

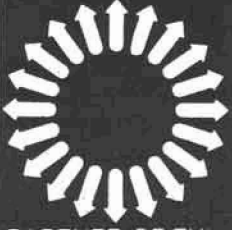
# AFRICANA



Incorporating the East African Wild Life Society's quarterly review,  
and World Wildlife Fund - Kenya Notes

OL. 6 No. 2 July 1976 Shs. 6/-

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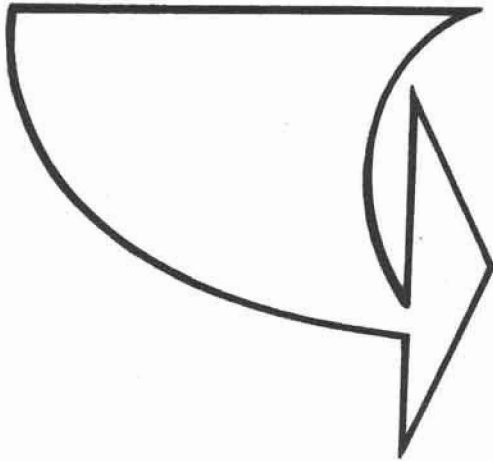


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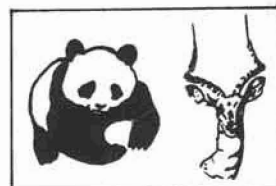
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# AFRICANA



Incorporating the East African Wild Life Society's quarterly review, and World Wildlife Fund - Kenya Notes

VOL. 6 No. 2 July 1976 Shs. 6/-

## EDITORIAL

HENRY KISSINGER was in Kenya recently for the UNCTAD and, understandably, he took to the bush.

He was on one of those "it's Tuesday it must be Timbuctu" safaris—or it would have been but for a brief interruption of what might be described as "Nkrumah's Revenge" and, more significantly, a full 24 hours' stop in the Mara Game Reserve. The Secretary also took time out to see a few flamingo at Lake Nakuru.

This priority interest in wildlife by a man who might otherwise have been busy in Nairobi was strong political support for the minority conservation lobby in Kenya. By example, he reinforced the argument that Kenya gets noticed in the world—and is genuinely appreciated—as much for its primitive wilderness as for its comparatively civilised politics and economics.

Apparently Dr. Kissinger was attracted to Kenya on both counts; so, who knows . . . there is precedent for countries to receive an "economic miracle" as a result of an American Secretary of State's concern for regional political balance and preserving a valuable culture. Without being too geographically exact, Kenya is located between Somalia and Angola; and there are some who say the country's wildlife and its natural habitats are culturally significant in the world.

At least we can romanticize on the effects of a "Kissinger Plan for Kenya," which after all need only be a mini Marshall Plan. Assuming it's offered and accepted, it leads to a fully developed "United States of East and Central Africa" and, more narrowly, to final security for the objects of tourist interest as an essential part of the economic reconstruction process.

The first 135 million dollars, we imagine, is allocated to Diani on Kenya's south coast, within range of influence in Tanzania. This implements a plan recently organised by the Kenya Treasury which amounts to a small revolution in tourism development and an example to other countries at present weighing tourism revenue against the enormous costs of environment and social damage. (page 11)

The Diani project puts tourists in their proper place—totally absorbed in the host society, with the impact of their wealth neutralised—rather than segregated in exclusive foreign enclaves, such as the national parks and a strip of concrete resorts along the coast.

But from our narrow viewpoint, the most interesting principle is that tourism should provide the impetus and direct funding for building-up, re-stocking and protecting wildlife sanctuaries; preserving forests, beach and reef; and for shoring up historic sites such as Lamu.

Clearly, all this would interest Americans like Dr. Kissinger who have the right priorities, like putting the chance of a good game run ahead of any economic considerations. Others may be a little contrary, such as the Secretary of the US Treasury (viz: UNCTAD) or perhaps the key man, Mr. McNamara of the World Bank, who apparently is impressed only by sums and statistics.

Fortunately for this fantasy, Kenya's Minister of Tourism and Wildlife has a tape of a complex and novel computer model which will print out a full volume of economic justification for the proposal. This is actually fascinating detail on GNP contribution, nett foreign exchange earnings, employment generation and tax revenues—but, roughly translated into Dr. K's language, it says that by spreading the tangible benefits of contact with the outside world among the ordinary people of Kenya, the chances are that the country's stability and Liberal attitudes will be maintained. In effect, a New Deal opportunity is offered for Kenya conservation.

**Editor:** JOHN EAMES; **Production Editor:** BRYAN ORCHARD; **publisher,** Marketing & Publishing Ltd.; **editorial address,** Nation House, Tom Mboya St. P.O. Box 49010, Nairobi, Kenya; **Tel. 21341; 337691/2; Advertising, subscription and accounts:** Nation House, Tom Mboya Street, P.O. Box 49010, Nairobi **Tel. 337691/2; Cables:** Nationwide, Nairobi. "Africana" incorporates the **Quarterly Review of the East African Wild Life Society and Quarterly Notes from World Wildlife Fund-Kenya.** *Advertising representatives overseas:* USA: Sullivan Greco Inc., Suite 5-6, 1030 North State St. Chicago, J11.60610 (Tel: 301943-7072); U.K.: Overseas Newspapers (Agencies) Ltd.; Cromwell House, Fullwood Place. London W.C.1 (Tel: 01-242-0661).

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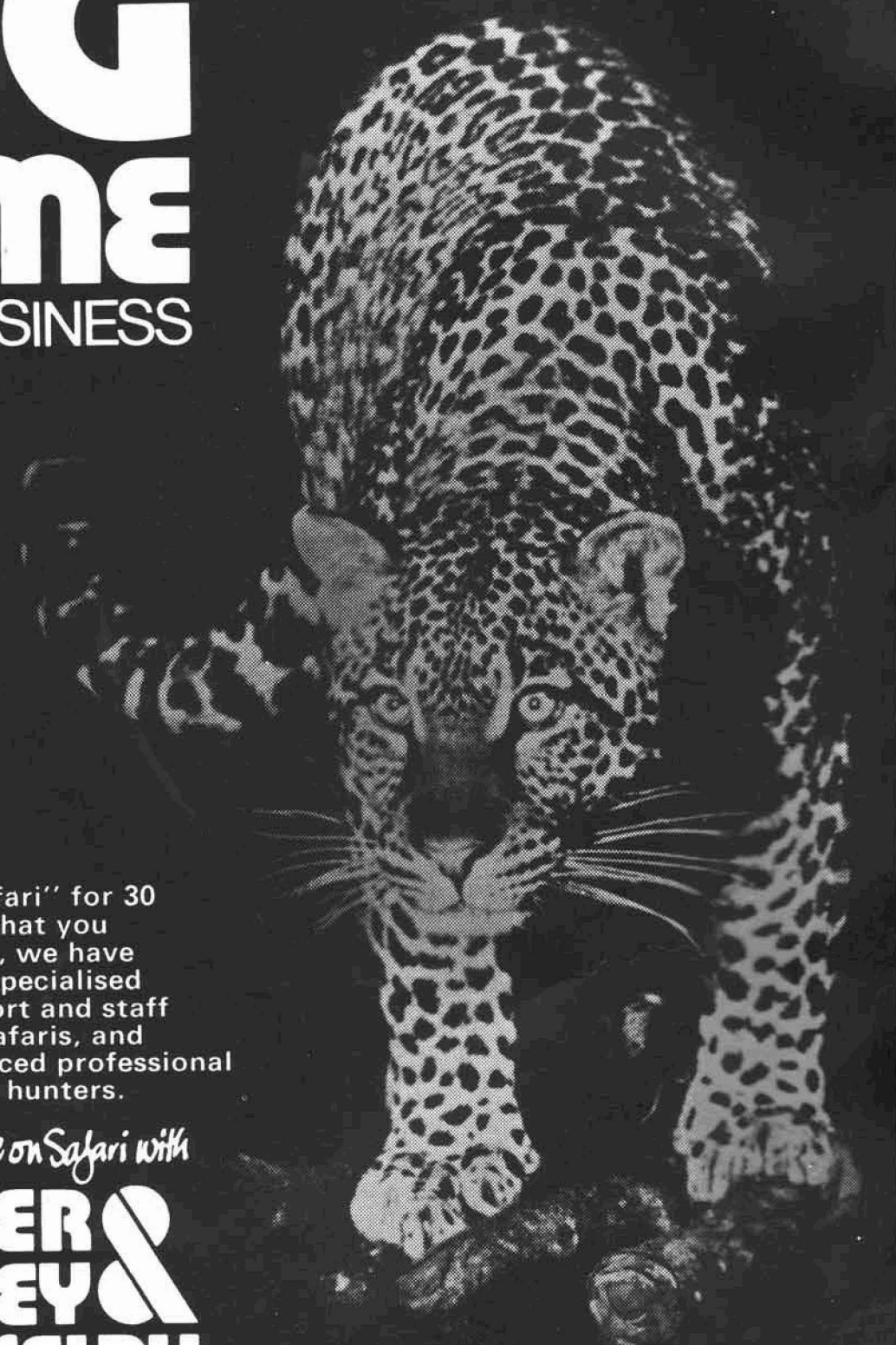
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*Further extracts from our News-letter. A demonstration of the real danger to leopards and other matters. . . . .*

THE camp at Lake Paradise on Marsabit is on a natural terrace overlooking the Lake and there is always something to see from it. One day a lioness killed a baboon and drove another one into the lake; she tried to follow but sank to her stomach in the mud. She kept walking away, tempting the baboon to come out and make a dash for the forest but the baboon was too cautious. He eventually swam right across the lake and arrived completely exhausted. Big herds of elephants and several lone bulls drink at the lake every day and we saw a young bull forcibly ejected from the herd. Three fish eagles terrorise the coots all day and we saw one take a little grebe from just under the water. Driving through the forest, we had a very close view of Abdul, who is Ahmed's successor as the biggest elephant on Marsabit.

In the Aberdares there have been several herds of elephants on the moor-lands at 10,000 ft. and we have also seen lion, leopard and black serval cats up there. Further down we have been able to watch herds of bongo for long periods at fairly short range. The most interesting incident was being held up on the road by a female elephant with four young. She refused to let us pass and we backed away. She occasionally went off into the bushes but would come back if we drove up. More elephants arrived, they suddenly charged at a patch of bush and a leopard was chased out, some of them tusked up the earth and two lay down. Then 15 of them formed a solid line across the road with a small baby in the middle. All this took half an hour or more and, apart from the usual Aberdare elephants' reluctance to get off the road, was difficult to understand. We were definitely not to be allowed to pass. Eventually some elephants went off the road again and returned with a very small pale grey calf with his tail kinked and ears folded, obviously new born. Evidently we had been held up until he was strong enough to move, the elephants calmed down and walked away and we could pass.

Our camp at Lake Masek is still a delightful place. After a rather noisy night during which we heard lion, leopard, hyena and hippo we found a plastic wash-basin missing from in front of the client's tent. Careful investigation of the tracks showed that it had been taken by a leopard, presumably because it was full of good fresh water carried by us from forty miles away. Before taking the basin the leopard left many tracks in the ashes of the camp fire and we have noticed before that they like treading in warm ashes. The Serengeti plains and the surrounding area during and just after the rains is full of interest. On June 1 we saw an enormous army of wildebeest leaving the plains on their way to the Mara. The column was half a mile across, densely packed and very noisy and excited. Our decision to use two 4WD Toyota pick-ups instead of the 6 ton trucks used by our competitors has been justified. The big trucks just cannot risk going into the good areas in wet weather and even get stuck on their way to Seronera camp sites. We should mention here that the Tanzania Government is now most co-operative and we have miles of wild country to camp in.

Our Mara camp still gives good results and one day we had 200 elephants pass by, the nearest within 40 yards. Our "tame" leopard which we had given up for lost, re-appeared after a year's absence. One morning we followed her for over an hour as she sought a place to lie up for the day. It is significant that she had to walk a long way before finding some rather sparse cover. The greatest danger to leopards and other animals that need thick cover for breeding is that their habitat is being destroyed by elephants and fires. In the past 20 years the Mara leopards have been reduced by about 80%. While there has been heavy poaching in some areas this has an insignificant effect compared to habitat destruction. Unfortunately, this destruction is taking place in National Parks and Reserves since these hold the biggest elephant population. Conservationists who wish to save leopards should concentrate on finding them places to live; without this, money spent fighting poachers is wasted.

The two News-Letters we published before in AFRICANA have been a great success and we can refer you to people who read them and then came on safari with us. The letters are aimed at people who have been out here before on ordinary tours and realise that a camping safari has these advantages: an expert guide who really knows the country and can make everything more interesting, a flexible itinerary, possibility of walking and going on night drives to see the nocturnal animals, ample time to wait, say, when a cheetah is about to make a kill, freedom for the children with plenty of leisure and space for games, good food and a complete change from normal life. Someone wrote to us "never before have we been so totally absorbed by something, we both lived safari for weeks afterward. Really, Bob, those 20 days had an amazing effect on us, our lives have been changed and we love it."

Price for four is now about \$100 each per day, a little cheaper for a larger party. For those who find this expensive we suggest a short safari and then a self-drive tour to the easy places and perhaps a week at the coast, where the coral reefs are just as fascinating as the game areas. We can help arrange this.

People ask us if we get bored with safaris; the answer is that safari life gets more and more interesting and indeed other life seems unreal.

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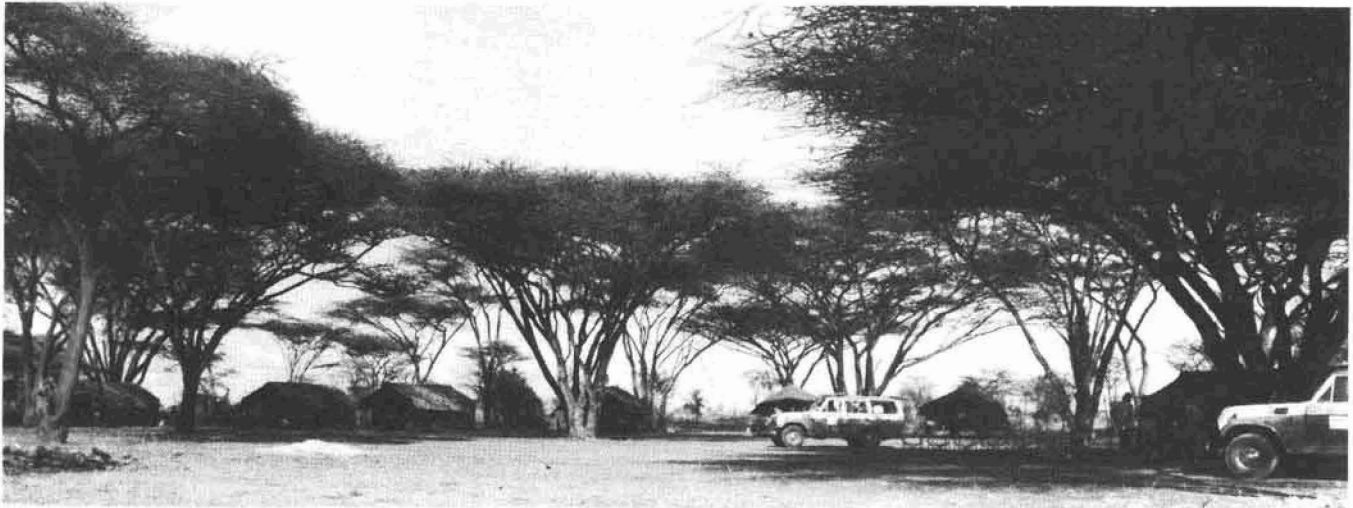
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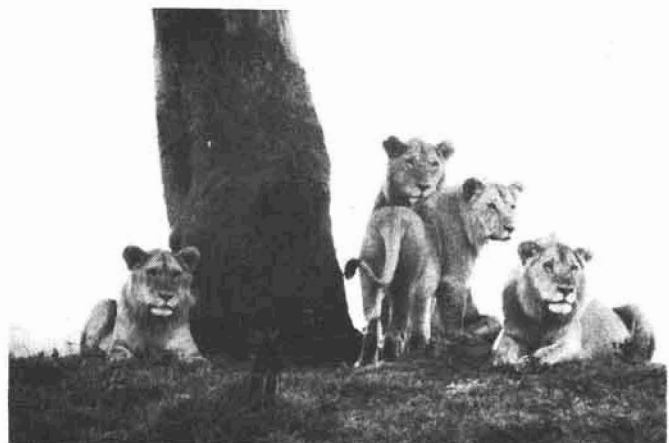
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# **ROWLAND WARD'S**

P.O. BOX 40991, NAIROBI, KENYA, EAST AFRICA.

## Elephants are driving ranchers 'raving mad'

Sir—There seems to be increasing confusion about game in this country.

Large sums of money are invested in Lodges and parks, roads and water schemes and publicity to draw the tourists, but not nearly enough on controlling the animals that are the very core of the whole problem.

To put it simply, if I were to go shopping in Nairobi Market with a pet elephant to carry my basket, the excuse that the poor beast was not yet accustomed to town life would certainly not be accepted and I should be held responsible for all the damage that it caused and have to pay for all the flowers and vegetables that it ate. But elephants and buffaloes swarm over farms every night and sometimes in broad daylight too and yet farmers are regarded as blood thirsty and anti-social if they even suggest molesting them.

It is well known that ranchers are meant to tolerate large wild animals for the foreseeable future, as though the damage inflicted was negligible and the profit in ranching so large as to absorb all this damage indefinitely. Unfortunately the animals concerned wander without much warning from ranches onto mixed farms, thus proving the absolute folly of putting complaining ranchers into different pigeon holes from other complaining farmers and virtually letting them stew.

Recently elephants that had driven ranchers almost mad by breaking many miles of fencing suddenly ate African shambas. They therefore had to be rapidly driven away and during this operation one of them killed a small girl.

Some other elephants with calves that had smashed many fences on ranches suddenly developed a passion for green wheat but had all lost their fear of man and his little gadgets. They attacked a 600 acre wheat field in the teeth of fierce opposition from three night watchmen and a man on a Fordson tractor and in a series of raids demolished over 90 acres of really good wheat.

The Game Department were involved in this incident for a month but were absolutely unable to control these animals and were not even able to move them into the National Park after the rather scanty harvest. The elephant chased the watchmen and the tractor all over the field and the game scouts too, and are now sulking in a bushy valley waiting for another crop to come up.

What will be done to these animals, will they be destroyed or fed on wheat for another six months? Ninety acres at 13 bags to the acre means over 1,000 bags from one farm alone and a loss of over £4,000, not forgetting the money already invested in fertilizer and fuel during the planting season. Are we to feed these monsters at a cost of several thousand pounds a month indefinitely? By the end of it even the Park personnel could be forgiven for wondering if they want such obstreperous creatures in the Park.

The farmers in these parts are pretty long-suffering but very soon the worms will turn. Surely it is wiser to do up this game ditch and maintain it properly now

and really help farmers and ranchers too, rather than go drifting on until public opinion demands an absolute end to the game and the parks as well, which would be a real tragedy.

What is the use of all the revenue from tourism if we can't even eat? And another thing is the erosion and the devastation right in the source of all our precious rivers. Erosion caused by cattle and goats is wicked, that by wildlife is good, why?

What is the point of terracing down below if elephant higher up the valley are allowed to go straight down to the river and trample it into a muddy mess? Charcoal burners are castigated down below for destroying trees and bushes yet elephants can pull down larger trees and bushes and buffaloes can ring-bark them and nobody minds.

If it is only a matter of degree let us limit the charcoal burners and limit the wildlife, and limit them soon. If large animals cannot be effectively thinned out in the thick and inaccessible mountain forests by shooting them let them be given the "pill" in a daily bran mash but whatever we decide to do let it be done soon, not in ten years time when the whole area has become a desert.

There is yet another aspect of the problem. Increasing human settlement means an ever increasing demand for timber and building poles which can never be satisfied by the forestry plantations. More and more people outside the forest department will have to plant trees of all kinds for construction. How can one expect farmers to construct massive palisades and ditches round every plantation to protect it from big game when only a few flimsy rails are quite enough to protect it from domestic stock? All the trees on this farm have a spiral grain, caused almost entirely by game damage.

Must this state of affairs go on for ever because tourists 20 miles away want to see animals? The beasts that damage my trees are never seen by tourists at all. Do I insist that some of my cattle and sheep are grazed in their gardens in Long Island because one day I might want to go there and see them?

I am not anti-tourist or a ravaging anti-wildlife demon but only ask for a policy based on reason and logic.

John F. Carnegie.  
Ngobit Estate Ltd.,  
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## An enterprise to support

Sir—would you please publish this letter requesting the support of Africana readers for a new local enterprise—the production of high quality trout and salmon fishing flies for the Cheshire Homes, Kenya.

