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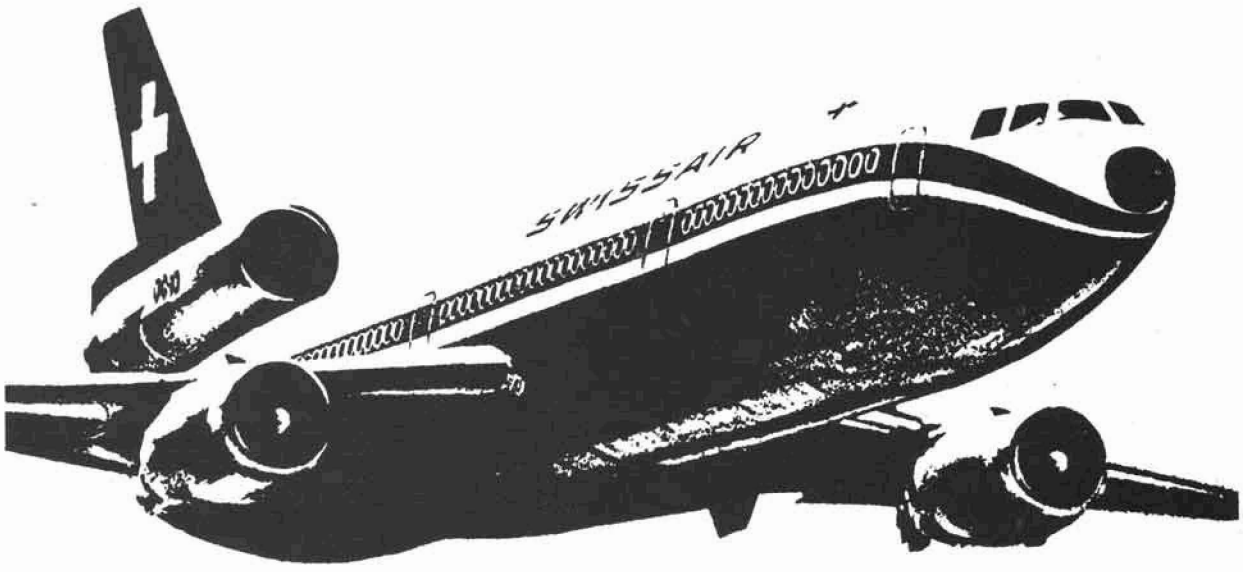

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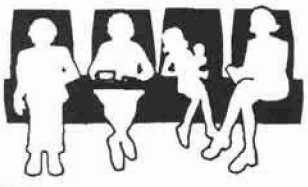



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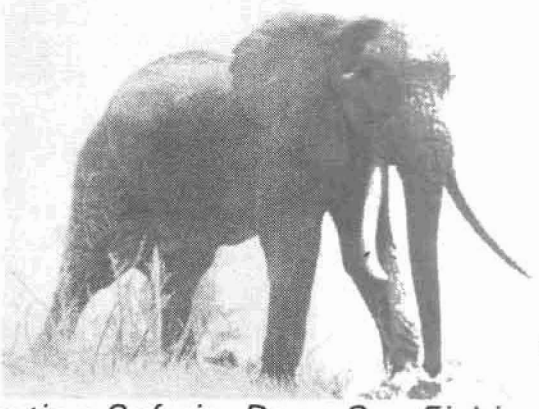

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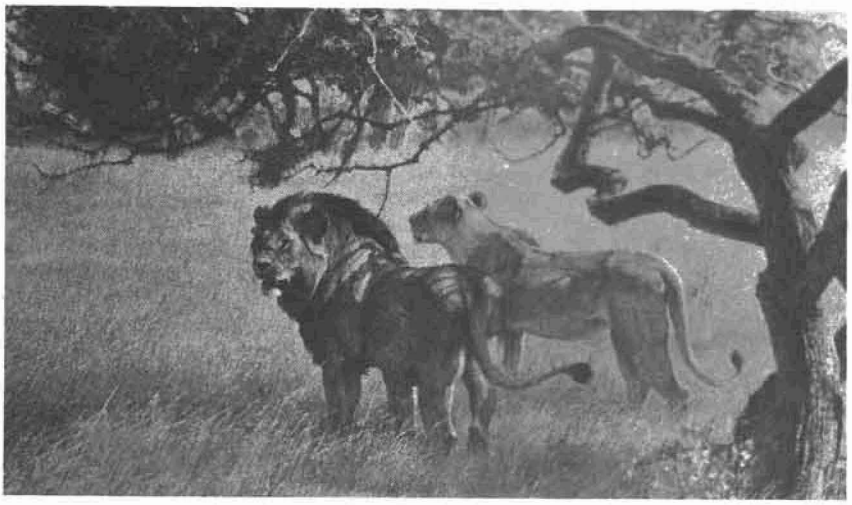

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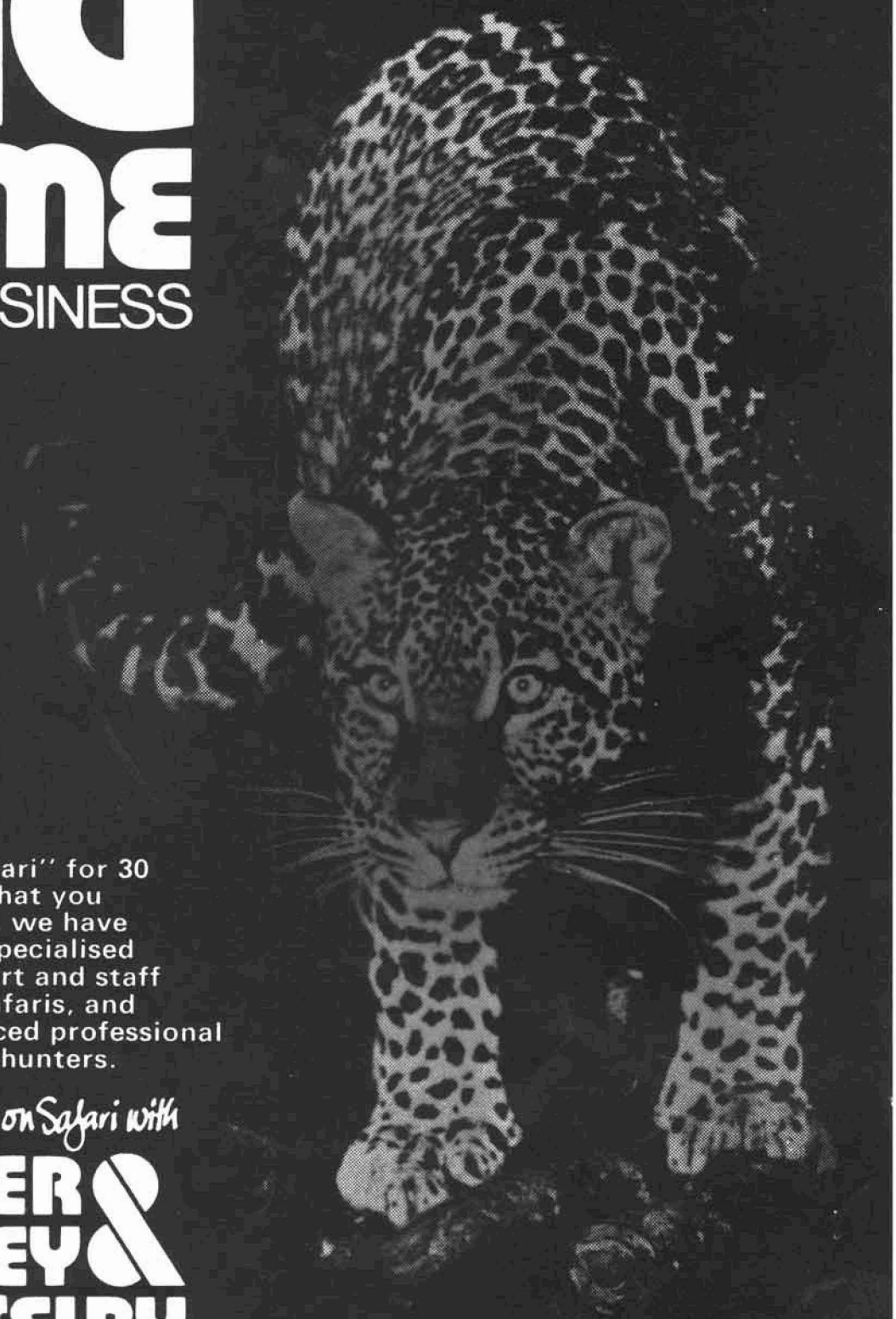

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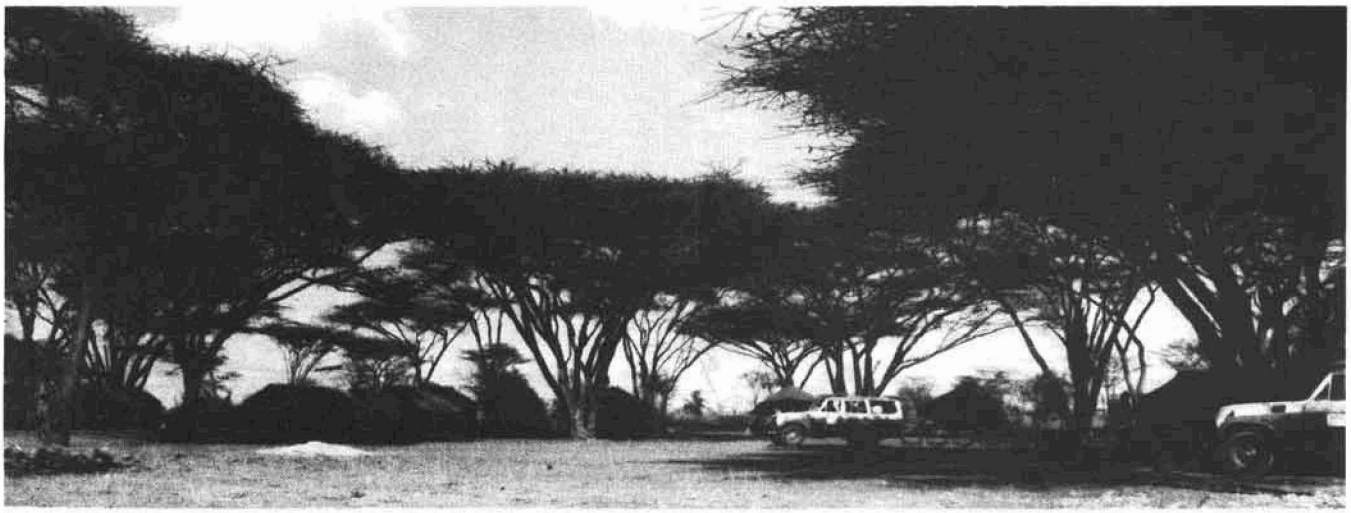

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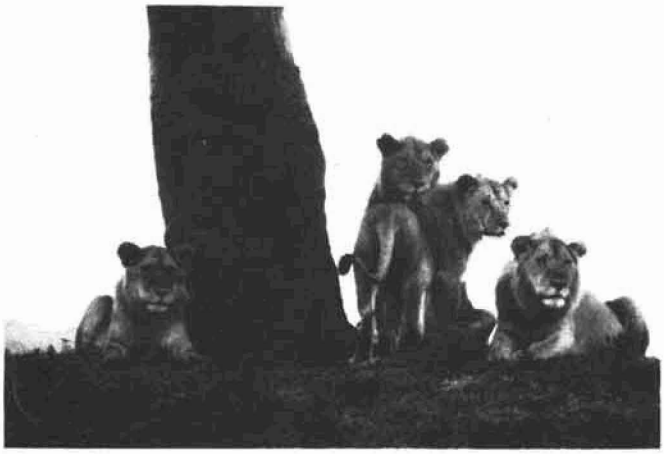

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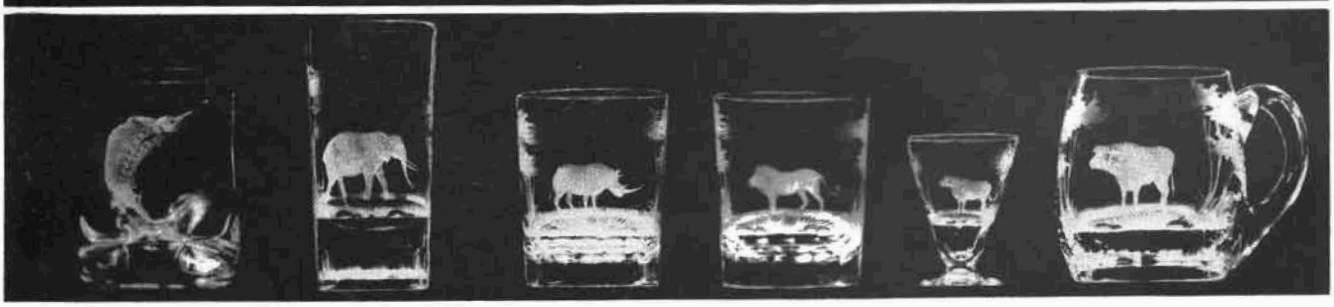

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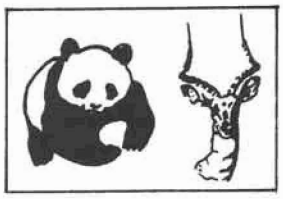

Incorporating the East African Wild Life Society's quarterly review, and World Wildlife Fund - Kenya Notes

The Wildlife crisis in Kenya

by John Eames

THE peculiar democratic process in Kenya is often Government against an independent Press in the role of a loyal but irritating Opposition.

In fact politicians tend to get so irritated occasionally that if editors did not, rather sportingly, regard temper and bad language as privileged in the parliamentary sense, a few Ministers would be justifying themselves in court.

One of these might well be the Minister for Tourism and Wildlife, the Hon. Mathews J. Ogutu, for his response to a campaign by the *Nation* group of newspapers for a public vote of "no confidence" in his administration. It was, said the editor-in-chief, George Githii, "evasive, sarcastic and libellous."

On the other hand, Mr. Ogutu is applauded for responding at all—for playing the game and acknowledging the respect and vague pride all Kenyans have in the one genuinely free Press in black Africa.

The results of the campaign are mainly positive, or at least they were at the time of writing when the Ministry was obviously moving fast to re-organise its operations and attitudes. The facts of a serious decline in wildlife throughout the country were presented in detail, and the various errors and omissions of the Ministry's administration of national parks, game reserves and general wildlife conservation were exposed for public inspection.

Perhaps the editor's motives for what can be a risky business in publicising official misdemeanours or failures is a conviction that Tourism and Wildlife should be a key Ministry in Kenya, staffed with fully effective politicians and professionals.

Historically this has not been the case, with appointments to the top jobs, both Ministerial and Civil Service, allocated to people some distance from the centre of power. But tourism is regarded more seriously these days, certainly by the Treasury and perhaps one or two politicians. It was the one sector of the Kenya economy to improve during the recent period of inflation in Europe, producing a gross revenue of about $80 million last year. It is subject to massive investment by the Kenya Government, partnered by the World Bank, other international agencies and private enterprise—with the Tourism Ministry itself handling $150 million in a four year period. It is also subtly changing the personality of the country, encouraging an image of liberalism which is bringing tangible benefits through increasing international confidence.

But at the moment there is an inconsistency: full application of the government's commitment to develop tourism and a "pathetic performance" in conserving the raw materials of wildlife and wilderness on which the tourism industry is largely based. Not by *the Government*, said Mr. Githii, but by the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife as the delegated executive authority.

He said he had enough evidence of "plundering and blundering" to warrant a government Commission of Inquiry and the resignation of Mr. Ogutu as the person with ultimate liability.

Any possible mitigation was ignored in this opening statement of the public debate—such as the Ministry's successes; the impossible inherited problems; the political constraints, in control of the ivory trade for example; and the doubtful quality or loyalty of some of the Minister's advisors and staff. There was merely a list of "grim facts" and charges against the Ministry in a survey which more or less covered the entire country.

Coast and Hinterland

Armed Somali gangs are slaughtering game in a broad swathe from the Tana River to the border of Tsavo West. Young, tuskless elephant are machine-gunned and left to rot, which suggests the motive for the offensive

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EDITORIAL

Continued from page 9

is less profit than political harrassment of Kenya by the Soviet-backed Somali Government. The Ministry's meagre anti-poaching forces are clearly overwhelmed, and it is expected that Mr. Ogutu should be making strong representations for Army, Police and GSU support in his specific administrative areas.

These include the Tana River Game Reserves which are currently being developed under a $30 million dollar "Wildlife Conservation Project," to which the World Bank is lending $17 million. The Minister has declined to release details, except that anti-poaching forces will be strengthened, and the contention is that perhaps for the sake of restoring some of his Ministry's battered prestige—but certainly in the public interest—Mr. Ogutu should now provide full information.

Elsewhere in the Coastal area, the Marine Parks require further consolidation and protection—Malindi from silt pollution from the Sabaki River and Shimoni from commercial activities. The remnant coastal forests, which are within the Minister's "sphere of influence," are either being eroded by charcoal burners or used as a dumping ground for hotel garbage.

The Treasury has produced a plan for a $100 million tourist resort at Diani Beach which would rely on the wildlife viability of Shimba Hills and Tsavo West National Parks; but Mr. Ogutu's Ministry has yet to follow up this initiative by any special action against poaching and encroachment in the two sanctuaries, or begin work on necessary infrastructural detail and wildlife translocation.

Tsavo

Large areas of this national park are now completely cleared of animals.

In the Tsavo "ecosystem" which includes unprotected areas north to the Tana and south into Tanzania's Mikomazi Game Reserve, elephant have been reduced from 35,900 in 1973-74 to an estimated 20,200 in June this year—according to officials figures which may now be revised.

The park is traditionally an almost impossible management problem, and much of the elephant decline is caused by human pressure on the park borders and consequent compression, habitat destruction and death from malnutrition. But poaching is heavy, with reports that all border peoples are active, possibly excepting the Orma and Taita.

No attempt seems to have been made to stop the manufacture of poison in Kilifi and its open sale at Ukambani to Wakamba hunters who are responsible for much of the poaching which, by the Ministry's own estimate, was 1,040 elephant and 235 rhino killed in 1975 and indications of a worse toll this year.

The Somali gangs are killing indescriminately, using modern automatic weapons and trapping for leopard in every watercourse in Tsavo East. They are highly mobile and offer fierce resistance in contact with the parks' five anti-poaching units—a maximum of 30 men at one time against an estimated 1,300 poachers.

The Rangers are well trained, skillful, and display exceptional dedication and physical courage. But their morale is low at present through pay cuts, loss of the traditional bounty for collected ivory, shortage of petrol for operations, and the failure of the courts to deter the poachers. The punishment for one man caught with a rifle and ivory inside the park was a total fine of $30.

Nairobi

The combined effects of a recent drought, heavy poaching, and a UN (FAO) "conservation" project finally discouraged by the Kenya Government have all but ruined this profitable, unique "wilderness sector" of Nairobi. Plains game has been decimated in the Athi River-Kajiado feeder areas, with the toll according to FAO of 85 per cent of the 1973 hartebeeste population and 75 per cent of zebra—47 per cent of which was poached.

In 1975, a Masai Senior Chief accused the Game Department directly of unnecessary wildlife destruction, but the Masai themselves have contributed to the threat to the Park by increasing settlement and stock in the contiguous Kitengela area. They claimed they were objecting to a failure by the Parks administration to consult them fully before launching an international "£1-an-acre" scheme to buy Kitengela land for the park.

In one newspaper editorial the Minister was asked to explain what happened to the $200,000 raised specifically for the project, but there was no response. However, there is a record that the proceeds from the Ministry's demand of $1.00 from every tourist for conservation projects is allocated to general revenue.

Mara

This reserve is threatened by poaching—30 zebra recently killed and skinned in one night—and over-kill by legal hunters on the borders, resulting in a serious depletion of black-maned lion and rhino. The Ministry, specifically the Game Department, was persuaded to reduce the quotas of locally threatened species in the hunting concessions, including lion, leopard and rhino, but the allegation is that the concessionaries were not informed directly. Presumably, these "business men" in Nairobi are continuing to use their original licences to the full in "sub-contracts" to visiting hunters, mainly Italians.

Northern Kenya

Samburu Reserve has been poached of elephant on a proportionate scale to Tsavo, despite the presence at Isiolo of the Game Department's Anti-poaching Unit. Again the main attack is from armed Somalis, who recently shot and wounded a hunter and his two French clients near Archer's Post. However, Nairobi merchants are sending in their own poachers, and the story is that if one particular curio dealer turned up once more in his Mercedes at Isiolo, a Senior Game Warden would take him off into the bush and "deal with him personally."

At Meru National Park, Wakamba and Somali poaching has been heavy in the Tana River sector of the Park which, ironically, is causing over-concentration and habitat destruction in the headquarters area. In a recent Ministry Press release, it was reported that here the GSU assisted in combating an "appalling" rampage by armed gangs up to 70 strong. Close-by in Kora, George Adamson reports the new Reserve similarly invaded by poachers.

The Aberdares and Mt. Kenya forests are under continual siege by bongo, leopard and elephant poachers, and by wood-choppers, both agricultural and commercial. But in this case, the parks' staff appears to have the situation under control.

Other northern forests, including the Mathews and Mau ranges, Kakamega, Mt. Elgon and Marsabit National Park, are all losing ground to cultivators or pastoralists, or are being poached without check.

Lake Nakuru

This has been a main battlefield in the Press-Ministry confrontation. Many of the million plus flamingo which made the national park "the finest bird spectacle on earth" have flown off as far south as Botswana and north to Rudolf and Ethiopia. The effective cause is a sharp decline in the lake's blue-green algae, on which the flamingo feed—but the root causes (pollution, falling water level, introduced fish, etc.) have yet to be subject to full scientific analysis. The newspapers insisted that because it is months since the birds disappeared the Minister should know by now "the reasons and the remedy".

A related issue, bitterly fought, was the licencing of a factory to manufacture agricultural fungicide from copper oxychloride. An objection was raised (by the Ministry of Water Development—not Tourism) and an expert committee of scientists and government officials determined that the effluent was potentially a severe hazard, not only for the closed lake ecosystem, but for the people of Nakuru. So far this committee's demand for suspension of the factory's licence has been ignored.

Apart from the inter-Ministerial dispute—from which the newspapers allege Mr. Ogutu's Ministry remains aloof although it is the sole riparian owner—the issue has involved a West German Government suspension of a grant to modernise the sewage plant which outfalls into the lake. It also roused the fury of World Wildlife Fund—Kenya.

