



# PANDA NEWS

FROM World Wildlife Fund, Kenya National Appeal; compiled by Ellis Monks.

## URGENT ACTION NEEDED ON KENYA'S RHINO

THE continuing destruction of the black rhinoceros in Kenya has become a major conservation issue. Early morning mist prevented the parks' aircraft from taking off on daily patrols in Meru and poachers took the opportunity to kill a further seven rhinos, thus reducing the Meru herd to below 30.

There have also been further killings in the Maasai Mara Game Reserve.

Thus it seems that unless the trade in rhino horn can be curbed, particularly the traffic to the Yemen, the black rhinoceros in Kenya will be down to relict populations in the relatively inaccessible areas of the Aberdare mountains and Mt. Kenya.

As the same scale of killing is going on elsewhere in Africa, with the exception of Southern Africa where the rhino is well protected, it is essential that a complete and total ban on the sale of rhino horn should be introduced at the earliest possible moment.

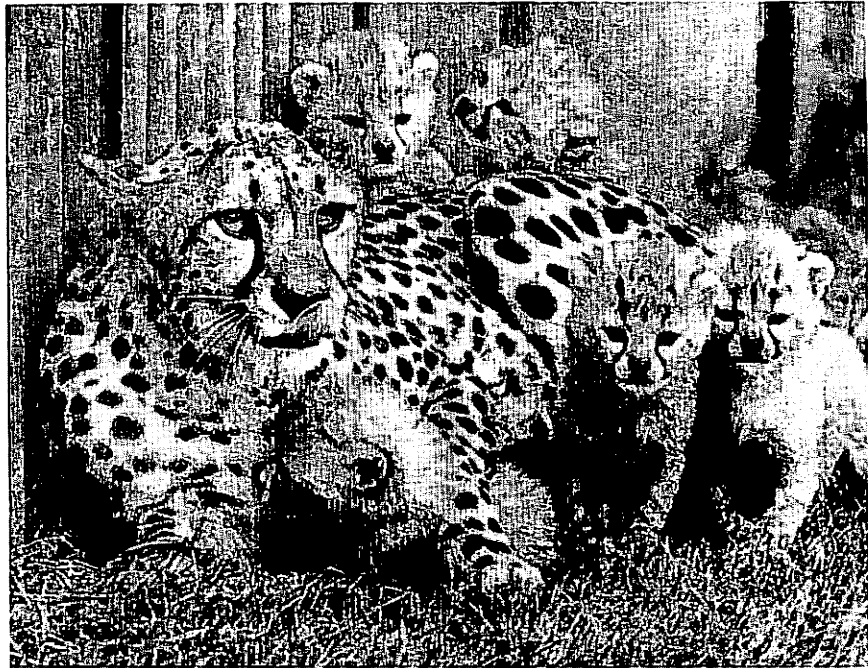
All stocks of recovered horn should be destroyed in an attempt to close any loopholes and an action plan on the issue should be top priority for the Conservation on International Trade in Endangered Species (C.I.T.E.S.) conference in Costa Rica in March.

What we can do without is yet another expensive status study in Kenya. The status of the national rhino herd is sufficiently well known to indicate the overall population and the fact that this is declining rapidly. There has already been a census carried out by the Kenya Rangeland Ecological Monitoring Unit (K.R.E.M.U.), although their estimate can only serve as a baseline for future monitoring and in fact contributes little to our knowledge of the status of the rhino. A "Very Large Herbivore Study" (q.v.) in Kenya is also scheduled to determine the status of the rhino.

However, perhaps the doubts on these types of studies that WWF's Dr. Lee Talbot expressed on whales has a much wider relevance. He said that "Some of the scientists have failed to recognise the uncertainties posed by data based on many assumptions".

## TYPOGREMLINS

THE gremlins got among the type in the last issue of "Africana" and some corrigenda is required. Reference to the "Sumatran" rhino as one horned rhino (p. 24) should, of course, have read "Javan" the Sumatran being two-horned. The captions on p. 27 referring to the WWF Honours should read "Fritz Vollmar (left) and Prof. Bernard Grzimek (right)"



ABOVE: Whipsnade cheetah; picture courtesy of the London "Daily Mail."