These are being made at a small factory adjacent to the Dagoretti Children's Home, close to Nairobi, by African craftsmen who must be among the best tyers in the world. They are producing patterns ranging from minute size 28 winged dry flies to the magnificent fully dressed size 5/0 salmon flies.

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feathers to the most beautiful Jungle Cock, which comes from North India. These and other materials are used in conjunction with gold and silver tinsel and wire in the construction of the body of the fly.

It must be remembered, however, that no bird or animal is killed purely for dressing flies, and as supplies of the more exotic materials become rarer, tyers throughout the world turn to substitutes. To this end the Kenya factory employs a skilled feather dyer who can dye the more easily obtained materials to match the exotic feathers and furs.

Kenya Trout and Salmon Flies Ltd. is wholly owned by the Cheshire Homes Kenya, a branch of the international organisation engaged in the care and maintenance of the chronically disabled. At Dagoretti, our young disabled people are being trained in a commercial venture which one hopes will make them feel wanted and help them gain a measure of self confidence to carry them through a life of inevitable hardship. All proceeds from this enterprise are used for the running of the Cheshire, and we feel confident that you subscribers will support us.

Dorothy Hughes,  
Chairman,  
Cheshire Homes—Kenya.

## The Roan of Lambwe

Sir—The article about Shimba's antelope by R. Sekulic and C. Lefarge has prompted me to write my observations of the Roan of Lambwe Valley.

At Shimba Hills, there are 11 animals in two herds each with one adult bull, whereas at Lambwe there are more than 200 Roan in four recognisable groups and some "loners". One of the herds is in the southern part of the Reserve, in an area which can be classified as acacia wooded grassland. This consists of adult females and an adult bull, about 10 animals in all.

In November, 1975 I noticed two calves with them, but these were no longer there at the beginning of January when I revisited the herd—and I concluded that they have joined the juvenile herds since there are no real predators in the Lambwe Valley, and I have not seen any Roan carcasses.

There is a thicket separating the southern part of the Reserve from the central and northern portions, both of which are grassland areas and where the other Roan herds are found.

The juvenile herd consists of 40 or 50 sub-adult animals, and some calves; and these are herded by an adult bull. No adult females were in this group on either my first, second or third sightings.

Then there is a herd of adult females, accompanied by an adult bull. This seems to be quite stable and the bull will not allow in any trespassers. While I was observing them in Jan. 1976, two lone bulls, frightened by our vehicle, made the mistake of joining the group. They managed to stay in only for two minutes before the old bull noticed them and chased them off one by one, like an impala would have done.

The point about the Lambwe herds is that they seem to keep to their particular regular ranges. The bachelor herd is usually in the central grassland area; while lone bulls may be seen anywhere. I once followed the juvenile herd and they moved northwards upto a certain point, then circled, then moved back south, deliberately avoiding the area normally occupied by the female herd.

The Roan is a species we know almost nothing about, but it would seem that they are territorial and that the male defends both the herd and the territory; I say herd and not females because the bull herding the juveniles, definitely looked responsible, and herded them away from possible danger.

Mary L. A. Owaga,  
Kenya Game Department,  
P.O. Box 40241,  
Nairobi.

## 'Where's Pemba' —and why!

Sir—A group of children was by the river side and the sight of a kingfisher turned their play into a short excited concert. Suddenly everybody was shouting "Pemba Wapi" imitating the bird's nimble sideways head movements. I almost joined the children's game forgetting that I was about fifteen years "out of date".

Meanwhile, the poor little bird perched on a twig on the opposite bank was a little perplexed with all the tumult; it stayed for a while as if to watch the fun too, then darted off and flew along the river.

For those who do not understand the cause of humour, I should explain a little of Swahili "ornithology" which is somewhat romantic and is in a sense related to conservation.

In some places along the East African Coast, and on Pemba Island itself, the little colourful birds are called "Vibuda," a name which reflects their appearance. A much more general name for the birds, which is widely known amongst the Swahili speaking people, is "Vitwitwi" which is directly derived from the call of the grey-headed kingfisher. The tinker birds are also named after their call "Vitororo".

But, in Zanzibar, kingfishers are known as "Pemba Wapi"—Swahili for "Where is Pemba". The origin of this is either argued in a series of jokes about the bird, or sometimes in long verses of poetry—but the point is that it is generally believed the kingfisher would correctly point its beak towards Pemba Island if genuinely asked to do so. Children, of course, turn this fantasy into a game—"Pemba Wapi?"

Tales about kingfishers are numerous and to go through all of them we would need a fairly good pile of paper. However, there is one story which I think is exceptional and one which I have known and respected since my childhood.

Among the fishermen on both Pemba and Zanzibar Island, and in some places along the East African Coast, kingfishers are respected as symbols of good navigation. It is said that there was once a very good fisherman in a small village north-west of Zanzibar Island who carved his own "Ngalawa" of which the village was very proud. No-one but he could sail it over the reefs and fill it with fish. But one day he had the misfortune to kill a "Pemba Wapi", and after this he lost all his abilities and was unable to bring home a catch. Subsequently he gave it all up and became a farmer.

Another bird I find interesting is the

hornbill, which is the subject of a Swahili idiom: "As responsible as the Hornbill."

Throughout the Swahili speaking country Hornbills are generally known as "Hondo Hondo"—a name emulating the noise produced by the hollowness of its bill. But for reasons unknown to me, in some places the grey hornbill is known as "Lilikuliku", and to young mothers the bird is a symbol of responsibility. Apparently the breeding rituals of the bird are familiar to most of the Swahili speaking tribes along the E.A. Coast.

Many birds and animal species in East Africa are in fact protected by Swahili cultural beliefs—but the opposite is also true.

For example, the rollers are believed to be medicine for Whooping Cough, and they are shot widely when an epidemic arises. A highly salted soup is prepared from the birds and infected children are made to drink it as medicine.

Some Swahili folk takes about the birds are ultra superstitious, others are as subtle as modern conservation itself. They too are also a heritage to marvel at.

T. A. Kindy,  
Tanzania National Parks,  
P.O. Box 3134,  
Arusha.

## Explaining coprophagy

Sir—I refer to recent letters on coprophagy among elephants. This phenomenon is in fact noted amongst various species, and while it may arise through boredom or depraved appetite, it is much more likely to be a natural process to build up the numbers of the normal intestinal bacteria which have become depleted and with the result of impairing digestion.

This was discovered at the Esquire Research Station at Newmarket in England. At one time horse owners were intensely concerned when a very young foal ate its mother's droppings, and took all sorts of preventive measures. At the station it was decided to let the foals alone and see what happened. In practically every case this "habit" only lasted for two or three days and the foal stopped of its own accord. Further work proved that the droppings were eaten solely to provide sufficient intestinal bacteria which would then multiply and carry out their essential functions.

There are various factors which may deplete or even eradicate intestinal bacteria, but in the cases mentioned by your correspondent, Mr. R. A. Lewis, the elephants were most probably bringing these organisms up to the normal level by ingesting fresh strains which would proliferate in the intestine.

J. K. Thomson,  
Director,  
Department of Nature  
Conservation,  
Cape Town.

## In no way critical . . .

Sir—It appears from Lilla Lyogello's letter in the last issue of *Africana* that my earlier letter has been entirely misconstrued.

My comments were in no way meant to be critical of the conservation authorities in Tanzania. As a regular visitor to many of Tanzania's wildlife areas I am an enthusiastic supporter of that country's

achievements in conservation, and am well aware of the very significant sums being spent in this cause.

My earlier letter was not published in full, which completely altered the point that I was trying to make. If, in its abbreviated form, it has caused offence to the government or people of Tanzania, I unreservedly apologise.

Joe Cheffings,  
P.O. Box 42562,  
Nairobi.

## Lost brother

Sir—You can probably count on the fingers of one hand the number of Americans researching wild swine for their life's work. Therefore, learning of Dr. d'Huart's research with the Giant Forest Hog in Vol. 5 No. 11 was like finding a long lost brother.

Naturally, I have contacted him, and now I hope that other readers might be studying wild swine, such as Warthog and Red River Hogs?

Within the next two years I plan to visit Africa and parts of the East with the purpose of collecting data on all the variations of this brightest member of the Ungulata. Surely some of your members will be able to guide my steps. Thank you.

(Dr.) V. J. Selmier,  
Box 81,  
San Miguel,  
Calif: 93451,  
U.S.A.

## Empty talk

Sir—We have had enough empty talk and outraged articles on what a crime it is that the Kenya Wilderness is being plundered. In this world, wilderness is a luxury which ONLY those who have cannibalized their own Wilderness, now wish to call beautiful. If these people wish to preserve this luxury, they cannot hope to do so by recrimination and indignation. These are not the tools by which beauty is revealed.

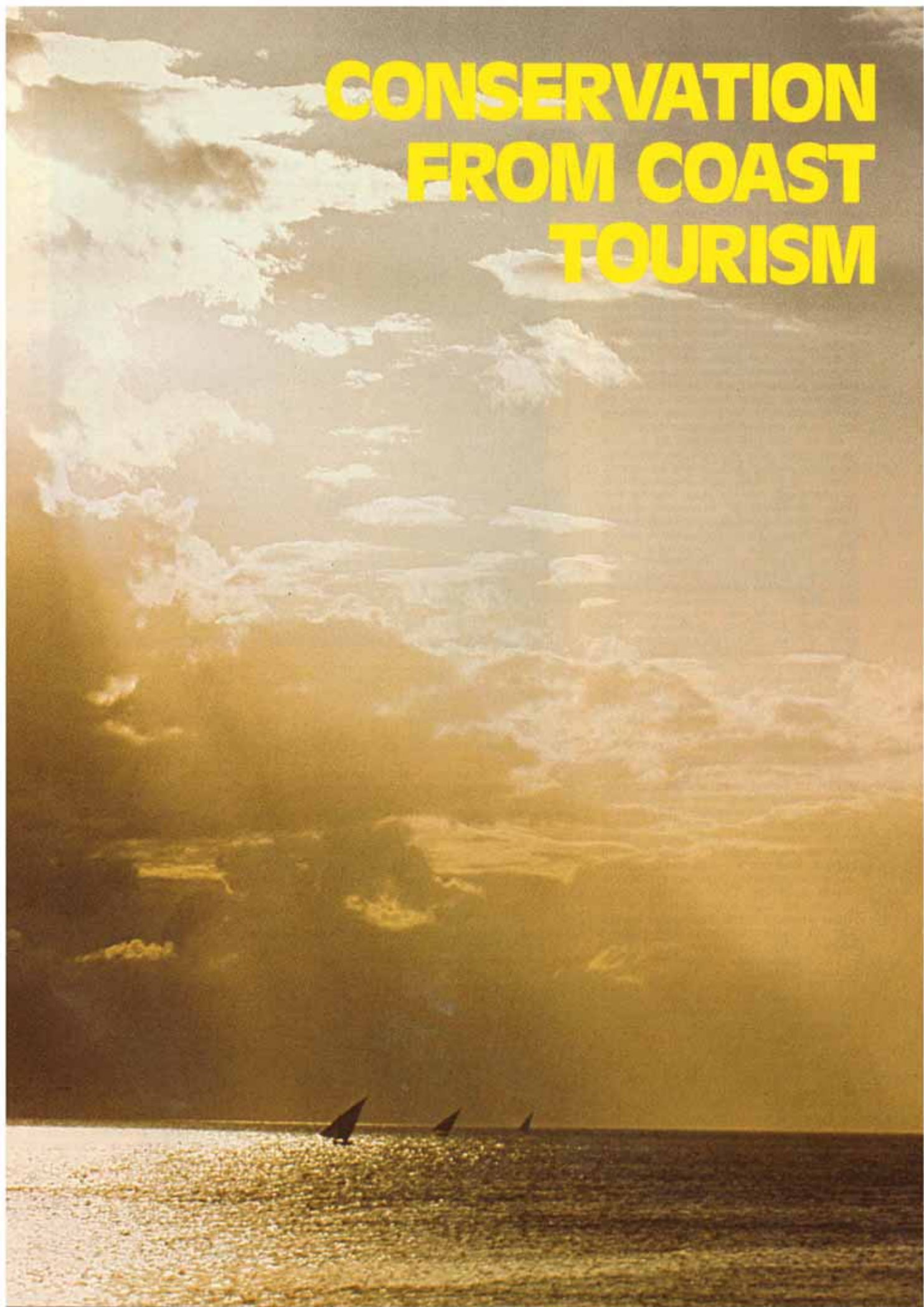
Shepard Abbott,  
Nairobi.

## Most famous hunter

Sir—Neither I, nor my joint master, Neil Larkman, saw the article on the Limuru Hunt before it appeared in print, otherwise we would, I think, have made some changes in it. However, I would ask you please to publish a correction when you can. This is the reference to our kennel huntsman Ndegwa Kuniara as being "the first African to lead a hunt." He certainly wasn't! Almost all the six packs of hounds which were hunting in Kenya when I came here had African hunt servants. Undoubtedly the most famous of these was Kariuki Gicheru, who started his career in 1939 and was kennel huntsman of the Molo hounds for 27 years. He was one of the finest huntsmen in the country and it was he, incidentally, who taught our own Ndegwa all he knows about hunting.

Hugh Morton,  
Joint Master,  
The Limuru Hunt,  
Box 30681,  
Nairobi.

# CONSERVATION FROM COAST TOURISM



## Tourism: by John Eames

Kenya is at the point of critical decision on tourism, but surprisingly perhaps the government is prepared for it.

More than that, it has developed plans which could be instructive to any country which counts the costs of its share in the 30 billion dollar global industry.

If last year's figures were anywhere near accurate, Kenya tourism grossed 85 million dollars which, although barely a tip in terms of world tourist spending, was probably enough to make the difference between a balance of payments difficulty in 1975, and a disaster.

Even so, there are those who wonder if playing host to 400,000 foreigners a year is either pleasant or profitable. They regard tourists as "biological pollution" which contaminates both people and the land. They also doubt there is a net economic benefit from tourism after account is taken of the "forgetfulness" of operators to make payments in, and of payments out for imports, loan servicing, and returns on foreign investment.

As one horrified politician in another country put it: "We will be subject to wave after wave of 20th Century barbarians. Hotels will be built with foreign capital; foreigners will run the show, but the real profit will be out of the country to pay shareholders. I see our beauty spots despoiled; our women prostituted; our culture debased. . . ."

Kenya was never quite so emotional, but the risks of tourism expansion were set out no less clearly in the current Development Plan:—

"Serious social and cultural problems" can occur when local people come into direct contact with rich foreigners—and "unhappiness comes when the desire for affluence is far out of line with the possibility of its achievement."

Nonetheless, Kenya has opted for tourism; it will try to extract and distribute every possible benefit from the business; and now plans to impose strict control on development so that the character of the people and of the physical environment will not be spoiled in the process.

This all started in 1970 when a government working party went down to the Coast more or less to examine the effects of a steady 20 per cent annual growth of beach tourism. It had already been reported that hostility was developing between local communities and foreigners—opportunists from "up-country" Kenya as well as tourists. There was also a trend towards an ugly strip development of hotels which, if unchecked, might spread with all the attractiveness and cultural relevance of the "concrete coast" of Spain.

The government then set about corrective development planning based on a thorough test of its "feeling" that a carefully-planned, integrated tourism project at a pre-selected site would produce more economic benefits, for less investment and cultural risks, than allowing tourism to stretch out like a thin ribbon of a foreign flag along the length of the coast.

With the blessing of the World Bank, the Kenya Ministry of Finance and Planning invested an unprecedented K£300,000 of its own cash in a feasibility study for a resort complex at Diani Beach—a 650 hectare site, 30 kms south of Mombasa, chosen as the best of four sites for its quality of beach and littoral and for the fact that it could be supplied adequately with water and after service facilities.

An international tender for the job was issued and it drew an unexpected response of 153 bids. Eventually, in January 1974,



Above (and page 11): Dhows—part of East Africa's picturesque maritime culture which the Diani project seeks to preserve. Pictures—Adam Incedy—Gombos.

a consortium of mainly British and Kenyan consultants was commissioned with Maxwell Stamp (Africa) Ltd. providing the project manager.

A total of 40 experts were re-grouped in a local company, Kenya Coast Planners Ltd., and thereafter they actually took advice and assistance from Kenyans at all levels, from Wadigo villagers in the site area to a Steering Committee of Ministries and Government Departments with responsibilities related to the project.

The study took 18 months and was properly "low profile," presumably to avoid attack from individuals who might be almost violent at the thought of a town of German lotus-eaters on their own private Diani Beach, or from package-tour operators who perhaps thought their political ties would provide permanent security from fair competition.

A "digest" of the work was produced in half a million words, and what appears to be just as many figures in the full print-out of a computer model which considered 50 specific studies and a dozen different development strategies.

The Government was clearly delighted with the Final Report, presented in mid-May—perhaps as much for its intelligent emphasis on the social and environmental issues as on its exact schedules of net economic benefits, which are shown to be considerable.

The immediate response of one Minister was to pin it up on a notice board at UNCTAD IV, possibly to demonstrate that "Kenya can do it," or perhaps to relay a comment of the Tourism Permanent Secretary to the controllers of world

finance: *The Diani Project is on—all we need to do is go out and find the 135 million dollars!*

If it is possible to reduce five volumes to its elements, the Report says that Kenya Coast tourism will grow at a steady nine per cent over the next 18 years, entailing an increase of 15,000 hotel beds on the present total of 6,000. All things considered by the computer, the recommended distribution is 6,500 beds in 26 hotels on the Diani site with the remainder allocated to building up similar quality resorts at Mombasa and the north coast. This means that Diani would take up 43 per cent of the forecast demand, but at the same time retains an image of low-density development.

Diani is to be a complete holiday destination in itself, but unlike similar tourist towns in North Africa and elsewhere, it is not to be sealed off from the life of the country as if it were a ghetto of foreign untouchables. Instead, the consultants have gone to great trouble to justify an experiment in the fullest possible integration of tourism which, if it works, would serve as a useful model for other developing countries, including neighbouring Tanzania.

A main idea is to reduce the actual and visible gap between the living standards of visitors and local people. The 40,000 service population and their families will live in a quality New Town built in the same Digo-Swahili architectural style of the Tourist Area, or in nearby villages upgrade to New Town standards.

A pivotal Town Centre is designed deliberately as a natural meeting place for

residents and visitors, and this should reduce incursions of one community into the other's residential area, although there are no physical barriers. The guide books will say the Town Centre is a microcosm of the Coast's 1,000 year history of cultural integration which, it will not be mentioned, can be watched closely and controlled.

A great deal of attention has been given to creating a contented and stable population at Diani, and that the Wadigo particularly will receive tangible benefits from the tourism project in their homeland. Financial provision is therefore made for an extensive programme of social service and rural development which, apart from everything else, should be good bait to attract multilateral and bilateral finance to the project.

If Diani is implemented as recommended, one of the results will be to convince some conservationists once and for all that tourism is not only a vulgar intrusion in their private kingdoms, but more significantly a positive stimulus for the improvement of areas of wildlife, marine, landscape and cultural interest.

In the bewilderment of plans for Diani—the "Master Plan" for the project site; the "Structure Plan" for the immediate surrounds; and the "Hinterland Strategy" for the region as a whole—the conservation theme is clear and persistent.

This derives from solid market research; simple economics rather than sentiment, because Diani's 26 hotels could not be sold in the European market in a simple package of tropical beach and winter tan.

The lady in the Frankfurt Kaufhof will buy the similar but much less expensive product offered by the southern Mediterranean and North Africa. Diani is Fortnum and Mason's—a package of quality, exotic ingredients including coral gardens, wide lonely palm beaches; unspoiled foreshore alive with birds and small mammals; and an immediate hinterland of the great wildlife parks of Africa. The package will also contain what the consultants describe as a "total African experience," which is cultural contact with the Coast people and traditions, and a "complete holiday destination," which is a first class hotel, gourmet food and

a complete range of on-site sports, recreation and entertainment facilities.

As it is at the moment, Diani does not match up to this quality image; the remnant forest of Jadini, for instance, is used as a dumping ground for hotel garbage. So a priority expenditure and activity will be large-scale improvement or consolidation of the natural attractions of the site and surrounds.

The planners imagine themselves sitting in a helicopter a mile out to sea, looking at the completed project but seeing only a clean sweep of landscape from the Shimba Hills to the beach. An artist actually painted this perspective to demonstrate the "Diani Image" of low profile, low-density development, where all human activity and construction is masked by baobabs and forests of palm trees.

