

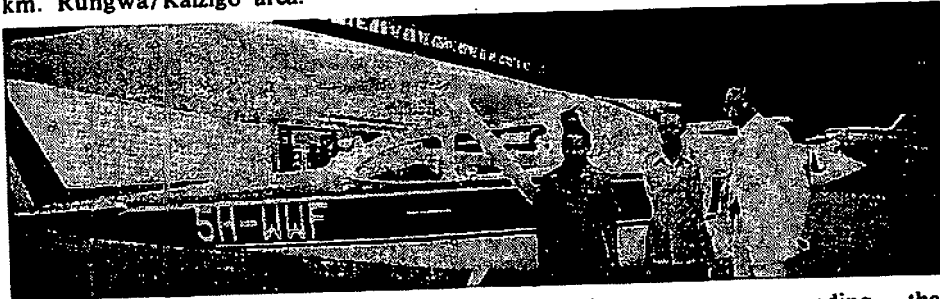


Tanzanian aircraft repair.

The Society is to pay for the complete overhaul of instruments on an anti-poaching aircraft from Tanzania. It could not be repaired in Dar Es Salaam due to lack of spares.

Following an appeal from the Tanzanian authorities (who had no foreign exchange available) EAWLS has agreed to fund the repair which will be carried out in Nairobi at an estimated cost of K.Shs.50,000/00 (U.S.\$5,000).

The aircraft is used for anti-poaching work in Tanzania's 50,000 sq. km. Sealous Reserve and in the 13,000 sq. km. Rungwa/Kaizigo area.



The Society's Administrative Officer, Mr. N.K. arap Rotich, met Mr. Bahari Mbano, Assistant Director for Tanzania's Wildlife Division, at Nairobi's Wilson Airport to arrange for the repairs.

Thanks to Carolyn

We are sorry to say goodbye to Carolyn Ford Eagle who has been very active in helping the Society in the last three years. She has given freely of her time as a member of Council and as a member of the Management Committee.

The Society has benefited in many ways from Carolyn's work; she organised the very successful 25th Anniversary Dinner held in October last year as well as the enjoyable week-end at Lake Baringo. And she has given a lot of help with *SWARA* magazine, particularly with our *Safari World* pages.

Thank you Carolyn and good luck in Botswana.

Society Shop.

The long process of regaining control of the Society's shop, following the failure of the Wildlife Shop Ltd. which did not honour its agreement with the Society, is almost completed.

We hope to re-open a small kiosk to serve our members towards the end of June.

Christmas cards and 1983 Calendars.

We shall be publishing both Christmas cards and Calendars much earlier this year in order to make them available to overseas members. Please see our preliminary announcement on page 2. Full details and order forms will be included in the next issue of *SWARA*.

Predictably our brief report on the possibility of leopard hunting being re-opened (page 23 of *SWARA* Vol. 4, No. 5 Sep/Oct 1981) has provided more mail than any other issue mentioned in *SWARA* in the last 12 months. Two letters on this subject are published on page 36.

Surely it is too simplistic to take a moral stand against hunting or shooting wild animals and leave it at that.

Patrick Hamilton's study clearly shows that the translocation of leopards does not work; but nevertheless leopards can be extremely destructive and dangerous in settled areas. Hamilton is inexorably pushed (by the results of his

research) into recommending that leopards which cause damage to stock should be shot. There is no space here to summarise this evidence; but it is conclusive.

If the leopard is to be shot then a) why should it be immoral to sell a licence to kill it? and b) why should the skin be thrown away? In a world where domestic stock are carefully reared for slaughter it is difficult to justify an ideology which says it is immoral to exploit wild animals.

Farmers can be relied upon to ensure that cattle, sheep, pigs and goats do not become extinct even though they kill them for profit. Similarly in many areas hunters have shown that they will conserve a species in order to hunt it.

Some conservationists are clearly concerned for the welfare of individual wild animals. But is this really a tenable philosophy? Why should we be more concerned with the life of an individual leopard than that of the antelope (or goat) he eats for breakfast? Surely the real purpose of conservation today is to preserve habitats and species - something that can be done by good management; and good management may sometimes involve killing individual animals.

Unfortunately Hamilton's study also highlights some cases of gross mismanagement by Kenya's Wildlife Conservation and Management Department - particularly in connection with the translocation of leopards. This adds emphasis to our suggestion (below) that the Department should not hesitate to call on independent experts to assist with the translocation of rhinos. It also adds emphasis to the proviso that hunting can only re-open if it is honestly and effectively controlled.

Conserving black rhino remains one of the most urgent and intractable problems facing the wildlife authorities in Africa.

Although there has been enormous world-wide publicity of the rhino's predicament there has not been a consensus of opinion on what should be done and so the various conservation bodies have been rather ineffective.

In this issue of *SWARA* we take a long look at the various options. Faith Halter's analysis is not merely her own opinion; she has arrived at her conclusions after much research and consultations with many experts.

The following points seem more than clear:

1. Urgent action is needed now.
2. Translocations from dangerous areas to really safe sanctuaries is the most effective solution.
3. Translocation is a difficult task which must be carried out with great skill to avoid serious risk to the rhinos involved. The authorities should not hesitate to supplement their own staff with outside help for such difficult exercises. Several of the world's most experienced translocation experts live in Kenya and the Wildlife Conservation and Management Department should make every effort to benefit from their advice and help. Similarly Kenya should learn from South Africa's considerable experience in rhino translocation. The reprehensible political system operated by South Africa does not mean they have no useful knowledge in the field of conservation.
4. Translocation is very expensive; the various conservation organisations, including the EAWLS, should do everything possible to find substantial funds to assist the Department with its translocation programme.
5. Safe sanctuaries will be essential. Here again we should be helping with substantial funds.
6. We still do not know whether or not de-horning works. A project should be set up somewhere in Africa (not necessarily in Kenya) to test it and to follow up the history of known rhinos which have lost their horns. Until this is done arguments for and against de-horning will continue fruitlessly; and if it does work then we are now wasting valuable time.

The long term solution for rhinos is to bring to an end the trade in rhino products in the middle and far east. But this will take time and until it is achieved the protection of rhinos in Africa should be one of our major conservation projects.

