

PORINI

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Road to BANGKOK

NEWS

ASK THE EXPERTS

ANIMAL OF THE MONTH

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INSIDE



Kenya Wildlife Service

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Foreword



KWS against illegal trade in wildlife

This month, a delegation from the country led by the Government, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), and various wildlife stakeholders are in Bangkok for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) meeting.

At this convention, Kenya will be pushing for various amendments to global wildlife conservation treaties in the wake of increased poaching of elephants, rhinos and cheetahs.

The most notable proposal which Kenya jointly submitted with Burkina Faso, Togo and Mali, pushes for a requirement that no application for ivory trade will be submitted in the next nine years. The extension aims at discouraging the increasing ivory trade not just in Kenya but the world as a whole.

CITES is an international agreement between governments whose aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

As a country, we have gone through a myriad of challenges in our quest to conserve and manage our wildlife. Illegal

trade in wildlife products has seen the decimation of various wildlife species especially elephants and rhinos. Asian markets have had an insatiable thirst for the African ivory.

Products made from ivory include rings, bracelets, necklaces and tea mugs among others. It is not right to kill precious wildlife which generates billions of shillings through tourism in order to make ornaments. We will therefore continue to advocate against any trade in wildlife products.

At KWS, we have had the privilege of hosting a number of ambassadors and other high ranking officials from various countries and organisations. During their visits, these esteemed guests have emphasised on the need for co-operation in addressing the poaching menace.

Together with other like-minded countries like Burkina Faso, Togo and Mali, we are confident that we will realise our goals in CITES. We believe our recommendations will be adopted and implemented for the good of Kenya's wildlife; a precious heritage to this country. ■

Canada supports KWS in climate change adoption

The Canadian Government through Parks Canada has partnered with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to support the country's efforts in coping with adverse effects of climate change in National Parks.

KWS received a grant of KSh78 million from the Canadian Government towards supporting the project. The project will highlight the importance of National Parks in climate change adaptation and enhanced ecosystem services around conservation areas in Kenya.

The project is being implemented in the country's premium parks of Amboseli and Nakuru as well as Mt. Kenya National Park, Aberdare National Park and both the Tsavo East and West National Parks.

The project aims at enhancing the ecological integrity and resilience of protected areas and wildlife populations and reduction of human wildlife conflicts among local communities living around Kenya's parks and reserves. ■

Source: KWS.



A baboon at Lake Nakuru National Park. The park is among those identified for the adoption of the climate change project. PHOTO BY SAMMI NDERITU



Keep up the fight

“KWS plays an important role in conservation efforts across Africa and it is upon the international community to collaborate efforts and address poaching as a global problem.”

British High Commissioner to Kenya H.E. Dr. Christian Turner during a courtesy call on KWS Director, Mr William Kiprono

Events Calendar



**World Forestry Day
March 21, 2013**

**World Water Day
March 22, 2013**



**World Heritage Day
April 18, 2013**



**International Mother Earth Day
April 22, 2013**



**World Migratory Bird Day
May 11 – 12, 2013**



By **Paul Udoto**

A bouncing black baby rhino was recently born in Ruma National Park, near the shores of Namlolwe (Lake Victoria).

According to Mr Simon Wachiuri, the warden in charge of the park, the calf and its mother, both in good health, were given time to relax in tall grasses that had acted as the maternity and were both good health.

The birth implies that the translocated rhinos had settled down well in the park since it was declared a rhino sanctuary at the end of last year. The KSh6 million translocation exercise, conducted in two phases, was a historic comeback of rhinos to the area. With a capacity of 85 black rhinos, the last time rhinos were sighted in the Ruma general area was in mid 1950s, more than half a century ago.

Ruma is one of Kenya's most unusual and beautiful national parks. The last surviving group of roan antelope in Kenya is found here - a large antelope with magnificent black and white facial markings and swept-back horns.

Black rhino numbers reduced from 20,000 in 1960s to less than 300 by mid 1980s in Kenya mainly due to hunting. However, renewed conservation efforts

by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and other conservation efforts have seen the numbers begin to rise again. Kenya's current national total of black rhinos now stands at 631, down from 20,000 in the 1960s. The steady recovery of the rhino population has been attributed to a Presidential Decree of 1985 that declared black rhino a special animal that required special protection, combined by hard work and dedication of rhino monitoring staff on State, community, private and county council lands.