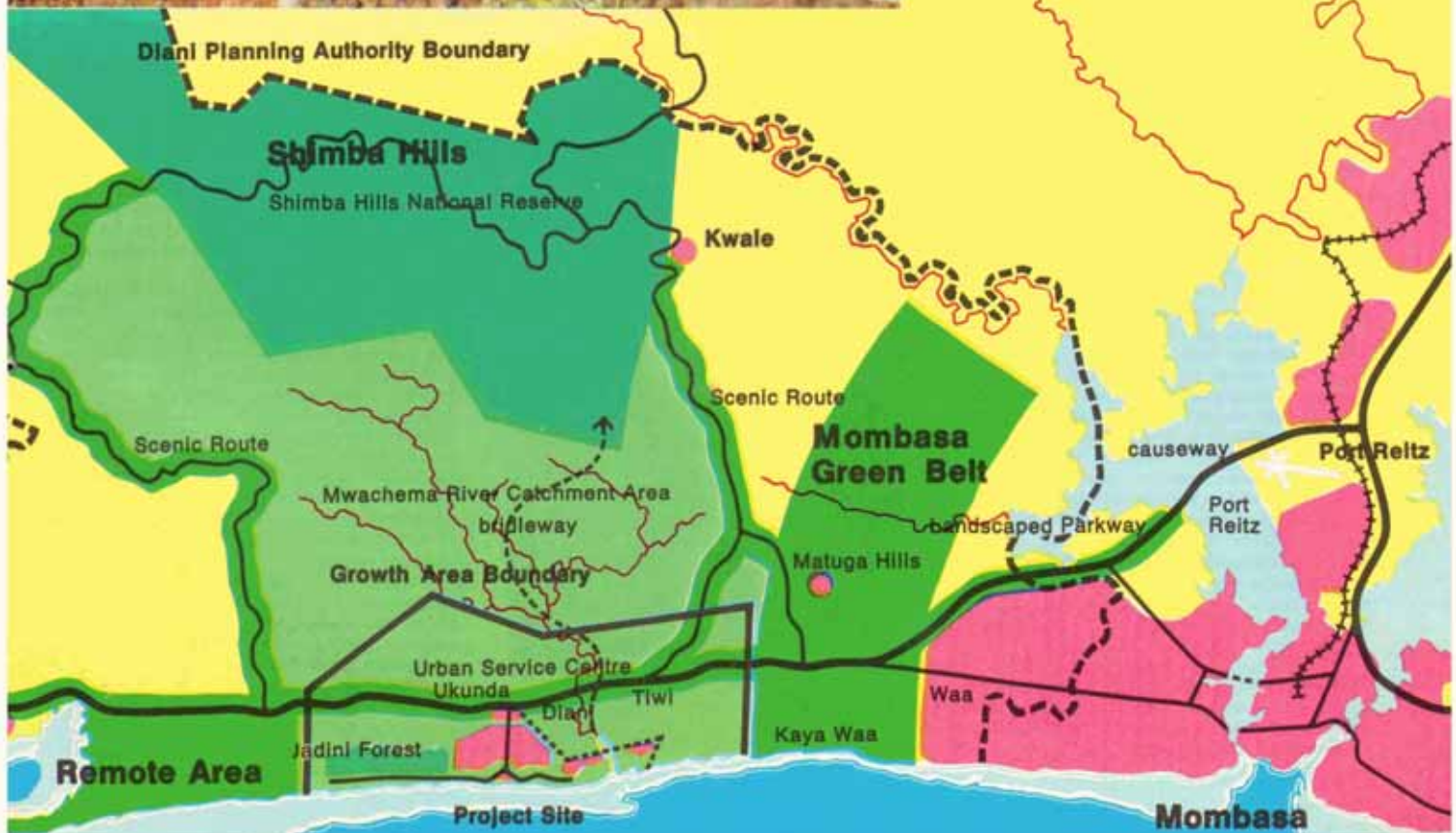
The visualisation for the project is that tourists arriving directly from Europe at Port Reitz Airport are to be introduced immediately to this "Parkland Setting" for Diani, across a causeway to the south mainland and along a scenic drive down

*Continued overleaf*



Left: Roan in the Shimba Hills National Park, which is to be developed extensively. Picture: Harshad Patel

Below: The Diani project as it might effect hinterland development—i.e. a causeway from Port Reitz airport to a "green belt" limiting the southwards growth of Mombasa: consolidation and improvement of Jadini Forest and the Shimba Hills; a totally undeveloped "natural" area around Chale Island and peninsular. Map—Carter Black



# George Adamson paces out new reserve

the Mwachema River Valley. This is a "Green Belt" which limits the southwards growth of Mombasa.

At the site itself, the outlet of the Mwachema is closed by a sand barage and a permanent lagoon created in which two coral islands are developed as garden sanctuaries for birds and small mammals.

With extensive new planting and stocking with wildlife, 16 distinct ecological zones are established in the Tourist Area. The wooded "kayas," still sacred to the Wadigo, are fully protected; forest and mangrove clearance by charcoal burners and shell collecting on the reef is banned, of course; and historic buildings at Diani and all along the Coast from Mombasa Old Town to Shimoni are restored.

Jadini is a Forest Reserve, developed as a bird and butterfly sanctuary; and Chale Island and Peninsula are left totally undeveloped as a wilderness or "Remote Area" for people who want solitude and "communion with nature."

Ideally, the project has consolidated the new Kisite-Mpunguti Marine Park, which is now paying its way. But the most significant change is at the Shimba Hills National Park, which is now a showcase for the national network of Parks, and an incentive for Diani visitors to safaris through the "real Africa" on an exclusive circuit of tented lodges in Tsavo West.

No detailed plans for the Shimba Hills are set out, but it is suggested that the Park is stocked with non-dangerous game so that vehicles may be left at the gates and visitors walk or ride horses among the Roan and Sable—and possibly white rhino. A fanciful idea, not in the Report, would be to establish a primate reserve, stocked with chimps and lowland gorilla, enclosed in a moated island and accessible to visitors by tree walks.

The imagination runs riot if the Diani concept of an inseparable linking of Kenya beach holidays and Parks' safaris takes root. It would then be essential to give effective total protection to Tsavo in support of the Mombasa beach destination and to Tsavo East tied to Watamu-Malindi. Another obvious link is Lamu with the string of new reserves along the Tana River and the proposed Boni Forest and marine reserves around Kiunga on the Somalia border.

All this, if nothing else, should cheer up the conservationists who are convinced wildlife is finished in Kenya.

It's hardly likely that the Kenya Government would waste the money they spent on the Diani Study, and so we can expect that at some stage the project will go ahead—and that means positive improvement of the wildlife-habitat situation in a large area of south-east Kenya. Moreover, the World Bank seems to be right behind the government in this area, showing a keen interest in the Diani Study and already committed to the Tana developments.

Diani could in fact start a chain reaction. The project cannot be seen in isolation and so there is an obvious need now to re-plan tourism development of the entire coast region in relation not only to the physical proposals for Diani, but to the almost revolutionary policies and philosophy suggested in the Study.

After that, the Coast plan ought to be related to long-term tourism development in the country as a whole which, we must imagine, would mean final security for all wildlife areas in Kenya.



POSSIBLY two of the best-known names in the chronicles of contemporary wildlife, George and Joy Adamson, are shown together in what is now Kora Game Reserve.

This is almost history repeating itself—George pacing out the boundaries of the new reserve as he did, with Joy, many years ago for what is now Meru National Park.

Kenya's Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife recently determined that the 500 square-mile, tsetse-ridden tract of bush-land, adjacent to Meru Park and separated from it by the Tana River, should be a wildlife sanctuary linking Kenya's Northern safari circuit with a

string of new Reserves along the Tana River to the Coast.

Before Kora was gazetted the East African Wild Life Society helped out by allocating funds for demarcating the boundaries and for the up-grading of access roads to facilitate anti-poaching patrols. There is also the possibility of a bridge being constructed across the river.

While Joy—still a tireless conservation worker continues her global campaign for support for her "Elsa Appeal" George, at 70, his wiry frame weathered to the colour of oiled teak and topped with a shaggy mane of white hair, is also incredibly fit and active.

At Kora, where he lives, his "big cat" programme is progressing successfully and currently he has several lions undergoing rehabilitation.

Also, over the years, his considerable energy and practical efforts have managed to dramatically curtail the level of poaching activity in the area.

Always prepared to find time for young people and stimulate interest in conservation he is pictured, below, illustrating a point to some young admirers who visited him. They were participating in what is known as a "Venture" course. These are ten-day safaris for local and overseas school children which take the form of an outdoor classroom.

During these safaris not only do they learn self-reliance, by looking after themselves, but are lectured in various nature studies, folklore, wildlife conservation and the practical aspect of survival in a backwoods style fast becoming forgotten knowledge.



John McDougall.

# The Enigma of Wild Dog



IN the first cold light of dawn, we revolved the radio antenna on its vertical pole, trying to recapture the sound we heard a moment before on our little hand-held radio receiver.

The signal was barely audible above the hiss of the set, but there it was again, a continuous beeping, due east. Quickly picking up our binoculars, we scanned the plains.

"There they are!" Ten wild dogs, the Ranger Pack, were trotting single file along the crest of a hill, more than a mile away. A miniscule black train, chugging over the horizon.

Only two days before, we successfully immobilized and radio-collared a member of this pack. For the first time, African hunting dogs (*Lycaon pictus*) were being tracked with the aid of radio telemetry. This was to be an important part of our four-year study of the movements and population dynamics of wild dogs in the Serengeti National Park, Tanzania. In the following days, we experienced the satisfaction of relocating our study animals after losing them in the darkness of the previous night.

We have found that dog packs on the Serengeti Plains require a range of 1,500 sq. km or more. The obvious question is: Why?

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**PHOTO REPORT** by Lory Herbison Frame and George W. Frame, whose four-year African hunting dog and cheetah research project is being financed by the East African Wild Life Society (donor of a Toyota Land Cruiser); the Max Planck Institut fur Verhaltensphysiologie; the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation; the Shikar-safari Club; Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society of North America; the Zoological Society of Philadelphia; the Fund for Animals Inc.; the Fauna Preservation Society; and the Explorers Club.

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Earlier writers were nearly unanimous in their impression that wild dogs move primarily in response to prey availability. But given good prey availability in one area, why don't wild dogs stay put? The here-today gone-tomorrow character of wild dog movements has been all too obvious to observers, provoking the classic comment made by Captain Shortridge in 1934: "Wild dog travel so swiftly through a district that it is seldom possible to shoot them in large numbers."

Now that we had relocated our radio-

collared dog, we headed across the plains in his direction. We had difficult terrain to negotiate, and the pack apparently did not slacken its pace, so ten minutes elapsed before we had the dogs in sight again.

We drove abreast of the last dog in the line. He merely glanced at us. This was Swift, the oldest living member of the original Genghis Pack, named and studied by Hugo van Lawick and James Malcolm several years ago. Nine years old now, Swift was the oldest wild dog in our field records. He looked, and apparently felt, his age. Poor Swift, no longer swift. More and more he was peripheral to the rest of the pack, and he lagged behind now by more than one hundred yards.

Ahead of Swift, a dog stopped and looked back as though waiting. This was Jinja, our radio-collared animal. Homer, his brother, paused nearby. These two prime males were the only survivors of a litter of eight born in the Genghis Pack six years ago, and Swift was certainly their uncle, if not their father. These three males were the core of the Ranger Pack, and the bond between them was strong.

From our records on three packs, it appears that males form the stable social unit of the African wild dog pack, and it is young females who emigrate to form or join new packs. The Ranger Pack

*continued overleaf* 15



Spotted hyenas are probably a significant factor favouring a selection for packs larger than three or four dogs. Sometimes even one determined hyena can take a kill from ten dogs.

was an example of this.

Just over a year ago the Genghis Pack still existed. Havoc reigned dominant; her female siblings has long since left the pack, and she was surrounded by Swift and a few of his surviving brothers and nephews. But then for the second time in three years canine distemper struck the pack, and Swift's last brothers disappeared. Havoc survived the epidemic but soon developed an abscess in her jaw. In a few months, she too was gone.

What happened then must have occurred in a very short space of time: Swift, Jinja, and Homer, accompanied by six pups from Havoc's last litter, were without any reproductive females. But one day they were seen again with three young females whom we already knew from another pack.

These three new females, Sungura, Alama and Kali, were siblings of nearly two years old. Together they left the Semetu Pack and joined the three males to whom we know they cannot be closely related. Soon after the, meeting Kali was sexually attractive to the males. We were fortunate to have witnessed an emigration of young females from a different pack, and know that in that case at least, the females were not in estrus at the time they left, nor were they in any sense "evicted" from their pack. We will continue studying the packs in an effort to discover the mechanisms of female emigration, for this is a recurring phenomenon and a major feature of wild dogs' social organization.

We followed as the pack continued trotting across the plains. Next in line, ahead of the three adult males, ran the four surviving pups. They were born in an underground den ten months before, and in only two more months would be full-grown. Intelligent, curious Tafiti; Tia and Toa, as alike as two peas; and a lone female, Tibu.

Four out of nine is a good survival rate. Many pups die before reaching one year of age, victims of exposure, disease, starvation, and probably predation by hyenas. But even with a pup mortality rate of 60 to 80 per cent, wild dogs still rear many youngsters. Litter sizes range from 8 to 16 or more, and several of the packs we are monitoring produce a litter about every 10 months. The result is that a large percentage of the wild dog population is made up of young adults and big pups.

One of the aims of our study is to assess the population dynamics of wild dogs in the Serengeti. And a key question we hope to answer is: Is the small wild dog population, estimated at not more than

250 in 9,000 square miles, increasing, decreasing, or stable?

This early in the study we can only say that the apparent healthy recruitment of young into the adult population can mean that either wild dogs are on the increase, or adult mortality is a key regulatory mechanism.

Certainly, the pressure from anti-pathetic game wardens has lifted. For the last two years, no wild dogs have been shot in the Serengeti National Park. The former extermination of entire packs at a time must have had a profound influence on the dogs' reproductive potential, but of course it's also possible that the animals were able to compensate somewhat by larger litter sizes and faster dispersion into empty areas of the park.

Packs have the potential to disperse, we believe, when they contain more than one mature female. Our preliminary data show that it is the extra females of reproductive age which leave packs. However, it is still not clear to what extent females affect the range and movements of the new pack they help to form.

The role of disease, especially canine distemper, remains to be elucidated. It is possible that its influence on the wild dog population is severe. It has been speculated that distemper was deliberately introduced by the colonialists to eradicate the loathsome wild dog; but this is hardly likely. The disease could so easily have found its way to Africa by accident

### Disappear

At the head of the pack strode the three females as usual, Sungura, Alama, and Kali. Homer rushed up, as though afraid that Kali would somehow disappear without him, and together they continued trekking.

The dogs topped a rise and seemed to increase their speed as they disappeared from view. We hurried to see if they had surprised some prey animal, and were ourselves surprised to come upon them suddenly on an adult male Thomson's gazelle. There couldn't have been any chase at all. The big pups had already appropriated the carcass, and the four leading adults were still trotting on, as though they had no interest in eating. We took a good look at the tommy, and realized that the prey had been dead for a while already. So this morning the dogs were scavengers.

Homer and the adult females were actually out of sight now, but the young dogs were enthusiastically bolting food, and we suspected they would not be inclined to travel any more this morning

because of the heat.

Jinja came trotting up, politely disinterested in the carcass while the young dogs still ate, and he lay down in the shade. And a long ten minutes later Swift finally limped into view. He conveyed nothing but physical exhaustion as he collapsed on the ground, so fatigued that he lay for fifteen minutes without moving. Homer and the others had apparently realized that they were not being followed by the rest of the pack, and they reappeared over the hill to join the others under the tree.

The sex ratio of seven males to only four females within the Ranger Pack is fairly typical of wild dogs in general. This apparent anomaly of excess males may only be partly explained by a differential sex ratio at birth. Thereafter factors may operate to favour the survival of males, even before puppy-hood is passed.

Clearly, the lone female Tibu would have to struggle to survive, even yet. Today, as on other occasions, we saw signs of her low status among the four pups. The three young males, using on-sopposite gestures and entreating twitters, had placed themselves firmly between Tibu and their carcass, which they then freely shared among themselves. And what chance would Tibu have, with no sisters to accompany her, when the time came for her to emigrate? Her only chance would be to quickly find, or be found by, another pack which was without adult females. Undoubtedly the lonely emigrations of single or pairs of young females accounts for a great deal of adult female mortality.

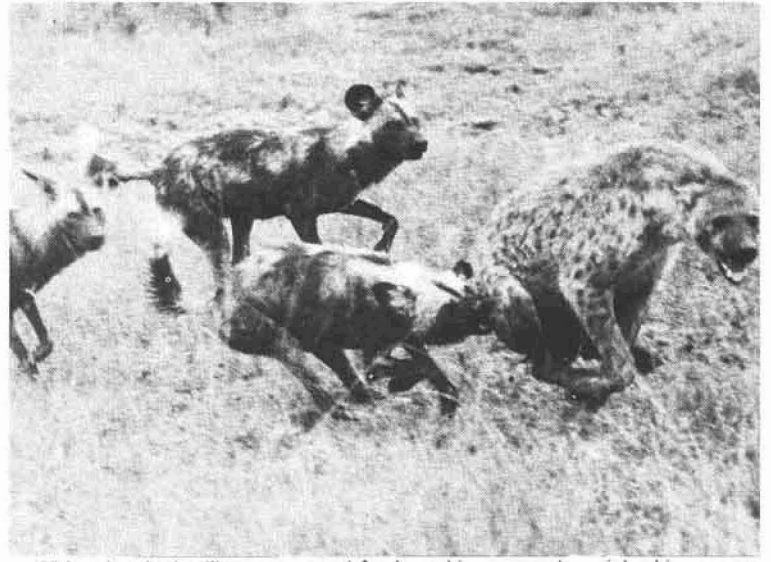
When the three young males finished eating and moved away, Swift, who for some time had been nosing around the periphery of the carcass, hurried in and began eating with the young female Tibu. Jinja carried away a leg bone which he worried and gnawed for a long time. Kali grabbed another bone and was promptly chased by several playful dogs. She seemed to play keep-away as she ran, repeatedly tossing her rump high into the air in a very exaggerated manner, threatening the other dogs to keep their distance.

Under the intense noon sun, the dogs gradually subsided into the grass. They slumbered throughout the sleepy stillness of the African day.

The afternoon came to a premature end at five o'clock. It seemed darker suddenly, and at once a cool wind blew over the plains from the east. Clouds met surreptitiously overhead, and now they thickened rapidly. Within minutes big drops of water splashed on the wind-



Dogs are constantly harassed by hungry spotted hyenas when local prey is scarce. Understandably, the dogs sometimes lose their sense of tolerance for these ubiquitous opportunists, and single out the unfortunate hyena for punishment.



With what looks like savage satisfaction, this young dog sinks his teeth into the vulnerable behind of a frightened hyena. Wild dogs sometimes bite at a hyena until his bottom is bloodied and he is thoroughly cowed; but we have never seen a hyena in danger of being killed by dogs.

shield and blurred the forms of the sleeping dogs.

At first the dogs only curled up into tighter balls and tried to wriggle further into the plain. The four subadults were packed as tightly together as possible. Homer stood up and shook thousands of sparkling droplets from his sodden coat. He walked over to where Kali lay, and plopped down, almost on top of her.

As long as it is raining very hard, wild dogs usually try to endure the hostility of the elements without giving up their naps; but today the Ranger Pack gave up early. The rain was pelting down harder, and the Serengeti Plains, which formed a lake bottom a million-or-so years ago, now ran awash with unabsorbed waters, already several inches deep in some places.

Now the pack rose quickly in ones, twos and threes, wagging tails and ducking heads at one another in a wild romp of greeting. Their un-doglike voices rose and fell in excited squeals and twitters. Invitations to chase were given and accepted, and a fast game of keep-away ensued when Tia found an old bone.

Kali separated from the others and wandered to a spot a few yards away. As she urinated there, Homer looked up and trotted over to join her. He inspected her puddle with care, and then urinated on the same place, craning his head around to see that his aim was accurate. This little ritual of marking, which we had come to expect of them, at once distinguished Kali and Homer as the pair most likely to breed.

We watched as the eight dogs continued their high-spirited interactions. The purpose, or selective advantage of greeting behaviour is still not clear. Wolfdietrich Kühme, who studied the social behaviour of a pack of dogs at a den, realized that the gestures used in greeting were similar to those used by pups when they beg for meat to be regurgitated to them. He speculated that the begging and friendliness of the greeting ceremony was a sort of "rehearsal" for the amiable sharing behaviour at a kill later. Richard Estes and John Goddard, who studied hunting behaviour in wild dogs, thought that the intensive greeting was in fact like a "pep rally" which served to bring the dogs up to the level of excitement necessary for the hunting effort.

Abruptly, Alama and Sungura were trotting away. Brought out of their pre-occupation with one another, Kali and Homer looked up at the departing

figures and hurriedly fell in behind. One day Sungura and Alama might be carried off by their itchy feet, as they had been from the Semetu Pack, and would Homer and Kali only stand and watch them go?