## CHEETAH BREEDING

IN September 1978 it was reported that Whipsnade Zoo had bred a further five cheetah cubs, the parents themselves having been born in captivity. The new cubs are the third generation of captive-bred cheetahs at the zoo.

The first cheetahs to be born at Whipsnade (and the U.K.) arrived in 1967. Since then 52 cheetah births at the zoo have created a world record — the latest litter is the 15th. — and many of these cubs having been sent to zoos all over the world.

In San Diego Zoo, ten cheetah arrived at the Wild Animal Park in 1972 following which seven litters were born and 31 cubs successfully reared.

This animal park's breeding success also includes a total of 25 white rhino calves born since the arrival in 1971 of 20 White Rhinos from South Africa, the translocation being accomplished through Ian Player who was then chief Conservator of the Natal Parks Game & Fish Preservation Board.

## TOO FAMILIAR ELEPHANT

AN elephant in the Narok District has decided that the titbits from the kitchen of a local lodge are worth the picking. In its search for exotic food it has wandered into bedrooms and also wrecked 13 cars to date.

## WWF AND ANTI-POACHING

IT has been announced that the World Wildlife Fund is to donate two vehicles for use by the Kenya Police C.I.D. Unit for anti-poaching investigations. In the past the unit has had an excellent success rate but is now handicapped by lack of vehicles.

In announcing this the WWF Director General, Mr. Charles de Haes, complimented Kenya's President, Daniel arap Moi on the recent steps taken by Kenya to protect its wildlife. At a short ceremony at State House Nairobi Mr. de Haes also thanked the President for agreeing to become Patron of the WWF Kenya National Appeal.

BELOW: foreground: Charles de Haes and President Moi. Background: Attorney-General Charles Njonjo and Ellis Monks, chairman and secretary of WWF — Kenya.





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## HERBIVORE STUDY

WITH loan finance from the World Bank, the Kenya Government is embarking on what it calls a "Very Large Herbivore Study," which amounts to a science-survey of elephant, rhino, buffalo and hippo in Kenya.

The objective relates to part of the Government's declared wildlife policy (Sessional Paper No. 3) which is for "maximum utilisation" of the country's wildlife.

This used to mean set hunting, which produced about \$1.2 million annually — but mostly game-viewing, the gross return from which (in 1973) was estimated at about \$40 million. Although this figure may have reduced since, the return from tourism related to live wildlife is still substantial — still, in our view, the most profitable form of wildlife "utilisation".

However, the VLH study is also designed to determine how Kenya can further utilise animals through human consumption of them, specifically through an investigation of the market for the game meat and of methods and animal-types for any "harvesting" project.

The study is very detailed, employs numerous consultants, and is scheduled to take eighteen months. However, in view of previous studies and experiments in this area, it will be interesting to see what they come up with.

## YOUNG FUND-RAISERS

SIR ARTHUR NORMAN, WWF International Trustee and Chairman of the British National Appeal is pictured below exchanging cheques with Julian Horsley, chairman of Merlin Tutors Wildlife Club. The club had raised 1,000/- for WWF's "Save the Cheetah" fund from three school events — a sponsored run-swim-walk sports day; a film show; and a disco. In response, Sir Arthur gave the boys 100/- towards their next drive for funds.

● In the picture, with twenty members of the Merlin Wildlife Club, are Mr. Paul Spence (far left) who handed young Julian Horsley a voucher for a night's stay at the famous Treetops lodge. Mr. Spence is Hon. Treasurer of WWF-Kenya and the voucher was a personal gesture of appreciation from WWF vice-chairman, Jack Block. Others in the picture include the Merlin Tutors' principal, Michael Mann (second left) and the club's advisor, teacher Carol Day.



## WILDLIFE COLLEGE

PLANS for the Wildlife Training Institute are now advanced and the government has undertaken an ambitious programme of training both wildlife and fisheries personnel.

The Wildlife Conservation and Management Department, Education Section, is developing teaching programmes for Game Wardens, Rangers, Fisheries Officers and Fishery crews. It is also planned to introduce courses for guides and drivers so that tour operators can employ informed staff in their tour buses.

