

The Recapture of Milionda

Reported by Anna Merz

When at the end of 1991 it was decided that the whole of Lewa Downs should be fenced and become a rhino sanctuary, together with the Ngare Ndare Government Forest Reserve, one of the most perplexing questions with which we were faced was what to do about the elephants. At certain times of the year and whenever they are under poaching pressure, they come — sometimes in very big herds — onto Lewa Downs and up into the Forest Reserve. We did not want to forbid them access. So we decided to leave a gap of about 300 meters in the fence to the north for them to use and then to narrow it down as they got used to it.

At the end of 1992, thanks in large part to the support from Bowling for Rhinos, this fence was completed. But before its completion in August, we received five white rhinos from S. Africa, as described in a previous newsletter. One of these, Milionda, a sub-adult male, was usually by himself in the NW part of Lewa. By a very fortunate coincidence, early in January, an Italian film team had paid for him to be captured and have a radio inserted in his horn in order to facilitate the monitoring of his movements.

Soon after this we received the most unexpected heavy rains and on the 30th of January we failed to locate him. By the first of February when he still had not been found, a major search was on

and late that afternoon Ian, flying north in a search pattern, located him in the SW part of the Samburu Game Reserve. The capture lorry and gear was already on standby and that evening Ian obtained the necessary permits to enable us to catch and move him.

The following morning I left at 5:00 a.m. but by the time I reached Ian's house he was already in the air and so was Francis in the other Supercub. I went down to Samburu in the Toyota

which was loaded with our best trackers and followed by the capture lorry. By the time we arrived, the rhino had been located and Ian was ready to dart it. Twice Ian darted it and each time the dart bounced off his rump and failed to penetrate. However it was enough to get the poor rhino thoroughly upset and he set off for the hills heading north at a smart trot. Ian and Kinanjui followed his tracks and we
(Continued inside — Anna's Report)



White rhino receiving supplemental feed during drought. — Photo by Andy Lodge

Lewa Downs, Ngare Sergoi Wildlife Project Update

By Andy Lodge



12% of world's remaining Grevy Zebras are at Lewa Downs.

Photo by Andy Lodge

I've recently returned from Lewa Downs, where I met with Anna Merz and Ian Craig. There is very bad news coming out of Zimbabwe as far as the rhino situation there. Recently 70 out of 100 dehorned white rhinos have been shot. The black rhino population has gone from 1,700 to less than 300 within the past year due to poaching. Yet Zimbabwe still wants to put rhino horn on the market, and refuses to build Sanctuaries to protect them.

The news is far better in Kenya where the rhino population is increasing. This increase is not huge but it certainly is an encouraging sign. This is due to projects such as Ngare Sergoi. Our black rhino population is now 16 and four more are arriving before the end of the year. The breeding program is back on track, and we are hopeful next year will be a good one.

We now have a total of 80 miles of fence, enclosing 58,000 acres. Now that the fence is in place the real work is set to begin — that of breeding and protecting the rhinos. As we have increased the protected area by almost six times over the original 10,000 acres of the reserve, the cost of protecting the wildlife has increased. I hope all of our supporters will continue to help us as many officials and conservationists feel Ngare Sergoi is the best run

wildlife project in Kenya and we owe so much to the people that give their time and money so we can continue the work.

As you know the project has expanded and is caring for not only rhinos but many other animals that live within the confines of this fenced-in area. To the right (facing page) is a list of the animals found under the protection of The Lewa Downs, Ngare Sergoi Wildlife Project. ■

Please Help!

Even though C.I.T.E.S. (The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) has banned the international trade in rhino products, five countries still blatantly continue this bloody practice. The governments of these five countries, **Taiwan, China, South Korea, Thailand and Yeman** turn a blind eye to this trade and it is allowed to flourish. Help save the Rhino!