Not to be left behind, the four large pups quit their romping and followed the adults. Only Jinja and Swift remained lying in the wet grass. But we decided to keep up with the leaders, assuming that these two dogs would soon be following anyway.

Rain still sheeted down, and the plain was one choppy puddle, clumps of bed-ragged grass sticking up like swamp reeds. The dogs were running 30 miles per hour, and try as we might, we were having trouble keeping up with them over the sloshy plain.

We passed up the pups who were far to the left of us. Ahead of the adults we could just see the pale forms of stotting gazelles. The dogs put on a burst of speed, and we guessed they had selected some prey animal. Looking behind us, we saw Jinja and Swift running fast, as though they were trying to keep up with us; but we knew they could just see the other dogs on the horizon.

### The Kill

Dodging aardvark holes, we realized that unless the dogs made their kill very soon we would certainly lose them. The predators were certainly after something now. Alama and Sungura swerved close behind a prey animal, and the other two dogs, still 50 yards behind them, suddenly changed their course in the same direction to cut a corner. And with the last bit of visibility left to us in the dim light of the storm, we got a glimpse of Sungura's distinctive all-white tail as she closed the last gap and grasped the prey somewhere near its shoulder. The other three dogs seemed to arrive all at once, and predators and prey became one dark knot of struggling bodies, still more than 300 meters away from us.

We took little more than half a minute to arrive, but the Grant's gazelle, and adult female, already looked lifeless. It was completely disemboweled and the dogs were gulping down muscle torn from the haunches and flanks. And then Homer and Kali stepped back from the carcass and gazed past us, far back over the way they had run. We looked around too. Where were Jinja, Swift, and the four big pups? Throughout the time these dogs ate, there was no sign of the other dogs.

After fifteen minutes, the three females and Homer left the half-eaten carcass.

The dogs were backtracking, stopping often to stare ahead. And suddenly there they all were, Sift, Jinja, and the pups, splashing into view. But they had evidently been well occupied during their absence, for their bellies bulged and their faces and necks were covered with the gory evidence of a kill. But even though they had formed a separate hunting unit, they now eagerly sought the other pack members.

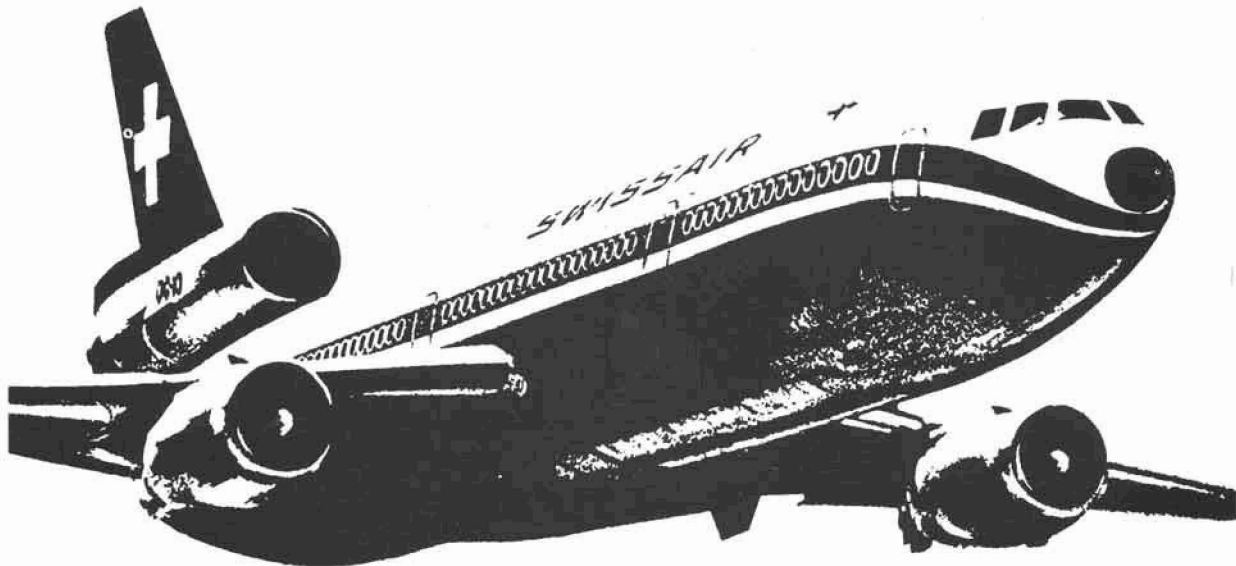
Everybody was glad to see each other again. Sungura stopped short when the others appeared and gave a short resonant hoot-call, the sound often heard between separated pack members. The four pups immediately exploded into a crescendo of moans, whines, and unearthly twitters, and they rushed forward in a unit with heads extended forward and low. White-tipped tails madly fanned the air everywhere. In a rare burst of demonstrative friendliness, even Swift and Jinja rushed forward to touch noses and briefly romp with the others.

The rain gradually let up and the water disappeared into the ground. Dusk passed into the brief tropical twilight, and was quickly blanketed again with night. Jinja and Swift rested together, like two old men, though Jinja was three years younger. The others played as a full moon flitted behind the breaking clouds.

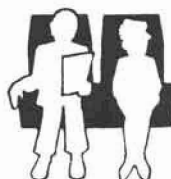
It was at such moments, when the dogs' bellies were full and they found leisure on a cool evening for a good romp, that we too relaxed and felt unaccountably happy. Still, there were variables to be pondered, and these were thoughtful moments too. What does leadership of the pack entail? What is the history of each leader? How do lions and hyenas affect the movements of wild dogs? How much water does a wild dog need?

Suddenly Jinja arose, and we watched as he indently sniffed a patch of herbs. Other dogs seemed to be attracted by something in his attitude and quickly joined him in this activity. They spent a very intent four minutes at it. Then Jinja headed away, and the others followed him.

The Ranger Pack trotted nine miles by the following morning. From an area rich in prey and abounding in waterholes, they went towards the Gol Mountains where the grass was brown and the prey scarce. We didn't suppose for a moment that the dogs had made a mistake; they had only posed us another mystery.



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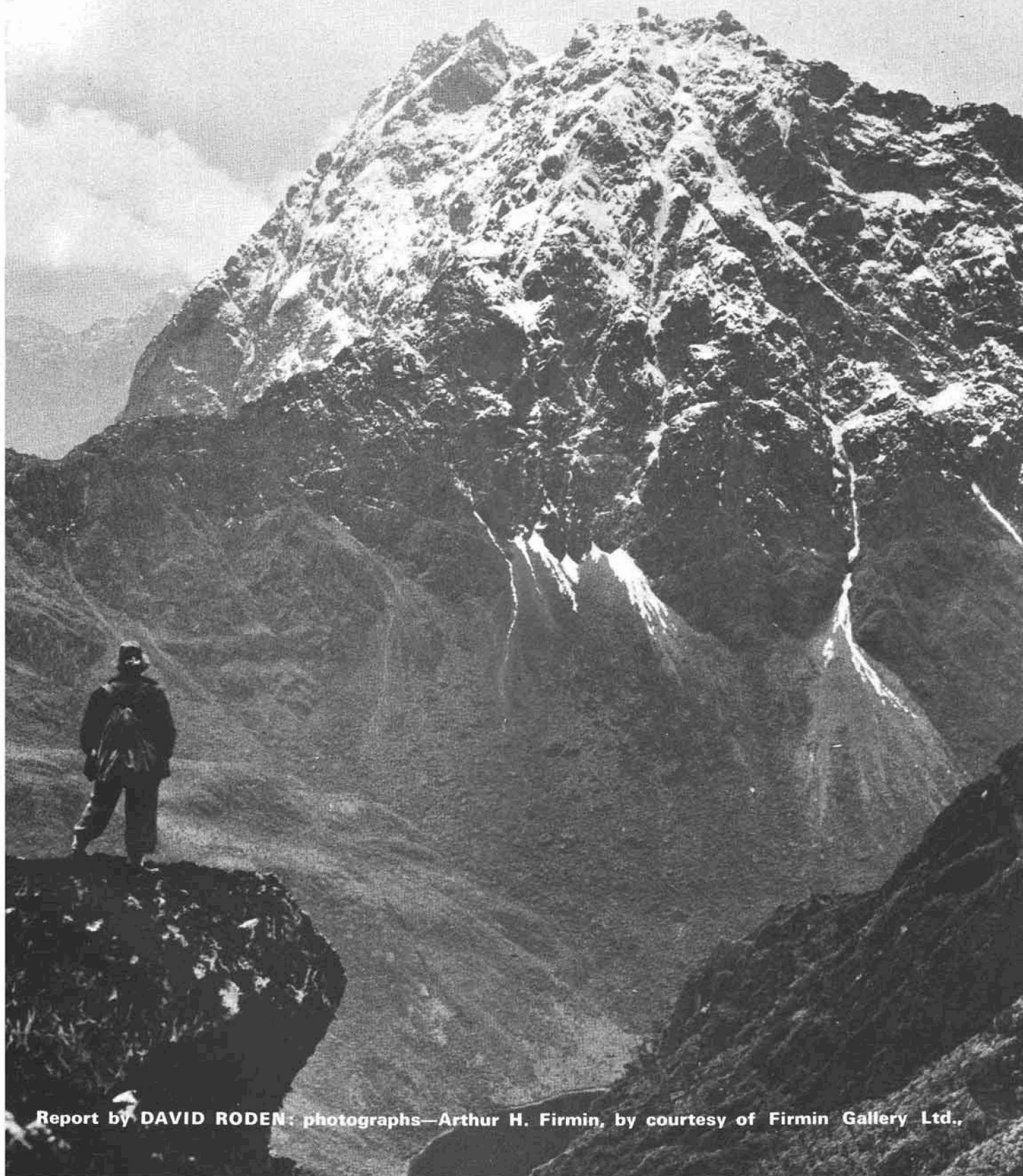
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# Uganda opens up the Mountains of the Moon



Report by DAVID RODEN: photographs—Arthur H. Firmin, by courtesy of Firmin Gallery Ltd.,

THERE have been few visitors in the past four years to the "Mountains of the Moon"—the fabled Ruwenzori range on Uganda's border with Zaïre. Local hunters track duiker and hyrax, the leopard and the giant forest hog over bog, rock and scrub, but the number of walkers and climbers seeking the assistance of Mountain Club of Uganda has declined by more than 75 per-cent since 1972.

Approaches up the western (Zaïre) flanks of what is East Africa's largest continuous mountain massif are physically difficult, while Uganda's ban on tourists in 1972-73, during a period of economic and social upheaval, and the departure of many locally resident expatriates inevitably curbed interest in the area.

But now that some confidence is slowly returning in Uganda's stability and suitability for the more adventurous tourist, it seems appropriate to review conditions on Ruwenzori with the needs and interests of the visitor from outside the country particularly in mind.

The comments which follow are largely based on a ten-day reconnaissance of the main walking routes and huts, undertaken by a joint party from Makerere University's Geography Department and the government's Water Development Department. This was undertaken with a view to reviving a regular programme for recording the state of the glaciers and collecting readings from meteorological and hydrological equipment left at high altitudes. The Ruwenzori massif is an important water reservoir for surrounding regions and fluctuations in ice-levels may be significant indicators of long-term climatic change—since the first accurate photographs of the main glaciers by the Duke of Abruzzi's expedition in 1906 ice on the mountain has been under slow but almost continuous retreat.

Unlike either Mt. Kenya or Kilimanjaro, which are in climatically drier areas and which rise abruptly from surrounding plains, the splendour of the Ruwenzori can rarely be grasped from outside the massif, for all but the foothills are almost always shrouded in cloud and mist.

A two-day tramp up from road-head near Ibanda is usually necessary before the first glimpses of snow-clad peaks appear and the full majesty of the ranges can be appreciated.

On the way, the main tracks climb the sides of deeply incised valleys, crossing a succession of ecological zones each with its own special appeal—the exotic vegetation is one of the main attractions of the area.

Thick rain forest at lower altitudes gives way above 2,500 m. to a more open belt of bamboo and tangled bush, and then to giant tree heathers bearded with dripping lichens. The upper levels of the larger valleys have been heavily glaciated and broaden out into typical U-shaped troughs with poorly drained floors. At this height and with the water-logged conditions, true trees have largely disappeared, and are replaced by giant lobelias and the tree groundsel above a ground layer of flowering shrubs and sedge tussocks.

Patchworks of light and shade flit across these high level bogs, set-off by the sombre colouring of the encompassing rock walls. With luck, the higher ice-capped peaks will now be seen—perhaps the Gessi group above Bigo hut as cloud clears just before sunset, or, early in the morning, towering above the upper Bigo bog, the solid wall of the Stanley complex reaching 5,109 m. in Margherita, the highest peak of the whole massif.

In spite of limited funds, the Mountain Club of Uganda has been able to maintain



a basic organisation, run largely from the Geography Department at Makerere. Apart from being the principal source of information about all the country's mountains, it runs the huts on Ruwenzori and arranges that the principal pathways are kept open.

The track from road-head to Nyabitaba hut, starting point of the two main routes up the Bujuku and Mubuku valleys into the range, is cleared during the two drier seasons (late June to early August and late December to February) when weather conditions are most favourable for climbing. The man responsible for organising this work, Mr. John Matte, also arranges the groups of porters who are a real necessity for any party intending to go up to the snowline. Current rates for porters are Shs. 12/- a day, and Shs. 15/- for their headman, together with free food and extra allowances for pullovers and blankets. For this they will carry loads to a maximum of 20 kg., collect firewood, bring water, and provide fresh meat.

Employing porters is advisable for reasons of both comfort and personal safety. As there are now no emergency food supplies in the huts, anyone intending to visit the higher areas must carry enough provisions for at least a week, yet the excessive fatigue, mountain sickness and depression that afflicts visitors accustomed to lower altitudes can sap vitality to a surprising degree.

Unlike Mt. Kenya there is no mountain rescue service on Ruwenzori, although on occasions in the past the Kilembé Mines administration has provided assistance when needed. The nearest telephone—at the Mines' dam near Ibanda—is a full day's trek down from the main huts for even the toughest porter. Deaths from pneumonia on the mountain have usually been caused by the length of time (several days) that it takes to manhandle stretcher cases down to the road.

At higher altitudes, the principal climbing routes out of the valleys—as, for example, from Bujuku hut to the Speke glacier—are still indicated by small cairns and marker flags, but pathways across the valleys to the beginnings of these routes are now generally overgrown.

For this reason, and also because even the marked tracks can soon be lost in the thick mists or blizzards that may clamp down at any time, the head porter is also an indispensable guide.

Perhaps surprisingly crossing the lower Mubuku river has often proved to be more of a hazard than many climbs higher up the mountain. The suspension bridge below Nyabitaba hut has once again been swept away, and the river now has to be forded at the point where the Bujuku joins the Mubuku.

A group going up fresh from a night's rest at the hut will not normally have any problem apart perhaps from a soaking, but for a descending party, physically run down, tired and often wet after a long day's trek, and reaching the river as night is falling, the result can be fatal.

A German visitor was swept to her death in just such circumstances a couple of years ago, and our own experience illustrates the risks. We had left Kitandara hut and climbed ahead of our porters to the Freshfield Pass (at 4280 m.) where we lost them in thick mist.

An hour and a half later we regained the main track down, and by the time we reached the Mubuku crossing at dusk we had been soaked by a steady downpour while the river had risen to a dangerous level.

We were able to ford, neck-deep, by clinging to a line thrown across, but the pack laden porters were unable to follow. We then had no choice but to plod on in darkness to Nyabitaba to find some shelter for the night, leaving the porters to follow once the river level had dropped.

The scramble from the river up to the hut normally takes about 45 minutes. But that night we were groping for four hours, hand-in-hand and lead by the headman, through marsh, across fallen trees and along the edge of a precipitous drop, before finally reaching the fire, hot tea and blankets of a track-clearing party at Nyabitaba rock shelter.

Hunters have taken advantage of the absence of frequent visitors in recent years to break into the huts, and remove emergency food stocks, medical supplies

*Continued on page 21*



The East African Wild Life Society, P.O. Box 20110, Nairobi, Kenya Tel: 27047

OUR AIMS AND OBJECTS ARE TO SAFEGUARD WILDLIFE AND ITS ENVIRONMENT

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# The Challenge: To strengthen your society

*The following is the text of the address by the Society's Executive Chairman, Mr. Perez Olindo, given to the Annual General Meeting held in Nairobi on May 5th, 1976:*

I bring to you the greetings of our Society Chairman, Hon. Charles Njonjo, M.P., who unfortunately cannot be with us this evening because of pressing state functions connected with the UNCTAD Conference now being held in Nairobi.

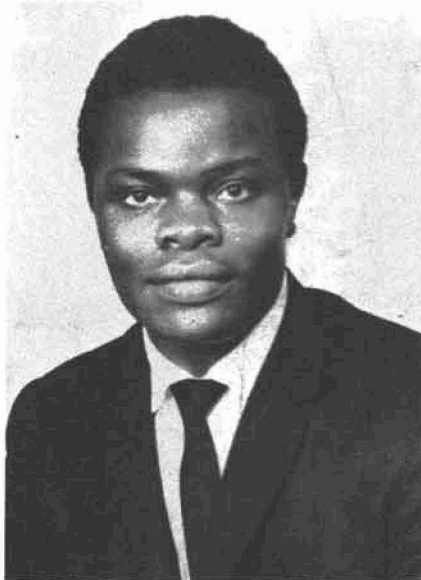
We are happy to note that there has been a marked increase in the number of local membership of the Society over the past three years. This increase is not, however, evenly distributed over the three countries making up East Africa, an area we confidently know as the home of the East African Wild Life Society. I wish, therefore, to call upon the Society representatives from Uganda and Tanzania to compare notes with our membership officer and lay down the foundations of an intensified campaign over the coming year and for the future.

I trust that you share with me the view that the future of the Society is unequivocally tied to an active and brave local chapter of the Society, who must of necessity generate the will and determination for the Society to continue.

It is on the basis of a lively Society that we can recruit external members and also raise funds to support approved Society projects.

There have been doubts expressed in certain quarters as to whether or not the Scientific and Technical Committee of this Society should continue to function as such. I wish to re-affirm the full confidence the Council has in the Scientific and Technical Committee and go further to commend its members for the excellent effort they have shown in executing their work in the past.

This committee plays a vital role in solidifying the regional aspects of the Society and it will continue to function through the working groups which have been organized to give the scientific minded members of our Society an



opportunity of becoming directly involved in the decision-making process of the Society by advising the Council on which projects should be considered for funding and on other scientific matters facing the Society.

The East African Wild Life Society is visibly worried about the destruction of trees and wildlife habitats in Kenya on a very large scale. We are also worried about the direction in which the Wildlife Conservation and Management Service is being steered and in my capacity as the Executive Chairman of Council, I wish to transmit a request to the Government through our Society Chairman, who is also the Attorney General of the Republic of Kenya, for a clear statement of intent on this critical issue.

The East African Wild Life Society views the increasing poaching activity in the entire region with alarm. We have expressed our active concern by financing extensive anti-poaching campaigns. The members naturally wish to know the Governments' public stand on this issue. We expect to see deterrent sentences given by the law courts and on this issue I seek the full co-operation of the Judiciary.

With the re-organization of the Institution of Wildlife in the country, the Society is hopeful that the Commercial wing of the new Department will take over the sole responsibility of handling wildlife products and by-products. The Society is concerned that despite Kenya being a joint mover of the International Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora with the U.S.A., Kenya has not to date ratified that convention. On behalf of Council and indeed the Society, I wish to inform the Government that its own law is superior to the requirement of the Convention and those laws give full protection to more species found in Kenya than have been included in this Convention. In this respect, therefore, Kenya does not need to carry out any legal amendments to the present laws prior to the ratification of the Convention. We therefore need to resolve here today to call upon the Governments of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania to ratify the Convention on International Trade in Endangered species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

On behalf of the Society, I wish to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who has helped this Society, but more so, to the following:

- Hotel Inter-Continental for allowing us to use their ballroom for Society film shows and also for allowing us the free use of a display cabinet;
- The French Cultural Centre for all their help and co-operation in a great many ways! The free use of their theatre for our film shows and this room whenever we have wanted it;
- The Kenyatta Conference Centre for allowing us the free use of a display cabinet in the Centre;
- All the safari firms both here and overseas, who promote the Society and enrol their clients as members of the Society.
- Information Centres in various Embassies and Commissions who have very kindly loaned the Society films.
- Our monthly film shows put on in the Inter-Continental Hotel and the French Cultural Centre brought in Shs. 11,120/- for the year ending 1975 and, so far, for the month ending 31st March, 1976 Shs. 7,760/-. Special thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. Monks for all the work they have put in over the years.