Enhanced tourism

KWS, in collaboration with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) successfully completed the last phase of the black rhino translocation from Mugie Rhino Sanctuary and Solio Ranch in Laikipia to Ruma National Park last year.

The introduction of rhinos in the park was meant to enhance tourism in the Western Kenya tourism circuit and unlock tourism potential in the area. Players in the tourism sector have been asked to invest and aggressively market the national park along with other tourism sites like the famous Thim Lich Ohinga ruins, the famous Luo legend, Gor Mahia, the Lake Victoria, the rich Luo culture



and the Homa Hills hot springs of Simbi Nyaima.

Last year's translocation came at a time when the world was witnessing an increase in the illegal killing of rhinos. A worrying note was the increasing sophistication and the level of organisation of illegal traders in the rhino horn.

Nearly 2,400 rhinos have been poached across Africa since 2006, slowing the population growth of both black and white rhino species to some of the lowest levels since 1995, according to the latest facts revealed by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) experts.

Rhino poaching increased by 43 per cent between 2011 and 2012, representing a loss of almost three per cent of the population in 2012. According to IUCN's Species Survival Commission (SSC) African Specialist Group, Africa has 5,055 black and 20,405 white rhinos. ■

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) is an international agreement between governments. Its aim is to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival.

Widespread information nowadays about the endangered status of many prominent species, such as the tiger and elephants, might make the need for such a convention seem obvious. But when the ideas were first conceptualised, in the 1960s, international discussion of the regulation of wildlife trade for conservation purposes was something relatively new. With hindsight, the need for CITES is clear. It is estimated that annually, international wildlife trade is worth billions of dollars plus hundreds of millions of plant and animal specimens.

Trade in wildlife products

The trade is diverse, ranging from live animals and plants to a vast array of wildlife products derived from them, including food products, exotic leather goods, wooden musical instruments, timber, tourist curios and medicines. Levels of exploitation of some animal and plant species are high and the trade in them, together with other factors, such as habitat loss, is capable of heavily depleting their populations and even bringing some species close to extinction. Many wildlife species in trade are not endangered, but the existence of an agreement to ensure the sustainability of the trade is important in order to safeguard these resources

for the future. Because the trade in wild animals and plants crosses borders between countries, the effort to regulate it requires international cooperation to safeguard certain species from over-exploitation. CITES was conceived in the spirit of such cooperation. Today, it accords varying degrees of protection to more than 30,000 species of animals and plants, whether they are traded as live specimens, fur coats or dried herbs.

CITES agreement

CITES was drafted as a result of a resolution adopted in 1963 at a meeting of members of IUCN (The World Conservation Union). The text of the Convention was finally agreed at a meeting of representatives of 80 countries in Washington, D.C., the United States of America, on 3 March 1973, and on 1 July 1975 CITES entered in force.

The original data of the Convention was deposited with the Depository Government in the Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish languages, each version being equally authentic.

CITES is an international agreement to which States (countries) adhere voluntarily. States that have agreed to be bound by the Convention ('joined' CITES) are known as Parties. Although CITES is legally binding on the Parties – in other words they have to implement the Convention – it does not take the place of national laws. Rather, it provides a framework to be respected by each Party, which has to adopt its own domestic legislation to ensure that CITES is implemented at the national level.

For many years CITES has been among the conservation agreements with the largest membership, with 178 Parties. ■

Source: The CITES Secretariat.



Understanding CITES

Going for a better wildlife future

By **Peter Pueschel**

The 16th meeting of the Convention of the Parties (CoP16) to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) will be held in Bangkok, Thailand this March.

At the CITES CoP16 conference 177 countries will decide whether many animal and plant species deserve more or less protection from the threats of international trade.

Seventy listing-proposals and numerous other related topics will be discussed at the 16th meeting of the Convention

of the Parties (CoP16) to the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) will participate alongside other stakeholders and advocate for good decisions based on ecological sustainability and humane treatment for animals.