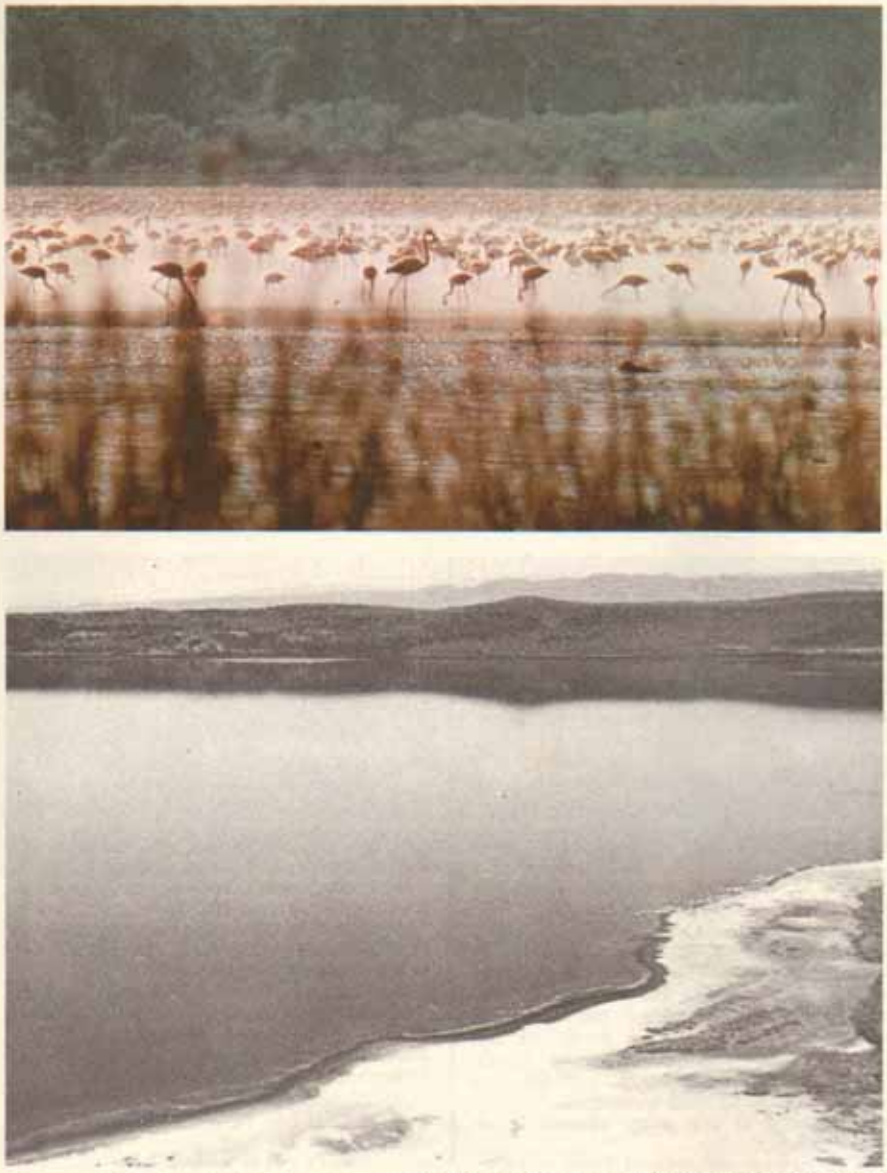
WWF's complaint is that the collection of $700,000 dollars by schoolchildren to extend and provide final security for Nakuru is a wasted effort. The donation had been made strictly conditional, in a signed agreement, on an assurance that no development prejudicial to the lake would be permitted.

The Minister's response was an extremely serious counter-attack against WWF for taking the issue to the international press, applying pressure to stop the German sewerage project and the World Bank loan, and on the basis of its "half-million dollar" contribution of "black-mailing a sovereign state."

In Kenya, only 13 years independent of British Colonial rule, this charge of interference by foreigners, could not have been more provocative. Presumably, it was addressed to the Minister's Cabinet colleagues, calling for retribution on the local representatives of the Swiss-based organisation—but so far, there has been no wider censure of WWF.

In a letter to the Nation editor, Ellis T. Monks, the WWF-Kenya's honorary Secretary reminded the Ministry that in recent years Kenya had received more WWF contributions to conservation than the rest of the developing world put together. He wondered whether, in the national interest, the Minister was wise in forcing WWF to suspend further contributions until he was able to restore the organisations' confidence in him.

The Ministerial discourtesy to a benefactor, and the tenor of the attack, was used by the Press as an example of administrative "blundering" which was elaborated in parallel with the survey of wildlife issues:-



The most bitter dispute: the disappearance of flamingo from Lake Nakuru, evidenced by Chris Tuite's recent picture (above). Some of the birds have moved to Elmenteita close by (Mirella Ricciardi's picture, top), but this lake is more or less inaccessible to visitors.

Administration

Two years ago an Act of Parliament was drafted which proposed the merger of the Game Department and the National Parks in a new "Department of Wildlife Conservation and Management" within Mr. Ogutu's Ministry.

The Parks' independent Board of Trustees was a casualty in a move which, interestingly enough, placed Kenya's wildlife administration ideologically to the left of Tanzania's, whose parks are still semi-autonomous.

But, the merger was seen generally as sensible if its declared object of greater efficiency and control in wildlife protection could be achieved. There was not much sense, however, in the Parliamentary debate on the Bill, when a majority of M.P.s demanded protection *from* wildlife and the transfer of useless or marginal parkland to scrub cattle and scratch agriculture. The Minister withdrew the Bill for amendment in line with the M.P.s' comments.

It finally received Presidential assent and was enacted in February this year, at which time the Minister might have set about explaining the merger in detail to his staff—the parks' staff in particular since they needed reassurance that neither they personally nor the system which they had been told many times was among the finest on earth would suffer in the process.

Instead, the take-over was characterised by secrecy, mutual suspicion, speculation, rumour, and a sharp decline in parks' morale.

There was also a jockeying for position by contenders for the top jobs in the new administration, which may not have been too dignified, but was entirely predictable under the circumstances of Ministerial indecision or "tactical evasion of the issue" —of the appointment of the Director of the new Department in particular.

There were, and still are, two obvious candidates for this post: Perez Olindo, former Director of National Parks and John Mutinda, former Chief Game Warden.

Mr. Olindo is extremely popular with the international community, which had given him personal medals as "Conservationist of the Year" and huge donations for *his* National Parks. This well-meaning American patronage and other reasons probably gave Mr. Mutinda a decisive political edge, although the Game Department had been subject to severe criticism, endorsed by the Attorney-General, for inefficiency and complicity in wildlife destruction.

The Minister temporised, however, with the appointment of his Permanent Secretary, Yuda Komora—although no-one is quite sure, if in fact he had powers under the Act to do this. The two candidates were made temporary Deputy Directors. These interim arrangements were generally welcomed, mainly because Mr. Komora was popular, with a reputation for industry and integrity. But perhaps he was badly advised, or did not have sufficient back-up from his Minister or subordinates, because from the moment of take-over, serious mistakes were made.

Parks' take-over

Junior Ministry officials apparently upset parks' staff by "stomping" over their new area of jurisdiction, ignoring the senior wardens; comandeering equipment; re-allocating vehicles and staff housing; and generally introducing themselves without a great deal of sensitivity and diplomacy.

Complaints relayed to the Ministry were countered by hints that the handover was revealing disastrous short-comings on inventories and financial control. A draft revised budget for parks was circulated by the Ministry, but withdrawn when it was pointed out that the same finance had been allocated for a patch of swamp near Kitale as for the 8,000 sq. mile Tsavo Park, and that funds had been reserved for the maintenance of roads, game trails and waterholes in the *Marine National Parks*!

But there were more serious issues.

The Ministry was committed under the terms of the Act to honour all pledges made by the former Parks' Trustees, and it was argued that these included agreed terms and conditions for Parks staff. However, the Minister terminated all contracts and offered new ones, as no doubt he had to, on inferior terms aligned to Civil Service rates. In effect this cut the salary of a parks' engineer, for example, from Shs. 4,000/- a month to Shs. 1,800/-

The ex-patriate parks' wardens suffered similarly, but various special allowances and terminal benefits were also forfeit because, as the Ministry said; "Kenya could not afford to pay its public servants such luxurious emoluments."

In addition, the wardens were to be moved around—David Sheldrick out of Tsavo after 28 years, Peter Jenkins out of his beloved Meru; and Tony Carne out of Marine Parks to Tsavo East, although he would be unable to fly the poacher-beseiged park for medical reasons.

Their seniority in the parks' service was not necessarily a factor in the re-allocation of authority, which was distributed among seven divisional headquarters under the control of the Ministry and in the charge mostly of former Game Department officers.

The wardens immediate reaction was to resign, but following intervention by two influential private individuals, most of them were finally able to sign 30-month contracts, with their salaries and benefits "topped up" by the British Government. It appears the Ministry might also be having second thoughts about the reshuffle of personnel and responsibilities.

Continued on page 12

EDITORIAL

Continued from page 11

A complicating factor in Ministry-Parks relationships was delay in instituting a new payments' system. Staff salaries were late and, for a period, shortages of petrol and the means to buy essential supplies caused a flood of protest information to the newspapers.

Watergate

This was exemplified, unfortunately for the Ministry, by the death of a baby rhino in the Animal Orphanage attached to Nairobi Park—the minor, highly emotive incident by which the Press could illuminate the general situation of "incompetence and negligence".

The rhino was reported to have died from malnutrition; and the Permanent Secretary angrily replied with a government autopsy report showing pneumonia as the cause of death.

The press suggested that this was the normal fatal consequence of starvation, and the story developed with hotels sending food parcels for the orphans—further infuriating the officials who told the donors to mind their own business.

Then a young buffalo died, and there were "leaks" about other tragedies at the orphanage.

Perhaps taking his cue from a current movie in Nairobi on Watergate, the Minister set up a "plumbing" operation, banned all staff communication with reporters, and sacked the suspect expatriate honorary wardens attached to the Orphanage and Nairobi Park.

For some unexplained reason, Perez Olindo was sent off on indefinite leave —and, later, the predictable step of replacing Yuda Komora with John Mutinda as "temporary" head of wildlife affairs was taken at a secret meeting at Kilaguni in Tsavo. This was not announced publicly for two weeks because of a blanket ban on communication with the newspapers.

The Minister himself had called the one and only general Press conference, and clearly lost credibility which left him even more vulnerable than before:

● **On the wildlife situation,** he accused the *Nation* of making money through "*an unbalanced and subjective literary performance*", *resurrecting old statistics and amending them to create "pessimistic gloom" about the extinction of elephants in Kenya by 1978.*

● **On the subject of the efficiency of the previous wildlife authorities,** the Minister reminded the public that the Game Department had looked after 95 per cent of the country (the Parks' five per cent) and had been responsible for the establishment of 12 new reserves in the last four years.

He agreed there were discrepancies in the curio-trophy trade, but that 95 per cent of wildlife products in the shops "*could be traced to legal sources.*"

He maintained that local conservation agencies would do better to attack the receiver countries, which offer "fantastic" incentives for the supply of trophies and pointed out that neither poaching nor legal hunting were entirely responsible for the "disappearance of animal species."

● **On the ivory trade,** the Minister called for substantiation and documentary proof of alleged ivory export figures of 250 tons in 1974, 160 tons in 1975, and 46 tons in the first quarter of this year—which correspond with import figures in the markets for ivory but which he said, were 300 per cent overstated according to official export statistics.

His explanation of this evident fraud was as follows:

"*It is possible that legal export from Kenya may differ from import, say by a country like Hongkong. This is because import declaration, whether the goods were smuggled or not, must state the country of origin before being cleared by customs.*"

"*It is easy, therefore, to see how the difference can arise between authorised export from Kenya and imports by Hongkong. It is a known fact that since Kenya ivory is better quality, many exporters from other African states do in fact change . . . the particulars to read 'Export from Kenya' so as to get a better price.*"

● **On Nakuru,** Mr. Ogutu said that although his Ministry is concerned over the future of the lake and national park; although "*we share collective responsibilities as Government, my Ministry is not directly responsible for industry, which includes factories.*"

The Minister attacked the "evil actions' of WWF . . . negative to their declared good intentions," and then detailed current scientific research at Nakuru (part-funded by WWF) which would determine the causes of the flight of flamingo.

● **On the Orphanage,** the Minister strenuously denied any lack of attention to the animals. He repeated the autopsy verdict on the rhino, but wondered whether the reported deaths "*had not been planned to coincide with and extend the smear campaign of the Nation newspaper against my Ministry.*"

● **On the Press allegations concerning his management of the Parks' takeover,** the Minister maintained that he had implemented the merger strictly in accordance with the Act, and that "*it was only a twister of the truth who can claim the Ministry . . . has broken any contract.*"

He said that any employee who had a grievance should either settle with the Ministry, or resign, rather than misrepresent the facts to the newspapers.

Mr. Ogutu demanded substantiation of any misuse of public funds by his Ministry, of non-application of funds donated for conservation projects, of funds negotiated and subsequently misapplied, and of any other administrative malpractises.

The newspaper obliged with a series of editorials, backed by the letters' columns, which has so far drawn little further response from the Minister, now the sole Press spokesman. Perhaps he was inhibited by the reaction to his earlier statements, and particularly to his contention that smuggled ivory from Kenya was legal import in Hongkong—but whatever the reason, his silence was having a salutary effect for his Ministry. It was starving the Press campaign, which could not be sustained by parliament (not then in session) nor by any "upper" legislature which does not exist in Kenya.

Any chance of a revival in strength of the Press offensive appeared to depend on the reaction of Mr. Ogutu's Cabinet colleagues who might either come to his defence or order a Commission of Enquiry, although a government investigation of this nature would be without precedent in independent Kenya. It is conceivable that the local conservation agencies could jointly bring a civil case against the Minister, but it is argued—sensibly—that any further pressure would tend to be destructive. The Ministry has had a severe shake-up; it must be aware that its future performance would continue to be watched with interest; and it is assumed that there would be staff changes, more

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A DRASTIC ELEPHANT DECLINE IN UGANDA PARKS

THERE is no wildlife issue more fiercely debated than the rate of elephant destruction in Africa. The international Press exposes "ivory rackets" and puts forward time-tables for the elimination of elephant in specific areas. In response, African governments either tend to remain silent or reject the reports as exaggerated and sensationalist.

There seems to be perpetual conflict—most bitterly on the question of poaching and the ivory trade, but also inconclusively on man-elephant-habitat interactions as another main cause of elephant mortality.

The ivory trade appears to have been researched fully, at least for the year 1974, and there is a serious discrepancy in export-import figures which has still to be satisfactorily explained.

For example, the East African Customs and Excise authorities recorded a total East African export to Hong Kong of 107 tons, and a total import there of 461 tons. Other inconsistencies were:—

—an official East African export of 7.8 tons to Japan, and a recorded import of 147 tons; and

—no recorded East African export of ivory to the United Arab Emirates, but a record of re-export by these countries of 15 tons to Hong Kong alone.

It was assumed, therefore, that duplicate copies of the consignment documents are missing from the E.A. Customs' records.

The Press maintains that the People's Republic of China is a major importer of ivory—allegedly from Tanzania in payment for the Tanzania Railway—but provides no statistics. Zaire is said to be a main supplier but there are no export figures. It is not possible, of course, to assess the amount of smuggled ivory, although this is presumed to be considerable.

The figures for the international ivory trade in 1975 are at present incomplete, but the import to Hong Kong alone was just over 500 tons, which is the product of between 25,000 and 30,000 elephant.

In the first quarter of 1976 the story was the same, only worse. It shows that far from depressing the trade, the Press "revelations" have had no effect whatsoever, and that the demand from Hong Kong alone is running at around 2,500 dead elephant a month.

Add to this the heavy demand from other Far East and European markets, and World Wildlife Fund might be said to be justified in its Press statement that "*unless action is taken urgently, the unprecedented*



rate of decline of Africa's elephant populations will lead to their virtual extinction."

One obvious source of large quantities of ivory over the past two or three years is Uganda, although it has been extremely difficult to get a clear picture of the extent of poaching.

However, Uganda officials themselves have shown concern over the decline of elephant in the two principle parks of Kabalega (Murchison) and Ruwenzori (Queen Elizabeth), and the figures are now available from counts made by Dr. S. K. Eltringham and Mr. R. C. Malpas, of the Uganda Institute of Ecology under direction of Erick Edroma:

Kabalega N.P.:
1973—14,309 elephants (4,101 north of the Nile; and 10,208 south)
1974— 6,030 elephant (1,962 north of the Nile; 4,068 south)
1975— 2,246 elephant (1,185 north of Nile; 1,061 south)

Ruwenzori N.P.
1973—2,731 elephant
1974—1,907 elephant
1975—1,047 elephant

This indicates to an 84.3 per cent decline in three years at Kabalega, and 61.7 per cent at Ruwenzori.

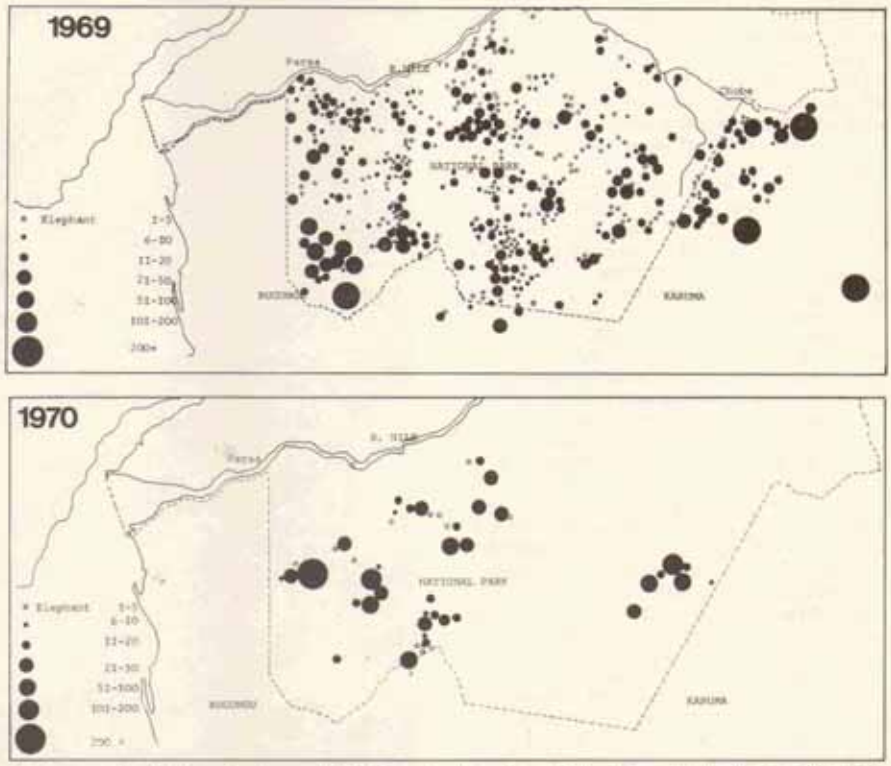
There was a further count undertaken earlier this year, commissioned by the Uganda authorities to check the accuracy of these counts and specifically, the severe decline had been caused by death or emigration.

Dr. Iain Douglas-Hamilton and Ian Parker were called in for the survey, and their results confirmed the Ugandan findings.

● *At Kabalega*, they counted 1,731 elephant south of the Nile and 903 north of the river. At Ruwenzori the figure was 1,232.

A carcass count indicated that the main cause of the decline was death rather than emigration, and an examination of Uganda's ivory export figures against recorded imports at Hong Kong indicated that there had been considerable illegal destruction.

However, the experts conclude that the present populations in the two parks are viable, and will recover if there is no further heavy poaching. Dr. Eltringham and Mr. Malpas were commissioned for a future survey and count at the time of going to press.



Maps compiled by Ian Parker and Iain Douglas-Hamilton of the status of elephant in Kabalega National Park, Uganda

A change of pace after the kidnap — but Gombe goes on

JANE GOODALL BRYCESON



JANE GOODALL BRYCESON and her husband Derek, who is Director of Tanzania National Parks, recently returned from the United States with enough funds to keep the Gombe chimpanzee study going until the end of 1977. They raised the money mainly from a lecture tour and private donations, and have applied to the Leakey Foundation to make up the shortfall in an extremely tight annual budget of 10,000 dollars.

But the objective is always to secure the long term future of the study, which Jane began alone in 1960 and which received world interest with the publication of her book "*In the Shadow of Man*."

By 1975 her Gombe Stream Research Centre had built up to a complement of 20 overseas and 14 Tanzanian students working on both chimpanzee and baboon. Then at midnight on May 19th, 1975, Gombe was raided by political rebels from Eastern Zaire, who kidnapped one Dutch and three American students and returned across Lake Tanganyika. It took two months of international negotiation before they were returned unharmed—but of the necessity the project was changed radically. No foreign students will be allowed at Gombe for the foreseable future, and Jane herself may only visit the Centre for one week in five or six. Instead she directs the research by daily radio communication and evaluates the systematic data collection by the remaining Tanzanian students at her home in Dar es Salaam.

In a recent report, circulated for the purpose of raising long-term financial assistance for Gombe, Jane justified the project and reviewed the method and the quality of the work which paused only for one day only in 16 years:

THERE is now a good deal of evidence from a variety of biological fields (such as biochemical, neurological, anatomical, endochrinological as well as behavioural) which shows that the chimpanzee bears remarkable similarities to man.

This makes the chimpanzee a creature of unique insterest from the standpoint of the evolution of human behaviour: the better we understand chimpanzee behaviour the better we may understand some aspects of our own.

It is particularly important to study chimpanzees in their natural habitat for only in this way can we hope to understand the adaptive significance of much of their behaviour.

Moreover, it is only in the field that the chimpanzee can demonstrate the full range of his social behaviour; and only the study of free-living individuals can gradually reveal the intricacies of family and community relationships.

It should be stated also that the chimpanzee, leaving aside the fact that he happens to be man's closest living relative, is a fascinating animal in his own right. As human beings with enquiring minds and a desire for knowledge we should not hesitate to meet the challenge of trying to understand fully the complex, often puzzling, behaviour of the chimpanzee.

Over the past fifteen years at Gombe it has been possible to observe over a hundred different individual chimpanzees for varying lengths of time. The chimpanzees of our main study communities have become so habituated to humans that it is possible to follow them closely as they travel through the mountains. Some individuals can be followed for many consecutive days with a minimum of disturbance.

Because all members of the research team at Gombe have always been required to contribute certain basic information to the long-term records and because they have been encouraged to work in close co-operation with one another, we have been able to build up a good general picture of chimpanzee behaviour at Gombe. But above all we have come to appreciate the tremendous individual differences which exist between one chimpanzee and another.

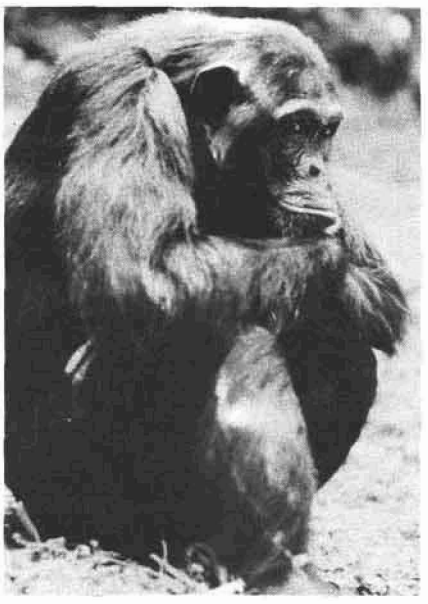
We know that the Gombe chimpanzees live in groups, or communities, of up to 40 individuals. The members of a community travel in small temporary associations or even alone for a good deal of the time, but all members recognize one another and may, either frequently or occasionally, meet and associate peacefully.

Within a home range of about five to eight square miles the chimpanzees are nomadic, sleeping where dusk finds them on comfortable platforms, or nests, which they make in the trees. They are omnivores, supplementing their main diet of fruit and plant materials with insects and sometimes the flesh of mammals.

