

NEWSLETTER



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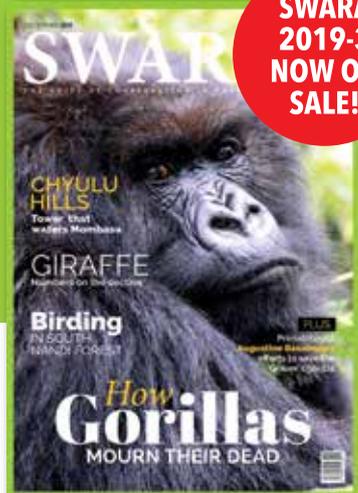
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A Glance At Decisions At The International Conference On Wildlife Trade

This month was remarkable for the conservation space, in light of landmark decisions recently made at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Geneva, Switzerland. The East African Wild Life Society champions conservation and sustainable use of the environment and are thus dedicating this issue of the newsletter to inform you about the significance of some of these decisions to conservation. Enjoy!

Every three years, delegates from across the globe gather to talk about the international wildlife trade, which is worth billions of dollars annually. At issue is an overarching question: how do we balance this international commerce in wildlife and their products with the need to ensure that species are not driven to extinction?

The meetings are convened by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), a treaty enacted in 1975 to govern the international trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

The latest Conference of Parties was held in Geneva from 17th to 28th August.

block but has 28 individual votes, asks for the vote to be postponed, but the chair rejects the call.

Zimbabwe, the United States and the European Union are against the move. Kenya, Niger, and Burkina Faso speak in support.

There are 46 yes votes and 18 no votes, with the European Union neither voting nor abstaining.



August 20 On black rhino trophy hunting in South Africa.

Parties vote to allow South Africa to increase its annual export quota for black rhino hunting trophies. The current quota allows for five adult male trophies, but the new quota will allow a number not exceeding half a percent of the country's total black rhino population - a maximum of about 10 animals. Adult males will be targeted to protect breeding females.

South Africa argues that the money raised from trophy hunting helps support conservation.



August 18: On export of live, wild-caught elephants

In a surprise early vote, parties vote in committee to amend a resolution to limit trade in live, wild-caught African elephants to range countries only.

The European Union, which acts as a



**August 21
Domestic ivory markets
will remain open**

A proposal calling for the closure of all domestic ivory markets is voted down. Instead, the Conference of Parties calls for countries to report back on their domestic ivory market plans by the next Standing Committee meeting, which will likely take place in the spring or summer of 2020.

Although most of the CITES proposals on the elephant ivory trade are focused on international commerce, conservation groups and dozens of country representatives argue that domestic ivory markets create opportunities for obtained laundering illegally obtained ivory.

While the United States, United Kingdom, and China have closed their domestic ivory markets in recent years, Japan and the EU face criticism for keeping theirs open. (Some EU member countries, including France and Luxembourg, however, have banned domestic trade.)



**August 22
Increased protections
for the giraffe**

According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), giraffe populations have declined up to 40

percent during the past three decades, largely because of habitat loss and fragmentation.

Parties vote to adopt a proposal to restrict trade in giraffes, hunted for their skin, meat, bones, and tails. Several African countries propose that giraffes, listed by the IUCN as vulnerable, be moved to Appendix II under CITES.



**August 22
Saiga antelope receives
new protection**

The saiga antelope, a Central Asian animal listed as critically endangered since 2002, does not net enough votes to move to CITES Appendix I – a designation that would prohibit any international trade in the species. The saiga will still be listed under Appendix II, which allows trade with proper paperwork. However, an annotation is added placing the quota for international commercial trade in wild-caught saiga at zero. With minimal captive breeding of saiga, this change effectively will eliminate any trade in saiga horn.



**August 23
Elephants and ivory**

Impassioned arguments from several southern African countries fail to generate enough support to allow South Africa, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe to reopen their ivory trade.



**August 25
Mako sharks**

A proposal to strengthen protections for both shortfin and longfin mako sharks, hunted for their meat and fins, is adopted after a 102-40 secret ballot vote.