## AGM report (continued)

- Thanks also go to Mrs. Lorna Hayes, our Coastal Representative, for all she has done in the way of fund raising for the Society. Films at the coast made Shs. 11,600/- during 1975.
- Thanks also go to Keith Tucker, our Chief American representative, and all our other District Representatives overseas. Mr. Chas. Allen, our Representative from Massachusetts has sent us cheques amounting to \$1,267.00 for the year ending 1975, this money having been a result of private film shows put on by him and his wife.
- My personal thanks go to all the members of Council, the Management Committee, the Scientific and Technical Committee, our Executive Secretary and his staff, without whose full co-operation my aspirations as Chairman of Council would have amounted to nothing.

We are going through a severe economic era and the Society Chairman has asked me to appeal to you to surge forward in the year ahead to score record performance in the recruitment of new members, raising funds and generally making the Society better known far and wide. In this respect, the Council has decided to take on the services of a staff Public Relations Officer to improve our dialogue with the Government, and the general public.

### AFRICANA

The rise in costs have made the production of Africana increasingly difficult. Special Committees have held a series of meetings to examine the position and the results of their work will be made public in a future issue of the same magazine.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

I would like to bring to your attention that the Council is seriously considering a slight increase in the membership subscriptions and when a firm decision is made, we will make a point of letting you know about it.

With these few remarks, I look forward to a very successful future for wildlife in East Africa in the years ahead, and with your enthusiasm and hard work, there is nothing that we cannot achieve.

Thank you.

Perez Olindo

### Trustee

At the Annual General Meeting of the Society The Hon. Charles Njonjo E.G.H. M.P. was appointed as a Trustee of the Society.

**Due to ever increasing costs, we have had to raise our membership rates and delete some.**

**The new classes and rates are shown in the Society Notes.**

**We do hope you will still continue to support us in our work.**

### New Members

The Society has pleasure in welcoming the following new members:

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Mr. John W. Wilks

Mrs. Louise G. Wood

### Amalgamation

#### Parks—Game Department

Kenya National Parks have now been absorbed within a new Government Department, styled the "Wildlife Conservation and Management Department".

We have been informed by this Department that the Wild Animals Protection Act and the National Parks of Kenya Act have been repealed, but so far, no new Act has been made available to us.

The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife is, at present, temporarily responsible for the administration of the Department having been appointed Acting Director until such time as a permanent appointment is made.

The Department thanks all institutions and individuals for the support given in the past to wildlife conservation in Kenya and hopes such support will be continued to assure the continued survival of wildlife.

The new law, we are told, represents a compromise in terms of a multitude of views expressed. It may be amended at any time, of course, and this possibility should be of particular interest to those who may be worried as to what the future holds for wildlife.

We are also informed that the new law goes a long way to consolidate and enhance the new cause of conservation in Kenya and that a firmer basis has been established for a secure future for Kenya's wildlife resources.

We sincerely hope these expectations will be fulfilled so that the Society with all its Members and friends may continue to give unqualified co-operation to such an important and worthy cause. It is up to the new Department to obtain the confidence of the world's conservation minded public if they wish to continue receiving moral, material and financial support.

**AGM report**  
**(continued) Project accounts for the year ending 31st Dec., 1975**

	Committed fund as at 31.12.74 K.Sh.	Specific donations balance as at 31.12.74 K.Sh.	Committed during 1975 K.Sh.	Special donations received 1975 K.Sh.	Total committed as at 31.12.75 K.Sh.	Total specific donations received 1975 K.Sh.	Transferred back on total projects 1975 K.Sh.	Paid out during 1975 K.Sh.	Committed fund balance as at 31.12.75 K.Sh.	Special donations balance as at 31.12.75 K.Sh.	K£
Animal rescue and anti-poaching	—	109,398	—	11,600	—	120,998	—	63,633	—	57,365	2,869
Meru National Park—Peter Jenkins	—	9,072	—	840	—	9,912	—	5,380	—	4,532	226
Tsavo East National Park—David Sheldrick	—	—	—	17,511	—	17,511	—	15,024	—	2,487	124
Masai Mara Research station equipment	—	8,500	—	—	—	8,500	—	—	—	8,500	425
Saiwa Swamp Sitatunga	164,720	—	—	—	164,720	—	1,677	163,043	—	—	—
Research studentship—Mr. S. Sumba	3,772	—	20,000	—	23,772	—	—	17,622	6,150	—	307
Survey of Marine turtles—E. A. Coast—Dr. J. C. Frazier	(4,700)	—	12,000	7,000	7,300	7,000	—	14,300	—	—	—
Aircraft operating cost	2,498	—	100,000	—	102,498	—	—	97,107	5,391	—	269
Ecological study of elephant—Ruwenzori and Kabalega National Park in Uganda—Malpas	13,225	—	—	—	13,225	—	11,589	1,636	—	—	—
Mr. Simon Trevor—"Ivory Poachers"—Films	14,000	—	—	—	14,000	—	14,000	—	—	—	—
Ecology/Behaviour/Flamingos/Rift Valley—Mr. C. H. Tuite	11,136	—	22,000	—	33,136	—	—	22,136	11,000	—	550
Vocational employment of Nairobi University undergraduates	7,000	—	—	2,800	7,000	2,800	7,000	2,800	—	—	—
Comparative study/bird population in and around Tsavo National Parks—Pearson	4,250	—	—	—	4,250	—	4,250	—	—	—	—
Restoration—Burnt office block Uganda Institute/ Ecology—Laboratory equipment	40,000	—	—	—	40,000	—	40,000	—	—	—	—
Study/Woodland change—Tsavo National Park (East)—Mr. Corfield	26,800	—	12,832	350	39,632	350	350	33,216	6,416	—	321
Amboseli elephant research—Dr. H. Croze	3,491	—	12,000	350	15,491	350	594	3,247	12,000	—	600
Carrying capacity/Amboseli Game Reserve visitors' use—Mr. W. R. Henry	—	—	14,000	—	14,000	—	—	8,700	5,300	—	265
Working groups—Administration expenses	1,556	—	40,000	—	41,556	—	—	5,103	36,453	—	1,823
Roan/Sable study Shimba Hills	—	—	626	—	626	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miss Ranka Sekulic	1,000	—	2,450	565	3,450	565	—	4,641	—	—	—
Anti-poaching unit—C.I.D. (transferred from Anti-poaching fund)	—	—	—	40,000	—	40,000	—	40,000	—	—	—
Tsavo research unit	—	—	—	700	—	700	—	700	—	—	—
Amboseli water fund	—	—	—	700	—	700	—	700	—	—	—
Serengeti Research Institute	—	—	—	700	—	700	—	700	—	—	—
To study the near extinct bird species in the Arabki Sokoki forest	—	—	6,000	—	6,000	—	—	3,675	2,325	—	116
University of East Anglia	—	—	10,720	—	10,720	—	4,000	6,720	—	—	—
S. & T. Working party—Marine	—	—	15,000	—	15,000	—	—	10,000	20,000	15,000	750
Kora Game Reserve	—	—	30,000	—	30,000	—	—	10,000	20,000	—	1,000
Cheetah and hunting dog survey—Tanzania—Dr. Frame	—	—	60,000	965	60,000	965	—	60,965	—	—	—
Uganda Mangaby study—Mr. Peter Waser	—	—	2,000	—	2,000	—	—	—	2,000	—	100
The impact of giraffe upon the Woodlands of the Serengeti Ecosystem—Mr. R. A. Palew	—	—	46,000	—	46,000	—	—	17,500	28,500	—	1,425
Wildlife Clubs of Kenya	—	—	12,000	—	12,000	—	—	—	12,000	—	600
	288,748	126,970	402,628	99,081	691,376	226,051	83,460	598,548	147,535	87,884	11,770
Project total 1975	11,840							K£29,928	K£7,376	K£4,394	
Funds transferred back	83,460										
General donations	82,653										
		177,953									
		224,675									
		K£11,234									

**Donations**

We are more than grateful to Mr. Sven Fernhoff for his magnificent donation of £3,000 for an anti-poaching vehicle to be used in the Kidepo Valley National Park, Uganda.

Sir Herbert Bonar, through the Fauna Protection Society, has donated a wonderful gift of £1,000 for anti-poaching purposes for which we are extremely grateful.

**Wanted**

Mr. Roger Caras, of 8401 Main Street, Kew Gardens, New York 11435, U.S.A., requires 'East African Wildlife Journal' Volume 2 (August 1964). If anyone has a spare copy would they please get in touch with Mr. Caras direct.

**No comment**

THE High Court yesterday reduced the sentence of a man who was found in possession of 72 elephant tusks to a fine of 3,500/- or 350 days in default. Peter Ndungu Muturi had been fined 35,000/- or 35 months in default by a Nairobi senior resident magistrate on March 2, after pleading "Guilty" to

charges that on September 14 at Voi in Taita/Taveta district jointly with two others he was found in possession of 72 elephant tusks worth 93,340/-. Muturi paid the fine of 3,500/- — *Nation*, May 4, 1976.

**VISITOR USE IN AMBOSELI**

MR. WESLEY R. HENRY has produced an excellent preliminary report on "Visitor Use in Amboseli National Park". This has been designated Working Paper No. 263, published through the Institute for Development Studies, University of Nairobi.

On May 4, 1976, a seminar was held to discuss this paper and the following points are among those revealed by Mr. Henry's searching study and enquiries:

The most important finding is that tourism is beginning to have an adverse effect on the ecosystems of some National Parks and Reserves. This fact not only relates to Kenya, but to other countries which have promoted their wildlife resources to attract tourists.

Mr. Henry states that owing to the

ecological and economic importance of National Parks, the interests of conservation and tourism need to be reconciled through a careful programme of planning. If this is not done conservation will suffer as he maintains, tourism is judged and planned more according to the amount of revenue it brings in than, for example, on the effect the increased number of vehicles will have on the environment and the wildlife.

Amboseli was a Country Council Game Reserve before being given National Park status, and it was obviously a profitable commercial enterprise for the Council. Its setting under Kilimanjaro and its key location on the major tour circuits made it one of the most heavily visited wildlife sanctuaries in East Africa. However, it was apparent that there was never a formal conservation management plan for the area. Things just happened, albeit in most cases successfully—but, the continuous increase in the number of tourist vehicles in Amboseli must cause severe damage to the fragile ecosystem unless something is done and done quickly.

Mr. Henry rightly says that for ecological and economic reasons, it is imperative the "naturalness" of national parks is not adversely affected by tourist use—

## SOCIETY NOTES

### Visitor use (cont.)

but, he claims, this beginning to have its effect, environmentally and aesthetically because of a "laissez-faire" policy in the Parks and Reserves. Uncontrolled vehicle use is capable of damaging ecological features, thus decreasing their attractiveness for tourism, and, therefore, tourist management must begin to constitute an integral part of the conservation and management of parks and reserves.

The best indicator given by Mr. Henry of damage caused by uncontrolled vehicle use is related to the cheetah. The animal is of course a diurnal hunter and interference by tourist cars often ruins the hunt—and it is this pressure which is almost certainly responsible for a significant decrease in sightings of cheetah in Amboseli.

Mr. Henry has collected a wealth of statistics to demonstrate that vehicles have a definite adverse effect on cheetah, putting them under great stress when perhaps they have cubs but are unable to hunt successfully.

Mr. Henry says that the length of stay of individual visitors to the Park is decreasing. These are people who have some knowledge of the wildlife environment and who want to see the animals in a natural setting, not surrounded by other cars. This does not seem to apply to packaged "mini-bus tourists", whom it seems are more gregarious, do not mind crowds and do not appear to appreciate how delicate the Amboseli ecosystem is.

A density of five to six vehicles around the predator appears critical. At this point the cheetah is affected and will just flop down to sit out the invasion. The animal may be further harassed by vehicles which move in too close; by encirclement; door slamming; engine revving; gear grinding; whistling; shouting; or by people actually throwing objects at the cheetah to make it more active. Such things do happen—I have seen it myself—by people who obviously care more for their pictures than for the animal.

Most of these misdemeanours could be obviated, of course, by improved intensive training of drivers who should have passed a rigorous examination before being allowed to operate. In this way their attitude in following the predators may be as much conditioned by regard for the animals' well-being as by the hoped-for generous tip from the tourists.

The issue of driving off the Park roads is a complex one with visitor response being split, Mr. Henry says. Provided they are allowed to leave the road to approach predators, just over half the visitors implied they had no objection to a basic restriction to the roads. Only 20 per cent had serious objections to this and were mainly "package tourists" who, presumably, were concerned to get their full money's worth!

Mr. Henry found that there was no good reason for most of the cars he followed to have left the tracks; the drivers were obviously merely looking for animals, cutting corners or simply joy-riding. However, it is debatable if random driving off the road has any real detrimental effect on the vegetation in the dry weather—but there is a risk of a proliferation of defined tracks which clears the vegetation leaving just bare earth along the wheel ruts.

Mr. Henry states that the results so far of his study suggest that vehicle concentration around predators is the main problem which calls for an early solution. He says this has a direct relationship to the decrease in the frequency of cheetah sightings in Amboseli—a fact, as Mr. Henry points out, which should be alarming both to conservationists and to those responsible for the tourist industry.

Personally, I have always contended a National Park must be managed primarily for the well-being of the animals and the environment in which they live. Visitors must be considered as accepted intruders into these sanctuaries and their activities should not interfere with the habits of the animals. If they do, then the basic principles of National Parks are being violated. For these reasons it is necessary that conservation management plan be drawn up and adhered to.

I sincerely hope Mr. Henry's report will be widely read as his findings are of the greatest importance to such parks as Amboseli, Nairobi and Nakuru, all of which are suffering under a burden that can have serious adverse effects not only upon their environments and wildlife but, indirectly upon their future values as a tourist attraction.

### Block 61

REPEATED reports are being received by the Society that tour operators are unable to show their clients the big maned lions, for which the Mara is famed.

The Society arranged for a short survey to be carried out in an area of five mile radius around Governor's Camp. This did not include any of the triangle area.

Plenty of lions were found, but the tour operators complaint was confirmed as the prides observed consisted of females and young males of under three years old; there was a complete dearth of big, mature males.

Enquiries have been made at Messrs Zimmerman's, the taxidermists, and it was confirmed they have been receiving, in

1974 and 1975, a greater number of big maned lions than previously.

One agent alone has produced at Messrs Zimmerman's two consignments; one of eight skins and another of six skins; all of which were large males.

In Block No. 61 of the Mara, lions are difficult to find for the tourists, especially around the upper reaches of the Talek river, as it appears they have been shot under special concessions.

The lion population in the Mara, however, does not appear to be declining in all areas; but, the large maned males have been reduced to below a limit they can stand under the hand of man. They can, however, be built up again in about five years if there is restraint on shooting to correct this unbalanced situation.

To achieve this aim, it is important Block No. 61 be given complete sanctuary with no shooting under any circumstances being allowed.

### Mau devastation

ON 17th November 1975; I discussed the devastation being caused by the illegal squatter infiltration into the South West Mau Forest with the Chairman of the Kenya Tea Growers' Association.

He informed me that his Association is indeed becoming extremely worried on behalf of the industry by such progressive destruction of this forest.

The question creates grave concern for the tea industry since, should this forest be devastated beyond redemption, the water originating from the forest will disappear and also weather conditions may change thereby seriously affecting the livelihood of some 100,000 people, dependent on the Kericho Tea Industry.

Much public interest has recently been roused over the destruction of trees and forests, but this attack on the Mau forest is a serious assault on what is a great natural resource of the Republic.

Before wholesale clearing is undertaken there should be some restraint coming from the Forestry Department since the South-West Mau Forest is declared Forest Reserve.

I visited an area along the banks of



TONY CHURCH of Safaris Unlimited sends us this picture of his staff breaking up a leopard trap just off the road between Ngong and Suswa. They smashed up eight very strong wooden cages found in the space of about 400 yards.

## SOCIETY NOTES

the Kiptiget river where I saw timber being felled and sawn into planks and rafters none of which had the official Forestry stamp marked on it.

An area stretching from Molo, down the Kiptiget river, to the Coryndon Falls has been devastated; a distance of some forty miles!

In April 1975, the two big Tea companies, in Kericho, flew the D.C. Nakuru, together with other Government Officers, over the area to show them the destruction taking place.

The County Council of the Kipsigis, also, have raised the matter with the P.C., Rift Valley Province and the D.C., Kericho, as to the possible effect on the surface water supply within the district. And recently the Narok District Agricultural Companies appealed to the Narok County Council to set boundaries for forests and to limit charcoal burning and wheat farmers from destroying the natural forests. This Committee also urged Government to intervene to reduce the rate of tree felling in the Mau Forest so that soil conservation measures can be enforced.

### Cheetah Study

*The following is a short precis of cheetah study reports from George and Lory Herbison Frame in the Serengeti.*

LONG-term records of individual cheetahs have begun paying dividends. Cubs which we identified at the beginning of the study have grown up and are now providing information on cheetah population dispersion. Tentatively, we see a pattern in which male cubs are dispersing out of the areas in which they were raised; whereas female cubs as adults use much the same areas as their mothers. Individual mature male cheetahs may retain exclusive use of certain areas near the Seronera and Wandamu Rivers in the dry season, excluding all other adult males. However, we need to continue observing the habits of these breeding males more closely before we can be certain of this.

We followed one cheetah continuously day and night for seven days. This was accomplished by taking turns sleeping, so that one of us was observing at all times. The cheetah we followed is female 4, who is one of Brigitta's litter of six cubs born about October 1972. During the first five days of our observation, she travelled about 15 km in a circle between Seronera, the Seronera River, and the Wandamu River. She urine-marked trees and termite mounds much more frequently than female cheetahs normally do, so we suspected she may have been coming into estrus and trying to establish contact with a male.

Then, on the morning of the sixth day, male 9 was seen some distance away, sniffing some of the female's scent marks. He immediately began calling (yelping alternating with staccato purrs) from about a kilometre away. When female 4 heard the male, she responded by trotting in his direction; and as soon as he saw her, he trotted toward her as well. Female 4 then lay down, and the male immediately mated for 20 seconds. Thereafter the male maintained close proximity to the female, lying next to her and always getting up to follow her when she moved a few metres away. They lay close together all day, and in the evening they mated a second time.



PAT Quinn (right), Vice-President/Zoology at Lion Country Safari in Laguna Hills, California, is presenting a cheque for over £2,000.00 (US) to Keith Tucker, Chief American Representative of EAWLS.

The money is the results of a fund raising drive by Lion Country Safari especially to support the anti-poaching work in Tsavo West by Warden Ted Goss. A large dinner in Newport Beach, Calif., was organised where donated paintings and many art objects were auctioned, everything with a wildlife theme.

Lion Country Safari is also working toward sending dart guns and darts for tranquilizing needs at Tsavo.

Mr. Tucker brought the check with him to Nairobi in February 1976 during his visit as leader of the San Diego Zoo Safari.

Any American's who wish to donate to this or any other major project may send contributions to either our Nairobi offices, or direct to Mr. Tucker, P.O. Box 82002, San Diego, Calif. 92138. He has a special fund set up for Anti-Poaching and your help will certainly be appreciated.

All night and the following morning they stayed together, but did not mate again. Then in the late afternoon of the second day, while the male was asleep, the female cautiously sneaked away. As far as we know, this is the first time that wild adult cheetahs have been observed mating.

In the early part of this year, we continued monitoring the movements of cheetahs with regard to ecological conditions. At this time, most cheetahs leave the Seronera area and woodland edge, and migrate 10 to 30 kilometers onto the plains to follow their principal prey—the Thomsons gazelles. Most cheetahs will return to the woodland edge around June.

Many cheetahs with litters are under periodic observation to assess the rate of survival of cubs and the probable causes of mortality. Apparently about 70 per cent of the cubs die during their first three months of life, and often entire litters are lost.

One full-grown litter recently separated from its mother. If they follow the usual pattern, each of the three sisters will one-by-one leave her siblings until finally the single brother will be left alone.

One of the few cheetahs remaining near Seronera this season was female No. 19 and her large male cub. The male cub, whose development we have carefully followed, is now as big as his mother. But he is easily recognizable as being a cub because of the very long hair on the back of his neck. Sometimes these two cheetahs were unable to catch any prey for 2 or 3 days, because of the many tourist vehicles. They often spent several hours stalking their prey, and whenever cars drove off the road to get close, the hunt was spoiled because the prey were alerted to the cheetah's presence. This is an example of why it is important for visitors to stay on the roads, and not drive too close to the cheetahs.

*A report of the Frames complementary study on wild Dog is carried elsewhere in this issue.*

## NATIONAL PARKS NEWS

### UGANDA: KIDEPO

Mr. Paul Sali, Warden of the Kidepo National Park, informed me that he saw a loose herd of some 700 elephants heading into the Park from the Turkana Hills in the east.

These animals had been attracted by the fallen, ripe fruit of the *Borassus* palms which they adore and, which makes them quite tipsy when the over ripe fruit ferments in their stomachs.