Sometimes a group of males co-operate to stalk and catch a prey animal such as a young baboon. These chimpanzees use many objects as tools for a wide variety of purposes. They communicate with one another by means of a rich repertoire of calls, postures and gestures, many of which bear uncanny similarities to human non-verbal communication patterns and occur, too, in similar contexts (such as embracing or kissing when greeting).

The chimpanzee has a long life expectancy—between 40 and 50 years. He has a long period of infancy and childhood when he is dependent or partly dependent on his mother. Adolescence, from about nine to 15 years, may be a difficult and somewhat turbulent time for the male as he finds challenges and dominates the females of his community and then, having become increasingly apprehensive of the adult males, gradually begins to work his way into their hierarchy. Of special interest is the fact that the adolescent female may transfer from her natal community, either temporarily, during periods of oestrus, or apparently permanently, to a neighbouring community. This is clearly a mechanism for preventing too much inbreeding.

Bonds between family members may be very close, particularly between mothers and their offspring and between brothers. These close and often very supportive relationships may continue throughout life. So close is the affectionate bond between mother and child, that a younger, orphaned before the age of five years, may be unable to survive—even though he may be "adopted" by an elder sister (or even brother). One unusually dependent male of eight years old fell into a kind of depressed lethargy upon the death of his old mother: in this state he fell sick and died just three and half weeks after his mother.



Adult male chimpanzees typically dominate females and youngsters. The adult males have a dominance hierarchy with one of them usually clearly apparent as top-ranking or *alpha* male. We have watched three males take over this alpha position; one did so through his size and aggressive nature; one through the support and backing of an elder brother; one through the deliberate incorporation of noisy, empty kerosene cans into his "charging display! (This so intimidated other males that he became alpha without, so far as we know, having to fight at all.)

Female chimpanzees have their own separate hierarchy. Often a females rank depends on which of her older offspring are with her at the time.

Chimpanzees are normally peaceful, though they may be roused to sudden aggression. When fights occur between members of the same community (the situations eliciting aggression are very similar in chimpanzees and man) they may appear fierce, but they are usually of very short duration (less than a minute) and injuries are rare.

Fights between individuals of different communities, however, may be extraordinarily brutal and may result in the death of a victim. Twice female "strangers" were attacked and their infants killed and partially eaten.

Groups of male chimpanzees quite regularly patrol the boundaries of their home range, often seeming to search actively for the presence of neighbours: they show fear or ambiguity if they encounter a large group of "strangers" but often hostility and aggression is they encounter one or two only.

As mentioned, the chimpanzee has a long life span, a long period of development and late maturity. Females have only one infant every five or six years (unless her infant dies in which case she may have another about a year later). Personality differences between individuals are very pronounced and influence behaviour to a remarkable degree—and we can seldom observe more than 20 adults at a given time.

Clearly, then, it is necessary to observe chimpanzees over a long period if we are to obtain a reasonably accurate picture of their behaviour and to build up a large enough sample of individuals of different ages and sexes to be able to make valid interpretations of behaviour.

Infant development and mother-infant relationships have been a major research interest at Gombe from the beginning. Different mothers treat their infants in different ways: will this effect the behaviour of the offspring when it is adult? Will a female learn child raising patterns from her mother? If a young child survives the death of his mother, will he show the effects of this shock when he becomes an adult? Will the offspring of a high-ranking aggressive female benefit from his or her mother's positon?

These are a few of the questions we have been interested in and, because of the length of our study, some of the answers are beginning to emerge.

One mother (Flo) showed certain special patterns in the handling of her infants. Her daughter (Fifi), whom I first knew as an infant, has shown the same patterns in the raising of her own first infant—one of the patterns has been seen in no other Gombe mother. Moreover, Fifi treats her son with the same relaxed and affectionate competence that was shown by Flo.

Another mother (Passion) showed an almost "callous" indifference to her infant (Pom). Pom herself should become a mother within the next three years and we shall note the way she handles her first infant with special interest. Both Flo and Passion were high ranking and aggressive when their daughters were juveniles and adolescents: and Fifi and Pom were unusually aggressive towards older females. Adolescent females with less assertive mothers have not shown this kind of aggression.

Fifi, now mature, is not yet as high-ranking as was her mother, but she does occupy a high position in the female hierarchy and has relaxed relationships with the adult males, as did Flo. Conversely, another female (Gilka), the daughter of an exceptionally nervous female, is now the lowest-ranked adult of her community. Here, however, the issue is confused by the fact that Gilka has a fungus infection of her nose which has caused grotesque swelling. Perhaps it is this which has made Gilka so timid, rather than the personality of her mother? We must wait for other daughters of nervous females to mature.

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Our data so far suggest that the rank of the mother is less important for her sons than it may be for her daughters: it is probably more critical that a male has a supportive brother. In the last two years, two orphans (one male and one female) have apparently survived the loss of their mothers. We are recording their behaviour and associations with special interest.

What of the relationship between sisters? In all of our 15 years we have had the opportunity to study only *one* pair of consecutively born sisters. Their relationships were close, both with each other and with their mother, until the elder one transferred into a neighbouring community.

Two years later, after the death of the mother, the younger sister also transferred. This happened very recently and we are waiting to see whether, in the absence of the mother, they will resume their previous supportive relationship.

The whole question of female transfer is one which we need to study much more deeply. Why do some females move away from their natal communities and home ranges and transfer, seemingly permanently, into neighbouring communities, whilst others move away merely to mate with neighbouring males and then return "home"? Do groups of patrolling males try to recruit "stranger" females into their community? Until we can habituate and begin to study more communities we cannot answer these kinds of questions.

Perhaps the most dramatic example of the need for long term study as well as for continued work at Gombe lies in the recent outbreak of violence between two neighbouring communities (which were all one big community until they began to divide in 1970). Had we stopped our research after 13 years, in 1973, we should have had a totally different picture of chimpanzee aggression from that which we have today.

Understanding

In 1974 and 1975, groups of males from the northern community stalked, seized and attacked four adults of the smaller southern community. The attacks were brutal, lasted for some 20 minutes and (according to the observers) were intended to kill. In fact, two of the victims did die as a result of their wounds, and the other two almost certainly died also— they have never been seen since, despite repeated searching.

What caused this violence? Possibly the northern community was reacting to the proximity of a very large community which has recently moved closer to the home range of the aggressors: perhaps they were beginning to feel crowded? Their choice of victims suggests that they were simply out to attack "anyone"— two were prime males, one was a very old male and the fourth an old and crippled female.

During this same two year period there were two incidents of cannibalism. Once the victim was the two year old infant of a "stranger" female who was savagely attacked and finally escaped, leaving her infant with the aggressors. On the other occasion the victim was the three week old infant of Gilka, lowest ranking female of our main study community. The infant was seized by high ranking female Passion who bit into its skull and then shared the flesh with her adolescent daughter and infant son. Further research is needed, and urgently needed, if we are to try to understand the reasons causing this violent behaviour.

These are examples of the reasons underlying our need to continue the research at Gombe. It is the very fact that 16 years of research lie behind us that makes it so vital to continue. It becomes increasingly unlikely that anything similar will be established again, taking into consideration shortage of funds for research, shrinking habitats for wildlife, growing human populations and, not least, political troubles that result in the closure of established research stations in remote areas or make it unlikely that new projects will be initiated in such places.

If the research at Gombe comes to an end, then we can be reasonably sure that answers to long-term questions regarding the behaviour of our closest living relatives will never be answered.

Simultaneously with the chimpanzee project, we undertake a study of baboons, begun in 1967—and there are a variety of reasons why this study is of interest.

The baboon is the largest monkey: it is adaptively extremely successful having spread throughout almost the whole of African in habitats ranging from high mountains to the sea shore, from desert to tropical forest. The baboon is, to a large extent, a ground living primate (though it sleeps and sometimes feeds in trees) and it has been successful in the savannah where it has to cope with the same kinds of problems and dangers as those which probably faced our own primitive ancestors.

Baboon research

The baboons at Gombe, many of whom have now been studied continuously since 1967, offer a unique opportunity for the better understanding of baboon behaviour. They are amazingly tolerant of human observation, and day to day, detailed, close-up records can be obtained. Interactions between neighbouring troops are fascinating and have been, and are being, studied in detail.

Of particular interest are observations concerning the transfer of young males from their natal troops into neighbouring troops, usually around puberty. Individual males employ very different techniques for gaining entry into the new social environment: some are notably more successful than others. There is still a great deal to learn about this phenomenon, and, as with the chimpanzee research, we are just beginning to get answers to questions that concern long term observations.

If a male has difficulty in being accepted by his new peers, is he likely to move on to another troop? Recent observations suggest that this is the case and that he may, in fact, move three or even four times before he finally settles down. Yet sometimes a male who enters a new troop and immediately attains high status may, almost at once, leave and move elsewhere. Thus the issue is confused and only further observation can help us to understand.

The study of family relationships has been emphasised in the baboon research at Gombe, and we know, today, that bonds between family members play a very important role in the social life of a troop. These bonds are particularly significant for females and normally persist through life. The male, of course, leaves his natal troop so that, with the possible exception of a continuing relationship with a brother, family bonds are disrupted around puberty. Within the next two years we should know if a young male is likely to transfer to a troop into which his elder brother has already moved.

It should be mentioned here that Gombe was the birthplace of a new programme for training National Parks Rangers to observe animal behaviour. Four teams of rangers (two per team) spent from four to six months at Gombe, at different times, and learned the techniques of baboon observation: how to habituate a troop, identify individuals, record daily certain aspects of behaviour.

After their period of training they returned to their home parks and set to work on habituating and starting to observe a troop. Because these rangers use the same observational and recording methods as those used by the field assistants at Gombe, information collected in the different habitats can be compared. Thus a whole new field of enquiry and interest has opened up with regard to the Gombe baboon studies.

Funding

In the past, funding was provided from a variety of sources. Initially the late L.S.B. Leakey was able to find seed money for the project from Leighton Wilkie of the Wilkie Brothers Foundation.

After six months the National Geographic Society took over and financed Gombe until 1967, and continued to provide some support for a few years afterwards. Additional funds were received at this time from the British Science Research Council, the Wenner Gren Foundation and some private donors.

Then, in 1971, the Grant Foundation of New York took over the Gombe project and provided full support until the end of this current year. For a number of reasons, this Foundation is unable to continue in 1977, which was the reason for our recent American tour—an attempt to meet the estimated recurrent cost of the Research Centre of 20,000 dollars a year (without provision for inflation.)

It should be pointed out, of course, that we have the goodwill and support of the Tanzania authorities. Although the government is unable to finance primate research, since there are other priorities for research in this developing country, the National Parks do maintain the park which protects Gombe at a cost of 10,000 dollars a year. The park is closed to tourists, and possible revenue from this source is therefore forfeited, because it is accepted that a regular flow of visitors would endanger the scientific work in progress.

Intensified training

During 1974 the training programme for our field assistants at Gombe (chimpanzee and baboon research) was, fortuitously as it turned out, intensified. With the help of Dr. L. Goldman and a number of the students much more rigorous checking of the data collected by the Tanzanians was undertaken and various reliability measures were introduced.

Also, new recording techniques were introduced to some of the best qualified of the field assistants so that, after quite a short time, some of those working on chimpanzee behaviour were able to fill out, accurately, simple check sheets on certain aspects of behaviour.

I introduced a series of weekly seminars —mainly on chimpanzee and baboon behaviour, but with some time devoted to giving the men an idea of other non-human primates in the wild, the kind of

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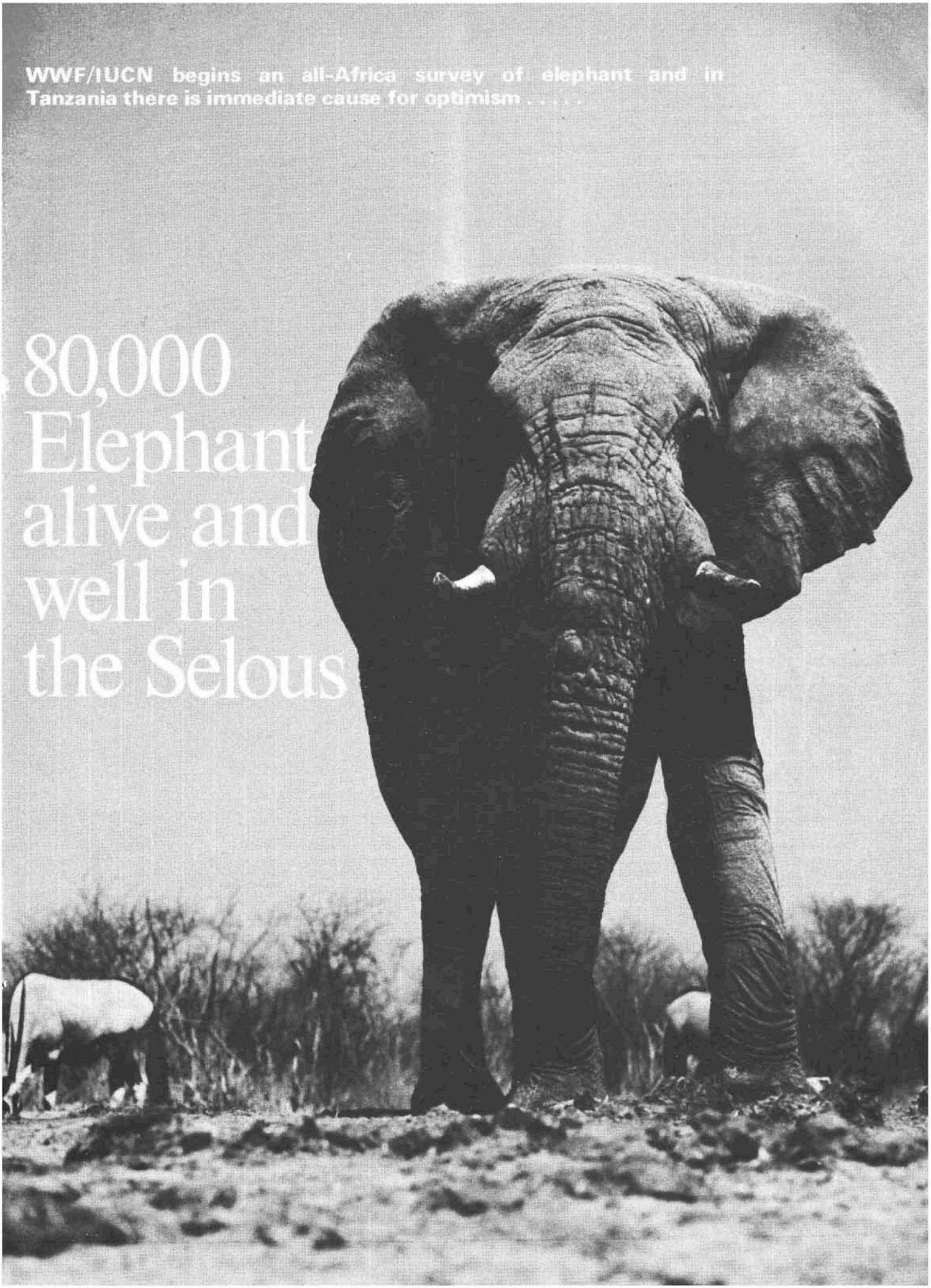
WWF/IUCN begins an all-Africa survey of elephant and in Tanzania there is immediate cause for optimism . . . .

80,000 Elephant alive and well in the Selous



THE African elephant is seriously threatened in some areas—and that is obvious to any layman observer. But a precise, science-based calculation of the overall status of elephant has yet to be undertaken.

Among the important questions which require investigation and fully detailed answers are:—

Which specific areas, from which countries are losing elephant, and why?

How precisely does the mortality divide between poaching and other causes such as drought, range depletion, over-concentration in national parks, and natural die-off.

What are the trends in elephant birth-rate?

What are the precise mechanics of the ivory trade, country by country?

How do the authorities in individual countries calculate the economic value of an elephant—in terms of meat and ivory profit to private enterprise or as a self-sustaining-resource producing continuous income to the national exchequers through tourism.

Is there any official appreciation, anywhere in Africa, of the elephant's value in the vaguer terms of aesthetics, culture, science, pride, prestige and heritage in trust?

An initiative on answering these questions came from the New York Zoological Society, and subsequently the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and its close associate World Wildlife Fund International. A firm project emerged from an IUCN/SSC meeting in Kinshasa last year, initially with the formation of an "Elephant Group," in two sections—in Africa, chaired by Drs. Iain Douglas-Hamilton and Harvey Croze, and in Asia by Dr. J. C. Daniel and Mr. R. Olivier.

The project is now detailed and funded on a shared basis by the international conservation agencies.

The basic objective, according to the project description, is "*to assess the current status and future prospects of the African and Asian elephants, and to recommend an action programme to IUCN/WWF for improving the conservation of these species. The ultimate goal will be to encourage people and governments to value elephants both for their intrinsic value and for their economic potential as a self-sustaining natural resource.*

Iain Douglas-Hamilton and his colleagues have already begun their programme with the distribution of a questionnaire to official and private sources. From this, and direct field research, they expect to deliniate current elephant ranges, produce initial population estimates, and determine the main trends in elephant population dynamics.

Because of the urgency of specific "elephant problems," they will release information regularly when it might assist governments in taking immediate counter-action or contribute to management planning. A quarterly newsletter will be issued, and a digest of progress will be published in each issue of "Africana."

The paradox of elephant decimation in most areas and over-concentration in certain parks and reserves is receiving immediate and special attention. The project team expects to be able to suggest monitoring and control measures in respect of destruction and cyclic modification of elephant habitats, which could involve recommendations for culling or cropping.



Pictures by Oria Douglas-Hamilton

Much of the research work will be sub-contracted to experts in the field or specialist recruits, with study areas selected on the following criteria:

(a) areas where elephant are thought to be endangered
(b) areas representative of important habitats;
(c) little known areas with no research facilities but where large elephant populations are thought to exist;
(d) areas with a special history of man-elephant-habitat interaction;
(e) areas with current active research programmes;
(f) areas where previous intensive research needs up-dating.

Each elephant population of any size will be viewed in relation to existing agricultural or tourism development plans so as to provide a realistic priority scale for conservation recommendations.

The last phase of the project will be to devise a conservation action programme with specific recommendations on management, training and public information/education schemes; continuing research and monitoring; the strengthening of wildlife administrations; the creation of new parks and reserves, and so on. . . .

Another aim is to examine the feasibility of a cartel of ivory producing nations so as to regularise the trade, stabilise prices, and foster a more rational/general approach to sustaining the resource through conservation.

In all, it's obviously an ambitious and an important project. The "elephant situation" is possibly a test case in the sense that if this skirmish to preserve one species can be won, then there would be optimism that the battle for total natural resources and environment conservation in Africa is finally worthwhile.

In one area already surveyed, there is very definitely cause for optimism. This is the Selous Game Reserve, which now supports at least 80,000 of a possible total elephant population in Tanzania of half a million.

The following is an adapted extract of Iain Douglas-Hamilton's report:—

THE Selous Game Reserve is the largest in Africa, and the vastness of the 21,000 sq. mile (55,000 km^2) area has mitigated



against any previous complete census of elephant. Apart from its size, it is distinguished for several reasons as an area of outstanding interest:—

—It has no human population, although there was one formerly;
—It forms the major part of the largest unbroken elephant range in Africa;
—It is one of the few reserves representing the *miombo* habitat in its variety of forms.

As a first step in assessing the wildlife resource I was invited by the Tanzania Game Department to organize a systematic census of the large mammal populations, and to bring the necessary equipment, namely a four-seater aircraft, furnished with a radar altimeter essential for height control.

It was decided that the most logical and efficient way to employ the aircraft would be to fly regularly spaced transects so that data on numbers, distribution and habitat condition could be collected simultaneously (*Gwynne & Croze 1975*).

The counts were to be carried out over the whole Selous and adjoining areas in both the wet and dry seasons. So far the wet season count has been accomplished, and the dry season count is currently underway.

Although all large animals were to be counted, the major emphasis of this survey is on elephants. They are not only the dominant herbivore, but the Selous elephant population is one of the largest, if not *the* largest, in Africa, and as such has intrinsic interest.

The research contributes to the IUCN's Elephant programme (as above) conducted by a group of the Survival Service Commission of which I am Co-chairman with Dr. Harvey Croze. We regard the Selous Game Reserve as an area of key importance in understanding elephant biology throughout Africa.

An important feature of this survey is the training of Game Department staff in the techniques of aerial observation and recording, and later in analysis of the complete data. The aim is to build up an independent team which will be able to carry out similar surveys in the Selous or other reserves. Such systematic reconnaissance flights are undoubtedly the cheapest and most efficient method of collecting ecological data on which to base utilization and development programmes, and also provide a framework for future management orientated research.

Research objectives

These were:—

—To record numbers and distribution of all large animals;
—To record distribution and ecological parameters of all major habitats;
—To record the elephant age structure by aerial photogrammetry.

Methods

Transects were flown at 250 feet above the ground and two rear-seat observers scanned a strip of ground demarcated by parallel streamers attached to the struts on either side of the aircraft. The two strips amounted to 300 metres.

All animals seen within the streamers were counted and the results were dictated into tape-recorders so that the observers did not have to take their eyes off the ground. The narrowness of the strips was chosen to make it easier to see animals in thick vegetation and to compensate for the observers' initial inexperience (*Norton-Griffiths, 1976*).

Before flying observers were tested for aptitude and accuracy in training sessions where they had to count animals on slides flashed on a screen for five seconds. Ecological data on habitats was recorded by Mr. Alan Rodgers sitting in the right-hand front seat. He also took photographs periodically so that a complete photographic library is being built up of every major habitat type. All data were recorded so that observations could be related to the grid squares in which they occurred.

The transects were spaced five nautical miles apart (9.2 km.) and the grid covered the entire Reserve and in most places went 10 m. beyond. North of Liwale, scene of the heaviest elephant control operations in Tanzania, we counted in an extensive area outside the Reserve. In all, the census sampled an area of 73,407 sq. km.

Results

A preliminary reconnaissance of one week in January, when I familiarized myself with the Selous and its problems, led to two periods of training and counting in March and April which amounted to just under five weeks.

So far, the only data which has received preliminary analysis is concerned with elephants and within the area sampled we estimate a minimum population of 81,600.

Confidence limits have yet to be calculated and the estimate may be revised upwards once various biases, such as observer undercount caused by poor visibility, have been considered.

The elephant population was evenly distributed, with an overall density of 1.11/km^2. The area sampled was divided arbitrarily into 15 blocks within which the density varied between .005 and 2.13/km^2. The blocks with the highest density were found along the confluence of the Luwegu, Mbarangandu and Njenje Rivers, and in Mikumi National Park, Beho-Beho, and Ulanga areas. The lowest densities were found near Liwale and along the Reserve boundaries, although the precise nature of this boundary effect will not become apparent until the second count and final analysis have been completed.

The mean group size for elephants was 2.9, which is remarkably low in comparison with most other elephant populations.

Discussion

There are few conclusions that can be drawn at this stage, but some definite features of the Selous ecosystem have emerged.