**August 25
Otter protection debate continues
even as one species gains new
protection**

The growing interest in otters as an exotic pet propels discussions about two proposals to move the Asian small-clawed otter and the smooth-coated otter from Appendix II to Appendix I of CITES - changes that would end all legal international trade in the species.

The vote on banning all international trade of smooth-coated otters goes to a vote and passes with 102 for, 15 against, and 11 abstentions. All trade of smooth-coated otters will now be banned, assuming this decision was confirmed by the plenary.



**August 25
Southern white rhinos**

Proposal to open up trade in white Rhino rejected amidst fierce opposition from Eswatini and Namibia.



August 26
Vote on Asian small-clawed otter passes with 86 percent approval

The world's smallest otter -- the Asian small-clawed otter -- gains new protections in a vote. The decision will lead to a ban in all international commercial trade.



August 26
Woolly mammoths will not be treated as endangered after all

A controversial proposal to list the extinct woolly mammoth as a regulated species under CITES is officially withdrawn after it looks unlikely to pass. It would have been the lone example of an extinct animal being treated as an endangered species.

The proposal, put forward by Israel, intended to enhance protection of elephants from the illegal ivory trade, because carved mammoth ivory is largely indistinguishable from that of elephants. The trade in mammoth ivory -- sometimes known as ice ivory -- as grown in recent years as permafrost in Siberia has melted, making the remains of these long extinct animals more accessible.

Russia, the main exporter of mammoth ivory, opposes the proposition.

In place of its original proposal, Israel ultimately offers an alternative. It asks for a study on the trade in mammoth ivory and its contribution to the illegal trade in elephant ivory and elephant poaching. That proposal passes by consensus.



Tokay gecko

August 26
More than a third of the proposals at this year's CITES summit related to amphibians and reptiles threatened by the exotic pet industry—and most will now have new protections. Almost 20 amphibian and reptile proposals considered, including one to increase regulations protecting the Union Island gecko and controversial proposals for the Tokay gecko and Indian star tortoise, stem from concerns over the burgeoning appetite for the exotic pet industry.

They all pass, with two exceptions – a proposal that was withdrawn before any debate and another that sought to list the more than 100 species of glass frogs, which fails to get the required two-thirds majority.



August 26
Rosewood decision -- new exemptions for musical instruments

Guitars and violins are often made with dense, tropical hardwood called rosewood, though the greatest demand for this wood is for traditional-style furniture in China. The world's most

trafficked wild product by value as well as by volume, rosewood is now listed under Appendix II of CITES. On this day, the Conference of the Parties accepts a proposal from Canada and the European Union that would allow certain exemptions of rosewood use, including for finished musical instruments and component parts that contain rosewood, following the recommendation of a working group on this topic. Other finished rosewood products, such as small handicrafts weighing less than 10 kilograms per shipment, would also be exempt (that's a change from an earlier proposal that had put the limit at 500 grams per item).



August 29
During the final two days of the meeting – a time known officially as the plenary – almost all the decisions from earlier in the summit were approved. But one key issue was reopened and took up a large portion of the debate: Trade in elephants to zoos is banned with the exception of extenuating circumstances where transfer of those elephants provides conservation benefits to the species.

What Can You Do At Home To Be A Conservationist?

“If we have something to learn from CITES, it is that our planet is in trouble, so as The East African Wildlife Society we would like to give you a few simple pointers on how to conserve nature’s vital resources.”

None of us is perfect. We will all at some point fly somewhere, drive somewhere, cook something, burn something and probably provide some direct input into the general warming of the globe. Indirectly, we will also have some impact on the animals that share this planet with us. Below are a few simple ways to practice conservation at home:

SHOP RESPONSIBLY

This is super easy for everyone to do. For example; don't buy products which have palm oil, because the palm oil plantations are destroying rainforests and thus affecting the global weather. Try and avoid un-recyclable packaging like plastics, which ultimately end up in the sea or in landfills. Instead opt for eco-friendly or recyclable packaging.



