand for horn from outside Africa, which leads to evasion of protective measures. The international community has a duty to help African Governments save their rhinos by intensive efforts to divert users of rhino horn to other products which do not threaten wildlife.

The developed nations of the world have acknowledged their responsibility to help developing nations. This responsibility extends to the provision of financial and expert assistance to conserve natural resources, which are essential to human well-being. IUCN/WWF are pledged to play a leading role in this task.

IUCN/SSC Elephant and Rhino Groups