1. Elephants dominate the large mammal biomass.
2. Their overall density of 1/km^2 is low compared to most other East African National Parks or Reserves where they occur. It is, however, comparable to the miombo habitat of the Ruaha National Park (*Norton-Griffiths, 1975*).
3. The elephants do not seem to have suffered population concentration at the hands of man. If anything they have invaded areas formerly occupied by man (*Matzke, 1975*).
4. The elephants do not seem to be causing significant damage to the woody vegetation, although their effects seem to be localized. This topic needs further analysis.
5. Their low mean group size may be due to a low degree of harassment by man. We counted all elephant carcasses within the strips and found the ratio of dead to live elephants low relative to other areas investigated in the course of the Pan African I.U.C.N. elephant survey. It would seem therefore that the incidence of poaching within the Reserve is also relatively low despite the fact that this is the largest elephant population in East Africa. Again this tentative conclusion must be tested by further data collection and analysis.
6. In most of the above respects the Selous elephant population is unusual, and it may be that it has actually increased in recent years. We intend to carry out the investigation of the population dynamics following the dry season count.
7. In all events Tanzania has a priceless asset in the Selous Game Reserve whose true magnitude is now becoming evident for the first time.

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THE SOCIETY'S NOTES

Compiled by Ted Norris

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

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E.A.W.L.S. contribution to Tsavo East research

The following is based on a report submitted to The Society by Dr. Walter Leuthold, who has recently retired as Acting Chief Biologist, Tsavo East Research Station.

Aircraft and pilot

The Society's Super Cub 5Y-ADY has been stationed in Tsavo for about nine years. Most of the research-related flying was done with this aircraft (or with the Society's pilot), and the usefulness of this Society contribution cannot be evaluated fully in a short paragraph. You have received periodic reports on the use of the aircraft, from which you can glean something of the multitude of purposes it has been used for. Regular collection of rainfall records in outlying areas, radio-tracking of elephants, aerial photography, aerial counts and general communication flying are but a few of them. (In recent years, the aircraft has been used increasingly for anti-poaching work, in collaboration with the Park Warden).

In addition to the facilities provided by the aircraft itself, the services of the pilot, Mr. T. R. H. Morgan, have been extremely valuable, too. Apart from actual flying duties, he was always willing to assist with all kinds of administrative work. He was of very considerable help to me personally —and to Dr. Glover earlier on—in dealing with day-to-day administration, design and supervision of construction projects and a wide variety of other matters.

Construction of vegetation exclosures

Starting in 1970, eight experimental plots surrounded by (theoretically!) elephant-proof ditches were established, together with equal-sized control plots, with funds provided by the EAWLS (five in Tsavo West, three in Tsavo East). This is a long-term project, and it is too early to give a comprehensive report. The woody vegetation in both exclosures and control plots has been classified and counted at approximately yearly intervals. The analysis of the records collected is, unfortunately, in a very early stage only, mainly because the (former) Kenya National Parks did not appoint a plant ecologist after Phil Glover's departure, despite my repeated representations. However, it is readily evident, even without scientific analysis, that the protection of the exclosures permits a considerable amount of woody regeneration, which appears to be consumed completely by elephants and other herbivores outside. Thus, the exclosures demonstrate the impact of browsing and will provide some of the information necessary for future management decisions concerning the impact of herbivores on the vegetation.

Vacation employment for students

In several past years the EAWLS provided funds to employ students during the long vacations for short-term research projects. In 1970 and 1974 some of these students conducted counts of certain tree species along the park roads, under my supervision. The aim was to determine the rate and direction of changes in tree populations. A full report was issued on the 1970 exercise, and a brief one—by the students themselves—on the 1974 one. Meanwhile I have had an opportunity to summarize the results for a paper that has been submitted for publication in the East African Wildlife Journal. A copy of the manuscript has been presented to the Society.

Student hostel at Tsavo East

Although the grant concerned was made to the University of Nairobi, strictly speaking, the main beneficiary has been the Tsavo Research Project, in that additional manpower has become available for studies in the context of the overall research programme designed by the former Tsavo Research Co-ordinating Committee. The hostel is currently occupied by two graduate students: Mr. N. G. Ndumo, University of Nairobi and sponsored by Kenya National Parks, working on daily activity of elephants and its relation to climatic factors and Mr. R. D. Buxton, University of Oxford, working on the ecological role of termites in the decomposition cycle.

Financial support for graduate students

Recent beneficiaries include Messrs. S. M. Cobb, T. J. Kingston and T. F. Corfield. These grants have also contributed towards completion of research that was considered useful and/or essential by the former Tsavo Research Co-ordinating Committee.

The above list is by no means comprehensive, but includes only those projects that have sprung to my mind while writing. Even so, the list is impressive, and the support received from the EAWLS has been vital for most recent research projects. On behalf of the (former) Kenya National Parks, on behalf of all those who are currently doing, or have in the past conducted, research in Tsavo and have benefitted from the Society's assistance, and not least on my own behalf I wish to express gratitude and appreciation for the very substantial support that the EAWLS has provided for many years to the (former) Tsavo Research Project, directly and indirectly.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS
The Society has pleasure in welcoming the following new Life members.

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New museum

Readers will be interested to learn of a new museum in Kenya. In May of this year, the Meru Museum, one of the two regional museums of the National Museums of Kenya, was officially opened. Located on the eastern slopes of Mount Kenya in the centre of Meru town, the Museum occupies the old District Commissioner's Office which was constructed in 1917. There are three rooms of exhibits. The first shows the natural history of the area: birds, mammals and trees. The second room displays the material culture of the Meru peoples. The last room has been set aside for temporary exhibits; presently, photographs of the peoples and the region are on view. Additionally, there is an indoor lecture hall equipped with a film projector.

Outside the Museum in the garden are examples of three traditional type Meru houses, fully furnished. There is a small craft shop as well, an outdoor theatre, and a pond where fish can be seen. There is even a pet tortoise which roams around; on his back is painted "Meru Museum" to protect him if he gets out of the Museum compound.

Visitors driving to Meru National Park should certainly stop at the Meru Museum to enhance their knowledge of the Meru peoples, their culture and the natural history of the area. The Curator, Mr. George Kirigia, is most willing to help those people wishing to learn more about the Meru region.

In Retrospect

The following information was published in the local press in June 1963 illustrating the unhappy state of affairs at Lambwe Valley in the Kisumu area of Central Kenya:

Professional trappers have been called out to save wild game from the worst outbreak of poaching in Kenya in years.

Gangs of up to 300 tribesmen are said to be responsible for the outbreak in Lambwe Valley near Lake Victoria.

In the last six months, gangs have slaughtered half of the last sizable herd of roan antelope in Kenya and nearly three quarters of the last remaining Jackson's hartebeest.

"There is a complete breakdown of law and order. There is an armed battle every weekend. I have never seen such a massacre as this; you would need an army to stop it"—Kenya's Chief Game Warden.

After thirteen years, the Lambwe Valley has now been declared a National Park to protect what remains of the game in this area. According to recent reports received there are still Roan Antelope to be seen but in nothing like the numbers that were to be found in this area fifteen years ago. According to latest reports approximately two hundred Roan Antelope form the main herd which has remained constant in size over the last few years. There is no shortage of breeding males and the static herd count indicates continued poaching in the area. It is to be hoped that with National Park status the poaching problem will come under control and the herd will slowly start to recover from the ravages of man.

Three new nature reserves

"THE following report submitted by Mr. Ted Norris has been based on information given by the Honourable Minister of Natural Resources, in a letter addressed to Mr. Byron Georgiadis.

We are also grateful for the kind assistance given by Mr. R. Oruko, Forestry Officer in charge of Kakamega Forest.

THE following three areas have been set aside in which no operation is permitted so as to preserve the uniqueness of this Kenyan forest of complex structure and diversity of species.

1. Yala River Nature Reserve
THIS area amounts to 535 hectares or, approximately two square miles.

The Reserve is a perfect example of primeval rain forest, tranquil and untouched.

It is a very valuable area owing to its inaccessibility. Walking is the only way of entry.

2. Forest Station Nature Reserve
THIS area amounts to 305 hectares or, a little over one square mile.

3. Kisere Nature Reserve
THIS area amounts to 472 hectares or nearly two square miles and is completely surrounded by a heavy human population, upon it.

Observations
THE total of these Nature Reserves only amounts to approximately five square miles.

Such a small area would appear inadequate in view of the pressure being put on land today. It is doubtful if these Reserves are sufficiently viable for the majority of birds which are indigenous to the Kakamega Forest generally.

Ecology handbooks

'Counting Animals', by Dr. M. Norton-Griffiths is the first in a series on techniques in African wildlife ecology published by African Wildlife Leadership Foundation. Further handbooks, by other authors, will cover 'Animal Distributions in Relation to Resources', 'Predators', 'Population Dynamics of Large Mammals' and 'Ecological Monitoring'. The level of these handbooks will be as simple as possible, depending on the subject matter.

If this series is successful, additional handbooks will be written to cover other topics in African wildlife ecology.

Copies of this publication may be obtained through the Nairobi office of the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation. If outside of Kenya please send a dollar postal order for U.S.$6.00 per copy within Kenya, payment may be made with Kenya Shillings at the rate of 50 Shillings per copy. In this case, payment should be made in cash or with an uncrossed cheque or uncrossed postal money order made out to the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation.

Anti-Poaching Donations

The Society is most grateful to the many individuals who have so kindly donated money to the Society to help in our anti-poaching campaign.

"Have you a blocked account in Kenya? If so, and you would like to make a donation to the Society from this account, we may be able to help.

Please write to the Executive Secretary, East African Wild Life Society, P.O. Box 20110, Nairobi, Kenya."

Amboseli Elephant Research

THE Amboseli Elephant Research Project is asking two basic questions: How does the habitat affect elephants; and how do the elephants affect the habitat? They sound simple, but getting at the answers is not easy. . . .

The Project began in 1972 as a continuation of Harvey Croze's elephant studies when he moved from the Serengeti Research Institute to the University of Nairobi. It was a logical single species spinoff from the Ilkisongo Ecological Monitoring Project which David Western had been running since 1967. Western's study has elegantly described the ecological dynamics of Amboseli (Africana, Vol. 5 No. 1), and provided a perfect environment for a study on the weightiest herbivore.

Moreover, Amboseli is an ideal elephant watching ground. The elephants are the most tranquil in East Africa—with the possible exception of Ian Douglas-Hamilton's subjects in Lake Manyara National Park (Africana, Vol. 5 No. 2)—since Amboseli has enjoyed protected status since 1948. The Masai are in many ways ideal landlords for wildlife, and their continued presence has habituated the Amboseli animals to the point where they are almost totally unperturbed by watching humans—a state of affairs convenient for tourists as well as researchers.

There are several good reasons for the study of elephants in Amboseli. First, along with man and fire, they are dramatic habitat modifiers and play an important role in the dynamics of many changing African ecosystems. Secondly, they wander in and out of Amboseli National Park onto private Maasai ranchlands and we need to know how much weight they would contribute to any wildlife compensation fees which may be levied on the Amboseli animals. Finally, they are fascinating beasts, and the opportunity to study undisturbed populations is fast fading.

Radio tracking

From the Society-sponsered Radio Tracking portion of the Project and from re-sightings of over 300 known individuals in 30-odd social groups, Croze and his collegues have made some interesting observations.

Radio-collared matriarchs lead their family units to particular parts of the habitat, apparently in much the same way that some of us prefer the coast north of Mombasa and some of us south. There appears to be a level of social organisation between the family unit and the population which results in Amboseli being divided up into overlapping but clearly distinct elephant "clan" home-ranges.

Why do some elephants use certain parts of the Basin, and how do they decide who goes where? Cynthia Moss (author of *Portraits in the Wild*) is studying the social structure of the Amboseli elephants, to tackle such questions. She is sponsored in part by the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation and in part by the procedes from her book. She is looking in particular at the dominance and decision-making roles within family units, as well as the relationships between family units.

When "Sona" moves out of the Basin during the rains, is she deciding where to go, or are all the group members following someone or something else? Why does "Echo"'s group not leave the basin as Sona and Co. do? And who or what decides that they will spend more time in Longinye Swamp than, say, Torn-Ear and her family unit?



Harvey Croze making certain that "Bertha" is asleep.

Ms. Moss will explore the behavioural mechanism of these spatial quirks and get at the answers to these and similar questions. But behind the group's habitat preference must lie some fundamental reason. Food is about as fundamental as you can get, and a research student is being recruited who will investigate the feeding ecology of the Amboseli elephants. What do different groups eat in their areas? What is available for them to eat? How much does it cost them in terms of energy to get at their preferred foods? Together with Ms. Moss, the student will also monitor the effects of the different feeding strategies on the elephants as well as the elephants impact on the Amboseli vegetation.

Redeploying radios

Both studies involve continuous monitoring of the same elephant groups, so the Society radios will be soon re-deployed onto key matriarchs. They will then be able to be located from the ground and the air quickly and reliably. This is vital, for the elephant researchers in Amboseli regret every minute lost in their studies; for them and the elephants time is very precious. . . .

The Society Works

Farmers and Leopards do not live well together and Leopards soon learn, given the chance, that it is much easier to catch sheep than Bushbuck! Therefore, prompt efficient action is necessary to save both.

Mr. John Caira, a Society Member and Manager of a large estate in Ruiru, did just this. The Leopard took a sheep on the night of 28th June, a box trap was set and baited and a four-month old Leopard cub was trapped.

Mr. Caira contacted the Society, who organised transport direct to National Park Headquarters, and by 2.00 p.m. on the 29th June the cub was safely in the Orphanage. It was obvious that the cub had not killed the sheep, so on the night of 29th June, the trap was set again and some time during the night, mother walked in and was caught.

The Society once again stepped in, and transferred mother to the orphanage.

It is hoped that they will now be released in a National Park where they can concentrate their efforts on Bushbuck!

Notes from the National Parks

NAIROBI

Since the last issue, the wildebeest left with the meagre rains which fell in April; most of the zebra followed them making it difficult for the lion families with small cubs to obtain sufficient food.

Some of these cubs unfortunately have died through malnutrition in spite of artificial feeding having been carried out to tide them over until more game comes back into the park.

Luckily, in July, the zebra started returning and, at the time of writing, the wildebeest are just over the boundary.

Fierce Cubs

The lions Donata and Sandra have only six cubs, having lost one; Tana and Galana, have five, having lost three which is very creditable considering these are first litters ever for both mothers.

Visitors were given a great thrill one Sunday afternoon when a leopard was found lying at the very top of an acacia tree. The reason for this elevated position became apparent when the lions, Marimba and Marula with their five cubs, which are 16 months old and almost grown up were seen to be sleeping under the tree.

The cubs had possibly chased the leopard up the tree and were going to keep him there at least, until dark.

Cheetah

Two young male cheetahs were seen in June, luckily, giving visitors a good, clear view. One was identified as Paul, the son of Patience, born in February 1973. The other one was not recognised so, possibly, he had been born out of the park. It is good to know that there is still something of Patience in the park as, it is now nearly certain that she will never be seen again nor, her family of cubs as they have undoubtedly been poached.

The female cheetah, Mara, is still in the park with her three cubs.

Nesting Time

The Verreaux eagles are again nesting in their euphobia tree in Leopard Gorge also, a pair of Martial eagles have rebuilt their nest which collapsed in the stream near No 18A.

Uganda National Parks

The report carried below is taken from a series of notes relating to various National Parks in Uganda, written by C.E. Lloyd-Worth in June of this year. It is quite some considerable time since any news concerning these Parks has reached us and we are grateful to Mr. Lloyd Worth for sending us these notes. However, it should be pointed out, perhaps, that few tour operators in Nairobi, if any, have organised safaris to Uganda in recent months.

—Editor.

Kabelaga (formerly the Murchinson Falls) National Park must by now be world famous for the Launch trip to the foot of the Falls. A spectacular sight and an attraction in itself, to which must be added the close-up views of numbers of hippos and crocodiles, to say nothing of the variety of game and birds that may be seen on the banks of the Nile as one cruises leisurely along.

Ruwenzori (formerly the Queen Elizabeth) National Park noted for its Tree climbing lion at Ishasha, the Kazinga Channel Boat trip and, after rain, frequent views of the snow clad Mountains of the Moon. This Park is the home of the Uganda Institute of Ecology under the efficient care of its Chief Research Officer (Dr. Eric Edroma) who not only takes a great interest in the activities of this Institution but also finds time to visit the other Parks. During his Game counting visits to Kidepo, I have had the privilege of meeting Dr. Edroma and there is no doubt Uganda is fortunate in having a man of his calibre in charge of the Institute.

Kidepo Valley National Park. Here is a Game Park which all Tour Operators in East Africa and Overseas should include in their Itineraries whenever possible.

Situated in beautiful surroundings in the mountainous part of the Karamoja District, bordering on the Sudan, Kidepo is in one of the most isolated parts of Uganda and this isolation adds considerably to the charm of this Park. There is an air of peace and tranquility that exists in no other Game Park

Kidepo has a large variety of Game and in good numbers. In addition to the Big Five, there are Zebra, Roan Antelope, Bright's Gazelle and Ostrich which are not to be found in either of the other Uganda National Parks. Elephant, Buffalo and Lion appear to have increased in number during the last three years. This year many more large herds of elephant and buffalo have frequently been seen. For the ornithologist Kidepo has plenty of interest to offer.

Kidepo possesses an extremely efficient Ranger Force who undergo regular training on military lines. In addition to their usual duties they are from time to time called upon to deal with Cattle Raiders attempting to use the Park as a means of escape to the Sudan. This is a precarious operation as the Cattle Raiders are equipped with modern weapons which cannot be matched by the old pattern rifles used by the Rangers. The graves in the Kidepo Park of Rangers who have been killed in action since the establishment of this Park are evidence of the risks these men run in carrying out their duties. These risks would be greatly reduced if the Ranger Force could be supplied with more modern weapons.

Poaching for Ivory at Kidepo is on a very small scale. It is, in fact, neglible by comparison with figures for other Game Parks in East Africa. Only nine cases of elephants having been poached in the last three years.

Visitors to Kidepo are assured of a warm welcome. Everybody is out to please and nothing is too much trouble. The entire Staff from the Chief Warden down is out to make one's visit to Kidepo something to remember.

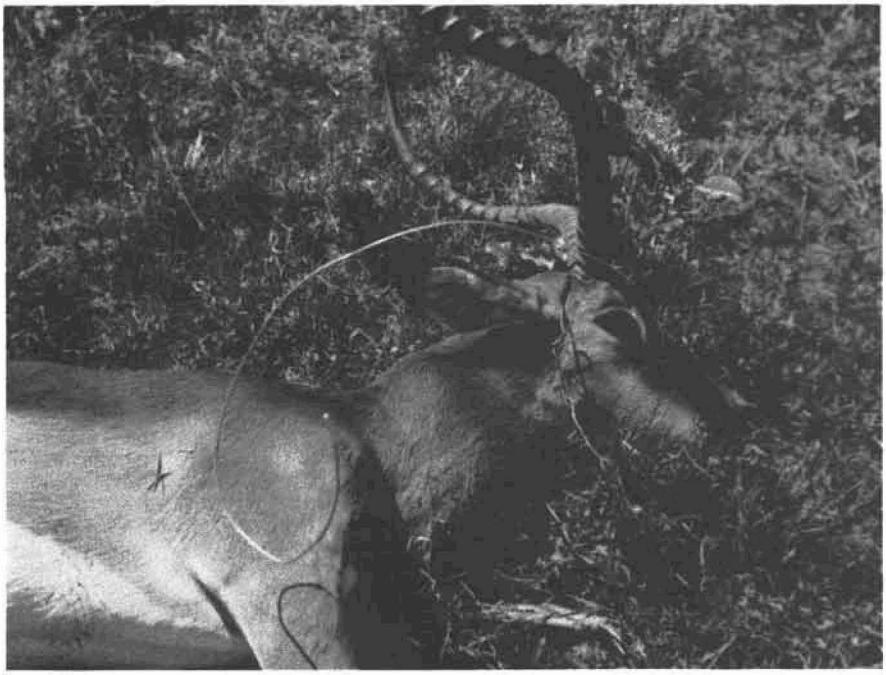
Those who know Kidepo will be pleased to learn that Mr. Paul Ssali-Naluma, who took over from Iain Ross in February 1973, was, earlier this year confirmed in the rank of Chief Warden. His promotion is well deserved for he is doing an excellent job and is maintaining the very high standard of efficiency and discipline set by his predecessor, under even more difficult conditions.

Kidepo, owing to its remotness, presents many problems unknown to other Game Parks in Uganda and it is doubtful whether any other Warden could have faced up to them in the same manner as Paul. Such a Park as this calls for dedicated service of the highest order and Uganda has been fortunate in having found in Mr. Paul Ssali-Naluma the right person for such a responsible post.

Five days of agony

One the skin trade did not get. This animal was found still alive after five days of agony, when it was shot to put it out of its misery. Found in the Laikipia District.

Photograph: Mrs. J. Hognarud.





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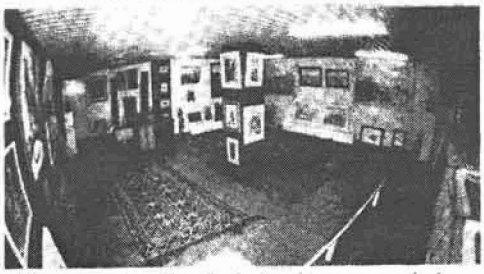

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THE ELSA WILD ANIMAL APPEAL

"Born Free" Safari

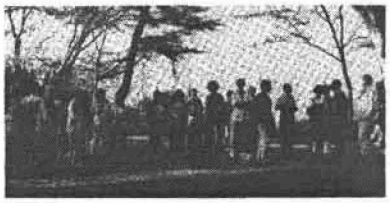
THE group of 22 people driving to Nairobi from Amboseli was not an ordinary group of tourists returning from a game run. The four minibuses carried the first "Born Free" Safari of the Elsa Wild Animal Appeal—U.S.A. members, led by Executive Director, Leo Lobsenz. Among the group was the President of Elsa-U.S.A.'s Board of Directors, Peter Rasmussen and many of the volunteer workers who have done so much to make Elsa a vital force for the protection of wildlife in the United States and through out the world.

Elsa-U.S.A., which is headquartered in North Hollywood, California, has been a leader in various co-operative efforts among other wildlife organizations, including the East African Wildlife Society and the World Wildlife Fund. Elsa funds—largely contributed by the nationwide youth members of the *Elsa Clubs of America*—have worked in East Africa to support, among others the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya and the African Wildlife Leadership Foundation. So, the members of this safari had a very special interest in this great variety of wildlife found nowhere else in the world.

There were many highlights during our 22 day safari. Perhaps the most illuminating was a special visit to our founder, Joy Adamson, at her home in Naivasha. Joy's warmth and sincerity made the day a memorable experience for everyone.

It would be difficult to try and choose one "most fabulous" event from the many we shared—and we were fortunate in being able to witness some truly rare things: a serval cat hunting in broad daylight at Amboseli; the famed "Orphans of Tsavo" out for a stroll; a cheetah with her cubs at Masai Mara and another stalking her prey at Amboseli; a leopard at Samburu; the White Rhino at Meru, home of "Born Free's" Elsa; ten Bongo arriving *en masse* at the Ark; elephants tearing down a large acacia at Manyara—blocking the road completely; elegant Lesser Kudu at Tsavo; a large pride of lion with 14 cubs feeding on a buffalo kill at Seronera.