WATER USE AT HOME

Ok, this is the thing. Each time we flush the toilet we send approximately 20ltrs of water down the drain. So, “if it’s yellow, let it mellow” ... you know the rest...! Have shorter showers, water your garden a little less. Imagine if we all stop flushing our loos each time we did a wee. Billions and billions of liters’ of fresh water would be saved and available to rush down rivers, feed the fish, save the lakes and enable forests and trees and plants to flourish.



CONSERVE ENERGY AT HOME

- One of the easiest ways to conserve energy at home is to embrace the use of natural light whenever possible. Try arranging your workspace and often-used areas of your home so that sunlight fills the area during the day. This is good for both the environment and your bank account. Studies have shown that natural light also increases serotonin levels in the brain, meaning you’ll feel happier and more relaxed too.
- Unplug appliances when you aren’t using them. Computers use a lot of energy when sitting idle, so be sure to power your computer down at the end of the day.



PLANT!

Plant flowers for birds, bees and other pollinators. Plant a garden to harvest your own food in order to reduce consumption of produce from commercial farms, which have been linked to environmental degradation, including air and water pollution, depletion of soils, fish die-offs, and diminishing biodiversity. Plant, nurture trees and harvest their fruit.

BECOME A “WILD INFLUENCER”

Yup, you heard it here first. This is a special person who may not be a mega activist, but really, really cares about the environment and what is happening. As the “influencer” you do a few very simple and easy things. For example, encourage your friends and family to do some of the simple things we have mentioned above. Talk about it on social media, in the pub, at work. Does your workplace subscribe to some good environmental practices? Email or write to your local government representative (maybe an MP, Senator, Governor, etc.) and find out what they are doing to help the wildlife around your locality. Hold your elected representatives accountable. You have a voice, we all do, use it and don’t be afraid.

Lastly –and perhaps most importantly, every single thing you do, as an individual, a family, a football club or a work team makes an impact. Do it.

Themes From The World's Biggest Conference On Wildlife Trade

The 18th meeting of the global treaty on cross-border wildlife trade was contentious—but more than 130 species received newly protection.

Geneva- Nine animals received increased protections from international trade, and more than 130 species won protections for the first time at a two-week summit aimed at managing the multibillion-dollar cross-border wildlife trade while preventing endangered animals and plants from sliding to extinction.

From August 17 to August 28, 182 countries and the European Union considered proposals for more than 500 species, and their votes often broke down based on political, economic, and geographic lines. Until now, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora's (CITES) decisions about levels of protection for species have been based exclusively on science—knowledge accumulated by biologists and ecologists, for example—but disagreements arose

over how much weight CITES should now give to other factors, including the needs and desires of rural communities that live alongside wildlife. Economic and social benefits, for example, such as revenue from hunting and ecotourism to benefit villagers, are increasingly seen as integral to discussions about levels of protection.

Not all countries went home happy. Southern African nations for example squared off against many other African nations on their differing approaches to elephant conservation and how to fund it.

1. **Marine animals are gaining a needed safety net.**

Decisions to increase protections for mako sharks, wedgefish, and guitarfish came on the heels of a resolution proposed by Antigua and Barbuda to stop all marine species from being listed under CITES until it can be demonstrated that CITES protections do in fact make a difference. The resolution was roundly rejected, but this wasn't a new notion. CITES was set up to deal

with terrestrial species, leading some to say that marine species should be excluded and that regulation should be left to regional fishery bodies. This year, Warwick says it seems that a consensus was finally reached: In a "weird" but "positive anticlimax," Japan, which opposed the mako shark proposal, surprised conservationists when it didn't reopen the mako shark debate in the final session. That's when proposal decisions must be confirmed or rejected and countries have a chance to reopen debates. This shows the idea that CITES is for sharks is becoming mainstream, Warwick says.

"There's a growing recognition that CITES does marine and it does it well," he says.

