



# 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.

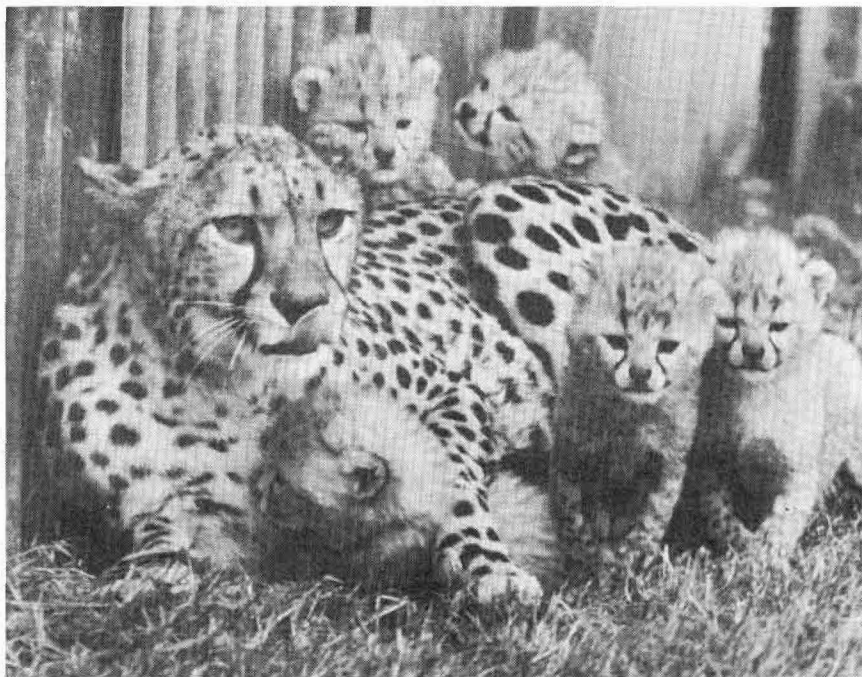
All stocks of recovered horn should be destroyed in an attempt to close any loopholes and an action plan on the issue should be top priority for the Conservation on International Trade in Endangered Species (C.I.T.E.S.) conference in Costa Rica in March.

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.