Please Boycott products made in these countries and consider writing a letter to their representatives at these addresses:

China

Ambassador Zhu Qizhen
2300 Connecticut Ave NW
Washington, DC 20008

Taiwan

Coordination Council for North American Affairs
4201 Wisconsin Ave NW
Washington, DC 20016

South Korea

Ambassador Hong-Choo Hyun
2320 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20008

Thailand

Ambassador ML Birabhongse Kasemsri
2300 Kalorama RD NW
Washington, DC 20008

Yeman

Ambassador Hohsin A Alaini
2600 Virginia Ave NW
Washington, DC 20037

Animals found within the 58,000 acres of protected habitat at the Lewa Downs Wildlife Project

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Aardvark | Jackal, Side-Striped |
| Aarwolf | Klipspringer |
| Baboon, Olive | Kudu, Greater |
| Bat Eared Fox | Leopard |
| Buffalo, Cape | Lion |
| Bushbuck | Mongoose, Dwarf |
| Bushpig | Mongoose, Marsh |
| Caracal | Mongoose, Slender |
| Cheetah | Mongoose, White Tailed |
| Civet, African | Monkey, Vervet |
| Dik-dik, Gunthers | Oryx, Beisa |
| Duiker, Gray Bush | Ostrich, Somali |
| Eland, Patterson's | Otter, Clawless |
| Elephant, African | Porcupine, Crested |
| Galago, Lesser | Reedbuck, Mountain |
| Gazelle, Grant's | Rhinoceros, Black |
| Genet, Common | Rhinoceros, White |
| Gerenuk | Serval Cat |
| Giant Rat | Sitatunga |
| Giraffe, Reticulated | Squirrel, Ground |
| Hare, African | Steinbuck |
| Hartebeest, Jackson's | Warthog |
| Honey Badger, Ratel | Waterbuck, Common |
| Hyena, Spotted | Waterbuck, Defassa |
| Hyena, Striped | Wild Cat |
| Hyrax, Rock | Wild Dog |
| Hyrax, Tree | Zebra, Burchell's |
| Impala | Zebra, Grevy |
| Jackal, Blackbacked | Zorilla |

Latest animal count within the Lewa Downs Conservation Project

(All animals not counted.)

| | 1977 | 1993 |
|-----------------------|------|------|
| Buffalo, Cape | 60 | 170 |
| Cheetah | 2 | 4 |
| Eland, Patterson's | 56 | 231 |
| Elephant | 120 | 228 |
| Gerenuk | 11 | 81 |
| Giraffe, Reticulated | 197 | 340 |
| Gazelle, Grant's | 136 | 391 |
| Hartebeest, Jackson's | 25 | 58 |
| Impala | 95 | 558 |
| Kudu, Greater | 17 | 43 |
| Leopard | 4 | 12 |
| Lion | 1 | 2 |
| Oryx, Beisa | 17 | 82 |
| Ostrich, Somali | 18 | 62 |
| Reedbuck, Mountain | 9 | 5 |
| Rhino, Black | 0 | 18 |
| Rhino, White | 0 | 11 |
| Sitatunga | 0 | 11 |
| Steinbok | 8 | 6 |
| Warthog | 23 | 291 |
| Waterbuck, Defassa | 23 | 548 |
| Zebra, Burchell's | 254 | 1395 |
| Zebra, Grevy | 81 | 352 |

*12% of world's remaining Grevy Zebras are at Lewa Downs.

Children's Column

By Missy Betcher

The holidays are here again. During this season we often gather with friends and family. Often when we are in groups we tell stories, and folktales are always a favorite.