2. **The exotic pet trade is putting an increasing strain on dozens of threatened species.**

More than a third of the proposals this year related to reptiles and



amphibians that are now threatened, largely because of their popularity as exotic pets in the United States, the EU, and elsewhere. Those species include the Indian star tortoise and the tokay gecko. Collectively, more than 20 of the 56 proposals up for CITES consideration had listings spurred by the pet trade. Almost all mustered enough votes to increase protections. Only one proposal—to list all 104 species of glass frogs—failed to pass.

3. How should countries fund conservation?

CITES didn't provide answers. The long-standing debate over how to fund conservation efforts came up again this year, notably in the debate over elephant and rhino protections. Some conservationists have suggested ecotourism or donations could help. During the debates, the representative from Eswatini (Swaziland) angrily invited opposing countries and nonprofit organizations to step up and pay to protect its rhinos.

“Opinion seems to come not with responsibility,” he said of the opposition. “If the finance is not available to protect them, rhinos will continue to die, and so will people.”

4. Frustrations persist between southern African countries and the more than 30 countries that make up the African Elephant Coalition.

Debate about how to manage the trade in charismatic large animals and products from them, including ivory and rhino horn, was intense. Southern African countries, such as Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe, had very different views from the countries that have come together as the African Elephant Coalition, a consortium of more than 30 countries that seek to preserve African elephant populations and want a world free from trade threats to the animals. Officials from the former said they should have the right to trade their animals and products from them and believe they should be rewarded for their

conservation. Coalition members such as Kenya, for example, argued that these species still need to be preserved and shouldn't be involved in global commerce beyond current levels.

5. The EU, which stands as a 28-vote block, wields the power to make or break proposals.

At the start of the conference, not all 28 EU countries had been fully credentialed. As a result, when a major vote came up about banning the sale of wild African elephants to countries outside where they live, the EU, even though it opposed the proposal, couldn't vote. Had the EU voted, the proposal would have failed.

6. Is CITES acting quickly enough?

A 2019 United Nations report on extinction rates found that about one million species of animals and plants are in danger of disappearing, many within decades, because of humans. The vast majority of animals traded from country to country aren't protected under CITES.





“CITES is an important conservation and wildlife protection tool, but given the rapid rate of global biodiversity loss, there is always the wish that CITES, government, and NGOs could move faster,” notes Neil D’Cruze global wildlife advisor for the international animal welfare nonprofit World Animal Protection.

7. CITES is flawed. A path to fix it remains unclear

A frequent complaint is the lack of transparency at many of the controversial votes at CITES meetings, including those relating to marine animals and elephants. The convention allows for secret ballot votes, and in such cases, one country can ask for a matter to be voted on by secret ballot. As long as 10 countries second that bid, the public will never know how a given country voted—unless that country asks for its vote to be put on the record. That’s

a problem because countries need to be accountable to their public, says Lieberman.

Another criticism of the treaty is that the emphasis now is too heavily on restricting trade. Moreover, many observers say that CITES doesn’t treat poorer nations on par with richer ones—disproportionately sanctioning the former for failing to comply with or enforce the treaty. “It’s also fair to say that countries with well established and well staffed CITES authorities are much better versed at defending themselves,” says John Scanlon, who served as secretary-general from 2010 to 2018. CITES meetings generally happen every three years, although they’re meant to occur biannually. More frequent meetings would drive up the costs of managing the treaty but could shorten agendas, streamlining the process. Still, the three-year cadence seems unlikely to change: At

the conclusion of this meeting, the next Conference of the Parties was announced for 2022, to be hosted by Costa Rica.

8. New elephant protections underscore evolution in thinking about these intelligent, sensitive creatures

Although public attention is drawn toward charismatic creatures such as elephants and rhinos, most illegal wildlife trade actually involves timber, plants, and marine life.

Still, the most contentious debates at this summit, as in previous ones, swirled around elephants—with proposals about opening up ivory trade, closing down domestic ivory markets, and loosening the restrictions limiting Zambia’s elephant sales. All three failed to pass, leaving the status of elephants largely unchanged.