Paul Sali was a little worried over the human pressure from Karamoja at the eastern end of the Park as this was affecting the Greater Kudu. Should an outbreak of rinderpest occur amongst the cattle herds then the Kudu will be in serious trouble as they are very susceptible to this disease.

### TANZANIA: HEADQUARTERS

The Chairman of Tanzania National Parks' Board of Trustees, in a statement on the Annual Report, says the dramatic attack by an armed gang on the little Gombe National Park last year brings out a point worthy of repetition: Positive events connected with wildlife which are reported in the local media seldom receive the attention they are due in the world press. This is a pity as there is an ever increasing number of people who thirst their stories of wild animals and their behaviour.

The local newspapers in Tanzania are well aware of the interest and cater for it—but perhaps if more news of our animals was given around the world, more people would become aware of our problems and help us solve them.

It is ironic that although conservation of the world's wildlife resources is now much more widely recognised as of importance to everyone, yet in this time of economic recession, conservation support is a casualty and, to a great extent, care of the resource is left to the dedicated few who carry on as best they can.

The Chairman counts Tanzania National Parks staff as among the "few"—but adds that they are fortunate in that they enjoy a large measure of public support in Tanzania, which has certainly shown no signs of diminishing.

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## NATIONAL PARKS NEWS—KENYA



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### Nairobi

SINCE the terrible drought of 1973/74, the Park has been more or less empty of animals; even during the 1975 dry weather, no zebra or wildebeest returned and it appeared the Park might be finished.

It was thought that the pressures on wildlife in the Kitengela area bordering the Park had been ruinous, but early this year our fears were allayed when both zebra and wildebeest returned in strength.

At the monthly counts the following were recorded:

Zebra	Wildebeest
Jan: 1,268	Jan: 137
Feb: 1,569	Feb: 3,051
Mar: 1,456	Mar: 10,797

Coke's Heartbeest appears the hardest hit species in the 1973/74 drought as their numbers are still well down. However, given some good years of rain, no doubt they will build up again.

A main anxiety is cheetah—I have never known the sightings to be so low as they are at present.

Comparative figures on the Cheetah population are revealing: In 1973 we had 20 individuals; 1974, 18 individuals; 1975, 11 individuals.

At the time of writing, I have only seen three cheetah (2 males, 1 female) which means we may have lost more than 17 individuals in three years. This includes our breeding females and Patience, who has been such a great favourite with visitors since 1966.

Although we know the Masai have speared some of our young lions, the predators have not fared so badly as the cheetah. The lions Sandra and Donata have again produced four and three cubs respectively, moving into their favourite area along the stream below Narogomon Dam where they had their 1973 litters.

Tana and Galana have eight cubs between them in their first litters.

Marimba and Marula with five cubs between them, born in 1975, have managed to survive the thin period when there was little or no game in the Park. They raided some farms in the Athi River, but survived their escapades and are now back in the Park.

### Lake Nakuru

EVEN without the co-operation of the flamingos, the Park is rapidly developing. Recently National Parks Headquarters, Nairobi, donated a 30-seater bus and a 10-seater V.W. combi-bus to be used for the wildlife education programme—and, since the lake level has receded, an extension to a walk-in hide has been constructed to bring the visitors closer to the waterfowl.

A new lookout post has been built on Lion Hill and offers a

breath-taking panoramic view of the lake and its unique surroundings. A further attractive addition to the Park is the new self-help banda, which is situated high on Lion Hill and accommodates five people. Details and reservations can be made through Lake Nakuru National Park, P.O. Box 538, Nakuru.

### Masai Mara

Some of the latest reports from the Mara are disquietening. Cattle are being deliberately driven over the Talek River into the Conservation Area and this must be most disappointing to tourists who have paid a lot of money to see the wildlife wonders of the Mara only to be confronted with a lot of scrawny, scrub-cattle.

We received a report from the adjacent photographic block of a dead cow with, nearby, two dead hyenas and some dead vultures. The carcass of the cow had been poisoned in the hopes of killing off some hyena—again not an encouraging sight for visitors.

Rhino are clearly under severe pressure in the area. If they are being shot in the hunting concessions on three sides of the Mara and are poached in the sanctuary area, then there is little hope of being able to conserve this species for the enjoyment of tourists.

### Meru

Along the Rojewero River, elephants were numerous; they are becoming tamer allowing vehicles to approach them, but some herds still dislike being approached.

A large number of leopards have been released in the Park but very little is known about their movements. We heard one from our camp and, on my last visit, I saw two along the Rojewero in the vicinity of Rhino Drift.

Oryx were more numerous than I have seen previously over most of the Park north of the Rojewero. Grants Gazelle (the subspecies Notata) also appear to be increasing.

Giraffe are to be found in large herds, the biggest I have seen numbered over 50 in the Kindani area.

The Buffalo herds are of course a feature of this Park; they are large and spectacular with some very fine specimens in them.

### Tanzania National Parks

Tanzania National Parks announce that, with effect from January 1st 1977, entrance fees for overseas visitors will be increased to Shs. 20/- per adult; and Shs. 60/- per vehicle. The Parks authorities regret the need for the increases, but ask visitors to accept that they are unavoidable and the result of the rapidly escalating cost of maintaining Tanzania's great parks and reserves.



## WORLD WILDLIFE FUND—KENYA

Notes compiled by Ellis Monks



Vehicles supplied by WWF helped Tanzania to catch 423 poachers and remove 3,015 snares in the Serengeti National Park in 1975. It was here, according to Parks' Director Mr. Derek Bryceson, that there had been a "remarkable increase" in poaching in 1975. In response to an appeal for help, WWF sent out two Toyota Landcruisers to take part in anti-poaching operations.

### Kenya yet to sign Convention on Endangered Species

The British Government announced that it would implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora with effect from January 1st, 1976 and ratify the Convention during 1976. At the same time, H.R.H. Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands is urging acceptance of the Dutch Prime Minister's suggestion that all nine EEC countries should ratify the Convention together.

What is this Convention; what is Kenya's position; and how will it affect the wildlife of Kenya?

Essentially it is an agreement between nations not to import or export the skins or trophies of endangered wildlife species and to offer protection to species designated as "vulnerable".

To date some 17 nations have ratified the Convention, but Kenya, although a party to the agreement to the Convention has not as yet ratified or agreed to implement it.

The list of fauna and flora covered by the convention is periodically reviewed and up-dated. It deals not only with "readily recognisable parts or derivatives" but also with living specimens, thus controlling the movement of captured animals and birds and also some of the rarer plants. Surprisingly certain species of animal are not listed—the chimpanzee, the pygmy chimpanzee and black rhinoceros are notable omissions.

One effect of the British Government's announcement is ban the importation of the skins of leopard, cheetah, genet and civet and an important major change is the banning of the importation of "rugs coverlets, coats, jackets capes or stoles" made from such skins. It is regrettable that though the importation of crocodile skins, snake and lizard skins is likewise prohibited the ban does not extend to the made up product.

Elephant tusks may not now be imported into Britain but this does not preclude the importation of worked ivory goods. Whether "worked ivory" will include polished tusks remains to be seen.

Here in Kenya, while the exportation of raw ivory is now controlled and may not be sold "over the counter", a raw

ivory tusk may be trimmed, polished and sold freely—hence the large number of polished elephant tusks which adorn the trophy shops.

WWF—Kenya has made representations to the Government of Kenya to ratify or implement the Convention, but while it is agreed that this is desirable and officials make statements approving the Convention, ratification is still awaited. In the meantime more species are becoming vulnerable. The Greater Kudu, the Reticulated Giraffe, the Grevy Zebra, Wild Dog and Crocodile are becoming more and more rare. Leopard and Black Rhinoceros continue to be legally hunted, and the lion—once regarded as vermin—is likely to become vulnerable in the very near future.

Efforts made by other nations to protect these species by prohibiting importation is of great value, but the first step should be here in Kenya where the list of Protected species should be thoroughly overhauled immediately

### Naivasha Tree-Planting

A public outcry at the cutting down of yellow-barked acacia trees at Naivasha for charcoal, may well have a salutary result. Following the protest led by Mrs. Nancy Crooke, the Men of the Trees in association with WWF have raised money to purchase more acacia trees, and these together with other donated trees, will be included in a new park which the Naivasha Council promises to develop. President Kenyatta himself led the ceremonies at a recent Tree Planting Day, and this should do much not only for Naivasha, but to stir a new interest and awareness in trees by a public normally apathetic.

### Conservation Around the World.

IN February 1976, the grants paid by the World Wildlife Fund to conservation since its inception in 1961 passed the 20 million dollar mark. Many endangered species and natural areas would no longer exist today had it not been for timely help from this organisation. However, there is still much more to be done, and fortunately a growing number of people realize the value of wildlife and wild places and the essential role they play in today's, materialistic world and are coming forward with funds to help.

## INTRODUCING THE ELSA WILD ANIMAL APPEAL

THE name of Joy Adamson is known in all parts of the world. Her books have been translated into many languages, including Russian. Linked inseparably with Joy Adamson is Elsa, the lioness which she made famous.

The concept of taking lions from captivity and rehabilitating them into the wild caught the public imagination; so too did the animal-human relationship which had been built up between Joy and Elsa.

From this association came the series of books "Born Free", "Living Free" and "Forever Free" which traced the true-life story of Elsa and her cubs, her life and death. There followed a similar experiment with cheetah, an animal doomed to extinction, and Joy's work and association with this superb animal is traced in the two books which followed, "Pippa" and "The Spotted Sphinx". Inevitably in the train of the popular books came the films "Born Free" and "Living Free".

Conservation owes a great debt of gratitude to Joy and Elsa for drawing the attention of the public, through the media of entertainment, to the need for conservation in general and in stimulating in a much wider range of people an awareness of the wild.

But the story does not stop here.

It would have been easy for Joy to have sat back and reaped the financial rewards of her efforts, but instead, the royalties from the books and films were vested in a conservation fund *The Elsa Wild Animal Appeal* which was to assist conservation projects, not only in Elsa's birth place, Kenya, but in many other parts of the world. Kenya and in particular Meru, not surprisingly, benefitted most from these projects which helped establish the present Meru National Park, funded research projects and helped in the supply of anti-poaching vehicles. Now the Elsa Wildlife Clubs are being started to supplement overseas the support which the Elsa Appeal is giving to the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya. Officially launched in September 1975 the Elsa Clubs in U.K. are already making steady progress and the organiser, Tony Baker, came out to Kenya in April/May to acquaint himself on the ground with the work of the Appeal and Elsa's homeland. In California the Elsa Clubs are already well established and we look forward to the formation of Clubs in other countries to educate youth world-wide in the need of conserving our wild places and wildlife.

At present, the Appeal is negotiating the purchase of Hell's Gate—the Njorowa Gorge—for a new National Park. Long known to naturalists for its hot springs, steam jets, unique flora and fascinating larval flows it is also an ornithologist's paradise with the only readily visible site of the lammergeier vulture in Kenya and a host of unusual passerines, the Nyanza swift and Verreaux eagle. Negotiations have been proceeding over many months and progress is slow but the Ministry of Tourism & Wildlife is very interested in the area and hopefully the time may not be too far distant when Kenya can add another fascinating park to its list.

E. Monks

### An exhilarating trip to India

IN mid-February, the World Wildlife Fund sponsored a trip to India, for me to assist the WWF Education Officer in Bombay, in preparing to launch a conservation education programme for school children—the "Nature Clubs of India". It was hoped that my practical experience with the wildlife Clubs of Kenya over the past six years, would provide a useful basis for the exchange of ideas and pointers in the areas of printed materials, field courses, school programmes, etc.

During the course of my six week stay, I had an opportunity to visit numerous schools, groups of teachers and principals, municipal leaders, WWF representatives, and professional conservationists. I was also taken to visit four of India's superb wildlife sanctuaries. Escorted throughout by the WWF Education Officer, Mr. Lavkumar Khacher (a former Housemaster at Rajkumar College, Gujerat) we travelled over India by jet, train, country bus, taxi, rickshaw, foot, and elephant back! We ate meals in the lavish surrounds of former palaces; and sitting on polished mud and dung floors in rural training centres. Often, such contrasts occurred during the same day, and the constant variety more than made one forget the fatigue resulting from such a busy itinerary.

Contrary to many peoples' impression of India, there are still considerable "wide open spaces" there, some terrain rather resembling that of an African savannah. Many of India's wildlife sanctuaries can only be reached by long journeys from the nearest city. This fact will pose a problem for many Indian students who wish to see their country's wildlife. Distances and lack of transport are one of the most difficult problems to be surmounted in 'taking the people to the wildlife'. But there are such rewards, once you get there! India's birds and mammals leave one at a loss for words, they are so beautiful, so extraordinary.

The Kaladeo-Ghana Bird Sanctuary at Bharatpur could surely rival Nakuru for variety of birds, if not numbers, and for sheer beauty of the habitat. Among the migratory birds I saw there were a few Siberian Cranes, of which only 60 or so remain on earth. But the biggest thrill for me was to ride on an elephant into the thick bamboo forest of Kanha Sanctuary and see a wild tigress with her four cubs. That sight was prefaced by other exotic scenes . . . of wild peacocks in meadows, along with spotted Axis deer, red jungle fowl, wild boar, wild dog, and gaur.

In the Gir Forest, I met some of the last remaining population of the Asiatic lion. These beautiful animals had become so tame that tourists were allowed to approach them on foot to within a distance of only a few metres! That rather took the 'clout' out of lion-viewing for me, but most visitors were duly thrilled with their first-ever look at these glamorous predators. The forest rangers did carry guns as a precaution, as well as sticks, which they raised now and then as intimidation against the larger lions who were trying to approach the "bait"—a piglet which had been brought along to lure the pride out of their forest retreat, into the open.

The Blackbuck sanctuary near

Bhavnagar was a pleasure, because visitors are afforded a good look at these rare, exquisite antelope. The blackbuck is about the size of a Grant's gazelle, and unique with its striking colouration and superb spiraling horns. There is some hopeful talk of eventually reintroducing the cheetah in this area, as a natural predator of the blackbuck.

Everywhere we went, many people seemed eager to become more involved in furthering the cause of conservation. True, the task in India is monumental, what with a population of more than 600 million people, and the language and logistical problems entailed. Those professional conservationists I met were certainly up to the task, and there is no lack of interest in and outside the schools. But they will need to galvanize more people, particularly volunteers, into action in order to carry the lessons of good conservation to the people, on any appreciable scale. They are, of course, planning to do just that.

● As far as Wildlife Clubs of Kenya are concerned, things have never been busier. With Sandy Price in India during Feb./ March, and Nathaniel Chumo (WCK National Organiser) away at Michigan State University, the remaining three staff members with transport still manage to visit a record-breaking 120 schools during the first school term of 1976. The April school holidays again saw WCK staff immersed in conducting three, week-long wildlife "seminars" or field courses, for 90 students representing 90 different Wildlife Clubs. These courses were held in Nakuru and Tsavo East National Parks, the aim being to give extra background material and experiences to Wildlife Club leaders who need a fresh input of ideas from time to time in order to run effective and interesting Wildlife Clubs.

● During the second school term, WCK staff have been organising fund-raising activities for the proposed self-help youth hostel to be erected near the Langata entrance to Nairobi National Park. Also, WCK staff members are helping to organise a youth rally which will bring the poaching problem into the spotlight once more, this time in Embu District. And to keep Nairobi area Wildlife Clubs busy and involved, WCK staff are leading students in a major project to clean up a stretch of the Nairobi River, on July 31st.

● Two prints of Simon Trevor's film, "Africa: Forest or Desert", have been donated to WCK by the World Wildlife Fund. Their arrival in Kenya could not have been too soon, as WCK can use such timely films in programmes currently reaching thousands of students each term, particularly via the WCK Mobile Film Unit. The two staff members running the Film Unit are now taking live tree seedlings to each school visited (up to 27 schools in 10 days). They will give demonstrations on how to plant and care for young seedlings, and will also supply each Wildlife Club with extra seedlings to plant on their own. WCK staff have been greatly helped in this by various Forest Stations in Kenya, whose officers were delighted to help when they discovered that such a project was going to take place, supplementing their own efforts at extension work.

Admirable as these projects may sound, they are only reaching a small portion of Kenya's population, and much more needs to be done by WCK and other organisations. WCK alone could reach an additional 10,800 people per month of each school year, with the addition of merely two staff members and some money for putting petrol into an already existing vehicle. Although a school Wildlife Club has an average membership of 40 students (the number that can fit into a bus in the event of the all-too-rare field students (the number that can fit into a trip), the entire student body is usually invited to view the films brought by the WCK Mobile Film Unit, enabling WCK to reach thousands with filmed messages on conservation.



Wildlife Club members examining rhino skulls at the Tsavo Research Project, during a WCK field course.

## The Magnificent Doctors

THE small, single-engined aircraft let down towards a tiny cluster of huts in a featureless landscape and, trailing a plume of saffron dust, bunched and rolled to a halt.

As the dust settled, a young African ran through the shimmering heat to a pole and hoisted a wind sock as a landing aid. *Foxtrot Delta*, bearing the Flying Doctor, had arrived at North Horr, in Kenya's Chalbi Desert.

Equally it could have been at Ileret on the Kenya-Ethiopian border, or deep in southern Tanzania's bushlands—in fact anywhere medical services are needed within the 25,000 sq. mile territory of the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMRF).

From modest beginnings in 1957, the organisation—perhaps better known as the East African Flying Doctor Service—now maintains contact with some 70 mission hospitals and government dispensaries and, through them, cares for the health of more than 30 million people over an area almost as large as western Europe.

Most of these people are, of course, tribesmen who have unsophisticated lifestyles, frequently lacking adequate sanitation, fresh water, living in primitive shelters and surviving on a poor diet. Dirt and the accompanying flies are an accepted part of life. The people are colourful in both dress and custom, and often as tough and unyielding as the territory in which they live. But they are still susceptible to endemic diseases or accidents; serious injuries occur in intertribal conflicts and, from time to time, there are adverse encounters with wild animals.

It is not uncommon for these accident victims to walk for several days to seek help at the nearest mission station, sometimes arriving weak from loss of blood and in great pain. AMRF is often called upon to evacuate these people—and will do so as willingly as for anyone else in serious trouble.

Most of the Flying Doctors assignments are routine, like conducting a clinic under the trees, treating ailments and effecting minor surgery, while a crowd of ochred or bead-bedecked tribesfolk watch curiously. There is, however, a high incidence of more serious problems—eye troubles, conjunctivitis and trachoma; pneumonia, venereal disease and TB.

Although the major work of these bush doctors is preventive medicine, reducing the incidence of disease through health education and routine immunisation, there have nonetheless been some dramatic mercy missions and small miracles of surgery.

Flying doctors are remarkable people, who are at once pilots, drivers, radio mechanics and, almost incidentally, physicians or surgeons. Their rough-riding bush-flying commitment has made them, through necessity, ingenious improvisors and numerous emergency operations have been undertaken in light from a car battery, reflected by sheets of cardboard and silver paper—or, at worst, a dim kerosene lamp. On one occasion, tyre levers were used to manoeuvre a bone into place and, on another, a gangrenous arm was amputated from a man too weak



to be anaesthetised—other than with ice-packs.

But these are extreme examples and the doctors try, where possible, to get the patient to the Nairobi base where full medical services are readily available—although it is sometimes difficult to persuade relatives of a sick person to let him be taken away in the stomach of an iron bird!

There are of course disappointments in any endeavour, and the Flying Doctor Service is no exception. Fund-raising for this essentially privately financed organisation has been a frequent problem—but the purpose and the operation of the Service provides more than enough compensation.

Just one example of the "return" the doctors get concerns a young Ethiopian boy who survived after having most of his face ripped off by a hyena while he slept in the bush. The lad also went blind. Knowing that he presented a hideous spectacle he had hidden himself, cowering beneath the cover of a blanket for almost three years. He had been reduced to a wretched state.

The Red Cross sent him to Nairobi where one of the pioneers of the Service, Michael Wood, began a twelve month labour of reconstructive surgery. During that time the boy learned a new language and; after his discharge from hospital, mastered braille at the Thika school for the Blind. He later returned to his country as an employable telephone operator and a confident human being.

Such is the scope and capability of AMRF. It doesn't matter if the emergency call concerns a gored hunter, a spear-injured tribesman, or a tourist on safari—the organisation will try to bring help from the sky. They are all *people*—and that's the vital interest of the Flying Doctors, the one reason for their existence: *It's the people that matter—the people of Africa.*"

●Visitors to East Africa may join the Flying Doctors' Society for the duration of their stay, enabling them to make use of the service in the event of an emergency. Details from the African Medical & Research Foundation, Wilson Airport, P.O. Box 30125, Nairobi. Tel: 27281; Cables: AFRIFOUN, Nairobi.

