

wild, free roaming specimen. Let's use the flower analogy again to bring it into perspective. Some rare color hybrid of one of our aloes is created under controlled circumstances. Some bloke with enough money buys this and then submits this specimen as if he has discovered it in the wild. Sure enough the rare specimen has value in the industry but no one can register his/her name next to it in some trophy book stating that it has harvested a truly unique specimen of a species. Maybe it will be better to enter these artificial bred animals into the Guinness Book of Records. Or open up more categories in Rowland Ward and SCI for the other animals we are manipulating artificially like Brahman or Sussex cattle. Both can develop spectacular horns and have as much right to be in there as the game growing up on lucerne bales in a Bonnox enclosure. "Hunting" any of these animals is the true form of canned hunting and should never be allowed.

Because of this dilemma the trophy bodies like Rowland Ward and SCI should give their criteria a serious look. Maybe it is time for them to accredit only certain pieces of land they have inspected and found fit to the description of wilderness where free roaming trophies can be hunted. If the hunter can only enter animals hunted in these areas we will be moving closer to the crux of the matter and that is conservation of habitat. The only reason less and less major trophies are taken is because their natural habitat is diminished by the day. Breeding 50 inch buffalo bulls will never bring back the thickets and streams that now sport Tuscan villas in the bush. True conservation of the biodiversity starts with conserving the soil and plants that form the habitat of the animals we hunt.

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Not All In Favour Of Burning Rhino Horn

Gerhard Damm

Armed guards escorted officials marching 60 kilograms of rhino horns to a pyre for burning at Dvůr Králové Zoo in Czech Republic in the first public burning of rhino horns in Europe. The horns came from a government stockpile. The Czech Republic is often used as a transit point for smugglers of rhino horn. In 2013, officials seized two dozen white rhino horns and arrested 16 individuals for allegedly smuggling horns.

Ian Player, Iconic Rhino Conservationist who spearheaded Operation Rhino that saved the few remaining southern race of white rhino, slammed the recent Czech rhino horn burning supported amongst others by CITES Secretary General John Scanlon. In an interview with Rhino War News Focus, Player said *"I was appalled to read of the actions of John Scanlon. CITES is now acting as prosecutor, judge and jury. But their actions are a serious insult to the rural black communities surrounding our parks. These unfortunate people live in dire poverty and with the limited legitimate sale of rhino horn could improve their living conditions and also set aside land for rhino to breed and increase. In case Mr Scanlon does not know it the rhino was saved in Southern Africa without any help from CITES and we need no lessons from any ill -considered actions on their part to try and tell us what we need to do. They are inflicting a serious blow to rhino conservation and have done CITES enormous harm. The Czech government can be forgiven for their ignorant action but Mr Scanlon will ultimately be held to account."*