The Institute is to be located at Naivasha and practical training in boat management and maintenance will be available on the lake.

At a cost of over £1.5 million, with prices escalating every month, the college will provide a valuable wildlife centre, not only for governmental staff, but we hope for all interested in wildlife education. We look forward to seminars and lectures open to the public as part of an overall programme to educate young and old alike in the values of conservation and an appreciation of our country's wildlife and wild places.

## KAI TAK CHEETAH CASE

IN October 1978 a shipment of 319 cheetah skins valued at \$200,000 was seized by Agriculture and Fisheries Department officials in Hong Kong.

The case has now come before the courts and it transpires that a Swiss company, Mayer and Cie of Zurich, exported the skins to the Hong Kong Fur Factory Ltd. after first having them sent to Italy to have them dressed.

The magistrate, in passing judgment, stated that the fine imposed of \$5,000 with \$2,000 costs was quite inadequate in view of the seriousness of the offence. The cheetah is an endangered species and is fully protected by the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species.

In view of the fact that Switzerland is a signatory to C.I.T.E.S. we now look forward to further action from the Swiss authorities in this case.

## THE LEOPARD TRADE:

THERE is currently a move to remove the leopard from Appendix 1 to Appendix 11 of CITES so as to enable the leopard to be hunted and for the skins to be used in the fur trade.

Articles by US newspapers such as the *Chicago-Sun-Times* claim that Kenya's Wildlife Department (such a department does not exist) have taken the leopard off its endangered species list. This can be stated categorically as being completely untrue, the leopard is fully protected in Kenya and the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife has stated that it has no intentions of changing that status. Currently all wildlife is protected under the Hunting Ban; trade in all wildlife trophies is similarly banned — and this obviously includes the leopard.

## KENYA SIGNS C.I.T.E.S.

KENYA's Minister for Tourism and Wildlife, Mathews Ogutu, had meetings recently at the World Wildlife Fund's international headquarters in Morges Switzerland. It was there he announced that Kenya had finally signed the International Convention on Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Dr. Lee M. Talbot, WWF's Director of Conservation and Special Scientific Adviser, welcomed the news. "Kenya is the 49th country to join the Convention, and is one of the most important to do so," he said.

During discussions with Dr. Talbot the Minister requested the World Wildlife Fund to provide a high-speed launch to deal with poachers and smugglers along the coast. He said that a World Bank loan which had become available in the past few months was being used by Kenya to obtain a helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft as well as other equipment for its anti-poaching units, which would be the best-equipped in the world within six months. The units had more than 300 army-trained men with a 24-hour radio network which meant they could move swiftly wherever needed. "We are at total war with the poachers," he added.

● The World Wildlife Fund has been helping Kenya's conservation programme since 1962 and has made grants totaling 1,206,000 dollars for 56 projects. These have included provision of aircraft and vehicles, assistance with scientific research and surveys, development and management of wildlife areas, and conservation education. The biggest grant of half a million dollars was to quadruple the area of Nakuru National Park, which has as its centrepiece the famous Lake of a Million Flamingoes.

## SALES OF TROPHIES

FOLLOWING the ban on the sale of wildlife trophies in Kenya many of these curios were taken over by the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife. Subsequently at an auction in Mombasa, a large number of trophies was put up for sale to overseas buyers or their agents. Included in the list was more than 57,000 dik dik horns.

It will be recalled that in a single haul the anti-poaching unit recovered 30,000 horns in salad oil tins, although apparently the two men caught were never brought to court.

Other items on auction included 5,500 ivory rings and bangles, 5,000 carved ivory animals, 8,000 ivory pendants, 550 carved ivory heads and 4,800 elephant hair rings with 1,500 elephant hair bracelets, together with many thousands of skins, skin goods and other items.

Not that the ban has entirely stopped street hawkers from selling elephant hair bracelets. Some are true hair, but others are very good imitations made from a type of grass and coloured black. Tourists generally do not know the difference and are happy buying the imitations, thinking they are circumventing the law by buying genuine elephant hair bracelets.