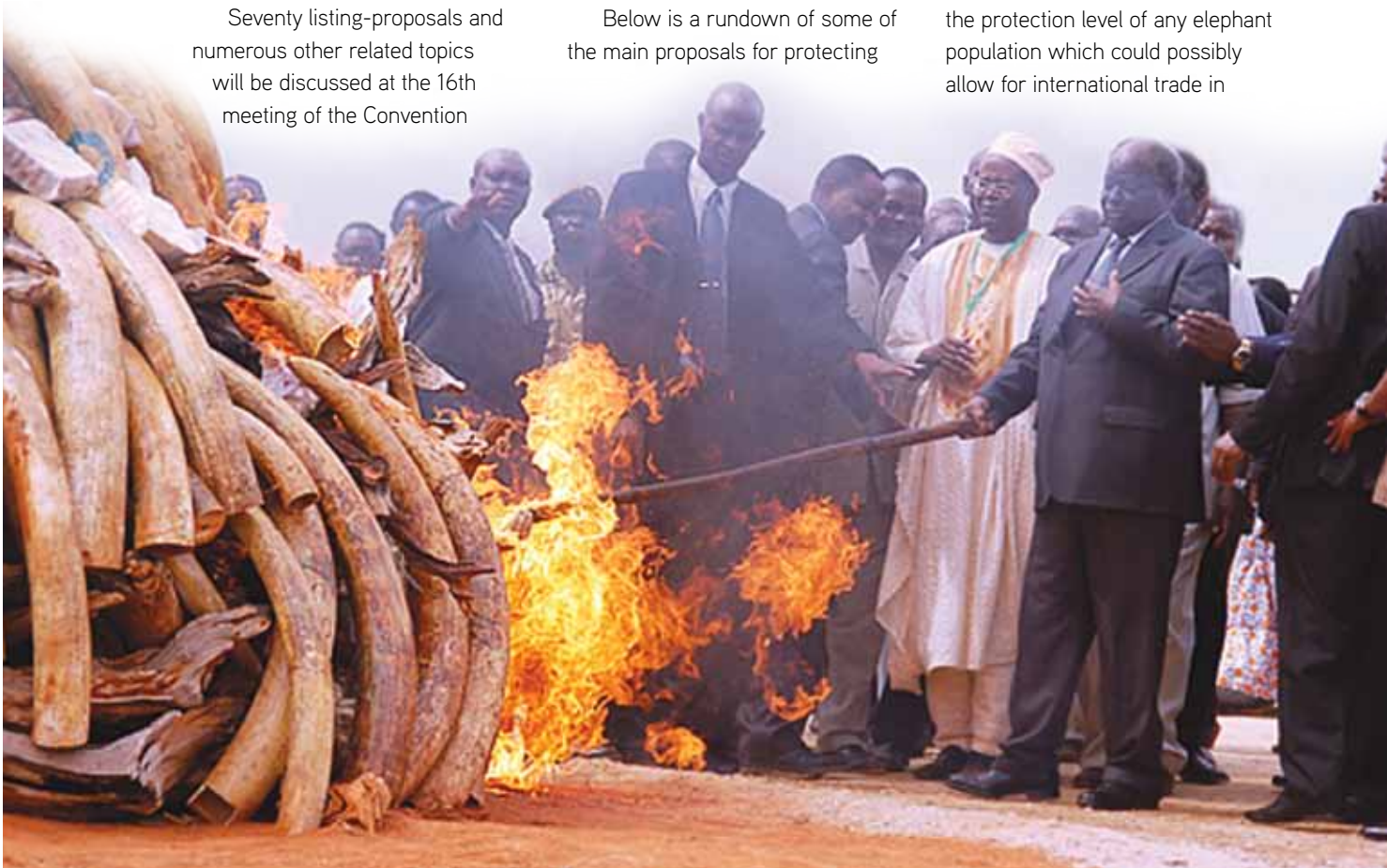
The IFAW team will urge governments to base their decisions on the "precautionary approach" and to always respect wildlife welfare.

Below is a rundown of some of the main proposals for protecting

wildlife under CITES that the team will focus on, including so-called listing proposals (sharks and polar bears), others of a more technical or strategic nature in regards to specific species (e.g. elephants, tigers) and those of a more global scope (e.g. wildlife trade on the internet, wildlife trade law enforcement or the strategic vision of CITES).