All the sights were not pleasant ones however. None of us will ever forget the look of the two starving Tsavo lionesses trying to find nourishment in a dried-up piece of skin from an old Kudu kill—every rib showing under the loose skin of these two hapless great cats. Nor are we likely to forget the sight of scores of elephant bones that gleamed so incongruously against the dry, red earth at this same park—or the rhino carcasses lying in a river bed—or the dead elephant, covered with flees and maggots, with a nearly dead vulture caught hopelessly in its entrails.

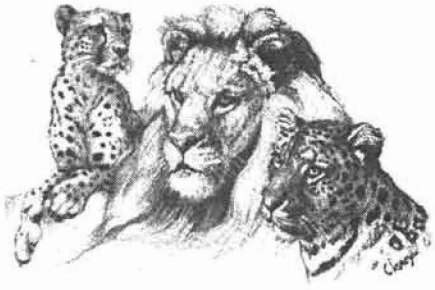


"Born Free" safari members at Joy Adamson's home.

It seems fitting that our final game run—at Amboseli—was the most spectacular of all. We were observing a pride of lion—all youngsters, with the exception of two lionesses—when suddenly, one of the lionesses froze, staring past us. A group of six wildebeeste was approaching in single file. We watched in silence as she crept behind some low bushes, disappearing before our eyes. The unsuspecting wildebeeste filed past and, almost faster than our eyes could follow, the lioness pulled the last animal down. We actually saw her grab her prey's muzzle in her jaws. The struggle was awesome and, when the second lioness rushed up to relieve the first, we were treated to a demonstration of co-operative hunting that was truly impressive. When the wildebeeste finally ceased its struggling, the first lioness had already gone off to collect her pride. As we drove away, the second lioness had begun to feed. It was reassuring to see that the presence of so many vehicles constantly plying the tracks at Amboseli had not interfered with this successful hunt.

The Elsa-U.S.A. group has returned to America with renewed optimism that its efforts to protect wildlife will be meaningful. There is still hope that the scenes we had witnessed will be repeated and repeated in future generations. We all realized that the ultimate responsibility lies with us—and with our children. Perhaps, one day, the word "endangered" will, itself, be extinct from our human vocabulary.

Elsa Christmas Cards



This year's Christmas Cards for the Elsa Wild Animal Appeal — with the design of the endangered "big cats" of Africa donated by M. Clancy of Los Angeles.

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND – KENYA

Notes compiled by Ellis Monks

Lake Nakuru Controversy

Considerable alarm has been expressed in recent weeks as it has become apparent that the factory in Nakuru is going ahead with the manufacture of copper oxy-chloride, a chemical extremely toxic to algae.

Originally licensed by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in December 1975, there has been a storm of protest from other Government departments and conservationists for this factory presents a serious potential hazard to Lake Nakuru—"The Lake of a Million Flamingos"—the Nakuru Sewage system and Nakuru township. Insufficient precautions have been taken to prevent pollution of the atmosphere and to protect the lake and sewage system in the event of emergency spillage at the factory.

As the factory directors say "Why pick on us?" This is in fact a very valid point, but this is yet one more factory that has been set up in Nakuru which is capable of polluting the environment and the catchment basin for the Lake. This is one more area in the world where "progress" in the form of factories is likely to spell disaster to the whole ecology of the area. As there is no Minister for the Environment each of the other ministries is able to reject responsibility for this insidious destruction of the environment. Although U.N.E.P. is located in Nairobi it is not prepared to accept any responsibility for action to be taken on its doorstep. The National Environmental Secretariat of Kenya is merely an advisory body with no executive powers. Whilst the Minister of Natural Resources is responsible for gazetted forests he is not responsible for the wholesale destruction of trees for charcoal outside the forests. The Minister of Tourism and Wildlife is responsible for the wildlife within the country but is not responsible for the habitat which is vital for the survival of the wildlife. The Minister for Commerce and Industry can license a factory which could destroy a National Park but the Minister for Tourism and Wildlife is powerless to stop it.

The World Wildlife Fund is particularly concerned as, prior to Operation Tiger, the Lake Nakuru development was the biggest project undertaken by WWF, costing over £250,000 in all.

Cheetah Study

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature commissioned Dr. Norman Myers to study cheetah and leopard south of the Sahara. The Cheetah Study is now available and the Leopard Study has just been printed and will be available shortly, the complete report will be reviewed in our next issue. In the meantime it is interesting to look at some of the highlights of Dr. Myers cheetah survey.

As far as Kenya is concerned the estimate of numbers is under 2,000 with a range of 1,000 to 3,000 progressively decreasing. Dr. Myers suggests that the 20,000 sq. km of northern frontier territories affords little-disturbed range for cheetah but does remark that poaching has been extensive. This was written before the escalation of poaching. Today the poaching is on such an appalling scale that not only is the cheetah itself endangered from poaching but also its food supply, the smaller antelopes.

Population pressures are affecting the cheetah as all other wildlife, Dr. Myers points out that in the environs of Tsavo Park the population is growing at the rate of 10–35% per year. As the area has suffered inadequate rainfall for the last 6 years it is small wonder that the situation is becoming desperate for man and animal alike.

In Tanzania the number is estimated at about 1,000 with 450 of this number in Northern Tanzania, but reportedly the rapid spread of population and human activity is seriously affecting the cheetah.

In Uganda the total is estimated at around 170, but Iain does not take into account any recent depredations resulting from the political economic situation there.

International agreement on Polar Bears

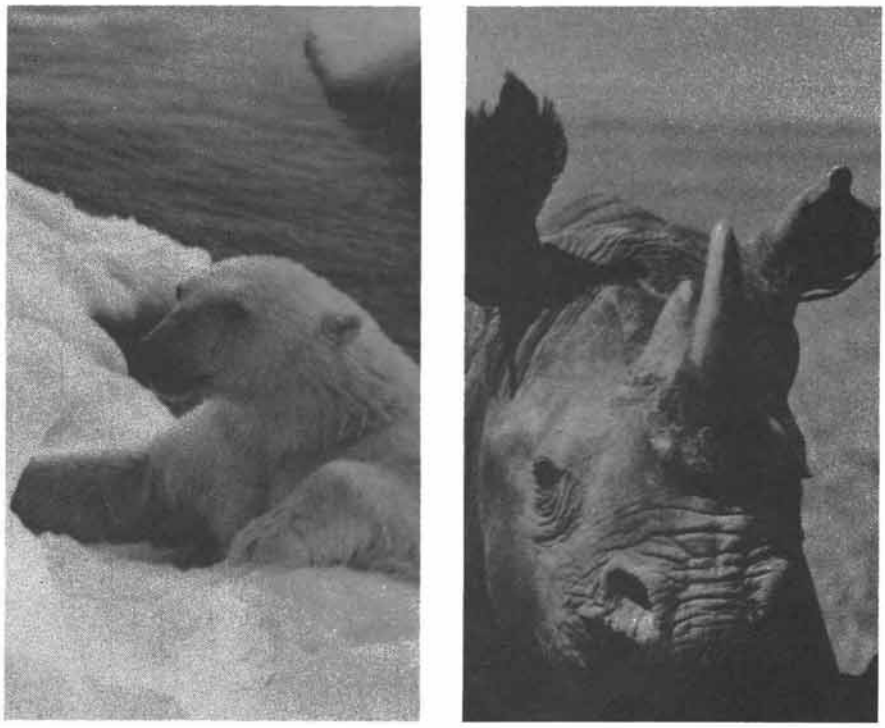
The World Wildlife Fund welcomes the coming into force on May 26th of the first international agreement on the conservation of polar bears.

The Agreement prohibits the hunting, killing or capturing of polar bears except for bona fide scientific purposes, for conservation purposes or by local people, such as eskimos, using traditional methods in the exercise of their traditional rights.

An important feature of the agreement commits the parties to protecting the ecosystems of which the polar bears are a part, including their denning and migration routes. These are liable to considerable disturbance from increasing human penetration, especially in the search for oil.

The Polar bear is already showing signs of recovery from the decline due to killing for fur, trophies and sport as a result of conservation measures already taken by individual countries. The exact numbers are not known but the total population is believed to be less than 20,000.

It is to be noted that the number is in excess of the number of Black Rhinoceros which is still permitted to be hunted and enjoys no form of protection. The World Wildlife Fund Kenya has asked that the black rhinoceros should be placed in the Third Schedule of Protected Species permitting no hunting.



The Polar Bear which now enjoys protection and the Black Rhino which is still hunted despite its low numbers.

Correspondence and donations to the WORLD WILDLIFE FUND KENYA should be addressed to Box 40075 Nairobi.



Extinction of the Cape Hunting Dog

Cape Hunting Dog. The Cape Hunting Dog (Lycaon pictus) appears to be seriously threatened with extinction in southern Africa according to a study now being carried out with WWF support.

Mr. Allan Reich, of Yale University, reports that only about 260 dogs are to be found in the 182,000 square kilometre Kruger National Park, their main stronghold.

In the Kalahari Gemsbok Park, 9,000 sq. kms. only one pack survives which comprised 8 members and appears doomed. The pack left the Park and two were shot by stock breeders. In an effort to get the remainder back into the park one female died during immobilisation and the remaining female injured a back leg.

In his work in Kruger Park Mr. Reich recorded instances of dogs being killed by lions.

The study is now extending into the Kalahari Khutse Reserve in Botswana.

When linked with the work being done in Tanzania by George and Lory Frame (see Enigma of the Wild Dog- July 1976 "Africana") this will provide a valuable study of the Wild Dog within its range.

The IUCN has recommended that the dogs should have full legal protection and any control measures carefully supervised. *In Kenya the World Wildlife Fund Kenya has recommended that the Wild Dog should be placed in the Third Schedule of Protected Animals, at present it may be shot by hunters on licence.* It is most unfortunate that a threatened species should still be permitted to be hunted.

Iguana Rescue



Unique Iguanas rescued from threatened Extinction. Unique iguanas on Santa Cruz island in the Galapagos Archipelago have been rescued by scientists to prevent their extinction by dogs and cats introduced by man.

The Iguanas were once widely distributed all over Santa Cruz but by last year only about 300 survived. At the end of last March the number were down to 30 or 40 and their extinction seemed certain. However, scientists captured 27 and removed them to the Research Station where it is hoped they will breed in captivity. The station, supported by WWF, has already successfully bred rare giant tortoises also threatened by dogs, cats and their food supply by goats.

Although the Ecuadirian National Park Service, with WWF assistance, is trying to wipe out the feral species of dogs, cats and goats on the islands many have become difficult to hunt.

WWF around the world

"Operation Tiger" shows that as a result of conservation methods financed with the help of WWF the tiger population is now steadily increasing. From most areas the increase is of the order of 30%. Improving the Reserves and protecting them from fires is producing satisfying results.

Vehicles for Conservation. The most pressing demand on WWF funds is for vehicles, in the few years of its existence 200 vehicles have been supplied all over the world, not less than 50 in 1975.

Italy The government of Italy has indicated that adequate administrative structures were being arranged for the acceptance of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species.

India The establishment of Guindy National Park in Madras makes this one of the world's few parks within the boundaries of a large city. The park is essentially a Deer Park containing also the famous Madras Snake Park financed by WWF and comprises some 600 acres of natural forest.

Panama. Following a WWF financed ecological survey of the 11,410 ft. volcano, Volcan Baru, in western Panama in 1972 it was concluded that the best and wisest type of land use in this area would be the establishment of a National Park. As a result the volcano was declared a National Park in July 1976, becoming the first national Park in that country.

Asia Work has started on a study project of the Javan Tiger in Indonesia.

The Gunung Leuser area of Sumatra, home of the orang utan, has been provided with an educational unit.

In the Bhavnagar Sanctuary in Gujarat 900 of the 4,000 blackbuck died during a cyclone and torrential rains that hit the West coast of India.

Re-introduction of the European Lynx



The European Lynx was one of the many predators of Europe, but has been wiped out in most western and central areas. In Yugoslavia, with the assistance of the WWF, six lynx were re-introduced into the wild in early 1973, by the end of 1975 there were five locations with permanent lynx populations and the numbers have grown to an estimated 15–17. The public and hunters are cooperating in the collecting of information. Re-introductions have been carried out experimentally in Germany, Italy and Switzerland. There are now encouraging signs that the lynx will successfully re-settle the territories they occupied nearly a century ago.

WILDLIFE CLUBS OF KENYA by Sandy Price

Another First for WCK

July saw another first for the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya: a regional rally and anti-poaching demonstration, entirely conceived by student members themselves. The only other such non-political demonstration in favour of a natural resource that we know of in Africa was also conducted by Wildlife Clubs of Kenya (1972), but it was organised on a national basis from WCK H/Q in Nairobi and held within the city. In both instances, however, the bulk of the organisation was carried out by students.

This time, Kangaru School in Embu, with a very active Wildlife Club, organised a day-long rally and demonstration on Saturday, July 24th. They requested some assistance from the WCK National h/q staff in Nairobi, but essentially the rally was organised by Kangaru's Wildlife Club members, with other participants from 10 schools. We can hope that this important event will serve as an example to be followed by other Wildlife Clubs throughout the country (and there are now 356 Wildlife Club with more than 15,000 members). Certainly, it is encouraging to note the trend of more and more young Kenyans coming forward with a desire to DO something about the appalling poaching and deforestation and other anti-conservation tendencies which they are aware of through reading the papers and seeing with their own eyes.

The Wildlife Club rally in Embu began with the arrival on Saturday morning of bus loads of Wildlife Club members from neighbouring and distant schools. The assembled group numbered about 600 students. They were given a warm welcome to Kangaru School by the Club Chairman, Hussein Adan Isack (winner of the WCK Essay Competition in 1975), by the Wildlife Club Patron, biology teacher Mr. Ngare, and by Nathaniel Chumo, WCK National Organiser, who had journeyed up from Nairobi along with 4 other WCK staff members, the day before.

By 9.30 a.m., all the students were inside to view an early-morning film show —a stunning and important film called "Africa: Forest or Desert?", made by Simon Trevor and donated to the WCK by the World Wildlife Fund. Following the film show, Nathaniel Chumo planted a young fig tree seedling on the school grounds, assisted by several officers from the Kenya Forest Dept. Nathaniel, in his brief speech, urged the students to do more than merely plant "ceremonial" trees; and the District Forest Officer offered to supply numerous free seedlings to any Wildlife Club group prepared to undertake their care.

A series of interesting and colourful displays had been assembled on Kangaru's school grounds, so that the hundreds of Wildlife Club members could alternate between these and another film called the "Ivory Poachers". This film was also made by Simon Trevor, and donated to WCK for education purposes by the WWF and the E.A. Wild Life Society.

The displays included materials from WCK Headquarters illustrating what Wildlife Clubs around the country were doing, and an array of confiscated poaching weapons and trophies provided and explained by officers of the Game Department in Embu. Kangaru Wildlife Club members gave tours of their cleverly planned Nature Trail, and displayed exhibits of their own making. Nathaniel Chumo gave a slide talk on poaching, to illustrate some aspects of the problem which were not covered in "The Ivory Poachers" film. He mentioned spotted cats, zebras, and other animals besides elephants which are killed for illegal gain.

After a picnic lunch set off by 500 free soft drinks donated by Coca Cola Ltd. and transported from Nairobi by WCK staff, it was time to assemble for the anti-poaching demonstration.



Kenya Game Department staff explain their anti-poaching display to student Wildlife Club members. The display included bows, poisoned arrows, snares, gin traps, and animal "trophies".

The send-off consisted of short talks by leaders of the ten Wildlife Clubs, and by members of WCK National H/Q staff. Many students had created imaginative placards to carry on the 3-mile march to the Embu Stadium. Local police officers had been alerted and were on hand to keep people and traffic from mixing, and the townspeople of Embu were treated to the amazing sight of 600 students marching peacefully into the centre of town with their anti-poaching signs held high over their heads.

At the stadium, the marchers were met and addressed by the Hon. Mr. Clement Lubembe, an Assistant Minister for Tourism and Wildlife. He had driven up from Nairobi to speak on behalf of the Minister himself, and also to accept a petition signed by nearly a thousand young Kenyans. The petition was prepared for transmission to H.E. Mzee Jomo Kenyatta the President of Kenya. It stressed the students' concern at the increased anti-conservation tendencies in the country, and their willingness to do anything within their power to curb these tendencies.

By 4.30 in the afternoon, the day's rally was over in good time for students to make their way back to their various schools. There had been some press coverage, though not as much as if the rally had taken place nearer Nairobi. Nonetheless, many hundreds of students who participated in the rally went away with a better sense of what WCK stood for, with more ideas on how to run active and effective Wildlife Clubs in their own schools, and with a feeling of having fought back at the frustration they often feel in the face of blatant misuse of Kenya's natural resources.



Anti-poaching placards held high by some of the 600 Wildlife Clubs of Kenya members who rallied on July 24th to show their concern for Kenya's vanishing animals.

John McDougall talks to Prince Bernhard — in Kenya on the eve of his resignation as WWF President . . .

Why I am a hunter

HE is frequently mistaken for just about anyone, including once a third-rate film star. But he is at once many things, which might account for it: jet pilot (F 28's), horsemen (from the age of six) international businessman, pacifist, ambassador extraordinary and champion of the silent minority—wildlife.

Bernhard the Prince of the Netherlands, whose interests are still listed in the *International Who's Who* as a "hunter", is also international president of the World Wildlife Fund. He had just concluded another visit to Kenya where he was, for once, perfectly happy to sit and discuss wildlife:—

I wanted to know, for example, if he's really a hunter—a killer of buffalo and bears? And how does this reconcile with the aspirations of an organisation dedicated to conserving animals? And, anyway, why should a man with so many business and other international activities be bothered with animals?

PB, as he is often referred to, turns out to be the archetypal hunter who is totally convinced that he is much more a practical conservationist than, say, the sentimentalist lover of wild "pussy cats." Because of his present position at the head of WWF, he has inevitably been challenged and branded a hypocrite. But his concern for animals is genuine, and it stems from his hunting activities, which he started at the age of 15.

It is not the private hunter who is the villain in Africa, he feels—but the organised poachers and their "gangster methods" of killing which "could diminish a species and lead eventually to its extinction.

"It is true I am a pacifist," he said, "That is because I have been through a war. I have seen destruction and waste and I don't want to see it happen again."

It's the same with animals. About 14 years ago, Prince Bernhard became aware of the rapid decline of game in Africa and decided to do something positive about it:—

McDougall:
How did WWF come about?

Bernhard:
I got together with a few friends and one of them, Sir Peter Scott, was a member of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, a government sponsored organisation of scientists whose activities were handicapped by lack of money.

They wanted to save wildlife—and it was clear that if they had funds, various schemes could be activated to save fauna and flora whose survival was threatened by increased population and land hunger. This was the beginning of a worldwide fund-raising organisation—in 1967.

McDougall:
How much money has been channeled through the Fund since then?

Bernhard:
Many of our grants are what we call *matched* grants in which other conservation societies, governments or even private individuals contribute dollar for dollar with WWF, or otherwise participate in projects. WWF have spent about $10 million, and the total contribution has been about double that for global wildlife projects."

In September 1973 Prince Bernhard visited Kenya and in particular toured Lake Nakuru National Park. That was the first time he had made such a visit and he was profoundly impressed—"magnificent" was how he described the sight of a million and more flamingo at the lake edge. At the same time he had presented, on behalf of the World Wildlife Fund, a cheque for K£175,000 towards the cost of extending and conserving the lake environment—and this is now the subject of a dispute which had led to a recommendation by the local WWF representatives for the suspension of Kenya projects.



McDougall:
Why was Lake Nakuru selected as singly the largest WWF project?

Bernhard:
Of the 46 projects approved for finance in Kenya, Project 411, Lake Nakuru, was given very high priority by our scientists. It is unique—or was!

McDougall:
But why do we need wildlife, anyway?

Bernhard:
"We firmly believe that if humans destroy the natural resources of the world, and wildlife is a natural resources, it is a first step to eventually destroying ourselves. Man is a natural animal basically and he needs open spaces, green areas and nature—forests, steppe, ocean and tundras.

If he destroys nature he will destroy himself. This is the last generation, we believe, which can do anything to stop the destruction.

And part of this, I feel is that game has to be managed—this is absolutely necessary. Wildlife by itself, concentrated in parks or reserves can get out of natural control. It is up to the scientists, through research and study, to establish how many should be culled to maintain a balance.

McDougall:
How much pressure can WWF exert on governments to legislate to protect global environment—for example, for controls on atmospheric and oceanic pollution?

Bernhard:
Very little. All we can do is recommend that this or that should be done; and once a project has been approved for finance we don't interfere. It is up to the local authorities to manager it.

McDougall:
Why is it necessary for WWF to have a Nairobi-based branch office?

Bernhard:
It is not so much a branch office, but what we call a National Appeal. We have them currently in, I think, 19 countries. In years to come we hope to have 40 or 50.

They have several purposes. They serve to assess priority projects with their own scientists; monitor progress; educate; and raise funds locally among citizens of their own countries. And generally they try to make people aware of the value of what they have in their respective countries.

McDougall:
How does the Kenya organisation of National Parks compare to other national parks around the world?

Bernard:
I have seen quite a number now in the last 20 years and Kenya parks were in the list of the world's top few. The parks are easy to reach and are not saturated with visitors. Incidentally, we have a dozen people working on that now—the Kruger Park in South Africa, for example, a beautiful park and well-run, but it has reached saturation point. Of the American parks there is no question that the tourist figures are too high.

McDougall:
Do you think the current conservation concern is a passing phase or is it a real movement which will eventually overcome excessive exploitation of wildlife?

Bernard:
I am absolutely convinced that it is not a temporary phase, and equally convinced that the threat to endangered creatures will be overcome and that wildlife will survive.

We hope soon to get a moratorium on whales, for example—some are already protected, and with regard to spotted cats many nations have already banned dealing in them. Once that is achieved their numbers will recover.

Among our successes are the removal, breeding and subsequent repatriation of highly endangered species such as Hawaiian geese, which were raised-in England. Five hundred were returned to Hawaii.

The last 10 Arabian oryx were taken to Phoenix, Arizona and there is now a herd of more than 100.

I once wrote to President Kennedy about hunting walrus—and that was stopped. 'Project Tiger' too has a long way to go yet, but we have had encouraging results already and there is a good possibility that the tiger will be saved.

We have restored the Indian black buck from Texas breeding herds, while the Javan rhino, its numbers once down to 14 have now climbed to 36.

It is not all good, however . . . for example, at the rate the poor old zebra is being killed off, they will soon be on the endangered list. But we are active now in 60 countries, with 800 or so projects. These are definite achievements, and think we are definitely winning.