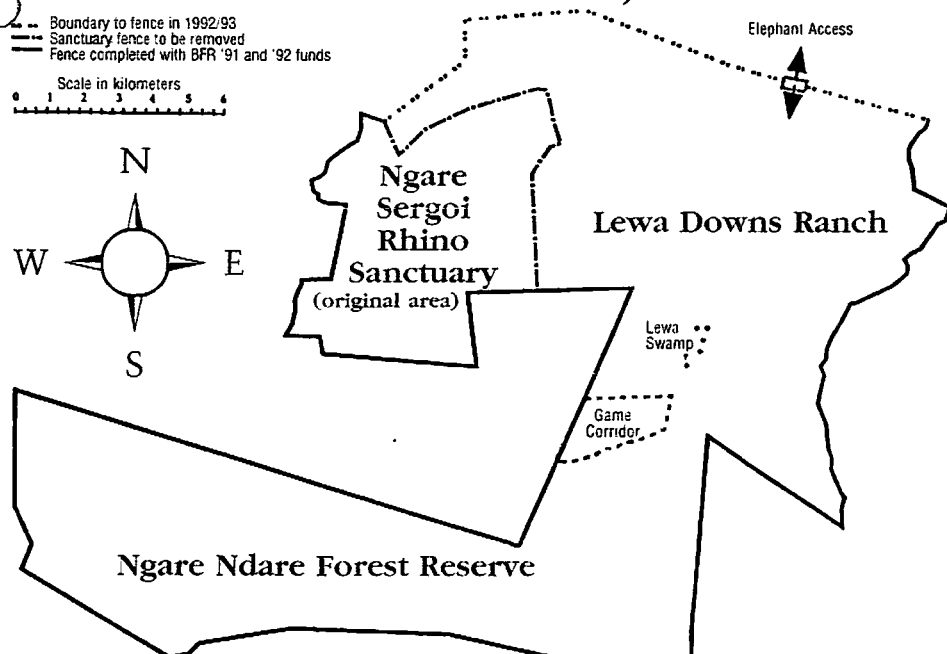
Every country has its own collection of folktales yet there are underlying themes that appear in all folktales: good over evil, the clever outwitting the strong, happiness as its own reward. Each country adapts these

themes to its own culture. In the U.S., folktales often center on the settling of America and around people like

Johnny Appleseed, Pecos Bill or Paul Bunyan and his blue ox Babe. In Africa, where much of the history and life centers around wildlife, it is no wonder that animals often appear in African folktales. Animal folktales have helped African people understand nature over the centuries and have taught them to respect and live with the animals which share their world.

Following is a brief "explanation" of some animal habits according to African tales. These are just a sample of the many folktales which portray animals. All of these folktales come

Ngare Sergoi/Lewa Downs Conservation Project



from tribes living in East Africa (often two or more tribes in the same country have variations on the same story), but similar stories are told in other parts of Africa and also, in other parts of the world.

If these folktales interest you, why not visit a bookstore or library, they have lots of African folktale books, as well as folktales from other countries too. Don't forget, after you read folktales, tell them — it is only through telling tales that they become alive. Each time you read or tell a folktale, it is a little different and that is what makes them so much fun.

Did you ever wonder why **elephants** do not live around people? According to a folktale from Zimbabwe many years ago the elephant and the **hyena** did live among people. But the elephant ate all the villager's corn and the hyena ate all the pumpkins. The other

animals were very upset at the elephant and hyena so the two decided to ask the chief to change their names and then they would no longer have to be embarrassed. While waiting for the chief to change their names, the

elephant ate his corn and the hyena ate his skins. The two animals were so ashamed they ran into the bush. And to this day neither the elephant nor the hyena lives around

people and they are usually shunned by the other animals.

Why do animals look or act the way they do? A Kenya folktale explains why a **giraffe** has a long neck and why a **rhino** has a nasty disposition. According to

tradition when the earth was formed, the giraffe looked more like a deer. One year during a bad drought, the giraffe and the rhino went to man to ask for aid in reaching the leaves on the treetops. Giraffe waited patiently while man prepared a magic herb, but rhino wandered off.

By the time rhino remembered and arrived at man's hut, giraffe had eaten all the magic herb and become the animal

we know today. Rhino was very mad because there was no magic herb left, and he began to chase man. Rhino acts the same today.