Elephants

It is fortunate there are no proposals on the table to decrease the protection level of any elephant population which could possibly allow for international trade in



President Mwai Kibaki burns stockpiled ivory at KWS Law Enforcement Academy Manyani in July 2011. At CITES, this March, Kenya jointly with Burkina Faso, Togo and Mali will be pushing for a requirement that no application for ivory trade will be submitted in the next nine years. PHOTO BY KWS



ivory. This is the first time in over 20 years that no such proposal is on the agenda, which means more time to focus precious resources on other animal welfare conservation issues.

This welcome news was made possible only after Tanzania withdrew their ill-conceived proposal back in December.

Make no mistake, important elephant issues will still be discussed, including increased enforcement efforts to combat elephant poaching and illicit ivory trade, and the conditions under which ivory trade could be allowed in the future.

However, any ivory trade decision must be postponed until elephant range states successfully implement a plan to protect elephants where they live, in particular to halt the killing of elephants for the illegal trade in ivory.

Parties also need to add focus on demand reduction from the growing Chinese consumer base and other Asian markets in lieu of engaging in heated rhetorical debates about short-term profits from elephant ivory.

Sharks

A staggering 100 million sharks are potentially fished from the ocean each year, many quickly thrown overboard without their fins and left to die according to experts.

We must reverse the wake of ecological damage being done where these keystone predatory species perform their vital food chain functions.

Thankfully, we expect several Parties to again propose increased protection for several of the most vulnerable shark species, including hammerheads, oceanic whitetip, porbeagle and others.

Hopefully this time around, scientific facts, common sense and conservation values will prevail.

E-commerce (wildlife trade over the internet)

The Internet has become the world's biggest marketplace, one that is open for business 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It is as unregulated and anonymous as it is immense, providing easy opportunities for criminal activity. It is a marketplace in which the illicit trade in wildlife is conducted as many IFAW investigations have

shown.

IFAW welcomes the proposed continuation of the E-Commerce Working Group, which is due to meet at the CITES Standing Committee 63, as well as the contributions to enforcement that have been made by a number of Parties to CITES.

While it is still unclear what steps, if any, many Parties to CITES have taken to implement Res. Conf 11.3 in relation to online wildlife crime, given the sheer scale of the trade in wildlife products online and the very real threat this poses to CITES protected species, the IFAW team will be strongly urging the Parties to work with their local enforcement agencies to implement Res. Conf. 11.3 (Rev. CoP15).

In this respect, we encourage Parties to adopt the Recommendations proposed in COP16 Doc. 45 and focus on implementation thereafter.

As you can see, while many of these issues are morally simple for many who may be reading this article, each are politically complicated affairs wrapped in years of traditional nationalistic behaviour, governmental maneuvering and longstanding cultural moors.

Affecting rapid change will be no simple task, but the team will endeavor to persevere! We will also be working on a number of issues that don't necessarily generate headlines but are important for helping wildlife.

Peter Pueschel is the Director of International Environmental Agreements. He focuses on IFAW's policy work and represents the organisation (IFAW) at international conventions and treaty negotiations that address a variety of wildlife and environmental issues. ■



Mr. William Kiprono (center) KWS Director, shares a moment with H.E David Angell(left) the Canadian High Commissioner to Kenya. Looking on is Captain Ibrahim Ogle KWS Assistant Director Special Projects. The High Commissioner had paid a courtesy call on the Director to discuss wildlife conservation issues of mutual interest.



H.E Mr. Joost Reintjes(right) the Dutch Ambassador to Kenya, shakes hands with Mr. Kiprono during his courtesy visit to KWS.



H.E Dr. Christian Turner, the British High Commissioner to Kenya addresses journalists at the KWS headquarters in Langata. With him is Mr. Kiprono (Right) and Mr. Leitoro (far left).



Mr. Kiprono presents gifts to Dr. Moscow Marumo the Chief Director of Biodiversity, Planning and Management in the Department of Environmental Affairs South Africa.

Professor George Godia(far centre) the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education, takes notes as Mr. Paul Mbugua (left) the KWS Spokesperson addresses the Ministry officials, looking on is the KWS team led by KWS Director Mr. Kiprono and Mr. Edwin Wanyonyi KWS Head of Resource Mobilization.