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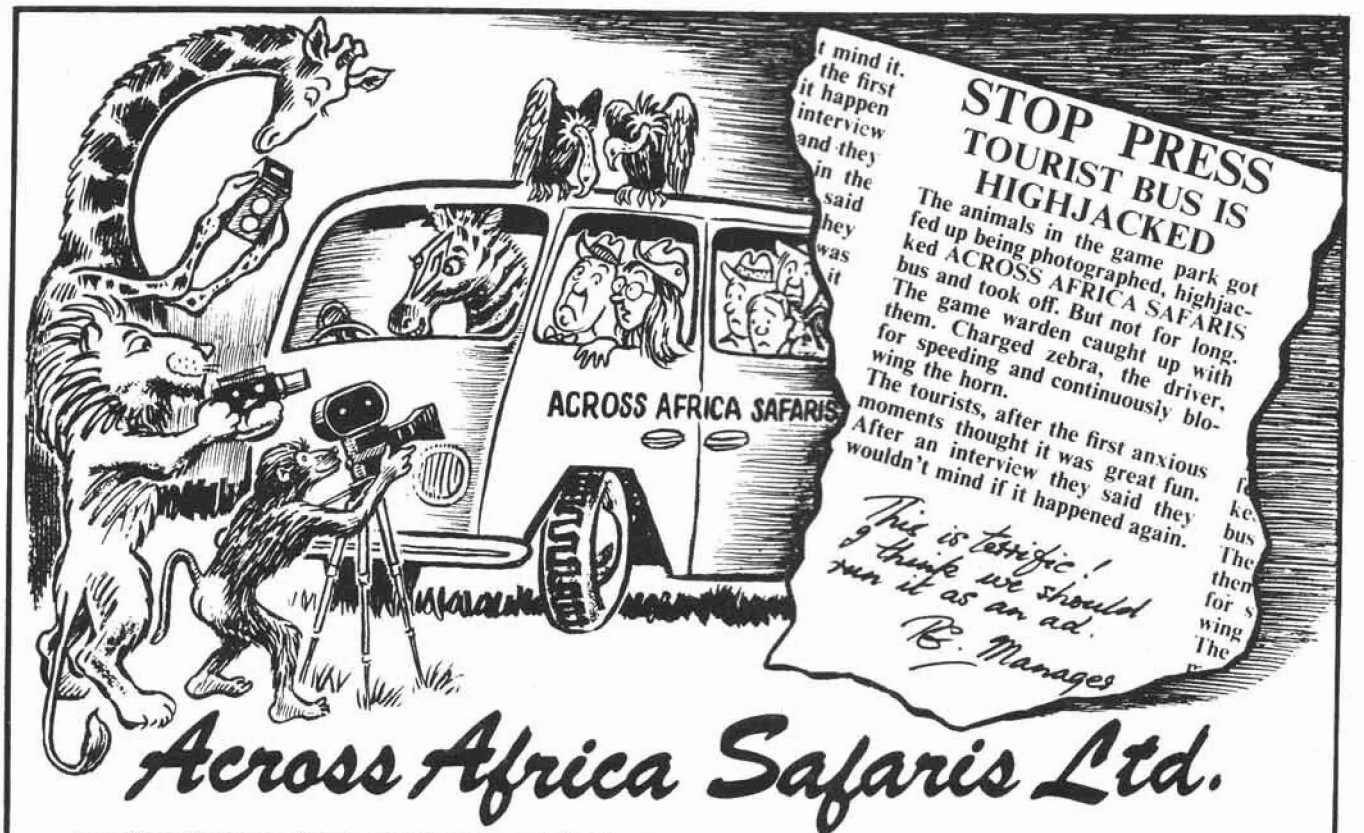

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BOOK REVIEW

Dr. Chryssee MacCasler Perry Martin

Boringly — in praise of overland bums in Africa

DIRTROADS: FOOTLOOSE IN AFRICA. Mary Cole. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1975.

THIS is a romanticised, rambling account of the time spent in Kenya, with a trip to Zaire tacked onto the end, by an Irish "overlander"—which is what Mary Cole calls herself and others who travel around the world with knapsacks on their backs and even heavier chips on their shoulders. The term "overlander" is used to distinguish these travellers from tourist types who jet around the world to stay in one Hilton after another.

The book colourfully depicts the different people whom, so she says overlanders tend to meet. These include local opportunists who make deals for them, including procuring "grass" and, unofficial rates for their travellers' cheques; lorry drivers who give them lifts across bleak terrain; and, most interestingly, the simple people in the bush who befriend the overlanders.

For those of us who willingly pay our own way in Kenya, *Dirtroads* offers new insight on life in this country. Visiting manyattas, trekking across deserts, staying in cheap hotels, and camping on beaches surely constitute enriching experiences and are well worth describing—but it is sad to add that in this case, the pictures are distorted by a trite philosophy held in common by many young people escaping from the restrictions and responsibilities imposed by 20th-century western civilisation.

They see these as not only unnecessary, but even fraught with evil. Therefore, the person who escapes them—like Mary Cole, by coming to Africa "to get the fat off my soul" (*p. 13*)—are owed financial assistance by others and respect as well.

They claim to be the latter-day saints. Only, unlike the holymen of the past, they do not pray for us in return for our favours to them, but heap abuse on us.

In Mary Cole's dictionary, only fellow overlanders and far-out tribesmen are the good guys in this world. The rest of us are held in utter contempt.

With what can only be described as outright cruelty, she attacks the life-style of a wealthy American girl who came to Kenya to pass her time cleaning old bones in the National Museum—for free, as a volunteer.

Why should Mary Cole do this? In my view, the answer to that lies in the conceit of the author herself.

It is difficult not to become bored with the first two parts of this book which are little more than a tribute to the stamina, perseverence, good humour, comradeship, and purity of overlanders in general. This is probably Mary Cole's first book, and she must learn the hard way that writing is a painful pursuit, especially when one does not know where to begin.

Comradeship

Had she started the point where she goes to Maralal to teach school, her book would be far more rewarding reading. Instead, she opens with an account of a journey to Lake Turkana (entitled "*The Rudolf Thing*"), in which she gives herself ample opportunity to exaggerate the perils of such a journey for the purpose of showing the innate qualities of the overlanders.

For example, as regards comradeship: "*During this time nobody asked to drink. We were bound by some strange pact of respect, a feeling of sacredness drifted around us like a cooling cloud which the wind, the pounding sun and the taunt comments could not dispel*" (p. 35).

Chateaubriand in his 19th-century writings expressed this same kind of romanticism—but so much more eloquently!

We come across pages of praise for those who turn against parental ambition; we are told that any extension to "the unwritten rule of give and take" in hostels is practically criminal in that regulations destroy bonds of friendship. We are also subjected to a puritanical cant against the sexual mores of the Germans on their twenty-one-day package holidays at Malindi—which is to be contrasted with the proclaimed purity of the overlanders who "*lay aside their sex for the duration of their journeys and regarded each other first and foremost as people, slipping into friendship under the common bond of hardship and curiosity*" (p. 28).

Who is Mary Cole kidding? Her Mother?

Delightful anecdotes

Finally, we get to Maralal. At long last, the author moves away from her chums and into the bush on her own. She recounts in a delightful, charming manner her experiences inside and out of the classroom with a bunch of Samburu *moran*, Kamba and Luo officials' offspring, Somali and Turkana nomads. We learn how she turns the discarded quarters of a cook into a friendly home where locals freely congregate, making tea for themselves and picking up such small items as used batteries and safety-pins for ornamentation on their necklaces.

We can appreciate the hilarious description of herself standing in front of the classroom for the first time, viewed by her students "*with the sympathetic wariness one might show to a wounded porcupine*" (p. 146).

We are easily impressed by her kindliness towards and understanding of the people she encounters and amused by the little old nomadic lady who creates a terrible scene when the author plants a garden: "*She says you are breaking up the earth and somebody must tell you it is wrong. You are hurting the land*" (p. 169).

Prejudices

The obvious enjoyment of being with the people in Maralal is well communicated to the reader. The author's fascination with Samburu marriage rites enhances her lively descriptions of the women she befriends. Her vivid account of attending mass in the little church is excellent. Her experiences as the "ladies' representative" at the local club, including making curtains and dealing with an obstreperous D.C. are fun. Being chased to school by a cow elephant is a droll piece of narrative. Very good, too, are Mary Cole's characterisations of fellow teachers and in particular, the prisons officer.

Unfortunately, the author returns to her wanderings in the last part of the book, in tow with another group of overlanders, and her prejudices against other kinds of tourists rampantly override any pearls of wisdom she sets before us. She also doesn't pay any fare to the drivers of the battered vehicles she rides on to and fro the Ituri Forest, attributing this to "*their developed sense of hospitality to strangers*" (p. 217).

Dirtroads is written in a conversational style with a noticeable lack of verbs and a super-abundance of colliding adjectives. The book is sparsely decorated with black-and-white photographs, with poor captions. It is a story I would recommend only to those in eager search of overlander philosophy. With the exception of the part on Maralal, *Dirtroads* is mediocre. ●*Nonetheless, we intend to publish Mary Cole's interesting account of a journey through the wilds of southern Ethiopia in a future issue of the magazine—Editor.*

EDITORIAL

Continued from page 12

rational management, and perhaps a realignment of priorities.

Any further delay in the appointment of a permanent Director of the new wildlife department would be inexcusable, and this must *by law* be referred to the Public Service Commission.

Not popular

All qualified Kenyans should have the opportunity to apply, and perhaps the post should also be advertised internationally. The notion of an expatriate director of operations may not be popular, but the job is of critical importance and should be assigned strictly on the basis of management expertise and isolation from political influences—apart from broad direction by the Minister through his Permanent Secretary.

These two should review the quality of the existing staff—remove some people perhaps, but certainly re-allocate responsibilities on the criteria of competence, experience, past performance, and positive response to the challenges of conservation. In the process, past suspicions and antagonisms should be forgotten.

The expatriate wardens may still be a special problem. It is clear that they are needed that any racial prejudice against them should be ignored. But the differential in their terms of employment and those of equal-ranking Kenyans could well lead to questions in parliament, more embarassment for the Minister, and more insecurity for the wardens whose life-time of service entitles them to full appreciation, or at least scrupulously fair treatment by the Ministry.

It would seem sensible, therefore, that they are resigned from the Kenya Civil Service and immediately re-engaged on long-term contracts as consultants, perhaps under some bilateral technical assistance arrangement with Britain. In this way they could be given a broad advisory role, rather than limited executive functions, and used where their experience would have maximum impact—as planners, trouble-shooters, directors of special operations, or on permanent station in a park or reserve free from the constraints of Civil Service protocols or the superior rank of their colleagues.

In the published organisational plan of the new Department of Wildlife Conservation and Management, the key position and substructure of "Deputy Director—Conservation" is left out, and it would seem reasonable that a revision is considered and at least three sections are set up under the control of the Director:

(i) general department administration and finance;
(ii) commercial, to include licensing, control of the trophy trade, etc.; and
(iii) conservation, to include scientific research, training, public information, education, anti-poaching, and general supervision of the seven divisional headquarters.

On the lower staff levels, the field personnel should not be regarded as if they were nine-to-five Civil Servants, but should be given special allowances and incentive bonuses to compensate for the long hours, hardships, isolation, and the occasional dangers of their jobs. All salaries and benefits should be revised to the scale applied to parks' staff before the amalgamation, and any increments or restitution back-dated from the date of the Ministry take-over.

To restore "external morale", the Minister might consider an apology to World Wildlife Fund—Kenya would be appropriate, and to any other agency or individuals who might feel similarly affronted or disillusioned, so that the flow of private assistance to conservation could be resumed.

In this event, the Ministry's Wildlife Fund Trustees should attempt to co-ordinate the official and private conservation programmes, and develop a "master-plan" to apply all available resources for maximum effect.

In the process, perhaps UNEP could be persuaded to emerge from behind its protective blinkers of "global responsibilities", and contribute to the protection of the natural environment in which this conservation agency is located.

It is argued that a government fully committed to wildlife protection should equip *itself* fully for the job. For this reason the Trustees might discourage Mr. Ogutu's appeals for basic equipment such as rifles, radios and vehicles, or for funds for the purchase of land to extend the protected areas—all of which is properly a government responsibility.

Instead the private agencies should assist the Ministry in its conservation education activities, and in the application of scientific research to management problems—which would, in any case, preclude any further attack for political interference.

The Minister should consider setting up special "action groups" of experts, imported if necessary, to deal with current, urgent conservation issues, such as Nakuru and Tsavo.

Force

He might also initiate a permanent inter-Ministerial liaison committee so that all available force could be brought to bear against poaching, including the Somali provocation, and against the illegal trade in trophies which is diverting revenue from the national exchequer into private pockets. It is common knowledge that some of the ivory, rhino horn and skins trafficking is, de facto, beyond the Minister's jurisdiction—but co-ordinated and determined appeals both to the public and the individuals involved could well have a positive effect.

At the other end of the scale, the poachers could be best deterred not only by the increased effectiveness of the policing, but by the co-operation of the courts in handing out heavy sentences.

A radical step which might be considered, despite an inevitable noisy protest, is the imposition of a moratorium of at least a year on all legal slaughter of wildlife. This would include sports hunting, cropping, culling, and control shooting except where human life is endangered, otherwise substituting cash compensation for retribution on the animals.

The precedent is in Tanzania which has banned hunting and most other destruction for years to good effect—and it must be obvious, for Kenya's prestige if for nothing else, that its game needs a "breathing period".

The moratorium, coupled with an effective combined services operation against poaching, would allow the wildlife to recover and eventually return the cost of the experiment, and more.

In any event, the protected list of species should be reviewed, and so should the hunting quotas for all blocks in the country. Unless the allocation of licences is based on a properly scientific calculation of permissible off-takes—which is not the case at present—then the hunting business will remain about as defensible as poaching.

There are many reputable hunting firms in Kenya, and if the business does continue then this should be recognised and the hunters recruited as honorary wardens with executive powers, including that of arresting poachers. Other hunters, shooting over their quotas or otherwise breaking the law or professional code, should be dealt with by the Association, whether the offenders are members or not.

Finally on this topic, the severe damage of weekend hunting sprees by short-contract expatriates in Nairobi should be stopped and permits issued only to long-term residents who owe some allegiance to Kenya.

But perhaps the first priority for any new, more professionally aware and effective Ministry is somehow to change public attitudes towards wildlife, the parks and reserves, forests, and areas of scenic attraction.

This is a daunting prospect, but a useful start would be made if a conservation lobby could be formed in parliament—assuming there are MPs prepared to put the national interest above the parochial demands of their farmer-pastoralist constituents.

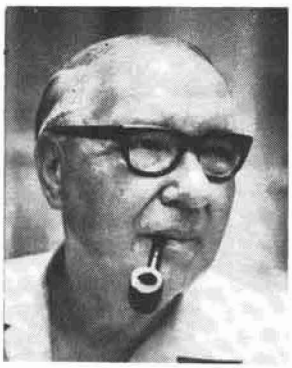
At the same time, a programme of public information on conservation should be undertaken in the rural areas, with both the message and the media researched beforehand so as to ensure effective communication. If the best argument is economic, then this should have a practical application; for example, it may be that payment of regular wildlife grazing fees to the Masai would encourage them not only to look after the game themselves, but prevent outsiders moving in and robbing them of a cash resource as is happening at present.

It might also help to win "hearts and minds" to conservation if entrance fees to the parks and reserves were reduced to a nominal amount for citizens or residents. There would be little chance of inundation, but the psychological effect of free access to "public parks," if desired, would reduce any present hostility towards them as potential agricultural land reserved for rich foreigners. It seems unreasonable to ask the people to respect and take a pride in wildlife sanctuaries if they continue to be financially barred from visiting them.

Even so, what is expected is that abstract concepts such as "national prestige" and "heritage in trust" take root in the minds of simple people who need land and livestock to feed their families. People, moreover, who have witnessed a cynical destruction of wildlife and other natural resources for private profit or amusement.

Perhaps the realistic approach is to address the younger generation, applying all effort and resources to conservation education in the schools—either compulsorily with its inclusion in the curriculum, or by building up the Wildlife Clubs as a dynamic national youth movement.

What this might conceivably achieve, in time, is a new ethic for Kenya and even a minor cultural Renaissance which is missing in its history. In this event, whatever remains of the squandered fortune in wildlife will be inherited by a generation which will respect and appreciate it for reasons other than its dead-weight commercial value.



EDWARD RODWELL'S COLUMN

Weather for long-johns at the equatorial coast

When June temperatures in Britain approached 100°F. oldest inhabitants sitting outside country taverns touching their forelocks to American tourists opined there had never been such weather since post dungspreading in 1924. One of the natives earned an extra pint by quoting from Mother Shipton's 500-year-old prophecy, the final lines of which infer that the last trump is about to sound any minute now.

And those who live the century through
In fear and trembling this shall do;
Storms shall rage and oceans roar
When Gabriel stands on sea and shore.
And when he blows his wondrous horn
Old worlds shall die and new be born

And while the chawbacon was wiping his hackles with a red bandana I was along Kilindini road at Mombasa trying to buy some long johns. The temperature in my muhogu patch had, the night before, dropped to 57°F. which is a goose-pimpling low at sea level four degrees south of the equator.

About the same time I read of the fears expressed at the massive use of aerosols, the propellant gas which is likely to climb to the stratosphere and destroy the ozone layer which, twenty miles up, acts as the earth's solar topee.

This research has a point. But there were not many aerosols about in 40,000,000 B.C. when a change in weather conditions knocked off the Brontosaurus and other Mesozaic reptiles. Weather prophet Macmillan had yet to be born but certainly a wind of change was in the air. One suggestion points to a shift in the obliquity of the equator to the earth's orbit which could have produced a Tsavo East condition with Trachodon instead of elephant corpses dotting the countryside.

Reptilian remains must lie in profusion beneath the East African Tertiary and Recent volcanic rocks and lava but much easier to come by are relics of the same period of destruction. Near the Three Hills just north of Mombasa if one digs down fifty feet or so there are to be found ammonites as big as cartwheels.

Eggheads reckon that the Mezozoic Age folded sometime between 20 and 40 million years ago and it was probably weather conditions that exterminated the giant saurians and other weirdies because skeletal remains are free of competition or enemy damage, tyrannicide, coup de grâce or a kick in the ribs. But there were similar or different weather changes pre and post the fall of the Thunder Lizards.

Referring to the post period Professor Oakley of the Natural History Museum told me how he had helped to dig from Siberian ice a perfect specimen of a Hairy Mammoth which had in its stomach the very flowers the unfortunate creature had consumed on the day the weather changed. That mammoth had fruz where it stood and had remained in situ perhaps for ten million years imitating a jumbo paperweight.

The mammal had been conceived in the Era of our time; when other Elephantines, wild horses, sabre-toothed tigers and reindeer were grazing or hunting in a world of land grasses, trees and flowers. There was also another creature lurking in caves and undergrowth. It had a pair of hairy hands that could, if its feet kept pace with its hunger, catch a rat for breakfast.

This mammal was among the smallest of the creatures of veld and forest but one day he found the horn of a Triceratops and using it as a club took to horse meat and made a fire. Now the world could tilt and roll, come rain, wind, snow, earthquakes and volcanoes. Nothing could budge him or his seed for ever. He became a predator such as never was. Take a look at him in the shaving mirror tomorrow morning.

He pre-empted Adam and the Tower of Babel. Like Adam he laid his hands on whatever he fancied and with his gibberish originated a communications system that now sits on the world like the Old Man of the Sea. One thing never worried him then. He came in all colours: black through grey, brown, yellow and white. Luckily no branch of the family had a green patch on its backside or we might have had another war on our hands today.

Adam's forebears had the agility of grasshoppers. I sometimes think of my old granddaddy much removed dodging the falling basalts and phonolites that rained on the Kapiti plains during volcanic eruptions. I can hear him howling blue murder when Kilimanjaro and Kenya boiled up from the depths. I imagine him in the Pleistocene period when he found his mealie patch had dropped overnight into the Rift Valley.

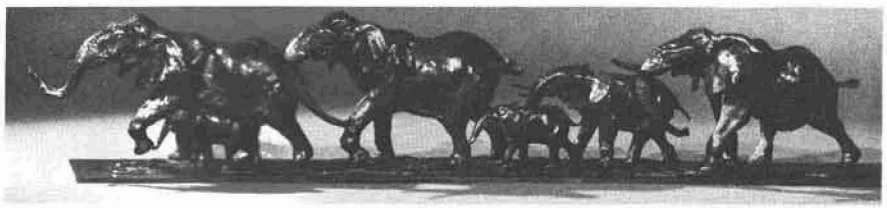
I have another picture of grandpa he is sitting by a fire and flaking an arrow-head from chunk of obsidian. He didn't know it but he had the first down payment on a Mercedes Benz.

Flora, fauna and Bin Adam live on in an Era of the quick and the dead and Gabriel seems to be falling down on his job. Maybe instead of stirring up the wind he is playing second horn to Satchmo. But I doubt if we need Gabriel any more. If a change in the eccentricity of the earth's orbit slayed the lizards and a procession of the equinoxes bumped off the mammoths such phenomena are now a waste of time and effort.

Malthus, a century ago, said that Man was digging his grave with his teeth. But Malthus had not heard of aerosols.

So it goes. Put away your horn, Gabriel man, but keep it clean. You may need it when the flies take over.

Major Exhibition for Terry Mathews



Once well-known professional hunter, Terry Mathews is now making a name for himself as a sculptor especially in the United States and to this end is exhibiting 15 bronzes of wildlife subjects at the Moorlands Gallery in London. His next objective is the British Market.

Always interested in art, which he studied at Bedford School, then later in Denmark and for a short while at the University College of Nairobi, Terry feels as far as sculpture is concerned he is mainly self-taught.

In 1960 he formed a small art studio in Nairobi where he worked when not on safari. Using a mixture of kaolin and latex he sculpted miniature animals and reproduced them in editions of up to thirty. In addition to these also made terra-cotta heads of African people.

In 1968 he unfortunately lost the sight of his lead eye in a shot gun accident involving one of his safari clients. Devoting more time to his sculpture later that year he decided to work in bronze.

Terry is not a prolific sculptor, but his bronzes are sought after by art collectors around the world. Later this year he is to hold his first one-man exhibition in London, perhaps the most critical art centre in the world.

His work is to be found locally in two Nairobi art galleries and Rowland Ward.

The Sitting-ducks of Mara

Sir—Further to the two items on the subject of the Masai Mara in the July 1976 issue of "Africana" (Vol. 6, No. 2), one headed "Block 61" under the Society's Notes, and the other "Masai Mara" under the National Parks News, I would like to relate our recent findings in this area.

The area designated "Block 61 (Photographic)" on our Hunting Map is now, I am told, a Shooting Block which must be very confusing for animals which had learned not to fear people and cars. I know of a case of a wildebeest being shot from a car window—the animal had made no attempt to move away from the approaching vehicle and was a "sitting duck".

While crossing this area recently we were attracted by a gathering of vultures and found a young buffalo calf in a most terrible state. He had been slashed by a panga twice across the top of the neck, making two slices six inches deep into the meat of his neck and giving the impression of having all but severed his head from his body, and another long slash across his back about 2½ ft. long and laying open his ribs and backbone.

He was obviously in great pain and in a state of deep shock with glazed eyes and little strength. However, he still had the spirit to charge at us as we stopped to look at him.

The vultures were all in a circle round him only waiting for him to be too weak to offer any more resistance and they would have started on the open "steaks' showing up ugly and red on his neck and back. The whole affair left us feeling quite sick and shocked.

We can only guess at what had happened to him but it would seem reasonable that his mother had been shot (legally or illegally) and that while butchering her the calf may have attempted to charge, or just hung around being a "nuisance" and was brutally slashed with a panga and driven off and left in that dreadful condition.

The herd was nearby when we found him, but they made no attempt to chase us off and surely if his mother had been there she would not have left him while he was still alive.