Kenya's Wildlife Protectors Scoop Top Honors In Geneva



Wildlife law enforcement champions from 10 countries were recognized today with the Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award at the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in Geneva.

The Animal Welfare Institute presents the prestigious award to individuals, organizations and agencies that have demonstrated excellence in combatting wildlife crime.

Former director of Parks and Reserves for the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Julius Kariuki Kimani and Julius Maluki Mwandai were on Wednesday honored for their efforts in fighting wildlife crime and mentorship roles.

The two were recognized with the Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Award on the sidelines of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP) in the ongoing Convention for International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES)

Kariuki was honored posthumously for his decades of service improving inter-agency efforts to fight wildlife crime, raising awareness within Kenya's judiciary about the importance of wildlife

protection, and enhancing intelligence to identify wildlife criminals and gangs.

According to a report released in Geneva, Switzerland on Wednesday, the deceased began his career as an assistant warden with the Wildlife Conservation and Management Department in Kenya (the predecessor of KWS) and rose through the ranks to become director of parks and reserves.

He was pivotal in securing the integrity of parks and their ecosystems in Kenya by improving industry governance and strengthening law enforcement linkages to enhance conservation.

On his part, Julius Maluki Mwandai, senior assistant director and head of investigations for the Kenya Wildlife Service, was honoured for mentoring thousands of wildlife law enforcement officers in Kenya and across Africa.

For decades, Julius has worked to transform the KWS paramilitary school into a distinguished regional wildlife law enforcement training institution and demonstrating exemplary leadership in dramatically reducing rhino and elephant poaching in Kenya.

Elephant poaching numbers in the country decreased from 384 in 2012 to 40 in 2018, and rhino poaching numbers decreased from 30 to four during the

same period. In addition, nearly 10,000 wildlife criminals were arrested.

Speaking during the convention while presenting the awards, DJ Schubert, wildlife biologist for Animal Welfare Institute said: "The world's wildlife are under threat like never before from criminal syndicates, poachers and others who don't hesitate to kill and capture wildlife out of greed and callousness, without consideration for the harm they cause to ecological function and biodiversity," explained Schubert.

"Anyone who cherishes our wildlife heritage owes a debt of gratitude to those honored here today."

The award is named after the late chief of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Law Enforcement.

Bavin substantially elevated the fight against wildlife crime in the United States and internationally, pioneering the use of covert investigations and sting operations to expose illegal wildlife trade and advocating for the use of forensic science to identify and prosecute wildlife criminals.

Adapted from: <https://awionline.org/press-releases/wildlife-law-enforcement-leaders-honored-cites>.

IMRE LOEFLER LECTURE

KAREN COUNTRY CLUB
@ THE NGONG ROOM

25TH SEPTEMBER, 2019



Innovative Approches To Community Based Conservation Programmes, Combinig Science And Indeginous Knowledge

The decline of biodiversity and species across the world and intensified conflicts between protected areas and local communities led the realization and promotion of community based conservation during and since the World National Parks congress of 1982 in Bali Indonesia.

Indeed community based conservation is proving to be successful in reducing threats to nature and positively impacting on the livelihoods of the local communities in Kenya. However the role of science in providing guidance and striking a balance between conservation goals verses meeting community livelihoods needs remains critical. Needless to say integration and utilization of modern science and indigenous knowledge for mutual optimum benefits for both conservation and development goals is highly recommended. Indeed sustaining ecosystems processes in the face of climatic variability, first growing human population coupled with modernization requires a sound foundation of research and monitoring and a good working relationship between scientist and local land owners.

About the Speaker

LESHAKWET PETER is currently the CEC in charge of Tourism, Cooperative, Trade and Enterprise Development Samburu County Government. He hold a bachelor of arts degree in Environmental studies-Planning and management from Kenyatta University and a Master of Science degree in conservation and tourism from University of Kent United Kingdom.

PROGRAMME

6.30 P.M: Welcome glass of wine
7.00 P.M: Lecture starts

MEMBERS & GUESTS

Members & Guests: 1,500/-
Lecture & Dinner: 2,800/-

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