From right; Dr. Charles Musyoki, KWS Senior Scientist Endangered Species, Dr. Tim Bouts, Director of the AI Wabra Wildlife Preservation, KWS Senior Wardens Nancy Kabete and Nelly Palmeris, Munira Bashir KWS Assistant Director Community Enterprise Development, Dr. Abdi Arif the Assistant Director AI Wabra Wildlife Preservation, Mr. Solomon Kyalo, KWS International Conventions and Agreements Officer, and Mr. Ngugi Gecaga the KWS Corporate communications Manager.



Mr. Anada Tiega (centre) the Outgoing Ramsar Secretary General poses with Dr. Samuel Kasiki(right) KWS Deputy Director and Dr. James Njogu KWS Head of Conventions. Mr. Anada visited KWS on Monday February 25, 2013.



H.E Mr. Konrad Paulsen the Chilean Ambassador to Kenya, gets a brief from Mr. Robert Muasya KWS Ag Deputy Director Wildlife and Community Service.



Mr. Victor Mawalla, a Tanzanian national removes ivory from his customized vehicle with a false bottom at the KWS Headquarters in Nairobi. He was arrested smuggling ivory into the country to an unknown destination.



H.E Mr. Liu Guangyuan the Chinese Ambassador to Kenya receives a gift from Mr. Kiprono during his visit to KWS on Friday February 22, 2013.

Can CITES be trusted to SAVE Kenya's ELEPHANTS?

By **Dr. Winnie Kiiru**

This year, CITES will be celebrating 40 years since the text of the convention was agreed upon in March, 1973 in Washington D.C. The Republic of Kenya was among the countries that participated in the drafting of the text of the convention. The young republic, then only 10 years old, understood the need for international collaboration in protecting her valuable wildlife resource.

In 1973, Kenya's elephant population was estimated at 167,000 individuals. In the 1970s and 1980s, Kenya lost over 150,000 or 90 percent of her elephant population to poaching and the illegal ivory trade. The demand for ivory in Japan, America and parts of Europe fueled two decades of mass destruction of elephants. In October 1989 during COP, seven elephants were placed on Appendix I and the ivory trade was banned.

Ban ivory trade

The ban came into force in 1990. Kenya's elephant population was down to 16,000 individuals by the time the ban came into force.

Barely 10 years later in COP10, CITES allowed the down-listing of some Southern African elephant populations to appendix II and sanctioned the first mass sale of ivory to Japan. The impact of this sale was soon felt as poaching incidents rose in Kenya and parts of Central and West Africa. The elephant populations were just showing signs of recovery

after near decimation in the preceding decades.

A second sale of ivory to Japan was sanctioned by CITES in 2002 when South Africa's elephant population was down-listed to Appendix II. In 2007, CITES sanctioned yet another large sale of ivory. Japan and China were the official trading partners.

The sale was concluded in 2008 and the impact was again an upsurge in illegal killing of elephants. Concerned parties like Kenya expressed concern over the entry of China as a trading country.

Worst year for elephants

They argued that it would trigger an escalation in illegal trade due to the demand for ivory by the expanding middle class in China and the poor internal ivory trade controls in the country. This concerns did not deter CITES from allowing China to buy ivory.

The concerned parties were right in their prediction that illegal ivory trade was bound to escalate with the entry of China as a trading country. The year 2011 was officially declared the worst year for elephants by TRAFFIC, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's wildlife trade monitoring organisation. The demand for ivory in China is probably the single most important factor fueling the illegal trade. Poaching in Kenya has escalated steadily in the last five years and it has been identified as a national crisis.

As the Kenya delegation travels

to Bangkok for yet another meeting of the CITES convention and the 40th anniversary celebrations, the million dollar question is whether Kenya and Africa can depend on CITES decisions to stem the current onslaught on elephants. Kenya recognises that the elephant numbers are too low compared to the demand in China. There are few elephants in Kenya or the rest of Africa to meet the demand for ivory in China. CITES decisions since 1997 have consistently compromised the survival of elephants in Kenya. Can CITES be trusted to make decisions that favor the survival of elephants? ■