Another Kenya folktale tells us why the **hare** has no friends. Many years ago, the hare tried to make friends with many of the animals. First, he went to visit the **eagle**. When the eagle dived and caught a chicken for lunch, hare said he could do that too. Yet when eagle visited, hare could not catch a chicken and eagle had to fetch his own dinner. Eagle and hare were never friends again. Another day, hare went to visit **crocodile**. To visit, crocodile had to carry hare to his island home. When it became late, hare decided to spend the night with the crocodiles. Yet in the middle of the night he woke up and ate all of Mrs. Crocodile's eggs. It was not until they were halfway across the river that crocodile found out about the eggs. Although he bit hare's leg, hare managed to escape and swim to shore. But he lost another friend. (Variations of this tale include many other friendships which hare lost. African folklore is full of stories about hare, and many of them will remind American children of Brer Rabbit and his adventures.)

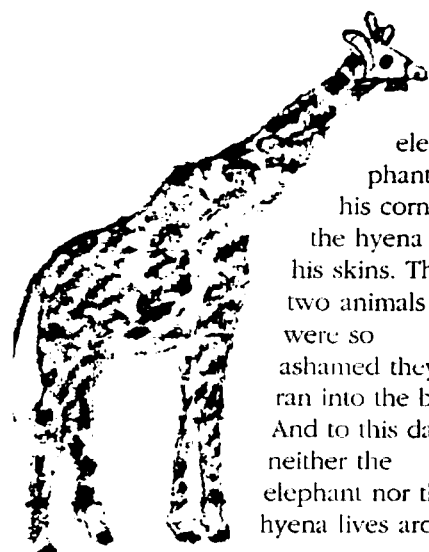
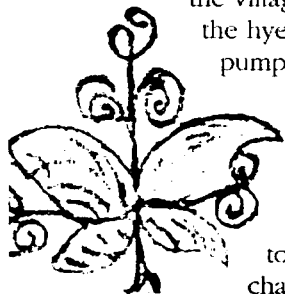
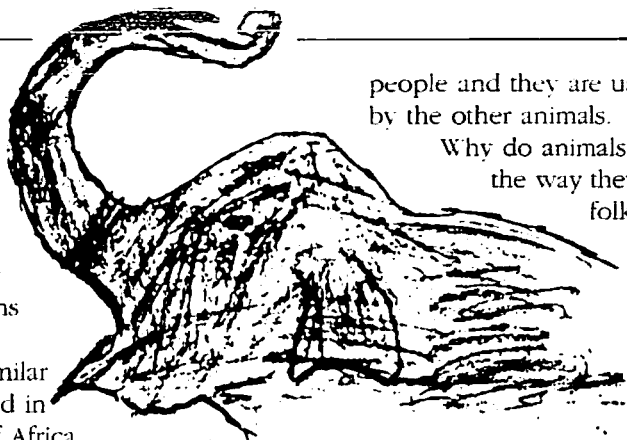
Baboons

are another creature that we often wonder why they act the way they do. A Zimbabwe folktale says it is because baboons were once people. Several families left their homes in the village and began to live in the rocks which were safe from wild animals. Over time, the children were able to scamper over the rocks and they began to talk less and less. More time passed and the children's noses became bigger, their teeth longer, and they spent almost all the time on all fours. Yet deep down these creatures still remembered that they were people and whenever they saw another of their own kind they laughed and jeered because he looked so funny. Eventually each of the original families went their own way and became what we know as a **Baboon** troop. And whenever a baboon sees another baboon, it laughs because it looks so funny. ■

Some African folktale books to get you started:

- Fairman, Tony. **Bury My Bones But Keep My Words: African Tales for Retelling**. 1991 (2-5)
- Rosen, Michael. **How Giraffe Got Such a Long Neck . . . And Why Rhino is so Grumpy**. 1993 (K-2)
- Rosen, Michael. **How the Animals Got Their Colors**. 1992 (K-2)
- Smith, Alexander McCall. **Children of Wax: African folk tales**. 1989 (3-6)
- Walters, Mary "Ching." **The Baboon's Umbrella**. 1991 (K-6)

Cow



(Continued from cover—
Anna's Report)

went off in the general direction with the vehicles but had to make a huge detour to cross a big dry river bed. Eventually the terrain became so rough that we had to walk ahead of the vehicles to guide them. Finding where it was possible for them to cross the endless gullies took a lot of time.