Of course, this could have happened anywhere, particularly in a Shooting Block, and the blame is only on the individual hunter or poacher who treated the calf this way, but it is still a terrible sight to see such wounds obviously inflicted by *man* and not nature in an area which is (or was?) a Photographic Block open to tourists and residents for game viewing.

I now refer to the article on Block 61 which dealt with the apparently diminishing lion population around the Governor's Camp area. While not pretending to be experts and speaking only of our own observations we can say that up to about a year ago we used to be "tripping over" lions all over the Mara.

One could *guarantee* to see at least one large pride on every visit and in fact camping in this area became a rather hair-raising experience as the lions were becoming far too familiar!

However, on our last two visits within the last two months, we have searched all over the usual areas looking for lion and have only seen one young male vanishing rapidly at the sight of our car and haven't even heard them at night when sound carries a very long way.

Presumably this state of affairs bears direct relation to the changing of Block 61 from Photographic to Shooting, and also perhaps to the most undesirable presence of Masai and their huge herds of cattle. These enormous herds of cattle, donkeys and goats are not only an unsightly blot on the landscape but are also grazing land which has been set aside for wild animals.

To our mind the Masai Mara is the best Game Reserve in Kenya, but if things continue as they are now it will very soon loose its appeal for us and for other visitors, both local and foreign. We feel that there are three main problems affecting the Mara:

1. The changing of Photographic Block 61 to a Shooting Block has destroyed the animals' buffer between Game Reserve area and Shooting area causing the game to become shy and suspicious.

2. Too much shooting (or poaching) of lions causing them to leave the area or become so shy that they are extremely difficult to find. The same also applies to the rhino here.

3. Allowing (or not preventing) the Masai to come into the area with their cattle and building manyattas within a mile or two of Governors Camp.

We saw plane-loads of tourists landing at the Governor's Camp airstrip. Surely something can be done to preserve the natural wonders of the Mara for them as well as for the local residents to enjoy—not forgetting the lot of the animals who deserve better treatment than this for their part which they are only too willing to play if given the chance.

(Mrs.) H. B. Somerville,
Box 20,
Kericho.

Inaccurate

Sir—I appreciate that it must be very difficult for you to sift the information you receive from various sources, but it is a pity so much of it is inaccurate.

You state that no fully-grown male lions were seen within five miles radius of Governor's Camp and that tour operators were complaining. While it is quite possible that this was true on any particular day I can assure your readers that there are at least six very fine males whose range includes the Governor's Camp area and last week I saw four of them within the five mile radius, two of them mating within sight of the camp. If they were difficult to see recently then this may be due to the great numbers of Masai cattle in the area. Lions, particularly males, tend to become strictly nocturnal when disturbed.

Elsewhere you say that if rhino are being poached in the area and they are shot in the adjoining concessions then "there is little hope of being able to conserve this species". This is surely an exaggeration as there are still a reasonable number of rhino and even if their numbers declined further they would eventually be replaced from the Serengeti.

As for the hunting blocks, the only one I know well is Mr. Ramoni's to the north of the Aitong-Mara-bridge road. I hate to see hunting in this beautiful area but must admit that it has been easier to see lion and rhino there since it became a hunting concession than it was a year ago when the lion and rhino were under heavy pressure from poachers. Professional hunters are good business men and they would not be such fools as to exterminate their stock.

In the last 18 years I have spent over 1,000 days in the Mara area and have always considered it the finest game area in Africa. Conservationists should agree with the Narok council and the Government what part of it should be a game area (and the conservationists should be able to offer large sums of money to make this as large as possible, consistent with the rights of the local population) and then a fence should be put up. No one can blame the Masai at present for being "anti-game" when there are so many thousands of animals on their grazing land and in their what fields.

I believe the Kenya government and Narok council do have a detailed plan and I wish you would publish it fully in your magazine so we can all know. Meanwhile, if we can offer a few million pounds to add just a few square miles to the game area then this will be far better spent than in attacking poachers.

R. A. Lowis,
Box 49538
Nairobi.

Transplanting Trees

Sir—I read with interest your interview of William Holden (Vol. 6 No. 1, 1976). While Mr. Eames appears to be fairly knowledgeable about the major environmental issues involving Kenya, he overlooks a less obvious but nevertheless important concern. I am referring to Mr. Holden's scheme of planting redwoods in Kenya and acacias in California, which Mr. Eames incautiously applauds.

The idea to plant exotics is not new to Kenya. Nairobi has been planted expansively with them; and, in Shimba Hills National Reserve, vast agricultural stands of Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) and other exotics have created some controversy. The spindly Monterey pines are sorry examples of the rugged yet elegant tree which grows wild in California. In Kenya, they are beset by disease and insects to which they have no resistance; and each stand is a virtual island where no native bird or mammal can live. Birds abound in the adjacent natural forest, but the acres of pines are silent. Contrary to Mr. Holden, I would hate to see redwoods in Africa. Each biotic community has its own ambience; the colour in a redwood forest is incomparable, but to put a redwood in a naturally beautiful and relatively virgin part of Kenya will only promote the destruction of the special colour of East Africa. The beauty arises from its pristine quality.

In an enlightened world, the introduction of any exotic species should be examined carefully for its biological implications. Lacking indeginous controls, introduced species often become troublesome and injurious pests. The popular prickly pear cactus (*Opuntia* spp.), native of Mexico and the U.S., is a serious problem in Australia and is threatening to become one

Continued on page 31.



IN a sense, Naivasha has always been a battleground. Inevitably for the Masai overlords, but then for the first settlers from Europe and Kikuyu country who jointly fought disease and natural disaster to develop riparian farms. The battle now is between commercial interests and the determination of a few, like Joy Adamson, to preserve at least part of the lake and hinterland as a national park for wildlife, including 400 bird species. MIRELLA RICCIARDI has been a perceptive witness of all this all her life. Her moody, intimate pictures of the Masai life-style in "Vanishing Africa" made her an international reputation and now she is embarked on another major book, the simple and moving story of her settler family told against the panorama of the lake—the first sketch of which is presented here . . . .



mirella's saga of the lake

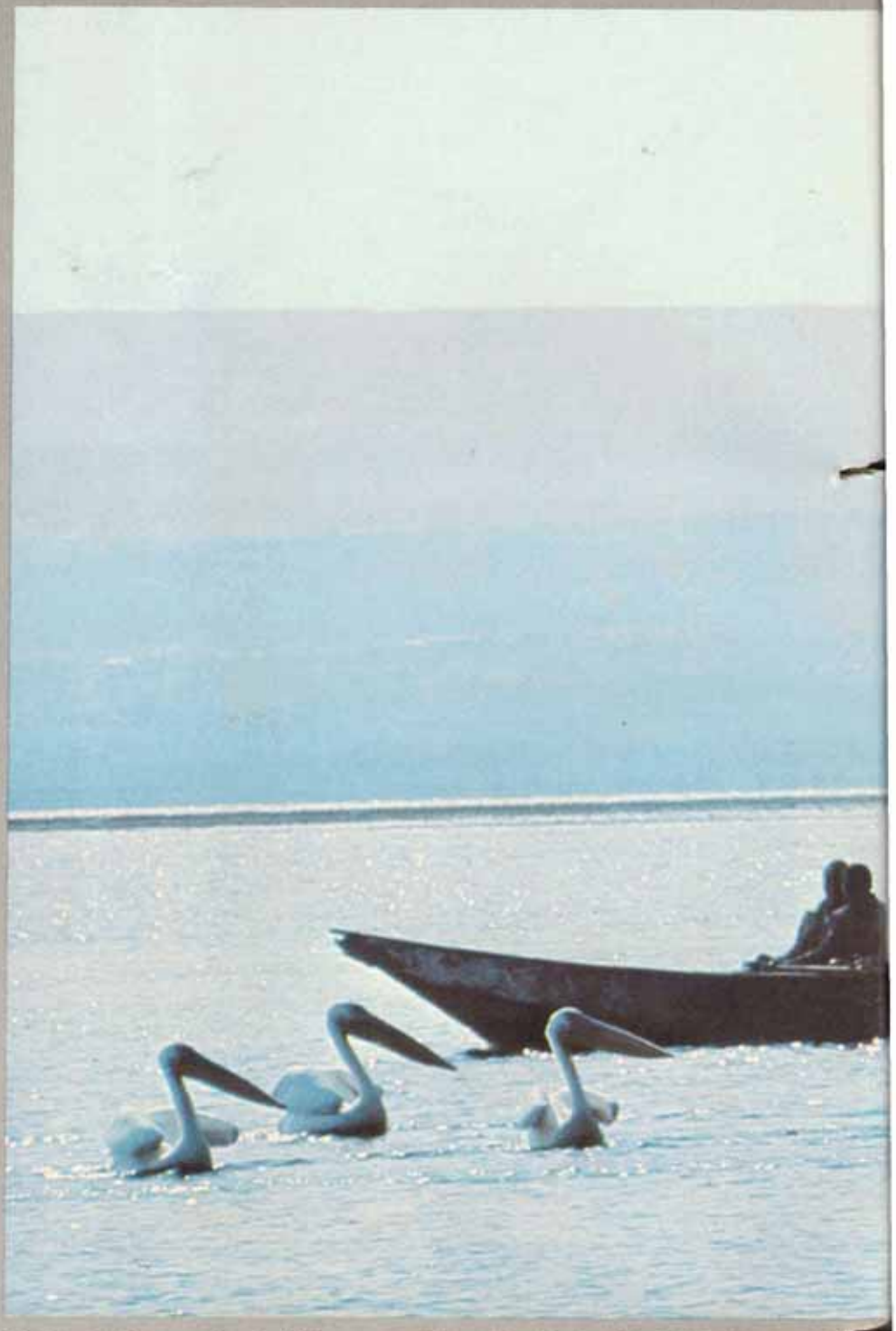


Once upon a time in 1975 there was a family that lived in Africa. . . .
This is the story of their lives, their struggles, their laughter and their tears as they weave themselves into the fabric of a land and a people which is not "White Man's Country". . . .
In a big pink house that looked like an old Italian castle, surrounded by great African trees—On the shores of a magic lake, with a volcano in front that changes shade and mood as the sun glides past it each day from dawn to dusk. .

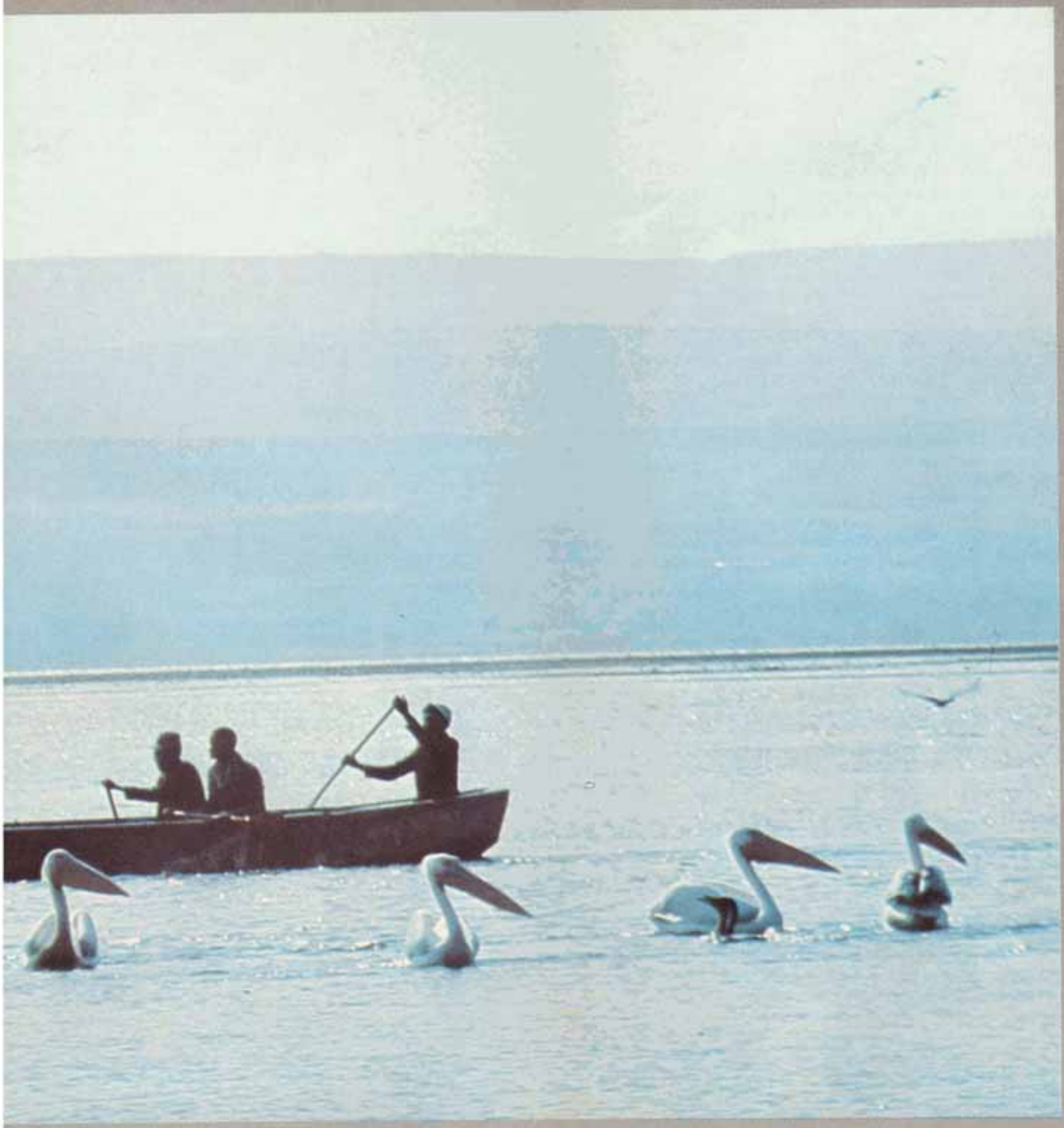


The family is headed by the mother and father who came to Africa a long time ago —more than 45 years—they stayed together all the time and kept the family together through the years, guiding counciling and protecting it. . . .
The mother is an artist who came from a very high powered aristocratic french family in Paris—The father a Neapolitan rebel, full of fire and dash and charm. . . .
They are very old now and at the end of their lives—They stand back and watch their children and grandchildren grow and live. . . .
. . . the little "Kingdom" they etched from the African bush is threatened . . . . Times are changing
Three children were born to them One son and two daughters. . . .





Dorian is the new head of the clan. He has all the brains and holds all the strings in his hands now—
Mirella is a photographer and is deeply involved with Africa
Oria married Ian, an elephant ecologist they have an airplane and live with elephants
Lorenzo married Mirella 17 years ago. He is a dreamer, always stretching for things beyond his reach—He is a "Sea Nomad"
In 17 years eight girls were born in the family: Saba, Marina, Fiametta, Dudu, Gigi, Valeria, Amina. And finally, a son appeared. Mario Rocco junior.
The strong feeling, still present in the old father and mother wore off gently down the generations—a deeper understanding crept in slowly and a more human relationship grew, despite the evident ever present feeling of "White Superiority". . . .
They lived on a farm—5,000 acres of Africa—with cows and horses and hippos and hundreds of birds and other wild animals and







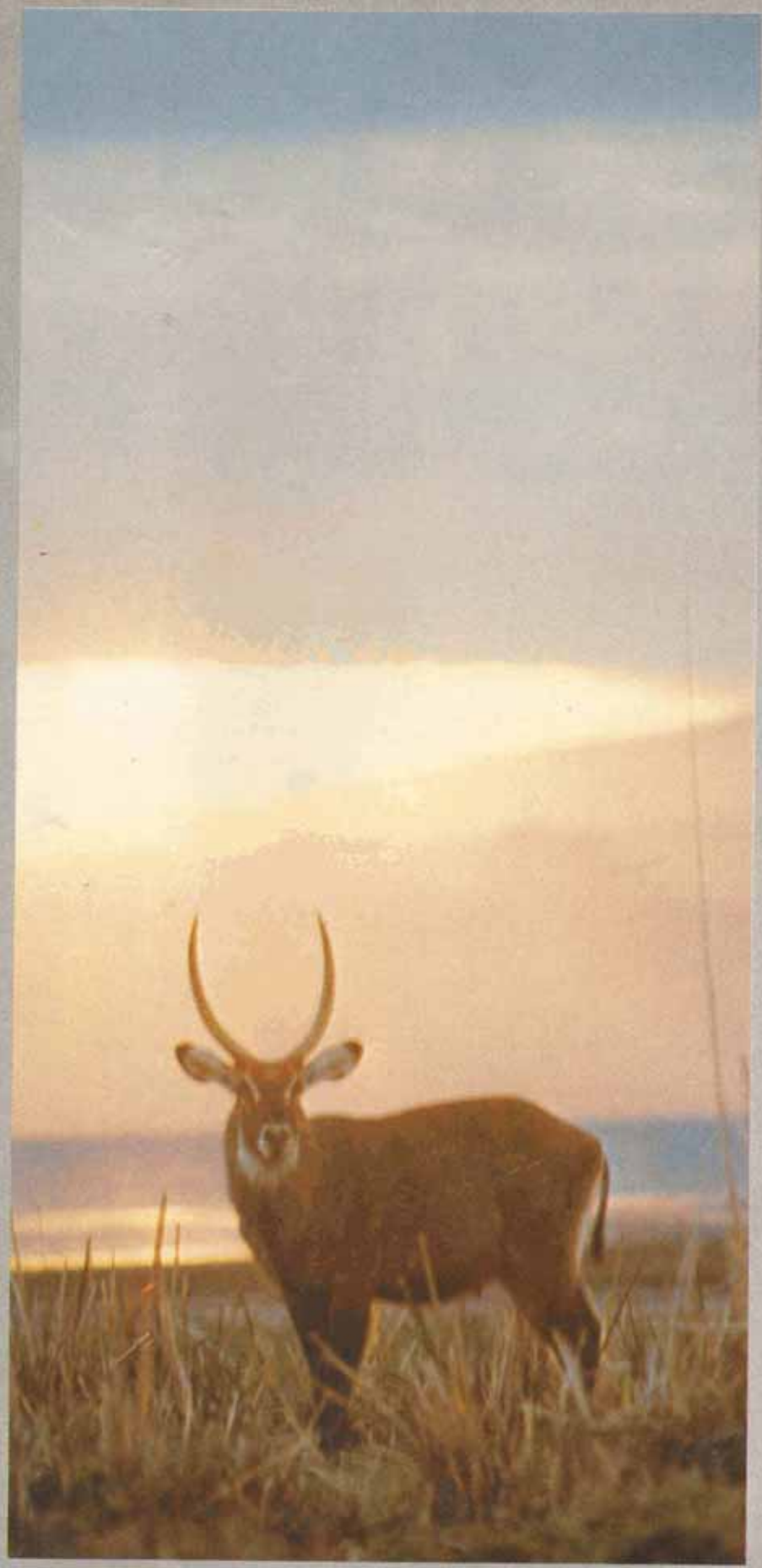


people—wild people—
They cultivate the rich black cotton soil on the shores of the lake with tractors and ploughs and irrigation pipes—Each year they battle on, struggling with the elements of nature—the rains and the drought—the hippo and buffalo that destroy the crops. . . .
Giovanni Spazzini—A Sicillian peasant with 40 years of Africa on his shoulders manages the farm—he has never come to terms with Africa and the people he has to work with—A violent love-hate relationship exists between them. He is a sad and lonely man—driven by the force that his "White skin" imposes



on the black man, pitting his knowledge and experience against the instinctive powers of survival which is second nature to the African. . He calls them "bastardi" —they call him "Makako"—Life is a free for all between them—the farm, the people, and the family are Spazzinis world—A pathetic, fabulous, comic, marvellous maddening picture of a lonely man. . . .
The old father and Mother may never have to witness the end of their era. . . . It creeps in slowly as the children grow and play unaware that anything is changing. . . .
Their smiles and laughter ring out to envelop the old couple who hang on for there is now nowhere else for them. Their roots are down—the umbilical cord of their origins severed. . . .
But . . . they are trapped in their "Golden cage". . . .
". . . . If for a long enough time we continue in this way to dazzle and blind the African, we may in the end bring upon them a longing for darkness which will drive them into the gorges of their own, unknown mountains and their own unknown minds."
Isak Dineson

*Mario Rocco died in Nairobi on May 5th, 1976 at 11 p.m. He was 82.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued from page 26

in East Africa. *Acacia*, like *Opuntia*, is extremely difficult to clear from land; it has tremendous recuperative capabilities (see *East African Weeds and Their Control*, by G. W. Ivens, Oxford University Press, 1967). They are fast growing and might possibly be able to out-compete native leguminous trees such as the palo verdes if enabled to escape horticultural limits in California.

I would not be concerned but for the fact that Mr. Holden is talking in terms of thousands of trees. I, too, have a fondness for East African flora. I enjoy immensely the two young acacias and baobabs which grow on my windowsill, but a windowsill is where they will remain.

I must also offer a personal objection to Mr. Holden's suggestion to turn the escarpment toward Isiolo into a grapefruit farm. Reaching the escarpment has always been, for me, like breaking out of a fog, the gloom of the highlands; and I am always awed by the beauty of the undisturbed valley below. Mr. Holden appears to hold the misconception that good soil covers all of Kenya; that is not the case. If my recollection is correct, the good soil stops near the turnoff to Meru. Bringing in water would not necessarily grow good grapefruit, but would certainly disrupt a fragile countryside. A further misconception he seems to hold is that a 12-hour sunlit day is ideal for cultivating all plants. For his information, flowering plants are of three types; namely, short-day and long-day plants, as well as day-neutral plants. Short-day plants have a darkness requirement for flowering which makes them incompatible with equatorial latitudes.

I sincerely hope that Mr. Holden re-evaluates his poorly considered ideas. It must be recognized that the introduction of exotic flora is a form of habitat destruction. But, worse, it would destroy the integrity of Kenya.

Incidentally, baobab seed germination can succeed to nearly 100 per cent, using the proper methods, as I and a friend discovered.

P. S. I would be very interested to learn the name and address of the gentleman who grows and exports flowers and bulbs outside of Nairobi, mentioned by Mr. Holden in the article.

cc: William Holden

Pam Wiegandt,
Route 1, Box 316,
Sunol, CA 94586,
August 8, 1976.

Mount Kenya Safari Club teaching programme

Sir—William Holden and his associates are to be commended for their imaginative approach to some very difficult conservation problems. Overall the article points out many of the discrepancies inherent to many conservation efforts. It raises questions like: Is animal trapping in complete conflict with environmental protection when at the same time governments are "cropping" large numbers of animals to remedy the serious overcrowding which prevails in some national parks? How animals ought to be protected?

It is quite easy to maintain a purist attitude about our changing environment and not recognize the changes which necessarily are taking place. Indeed it is the changes themselves i.e. industrialization etc. which are forcing man to take a new look at the animals in his environment and to attempt to assimilate wildlife into his own life. Assimilation for the less fortunate may in fact be with a film or a zoo for others more fortunate it may be a tourist trip through a National Park in Kenya, North America or the like, and for the most fortunate it may include a life among animals in the wild. Whatever the circumstances, assimilation of wildlife with man (or vice versa) will require man's understanding of the economic environmental and political consequences of conservation decisions.

The teaching programme and the joint domestic wild animal breeding programme undertaken at the Mount Kenya Safari Club no doubt fall quite short of man's ultimate goal of preserving plants and animals in the wild—but they are examples of an adventurous start in that direction.