## Mountains of the Moon

Continued from page 20

At Nyabitaba rain and river water stored in open drums gets infested with mosquito larvae. Kitandara hut, magnificently sited on the edge of a small lake looking across to the Luigi di Savoia peaks, also has a history of gastro-enteric infections, probably from a stream polluted near the porters' lean-to. Kitandara is the most spacious hut but, without a stove, also the coldest and dampest hut, while the rock-shelters used by the porters at Bigo and Nyabitaba are a good deal more comfortable than the sheet metal huts there.

On Ruwenzori cultivation never seems to have extended above 2,000 m., and the main damage to the natural environment above this level has come from isolated workings of Kilembe Mines and, more important, from bush fires started by hunters and tourists. Hunters are attracted by game that wanders up over the watershed from Zaire's Albert National Park, but armed only with spears and bows and unwilling to stay for long near the snow-line they have had little adverse impact on wildlife at the higher altitudes where, for example, leopard is still abundant.

An intending visitor to the Ruwenzori requires no special permits to enter the area once the normal Uganda immigration procedures have been completed, although a party with pretensions to serious research has to obtain prior permission from the National Research Council and clearance from the President's Office.

Nowadays, Kasese, easily reached by rail from Kampala, is probably the best base from which to start. As part of its 'Economic War' and professed policy of self-reliance, the Uganda Government has severely curbed non-essential imports in order to conserve foreign exchange, and in the larger towns even many basic commodities are scarce because of distributional problems. Consequently, it is often easier to stock-up provisions in a smaller centre such as Kasese where there is only a limited local market to satisfy.

The maize meal and cassava flour, groundnuts and dried fish eaten by the porters can be bought there, but the visitor who is unwilling to share this exotic if rather monotonous diet should bring extra foodstuffs with him—especially sweets, liquor, sugar, wheat flour, tinned milk and packet soups, along with film, soap, a first aid kit and plastic bags for wrapping up everything against rain and river water.

Tinned meat can usually be found in Kampala, and can be supplemented with fresh hyrax and the more palatable duiker bought from the porters who are always ready to hunt.

Rather tatty but still serviceable camping and climbing equipment is available for hire at moderate rates from the Mountain Club in Kampala. A camping gas stove is very useful in that it can be lit immediately under almost any conditions (refill cylinders are scarce in Uganda), and a gas lighter is essential.

A final necessity is a pocket spring balance to settle pack load disputes between porters, and cigarettes to dole out at the end of the day. In short, providing adequate preparations are made beforehand, a visit to the Ruwenzori can still be a pleasurable experience, perhaps all the more rewarding for the greater solitude now to be enjoyed.

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**JACK FRAZIER** visits Latham Island, a speck of sea-swept coral off the coast of Tanzania soon to be made a marine National Park

# Treasure Island for bird-watchers

FORTY kilometres from the coast of Tanzania, between Zanzibar and Mafia, is the most remote island in East Africa. By virtue of its isolation, Latham Island is also the most important sea bird rookery in East Africa.

In fact, it is one of the most important sanctuaries along the entire eastern coast of the continent; only the sea bird islands in neighbouring oceanic territories, such as Seychelles, can compete in the number and variety of birds.

Latham Island is called "*Fungu Kizimkazi*" in kiswahili, for the native fishermen find it by navigating from Kizimkazi, the southern-most point of Zanzibar. But, Latham is by no means easy to find; only two hundred metres across, it is just a few metres higher than the highest tides. Waves crashing on the island's shore are often more visible than the island itself. To get round the problem of finding this deserted speck of land, jet-age "sailors" send an airplane ahead to spot the island and guide them.

Latham rises out of water 600 metres deep at the edge of the continental shelf. The island is evidently a sea mount that has risen from the ocean floor. The rock, now exposed above the sea, is limestone, a raised fossil reef, formed from countless plants and animals that flourished on a marine reef in the Pliocene, millions of years ago.

How the reef has come to be dry land is a story in itself; but, briefly, there are two explanations. The sea mount, on which the reef forms a cap, has risen from the ocean floor in the past, and could have risen again after the reef had formed, lifting it out of the sea. Just as likely, is a fluctuation in the level of the ocean. As great ice sheets have alternately expanded and contracted over the face of the planet, vast amounts of water have been locked up into or released from the glaciers. Latham's reefs, if formed when the oceans were at a high level, and glaciers receded, would be left above the next sea level as the glaciers expanded taking on more water and the level of the oceans dropped. There are many other raised reef islands like Latham, and much of East Africa's coast is of the same structure.

Most of the shore line of Latham is vertical or undercut cliffs; these have been eroded into the raised reef by the unrestrained forces of the Indian Ocean which batters the island continually. There is



Masked Booby: Photograph Edward Schmitt, Denver, Zoological Foundation, Inc.

a small area of sand beach, but even this is exposed to enormous swells and heavy surf. The beach is often shifted around the island as the prevailing winds and currents change.

Landing on Latham is tricky at the best of times. Last October, I landed with two other experienced seamen and in the process our boat was swamped twice—in fact we nearly lost it completely. But, from what others who have visited Latham tell me, we were lucky to have escaped with so few difficulties. It is this complete exposure to the open ocean as

much as the isolation which guards the Island's shore and makes it inhospitable to man.

But, if Latham were any other way it would not have the fascinating sea bird population that it has.

Most sea birds lay their eggs in simple depressions in the ground, and are at the mercy of any nest predators. Man is the most dangerous of all—the extinction of the Greek Auk in the North Atlantic will serve as a reminder of just how much effect man can have on sea bird rookeries.

*Continued on page 30*

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# The shame that drove H.M. Stanley

BOOK REVIEW —by  
Dr. Esmond Bradley-Martin

*Stanley: An Adventurer Explored*  
by Richard Hall, published by Collins,  
London, 1974. £4.50.

DURING the last ten years, major biographies have appeared on the leading explorers of East and Central Africa: Livingstone, Burton, Thomson, Speke, Gordon, and now Stanley.

Most of these biographies fall into one of two categories: those written by academics which are serious and detailed studies bristling with copious footnotes, but which are often written in an unimaginative and sometimes ponderous style; and those written by journalists or professional writers which tend to be more readable, but are often thin on original research.

Occasionally, one reads a biography written by a person who has carried out on his own a considerable amount of research into primary sources which enables him to re-interpret or give new depth and understanding to the character of his subject. When he can also express his ideas in an exciting style, the biographer has indeed accomplished something. Into this category falls Richard Hall's book, a well written and extensively researched work on the life of Sir Henry Morton Stanley, one of the most capable explorers of the African continent.

Compared with David Livingstone and Richard Burton, the other two outstanding explorers of East Africa, relatively little was known about Henry Stanley's early life and failed love affairs, which so profoundly affected his conduct and personality, until Richard Hall discovered correspondence in the United States and Britain. Hall's analysis of this material is the major contribution of the book, adding enormously to our understanding of Stanley.

Of all the major explorers of East Africa in the nineteenth century, Stanley's beginnings were the most humble. He was born out of wedlock in Denbigh, Wales, in 1841, and at the age of five was put into the St. Asaph Union Workhouse, a dismal institution.

At fifteen, Stanley climbed over the workhouse wall and ran away. He eventually arrived in New Orleans, where he found a second father to whom he introduced himself by asking, "Do you want a boy, Sir?"

In 1860, they parted because of a disagreement and never saw each other again. Stanley said later that his adopted father had died only a year afterwards. This was not true, and Stanley knew that: Mr. Henry Hope Stanley died in 1878.

The rest of Stanley's exploits in life are well known. The highlights are that he fought on both sides of the American Civil War and then became a correspondent in the American west. The turning point in his life occurred in 1867 when James Gordon Bennett, the infamous owner of the *New York Herald* agreed that Henry



Stanley could cover the Abyssinian War. That was the launching of Stanley's career.

After a successful trip to Ethiopia, Bennett hired Stanley to travel to the Middle East, cover the opening of the Suez Canal, to go to India and then to find David Livingstone somewhere in Africa. This highly successful expedition ended in 1872, and by this time Stanley's name and reputation were known throughout the world.

Two years later Stanley began his arduous and hazardous three-year journey from the East coast of Africa to the Atlantic, becoming the first white person to explore the Congo River.

From 1879 until 1884, Stanley worked on the development of the Congo Region for King Leopold II of Belgium. His final expedition (1886-89) was the famous Emin Relief Expedition during the course of which Stanley lost most of his men only to find that Emin Bey and his Egyptians were not lost or imprisoned, but were in fact in control of most of the Equatoria Province of the southern Sudan and had more and better supplies than the person who came to save them. Stanley lived his remaining years as a writer and lecturer and a member of Parliament for North Lambeth until his death in 1904.

Henry Stanley's character was far more complex than most historians have been willing to admit. On account of his humble upbringing, Stanley went out of his way to hide what he believed were "shameful beginnings" by lying about his origins. Frequently he told people he originally came from New York or St. Louis, and sometimes he made up stories about himself in order to gain prestige or to get something from someone.

For example, he once pretended to be an officer in the American civil war, and at another time he accepted £150 from the American Ambassador in Turkey under false pretences.

He was a lonely man until he was 49 and he felt he had to hide the facts of his childhood in order to advance himself in the class-conscious Victorian Europe.

To accomplish his ends, Stanley became an opportunist. He voluntarily changed his nationality twice, the last time in order to obtain a knighthood from the Queen and to run for political office. He was rather in a dilemma then for he had only become an American citizen in 1885 to protect his book royalties from pirate publishers.

Stanley was a ruthless man and used his ruthlessness to ensure the success of his African expeditions. He was also a genius at organisation and possessed tremendous personal drive. When he met serious opposition from local Africans he shot them. When members of his own expeditions committed serious crimes, he had them flogged, and on two occasions he personally hanged two Africans.

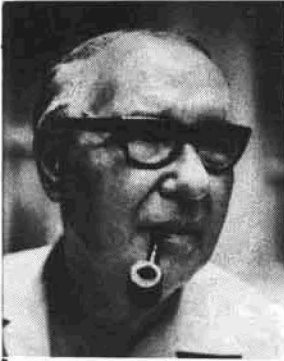
The casualties on his expeditions were horrendous, culminating with the loss of 500 out of 700 men who were on his last expedition to seek the whereabouts of the eccentric Emin Bey. No wonder the Africans referred to Stanley as "Bula Matari", the Smasher of Rocks.

The explanation for Stanley's brutish and at times baffling behaviour is well presented and analysed by Richard Hall who well knows that the biographer's tool is, in A. J. A. Symons' words, "an etching needle and not a scrubbing brush".

Hall discovered that Stanley had been deeply in love with two women who, at different times, had promised to await his return from African expeditions and yet had failed to do so. Up until Hall's discovery of these relationships, the facile explanation for Stanley's not becoming married until he was forty-nine was that he was possibly homosexual. There is no evidence to support such a conclusion and in revealing the heartbreak that Stanley suffered in losing two loves, it becomes clear why the sensitive man became an embittered person.

His first love was Katie Gough-Roberts, a wealthy woman from Wales whose parents thought a honeymoon in Egypt at the opening of the Suez Canal was a bit too dashing a proposal and insisted that the wedding be held after Stanley's return. While he was away, Katie fell for an

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## EDWARD RODWELL'S COLUMN

### An alarming call of Nature!

I have never strangled a leopard with my bare hands but this may be because I have never been close enough to one of the cats. I am told by the best authority (my grandson) that if I am attacked by a leopard I must drop on all fours and spit in the animal's eye. This I have promised to do.

I remember when Percy Petley, then of the Tana River, tried to shoot an elephant that wandered too close to his trading store. Maybe Percy was in too much of a hurry and forgot to load the rifle but as the Jumbo knelt deliverance he happened to kneel on Petley whose bones crackled like fireworks at a Chinese wedding.

When Petley had been sewn and nailed together I interviewed him in Mombasa hospital. He had all the charm of a cornered honey badger. Only the fact that both Petley's legs and arms were broken gave me the courage to approach him at all. After he had spat in my eye half a dozen times I made bold enough to ask whether it was true that he had strangled a leopard with his bare hands.

Petley began to holler for someone to take me away. If I didn't go, despite his broken limbs, he said he would jump out of bed and break the hasp of my back.

As the Editor had also said that he would break the hasp of my back if I didn't get Petley's story I sat down and wrote it. Petley never forgave me for this although subsequently we were good friends for 25 years.

In my dotage I am regarded with greater respect. Last week I was invited to watch a man catch a 15-foot python with his bare hands. I have always wondered at the adjective "bare" which approximates "stark" when referring to nakedness. These words are superfluous and I suppose take the place of an exclamation mark particularly by those who live in the sticks.

A Giriama smallholder said that he was digging his shamba and felt the call of nature. Ordinarily he wouldn't have bothered to step aside to reeve his shackle but he was obliged to do so because he had razed every stick in his hectare.

And so he went to a clump of nearby bushes and did a knees bend before he realised that he was almost knee high to a heap of python. Not only knee-high, but eyeball to eyeball.

Like an old-time acrobat he did a backward somersault with a *grand jeté* halfway and landed on his feet almost at my doorstep.

Would I come and take the python away, he asked, otherwise he would clobber it with sticks and stones.

My good friend Ian Parker and five other gameniks can with their bare hands, capture a young elephant which might be seven feet high at the withers. Then by some legerdemain they bend the animal's foreleg and throw it. I have also seen six men during a *grandiosa corrida* at the bullring at Lisbon stop a bull by hanging on to every holdable member.

But I had no wish to look like an advertisement for Michelin tyres and so I rang snakeman Peter Bramwell at Kilifi. Within two hours he was with us and we were with him in his Jeep approaching the scene of the joust.

We were led to the clump of bushes. Peter took off his shirt which left him in shorts, takkies and pointed beard; his body was as brown as a berry.

He looked at the snake from all sides and to do this had to crouch sitting on his heels. I could see the python, coiled and colourful. When Peter had chosen an entry, he broke off a few twigs as he inched forwards, then he grabbed the python by the neck just behind the head. The snake uncoiled and began to thrash.

Peter, still steady, turned and began to draw the python from its lair, something of a job because fifty pounds or more of thrashing reptile is quite a handful. When clear of the bushes the snake wrapped itself round Bramwell's legs. Here I thought the fun begins.

The man then sat down on the snake as though it was a pouffé in a drawing room. At the same time Janet, Peter's wife, took a hold on the python's tail and by emulating a maypole dance unwound the snake much as you'd stretch out a skipping rope.

Not that I have ever seen a skipping rope like this; it had the length, but in the middle was a bulge fully ten inches wide and 30 inches long.

Peter now held the python's head on the ground; the creature's mouth was fully open. As we watched, the bulge began to move toward the mouth. When it reached the neck Peter relaxed his hold. The mouth began to widen and the neck joints (if there are any) separated to allow the snake's dinner to emerge.

Slowly it came into sight, a fully grown civet cat that obviously not long before had travelled the other way.

Now that the python had lost the meal it had taken so long to swallow it also seemed to lose heart. We opened the bag; Peter pushed in the head and the rest followed with only a token wiggle or two. The bag's string was drawn and we returned to the car.

The moral of this is that if, in your next reincarnation, you are born a python don't hide your light under the only bush in the countryside. If you do you might end up as the only adornment of an Egyptian belly dancer and a vibration twice as fast as rock drill.

*Continued from page 25*

architect named Urban Bradshaw and married him instead.

The other great love was the beautiful and also wealthy Alice Pike. She was only seventeen (Stanley was thirty) when they signed a marriage pact, pledging faithfulness and marriage on Stanley's return from the 5,000 mile march across Central Africa.

Alice lived a social swirl of activities in New York and wrote to Stanley after he set off about twice a week in the beginning. Stanley, upon reaching the shores of Lake Victoria, composed a love missive to his "Darling Alice" in which he contrasted his surroundings with hers, his abode being a dark hut outside of which "naked men and women create a furious jangle and noise, bartering with my people for beads".

Stanley was deeply in love with Alice and his emotional involvement with her stood fourth in his mind throughout the expedition. However, only eighteen months after Stanley's departure, Alice married someone else and became famous later in her own right as a portrait painter, socialite and playwright.

Stanley, with his complexes, was less able to bear being jilted than an ordinary man, and the blow could hardly have been mitigated by her last blatant letter to him: "You must know, by this time, I have done what millions of women have done before me, not been true to my promise. But you are so great, so honoured and so sought after, that you will scarcely miss your once true friend. . . ."

In 1885, when Stanley was forty-four, he met Dorothy Tennant, an English society hostess and amateur painter. He soon fell in love with her, but was unable to ascertain her feelings towards him. In 1886 he wrote her a proposal of marriage which she refused.

Stanley believed that she, like others, had turned him down because of his inferior social background; whether any of these women had done so on that account, one does not really know. He tried to hide his origins, even to his closest associates, but this just further complicated Stanley's problems.

Dorothy was thirty-nine when Stanley returned from his last expedition and she had by then determined to resume her acquaintance with him. She wrote delightful letters and in her diary said that she would marry him if he would have her. Their wedding took place at Westminster Abbey in 1890 with the Prime Minister and Lord Chancellor as the principal guests.

With Richard Hall's revealing and intimate biography of Stanley, we now can understand this explorer's peculiar and at times anti-social behaviour. Would Stanley, after his 1874-77 journey from Zanzibar to the Atlantic, continued his extensive journeys of exploration through East and Central Africa had Alice Pike married him? I personally doubt it; certainly, he would not have spent five years working for Leopold in the Congo.

It is interesting to speculate what would have happened in the Congo without Stanley's brilliant ability to organise the administration and to develop that area. Probably, without the presence of such a dynamic figure as Stanley in the Congo at this crucial period, another foreign power might have grabbed large sections of it, thus changing to a considerable extent the history of Central Africa.

(Dr.) Esmond Bradley Martin.

# OBSERVE AND REPORT

A cheetah is walking across a dry, dusty savanna landscape. The cheetah's body is covered in its characteristic spotted pattern, and its long tail is held high, also showing the same pattern. The background consists of sparse, dry vegetation and a hazy horizon under a bright sky.

**A Conservation  
Research Project  
for all Tanzania  
Parks' staff. Adapted  
from a Paper by  
Derek Bryceson  
Director, Tanzania  
National Parks.**

**Picture Mark Warwick**

IN the past, Tanzania National Parks staff have tended to concentrate on their particular jobs—mainly anti-poaching; road construction and maintenance; or general administration. Yet the prime responsibility of the Parks organisation is conservation, which implies land management, which in turn requires at least a basic knowledge of the fauna and flora situation in the Parks.

However, in spite of the fact that the staff is either trained or otherwise capable of providing this essential ecological information, our knowledge of animal numbers, habitat trends, herd movements, population dynamics and so on, is scant.

# Observe and Report

Because of this need for a mass of data on which to base sound conservation decision, we set all Parks staff to work to provide it. The result has been extremely encouraging, not only in the amount and quality of the information produced, but in the fact that construction workers, accounts and garage people as well as the Wardens and Rangers have become more personally involved in the welfare of Parks. They care more for the plants and wildlife, and their enthusiasm is having a spread effect among the people in the crucial areas bordering the Parks.

## Procedures

It started in 1973 with the training of pairs of Rangers in the recognition, habituation, and procedures of data collection in respect of certain animals, initially baboon and elephant. This has now broadened considerably, with both senior and junior staff providing more general information on a variety of animal and plant species.

Everyone is encouraged to concentrate on certain individual animals of special character and distinction, and slowly a great deal has been learnt about their behaviour. Getting to know these individuals, their place in the herds, their habits and idiosyncracies makes a fascinating study which is also of practical use when talking to tourists and relating interesting incidents to them. Once again through a feeling of concern for their charges, there is a greater commitment by the staff to safeguard wildlife generally and its habitats on behalf of the nation.

We were fortunate in having at the Gombe National Park Research Centre a group of Tanzanian field assistants who have been working on animal observation for five or six years—and, under supervision they were able to train pairs of Rangers from other parks in the habituation of baboons, the recognition of individuals and the use of checksheets for data collection. This intense training period lasts from four to six months depending on the keenness and intelligence of the Ranger.

## Records

Once taught, the Rangers return to their home Park where they begin by choosing a troop of baboons for study. They then habituate them, determine the composition of the troop, numbers, ages (mature, adolescent, juvenile) and sex, naming individuals as they become easily recognised and keeping records of their movements, interactions, feeding, births and deaths. As funds do not stretch to the use of motor transport for this project, the Rangers usually go out on bicycles and, amongst everything else, make rough maps to show the range of the troop. There is a camera available in each Park together

with four watches and four binoculars which have been donated by friends overseas, as have funds for seminars and for supervision.

From time to time a highly experienced senior scientist visits the Rangers, checks on progress of the work and gives general guidance. In one Park, a group of foreign scientists is working on baboon research and in another, a group is studying elephant feeding patterns—and in these Parks, the Rangers receive specially close supervision and assistance. It is hoped that soon there will be more scientists working on problems in other Parks where, similarly, they will be able to give special attention to the Rangers.

