

# BUSHCRAFT

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PO Box 73528, Lynnwood Ridge, 0040 SA  
Tel: (012) 991-3083 Fax: (012) 991-3851  
basecamp@wildnetafrica.com  
www.wildnetafrica.com

## Green Snippets

### PROVINCIAL CONSERVATION LEGISLATION TO BE STREAMLINED

"Wildlife trade in South Africa is currently regulated in terms of a highly fragmented potpourri of provincial Ordinances, Acts, Decrees and Proclamations which are, in numerous aspects, inconsistent, incomplete, outdated and overly complex. This confusing legislative structure makes it extremely difficult for conservation authorities already facing budgetary and capacity constraints, to carry out their work effectively and efficiently," says Marcus Bürgener, Programme Officer for the South African office of TRAFFIC East/Southern Africa. A joint research project was therefore initiated between the Institute of Criminology (University of Cape Town) and TRAFFIC to analyse existing provincial and national conservation laws. This 18-month study led to recommendations that could be used to align provincial legislation and policies and ensuring their compatibility with national legislation. The study culminated in a report entitled "Towards a Sustainable Wildlife Trade: An Analysis of Nature Conservation Legislation in South Africa with Particular Reference to the Wildlife Trade". The report includes an overview and analysis of provincial and national laws, an outline of key themes that should be included in policy and legislative development, and a series of recommendations and alignment options that will be submitted to provincial and national authorities to assist in amending, developing and drafting nature conservation and biodiversity legislation. Electronic copies of the report are available at: [www.traffic.org](http://www.traffic.org) or [www.uct.ac.za/depts/sjrp/uctwild.pdf](http://www.uct.ac.za/depts/sjrp/uctwild.pdf)

### KENYA LAUNCHES RHINO CONSERVATION STRATEGY

The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has launched a campaign to rebuild the country's black rhino population. KWS director, Nehemiah Rotich, said the black rhino had almost been driven to extinction with the population dropping from 20 000 to only 500 between 1970 and 1994 in Kenya. The new strategy involves the development of an integrated standardised monitoring system, biological management intended to maintain an overall population growth rate of 5 percent a year and a protection strategy to minimise poaching.

Website: [www.kenya-wildlife-service.org](http://www.kenya-wildlife-service.org)

### BOTSWANA ELEPHANTS TO GO TO ANGOLA

Twenty elephants will be relocated from Botswana to the Kissama National Park in Angola later this year. This follows the successful translocation of two family groups of elephants from South Africa to Kissama last year. Future plans also include the relocation of a very large group of 500 elephants to Kissama in 2002. Situated about 70 km outside Luanda, the Kissama National Park can accommodate up to 6 000 elephants. The relocation of these elephants forms part of an effort to restock Angola's national parks with game as the ongoing civil war has virtually destroyed all wildlife. The relocation effort is being spearheaded by Professor Wouter van Hoven of the Kissama Foundation. The Foundation intends supplying Angola's remaining eight national parks with animals from Kissama. The Foundation has also been approached by Senegal to assist with the relocation of elephants to the country's national parks. However, Prof van Hoven said that no elephants would be relocated unless the Senegalese government could give a guarantee of safety for the animals. Website: [www.kissama.org](http://www.kissama.org)

### CITES URGES AIRLINES TO RECONSIDER BOYCOTTS

Willem Wijnstekers, Secretary-General of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), warned that boycotts by airline companies of shipments containing legally traded wild animals go against the interests of the animals themselves and of poor people in developing countries. Reacting to a recent announcement by Lufthansa that it will no longer transport animals captured in the wild for commercial purposes,

Wijnstekers said that many developing countries are highly dependent on natural resources, including wildlife. He warned that a trend toward bans would undermine both animal welfare and conservation efforts by pushing shipments onto second-tier airlines and charters, where conditions may be worse and flight times longer. "The 153 member governments of CITES have agreed to a strict set of rules for ensuring that this trade is conducted in a way that does not endanger the species involved and that gives poor communities an economic stake in protecting the wildlife that they live with on a daily basis," he concluded. Website: [cites.org](http://cites.org)  
**HOUSING PROJECT ENDANGERS  
RARE BUTTERFLY**

The Gauteng Department of Housing is going ahead with a low-cost housing development project despite warnings by environmental groups that the project poses a threat to the rare Heidelberg copper butterfly. The Heidelberg Town Council's housing project will provide houses to more than 14 000 people. Environmental groups cautioned that the rare butterfly species is particularly susceptible to air-borne pollutants, and that an increase in smoke, such as that from cooking fires, could have serious consequences for the insect's survival. The Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa said the proposed project not only affects the Heidelberg copper, but also other insects and at least 22 plant species listed in the Red Data Book. The proposed housing site is situated between the Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve and the Alice Glockner Reserve. The latter has been identified as one of only two sites in South Africa where the butterfly has a hope to survive. The other site is a small private game ranch in Mpumalanga. Website: [www.wildlifesociety.org.za](http://www.wildlifesociety.org.za)

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