Pat Riley,
Oriel College,
Oxford University,
Oxford, England.

Western Mau Forest

Sir—It seems an extraordinary thing that, while drawing attention to the danger to Kericho area water supplies, no mention is made of game conservation.

I have known the Western Mau Forest for over 50 years. It was I who gave the names, still often used, to the waterfalls discovered on my expeditions, e.g. Christmas Falls and Coryndon Falls.

At that time the Mau Forest was one of the best places to find Bongo in considerable herds. Even 15 or 16 years ago Noel Simon used to take his friends to see Bongo at the back of Molo. Now all that country is out as far as Bongo are concerned. No doubt the rarely seen Yellow Backed Duiker has fared no better. It is probable that there are still a few Bongo further South West but the area is rapidly diminishing. This is all the more regrettable since other haunts of the Bongo, the Cheringanis and Mount Londiani are devastated beyond redemption.

What is being done to protect the Bongo in the Aberdares? and on Mt. Kenya? I admit I have never seen Bongo on Mount Kenya but that is surely because I have never sought them there. Can anything be done to conserve any Bongo and Yellow Backed Duiker that (hopefully) remain in the Western Mau.

Gregor Grant.
Box 4, Molo.

Japanese Vehicles

Sir—My January AFRICANA, Vol. 5, No. 12, just arrived a week ago and I was surprised to see Japanese vehicles donated for conservation.

As you must know the whale is one of the most endangered animal species in the world; and that the two nations which continue to hunt the whale to extermination are the Japanese and the Russians.

One way to touch the Japanese on a tender spot is to boycott their goods.

It seems most strange to me that two societies noted for their efforts to save endangered species, "Africana" and the World Wildlife Fund, patronize a nation which is destroying a species in the sea. By buying Toyotas to preserve animals on land, you both contribute to the extermination of animals at sea.

Mrs. S. E. Badger,
Middleburg, Virginia 22117,
USA.

Gombe Research

Continued from page 16

work going on in primate laboratories and so on. At the same time the men were taking part in the adult education activities which are currently compulsory in Tanzania.

In November 1974 Mr. Tsolo do Fisoo joined our staff, and he had had a higher education than the other field staff. He was employed in order to translate the B Record and A Records comments of the field assistants into English and to help with the filing. His advent was one of the most fortunate events for Gombe.

It soon transpired that do Fisoo has a quick brain and a very real interest in the chimpanzees. As well as spending time watching them and learning about their behaviour, both in camp and in the mountains, he also spent time reading relevant articles from scientific literature in the library. He not only attended all my seminars, but soon had enough understanding of the subject to present my material in these seminars—in much better Kiswahili!

After the kidnapping

This, then, was the state of affairs at the time of the kidnapping and subsequent withdrawal of all students from outside Tanzania. (We had one undergraduate from the University of Dar es Salaam at the time and she stayed on at Gombe until her time was up). Of interest is the fact that only for one day (that following the midnight raid) were observations discontinued at the Research Centre. The next day, despite the fact that I and all students from America and England had left, do Fisoo saw that the field assistants resume their duties. When I returned two days later, to organize the Centre on a new basis, I had one of the few pleasant moments of that ghastly period.

These, then, are the men currently collecting data at Gombe. Despite the fact that they have no formal university training they are, in many ways, highly qualified for their work. Since they have been on their own, and responsible for the upkeep of the records, they have approached their work with a great deal more enthusiasm than before. They have an understandably increased pride in the role they are now playing.

The conditions under which data are collected at Gombe are not ideal. Clearly it is desirable to have at least one qualified scientist in residence. Yet the alternative would be to close down Gombe—which, after 16 years of effort and just as we are beginning to find out some of the answers which can only be obtained through long term research, is quite unthinkable.

At present young Tanzanian scientists who could work at Gombe are simply not available—they are needed for research of more economic importance to their country. However, as of July this year we employed two young men who have the necessary qualifications for entering University.

At some point in the future, when politics in Tanzania's neighbours around the lake settle down, we do indeed hope to re-open Gombe to students from outside Tanzania, but in the meantime (with the rebel gang still sitting right across the lake) we have to do the best we can in the current situation. Certainly I myself shall do as much as I can to insure the continuing integrity of the reports from Gombe, and I shall spend as much time there as possible, supervising, teaching and encouraging the Tanzanian team.

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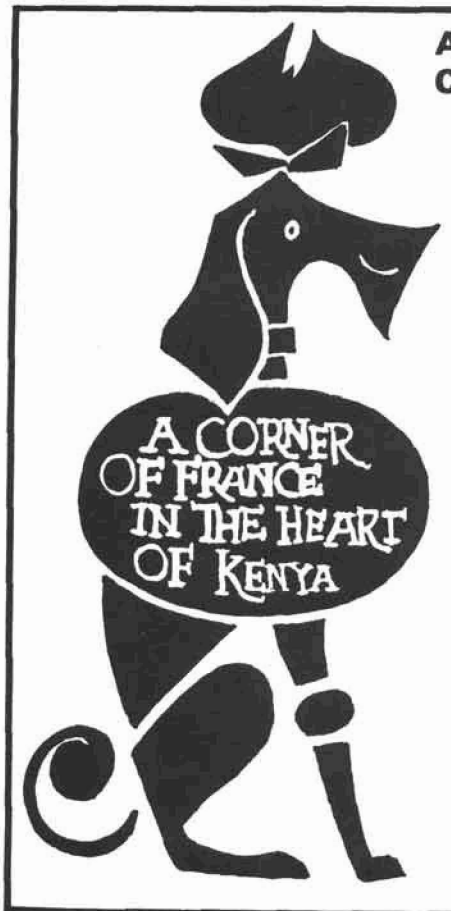

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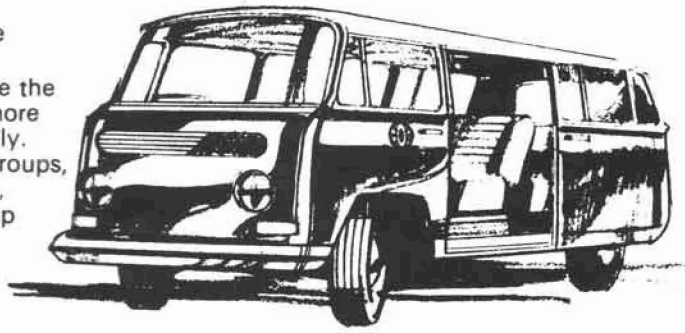

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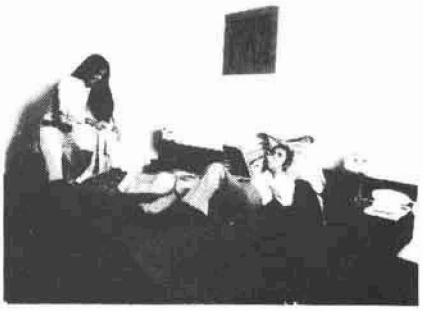

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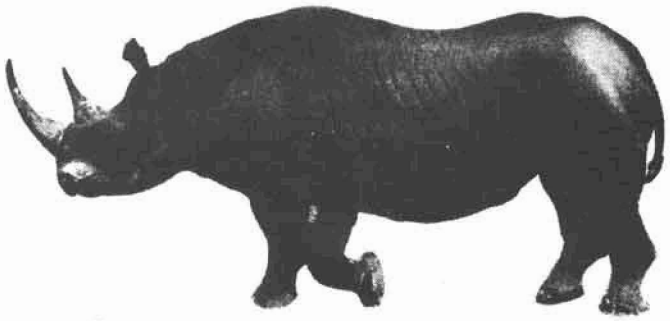

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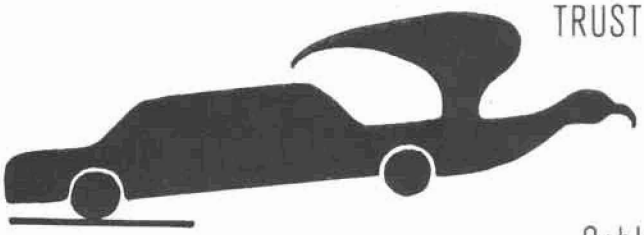

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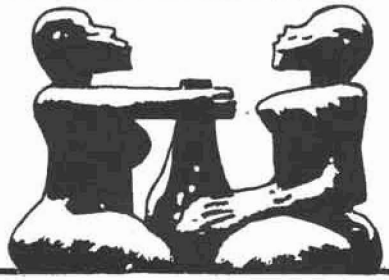

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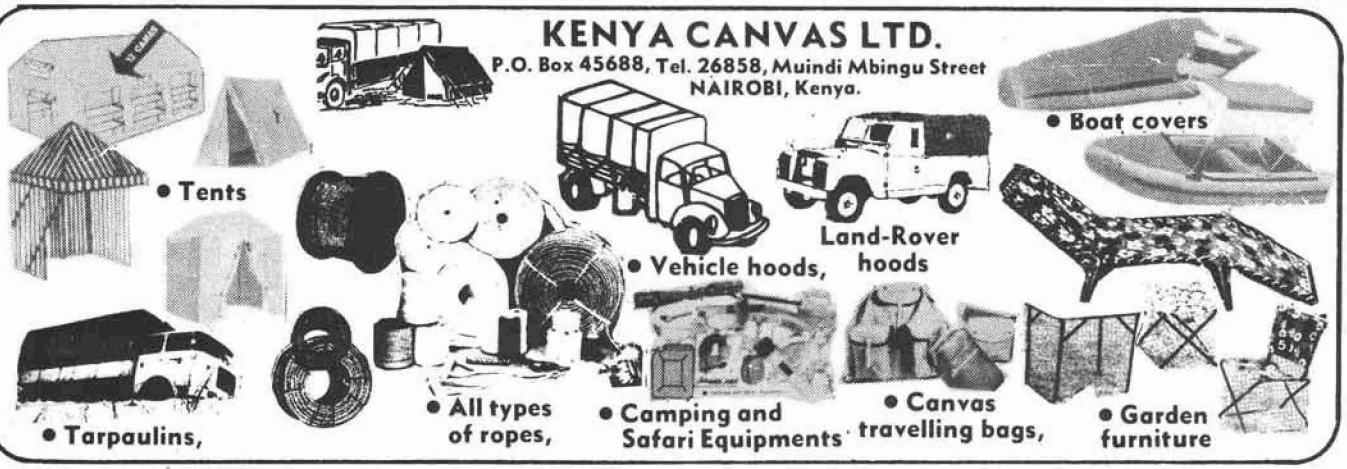

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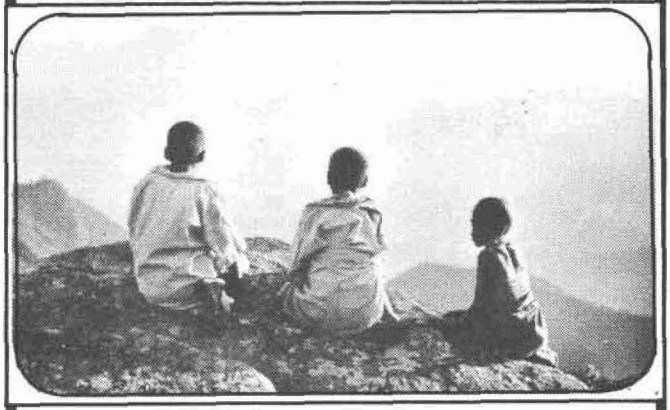

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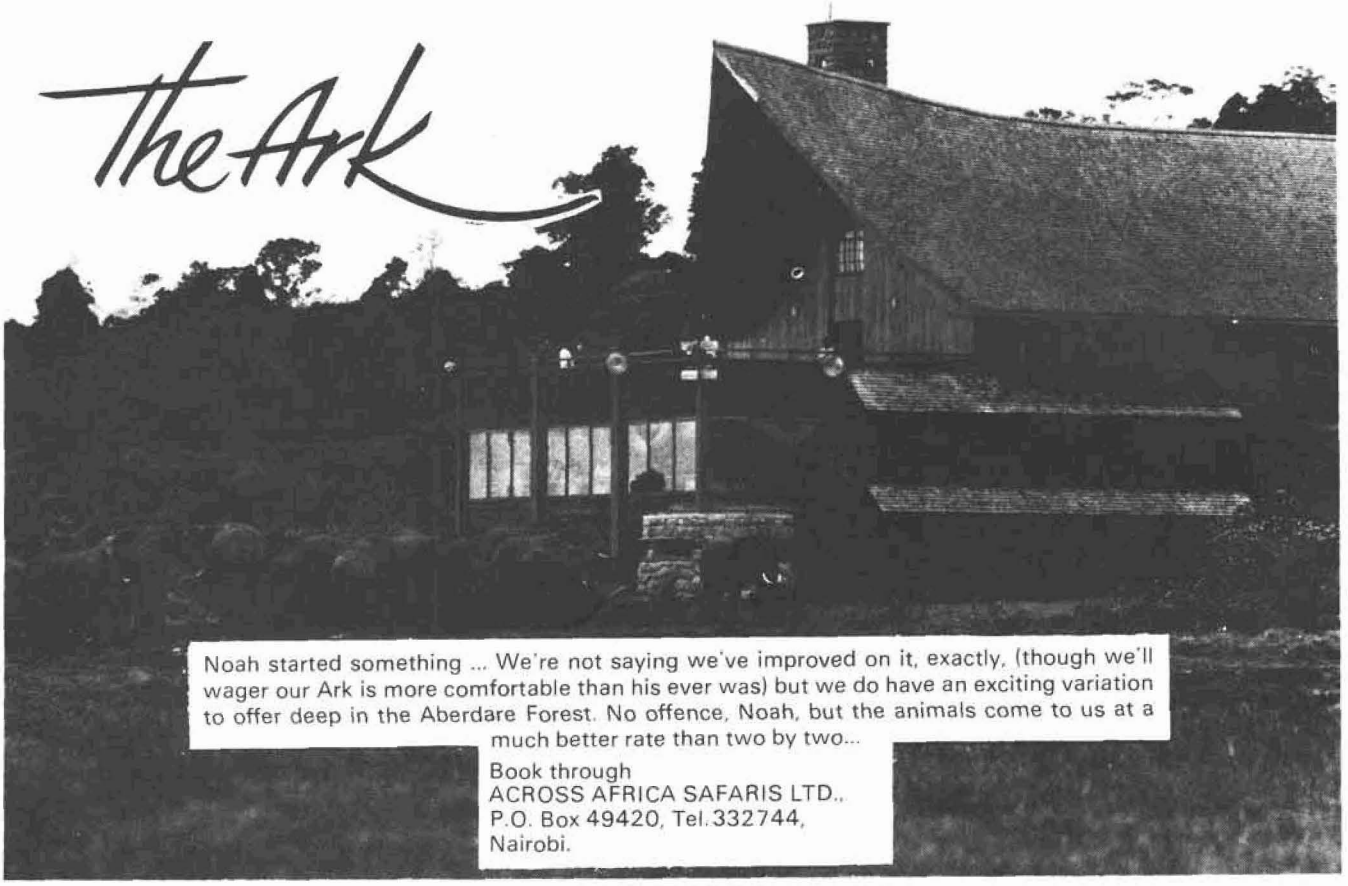

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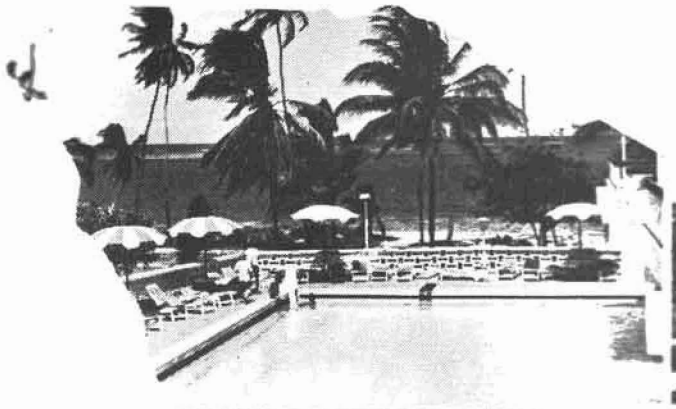

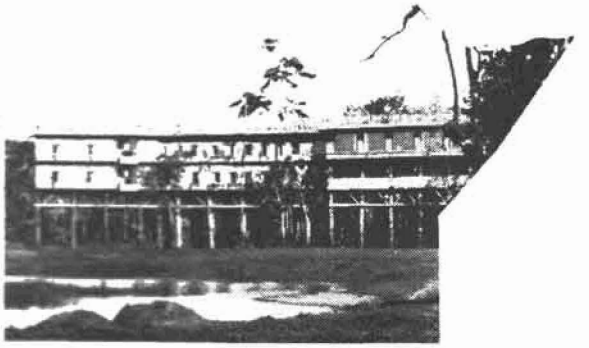





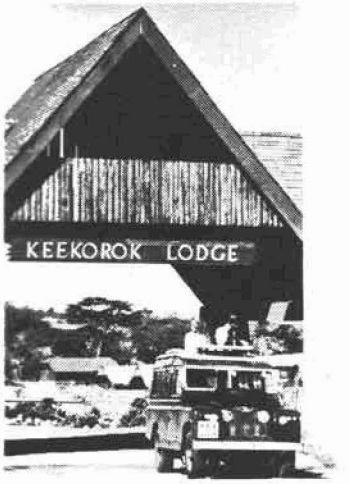

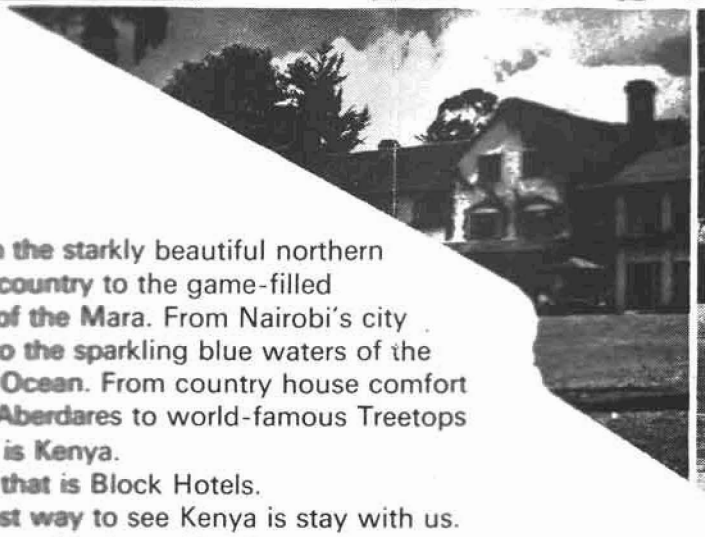

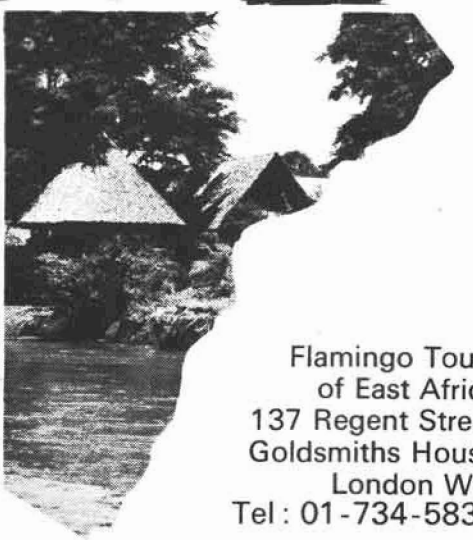

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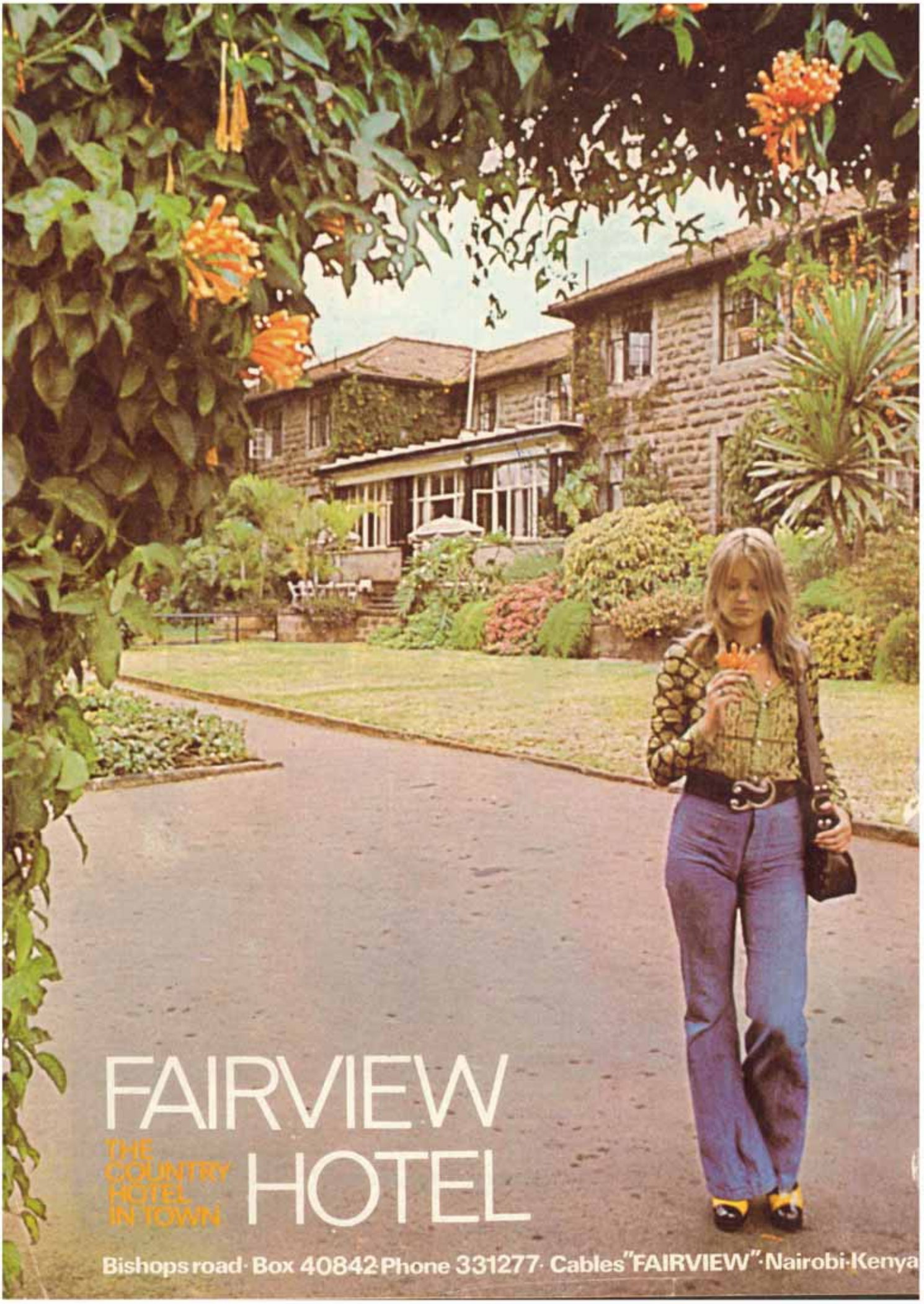
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