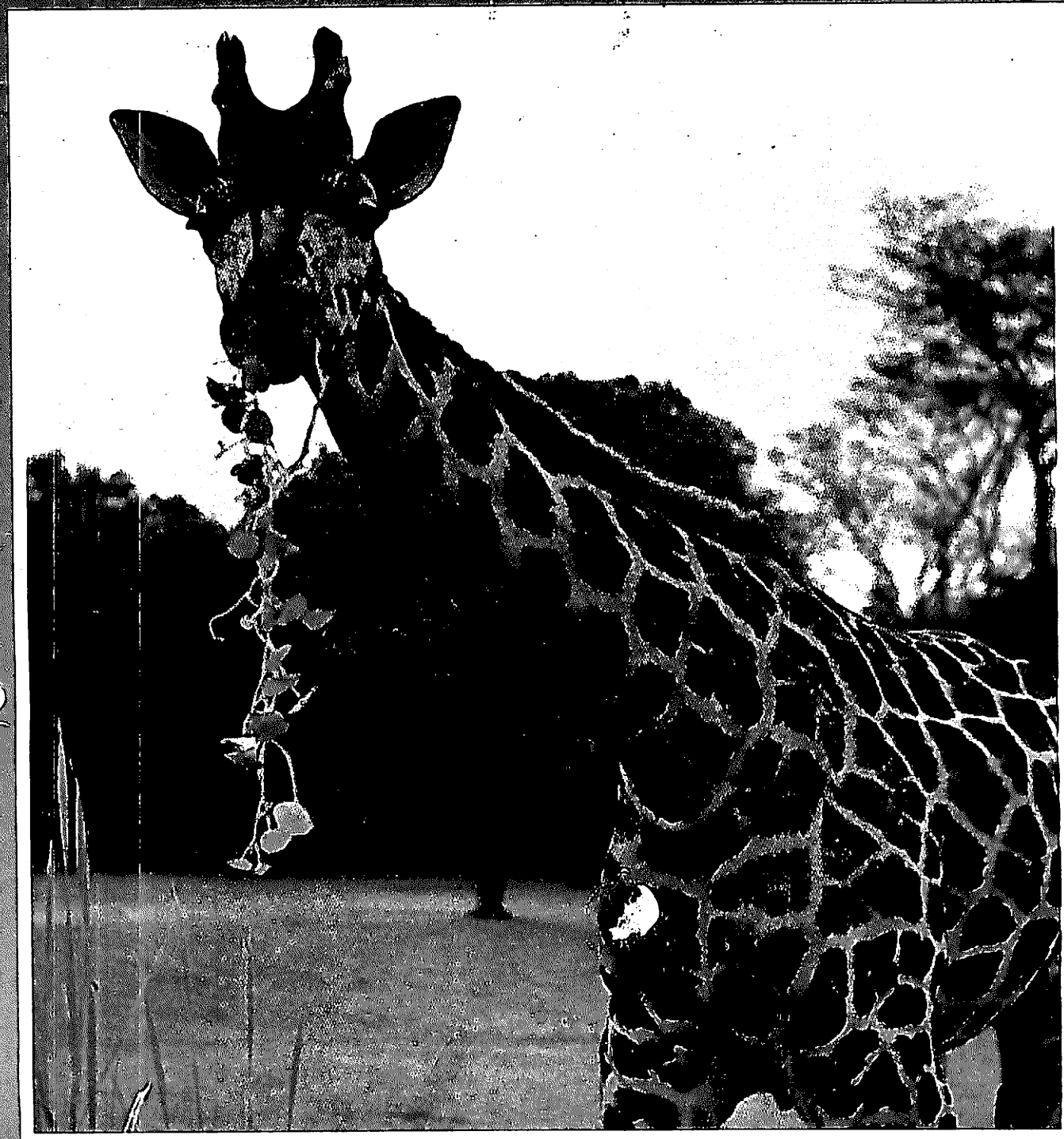
## SOLIO GAME RANCH

IN an effort to re-establish white rhinos in Kenya following the disastrous poaching of the two bull rhinos and a female in Meru Park, nine white rhinos have been introduced to Solio Game Reserve, a private game ranch situated between the Aberdare mountains and Mt. Kenya. The ranch which, is open to visitors, carries a wide range of game including lion and leopard and is one of the best areas to photograph many of these species.

# Africana

  
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