In each Park, one of the Wardens has the responsibility of organising, encouraging, and reporting on these activities, both broadly and in respect of specific studies of animal groups or individuals.

## Public awareness

Monthly reports are submitted with particular emphasis on the animals' feeding habits because of the obvious management implications. In all Parks, observations are made and data collected in the precisely the same way so that one set of results can be compared with another. A Warden, based in one of the larger Parks, has overall responsibility for guidance and supervision and he travels to the other Parks as finance allows.

As interesting wildlife incidents are reported by the Rangers, they are often published in the local newspapers. This has the important effect of making the general public more aware of the wildlife heritage of the nation, and of the Parks which preserve this heritage. Once again this leads to greater general interest in conservation. In fact, there is now a widespread public awareness and many Tanzanians are not only expressing support for the Parks, but are wanting to see the developments for themselves.

This public awareness and support for wildlife conservation is just as vital to the long term well-being of the Parks as any other factor relating to management or financing. But, in time, the collection of data on animals and plants will also enable us to take more effective and more rational management decisions.

## Elephant

Perhaps one of the best examples of eventual application of these Ranger studies is on the question of elephant populations and their effect on Park habitats—which, for some years now, has caused passionate debate.

The Park where this question relates particularly in Tanzania is Ruaha, where 16,000 to 18,000 elephants range broadly over its 5,000 square miles. However, during the three to four months of dry weather, very many of the elephants congregate along the Great Ruaha River. The result of this over the past ten years is that they have brought about considerable change in the habitat in this area, opening up what was previously dense bush country and stripping and eating the bark of many of the large acacias along the river banks. Various management actions have been urged by scientists—botanists tending to recommend large scale slaughter of the animals to save the trees; zoologists preferring to save the animals; and ecologists advancing theories of 50, 100, 200-year cycles in which elephants and the habitat change and change back



again. But all this advice has so far been based largely on theory.

Now with the Rangers and Wardens in the Park studying elephant movements, feeding habits and social structures, a detailed picture of the elephant situation is being built up which is expected to lead to a management decision based on data rather than theory.

## Kibiongo

Coincidentally, the Ruaha study has unearthed many interesting individual elephants and facets of elephant behaviour. For example, there is one very old bull named "Kibiongo" who is treated with great respect by all the other bulls of the area. He joins different bull groups from time to time, the clear leader of whichever group he chooses. Being so old, it is difficult for him to feed from the higher branches of the more favoured trees, but when he is unable to reach, the younger bulls pull the branches down for him and allow him to feed. Fortunately Kibiongo spends much of his time close to Park Headquarters so he has become a favourite with the tourists, to whom the Rangers relate their own special Kibiongo stories.

The same sort of thing happens in other Parks; in the Serengeti, for instance, a female cheetah which spends a lot of time around Seronera is now extremely

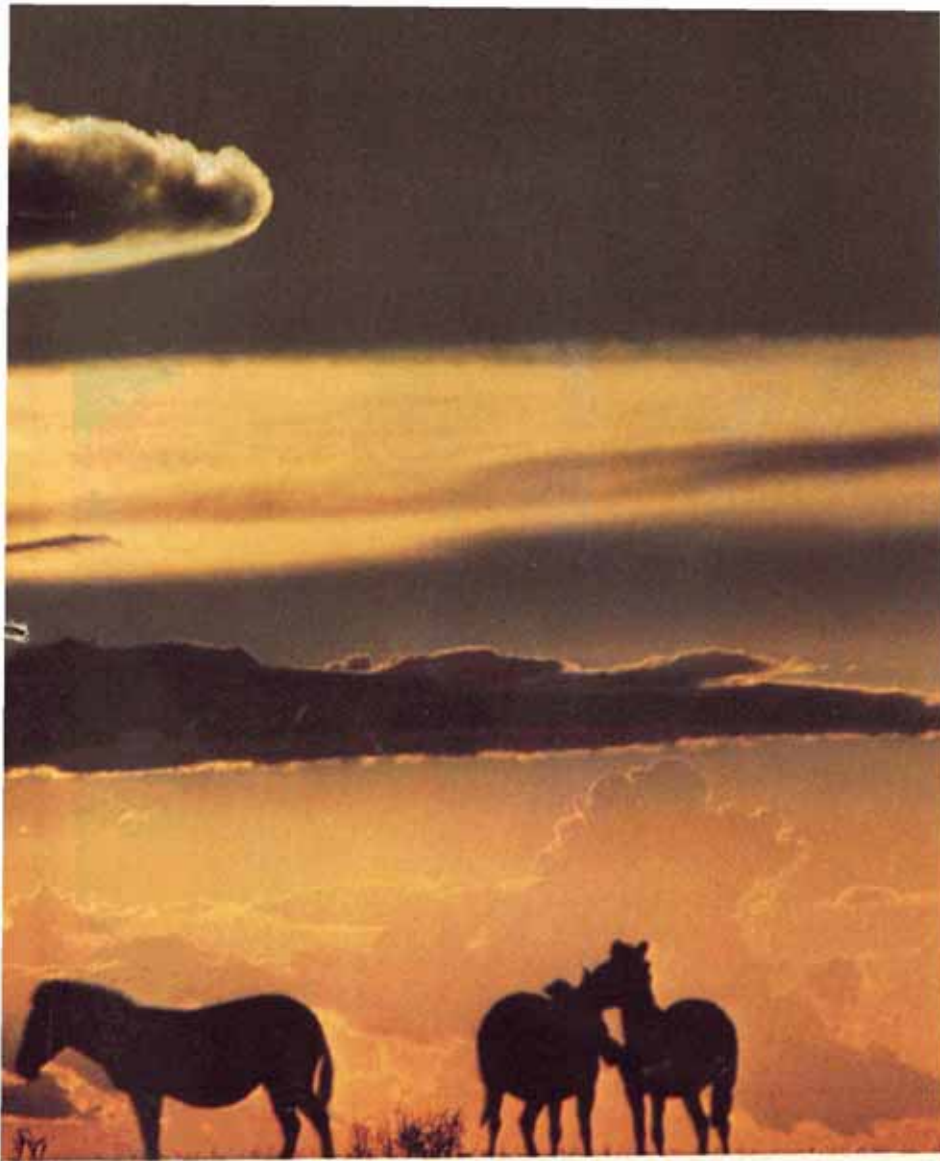


Photo-studies of zebra in the Serengeti—by Peter Davey



popular with visitors. In fact, two of the cheetahs there are so well "human habituated" that they quite often climb onto the bonnets of Land Rovers, which of course greatly excites the tourists.

Mikumi has an elephant named "Sporty" who seems to be football fan, turning up in camps often when there is a match. He is also partial to bananas, as one tourist recently learned after leaving a bunch on the back seat of his smart new Peugeot saloon overnight. In the morning, the car looked neither so smart nor so new because Sporty had been along, tried but couldn't get the bananas, so in frustration had sat heavily on the roof.

Similar anecdotes involving different individual animals in the Parks are numerous—but the point is that they emanate from Parks' staff at all levels who are obviously enjoying learning about the animals amongst whom they live and work.

In each Park now, there are meetings with all staff together, including clerks, accounts and garage people—and they themselves decide what their special studies will be. The Rangers mostly choose species of special interest, elephants most commonly, plus leopard, rhino, sable, kudu and others. So far none has decided to observe the buffaloes.

These studies must, of course, fit in with the Rangers primary duty of preventing poaching, and it cannot be claimed that their data collection is scientific research. Nevertheless, the Rangers are beginning to teach us much about our wildlife that we did not know before.

### Summary

To sum up, one can say that this enterprise has the following advantages:

- (1) it teaches us certain basic facts about our animal and plant populations which will eventually be extremely useful in determining correct management decisions for proper conservation;
- (2) it stimulates great enthusiasm amongst the staff for knowing the Park and its inhabitants better;
- (3) it transforms animals from "objects" to personalities which prompts the staff to care much more for their welfare;
- (4) it has a spread effect—the Parks' staff's enthusiasm is infectious, causing a greater concern for conservation among the general public;
- (5) it helps the tourists to get maximum enjoyment out of their visit to the Tanzania Parks, and they go home to relay the "amazing" animal stories they had heard from knowledgeable guides;
- (6) it is of assistance to scientists, even if the data collection is not wide enough detailed enough, or consistent enough for formal scientific reasons; and
- (7) it is flexible in that the amount of observation undertaken can be varied according to available financial and personnel resources.

Finally, most scientific studies undertaken in Parks are of short duration, seldom longer than four years, often only two years, and some even shorter. On the other hand, the Ranger research programme is long-term—a career for some of those involved who, through long, consistent study, must eventually produce a volume of information vital to our commitment to safeguard Tanzania National Parks for future generations.

## Treasure Island

Continued from page 23

The birds depend very much on having the island to themselves, and Latham is ideal.

In the height of the breeding season, sea bird islands are spectacular in the number and activity of birds. Miles from the island one can see the birds milling about like a cloud of angry hornets. October and November seem to be the main months for nesting at Latham, but no one has made an accurate estimate of the number of birds there. There are easily tens—possibly—hundreds—of thousands.

### Speciality

The vast majority are Sooty Terns, but there are several hundred Noddy Terns and a few hundred Crested Terns. Two species of booby also nest. Terns breed on other islands in East Africa but the boobies do not and for this reason they are very special.

Relatives of Gannets, they are much larger than the terns, with wing spans of well over a metre. On land they are clumsy and rather goose-like. But, they are powerful flyers with a fast strong wing-beat.

Yet, their most distinctive type of flight is skimming across the ocean, just above the waves, in graceful ascending and descending arcs with never a flap of a wing. Their beaks are powerfully built, sharp and pointed, and with backward-pointed serrations which help in seizing their slippery prey of fish and squid.

The Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) is called "Fou Capisen" in Seychelles because its dress resembles that of a Capusin Monk. The upper parts are rich chocolate-brown in colour as are the leading and trailing edges of the wings. The under parts, in bold contrast, are a brilliant white with a characteristic white stripe along the under side of the wing. The face is often deep blue around the bill, and justifiably the bird is sometimes called the "Blue-faced Booby".

The Masked Booby (*Sula dactylatra*) is slightly larger, but the most obvious difference lies in the coloration. It is white except for black tips to the wings, black tail, and black mask at the base of a yellow bill. Its eggs can be over six cm long, and although two may be laid in the same nest, it is very rare for more than one chick to live. The same applies to the Brown Booby, which however has slightly smaller eggs, and may occasionally lay three eggs in a nest.

Little is known about their habits on Latham—in fact, Mackworth-Praed and Grant, in their "bible" in the *Birds of Eastern and North Eastern Africa*, do not even record the Brown Booby on Latham. Both species are recorded to breed in nearby Somalia. Also, both breed in Seychelles and Madagascar, together with the Red-footed Booby and Abbott's Booby—now long extinct in the region, and nearing total extinction.

Rookeries of Brown and Masked Boobies are dispersed around the western Indian Ocean, and although the numbers nesting in any one rookery are never very large, these species are in no danger of extinction—as long as their nesting sanctuaries are preserved. In October I estimated



The Booby—Latham Island resident. Picture by courtesy of World Wildlife Fund—Kenya

that there were nearly 100 Brown Boobies and over 100 Masked nesting on Latham.

The species were segregated so that the Browns were in the south east and the Masked Boobies were in the north west. There was, as is often the case, wide variation in the stages of the nests: some with one egg, some with two, some with small chicks, some with large chicks.

### Defences

A Booby chick is ungainly in appearance to say the very least. Entering the world stark naked, it soon acquires a dense and luxuriant cover of fluffy white down. But, even this hardly improves its appearance; except for a large head with conspicuous beak it is just a 'blob'.

And, woe-be-tide the unfortunate naturalist who does not heed the beak of even a small chick. Ball of fluff or no, it has no desire to be cuddled and defends itself vigorously with powerful jabs. It is also common for a disturbed chick to spew out its last meal—half digested and stinking—and this is a very effective deterrent!

The Seychellois often make use of this habit to obtain a bit of bait with which to start the day's fishing, and it is also very convenient for an ecologist studying feeding habits.

Boobies seek out shoals of fish near the ocean's surface. Small prey fishes flee to the surface when they are hunted by

large predators such as Tuna, and the birds capitalize on this. Working in concert with the predatory fish, they attack from the air, diving almost vertically from 10 to 20 m above the sea. At the beginning of the dive, the wings are trimmed back, the legs flattened against the body and the neck outstretched in preparation for the tremendous impact on hitting the water.

The bird disappears below the surface for less than a minute, and suddenly bobs up again having already swallowed its catch or with the unlucky fish held fast in its beak. Perhaps the booby has even missed its target, but whatever the outcome it will soon be back in the air ready to try again. Take off is always an effort for a booby has to run across the water, flapping frantically, to gather enough speed. With the added weight of a few fish stuffed into its crop it must run farther and flap harder.

Other birds arrive at the scene and in no time there may be more than a hundred feathered predators milling over the fish. Suddenly there will be a cloud burst and scores of birds will pummet seaward, miraculously they manage to avoid colliding with each other.

By the end of the day, they wend their way home in a stream of birds that may stretch miles over the ocean. Those that have been successful will come home stuffed with fish—so literally stuffed that the tail of the last fish may be poking out of the beak!



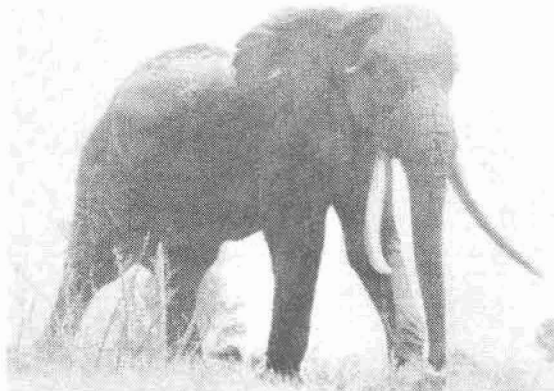
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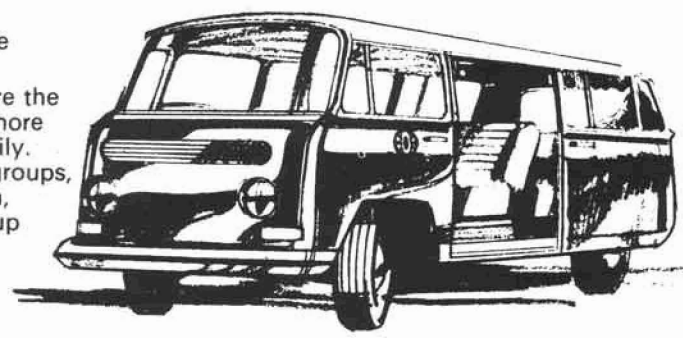
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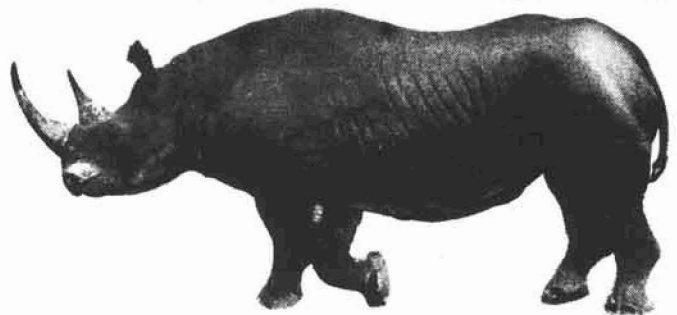
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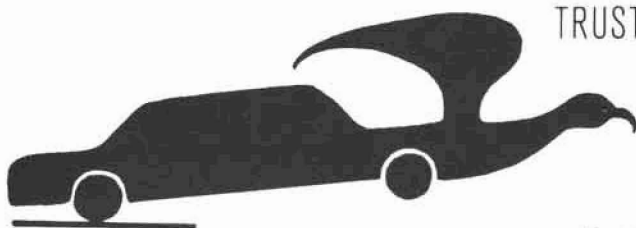
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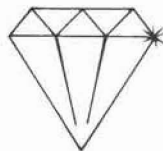
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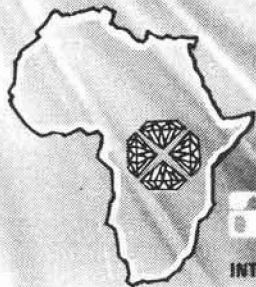
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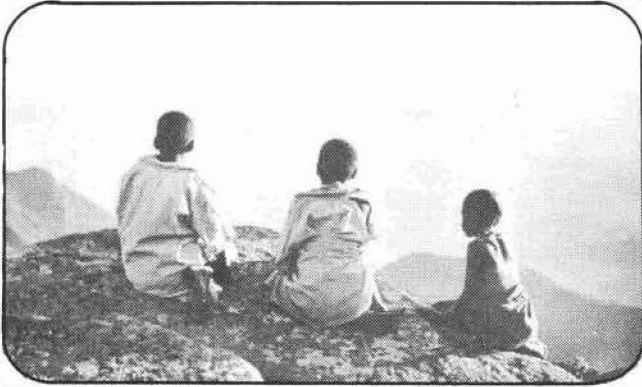
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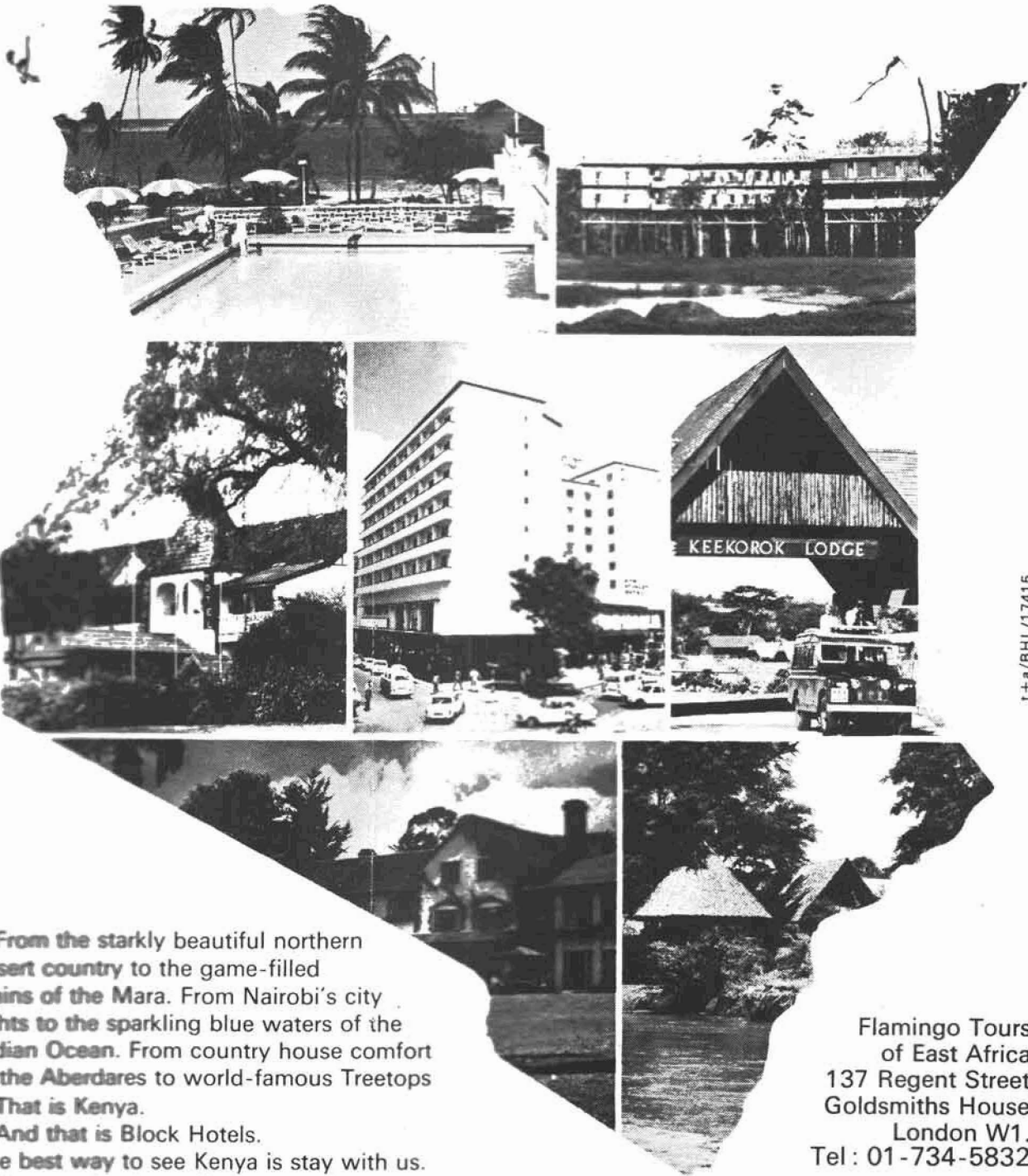
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