In the meantime Ian and Kinanjui had located the rhino once more and again darted him and once again the dart failed to penetrate. The last we saw of him, he was heading north — a magnificent sight in spectacular country which had once been home to countless rhino. Sadly we gave up for the night and I flew back with Ian, the Toyota returned loaded to the brim and the lorry stayed down there.

It was an uneasy night wondering if the shifta would catch up with him before we did. Both Supercubs were ready to leave at dawn as was the Toyota. I waited on the airstrip. After about two hours flying Ian picked up Milionda's radio signal about 30 miles to the east of where he had last been seen. Francis picked me up and we flew down to the Shaba airstrip and then drove over the main road to the north into the Samburu Reserve. Ian and Kinanjui were following the rhino on foot. Our wait was enlivened by three cheetah who were wandering around in the vicinity. Suddenly our rhino appeared at speed heading north, he then turned and ran south again moving parallel with the main road. Ian told us on the radio that this time the dart had penetrated and Francis was already airborne to see where he went down. We got moving with the lorry and unbelievably he went down within about 20 meters of the main road. We were able to load him with great ease and we all thought it was just as well that we had not been successful the previous day.

Milionda departed in the lorry with a heavily armed K.W.S. escort and by evening was safely established in one of the holding bomas. There he remained while we reduced the size of the elephant gap to about 30 meters and put a very low stone wall across it. So far this has worked — the elephants

and eland use it regularly but not the rhinos. Since being released again, Milionda is usually with two of the other young white rhinos with whom he came up from South Africa, Uthumi and Ntombele, and is not wandering quite so extensively.

Sadly the April rains failed again so now we are extremely dry once more having had no rain since January and it is unlikely we will get any before November. It was great fun having the Bowling for Rhinos winners here in March, Cara Lance who was the winner and Debbie Palay who came second with their friends, Andrew Henderson and Patrick Eichhorn. We hope they enjoyed their visit as much as we enjoyed having them. Also there have been a number of large zoo groups and we hope by next year it will be possible to have them to stay and not just for lunch.

My second book, "Golden Dunes and Desert Mountains," published by the company started recently by Francis' father, Tony, came out in May. I wrote it to try and make money for the rhinos and it is available from the Support Group and Andy Lodge. It is about my life in Ghana and travels in the Sahara.

As far as I am concerned the major excitement this year has been the mating of Samia by the male rhino, Kenu, whom we captured up north in January. This great event took place on the 6th April and again on the 1st and 2nd May. She proved, to my vast relief, to be able to look after herself very well, and her behavior with other rhinos seems to be totally normal. Of course now the big question is did I bring her up well enough for her to know how to cope with her baby if and when it is born.

On April 1st the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy came into existence. This is something that I am very excited about. The

Craig family, with their usual generosity, have decided that Lewa Downs shall become a Wildlife Conservancy managed by a Board of Directors of whom I am one. We are all working very hard to get the Conservancy going and we are all determined that it will become the role model for multiple land use for the dry rangelands of Africa south of the Sahara. We are determined to prove to the local peoples and Governments that wild animals can benefit them, can benefit the country, can benefit us and can be kept together with beef cattle. We are also keen to get tourism going on a wider basis. We want to appeal especially to the serious Eco-Tourist and offer them a complete two week experience. We would like to enable them both to do and to learn something different every day. Our aim is that those who visit us are not only our guests but also our ambassadors who will return and tell the world what we are trying to do. I am greatly excited about this aspect of our project, even to the extent of wanting to get involved with it. Those of you who know my hermit like habits will no doubt have a good laugh at this moment . . . But we hope a lot of our supporters will plan to visit us in the future and see what we are doing as well as take advantage of what may be the best rhino viewing in Africa. ■

To order your copy (paperback)
of the book by Anna Merz,

GOLDEN DUNES AND DESERT MOUNTAINS

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H.O.R.N.

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